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GHMC makes elaborate arrangements for hassle free immersion of Ganesh idols in Hyd

Hyderabad: The GHMC has made elaborate arrangements for smooth and hassle free Ganesh idol immersion across different parts of Hyderabad. As a part of these efforts, the GHMC authorities have said that close to 73 immersion points of different sizes have been created across different zones in Hyderabad. The list of the immersion zones are as follows: A S Rao Nagar Exhibition Grounds, Sachivalaya Nagar Officers Colony Welfare Association grounds, Hayath nagar MRO office, Vanasthalipuram, Suma theatre cricket grounds, near swimming pool, Government College Grounds behind Municipal Office

Inter-State gang from Rajasthan held for Rs 4 crore UPI fraud in Hyd

Hyderabad: The Cyberabad Central Crime Station (CCS) team and KPHB police on Monday arrested a 13-member interstate gang from Rajasthan on charges of involvement in a series of high-tech UPI frauds and cheating schemes, which also involved defrauding Bajaj Electronics of Rs 4 crore. Officials seized cash of Rs 1.7 lakh and electronic goods worth Rs 50 lakh.

The arrested persons include Som Raj, Sunil, Lac Ram, Sharwan, Soma Raj, Shiva Lal, Ramesh, Shravan Kumar, Pappu Ram, Shravan, Ramesh and Ashok Kumar.

Two sarees each to SHG women every year, says CM Revanth Reddy



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the State government would distribute two sarees each to the 63 lakh Self Help Groups members annually and directed the officials to come up with good designs and quality sarees. Accordingly, the government has decided to give the orders to manufacture 1.3 crore sarees to weavers every year, he said after launching the Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT) here on Monday. The government had decided to name the newly established IIHT after freedom fighter and Telangana ideologue Konda Laxman Babuji. Instructions were issued to officials to issue orders to this effect. He also instructed officials to prepare an action plan for the conduct of elections to Co-operative Societies (Samakya Sanghalu). Stating that the State government had released Rs.290 crore arrears payable to weavers, he said handloom loans worth Rs.30 crore secured by weavers would also be waived. In the past, Telangana students had to go Odisha and Andhra Pradesh to pursue studies in the IIHT. An appeal was made to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union Minister Piyush Goyal to set up IIHT in Telangana and they responded positively, he said, adding that the Skill University was already launched to impart skill training to students in the State. Necessary steps would be taken to set up the IIHT campus in the Skill University next year, he added.

Kishan Reddy seeks CM's cooperation to widen roads to Secunderabad Station, Cherlapally terminal



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Hyderabad: Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy has urged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to cooperate in widening the roads leading to Secunderabad Railway Station and Cherlapally Railway Terminal. In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister on Monday, Kishan Reddy informed that the construction of a new railway terminal at Cherlapally on the outskirts of the city was being completed at a cost of Rs. 415 crore. This terminal would also be the centre for the arrival and departure of passenger and goods trains for Hyderabad, hence, a 100 feet road was required for passenger traffic from the FCI godown side to reach such an important railway terminal, he said, adding that the State government should cooperate in widening the road leading to the terminal. Similarly, Secunderabad Railway Station was being upgraded at a cost of Rs. 715 crore, he said, adding that efforts were being made to dedicate the railway station to the public with state-of-the-art facilities by the end of next year. However, due to the narrowness of the road between Rathifile Bus Station and Alpha Hotel, passengers coming to the railway station during peak hours were facing serious traffic problems.

AAP puts pressure on Congress, to name candidates for all 90 seats

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

New Delhi: The AAP's Haryana chief Sushil Gupta said on Monday the party will declare by this evening candidates for all 90 seats if the Congress fails to finalise an alliance with it for the October 5 Assembly polls. Gupta said that every worker of Aam Aadmi Party in Haryana is ready to strongly contest all the 90 Assembly seats. "We will release the list of candidates on 90 seats by the evening," he said when asked about the reply of Congress to AAP regarding alliance for the polls.

PM Modi holds talks with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (September 9, 2024) held wide-ranging talks with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan focusing on boosting overall strategic ties between the two countries. The Crown Prince arrived here on Sunday (September 8, 2024). "A warm welcome for a close friend. PM @narendramodi received HH Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi in Hyderabad House," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on "X". "Discussions on entire spectrum of India-the United Arab Emirates bilateral relations and future



areas of cooperation lie ahead," he said.

Following the landmark visit of PM Modi to the UAE in August 2015, bilateral relations between the two countries were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both countries

signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in February 2022 and a Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System in July 2023 to promote the use of Indian Rupee and AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) for cross-border transactions. The two countries are among each other's top trading partners with a bilateral trade of about USD 85 billion in 2022-23, according to official data. In Feb 2023, the India-UAE-France (UFI) trilateral was formally launched. With India's active support, the UAE joined SCO as dialogue partner in May 2023.

The UAE also joined BRICS as a member on January 1 with India's support. The India-UAE defence cooperation has also witnessed a renewed momentum in the last few years.

