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Awareness Rally on breastfeeding held in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Medicovert Woman and Child Hospitals, Hitec City conducted an awareness rally at Madhapur on Friday to highlight the importance of breastfeeding among infants. The weeklong awareness drive is being observed worldwide between August 1 and 7 with the theme 'Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All'.

Displaying placards aimed at spreading awareness on the importance of breastfeeding, nearly 100 care givers from the hospital including nurses, medics, pediatricians, gynecologists, neonatologists and caregivers from other allied wings participated in the rally from the hospital premises to Cyber Gate, Madhapur.

Rachakonda police rescue 326 children under 'Operation Muskaan-X'

Hyderabad: A total of 326 children including 15 girls were rescued from various places under 'Operation Muskaan - X' conducted across Rachakonda Police Commissionerate during the month of July.

The operation was conducted to trace out missing children and rescue children from begging, rag picking, child labour etc. As part of these operations, nine teams were formed in Rachakonda Commissionerate and these teams conducted rescue operations on various industries, companies and other establishments. Special drive was also carried out against children deployed for begging.

Telangana CM announces plans for new International Cricket Stadium in Hyd



GNS News Agency, August 2

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced plans for the construction of a new international cricket stadium on the outskirts of Hyderabad, specifically in Begarikancha. This announcement was made during a session of the state Assembly, coinciding with the foundation-laying ceremony for the Young India Skills University.

In his address, the Chief Minister revealed that preliminary discussions have already occurred with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) regarding the proposed stadium. "The state government is committed to promoting sports, and we

will soon unveil a comprehensive sports policy," he stated, indicating that the government is currently reviewing the sports policies of Haryana for inspiration. Faithful to its commitment to sports development, the Telangana government allocated ₹321 crore for sports initiatives in the state budget for the fiscal year 2024-25. Reddy expressed a particular focus on enhancing sports infrastructure, noting a decline in activity at existing stadiums in Yousufguda, Gachibowli, and Saroornagar. He also highlighted that the LB Stadium has been increasingly used for political events rather than sports.

Additionally, the state cabinet has decided to al-

locate 600 square yards of housing plots to notable sportspersons, including shooter Esha Singh, two-time world boxing champion Nikhat Zareen, and international cricketer Mohammed Siraj. The cabinet also resolved to offer Group-1 jobs to Zareen and Siraj as a gesture of encouragement for their contributions to sports.

While Siraj does not possess the formal educational qualification required for a Group-1 job—having completed only his intermediate education—the cabinet granted an exemption in recognition of his sporting achievements. This decision allows Siraj the opportunity for direct entry into high-ranking positions, such as Deputy Superintendent of Police, should he choose to join the police force. The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of sports and infrastructure development in the state, encouraging opposition parties to contribute suggestions for promoting sporting activities. The new sports policy is anticipated to be announced in the upcoming Assembly session.



GNS News Agency, August 2

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday declined to entertain a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking a Special Investigative Team (SIT) probe under the supervision of a retired apex court judge into an alleged scam in poll financing using electoral bonds. During the hearing, the bench presided over by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud observed that the ordinary course of law may remedy the allegations raised in the petition, and asked advocate Prashant Bhushan to explain as to why the top court should interfere in the matter. Prashant Bhushan replied, "Nothing will come out in an ordinary FIR unless investigated under the

proceedings. But, we have gone up to a certain point and ordered disclosure. We have quashed the scheme." "Your lordships could not have granted the relief which we seek now," responded Bhushan, referring to the prayers contained in the PIL. The apex court said that an SIT cannot be formed to probe "quid pro quo" unless there is an FIR already registered on the issue espoused in the PIL. Bhushan said that in the past, the Supreme Court had ordered probe into the coalgate and hawala scams in extraordinary circumstances.

He said, "The companies which gave electoral bonds received large contracts from the government run by that political party. Governments are involved, ruling parties are involved, investigative agencies appear to be involved, and top corporate houses are involved. This is the most extraordinary case of corruption which has come to light before the Supreme Court. Nothing will come out in a normal FIR." "In coalgate, not only a CBI investigation was ordered, this court also held that coal contracts

were awarded arbitrarily. It was only because of the monitoring of the investigation by this court that the coalgate matter reached some conclusion," Bhushan added. He also suggested appointing a former SC judge along with some retired CBI officials to take up a preliminary inquiry into the matter, and then the apex court may decide the further course of action. Delivering its verdict in the open court, the bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said that it would be "premature and inappropriate" to entertain the petition filed directly before the apex court unless the remedies available under ordinary law have not been availed. Further, it said that issuing directions to reopen income tax assessments of political parties that received electoral bonds would impinge upon statutory functions of the tax authorities and amount to conclusion on facts. The PIL filed by the NGO Common Cause and Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL) said that electoral bond data -- revealed on top court's directions -- shows that the bulk of the bonds

appeared to have been given as quid pro quo arrangements by corporates to political parties for getting contracts, licences, and leases from the governments or authorities. Further, it alleged that electoral bonds were given by corporates to political parties as consideration for favourable policy changes and in close proximity to action by agencies like the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Income Tax Department, or the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Several firms that were under investigation by these agencies donated large sums of money to the ruling party, potentially to influence the outcomes of the probes, the petition claimed. "Though these apparent payoffs amount to several thousand crores, they appear to have influenced contracts worth lakhs of crores and regulatory inaction by agencies worth thousands of crores and also appear to have allowed substandard or dangerous drugs to be sold in the market, endangering the lives of millions of people in the country," the plea stated.

Telangana Government Tables CAG Report on Irrigation Projects



GNS News Agency, August 2

The Government of Telangana has presented the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on irrigation water projects for the financial year 2022-23 in the Assembly. The report reveals concerning trends, indicating that the state's revenue expenditure has surpassed its revenue earnings, highlighting financial strains within the irrigation sector.

Over the past five years, the report indicates a significant increase in expenditures on irrigation projects, with a staggering ₹1.73 lakh crore spent on the construction of 20 irrigation projects initiated between 1983 and 2018. Alarming, the estimated cost for these projects has escalated from ₹1 lakh crore to ₹2 lakh crore. The CAG report further points out that the loans taken for these projects, particularly for the Kaleshwaram project and Mission Bhagiratha, are substantial. Additionally, the report criticizes the previous government's financial strategies, noting that it borrowed 6% more than the limit imposed by the 15th Finance Commission. It also highlights that non-tax revenue estimates in last year's budget were significantly overestimated.

India beat Tokyo games silver medallist Australia in men's hockey of Paris Olympics

GNS News Agency, August 2

Paris: India stunned Tokyo Games silver medallist and their biggest nemesis Australia 3-2 here on Friday to finish their pool engagements on a high having already qualified for the quarterfinals of men's hockey competition at Paris Olympics.

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh (13th, 32nd) struck a brace enroute his sixth goal in the tournament, while Abhishek Gave India the lead in the 12th minute.

Australia's goals were scored by Tom Craig (25th) and Blake Govers (55th).

Veteran India goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, playing his last international tournament, was spectacular under the bar, making numerous saves to keep his side's lead intact.

Turncoat MLA Danam Nagender sparks controversy with abusive language in Assembly

GNS News Agency, August 2

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Legislative Assembly witnessed heated drama on Friday as Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender used abusive language against BRS MLAs, causing an uproar. With the entire opposition raising strong objections to his "unwarranted" and "offensive" remarks in the House, Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar intervened and the MLA was forced to apologise by withdrawing his remarks.

During a short discussion on "Activities for Sustainable Urban Development in Hyderabad Metro City" in the Assembly, Nagender who defected from the BRS to the ruling



Congress, was allowed to speak. The BRS legislators, led by party working president KT Rama Rao, demanded to know which party Nagender was representing. Though the Speaker said every member has the right to speak, he did not clarify Nagender's party affiliation, leading to further objections from BRS MLAs. With the BRS members not yield-

ing, Nagender responded with "abusive" language especially targeting Padi Kaushik Reddy and others, challenging them to come out. He warned to "peel off their skin" and "not let them walk on the streets". The situation escalated quickly as BRS MLAs expressed their indignation over Nagender's comments.

AIMIM floor leader Asaduddin Owaisi also ob-

jected to the "very unparliamentary" language used by Nagender and stated that as a senior legislator, the latter could not be allowed to speak such language. He requested that the Speaker should make him tender an unconditional apology failing which it would set a wrong precedence. The Speaker intervened to restore order in the Assembly and stated that the abusive remarks would be expunged from the records. Complying with the Speaker's instructions, Nagender announced the withdrawal of his comments and expressed regret. He claimed that his remarks were not intentional and emphasised his seniority and well-known reputation in an attempt to mitigate the backlash.

Didn't cancel NEET-UG because there was no systematic breach of its sanctity: SC

GNS News Agency, August 2

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said it did not cancel the controversy-ridden NEET-UG 2024 examination amid concerns of paper leak because there was no systematic breach of its sanctity. In its detailed reasons for the order which was pronounced on July 23, a Bench of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the National Testing Agency (NTA) must stop its flip-flop which was noticed this year as it does not serve the interest of students. The Bench issued a slew of directions and expanded the remit of the Centre-appointed panel headed by former ISRO chief K Radhakrishnan to review the NTA's functioning and recommend exam reforms. It said since the remit of the panel has been expanded, the committee would submit its report by September 30 on various measures to rectify deficiencies in the examination system. The Bench said the Radhakrishnan panel should consider framing standard operating procedure for adoption of technological advancements to strengthen the examination system.

It said the issues which have arisen during the NEET-UG examination should be rectified by the Centre. On July 23, the top court dismissed the pleas seeking cancellation and re-test of the controversy-ridden exam, holding that there was no evidence on record to conclude that it was "vitiated" on account of "systemic breach"



It said since the remit of the panel has been expanded, the committee would submit its report by September 30 on various measures to rectify deficiencies in the examination system.

of its sanctity. The top court, while pronouncing the order, said its detailed reasons would follow. The interim verdict came as a shot in the arm for the embattled NDA government and the NTA, which were facing strong criticism and protests, on streets and in Parliament, over alleged large-scale malpractices like question paper leak, fraud and impersonation in the prestigious test held on May 5.

Congress will build 100 houses for survivors, says Rahul Gandhi



GNS News Agency, August 2

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a briefing from the Wayanad District Administration officials at Chooralmala on the Wayanad landslides and rescue operations on August 2. Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during a briefing from the Wayanad District Administration officials at Chooralmala on the Wayanad landslides and rescue operations on August 2. | Photo Credit: Special Arrangement Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, has said the Congress party would construct 100 houses for the survivors of the catastrophic landslide in Wayanad in Kerala. Speaking to reporters after visiting survivors and the next of kin of the dead in Wayanad on August 2, Mr. Gandhi told reporters that most of the victims of the natural disaster wished to be resettled on safer grounds and away from disaster-prone zones. Mr. Gandhi was accompanied by Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and other senior Congress leaders. Mr. Gandhi said he would raise their concerns with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and also in Lok Sabha. "This is a different level of tragedy. The current focus is on finding potential survivors and retrieving dead bodies. Such a tragedy is unseen anywhere, especially in Kerala. The scale of the disaster is immense," Mr. Gandhi said.

Prashant Kishor takes swipe at Tejashwi Yadav on his upcoming Yatra

GNS News Agency, August 2

Patna: As RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav readies to embark on a statewide yatra in Bihar on August 17, Prashant Kishor, the chief of Jan Suraj, on Friday took a dig at him, saying that he remembered the people only after being sidelined by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. "Tejashwi Yadav was the Deputy Chief Minister till yesterday, but Nitish Kumar sidelined him, so now he is remembering the people of Bihar," Kishor said. He also highlighted the differences between his padayatra and Yadav's yatra. He stated, "I have been doing padayatra for the last 18 months. Unlike others, I am not holding a rally one day and asking for votes the next day, nor am I planning to contest elections on the third day."

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Bhola's conviction

THE conviction of dismissed Punjab DSP and former wrestler Jagdish Singh Bhola, along with 16 others, including his wife, mother-in-law and father-in-law, in an 11-year-old money-laundering case linked to drugs marks a significant victory in the fight against corruption and financial crimes. Bhola, already serving a 24-year sentence for his involvement in a Rs 700-crore drug smuggling racket, has now been handed a 10-year imprisonment for his role in laundering illicit money. This verdict by a special court in Mohali underscores the persistent issues of corruption and the need for comprehensive reforms within law enforcement agencies.

The investigation, initiated by the Punjab Police and later taken over by the Enforcement Directorate under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), revealed a complex web of financial crimes spanning over a decade. Bhola's involvement in orchestrating a multi-crore drug racket, exploiting his position of power or personal gains, is a reminder of the systemic issues that need to be addressed. His guilt raises questions about the oversight and accountability mechanisms within the institutions. The road ahead is long and Bhola's conviction should pave the way for a holistic strategy to combat the drug epidemic. This includes punishing the guilty as well as addressing the root causes of the drug trade, such as poverty, unemployment and a lack of education.

Punjab has been grappling with an alarming drug crisis that has devastated countless families. Bringing Bhola to book is a job half done. The general perception is that the high and mighty operating behind the scenes have been able to cover their tracks. The investigators need to dig deeper to dispel the notion that there is some unfinished business.

From relishing dal makhani to cycling to shooting class to Bhangra: Sarabjot shoots bronze in Paris Olympics

GNS News Agency, August 2

As 67-year-old Labh Kaur ended her Sukhmani paath recital at the Singh household surrounded by paddy fields in Dhin village, she was embraced by her son Jatinder Singh Sahansweral and daughter-in-law Hardeep Kaur. Labh Kaur's grandson 22-year-old Sarabjot Singh had paired up with Manu Bhaker to win the mixed 10-m air pistol bronze medal in the Paris Olympics, and the sexagenarian brought out of the cabinet medals won by her grandson in the past, showing to their relatives. "Jehda aaj medal jitya hai, oh duniya da sab toh wade khedan da hai (The medal which Sarabjot won today is of the world's biggest games). Whenever Sarabjot returns home after winning a medal, he comes to my room and shows me his medal. This time, I will be at the main gate of the house to welcome him with the Olympic medal," Labh Kaur told With his father managing the family farmland, young Sarabjot would take up shooting at Bhagiriath School in nearby Koolpur village. While he would pursue shooting at the school, and later joined coach Abhishek Rana's academy in Ambala, he would also be the first in the school's Bhangra team. Singh, who has won two World Cup titles in his career, also bagged the Paris Olympics quota for India last year before he sealed his place in the Indian team for the Paris Olympics

His mother Hardeep Kaur recalls a young Sarabjot as someone who loved dancing and having his favourite dal makhani and paneer. "He would cycle to his school and go to the bus stop on the cycle to catch a bus to Ambala for his shooting practice. Upon returning home, he would practice bhangra to relax and then ask me to make dal makhani and paneer. Paris ch vi dal makhani te paneer hi labhda hona medal Jeetan toh bad (He would be searching for dal makhani and paneer after winning the medal in Paris)," Kaur said. Sarabjot's grandfather Hardev Singh is visiting Singh's uncle Davinder Singh in the USA. The Singh family made a video call later in the evening to the grandfather and other relatives. "All his uncles Ravinder Singh, Davinder Singh and Lakhwinder Singh were following the bronze medal match against Korea and Sarabjot's grandfather would be glad to hear the news too. Sarabjot has made the village and India proud," Sarabjot's father Jatinder Singh said.