CM Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to Kaloji Narayana Rao on His Jayanti



GNS News Agency, Sept 9 Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy paid rich tributes to the renowned freedom fighter, people's poet, and Padma Vibhushan awardee, the late Kaloji Narayana Rao, on his birth anniversary. Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy paid rich tributes to the renowned freedom fighter, people's poet, and Padma Vibhushan awardee, the late Kaloji Narayana Rao, on his birth anniversary. Marking the occasion, the Chief Minister expressed his joy over celebrating "Telangana Bhasha Dinotsavam" (Telangana Language Day) in honor of Kaloji. He extended his heartfelt wishes to the people of Telangana, noting the significance of remembering Kaloji's contributions to the state and its language.

Disqualification of turncoat MLAs: Telangana High Court asks Speaker to decide in four weeks



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Monday directed the State Legislative Assembly Secretary to place before the Speaker the file of disqualification petitions of three MLAs - Tellam Venkat Rao, Kadiyam Srihari and Danam Nagender - who defected to the Congress and to decide on the action to be taken within four weeks. The Court also said a status report with the schedule of action had to be communicated to the Registrar of the High Court, failing which the Court would re-open the case suo moto for hearing. Pronouncing orders on the petitions by BRS MLAs KP Vivekananda and Padi Kaushik Reddy and BP MLA A Maheshwar Reddy, Justice B. Vijayen Reddy stated that since there was no information on the status of the disqualification petitions pending before the Speaker, with the writ plea being filed in April and no action even after August, a case was made out by the petitioners for grant of relief. During the hearing, the petitioners' counsel had highlighted the delay by the Speaker in taking action against the defected MLAs, despite a petition filed under Schedule X before the Speaker for several months. They contended that such a delay might give the ruling party a chance to enable more defections from the BRS.

The counsel representing the defected MLAs and the State had earlier questioned the maintainability of the writ petition by contending that a writ of mandamus could not lie against the Speaker. He had argued that the court lacked jurisdiction to issue a writ of mandamus against the Speaker to decide upon the disqualification pleas preferred by the petitioner against the defected MLAs. Following this, after hearing the parties at length, the Court had reserved the judgment on August 10.

The judgment was then issued on Monday, indicating a major victory for the BRS, which has repeatedly been asking for the disqualification of the defectors, and had intensified its legal efforts with the number of turncoat MLAs rising to 10 after the petition was first filed. BRS working president KT Rama Rao along with senior leader T. Harish Rao and other leaders had also met legal experts in Delhi as part of the party's efforts to get the turncoat MLAs disqualified. With the Supreme Court earlier delivering clear judgments in various cases, including the Manipur case relating to defections, Rama Rao had said the party would continue its legal battle in the light of the Supreme Court orders in similar cases and as per the advice given by the legal and Constitutional experts in view. Monday's judgement has therefore come as a sweet victory for the party. In a similar incident earlier, when there was delay on part of the Maharashtra Assembly Speaker in deciding on disqualification petitions against rebel Shiv Sena MLAs who defected to the Eknath Shinde faction, the Supreme Court had expressed dismay over inaction of the Speaker and said that the Speaker could not delay the proceedings under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution indefinitely and that there had to be a sense of respect to the directions passed by the Court. A three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud had then directed that the disqualification petitions be listed before the Speaker within one week upon which the Speaker had to issue procedural directions for completing the record and setting out the time for hearings.

KTR welcomes Telangana HC verdict on disqualification of defected MLAs

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao welcomed the Telangana High Court's verdict directing the Assembly Speaker to take action on the disqualification of turncoat MLAs within the next four weeks. He termed the judgment a 'slap in the face' of the Congress Party, which adopted double standards on party defections. In a statement on Monday, Rama Rao said the Congress had promised strict anti-defection laws during the elections, but encouraged defections in Telangana, undermining the democratic process. He cited the Supreme Court's judgement on party defections earlier, pointing out that the apex court had previously ruled that decisions on such complaints should be made within three months. However, despite the BRS taking up the issue, the Assembly Speaker failed to initiate action, forcing the BRS to seek judicial intervention.

"From the beginning, we strongly believed justice would be done in the court, and this High Court verdict has only confirmed our faith in the judiciary. The by-elections in Telangana are now inevitable," he said, adding that the Congress which mocked democracy by giving the B-form to a defected MLA Danam Nagender, had learnt its lesson. The BRS working president took a direct jab at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, stating that even a chameleon would be ashamed of Rahul Gandhi.



Criticising Rahul Gandhi's public stance on defections at the Centre and non-Congress ruled States, while supporting defections in Telangana, he challenged the Congress leader to take strict action against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who made false promises and lured BRS MLAs to defect. He also questioned the Congress Party's inconsistent policies across different States, contrasting its actions in Telangana with those in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka. "One policy in Telangana, another in other States? Rahul Gandhi needs to explain this duplicity," he demanded, taking potshots at Revanth Reddy who called for pelting stones at defected MLAs during the elections, and asked him to now confirm whom should the people pelt stones at - him or the defected MLAs.

Big relief from HYDRA



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Monitoring and Protection Agency (HYDRA) on Sunday clarified that the houses and flats of the people in lake areas in the city will not be demolished. While responding to the concerns expressed by the people on the demolitions, HYDRA Commissioner AV Ranganath reassured the citizens that no occupied houses or residences 'even if built in the FTL or buffer zones of lakes' would be demolished. He said on Sunday that the habitations or dwellings occupied currently by the people will not be demolished.