How Sarabjot recovered from near final miss to climb the mixed team podium with Manu Last Saturday when Sarabjot Singh missed the final of the men's 10m air pistol event after hitting one inner 10 shot fewer than German Robin Walter, the 22-year-old from Ambala could not control his tears. When his farmer father Jatinder Singh Sahansweral called him in the evening, the conversation would play a big role in Sarabjot clinching an Olympic bronze medal with Manu Bhaker in the mixed 10m air pistol event at the Chateauroux Shooting Range.

Double delight: Shooting stars Sarabjot Singh and Manu Bhaker with DAV College, Chandigarh associate professor Amanendra Mann in Paris. Double delight: Shooting stars Sarabjot Singh and Manu Bhaker with DAV College, Chandigarh associate professor Amanendra Mann in Paris. Sarabjot and Manu defeated Koreans Oh Ye Jin and Lee Wonho 16-10 in the bronze medal contest to secure their place on the podium. There was a bit of drama towards the end when the Koreans made a little comeback, but the Indian duo wasn't denied. Sarabjot's father said that not getting too down on himself played a part in the turnaround in the youngster's fortunes. "Kisan da puttar hai, dil thoda chadi da (You are a farmer's son, don't be disheartened)," his father recalls what he told him. "Sarabjot is very emotional about his shooting. That's what he has passionately done for the last 10 years and that's what I reminded him when he missed the final. I have always taught him to forget the past and look ahead and we are glad that he forgot the disappointment and has now won an Olympic medal," Sahansweral told The Indian Express. Talking about Sarabjot's initiation in the sport, he said it took place during a school camp at a nearby village under coach Shakti Rana in 2014. A pistol was shared by more than 30 trainees. But when the academy closed in 2016, Sarabjot joined the Shooters Terrace Academy at Ambala Cantt under coach Abhishek Rana. With no direct buses from his village to Ambala Cantt, Sarabjot would park his bicycle at a friend's place and catch the bus to Ambala.

Cabinet clears proposal to lease state's hydroelectric projects to private players



GNS News Agency, August 2

The government has categorised the hydro power projects into two categories and only Category 2 projects will be available for lease to private players. Category 1 involves those that are meant for power generation only and the Category 2 includes projects meant for irrigation and drinking water. hydroelectricity. The government has categorised the hydro power projects into two categories and only Category 2 projects will be available for lease to private players. Category 1 involves those that are meant for power generation only and the Category 2 includes projects meant for irrigation and drinking water.

Three months ahead of the Assembly polls, the Maharashtra government on Tuesday cleared a policy under which private players can bid to operate old hydroelectric plants where power generation is incidental to irrigation and drinking. Under the current policy, the state government has kept the hydro power projects out of its purview. Under the scheme — Renovation, Modernisation, Uprating & Life Extension (RMU&LE), over-lived hydroelectric plants on Lease, Renovate, Operate & Transfer (LROT) basis will be carried out. The government has categorised the hydro power projects into two categories and only Category 2 projects will be available for lease to private players. Category 1 involves those that are meant for power generation only and the Category 2 includes

projects meant for irrigation and drinking water. Out of 25 projects owned and constructed by the Water Resources Department (WRD) and leased out to MAHAGENCO, nine are independent hydro power projects (IPP) under Category 1 and have an aggregate power generation capacity of 2411.5 MW. In these nine projects, water is used only for power generation and the projects are important for stability and management of the grid. "Considering the strategic importance of these projects, MAHAGENCO will carry out RMU&LE works of these IPPs after expiration of their 35 years of normative life..." the policy said. The remaining hydroelectric projects fall in Category 2 with an aggregate capacity of 167.45 MW. Six others with 9.575 MW capacity, where power generation is incidental to irrigation and/or water supply releases will be carried out by LROT basis.

Some of the major projects that can be leased out to private players include Yeldari (22.5 MW) Bhatghar (16MW), Paithan (12 MW), Pawna (10 MW), Khadkwasla (8MW+8MW), Ujani (12 MW) and Bhatsa (15 MW) among others. The project shall be allotted through a bidding process where MAHAGENCO is also allowed to participate. The term of lease shall be of 25 years from commercial operation date (COD). According to the objectives of the policy, it will give about 25 years beyond the project's normative life; improve the performance of over lived hydroelectric projects in terms of efficiency, output, availability and reliability; converting existing base load stations to peaking stations for the benefit of the electricity grid; reducing the maintenance requirements and ensuring ease of operation and safety; protection of consumer interests by timely completion of RMU&LE works without cost over-run and minimum loss of generation. The projects to undergo RMU&LE will be identified on the basis of its performance records. A residual life assessment (RLA) study will be carried out to assess the health and residual life of every component of the hydro generating unit. A detailed project report (DPR) will be carried out to avoid further complications, especially related to the cost.

Delhi HC stays NCPDR's directive asking police officer to register FIR against DPS, Dwarka

GNS News Agency, August 2

The sub-divisional magistrate had then issued a show-cause notice to the school calling for an explanation to which the school had submitted a detailed reply, according to the school, and no further action was taken on the May 15 complaint. (File Photo) The sub-divisional magistrate had then issued a show-cause notice to the school calling for an explanation to which the school had submitted a detailed reply, according to the school, and no further action was taken on the May 15 complaint. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights had on July 18 directed the deputy commissioner of police to lodge an FIR against Delhi Public School, Dwarka, following several allegations. Intervening in a plea moved by the Delhi Public School, Dwarka, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday stayed a notice by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPDR) where it had directed a police officer to register a First Information Report (FIR) against the school under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

Staying the coercive action on behalf of NCPDR and police until further orders from the court, Justice Sanjeev Narula also issued notice, posting the matter next for consideration on November 7. Taking cognisance of DPS, Dwarka expelling students from school for non-payment of increased fees, publication of their names on the school website, and failure to offer assistance to a female student during her menstrual cycle, the NCPDR had on July 18 directed the deputy commissioner of police, Dwarka, to lodge an FIR against the school. Challenging NCPDR's action, DPS, Dwarka, submitted that the issue of suspension or expulsion of students on account of failure to deposit the increased fee for the academic sessions 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 is already presently under consideration before the Delhi High Court owing to petitions filed by various parents of students enrolled with the school, and where the



school has already complied with various interim directions issued by the court periodically. With regard to the purported harassment of students by the school for non-payment of fees, the school submitted that a few students had submitted a complaint to the NCPDR on May 15, and accordingly, the NCPDR had issued a notice under Section 13(1)(j) of Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 to the Directorate of Education and district magistrate, South West to inquire into the allegations.

The sub-divisional magistrate had then issued a show-cause notice to the school calling for an explanation to which the school had submitted a detailed reply, according to the school, and no further action was taken on the May 15 complaint. It was also the school's case that the NCPDR's notice earlier was issued arbitrarily, without any prior notice or an opportunity of hearing granted to the school, and that the school only came to know of it through media. The school also denied the allegations of cruelty and "inhumane behaviour" demonstrated by failure to provide requisite assistance to the female student. It was submitted that there is complete CCTV footage available with the school, which can easily establish facts to the contrary, and a police inquiry too had not found anything amiss.

Karnataka HC calls on Centre, state to amend BNSS to ensure rape victims are examined by female doctors



GNS News Agency, August 2

BNSS section 184, rape victim examined by female doctors only, karnataka news, indian express. The bench subsequently called on the state and the Union to draw the attention of concerned parties to suggest suitable amendments to Section 184 of the BNSS. The Karnataka High Court has in a recent order urged the central and state governments to amend Section 184 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to ensure that the medical examination of rape victims was only done by a female doctor. A single-judge bench of Justice M G Uma on July 15 also called upon the governments, via the additional solicitor general of India and state public prosecutor, to hold sensitisation programmes for stakeholders and provide female doctors for medical examination of rape victims until the amendment is brought. The observations were made while rejecting the bail plea of a man who had allegedly raped his neighbour at knifepoint after barging into her home. The bail plea was rejected on several grounds, including a forensic report, witness statements, as well as injuries sustained by the accused as the victim defended herself. Among other criticisms, the bench noted that in the initial report, neither a final nor provision report was given on the physical condition of the victim, while a provisional opinion was given after

the direction of the court. The bench stated, "It is disturbing to note that a male medical officer has subjected the victim for examination with the history of sexual assault and the examination lasted 6 hours without there being any explanation and without any opinion..." The bench added, "Some basic protocol is to be followed. There cannot be a second opinion that the medical examination of such a victim should always be victim-friendly. We should never forget that the victim will always have the right to privacy..." The bench subsequently called on the state and the Union to draw the attention of concerned parties to suggest suitable amendments to Section 184 of the BNSS. The bench, which had previously raised the issue of illegible hospital documents, also directed that hospitals would have to provide either legible or computer-generated wound certificates and medical reports.

SCR to operate Divya Dakshin Yatra with Jyotirlinga – Shraavan Masam tour in August

GNS News Agency, August 2

Hyderabad: Enthused by the positive response from the citizens, the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) have come up with another trip of Divya Dakshin Yatra with Jyotirlinga – Shraavan Masam tour. The train will commence its journey from Secunderabad Railway Station on August 4 and will cover important tourist places in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The South Central Railway (SCR) officials said the 8 nights / 9 days trip avoids the difficulties involved in individual planning and making arrangements like trains, accommodation, food etc. The package includes travel facilities, accommodation, catering arrangements including meals, services of professional and friendly tour es-

Delhi court sentences man to 1 year in jail for throwing acid on dog: 'life is dear to a mute creature'



GNS News Agency, August 2

A Delhi court recently sentenced a man to imprisonment for a year for throwing acid on a dog in 2020 and said life is as dear to a mute creature as it is to any human. In February 2020, the case was registered by Onwati Yadav, a resident of Paharganj, who alleged she had seen the man throwing acid on the eye, face, and other body parts of her dog. She also alleged that the convict abused her and threatened to kill the dog when she was bathing him.

"The act of throwing some corrosive/burning substance, which resulted in the loss of one eye of the dog, is serious and grave. Letting off such a person with less punishment and granting any leniency to the convict will convey an adverse message to society," said the court of Richa Sharma, Additional Chief Judicial

The order of the court was replete with quotes from various thinkers. "He who is cruel to animals becomes hard in his dealings with men. We can judge the heart of man by his treatment of animals," Judge Sharma said quoting German philosopher Immanuel Kant. "To my mind, the life of a lamb is no less precious than that of a human being. I should be unwilling to take the life of a lamb for the sake of the human body. I hold that the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to the protection by man from the cruelty of man," Judge Sharma said quoting Mahatma Gandhi in her order.

However, the convict was admitted to bail for one month to file an appeal against the conviction and sentence. In March, the court convicted the man for the offences under Section 429 (Mischief by killing or maiming cattle, etc.) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and Section 11 (1) (treating animals with cruelty) of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

Mamata Banerjee intervenes to end film industry deadlock, shoots to resume



GNS News Agency, August 2

Leading Bengali film actors Prosenjit Chatterjee, Dev and director Goutam Ghose on Tuesday met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in an attempt to resolve the ongoing deadlock between directors and technicians over the boycott of shoots of filmmaker Rahul Mukherjee. Soon after the meeting, it was announced that film shoots will resume on Wednesday. Both Prosenjit Chatterjee and Dev expressed gratitude to Banerjee for her "support" and expressed confidence about a swift resolution of the issue. The impasse had a significant impact on the Bengali film industry, as studios were closed and several shooting projects remained on hold after technicians refused to work on a film directed by Rahul Mukherjee. The filmmaker is currently under a three-month ban imposed by the Federation of Cine Technicians' Workers of Eastern India (FCTWEI) for allegedly violating the industry's norms by employing Bangladeshi technicians on a previous project.

The standoff escalated on Saturday when technicians walked off the set of Mukherjee's new film, leading to a show of solidarity from other directors who ceased work on Monday in protest. The industry has been divided, with prominent figures like Prosenjit Chatterjee and Anirban Bhattacharya supporting Mukherjee, and technicians sticking to their stance.

Chairman of Aditya Birla Group, Kumar Mangalam Birla, on Tuesday called on CM Mamata Banerjee at state secretariat Nabanna, where they discussed business opportunities in the state. Taking to social media, Banerjee, who described it as a courtesy visit, said the group has plans to open an educational institute in Kolkata apart from other fresh investments. She said that the group would have the support of her government. "Mr Kumar Mangalam Birla... met me today. ...he discussed with me the business opportunities of Bengal and their investment intentions here," Banerjee posted on X. "They are having ongoing/ in pipeline projects worth Rs 5,000 crore in sectors like cement and paints manufacturing.

Bookings can be done on IRCTC website: <http://www.irctctourism.com> or counter bookings by contacting -Secunderabad: 040-27702407 or 9701360701 or 9281495845 or 9281495843 or 8287932228 or 8287932229. Divya Dakshin Yatra with Jyotirlinga – Shraavan Masam: • Itinerary: Secunderabad-Tiruvannamalai [Arunachalam]- Rameswaram-Madurai-Kanyakumari – Trivandrum-Trichy-Thanjavur – Secunderabad. • Date – Departure at 12pm on August 4 from Secunderabad railway station. • Duration – 8 Nights/ 9 Days. • Boarding / deboarding Stations – Secunderabad, Kazipet, Warangal, Khammam, Vijayawada, Tenali, Ongole, Nellore, Gudur and Renigunta.

Pune baker loses Rs 1.8 cr in share trading fraud



GNS News Agency, August 2

A First Information Report in this regard has been registered at Cyber Crime police station of Pune city by a woman who runs a bakery business and has also been doing stock trading for the last few years. (Pexels) A First Information Report in this regard has been registered at Cyber Crime police station of Pune city by a woman who runs a bakery business and has also been doing stock trading for the last few years. A PUNE based baker in her 30s, who has been doing stock trading on the side, fell victim to an elaborate online share trading fraud in which she lost a staggering Rs 1.8 crore over a period of two months. She was lured with a promise of five times returns after she clicked on a social media link and was added to a phone messenger group which misused the name of a global investment banking major.

A First Information Report in this regard has been registered at Cyber Crime police station of Pune city by a woman who runs a bakery business and has also been doing stock trading for the last few years. The complainant lost over Rs 1.79 crore over May and June earlier this year when she made as many as 36 large transactions to fraudulent accounts thinking she was investing in legitimate stock trading platforms.

In April this year she came across a link on Instagram about a platform offering stock trading options. After clicking the link she was added to a phone messenger group where the administrators and members were discussing

various investment options into stock markets and how they were getting high returns over the last many years. She was subsequently contacted individually and was made to download a phone based share trading application. The Cyber fraudsters posing as executives from this platform, told her that she could earn five to 10 times returns on her investments. The suspects began telling her to send money to various bank accounts and these amounts started reflecting on the app she had downloaded on her phone. Between the first week of May and last week of June she made as many as 36 transfers totalling Rs 1.79 crore against which her profits were reflected as Rs nine crore. When she tried to make withdrawals, she was told that she would have to pay Rs 50 lakh tax. It was at this point that she started having suspicions about the platform and later realised that she had been cheated. She approached the Cyber crime cell and an FIR was registered. Investigators have said that in the large number of online share trading frauds reported till now, the victims have been mainly targeted through social media advertisements, videos and reels. Many of these fraudulent posts misuse the images of well known investment banking and stock trading platforms and faces of well known stock trading trainers. Over the last seven months, the Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad police have reported what their cyber investigators are calling an epidemic, a worrying surge in online share trading fraud cases. Fraudsters employ a variety of baits, including trading tips, virtual lectures, mobile applications, and enticing promises of exorbitant returns. In an advisory issued in this regard on February 26, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said, "Fraudsters are enticing victims through online trading courses, seminars, and mentorship programs in the stock market, leveraging social media platforms like WhatsApp or Telegram, as well as live broadcasts. Posing as employees or affiliates of SEBI-registered Foreign Portfolio Investors, they coax individuals into downloading applications that purportedly allow them to purchase shares, subscribe to IPOs, and enjoy 'institutional account benefits'—all without the need for an official trading or Demat account. These operations often use mobile numbers registered under false names to orchestrate their schemes."