Ranganath clarified that the new constructions that are coming up in lake FTLs and buffer zones will only be demolished. The structures demolished on Sunday in Sunnam Cheruvu, Mallampet Cheruvu are under construction in FTL/buffer zones and structures demolished at Ameenpur are mainly compound walls/rooms/sheds encroached by ex-MLA Katasani Rambhupal Reddy, he added. Also, some sheds/hotels constructed in Sunnam Cheruvu were being used commercially and fell in FTL were the ones demolished, he added. Villas demolished in Mallampeta Cheruvu were under construction and were not occupied by any families. "We would like to assure all the people of Hyderabad that no house which is occupied will be demolished. However, we request the public not to purchase any house/flat/land which falls in the FTL/buffer zone of any lake," said Ranganath. Meanwhile, HYDRA ordered Jayabheri Constructions to clear encroachments in the Full Tank Level (FTL) and buffer zones areas near the Rangalal Kunta lake located at Gachibowli's Nanakramguda. According to HYDRA, Jayabheri Constructions was issued a 15-day notice period failing to which HYDRA will take up the demolitions. Ranganath said the blue sheet walls erected extend two meters into the FTL. "We have asked them to remove the walls and vacate the buffer zone."

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SYEDA HUSNA FATHIMA daughter of I. TAUFEEQUE AHMED (Father) and NAJEEBUNNISA (Mother) (born on 10-11-1997 (OLD NAME) residence of Hno. 9-425/1, Teachers Colony, Adilabad-504001 Telangana. Presently holding passport No. V3768209 issued on 21-10-2021 hereby changing my name and my parents name's and in future I will be known as SYEDA HUSNA FATIMA daughter of SYED TAUFEEQ AHMED (Father) and SYEDA NAJEEBUNNISA (Mother) (NEW NAME) for the sake of my passport to be corrected accordingly.

DECLARANT.

SYEDA HUSNA FATIMA

W/O MIR RAHEEL MUJTABA

Place: Adilabad

Date: 09-09-2024

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

The Kargil admission.

PAKISTAN army chief Gen Syed Asim Munir has uttered the K-word. K stands for Kargil, not what the Rawalpindi Generals are perennially obsessed with — Kashmir. Addressing the Defence and Martyrs' Day event on Friday, Gen Munir mentioned the 1948, 1965, 1971 and Kargil wars — all in the same breath. This public acknowledgement of the 1999 conflict by none other than Pakistan's top military officer debunked the improbable theory that 'private freedom fighters' were solely involved in the intrusions. Even former PM Nawaz Sharif had stopped short of naming Kargil when he admitted earlier this year that Islamabad had violated an agreement with Delhi, signed by him and then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in February 1999. It is common knowledge that the Kargil misadventure was orchestrated by then army chief Gen Pervez Musharraf. Smarting from the 1971 defeat, Pakistan tried to turn the tables on India but came a cropper. Why would Gen Munir mention it now, weeks after India celebrated 25 years of the Kargil triumph? After all, the Pakistani military is firmly in the saddle, with the Sharif brothers under its control and the 'uncooperative' ex-PM Imran Khan behind bars. This could be an attempt to give the impression that Pakistan is finally coming to terms with its unpleasant past and is keen to learn from its historical blunders. Notably, PM Shehbaz Sharif said at the same event that his country desired peace with all neighbours. Despite these statements, coupled with overtures such as Pakistan's invitation to PM Narendra Modi to attend the SCO meeting in Islamabad next month, India has no reason to let its guard down. The trust deficit persists, with the Jammu region reeling under a spate of attacks linked to Pakistan-trained terrorists. Ironically, Pakistan is itself battling a surge in terrorism in Balochistan and Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

Amid doctor protests, outpatients at West Bengal's govt hospitals see significant decline



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

As protests against the RG Kar rape and murder case continue for the 27th straight day in West Bengal government hospitals, around 35,000 people are deprived of outpatient services each day, government data shows. According to data from the state health department, the number of outpatients has been cut by half, down to 35,000 from the 70,000 generally seen in government hospitals. Likewise, scheduled operations have now been cut to 150 from 400-500 daily that these hospitals generally see. Significantly, several senior doctors have been pitching in for OPD services since junior doctors began their protests against the rape and murder of a junior doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9. "It had decreased to 30,000 but in the last one week, we were able to increase the number to 35,000. However, on average, more than seven lakh people are being deprived of specialised treatment in government hospitals," said a senior health official. The Indian Express went to Nilratan Sarkar Medical College and Hospital to see how people were affected. Rahiman Bibi, a 54-year-old resident of Sundarbans, had visited the hospital thrice since the protests began, and was able to meet a resident doctor only on her third visit. "I went to the Out Patient Department third floor thrice but couldn't find the doctor I was supposed to consult. Then I called the doctor and he told me he was at the dharna mancho, so I went there with all my reports," Bibi said. A resident doctor, who declined to be named, emphasised that the purpose of the protest is not to harass patients.

"It is not true that patients are dying because of non-availability of treatment. Rather, since day one, we have maintained that senior doctors are there and we have also been seeing patients who have come to show reports. Today most of us junior doctors are at Lalbazar Abhiyan," he said. When The Indian Express met him, Mazful Ali, a resident of Murshidabad, had been waiting at Nilratan Sarkar's OPD nephrology department for over three hours. "My turn hasn't come. They say there are only a few doctors available," he said. Outside the OPD ticket counter, there was a long queue of patients waiting to receive tickets. Firoza Molla, a resident of Belgharia, was waiting for a doctor to see her 16-day-old baby. "Since his birth, my son has had a tumour on his stomach. It's such a struggle. Every time I come here, they advise me to just see doctors in OPD and go back because there are not enough doctors," she said. Despite the challenges faced by patients, the hospital administration insists that senior doctors are always available to see patients. "Usually, 10,000 patients come in OPD daily, which has now reduced to somewhere between 3000-4000," said another doctor. According to hospital staff, each OPD unit typically has 4-5 doctors but since the protest, the number of doctors available has been significantly reduced. But junior doctors, like the one quoted before, say they continue to see patients despite being in protest. "We would like this message to spread that hospitals are open — OPD and Emergency services are all open for patients," said Dr. Debdut Bhadra, a member of West Bengal Junior Doctor's Front and one of the main leaders of the protest.

He added: "The patient rush may be less but senior doctors have been there since day one of the incident to serve the patients. We have maintained that our protest is apolitical, we want no violence or vandalism, and we have ensured critical patients are getting proper treatment." A senior doctor of the SSKM hospital agreed. "It's true junior doctors are the heart of OPDs and that they would see more than 300 patients every day.

Dushyant Chautala, brother Digvijay Singh to contest Haryana Assembly polls



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Jannayak Janta Party leader and former Haryana deputy chief minister Dushyant Chautala and his brother Digvijay Singh Chautala will contest the October 5 Assembly polls, as per a list of 15 candidates announced by the party. Digvijay will contest the polls from the Dabwali constituency of Sirsa district and Dushyant from Uchana. JJP sources hinted that Dushyant's mother and sitting MLA Naina Chautala was unlikely to contest the polls. In the 2019 Assembly elections, Dushyant defeated former Union minister Birender Singh's wife Prem Lata, who was the BJP candidate in Uchana. As Birender Singh is now in the Congress, the party is likely to field his son Brijendra

Singh, a former Hisar MP, in the constituency.

In Dabwali, there may be a contest among members of the Chautala clan. In 2019, the BJP fielded Dushyant's uncle Aditya Devi Lal but he lost to the Congress's Amit Sihag, also from the Chautala family. The Congress and the BJP may repeat their candidates in Dabwali. The JJP won 10 Assembly seats in 2019 but seven of the winners have deserted the party to join the Congress and the BJP. The remaining JJP MLAs are Dushyant, his mother and Amarjeet Dhandra.

The JJP has again fielded Dhandra in the Julana constituency, while it has put up former Indian National Lok Dal MLA Rajdeep Phogat in Dadri. Phogat was elected from Dadri on an INLD ticket in 2014. He was among the four INLD legislators who joined the JJP after a split in their party in 2018. The other 11 JJP candidates are Dr Ravinder Dheen (Mulana), Rajkumar Bubka (Radaur), Krishan Bajigar (Guhla), Kuldeep Malik (Gohana), Engineer Dharampal Prajapat (Jind), Virender Chaudhary (Nalwa), Rajesh Bhardwaj (Tosham), Sunil Dujana Sarpanch (Beri), Aayushi Abhimanyu Rao (Ateli), Rameshwar Dyal (Bawal) and Satvir Tanwar (Hodel). The Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram), a JJP ally, has fielded four candidates — Dr Ashok Kashyap (Jagadhari), Soheli (Sadhaura), Vinesh Gurjar (Sohna) and Harit Bainsla (Palwal).

CBI books Maharashtra ex-minister Anil Deshmukh for attempting to frame BJP leaders in false cases

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday filed a fresh FIR against former Maharashtra home minister Anil Deshmukh as allegedly trying to frame BJP leaders in false cases. Following a two-year-long preliminary inquiry, which originated from a pen drive handed over to the then Maharashtra Assembly speaker by Devendra Fadnavis who was then the Leader of the Opposition, the case was lodged.

The prima facie findings of the CBI enquiry show that Special Public Prosecutor Pravin Pandit Chavan conspired with one Vijay Bhaskarrao Patil, who acted as the complainant, and the then home minister Anil Deshmukh to file a zero FIR on December 9, 2020 at Nimbhora Jalgaon police station related to a two-year-old incident in Pune "to falsely implicate BJP leaders and others to wrest control of the Jalgaon Zilla Maratha Vidhya Prasarak Sahakari Samaj Limited (Educational institution)," the FIR has alleged. "Later, the zero FIR was transferred to Pune and registered on January 5, 2021," it said. Further, the FIR mentions that special public prosecutor Chavan, Patil and then DCP Poornima Gaikwad and ACP Sushma Chavan fabricated the statements of witnesses and evidence to "falsely implicate the BJP lead-



ers and other innocent persons." Apart from Deshmukh, the CBI has also named Chavan, Patil, Gaikwad and Sushma Chavan as accused in the FIR. Taking to X, Deshmukh called the case an indicator of the dirty politics being done by Fadnavis in the state. "This conspiracy has started after the ground beneath the feet of Fadnavis slipped away after seeing the opinion of the public. I do not begrudge such threats and pressure at all. Unflinchingly I have vowed to fight against this oppression of BJP," he wrote. "In the Lok Sabha elections, the people have given place to this conspiracy leadership, now the people of Maharashtra are waiting for the assembly elections," he said.