Bengal govt hikes excise duty: beer, IMFL to be Rs 20-30 costlier

GNS News Agency, August 2

With the West Bengal government increasing excise duty, beer, Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), and country liquor will be more expensive in the state from August 14. While the price per bottle of beer will go up by Rs 20-25, IMFL will be Rs 30 more expensive, and country liquor will cost Rs 5 more. The move from the state government comes as it looks to boost its finances to fund various social security schemes. To this end, the government had increased stamp duty.

In Financial Year 2022-2023, the government made Rs 16,266 crore in excise duty, and in FY 2023-2024, the figure was over Rs 18,000 crore. The government is now looking to increase revenue from excise duty to over Rs 20,000 crore to meet the requirements of various schemes. According to sources in the administration, from FY 2024-25, the state government has to allocate Rs 26,000 crore to the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme for financial assistance to women from economically weaker sections, Rs 6,500 crore to Krishak Bandhu scheme for financial assistance to farmers, around Rs 10,500 crore to the Jai Bangla pension scheme, and almost Rs 1,500 crore to the Kanyashree scheme for girls' education.

A senior government official said, "Government now has an expenditure of more than Rs 50,000 crore every year in different social welfare schemes. Other than that, the government has extra expenditures like payment to puja committees, club-aid, etc. To meet such huge financial liabilities the government took Rs 73,000 crore loans in FY 2023-24. This year, this loan estimate is Rs 80,000 crore. In this situation, the government has to increase revenue and excise and stamp duties are the only options." An official of the state Excise Department said, "We made minor tweaks in the price of country made liquor, otherwise the increase in the price of beer will cause an increase in consumption of country liquor. That is not desirable."



The official said attempts to increase revenue through measures such as keeping liquor shops partially open on dry days did not have the desired effect. "So, we were forced to increase the price of liquor to meet our financial expectation," said the official. Stamp duty exemption was also withdrawn from July 1. In a notice announcing this, the government had said: "To combat the economic slowdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic and to provide stimulus to commercial activities and relief to the home-buyers of the state in the public interest, the state government decided to temporarily reduce the rate of stamp duty by 2% and the Circle Rate by 10% in West Bengal." "The matter has been reviewed further and considering all aspects, the Governor, in the interest of public service, has now been pleased to decide that both the above mentioned schemes for remission of stamp duty and reduction in circle rate shall be discontinued with effect from 01.07.2024," the notice added. A senior official said, "After reducing stamp duties, revenue increased because pending registrations had been done. Gradually, in the last two years, that increase in revenue slowed down... We are expecting at least Rs 1,000 crore revenue increase this year."

Confirmed cases of CHPV rise to 51, Viral Encephalitis spreads to 24 districts in Gujarat



GNS News Agency, August 2

A month since the outbreak of Chandipura Acute Viral Encephalitis (CHPV) in Gujarat, the state has reported 137 patients with suspected CHPV, among whom 51 have tested positive for the virus as on Tuesday. Tuesday also saw cases of Viral Encephalitis spreading to 24 of the 33 districts of the state, with deaths of 56 children being recorded. Teams from the National Institute of Virology in Pune and the National Centre for Disease Control stayed put in the state "conducting studies" to ascertain the nature and spread of the virus. Among the 137 patients with suspected CHPV, 29 were under treatment and 52 have been discharged, the government said in a bulletin on Tuesday. While six patients of viral encephalitis are from Rajasthan, where two children have died, four are from Madhya Pradesh, which has reported one death. One case has been recorded in Maharashtra. CHPV and Viral Encephalitis Cases CHPV and Viral Encephalitis Cases

Among the 137, the maximum number of patients – 15 – have been reported from Panchmahal district, while Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Sabarkantha district have reported 12 cases each. Of the 51 positive cases so far, seven are from Panchmahal and five each from Mehsana and Sabarkantha. The Rajkot Civil Hospi-

tal said on Tuesday that it has till now admitted 20 children to the special ward for suspected CHPV patients. Seven among them have died. Dr Hetal Kyada, media coordinator of the hospital, said that among the 20 children, six have tested positive for CHPV, while eight have tested negative. Test results of six others are awaited.

He added that of the six confirmed CHPV patients, a seven-year-old girl from Padadhari taluka of Rajkot was discharged on Tuesday. Moreover, while one child has died, four others are undergoing treatment. He further said that while the eight children admitted as suspected CHPV patients eventually tested negative for the virus, six of them died with symptoms of acute encephalitis syndrome. One patient is still under treatment and one has been discharged.

"Among the eight patients undergoing treatment at present, four have tested positive for CHPV, two have tested negative and reports of two others are awaited," said Dr Kyada, adding that patients who came to Rajkot for treatment hailed from districts like Rajkot, Morbi, Surendranagar, Porbandar and Jamnagar, among others. An expert from one of the panels that is currently on a visit to the affected districts told The Indian Express that the "widespread" suspected cases had called for an "extensive study" into the nature of the outbreak and the possibility of another "host" through which the infection has spread.

The expert said, "We have been collecting samples of people in neighbourhoods that have reported deaths of suspected and confirmed CHPV patients. We are also collecting samples of the living organisms in these areas, such as cattle and even rodents, because by nature, vector-borne diseases are spread because the vector acts as an intermediary for transmitting the virus from the infected host... Here too, the sandflies can be one of the intermediaries but one cannot rule out the possibility that there is another host."

BJP files no-confidence motion against Speaker: 'He's partisan'



GNS News Agency, August 2

Suvendu AdhikariA delegation led by Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari submitted a letter to the Assembly Principal Secretary, stating, "This House regrettably disapproves of the conduct of Speaker Biman Banerjee and resolves that he be removed... The BJP on Tuesday filed a no-confidence motion against West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee seeking his removal from the post, alleging that he was acting in an arbitrary and partisan manner. A delegation led by Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari submitted a letter to the Assembly Principal Secretary, stating, "This House regrettably disapproves of the conduct of Speaker Biman Banerjee and resolves that he be removed..." This is the second time the BJP has brought a no-confidence motion against Speaker Banerjee. When contacted, Banerjee said, "They can bring no-confidence against the Speaker. But since I did not see the motion, and therefore, can't speak on that." "The Speaker arbitrarily disallows all types of adjournment motions intending to discuss issues of public importance and problems concerning the people of the state. Also, he indirectly encourages the members of the ruling party to bring privilege motions against the Opposition members whenever his role is criticised. He, however, disallows genuine privilege motions tabled by the members of the Opposition even as they are based on documentary evidence," the letter read. The Speaker unnecessarily delayed the disqualification of MLAs who joined the Trinamool Congress after being elected as BJP MLAs, the Nandigram MLA alleged in the letter.

He added, "He holds the proceedings and abuses the discretionary powers in such a manner to prevent the government's incompetence and misdeeds from being exposed and thus neglecting the role of the Opposition in the House, usurps the privileges guaranteed by the Constitution to MLAs, misrepresents and misinterprets the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Legislative Assembly. In short, he fails to maintain an impartial conduct necessary to command the confidence of all sections of the House..."

The letter further stated, "He disregards the rights of the members of the Opposition and makes pronouncements, gives rulings calculated to undermine their rights and privileges and fails to apply an unbiased mind to the deliberations of the House. He deprives the Opposition members of an opportunity to effectively voice the people's grievances, expunges portions of their speeches without valid reason and parliamentary decency..." The letter also accused the Speaker of "unethically" including the name of a member who had defected to the Trinamool Congress as a list of speakers of the BJP "without the party's consent" and failing to maintain the convention of the House and unnecessarily delaying action on petitions under rule 191(2) of the 10 Schedule of the Constitution read with rule 6(2) of the Members of West Bengal Legislative Assembly (Disqualification on Grounds of Defection) Rules, 1986, against Horakali Pratihari, Suman Kanjilal, Tanmoy Ghosh and Mukul Roy who have since defected to the TMC. "The party also alleged that Banerjee 'arbitrarily disallows the Leader of the Opposition from meeting the press in his chamber while some ministers are allowed' to do so. Speaking to media persons later, Adhikari, said while the Speaker allowed discussion of unrelated matters at the eleventh hour as requested by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to "criticise Prime Minister Narendra Modi and organisations like the NITI Aayog", he is not allowing the Opposition to bring motions on issues like "atrocities on youths and women in the state". "This government is mired in the scams. Many TMC heavyweights and ministers are currently in jail. But, the Opposition is not allowed to bring up such issues on the floor of the House," Adhikari claimed. He also accused the Speaker of violating the Constitution by "bypassing" the Governor's role in the swearing-in of six TMC MLAs.

Kanwariyas thrash transgender and vandalise wine shop in Uttar Pradesh

GNS News Agency, August 2

Kanwariyas, vandalised wine short, thrashed transgender, ghaziabad, indian express Kanwariyas, the devotees of Lord Shiva, undertake a pilgrimage to Uttarakhand's Gangotri, Gaumukh, and Haridwar, and Sultanganj in Bihar to collect Ganga water during the Hindu month of Shrawan. A transgender was beaten up and her clothes torn allegedly by a group of Kanwariyas, who suspected she was a thief, in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad in the late hours of Monday. According to police, the incident took place in the Sihani Gate Police Station area at midnight.

"We rescued the person from the angry crowd and brought her to the police station. She was not a thief. It was because of some confusion and misunderstanding," said Ravendra Gautam, Station House Officer, Sihani Gate.

A purported video of the incident being widely shared on social media shows the Kanwariyas beating up the victim even as the police try to pacify the crowd. After the crowd grew more violent, the police and the victim could be seen running towards the police vehicle with the crowd running following them. In another incident involving Kanwariyas, a group allegedly vandalised a wine shop



counter and tore its curtains in the Sahibabad area on Tuesday. "The argument was over closing the wine shop. We are investigating the matter further," said Rajnish Kumar, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Sahibabad. Last Saturday, a few Kanwariyas created a ruckus after a car allegedly hit one of them in the Muradnagar area, blocked the road, thrashed the driver, and vandalised the vehicle alleging that their Kanwar was desecrated. Kanwariyas, the devotees of Lord Shiva, undertake a pilgrimage to Uttarakhand's Gangotri, Gaumukh, and Haridwar, and Sultanganj in Bihar to collect Ganga water during the Hindu month of Shrawan.

Punjab ADGP Naunihal & IG Paramraj still await their regular postings



GNS News Agency, August 2

More than eight months on, 1997-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) Naunihal Singh and Inspector General Paramraj Singh Umrangal are still awaiting a regular posting. Naunihal became available for a fresh regular posting after Inspector General-rank officer Gurpreet Singh Bhullar replaced him as the Amritsar Police Commissioner in November last year. Naunihal has been working as a State Level Nodal Officer, Litigation Management System, since December 15 last year.

Soon after the June 4 Lok Sabha results, following a

police reshuffle, Bhullar was also replaced as the Amritsar Police Commissioner by Ranjit Singh, a DIG-rank police officer. Bhullar has been awaiting regular posting since he became eligible for posting in the first week of June. Another officer awaiting regular posting is Inspector General Paramraj Singh Umrangal. More than five years after he was placed on suspension in February 2019 in connection with police firing on anti-sacrilege protesters in Kotkapura in the aftermath of the alleged sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib in Bargari in Faridkot district in 2015, Umrangal was reinstated by the Punjab government on July 11, making him available for posting. Naunihal may be awaiting regular posting, but the government has assigned him with other tasks. Apart from working as State Level Nodal Officer, Litigation Management System, he is also the chairman for the recruitment of constables. In Litigation Management, where he is learnt to have streamlined the process to more than halve the numbers of cops who had to come to Punjab and Haryana High Court in connection with court cases, from around 600 daily to less than 300, ensuring around four companies of Punjab Police remained available in the field at the place of their postings. As the Amritsar Police Commissioner, Naunihal worked to streamline traffic, among other initiatives.

Pune teen suicide 'linked to online game': Cops gain access to boy's laptop, probe on

GNS News Agency, August 2

The Pimpri Chinchwad police, which is probing an online game linked to the alleged suicide of 16-year-old boy who had jumped from the 14th floor of a building in Kiwale, said they have gained access to his password protected computer with the help of cyber forensic expert. According to police, the 16-year-old was a student of Class 10 at a school in Pune and was good in studies. His father is employed abroad and he had been staying in the residential society in Kiwale with his mother. According to police, the boy had allegedly died by suicide by jumping from the 14th floor of a residential building in Kiwale area. Initial probe revealed the boy was playing a certain online game on his laptop. The

information given by his family members and the subsequent police probe suggested that the suicide might be linked to the game he had been playing.

"We have spoken to the family members of the boy in detail. Meanwhile, with the help of the cyber forensic expert, we have gained access to his laptop. Further investigation is currently on," said an officer who is part of the probe. In the initial investigation, the police found a suspected suicide note in a notebook of the boy, which he had referred to as a 'log out note' followed by what police believe is the name of the online game. Besides the boy's laptop, police also seized some maps from the boy's notebook, which as per initial probe revealed, were of residential buildings.

Residents kick up stink over new waste plant



GNS News Agency, August 2

Residents have given a thumbs down to the new solid waste management plant supposed to come up at Dadumajra. A public hearing on the estimated Rs 400-crore plant was held on Tuesday at the community centre, Sector 38 west, under the direction of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change following concerns by residents of Dadumajra over dumping of garbage and waste processing plant in the area. For the record, Dadumajra already has a dumping ground. Officials of Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, the pollution department and the UT Administration were present to seek public view. Everyone who spoke at the public hearing from the colony said "a big no to the plant". They stated that "crores the civic body is planning to spend to set up the plant be provided as compensation to the families out there so that they may move out from there, as there seems no end to their sufferings".

Lalit Kumar, a resident of Dadumajra, said, "We just want to say one thing — whatever is the estimated value of this plant, you give that as compensation to us and kindly shift us from here.... Thereafter whatever you want to do, you may go ahead.... I remember the Administrator once came and said that 'it pains him to see how for the last 40 years the colony people have been suffering. He at the time assured them to take steps to provide clean air'.

It's been more than four years now, but we haven't seen any change on the ground.... Where do we go now?"

Kumar added, "All that has been done is that the garbage which was in the front has now been moved to the rear side.... I would suggest that you people (officials) come for just two hours. We will offer free breakfast

and lunch, but see the situation for yourself. You do a survey just now, you will realise how from the moment we open the door of our house to the moment we start our vehicles... it's an awful experience." Dr K S Chaudhary, another resident from Sector 38 West, said, "A waste processing plant is always away from the city — at least by 8 km to 10 km. Is this plant meeting that requirement? This is the third plant.... Kindly avoid it and take it somewhere else... so that our kids can live in a clean environment." Surinder Kumar, a resident of Dadumajra, had even gone to Goa with the officials to see the waste plants there. He said, "I have been staying here for 40 years and from here 7-8 people had gone to Goa and I was one among them — the scene there was the plant was almost 40 km away from colonies. We went to see another plant which was also 25 km away. This is a Rs 400-crore to Rs 500-crore project. Is Dadumajra the only place to set up this plant? Forty years ago — and I can say I have seen it — on this ground, many of us played here. But today there are mountains of garbage. You (officials) would have got the big picture had this open house been held at the dumping ground in Dadumajra." He added that his 26-year-old daughter, who has a good job, is finding it difficult to get good marriage proposals, thanks to the garbage issue in Dadumajra. Prospective grooms never come back after seeing Dadumajra.

"I have a 26-year-old daughter. She works in a bank. It's a good job.... 10 ladke aaye bank ka naam sun ke, or Dadumajra ka pata lagte hi.... bhaag gaye... iska jawab hai kya.... (Ten marriage proposals came after coming to know she works in a bank, but as soon as they came to know about Dadumajra, they left never to return. Do you have any answer for this?)," he added. Dyal Krishan, another resident, said, "Only those people know whose 'baraat' had returned. They only know where the shoe pinches. We were shown the presentation... and have heard such promises several times when Jaypee group (earlier managed the processing plant) was brought in. There was a pond here. The way plant after plant has been set up... it's all chaos here." For the record, in 2020 the MC took over from Jaypee group for want of efficient functioning, and announced to get a new plant for processing waste. A senior official of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, requesting anonymity, said, "Almost all those who turned up for the public hearing here today said that they are not in favour of the waste plant."

NOC fee waived for beneficiaries of "Master List" houses

GNS News Agency, August 2

The Mumbai Building Repairs and Reconstruction Board (MBRRB) Tuesday waived the No Objection Certificate (NOC) fee of Rs 70,500 for beneficiaries of "Master List" houses allotted to residents of cess buildings, declared unfit for habitation, who are now living in transit camps. The Mumbai Building Repairs and Reconstruction Board (MBRRB) Tuesday waived the No Objection Certificate (NOC) fee of Rs 70,500 for beneficiaries of "Master List" houses allotted to residents of cess buildings, declared unfit for habitation, who are now living in transit camps. The Mumbai Building Repairs and Reconstruction Board (MBRRB) Tuesday waived the No Objection Certificate (NOC) fee of Rs 70,500 for beneficiaries of "Master List" houses allotted to residents of cess buildings, declared unfit for habitation, who are now living in transit camps.

The fee waiver was announced by Maharashtra's Housing Minister Atul Save during an event in which offer letters were issued to 158 eligible applicants. The eligible applicants were selected in a computerised lottery conducted in December last year. Minister Save praised Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis for their decision to conduct the allocation of "Master List" houses exclusively through a computerised lottery. This was done in the wake of allegations of irregularities in house allocations. "This reform marks a new chapter in the allocation process, aiming to



reduce complaints and increase satisfaction among long-time tenants of transit camps who are now receiving permanent homes in Mumbai," said Minister Save.

According to MBRRB, an undertaking of Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA), out of the 265 initial applicants, 212 were confirmed as eligible. Offer letters have been issued to 158 of these verified individuals, who have already submitted their acceptance letters. Document verification for the remaining 53 applicants is ongoing, and 54 others have been urged to submit their acceptance letters promptly. In addition, MBRRB is preparing to conduct another computerised lottery for 2,000 additional flats in prime city locations. "Our goal is to provide housing for all through initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)," said Save.

Pick a book to avoid 'doomscrolling': Uber, Penguin partner for month-long initiative



GNS News Agency, August 2

In what has been pitched as a novel concept, Uber has partnered with Penguin Random House to present "#UberReads" and offer passengers on select Uber Shuttle vehicles the free service of picking a book to read during the journey. This month-long initiative "aims to reduce 'doomscrolling'", a behaviour wherein individuals mindlessly scroll through social media on their mobile phones. Uber Shuttle, which can be booked via the ride-hailing app, offers passengers the convenience of pre-booking their seats on air-conditioned (AC) electric buses up to a week in advance. The initiative of "#UberReads" will be offered on some of the most highly traversed, predefined routes in Delhi and will house a collection of the most popular Penguin titles ranging from fiction to biographies, and from self-help books to mysteries, offering riders the chance to revisit the joy of reading paperback.

Riders will have the freedom to pick a book of their choice and enjoy reading it through their journey. Passengers will be encouraged to place the book back in its place for the next rider while exiting the bus at their stop. Commenting on the feature, Amit Deshpande, Head—High Capacity Vehicles, Uber India and South Asia, said, "Uber Shuttle helps get more people to travel in fewer vehicles, all with the comfort, convenience and safety that Uber has brought to everyday commute. Our campaign #UberReads is a unique way to draw attention to the options available to all of us which we somehow choose to overlook — like choosing a shared ride over a private vehicle or choosing to scroll endlessly on the phone

instead of mindful reading. By bringing to life #UberReads through our partnership with Penguin, we want to remind people of the conscious choices that are wholesome in more ways than one." Gaurav Shrinagesh, CEO- India, SEA & MENA, Penguin Random House, said, "At Penguin, we believe in the transformative power of reading and the importance of keeping this habit alive in our content-crowded world. The #UberReads campaign is an exciting opportunity to showcase the wide range of books we offer — from fiction to biographies, self-help to mysteries — ensuring there's a book for every kind of reader."

Greater Cincinnati Telangana Association celebrates Bonalu in Ohio

GNS News Agency, August 2

Hyderabad: The Greater Cincinnati Telangana Association celebrated Bonalu with great pomp and fervor on Sunday, July 28, at Lake View Acres Park in Lebanon, Ohio. Of special mention, GCTA was the first organization to celebrate Bonalu in the USA; it started the tradition of celebrations in the year 2012. The continuous rain since the afternoon did not dampen the spirits of the devotees either. The event started at about 5.30 PM with cloudy weather and wonderful wind, and there were about 250 people participating in that divine and pious celebration. It all started with women who were attired in colorful sarees, carrying bonam and aarathi on their heads, walking towards a nicely decorated stage set up with Ammavari's photo, flowers, and banana leaves. Accompanied by devotional music, some potharajus danced in joy and were joined by some women participating in the traditional dance. Both adults and children enjoyed the procession to the stage. The women circled the stage for some rounds before offering bonam to Ammavaru. All devotees then stood in a queue to offer prayers and seek blessings from Ammavaru.

Doctors stress on eliminating mosquito-breeding sites; PMC steps up fogging



GNS News Agency, August 2

Two deaths — one each from Baramati and Phaltan — due to dengue fever has put the spotlight on why it is so important to destroy mosquito-breeding sites, says Dr Rajesh Gadia, top consulting physician at KEM Hospital. "Baramati (in Pune district) and Phaltan (in Satara district) are the worst-hit and we have treated several patients with dengue fever from here. Find mosquito-breeding sites and eliminate them," Dr Gadia urged health authorities. On Tuesday, a 19-year-old boy from Phaltan succumbed to dengue and complications at KEM hospital while last week a 49-year-old woman died of dengue and multi-organ failure. "Due to heavy rains the whole of last week the flowing water helped wash away the breeding sites. There is likely to be a temporary lull in cases but we will see the next spurt in August-September," Dr Gadia cautioned and reiterated why it was so important to destroy the mosquito-breeding spots.

Health officials at Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) have reported 1,019 suspected dengue cases from January till July end this year. Of these over half (689) suspected cases have been reported in June and July itself. So far 29 have tested positive for dengue viral fever and 22 for chikungunya. There have been no deaths from Pune city as per civic health department officials. Dr Nina Borade, Chief Medical Officer, PMC, said they have in-

tensified fogging and even stepped up awareness at the community level urging people to adopt personal protection measures at their households. Dr Suryakant Deokar, assistant health chief at PMC, said they have issued 1,272 notices at construction sites, buildings, even small tyre shops where mosquito breeding spots were found and collected Rs 4.6 lakh as administrative fee. Pune city has reported a total 47 Zika virus infection cases till date. Of these 15 are pregnant women. "All their scans are normal," Dr Deokar said. The civic health department has sent as many as 500 serum samples of pregnant women to the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology for examination. From January till June end this year, the civic health department has reported a total of 116 cases of H1N1 virus and 505 cases of Covid-19. A total of five deaths due to Covid-19 have been reported.

According to Dr Amit Dravid, infectious diseases expert at Noble hospital, there has been an uptick in cases of both upper and lower respiratory tract infections. "We are seeing an increase in cases of H1N1 virus, H3N2 virus and others apart from the vector borne diseases like dengue, Zika and chikungunya. There are patients with cold, cough and fever with breathlessness and who require oxygen support. Some elderly persons with comorbid conditions are on ventilator support," he cautioned. Dr Umesh Vaidya, senior paediatrician, KEM hospital and Ankura hospital, said this monsoon there were plenty of viruses circulating and hence if clinically required investigative tests are recommended. "Mild to moderate like infections are self-limiting. However, Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) swabs are sent for virological tests from among children who are hospitalised," Dr Vaidya said. Dr Borade, however, pointed out that sporadic cases of H1N1 virus (swine flu) and Covid-19 have been reported. "Unless and until the National Institute of Virology gives us confirmatory reports we cannot label all influenza cases as H1N1. However we are on an alert," Dr Borade pointed out.

After spending a year in jail for selectively killing members of a community in train, ex-RPF constable now begging his family 'mujhe bahar nikalo'

GNS News Agency, August 2

A year after Chetansinh Chaudhary, an RPF constable, allegedly gunned down four people on a Jaipur-Mumbai train near Borivali, the family members of the victims alleged that case is progressing at snail's pace despite assurance of speedy trial, and demanded maximum punishment for the accused. On July 31, last year, Chaudhary, 34, allegedly gunned down his senior, assistant sub-inspector Tikaram Meena, and three passengers—Abdul Kadar Mohamed Hussain Bhanpurawala, Syed Saifuddin, and Asgar Abbas Sheikh — inside the Mumbai-bound Jaipur-Mumbai Central Superfast Express. The Borivali GRP officials in October 2023 filed a 1,097-paged chargesheet with the accounts of nearly 39 eye witnesses against Chaudhary, who is currently lodged in Akola prison. The police, which claimed to have prepared a watertight case, said Chaudhary killed the three passengers out of hate. After filing a chargesheet in the case, no significant development occurred. "The procedure of charges framing against the accused (Chaudhary) hasn't yet taken place. The trial in the case is yet to commence," a police source said.

The government had announced that the case would be run on a fast track basis. However, till date the case has not been assigned a special public prosecutor yet, another source said. Hyderabad resident Yunus Sayed (25), brother of Saifuddin Sayed (44), alleged that the case is moving at a snail's pace and that the police have not been giving any update on the case to the family members of the victim. "My brother was the sole breadwinner of his family comprising his wife and three kids. The kids are young and still miss their father... The accused RPF constable has devastated the entire family. He should get the maximum punishment," Yunus Sayed said. Saifuddin Sayed, a mobile technician from Hyderabad, was going to Mumbai along with his employer for some work on the day of the incident. Family members of Asgar Abbas Ali Shaikh (48) said that it was a case of a "protector-turned-predator" and the accused should be given the strictest punishment. "The accused RPF constable should be hanged. He destroyed four families. His duty was to protect the passengers but he himself killed passengers. He should get the death penalty. If the strictest punishment is not given to culprits of such heinous crimes then we are encouraging criminals for more such crimes," said Nagpur-based Mohammed Jikarraullah Syed, 29, step brother of Asgar Abbas Ali Shaikh. Mohammed Jikarraullah had claimed Shaikh's body and took it to Jaipur where the body was buried.

Shaikh, who hails from Bihar's Madhubani, was a bangle vendor from Nagpur and was going to Mumbai to meet his brother on July 31, last year. Advocate Vishnu



Bhatt, who is representing the family of deceased Abdul Kadar Mohamed Hussain Bhanpurawala, as intervener in the case, said, "The case is moving at a snail's pace as charges are yet to be framed against the accused." According to police, Chaudhary allegedly forced a burqa-clad passenger in the train to say "Jai Mata Di" at gunpoint and told another passenger that he was taking revenge for 2008 (referring to Mumbai 26/11 terror attack, carried out by Pakistani terrorists). After killing the four people, he allegedly gave a "hate speech" standing next to the body of one of the victims. A forensic examination was already done of the video of Chaudhary's speech, following which police added section 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence), of the IPC.

Chaudhary was dismissed from the service after the incident. Chaudhary's lawyer Amit Mishra said that he had in the past requested before the authority that he be shifted back to prison in Mumbai or Thane. However, the prison authority turned down the request and kept him at the Akola prison citing security reasons. Chaudhary's mother Rajendridevi, 53 from Uttar Pradesh, said that his son has done a grave sin for which now his family is paying the price. She said, "He killed four people, destroyed four families. He destroyed his (late) father's name and repute... Because of his sinful act he was dismissed from service. Now we are struggling to meet ends. He should have killed me instead. I don't know how he developed so much radical thoughts... His senior officers are also responsible. Why didn't they observe change in his behaviour and if there was any history, then why did they give him a gun? Chaudhary's mother also said that when she and her daughter met Chaudhary in the jail he was begging before them to help him get out of the jail. "I did not interact much with him and asked my daughter to speak to him. He told her that he doesn't know how he ended up killing four people and begged and cried saying 'Mujhe Bahar Nikalo' (Please get me out)," his mother added.

'Mammoth problem': Rs 5.14 cr from fines in last 2 yrs from action on illegal hawkers, BMC tells HC

GNS News Agency, August 2

illegal hawkers On July 22, a division bench of Justices Mahesh S Sonak and Justice Kamal R Khata had come down heavily on the police and BMC over the "collapse of machinery" in curbing unauthorised hawkers. Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Tuesday informed the Bombay High Court that it has collected nearly Rs. 5.14 crore from June 2022 to May 2024, through penalties and auctions of goods and redemption charges imposed while taking action against unlicensed hawkers to remove their encroachments. The BMC, while responding to the court's query on action taken against illegal hawkers in the last two years, stated that it identified 20 of the most congested areas or streets in the city where complaints of illegal hawkers come from. The civic body also said that continuous supervision during peak hours of these areas was finalised to ensure they were kept free from illegal hawkers. It said continuous vigilance was required to ensure illegal hawkers do not return these spots. The court, while hearing a suo motu plea related to unauthorised hawkers/stalls in the city, observed that unauthorised vending was a "mammoth" prob-

lem and proactive measures must be taken by authorities so that no one suffers due to the pervasive issue. On July 22, a division bench of Justices Mahesh S Sonak and Justice Kamal R Khata had come down heavily on the police and BMC over the "collapse of machinery" in curbing unauthorised hawkers. On Tuesday, senior advocate Anil Singh for BMC submitted an affidavit by Anil Kate, superintendent of its licence department, which stated that between January 2023 and June 2024, security deposits of nearly 198 licences were forfeited for violating terms. The BMC submitted that a joint meeting of BMC and police authorities had been conducted last month, after which 20 most congested areas were demarcated and were kept under regular supervision. The areas include those near Churchgate, CSMT, Dadar, Andheri, Malad, Borivali, Ghatkopar and Kurla railway stations along with Colaba causeway, Mohammed Ali Road, LBS Marg, Hill Road- Bandra (West) and Linking road and Lalbaug. The affidavit further stated that through 1,64,847 actions undertaken from June 2022 to May 2023 against encroachments of 1.64 lakh unlicensed hawkers, Rs. 2.44 crore were collected through penalties, auctions and redemption charges.