Delhi High Court flags 'confusion and lack of clarity in regulatory regime' for arms industry

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Delhi high courtThe ministry appealed against a single-judge bench's order that had rejected its contention that frames and slides prefitted with other operational parts cannot be imported without a specific licence in respect of the prefitted parts, as was done by the company. The Delhi High Court has flagged "a complete state of confusion and lack of clarity that prevails in the Government regulations" for the arms and ammunition industry while dismissing an appeal filed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

While ruling in favour of Syndicate Innovations International Ltd, which imports components of arms and ammunition, a bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and Amit Bansal, added in a postscript that the ministry was "not clear about the applicability of different rules in different situations, thereby resulting in the regulatory regime being operated in an arbitrary and ad hoc manner". The August 29 judgment, written by Justice Amit Bansal, further said, "There is a complete lack of clarity between the different agencies such as the DGFT (Director General of Foreign Trade), MHA and the Delhi Police with regard to the application of the regulatory regime."

The ministry appealed against a single-judge bench's order that had rejected its contention that frames and slides prefitted with other operational parts cannot be imported without a specific licence in respect of the prefitted parts, as was done by the company. The company received a licence in October 2020 to import components of arms and ammunition including frames and slides. A consignment imported by the company from Turkey had come prefitted with several components such as a safety lock, catch magazine, firing pin, trigger, etc.

After the consignment was withheld by the authori-

'Siddaramaiah should step down honourably': Former Karnataka CM Yediyurappa on MUDA scam



Speaking to reporters at Shivamogga, Yediyurappa said once the hearing in Siddaramaiah's petition is over, "he certainly has to resign. I would advise him to step down honourably before that", he said, adding that the CM cannot escape from the corruption case against him.

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

KarnatakaFollowing allegations by the BJP and petitions by three activists, the Governor had granted sanction for prosecution against Siddaramaiah last month. BJP Parliamentary Board member and former Karnataka

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa on Wednesday predicted the resignation of incumbent CM Siddaramaiah in connection with the alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam.

Speaking to reporters at Shivamogga, Yediyurappa said once the hearing in Siddaramaiah's petition is over, "he certainly has to resign. I would advise him to step down honourably before that", he said, adding that the CM cannot escape from the corruption case against him. Following allegations by the BJP and petitions by three activists, the Governor had granted sanction for prosecution against Siddaramaiah last month. As per the allegations, the compensatory sites allotted to CMs wife Parvati in 2021 were of higher value than the land MUDA had purportedly acquired to develop a layout. Siddaramaiah has challenged the Governor's decision in the Karnataka High Court, contending that the sanction granted sans an investigation violated constitutional norms. The next date of hearing is on September 9. On the Karnataka government's decision to take up the interim report on Covid irregularities committed during Yediyurappa's tenure as the CM in the state, he said that the government is free to take a call on the issue. "We will face it legally," Yediyurappa added.

Doctor held in Tamil Nadu for sexual assault of school children

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Asked about the antecedents of the accused, Fort AWPS said he has no past history of crimes. Asked about the antecedents of the accused, Fort AWPS said he has no past history of crimes. A medical doctor has been arrested for the sexual assault of female students of a school, who were also inmates of a hostel that functioned from within the school premises, police said on Wednesday.

The information on sexual abuse, over a period of a few months allegedly by the doctor, came to light after an interaction with students by officials including the District Child Protection Officer, who acted on the basis of a phone call to Child Helpline, alerting authorities of the crime.

A complaint was filed with the Fort All Women Police Station and the accused, identified as 31-year-old Samson, who was working at a government healthcare facility here, was arrested under the POCSO Act and remanded to judicial custody on September 3. Asked about the antecedents of the accused, Fort AWPS said he has no past history of crimes. Since the doctor's mother was the headmistress of the school, he misused his influence to often visit the hostel and perpetrate the crime. The school is privately administered and government-aided.

Disability certificate submitted by ex-IAS trainee officer Puja Khedkar may have been forged: Delhi Police



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Puja KhedkarIn the status report dated September 2, filed through Pankaj Arora, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Central Range), the Delhi Police said Puja Khedkar submitted the two disability certificates to the Union Public Service Commission, in 2022 and 2023 respectively. Days before the Delhi High Court is due to hear the anticipatory bail plea of former IAS trainee officer Puja Khedkar, the city police has submitted a second status report before the court saying their probe shows that one of the disability certificates submitted by Khedkar to UPSC is "likely" to have been forged.

In the status report dated September 2, filed through Pankaj Arora, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Central Range), the Delhi Police said Puja Khedkar submitted the two disability certificates to the Union Public Service Commission, in 2022 and 2023 respectively. The police said after they examined the documents, which were purportedly issued by the issuing medical authority in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar, and verified with the official, one of the two certificates was not found on their records. The authority responded to the investigators stating, "Disability Certificate (Multiple Disability....) has not been issued by the Issuing Medical Authority, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, as per our Civil Surgeon Office Records, hence the possibility of Disability Certificate forged and fabricated is more likely".

Both certificates were issued on January 18, 2021. While one certificate listed her disabilities as low vision in both eyes with 40 per cent disability and mental illnesses with 20 per cent disability, the second certificate listed hearing impairment in the right ear to 10 per cent disability, locomotor disability up to 15 per cent, and low vision in both eyes with up to 40 per cent disability. The second certificate — with no mental illness disability and instead hearing and locomotor disability — was not found to be on record. Earlier, Khedkar submitted before the Delhi High Court that she was selected based on merit in the category of Persons with Benchmark Disability (PwBD) in her fifth attempt against the nine attempts available under the category and that her prior attempts from 2012 to 2017 were not under the same category. She said the multiple attempts under the two types of categories thus "cannot be mixed up to disentitle" her as a disabled candidate. On August 1, a Delhi court dismissed the anticipatory bail plea of Khedkar, who has been accused of fraudulently clearing the Civil Services Examination held by UPSC. The Delhi High Court on August 12 granted Khedkar interim protection from arrest which has continued so far. Justice Subramonium Prasad is due to take up Khedkar's anticipatory bail plea.

RPF recovers stolen and missing items worth Rs 1.77 crore

Hyderabad: As part of the Operation Amanath, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) Secunderabad division retrieved and returned belongings worth Rs 1.77 crore to the passengers until now this year. This marks a 26.42 per cent increase in the value of retrieved belongings compared to the corresponding period in 2023. RPF officials said. In 2024, till date the RPF Secunderabad division personnel successfully recovered passenger belongings on 702 different occasions with a total value of these recovered items worth Rs 1.77 crore approximately.

Similarly, in 2023, the RPF personnel had retrieved and returned belongings worth Rs 1.97 crore on 982 different occasions. The recovered items included laptops, purses, luggage bags, mobile phones, and other valuables. RPF officials said the teams work round the clock to ensure the security of not only railway property but also to handle lost and missing passenger items with utmost care.

With AI-powered cameras, motorists to be fined for completing Bengaluru-Mysuru journey within an hour



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

the AI-powered cameras also capture other traffic violations such as non-compliance of seat belts, illegal lane changes, and the use of mobile phones while driving. The AI-powered cameras also capture other traffic violations such as non-compliance of seat belts, illegal lane changes, and the use of mobile phones while driving. Are you driving from Bengaluru to Mysuru in just one hour? The Karnataka State Road Safety Authority (KSRS) says you may be penalised for speeding on the 119-km access-controlled highway. The KSRS said the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway, notorious for fatal accidents, is now monitored with AI-powered cameras and sectional speed control mechanisms. The authority claims that the news monitoring systems have substantially reduced fatal accidents. These cameras, part of a broader initiative to improve road safety, have been effective in identifying and penalising negligent drivers and also bringing down the number of road fatalities. With the introduction of a Sectional Speed Control system since August this year, AI-powered cameras have effectively identified 89,200 cases and the motorists have been booked by the state police for sectional speeding on the Bengaluru-Mysuru stretch. The speed limit on the stretch is restricted to 100 kmph.

Sectional speeding is calculated by measuring the average speed of a vehicle on a given section of a

motorway. Alok Kumar, ADGP (Traffic and Road Safety), explained that the method calculates the time taken by a vehicle to travel between two designated points. If the vehicle completes the section in a time shorter than what is permissible based on the speed limit (less than an hour in this case), it is flagged for speeding. This strategy is particularly effective in preventing drivers from slowing down near known speed camera locations only to accelerate again afterward. AI-powered cameras are equipped with sophisticated algorithms capable of monitoring the speed of vehicles in real-time. When a vehicle exceeds the speed limit — typically set between 80-100 km/h — the cameras automatically capture the vehicle's number plate. The data is then transmitted to a Traffic Management Centre (TMC), where cases are registered under the Motor Vehicles Act, and e-challans (electronic fines) are generated and sent to the violators.

Additionally, 48 Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras have recorded 34,126 cases of speeding on the highway. According to Kumar, challans are automatically sent via SMS to the registered mobile numbers of vehicle owners to provide a "real-time deterrence effect". However, despite most personal vehicle users receiving notifications about their violations, only around 5,300 people have paid their fines so far.

Besides speeding, the AI-powered cameras also capture other traffic violations such as non-compliance of seat belts, illegal lane changes, and the use of mobile phones while driving. The comprehensive footage allows for a thorough review of each incident, ensuring that multiple violations by the same vehicle can be recorded and penalised. Since the deployment of these AI-based systems, there has been a significant reduction in the number of accidents on the expressway. The authorities report that the road accident has dropped from a staggering 147 in 2023 (until August) to just 50 in 2024. In the year 2023, 20 road accidents leading to fatalities were reported in March and April, which then increased to 29 in May and to 27 in June. However, since 2024, the fatalities on the highway have reduced from 12 in January to just two in August.