Who was Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas leader killed in Iran?



GNS News Agency, August 2

"They are living on borrowed time," Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said after the October 7 attack by Hamas, referring to the leadership of the Islamist militant group. There's a poster hanging on the wall of his office in Tel Aviv, according to reports, showing faces of Hamas including Ismail Haniyeh, the chairman of the Political Bureau of Hamas, who was living in exile in Qatar in recent years. On Tuesday, Haniyeh was in Tehran to participate in the inauguration of Iran's new President Masoud Pezeshkian. He was seen in photographs with Iranian leaders. On Wednesday morning, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps issued a statement saying Haniyeh and his Iranian bodyguard were killed in a raid by the "Zionist entity", referring to Israel. Hamas also issued a statement saying Haniyeh was killed in a raid at his residence in Tehran. Details of the circumstances of his assassination are still awaited.

Haniyeh was seen as the overall leader of Hamas (though it was not clear how much authority he could exercise over Hamas in Gaza). Like Yahya Sinwar, the Hamas leader in Gaza, Haniyeh was also involved with Hamas's radical operations in the late 1980s and got

arrested several times by the Israelis.

After he was released from jail in 1992, Israel exiled him, along with a group of other Hamas leaders, to a no-man's land in southern Lebanon. A year later, he returned to Gaza. His quick rise within Hamas would begin after he was chosen to head the office of the movement's spiritual leader, Sheikh Shmed Yassin, in 1997. Sheikh Yassin, a quadriplegic and nearly blind, was killed by an Israeli strike in March 2004. In 2006, when the Palestinian Authority held parliamentary elections in the West Bank and Gaza, Haniyeh was the Parliamentary leader of Hamas. He led the Islamist group to a surprising victory and became the 'Prime Minister of the State of Palestine'. But the Palestine Authority's financial backers in the West refused to accept a Hamas-led government. Nor did Israel. Fatah, the party of Palestine Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, was also upset by Hamas's victory.

As tensions between Fatah and Hamas emerged, President Abbas dissolved the Hamas government led by Haniyeh in 2007. Haniyeh did not accept Abbas's decree and continued to rule from Gaza, his stronghold, while Fatah ran the Palestine Authority in the West Bank. Haniyeh stepped down as the Hamas leader in Gaza in 2017, paving the way for Sinwar's rise. In the same year, Haniyeh was appointed the chairman of Hamas's Political Bureau, taking over from Khaled Meshal. By 2018, he relocated to Qatar and established an office in Doha. From the Qatari capital, he led the political operations of Hamas — until his death in Tehran.

Israel has neither acknowledged nor rejected Iran's claim that it was behind the assassination of Haniyeh. Israel usually keeps mum on such operations in hostile territories. While Iran is investigating the incident, the killing of Hamas chief in its capital, immediately after the inauguration of its new President, would be seen as a major embarrassment for the Islamic Republic.

Israel says it has struck Beirut targeting Hezbollah commander accused in deaths of 12 children and teens

GNS News Agency, August 2

Israel on Tuesday, July 30, 2024, carried out a rare strike on Beirut, which it said killed the Hezbollah commander who was allegedly behind a weekend rocket attack that killed 12 young people in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights. Hezbollah did not immediately confirm the commander's death. The Israeli strike killed a woman and two children and wounded dozens of other people in escalating hostilities with the Lebanese militant group.

An Israeli official said the target was Fouad Shukur, a top Hezbollah military commander whom the US blames for planning and launching the deadly 1983 Marine bombing in the Lebanese capital. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to discuss the details of the strike with the media. Shukur is also suspected in other strikes that killed Israeli civilians. Though Hezbollah issued a rare denial of involvement in the rocket attack Saturday in the town of Majdal Shams, Israel is holding the militant group responsible. "Hezbollah crossed a red line," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant posted on the platform X shortly after Tuesday's strike. The two sides have exchanged near-daily strikes for the past 10 months against the backdrop of the war in Gaza, but they have previously kept the conflict at a low level that was unlikely to escalate into full-on war. Lebanon's public health ministry said Tuesday's strike in a southern suburb of Beirut wounded 74 people, some of them seriously. The wounded were taken to nearby hospitals. Bahman Hospital near the site of the blast called for blood donations. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported that the strike was carried out with a drone that launched three rockets. "The Israeli enemy has committed a great stupid act in size, timing and circumstances by targeting an entirely civilian area," Hezbollah official Ali Ammar told Al-Manar TV. "The Israeli enemy will pay a price for this sooner or later." Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati condemned the Israeli attack, saying it hit a few metres from one of the largest hospitals in the capital.

The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not immediately release a statement, but minutes after the strike sent a photo of the prime minister with his national security adviser and other officials. The airstrike on Beirut's southern suburb of Haret Hreik — a crowded urban neighbourhood where Hezbollah has political and security operations but which is also full of small shops and apartment buildings — damaged several buildings. It was not immediately clear if any Hezbollah official was hit, a Hezbollah official said. A Lebanese military intelligence official said they had no information when asked by The Associated Press whether a senior Hezbollah security official had escaped the airstrike. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity in accordance with regulations.

The strike hit an apartment building near to a hospital, collapsing half of the targeted building and severely



damaging one next to it. The hospital sustained minor damages, while the surrounding streets were littered with debris and broken glass.

A forklift was in the middle of the street, reaching to the top floors of the destroyed building, while utility crews removed fallen power lines. Crowds gathered to inspect the damage and check on their families. Some of them chanted in support of Hezbollah. Paramedics could be seen carrying several wounded people out of the damaged buildings. A resident of the suburb whose home is about 200 metres away said that dust from the explosion "covered everything," and that the glass in his son's apartment was broken. "Then people went down on the streets," he said. "Everyone has family. They went to check on them. It was a lot of destruction." He spoke on condition of anonymity out of concern about his security at a tense moment. Hassan Nouredine said he was riding his motorcycle near the building when he heard the sound of two explosions.

"It looked like a strike from a drone and not a jet," Mr. Nouredine told the AP near the site of the attack. Despite fears of escalation and a strike in recent days, Nouredine said that he and other people he knows in the area are not fazed and that their spirits are high. Talal Hatoum, a local official with the Shiite Amal Movement, Hezbollah's key political ally in Lebanon, said Tuesday's attack marked a shift in the rules of engagement in the conflict because it caused a significant number of civilian casualties. The last time Israel targeted Beirut was in January, when an airstrike killed a top Hamas official, Saleh Arouri. That strike was the first time Israel had hit Beirut since the 34-day war between Israel and Hezbollah in the summer of 2006. Israel had been expected to retaliate for the strike in Majdal Shams, but diplomats had said in recent days that they expected the response to stay within the boundaries of the ongoing low-level conflict between Hezbollah and Israel without provoking all-out war. Many of them had not expected that Israel would hit Beirut, which might elicit a strike by Hezbollah on a major population center in Israel. The United Nations' special coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, said in a statement that she was "deeply concerned" by the strike and called for "calm to prevail."

Israel says it has struck Beirut targeting Hezbollah commander accused in deaths of 12 children and teens

Israel, GNS News Agency, August 2: carried out a rare strike on Beirut, which it said killed the Hezbollah commander who was allegedly behind a weekend rocket attack that killed 12 young people in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights. At least three other people were killed. Hezbollah did not immediately confirm the commander's death. The Israeli strike killed a woman and two children and wounded dozens of other people in escalating hostilities with the Lebanese militant group. An Israeli official said the target was Fouad Shukur, a top Hezbollah military commander whom the US blames for planning and launching the deadly 1983 Marine bombing in the Lebanese capital. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to discuss the details of the strike with the media. Shukur is also suspected in other strikes that killed Israeli civilians. Though Hezbollah issued a rare denial of involvement in the rocket attack Saturday in the town of Majdal Shams, Israel is holding the militant group responsible. "Hezbollah crossed a red line," Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant posted on the platform X shortly after Tuesday's strike. The two sides have exchanged near-daily strikes for the past 10 months against the backdrop of the war in Gaza, but they have previously kept the

conflict at a low level that was unlikely to escalate into full-on war. Lebanon's public health ministry said Tuesday's strike in a southern suburb of Beirut wounded 74 people, some of them seriously. The wounded were taken to nearby hospitals. Bahman Hospital near the site of the blast called for blood donations. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported that the strike was carried out with a drone that launched three rockets. Israel committed a great stupid act: Hezbollah. "The Israeli enemy has committed a great stupid act in size, timing and circumstances by targeting an entirely civilian area," Hezbollah official Ali Ammar told Al-Manar TV. "The Israeli enemy will pay a price for this sooner or later." Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati condemned the Israeli attack, saying it hit a few metres from one of the largest hospitals in the capital. The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not immediately release a statement, but minutes after the strike sent a photo of the prime minister with his national security adviser and other officials. The airstrike on Beirut's southern suburb of Haret Hreik — a crowded urban neighbourhood where Hezbollah has political and security operations but which is also full of small shops and apartment buildings — damaged several buildings. It was not immediately clear

Southport stabbing incident: Third child dies following mass stabbing in U.K. during Taylor Swift-themed dance event



GNS News Agency, August 2

A third child died on July 30 and five others remained critically injured after a knife attack on a Taylor Swift-themed dance event in a quiet seaside community in northern England, police said. The nine-year-old girl died in hospital early on July 30, Merseyside Police said, as the force confirmed that two victims who died in the "ferocious" stabbing spree on July 29 were also girls, aged six and seven. Eight other children suffered stab wounds during the attack in Southport, near Liverpool, which has shocked the U.K. and beyond. Two adults were also in a critical condition after being injured. A 17-year-old male suspect from a nearby village arrested shortly after the incident remained in custody, police added, as they warned against speculating about his identity or details of the investigation. "This incident is not currently being treated as terror-related and we are not looking for anyone else in connection with it," Merseyside Police said in its latest update. Hours earlier, U.S. pop star Swift took to social media to say she was "completely in shock" over "the loss of life and innocence, and the horrendous trauma inflicted on everyone." "These were just little kids at a dance class. I am at a complete loss for how to ever convey my sympathies to these families," she added on Instagram. Visiting the scene of the attack to lay flowers and meet local officials, interior minister Yvette Cooper said police were pursuing "every single avenue" as part of "a serious criminal investigation".

Residents of Southport, a small seaside town popular with summer visitors, were still coming to terms with the attack. "The town is in shock and in mourning", local MP Patrick Hurley told AFP, calling it the "most horrific atrocity that Southport has experienced in living

memory". It is a "very small town, a close-knit community and everybody will be intimately affected by this", he added. Prime Minister Keir Starmer has called the events "just truly awful" and said "the whole country is deeply shocked". He is likely to visit the community later on July 30. An evening vigil will also be held. "I just cannot believe that it happened so close to home," Leanne Hassan told reporters on July 30. Ms. Hassan had rushed to collect her daughter from a nearby nursery which was locked down after the attack. Her daughter was safe, "but unfortunately that's not the reality for a lot of parents waking up today," she added. Police have revealed the children at the event were aged between six and 11, and the two adults injured were trying to protect them. Tributes have been paid on social media to the bravery of dance and yoga teacher Leanne Lucas, who was among the victims. Local business owner Colin Parry, one of those to call police, recounted to UK media members of his staff seeing "about 10 kids go running past him, all bleeding." "One of them collapsed on the floor outside the neighbour next door," he told the Press Association (PA) news agency. Bare Varathan, who owns a local shop, told PA he saw "seven to 10 kids" who were "injured, bleeding". "Utterly horrific" The teen male arrested on suspicion of murder and attempted murder is from neighbouring village Banks but was born in the Welsh capital Cardiff, according to police. His identity and a possible motive for the attack have not been revealed. "A name has been shared on social media in connection with the suspect," police said on July 30. "This name is incorrect and we would urge people not to speculate on details of the incident while the investigation is ongoing." Witnesses told U.K. media the attacker was seen arriving at the scene in a taxi late on July 29 morning and that he entered the venue wearing a mask. Armed officers detained the suspect nearby and seized a knife. Targeted attacks on children are extremely rare in the U.K. The July 29 incident evoked memories of a school massacre in the Scottish town of Dunblane in 1996, which claimed the lives of 16 young pupils and their teacher in Britain's worst mass shooting. King Charles III has offered his "most heartfelt condolences, prayers and deepest sympathies" following the "utterly horrific" incident. Meanwhile Prince William and his wife Catherine said "as parents, we cannot begin to imagine what the families, friends and loved ones of those killed and injured in Southport today are going through".

Rajapaksa's party decides against backing Ranil in presidential election

GNS News Agency, August 2

The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Front) — led by the once-powerful Rajapaksa clan which was deposed from power in 2022 — has said it will not back President Ranil Wickremesinghe in the presidential polls in September. The decision, announced after the party's central committee's meeting on Monday, marks the withdrawal of the Rajapaksa's support to Mr. Wickremesinghe, two years after they helped him rise to the country's most powerful office. He replaced former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who resigned in July 2022, in the wake of a mass uprising that blamed him chiefly for the country's dramatic economic crash.

In 2021, Mr. Wickremesinghe was the United National Party's (UNP) lone MP in parliament, following his party's poll debacle in the 2020 general election. In May 2022, Mr. Gotabaya appointed him Prime Minister, in place of Mr. Mahinda, who resigned amid the surging protests. After Mr. Gotabaya stepped down in July 2022, Mr. Wickremesinghe won an urgent parliamentary vote with the SLPP's support, and has since relied on it to pass several legislations.

While Mr. Wickremesinghe earned praise from some for taking over the country's leadership at a critical time, and "stabilising" its battered economy, his dependence on and association with the Rajapaksa have drawn criticism from those who sought a clean break from the Rajapaksa administration tainted by allegations of corruption and mismanagement. In November 2023, Sri Lanka's Supreme Court ruled that the Rajapaksa brothers (Mr. Mahinda, Mr. Gotabaya and Mr. Basil), along with other top officials in their government [2019 to 2022] "demonstrably contributed to" the country's devastating economic crisis and violated "public trust", but they faced no consequence.