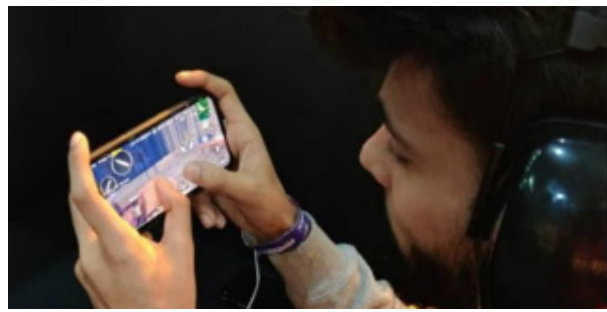
GNLU report calls for gaming regulations in India, addressing industry risks

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

India online gaming regulation, GNLU online gaming report, national regulator for online gaming. The report estimates that India has 500 million gamers, making it the second-largest number globally after China. In a report evaluating the blanket bans and mandatory limits on the online gaming industry in India, a panel of experts under the aegis of Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) has proposed that India set up a national regulator for online gaming and prescribe regulations for the industry "with a focus on user safety and balanced economic growth".

"This report is the culmination of extensive research and consultations with experts from various fields. We believe that its recommendations will be instrumental in shaping the future of online gaming in India," said Dr Sanjeevi Shanthakumar, Director at GNLU.

He added, "The online gaming sector has immense potential to contribute to our economy and provide entertainment to millions. However, having a robust regulatory framework that ensures user safety and prevents potential harm is important." The report estimates that India has 500 million gamers, making it the second-largest number globally after China. However, it notes that "rapid expansion has brought forth challenges, especially those regarding user safety and financial risks. The absence of an overarching regulation has left users in a grey zone".



Aside from the regulator, key recommendations in the report include the drafting and implementation of uniform central regulation, mandatory limit-setting for players, adopting a risk minimisation approach, and for India to take evidence-based policy interventions as with any other sector. Comparing international frameworks, the report supports the risk minimisation strategies used in the EU and UK while cautioning against "restrictive" measures like those seen in China. It outlines five key principles for effective limit-setting: operators must legally offer such features, users should be required to set limits before playing, increasing limits should be challenging, decreasing limits should be immediate, and a centralised self-exclusion facility should be available across platforms.

Delhi High Court flags 'confusion and lack of clarity in regulatory regime' for arms industry



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Delhi high courtThe ministry appealed against a single-judge bench's order that had rejected its contention that frames and slides prefitted with other operational parts cannot be imported without a specific licence in respect of the prefitted parts, as was done by the company. (File)The Delhi High Court has flagged "a complete state of confusion and lack of clarity that prevails in the Government regulations" for the arms and ammunition industry while dismissing an appeal filed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

While ruling in favour of Syndicate Innovations International Ltd, which imports components of arms and ammunition, a bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and Amit Bansal, added in a postscript that the ministry was "not clear about the applicability of different rules in different situations, thereby resulting in the regulatory regime being operated in an arbitrary and ad hoc manner". The August 29 judgment, written by Justice Amit Bansal, further said, "There is a complete lack of clarity between the different agencies such as the DGFT (Director General of Foreign Trade), MHA and the Delhi Police with regard to the application of the regulatory regime."

The ministry appealed against a single-judge bench's order that had rejected its contention that frames and slides prefitted with other operational parts cannot be imported without a specific licence in respect of the prefitted parts, as was done by the company. The company received a licence in October 2020 to import components of arms and ammunition including frames and slides. A consignment imported by the company from Turkey had come prefitted with several components such as a safety lock, catch magazine, firing pin, trigger, etc. After the consignment was withheld by the authorities, the judge's order directed that it be released to the

company. The division bench upheld the single judge's decision and dismissed the ministry's appeal, observing that the lack of regulatory clarity was also "detrimental to the interest of the entire arms industry".

"Admittedly, the Government of India is seeking to encourage and promote manufacture of arms in India through the 'Make in India' initiative, for which it is imperative that there is complete clarity with regard to the regulatory regime," it observed. The court also recorded that the ministry was "conscious of the confusion prevailing in the arms and ammunition industry", referring to a note where the Government said it was taking steps to enhance efficiency and streamline processes by harmonising the application procedure for import licences, with plans for making a single application form. "In these circumstances, the only direction that can be passed is that the appellants (MHA) should complete the above exercise in an expedient manner and thereafter, publicise it widely, including by way of trade notices directed to all stakeholders in the arms and ammunitions industry," the court said.

CIDCO to remove LED lamps for flamingos' sake

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

The City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) has decided to replace the blinding LED lamps with yellow bulbs on the Nerul Jetty road to reduce light pollution at DPS Flamingo Lake, a sanctuary of the pink migratory birds. CIDCO, the planning authority for Navi Mumbai, recently floated a tender for this, an official said on Wednesday. The township along the Thane creek is visited by thousands of migratory flamingos every year and houses a flamingo sanctuary.

Bird enthusiasts and environmental activists had claimed earlier this year that seven flamingos died after crashing into the giant sign board for the passenger water transport terminal as bright lights disoriented the birds. B.N Kumar, director of NatConnect Foundation, said another ten birds died this year after apparently getting disoriented due to the lights and absence of food as the DPS Flamingo Lake dried up following the blockage of intertidal water flow.