On their party's poll-time decision, SLPP General Secretary Sagara Kariyawasam said Mr. Wickremesinghe's policies were not agreeable to members. "For instance, our party has a position on whether and how to go about privatising national assets. But the President does not care about national assets or the underprivileged people of this country," he told The Hindu



on Tuesday. Asked about the candidate the party would field, Mr. Kariyawasam said: "That decision has not been taken as yet," amid wide speculation that a non-Rajapaksa may be nominated for the first time. Meanwhile, some SLPP members, especially those who are part of Mr. Wickremesinghe's Cabinet, are expected to stay with him in the coming election, signalling a virtual split in the SLPP. Namal Rajapaksa, son of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa and the party's national organiser, has blamed Mr. Wickremesinghe for dividing the party that backed him over the last two years. Following Monday's decision, Mr. Namal, a parliamentarian from the southern Hambantota district, said on the social media platform X: "With our decision to field our own candidate, we acknowledge past challenges and commit to unity, economic stability, and restoring trust." For now, this leaves Mr. Wickremesinghe with what remains of his UNP — its breakaway faction, the Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB or United People's Force), is the main opposition party — a faction of the SLPP, and certain other backers, including from parties representing the island nation's minority Tamils, Muslims, and Malayaha (hill country) Tamils. Contesting this election as an independent candidate, Mr. Wickremesinghe faces at least two strong challengers in Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa, and Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who leads the opposition National People's Power (NPP) alliance. In a media statement on Tuesday evening, the President's office said 92 legislators, of the 225-member House, pledged their support to him.



torcycle near the building when he heard the sound of two explosions. "It looked like a strike from a drone and not a jet," Mr. Nouredine told the AP near the site of the attack. Despite fears of escalation and a strike in recent days, Nouredine said that he and other people he knows in the area are not fazed and that their spirits are high. Talal Hatoum, a local official with the Shiite Amal Movement, Hezbollah's key political ally in Lebanon, said Tuesday's attack marked a shift in the rules of engagement in the conflict because it caused a significant number of civilian casualties.

‘Purpose of comprehensive review of Income-tax Act is to ease, simplify taxation’: Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra



to that extent, is mitigated. If they are selling or buying at higher rates than that, then it was there earlier, and even now it will remain. For listed shares, it is already through the market exchanges, so there is no issue. 2.5 per cent is not too high to increase the tendency of evasion.

But the apprehension, which industry players are saying, is that it may result in a rise in cash transactions in real estate, wherever circle rates are lower. Would you agree with that?

My understanding is that generally people buy and sell at the circle rate. 2.5 per cent is a small change. What about the comprehensive review of the I-T Act? You have said that it's not going to be a new direct tax code, it will be a comprehensive review... It may or may not be. Most probably it will be the same but we may opt for a new code. I mean if we change the name, it becomes a new Act. What form and shape (it will take) is not decided. But what has been decided is that we will review it within a period of six months. The purpose is to make it simple, the purpose is not to substantially change because we have been making changes year on year. We have been plugging wherever loopholes are there. We have been simplifying. The primary purpose here is to simplify, make it easy to read, understand, make it easy to implement for the tax authorities, easy to comply for the taxpayers, tax practitioners, to reduce the compliance burden, reduce the litigation and the disputes. So it is basically that.

In previous budgets, revenue buoyancy was projected greater than one. This year it has been kept closer to one. So is a slowdown in revenue collections expected, especially GST?

See, year on year it is actually not possible to have high buoyancy because efficiencies, the impact is visible in that year only. Once it is there, that level is set, so that benefit is there available for years to come but it doesn't show in as a buoyancy. Any gains in efficiency, once I get it, then I have got it forever. It will not mean that the buoyancy will again be high. That will be a result of further gains in efficiency. So to expect gains in efficiency year after year after year of the rates that we got is not a theoretical possibility.

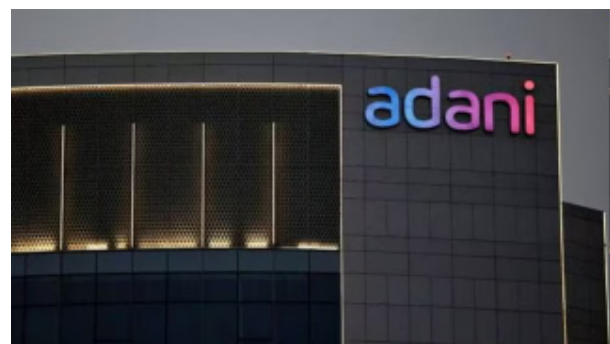
GST collections have come down a bit, especially the pace of growth. So going ahead, do you expect it to further taper off?

Growth is there, maybe the growth rate, there will be some ups and downs in the growth rate. In this whole indexation and capital gains proposal, some experts are saying that you are tightening the net around the same set of people in terms of taxpayers. It's not an expansion of the tax base. A significant number of people are still out of the tax net. As you are aware, the number of taxpayers has actually increased, whether it is the direct taxes or indirect taxes. The numbers have actually increased and the endeavour is to further increase it. A lot of it will also happen through other means, not necessarily taken by the Department of Revenue or the tax departments, which is, the formalisation of the economy as it happens, the increase in the digital public infrastructure etc. All those things will help in expansion of the tax base. In Customs tweaks, is there a directional change? Generally we have seen rates going up over the last ten years. There have been corrections for inverted duty structure, simplification in terms of input sources but in terms of the trajectory downwards, is that something a one off or you see it continuing? No, here Customs duties basically we are saying rationalisation. It doesn't mean that we will reduce the rates. What it means is that we will try wherever there is a duty inversion, we will correct it. Number of rates in Customs, can we reduce the number of rates? That is the primary exercise so that the classification disputes reduce.

There has been a sharp duty cut for gold. Will there be a commensurate reduction in duty for gold findings also?

Do you expect that this will reduce smuggling? The primary purpose is to promote this industry because it is a labour-intensive industry. That is the primary purpose. Yes, we do expect that smuggling will also come down. Smuggling was at historic highs. Last year, we did huge seizures, record seizures. We expect that it will reduce but the primary purpose is to promote this industry. Also, was there a concern about gold being smuggled through the MFN (most favoured nation) route especially through some African countries? That came in quite late in the day. The decision had been already taken. That is a kind of incidental benefit. But the routes were being used to smuggle gold... We believe in a trust-based tax administration. An administration which is not confrontationalist and is more collaborative. We have got the Vivad se Vishwas scheme, rather than disputes there should be trust. We have raised monetary limits. We have decriminalised, de-penalised certain provisions under the Black Money Act, decriminalised TDS and compounding provisions. Effort today is to use more and more technology, faceless assessment is one example, GSTN is another example. Make it as far as possible convenient for our taxpayers, to pay their taxes, they are doing a great job. I need to recognise their efforts and that will be the guiding philosophy. Block reassessments have been brought back even as they were termed as a failure earlier... There were some issues and whatever were the reasons for failure, those have been corrected now. Previously what was happening was that only the evaded income was being assessed and the other regular assessment was also going simultaneously. So that has been merged now, so it will be done together now. This was the primary reason.

Adani Energy raises \$1 bn via QIP issue



alleging the group of brazen stock manipulation and accounting fraud, which the conglomerate denied. On May 28, 2024, in a filing to exchanges, the Adani Group's flagship company said that the board of directors has approved raising of funds by the way of issuance of such number of equity shares having face value of Re 1 each of the company.

Nutritionist says over 20,000 people wanted to know this prune juice ‘recipe to poop’



Owing to our current lifestyle and diet habits, constipation has become quite common. Nutritionist Rashi Chowdhary realised the gravity of the issue when she posted an Instagram reel teasing a recipe to ease constipation. Turned out, “22,000 people wanted to know this recipe to poop right,” claimed the nutritionist. But what is this wonder remedy? According to Chowdhary, ½ cup prune juice or 3-4 overnight soaked prunes (blended with water) with a dash of lemon, black salt, and soaked chia seeds, and ½ cup of soda water can help you find quick relief.

But before we dive into the effectiveness of the remedy, let's understand about constipation. When a person is constipated, it means their bowel movements are infrequent or difficult to pass. “Constipation often leads to the stool becoming hard and dry, making it challenging to eliminate,” explained Dr Aniket Mule, consultant internal medicine, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mira Road. When left untreated, chronic constipation can lead to severe complications such as dehydration, bowel obstruction, or even fainting spells while on the toilet. “It serves as a reminder that proper hydration, dietary fibre intake, and physical activity are crucial elements in maintaining good diges-

tive health,” said Dr Mule.

Fibre and sorbitol, which are found in prunes and prune juice, can help induce bowel motions, said Dr HP Bharathi, deputy chief medical officer at Jindal Naturecure Institute. “Rich in soluble fibre, soaked chia seeds help ease constipation and improve digestion. Black salt has the potential to be a moderate laxative, and the carbonation of soda water may aid in stimulating digestion. Acidity and vitamin C from lime juice can help digestion,” said Dr Bharathi. Although some people may find this cure helpful, everyone's reactions differ.

“In order to stop constipation from getting worse, it's important to drink enough water while consuming more fibre, urged Dr Bharathi. Furthermore, moderation is essential since consuming too much of some components, such as sorbitol in prunes, can cause diarrhea and bloating, warned Dr Bharathi. “Before using this remedy, anyone with certain dietary restrictions or medical issues should speak with a healthcare provider. Overall, keeping regular bowel movements and avoiding constipation requires a balanced diet high in fibre, water, and physical exercise,” said Dr Bharathi.

For first time in fashion history, designer Tarun Tahiliani repeats show; pays models 50% extra to walk again

The seventh day of FDCI India Couture Week 2024 was a stark contrast of fashion and chaos. While Tarun Tahiliani's highly anticipated ‘Otherworldly’ collection was a masterpiece of design and craftsmanship, the show itself was marred by organisational hiccups. Limited seating capacity led to a disgruntled crowd outside the venue, prompting the designer to take the unprecedented step of repeating his show, becoming the first one to do so. According to reports on social media, many renowned personalities from the fashion and entertainment industry, amounting to a rough total of 300 people, were left outside the show venue at The Ashok, Delhi, and were barred from attending. This was because there weren't as many seats as there were people.

In a video being circulated online, Tahiliani can be seen apologising personally to the crowd gathered, saying, “I apologise for what I hear a lot of you went through. These things are never planned, we never know, we try to be very careful. But anyway, the good news is everyone has a front row and we are repeating the show.”

According to model Ujjwal Dhir, who walked the show, the models were paid an extra 50% more than their original payments for walking the show a second time. The last few weeks have been marred with controversy for the designer; first as criticisms against him started mounting for India's Olympic outfits, and now this. But that has not taken away from the beauty of his recent collection. Tahiliani's ‘Otherworldly’ collection was a testament to his design prowess, blending traditional Indian craftsmanship with contemporary aesthetics. Inspired by the concept of a cocoon, the collection aimed to evoke a sense of comfort, safety, and self-confidence.



“Imagine being enveloped in a cocoon—feeling safe, cared for, and in complete harmony with your body and transcending into a new phase of self-confidence and awareness. To me, that is the world I aspire to create through our couture. ‘Otherworldly’ is a journey into a realm where comfort and ethereal beauty coexist seamlessly,” Tahiliani said in a press release. Intricate embroideries such as Kashidakar, Mukaish, and Chikankari were reimagined with modern techniques, resulting in garments that were both opulent and wearable. The use of monochromatic Pichwai, carpets, and blooms as design motifs added a unique and innovative touch to the collection. Despite the initial challenges, Tahiliani's collection left an enduring impression on the fashion world. While the focus of the day was undeniably on his collection, the organisational issues at the venue raised concerns about the management of such high-profile fashion events. As the fashion industry continues to evolve, ensuring a seamless experience for both designers and attendees is paramount.

Aditi Rao Hydari made heads turn with her regal look on Day 6

After playing courtesan-turned-rebel Bibbojaan in Heeramandi, Aditi Rao Hydari is back to serve desi glam! The actor turned showstopper for designer Jayanti Reddy on Day 6 of FDCI Hyundai India Couture Week 2024, looking ethereal in a gold sequined peplum kurta and a pair of matching sharara.

The plunging neckline, offset by a diamond choker with a glittering round drop pendant, and the cinched waist made for a lesson in styling silhouettes. Aditi Rao Hydari opted for bold plum lips, pin-straight brown hair and regal confidence to style her look as she glided down the ramp with grace. The collection, Evocative Nawabi Canvas, was inspired by the rich cultural heritage of Hyderabad, and who better to close her show than Aditi Rao Hydari, who is of royal descent?

“Reddy's collection featured heritage textiles in conversation with antique motifs, revisiting India's regal past. Traditional embroideries, informed by the lavish lifestyles of the royals, were showcased in approximately 40 looks,” the FDCI wrote in an Instagram post. Talking to Vogue, the actor said that she loved what she was wearing. “It's not a lehenga. It's on Banarasi silk so there's tradition there. There's zardosi, there's bead work. But the silhouette is super contemporary and I love it,” she shared.

Hailing from the culturally rich town of Hyderabad, Reddy has often drawn inspiration from Nawabi influences for her work, which is often reflected in ornate high



jewelry collections and larger-than-life closets. According to a press note, the latest collection hosts 40 seminal looks where “heritage textiles have a conversation with antique motifs. It's like revisiting a time in India's regal past where luxury was synonymous with dexterous hand-done work, sartorial finesse and an unquestioning allegiance to slow fashion.” Models walking for Reddy were dressed to the nines in opulent fabrics boasting India's rich artisanry and craftsmanship. Set against a rustic brown and beige backdrop, the they shayed down the ramp in a melee of saris, gowns, lehengas, jackets and capes in rich hues of ivory, violet, reds and pinks, while bespoke pieces of diamonds and emeralds adorning their necks, ears and foreheads did the heavy lifting.

Tamannaah Bhatia's desire to ‘caffeinate in peace’ comes with these benefits

Tamannaah Bhatia recently expressed a simple yet profound desire in an Instagram post that resonates with many — to drink her coffee “in peace.” Seen getting her makeup done, likely before a shoot, the actor enjoys a big cup of frappuccino. As Bhatia savoured her brew, she engaged in casual conversation with crew members, seemingly aware of one of the members recording her on her phone's camera. “Can I caffeinate in peace, please?” she said jokingly. This seemingly mundane wish highlights a growing recognition of the importance of quiet, solitary moments in our increasingly hectic lives, and serves as a perfect segue into exploring the numerous benefits of enjoying a cup of coffee in solitude, particularly during the early morning hours. The power of a peaceful morning ritual

“It's not just about the coffee,” says Malika Chandra, psychotherapist at MC Psychotherapy. “It's about any activity you approach mindfully and with intention.” Starting your day with such an activity, Chandra explains, can help center your mind and calm your nervous system. The act of mindfulness itself offers numerous psychological benefits, potentially reducing anxiety and depression while enhancing cognitive function and promoting relaxation.

When practiced regularly, these benefits can have a lasting positive impact on both your mental and physical well-being. Spending even a short time alone in the morning “creates space at the beginning of your day to center yourself,” says Chandra. “It's not just about what you do, but also about what you don't do.”

Amitabh Bachchan put his foot down, insisted special tents be created for crew members in freezing Manali temperatures: Dolly Ahluwalia



she was asked if there are any actors that she looks up to and learns from, and she said, "I got a chance to work with Mr Amitabh Bachchan in Shoojit Sircar's Shoebite. It hasn't been released. Big B has given one of his best performances. I'm told that he even interfered, but nothing happened."

Explaining what she learned from him, and recalling their experiences, she said, "Punctuality. We used to be five minutes late, but he'd be 10 minutes early. And the respect that he used to give to the crew, the light boys, everyone. Amazing is the word. It was snowing in Manali, frightfully cold. They'd erected a tent especially for him, and he said, 'What about the others? Arrange tents for them too. Bring them angithis'." She also praised his ability to transform in front of the camera, even if he's been waiting patiently for hours before the shot. She said that Kareena Kapoor Khan has the same 'magic'. Bachchan's punctuality is a subject of great popularity in the industry. Everyone, from Prahlad Kakkar to actor Govinda, has spoken about working with the mega-star. Amitabh Bachchan recently starred in the biggest hit of his career, Kalki 2898 AD, and earned widespread appreciation for his supporting performance.

Actor and costume designer Dolly Ahluwalia recalled her experience working with the legendary Amitabh Bachchan, and joined the chorus of his co-workers who've praised him for his punctuality. They worked together on the unreleased film Shoebite, directed by Shoojit Sircar. She said in an interview that Bachchan's performance in the movie is among his finest ever, and that she was reduced to tears when she watched it. Bachchan personally tried to intervene and facilitate its release, but it didn't work.

Appearing on The Punjabi Link YouTube channel,

Farida Jalal says she feels 'disappointed' every time she's offered only mother and dadi role while male contemporaries get to showcase versatility



Farida Jalal, who visited the Bigg Boss OTT 3 house during a recent episode, roasted contestants like Sai Ketan Rao, Armaan Malik and Kritika Malik. However, it was his comment about Naezy's financial condition that left the rapper upset. During the roast session, Munawar, taking a jibe at Naezy, said, "Iss baar ration kum aaya na? Mere khayal se ration aur khana Bigg Boss ne iss baar isiliye kum rakha hai, taaki Naezy ko apni ghar waali feeling aaye (There isn't enough ration and food this time? Bigg Boss wants Naezy to feel at home)." His comments also left other inmates of the Bigg Boss house miffed.

Following Munawar's exit, a visibly hurt and disappointed Naezy opened up to Sana, "Kuch nahi Munawar ke baare mein he soch raha tha, koi kasar nahi choda usne (Nothing, just thinking about Munawar. He didn't hold back at all)." He further added that the comedian's comment on ration was personal and hurtful. "Woh ration ke baare mein kuch bhi bola woh, ke ghar mein ration nahi aata wagara wagara (He said all sorts of things about

ited to playing fathers or dasas on the screen, but unfortunately, I have been given just one slot." Farida's film career spans almost 50 years, and she has appeared in over 200 films. While she started her career with Taqdeer (1967), she went on to play leading and supporting roles in numerous Hindi films through the 1970s and early 80s. However, her most loved work are her roles in films like Aradhana (1969), Paras (1971), Henna (1991) and Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (1998) among others. Click for more updates and latest Bollywood news along with Entertainment updates. Also get latest news and top headlines from India and around the world at

The 'mother' of 90's Bollywood, Farida Jalal has played mother to some of the biggest superstars like Shah Rukh Khan and Salmna Khan among others. However, she has finally burst out in frustration as she feels "disappointed" that in her acting career she didn't get enough opportunities to showcase her versatility. Farida recently opened up that all this while, when she was portraying the roles of mother and mother figures in Hindi films, she felt she was typecast while her male contemporaries got more varied opportunities to flex their acting skills.

Complaining about her being typecast, Farida, in an interview with The Times Of India said that she is waiting for a challenging role where she can showcase her versatility. She also said that every time she's offered "maa ka role (mother's role)," or "dadi ka role (grandmother role)", she feels disappointed that makers don't think that she can do more than that. Farida was recently seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar on Netflix and after receiving a warm reaction for her role in the web-series she has expressed a desire that she "wants to do something exciting," in this phase of her career now.

She said, "my male counterparts got to do so much. From the late Amrish Puri to Anupam Kher, they played villains as well as comedians so well. They were not lim-

Vikrant Massey recalls being scolded by Taapsee Pannu for coming late; Sunny Kaushal says she spared no one in their film's team



Taapsee Pannu is known for being a boss lady, which she embraces fully. Apparently, it's not just in her personal life that she takes charge but also on the sets of her movies. Recently, her Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba co-stars Vikrant Massey and Sunny Kaushal shared anecdotes about how she would often reprimand them while working together.

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During the promotion of the upcoming film, the three actors sat down for an interview with Bollywood Hungama. When asked who among them was most likely to arrive late, Taapsee claimed it wasn't her. Vikrant then admitted that he is usually late and mentioned that Taapsee had scolded him many times for it. Sunny, hearing this, remarked, "But who hasn't been scolded by Taapsee?" causing the Dunki actor to facepalm in embarrassment. Vikrant then recounted an incident from the filming of Haseen Dillruba (2020), saying, "The hotel we were staying in was just a five-minute walk from the set. We would go back to the hotel for lunch and I used to be at least 10 minutes late returning. She would say, 'You're 10 minutes late coming back from a hotel that's just five minutes away. Impressive.'"

Adding another anecdote about Taapsee, Sunny said, "On the first day of shooting Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba, Taapsee and I were together. Since it's the first

day, you will be a bit on the edge because you're just discovering things and meeting everybody and you don't know much. Our still photographer was nearby, taking lots of photos. Taapsee was talking to the director at the time. After hearing the camera clicking continuously, Taapsee turned to him and said, 'Either you do the shooting or let them (the unit) do it; you decide.' He looked at her like, 'It's the first day... give us at least 30 minutes to warm up before starting to scold.'"

Taapsee then explained that her upbringing in Delhi might have contributed to her bluntness. "I'm not generalising, but there's a certain callousness in the way Delhiites talk. And honestly, I won't invest my time, effort and blood pressure on people who I don't give a damn about. My life is too short and precious to invest time in shouting at people who don't matter to me. So, if I am addressing and talking to you on the set, or even showing you that I am not ok with something, it's because I believe that you are worthy of being a part of my life and my mind frame. That's how I choose my battles." Taapsee added. Helmed by Jayprad Desai, replacing Vinil Mathew who directed the first part, and penned by Kanika Dhillon, Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba also stars Jimmy Sheirgill, Aditya Srivastava and Bhumika Dube in key roles. The movie will premiere on Netflix on August 9.

Munawar Faruqui takes a swipe at Bigg Boss OTT 3 contestant Naezy, jokes about his financial condition: 'There isn't enough ration and food as...'



Bigg Boss OTT 3 contestant Naved Shaikh aka Naezy made headlines recently when he lost his cool at a journalist when asked a personal question about fellow contestant Sana Makbul, with whom he shares a great bond. Now, the rapper was left disappointed by the comedian and winner of Bigg Boss Season 17, Munawar Faruqui.

Munawar, who visited the Bigg Boss OTT 3 house during a recent episode, roasted contestants like Sai Ketan Rao, Armaan Malik and Kritika Malik. However, it was his comment about Naezy's financial condition that left the rapper upset. During the roast session, Munawar, taking a jibe at Naezy, said, "Iss baar ration kum aaya na? Mere khayal se ration aur khana Bigg Boss ne iss baar isiliye kum rakha hai, taaki Naezy ko apni ghar waali feeling aaye (There isn't enough ration and food this time? Bigg Boss wants Naezy to feel at home)." His comments also left other inmates of the Bigg Boss house miffed.

Following Munawar's exit, a visibly hurt and disappointed Naezy opened up to Sana, "Kuch nahi Munawar ke baare mein he soch raha tha, koi kasar nahi choda usne (Nothing, just thinking about Munawar. He didn't hold back at all)." He further added that the comedian's comment on ration was personal and hurtful. "Woh ration ke baare mein kuch bhi bola woh, ke ghar mein ration nahi aata wagara wagara (He said all sorts of things about

ration, like there was no ration at home, etc)," he added. Earlier, when journalist asked Naezy about his feelings for Sana, the "Aafat" singer got into a fight with reporter on camera. "Kya kuch bhi kya bola raha hai. Pyar main sabse karta hun. Tu zyada free mat ho samjha na. (What rubbish are you even saying? I love everyone. Don't get too free, understood)," he responded, adding, "Tu kya bol raha hai merko. Aisa kuch nahi hai. Tu tameez se sawal puchega toh tameez se jawab dunga (What are you saying to me? There's nothing like that. If you ask politely, I will answer politely)." Earlier, during an episode of BB OTT 3, Naezy claimed Gully Boy impacted his personal life negatively because the film showed Ranveer with two women. "To usse mere ko ekdum subtle way mein fayda hua aur bahut nuksaan bhi hua. Mere personal life pe ki mere do-do girlfriends dikha di gayi hai. Mujhe gareeb bataya gaya hai, jitna gareeb main tha nahi. Mujhe driver bataya gaya hai kyunki main vo hu nahi. Lekin jo Indian audience ka dimag hai na, sabko aisa lagra ki yahi Naezy bhai hai. To ussey meri personal life pe thoda farak pada. (So, it benefitted me subtly but also caused a lot of harm. In my personal life, they showed I had two girlfriends. They portrayed me as poor, which I wasn't to that extent. They showed me as a driver, which I am not. But in the Indian audience's mind, everyone thinks this is who Naezy is. So, it affected my personal life a bit)."

Arjun Rampal opens up about divorce, admits he was too young to get married; says ex-wife Mehr Jesia and current partner Gabriella Demetriades 'get along'

Actor Arjun Rampal opened up about his divorce from model Mehr Jesia; they were married from 1998 to 2019, and have two daughters, Mahikaa and Myra. Arjun admitted that he was probably too young to get married when he did, and said that he experienced an emptiness after the separation. He is now in a relationship with model Gabriella Demetriades, with whom he has two sons. Arjun said that he has a strong relationship with his ex-wife now, and that Mehr and their daughters 'get along' with Gabriella.

Opening up about his divorce, Arjun said on The Ranveer Show podcast, "It's human nature to start passing the fault onto somebody else, making excuses. But the meltdown has happened because of something else. It happens because it wasn't working out, because you're sad and unhappy. And if you can't look inwards and try to find more happiness, that's when it's going to crack and break." Asked if being single after a long relationship feels like a shock initially, he said, "It feels lonely, yes. You suddenly feel like you're free, but you feel uneasy, you're not comfortable. You miss the stability, coming home, and of course the food."

Arjun said that one person can't be blamed for a relationship's failure, but it's important to introspect about the mistakes that were made. "It's important to shut all your doors and windows, isolate, and reflect within yourself. That's what I did. You realise there were so many shortcomings within you. Yes, there were shortcomings from the other side, but finally, it is you who you have to fix. You need to heal and come back as a stronger person because you have a responsibility towards so many other people who are also a part of this," he said.

Separations, he said, should 'be done with dignity and love', because that's how relationships begin. He



continued, "It's very difficult. It's not easy. It's not easy on anybody, including your children. It's the most difficult for them. You don't want that. I had come from a broken home, and for me to have not succeeded in marriage was really something that I had to look back on and understand why it went wrong. And I realised why it went wrong, and I take responsibility for it. Today, touchwood, we all are very close, we're very loving towards each other, and we'll always have our backs." Arjun said that one doesn't have to be bound by 'a piece of paper' or 'separated by a piece of paper', and that the bond he shares with his ex-wife is far greater than anything that might have happened to fracture it. "There's a lot that we've taken from each other, there's a lot that we've given each other, and you cherish that," he said. Asked if he was too young when he got married, Arjun said, "It's a tough one. I think 20s, 30s is very young. I got married when I was 24; I think it's too early. There's a lot to experience in life, and you've got to get more mature. Guys mature far slower than women, it's a proven fact that we're idiots. If you want to be successful in marriage, wait it out. Or, I could be completely wrong."

Aishwarya Rai holidays in USA sans Abhishek Bachchan, catches up with a fan.

Aishwarya Rai and her daughter, Aaradhya Bachchan, were spotted jetting out of India a few days ago. Aishwarya was then spotted holidaying in New York, USA. She posed for a photograph with a fan, Jerée Reyna, who shared the picture on social media. Sharing a picture on Instagram, the fan wrote, "Meeting your idol twice in one lifetime deserves a spot on the grid? swipe to see me at my most unhinged??"

The picture shows Aishwarya at what seems like a restaurant. The fan also shared an old picture with her "idol" Aishwarya from some time ago. See here: In her post, the fan thanked Aishwarya for the impact that she's had on her life. She wrote, "Aish, thank you for always being so kind to me. You listened so intently as I told you about the impact you've had in my life. It was always my dream to thank you for it. I wish you all the happiness and joy in this world??"

Fans were delighted to see Aishwarya smiling away in the pictures. When one of them asked Jerée how she bumped into the actor, she revealed in the comments section that Aishwarya was on a holiday. She wrote, "She was on holiday and came into my job!"

As Aishwarya spends quality time with Aaradhya in New York, her husband Abhishek Bachchan is in Mumbai.



He was spotted playing football with other Bollywood celebrities recently. He also attended filmmaker Farah Khan's mother's funeral. Aishwarya and Abhishek also attended Indian business tycoon Mukesh Ambani and Nita Ambani's son Anant's wedding in Mumbai earlier this month. The couple entered the wedding venue separately but were seen sitting together inside the venue along with the Bachchan family, including Amitabh Bachchan, Jaya Bachchan and Shweta Bachchan.

On the work front, Aishwarya was last seen in Mani Ratnam's Ponniyin Selvan 1 and 2.

Why Dhiraj Bommadevara hit 10, but was still eliminated from individual archery event



GNS News Agency, August 2

At the Olympics, sport can sometimes be cruel. India's most promising archer Dhiraj Bommadevara was eliminated from the individual archery event even after hitting a 10 with his final arrow. This, despite the fact that in recurve archery, a 10 is the best score you can get from a single arrow. Reason? The 22-year-old Dhiraj Bommadevara and his opponent in the second round, Canada's Eric Peters, had tied with five points each after five sets. This meant that the contest would be decided in a single arrow shootoff where both archers had one arrow to shoot.

The rule for a tie, decided by World Archery, the global governing body of the sport, states: "In individual

shoot-offs, a single arrow shoot-off for score (is shot). If the score (by both archers) is the same, the arrow closest to the centre shall resolve the tie. If the distance is the same, successive single arrow shoot-offs will be held until the tie is resolved. The time limit for a shootoff shall be 40 seconds." But the catch in the recurve archery shootoffs is that even if both archers hit the ring with the same score, the arrow that is the closest to the centre of the target, wins.

Dhiraj Bommadevara shot a 10 with his shootoff arrow. But Peters also shot a 10. However, Dhiraj Bommadevara's 10 was 2.4 centimetres further from the centre of the target as compared to Peters' arrow. This meant, that despite hitting a 10 — the best score Dhiraj Bommadevara could have shot — he was eliminated while Peters progressed to the next round. Dhiraj Bommadevara was in red-hot form in the match. At one point, he hit six consecutive arrows in the 10 ring. However, his Canadian opponent was also up to the task. Peters forced the clash into the shootoff by hitting six straight 10s as well, and then hitting his final arrow of the night in the shootoff also in the 10 ring. In recurve archery, where athletes have to aim at a target from 70 metres away, it's rare to get so many repeated shots in the 10 ring. So Dhiraj Bommadevara series of six straight 10s suggests he was in good form. But unfortunately, a distance of 2.4 centimetres cost him a shot in the next round.

Lanka's great escape to defeat: Starring Washington, Surya and Rinku

GNS News Agency, August 2

Synopsis: After a sensational collapse, where they lost 7 wickets for 22 runs in chase of 137, Sri Lanka lose in Super Over as India complete series-sweep in style.

These are early days for Suryakumar Yadav as captain, but he is already making all the right impressions, reinforcing the faith shown by the selectors and head coach Gautam Gambhir for the role ahead of Hardik Pandya. For the first time in this series, on a pitch that had something for the bowlers, especially the spinners, defending a paltry 137, India managed to tie the game and take it to the Super Overs. At 108/1 at the end of 15 overs, Sri Lanka had the game in their bag. Or so one thought. Instead, they self-destructed, losing their next seven wickets for just 22 runs. In three successive matches, their batting unit has endured three collapses, and this one was perhaps the most soul-crushing of the lot. It was Kusal Mendis' dismissal in the second ball of the 16th over that changed the course of the innings for the hosts. In the last four overs, with eight wickets in hand, Sri Lanka needed 23.

Washington Sundar's twin strikes of Wanindu Hasaranga and Charith Asalanka made Sri Lanka press the panic button. But a wayward over from Khaleel Ahmed, where he sent down 5 wides in an 11-ball over, reduced the equation to 9 off 12 balls. Still it looked like a routine chase with six wickets in hand. But off Rinku Singh's part-time off-spin, they lost Kusal Perera and Ramesh Mendis. With six needed off the last over, Suryakumar continued to be brave by bringing himself on. It was a huge punt, but it paid off as he took two wickets in as many balls, conceding just 5 runs. Out of nowhere India managed to change the tide. Context and opposition notwithstanding it was as good as the final in Barbados. Washington Pallekele: India's Suryakumar Yadav with teammates celebrates the wicket of Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis during the 3rd T20 International cricket match between India and Sri Lanka at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium, in Pallekele.

With the series already in the kitty, Tuesday was more about giving opportunities to those in the bench as they made four changes to the XI. But the one who failed to grab the opportunity was Sanju Samson. For a second successive match, he had the chance to firmly assert his place in the side. With Shubman Gill returning, he was



demoted to No 3, a slot he so used to in the IPL. Instead, he ended up being debutant seamer Chamindu Wickramasinghe's first wicket as he held out at deep cover off the fourth ball. With Rishabh Pant high in the pecking order and Dhruv Jurel waiting in the wings, time is running out for Samson. Like Samson, Rinku too missed an opportunity. Like Samson, he too went for big shot, this time off Maheesh Theekshana, but could only sky it to Matheesha Pathirana at mid-on. Having found no answers to India's top-order in the previous two matches, Sri Lanka's attack was on the money here. Apart from Samson and Rinku, Yashasvi Jaiswal and captain Suryakumar Yadav too didn't make an impact. At the end of the powerplay India had 30 on board, which was a decent total on the surface, but they had lost four wickets. From thereon, it was up to Gill to build with Shivam Dube, Riyan Parag and Washington Sundar. A lot rode on Dube, the designated six-hitter, who can change the course of the game. With the hosts having as many as four spinners — Theekshana, Hasaranga, Ramesh Mendis and Kamindu Mendis — the match-ups favoured Dube. But not once in his 14-ball stay did Dube come close to breaking the shackles before being dismissed by Ramesh. With 5 down inside 9 overs, Gill would drop anchor and Riyan Parag would construct a cameo. For the first time in the night India seized some control before Hasaranga removed both in the 16th over. From there on, Washington Sundar played his part, bringing out the sweeps and reverse-sweeps, to fetch 25 crucial runs that allowed India to be in the game as they ended up with 137/9. And then he applied the finishing touches in the Super Over.

Paris Olympics, hockey: Harmanpreet Singh steps up again in 2-0 win, but India made to withstand Irish heatwave

GNS News Agency, August 2

After their 2-0 win over Ireland, when Harmanpreet Singh and PR Sreejesh came into the mixed zone, the first thing that hit was how red their faces had got. A heatwave that is hitting Paris and much of France led to tennis players at Roland Garros being given extra breaks during the match. A fan who attended the hockey match at Yves-du-Manoir Stadium said the heat was "completely crazy for spectators, can only imagine what it was for the players." An official from the sidelines said electronic devices were heating up in their working area. It wasn't just the literal heat that the Indian men's hockey team had to beat, but also the metaphoric kind from Ireland who put Harmanpreet's men under immense pressure in the second half of their Pool B match. But, unlike their last two matches, India had got off on the front foot, thanks to two more set-piece goals from Harmanpreet (11', 19'), but then had to hold on against an Irish onslaught in the last two quarters.

"Due to the heat, we knew it was advantageous for us to maintain ball possession and tire out the other team. But in some areas, we tried to force matters, and our passes got intercepted. Ireland troubled us because they are a capable team," an exhausted Harmanpreet told JioCinema after the match. Against Belgium and Australia, India's next two opponents, inviting pressure to this extent won't be ideal, he added. With Ireland in a must-win position, India started the match well against a side that is usually hard to break down but was unusually leaving spaces open. It was a scrappy start with plenty of referee whistles in the opening exchanges. One of the remarks heard on the broadcast before pushback was an Indian player saying in the huddle, "ek chance aayega early, ek chance pucca aayega".

Paris 2024: Hardik Singh of Indian hockey team Paris 2024 Olympics - Hockey - Men's Pool B - Ireland vs India - Yves-du-Manoir Stadium, Colombes, France - July 30, 2024. Hardik Singh of India in action. /Adnan Abidi/An early chance was on the cards and it was Gurjant Singh who cut out a short pass in midfield with a fine interception, dribbled ahead and released Mandeep



Singh. The forward controlled the ball in his stride expertly and won a penalty stroke as he was bundled over by a defender. Harmanpreet wasn't going to miss.

After penalty corner conversion worries against Argentina, Harmanpreet managed to power one through early this time as the brute force of his drag-flick, combined with a wicked deflection, gave India a 2-0 lead heading into halftime. By a combination of the heat and Irish desperation, India withdrew more and more into a shell. It led to Ireland earning as many as 10 penalty corners in the second half alone. Manpreet Singh got bruised badly as he rushed out to save one, Amit Rohidas was being Amit Rohidas in first-rushes, Sanjay and Harmanpreet put in the tackles, and significantly, PR Sreejesh was back to his best. A combination of these defensive efforts ensured India somehow managed to keep a clean sheet. But the immediate concern after that match is could India afford to be that generous against the powerhouses they are facing next?

"This is a learning experience for us because the next matches will be tougher. We don't know how the weather will be, but it is a learning that in situations like these, the more you keep ball possession and stay calm, the better it is. We need to keep in mind that no matter how much we are missing at the front, if the team defends strong, it is always beneficial. This was a good lesson for us today because we shouldn't have given away so many penalty corners," Harmanpreet admitted after the match.

'I was heartbroken after Tokyo': Coach Jaspal Rana details how life-work balance helped Manu Bhaker win two Olympic medals



GNS News Agency, August 2

Jaspal Rana must have the urge to scream 'told you so' but here he is, sitting all by himself in a modest room, eating crisps. So secluded are the streets of Chateauroux and the surroundings are so eerily silent in this army town 300 km from Paris that the crunch with every bite could constitute noise pollution. The coach of double Olympic medalist Manu Bhaker, Rana lives away from the rest of India's shooting team and coaches who are a 30-minute drive away at a mini Athletes' Village in the co-host city. "I wouldn't even have been here had (Indian Olympic Association president) PT Usha ma'am not intervened. My name wasn't on the list initially," he claims, without going into further details.

One wonders if Manu's two bronze medals would have been possible without Rana being there. His presence, Manu says he's had a calming influence on her during tense moments. "He has played a huge role in the medal. It's the blood and sweat of both of us," Manu said on Sunday after winning her first bronze medal. Even with him being there, it's not been straightforward. Since he isn't the official team coach, Rana can't sit behind the athlete in the field of play. He is in the stands with the rest of the public, taking a seat diagonally opposite Manu so they can exchange looks between shots. A lot is said without a word being spoken. Rana doesn't speak a lot and nor is he spoken to much. A champion shooter, a part-time politician and now a full-time coach of independent India's only athlete to win two medals at the same Olympics, the 48-year-old was almost ostracised within India's shooting community.

Ask him why and Rana, a straight-talker, is dismissive: "Do you really think these people are the shooting community? You write down the names and see what their achievement is. None of them form the 'community'." The former world and Asian champion adds: "For 10 years, I worked on my terms. Gave results. Didn't let anyone dictate terms. Out of those 10 years, if for 3 years they had their way, it doesn't bother me. Maybe that was also needed. When you spend too much time in one place, it affects your productivity. Neither would Manu have thought about this (getting back); neither would I get a chance to rectify the things that were said about me." A lot was said. The former National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) president, Raninder Singh, called Rana a 'negative factor' and pinned the blame solely on him for India's medalless outing at the Tokyo Olympics. Earlier this year, the current high-performance director, Pierre Beauchamp, allegedly asked him to leave a training camp, citing a 'standard operating procedure'. Others call him an agent provocateur.

"I was really sad and heartbroken (after Tokyo). That wasn't needed. Especially for someone I always admired, who supported me for a good 10 years, gave me a free hand, gave me all the power... I don't know what happened in that one year." The '10 years' Rana repeatedly

How small is the target that elevates Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh's Olympic achievements in shooting?

GNS News Agency, August 2

Draw a dot on a piece of paper. Walk 10 metres away. Close an eye and now try to see if you can even see that dot. That's what an Olympic shooter is dealing with. That's what Arjun Babuta narrowly missed out on when he hit a 9.5 for his last shot at the 2024 Paris Olympics to finish 4th. Even when you hit the dot, you might be mere millimetres away from the centre of it, a ridiculous proposition in the first place. That's Manu Bhaker's second-last shot of 10.3, considered an inner ten, which if higher, could have seen her win a different medal. These are the incredibly tiny margins that shooters live and die on.

First of all, the '10' isn't really a ring, like the other shots are. To be precise, its entire diameter is 0.5mm in rifle shooting. In ISSF competitions, like these Olympics, the boards are electronic and in those, the targets are accurate to 0.001 of a millimetre. Essentially a shooter is hoping to hit the centre of the minuscule target to get the highest 10-point shot (From 10.1 to 10.9). Hitting the high tens consistently is the name of the game. But considering the occasion, hitting your last shot, knowing elimination from the competition is imminent, is an arena most would never be a part of. The experience is uniquely his. In the mixed zone later, he said that he felt he executed the shot well, but was now fighting with the thoughts in his own head over where things went wrong in that last shot.

Manu Bhaker Paris 2024 mixed pistol shooting India's Manu Bhaker prepares to compete in the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze medal event at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, July 30, 2024, in Chateauroux, France. When the scores are in decimals, then the shots are graded on how close they are to the centre of the 10-ring. Which essentially means that a shot that's 0.05 away from bring perfectly in the centre, is graded as a 10.9. A shot under 10.0, is literally a shot outside the 'dot' that shooters are supposed to make.

That is how incredibly tough air rifle, and air pistol shooting is. Introduce the anxiety-ridden arena of an Olympic or World Championship atmosphere, add a generous helping of India's hunger for medals, especially in shooting, and then put all of that in the midst of the best shooters in the world — and then shoot at a target 10 metres away and shoot at the dot in the middle of that target. It's damn near impossible to be accurate. In pistol shooting, the diameter of the ten ring goes up to 11.5mm, and the inner ten ring is 5.0mm, which at least looks like a circle. But the pistol discipline at the Olympics is a one-hand sport, so they lack the control that a rifle shooter can execute, which brings its own set of challenges.

refers to are seen as the decade of growth for Indian shooting where an army of teenagers came through the ranks and took the shooting world by the scruff of its neck. The long list also includes Manu, who started under him in 2016 as a 14-year-old. India's Sarabjot Singh and teammate Manu Bhaker compete in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the Paris Olympics in Chateauroux, France. (AP Photo) India's Sarabjot Singh and teammate Manu Bhaker compete in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the Paris Olympics in Chateauroux, France. (AP Photo)

Rana was India's junior team coach back then. "I fought an election to become MP in 2009 from Tehri (in Uttarakhand) for the BJP. It was my main time in politics. But I went to the junior team," he says. "Kitney MP hai India mein! This was a bigger and better responsibility that I took." When the Tokyo debacle happened, Jaspal was among the coaches who fell out of favour and following a public spat with Manu, he suddenly lost his footing within the shooting circuit. "I had nowhere to go but I had a lot of things to do. I used to do farming, I started making a mountain home, one range in Mussoorie up in the hills. My father has a resort so I was working there," he says. "I started looking after things I neglected during those 10 years when I was constantly travelling." Rana claims to have received an offer from China's national team seven months ago. He declined it, without elaborating why but around the same time, he reunited with Manu, with both agreeing to not talk about the past. Manu, he says, was also a gifted shooter and was 'disciplined'. Instead of nagging her about technique and overloading her with information, Rana says he had ensured there was a work-life balance. India's Manu Bhaker celebrates with the Indian flag after winning the bronze medal in the 10m air pistol women's final round at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Sunday, July 28, 2024, in Chateauroux, France. (AP Photo) India's Manu Bhaker celebrates with the Indian flag after winning the bronze medal in the 10m air pistol women's final round at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Sunday, July 28, 2024, in Chateauroux, France.

"If a kid wakes up at 5 am, reaches range at 8-9, shoots for 2 hours, then goes for lunch followed by another 3 hours of shooting, then physical training, then time with physio... After that if you tell them, 'Go enjoy your life', do you think they'll be able to do it?" If you load them up so much, what will they do? If the child is a genius but can't make Maggi, toh life ka aacha daalega kya? You have to live life, learn things, gather knowledge. Shooting is life for these people, but you can't let other things go." Manu, who worked with at least four different coaches during the 18 months or so when she parted with Rana, had said in May that one of the biggest changes she made post-Tokyo was to detach herself from shooting once she was away from the ranges. "Earlier, I was much more in my bubble. Just shoot, stay in my room and rest because I got so tired. You can always live life, come on! And you can always make mistakes," she had said. Even in Chateauroux, the two don't spend the whole day talking about shooting. "From the range, we walk because that gives us time to talk — there are a lot of people everywhere else. So we walk and talk. Then I drop her to the village and after that, there isn't a phone call unless there's something urgent. She is her boss. And I am in my apartment here." Three years ago, Rana was booted out of the system even though he maintained he had it in him to produce an Olympic medalist. In Manu, he now has delivered a double medal winner. But he won't say 'told you so'.



When the scores are in decimals, then the shots are graded on how close they are to the centre of the 10-ring. Which essentially means that a shot that's 0.05 away from bring perfectly in the centre, is graded as a 10.9. A shot under 10.0, is literally a shot outside the 'dot' that shooters are supposed to make.

Why's Manu Bhaker's second bronze medal such an elite performance?

13 shots — that's what all four shooters in the bronze medal match at the 2024 Paris Olympics 10m Air Pistol Mixed team events took individually. Now, Bhaker was the best shooter out of all four. An inner 10 is a shot that's 10.3 and above. The 22-year-old, fresh from an intense 10m Air Pistol Women's qualification, and then final, and then another mixed-team qualification, hit seven of her thirteen shots by 10.4 or above — a truly incredible finals performance. She was elite at a moment in time where it mattered. Sarabjot Singh did extremely well in a moment of distress for India where the Koreans had gained four points when India just needed two to win the bronze. He hit a crucial 10.2, when Bhaker's last shot was a 9.4 and ensured that those last two points to carry India for their bronze. He hit four inner tens in his 13 shots. Oh Ye Jin, who has carried South Korea brilliantly at these Olympics, shot six inner 10s of her 13. But in a sport of the finest margins, Bhaker, who missed out on silver in her individual event by 0.1, hit one inner 10 more than Jin and difference or not, she simply was the best shooter at the range.