Ruckus at girls' school in Bhopal over 'harsh' punishment; woman administrator removed



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Students of a government-run higher secondary school for girls in Bhopal on Wednesday went on a rampage and damaged furniture and other property, alleging harsh punishment by the woman administrator, leading to her removal from the post by authorities. Viral videos showed students damaging classroom furniture in the Government Sarojini Naidu Girls Higher Secondary School, pulling ceiling fan blades, breaking electronic gadgets, and smashing windows and door glasses. District Education Officer (DEO) NK Ahirwar confirmed that the school is overseen by the State Open School, with a former armed forces captain, Varsha Jha, managing the administration. Jha has been removed from her position following the uproar.

Students claimed they were subjected to disproportionate punishment for arriving late in the school. "Merely because we got late by 10-15 minutes, the school administration forced us to remove grass from the ground and

made us stand in the Sun," a student claimed in a viral video. Some students felt collapsed because of the harsh punishment, she said. Students also complained of the poor condition of washrooms and insufficient water supply. Meanwhile, the Congress MLA from the Bhopal Madhya assembly constituency tried to pacify the students. Former Union minister Arun Yadav claimed students were asked to remove garbage, cut grass, and shift stones for late arrival. Toilets in the school are dirty and students are not getting clean and safe drinking water, he posted on X. "If this is the situation of a school in the state capital, then one can imagine the plight of the government-run schools in other parts of the state," Yadav added. Ahirwar confirmed that the Sarojini Naidu School is overseen by the State Open School, with a former armed forces captain, Varsha Jha, looking after the administration. Jha has been removed from her position following the uproar, he said.

An official inquiry into allegations by students, including ill-treatment and the poor condition of the school's facilities, is underway. Ahirwar assured that appropriate action would be taken based on the findings. The girls were enraged because of punishment awarded to them by the administration for coming late by 10-15 minutes and resorted to protest, he added. Responding to students' complaints about being forced to clean toilets, the DEO said action would be taken after inquiry. "After hearing from students, it seems the behaviour of Varsha Jha was not good towards them. It seems she used to deal with them very strictly," he said. Madhya Pradesh State Open School Education Board, previously known as MP Open School, was set up considering the need for optional education

India provided more climate finance in 2022 than many rich nations: Report

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

India contributed USD 1.28 billion in climate finance through multilateral development banks (MDBs) in 2022, surpassing the contributions of many developed countries, according to a new analysis. The analysis, conducted by the UK-based think tank ODI and the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance, comes amid a renewed push by some developed countries to broaden the donor base for climate finance to include developing countries like China and Saudi Arabia.

The report reveals that only 12 developed countries provided their fair share of international climate finance in 2022. These countries are — Norway, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Japan, the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, and Finland. Researchers noted that the significant gap in climate finance is largely due to the United States failing to contribute its fair share. Australia, Spain, Canada, and the United Kingdom also performed relatively poorly in this regard. The analysis has identified the top 30 non-Annex II countries that provided substantial climate finance to developing countries in 2022 through multilateral contributions to development banks and climate funds. This group includes former economies in transition like Poland and Russia, countries that have achieved high-income status since 1992, such as Chile, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and South Korea, and middle-income countries with large populations, including Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines and Pakistan. India provided USD 1.287 billion in climate finance to other developing countries through MDBs in 2022, a sum larger than what was contributed by some developed countries like Greece (USD 0.23 billion), Portugal (USD 0.23 billion), Ireland (USD 0.3 billion) and New Zealand (USD 0.27 billion).

China provided USD 2.52 billion in climate finance through MDBs in 2022, Brazil gave USD 1.135 billion, South Korea USD 1.13 billion and Argentina USD 1.01 billion. According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted in 1992, high-income, industrialised countries (referred to as Annex-II countries) are responsible for providing finance and technology to help developing countries combat and adapt to climate change. These countries, including the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and European Union (EU) member states, such as Germany, France and the UK, have historically benefitted from industrialisation and contributed the most to greenhouse gas emissions.

At COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, these developed countries pledged to jointly provide USD 100 billion each



year by 2020 to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change. However, this target has not been fully met, leading to a significant finance gap. This shortfall has eroded trust and hindered climate action in developing countries. In May, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) claimed that developed countries had met the long-standing USD 100 billion-a-year promise by providing nearly USD 116 billion in climate finance to developing countries in 2022, with nearly 70 per cent of the money given in the form of loans.

The ODI researchers pointed out that many developed countries, despite performing well in terms of climate-finance contributions, would make "markedly less progress towards meeting their fair share if the finance provided was accounted for on grant-equivalence terms" — in other words, if it reflected their real fiscal effort. The report calls for the inclusion of a "burden-sharing mechanism" in the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) to provide clarity on each country's obligations and hold countries accountable. The NCQG refers to the new, larger amount that developed nations must mobilise annually, starting 2025, to support climate action in developing countries. Countries are expected to finalise the NCQG at this year's UN climate conference — COP29 — in Baku, Azerbaijan in November. The current USD 100 billion annual climate-finance goal is a collective commitment by developed countries. Its collective nature has meant that individual developed countries are not accountable for specific sums of money, potentially reducing the overall amount of climate finance provided due to the lack of individual scrutiny. The inclusion of a burden-sharing arrangement among developed countries could potentially strengthen the NCQG by fostering greater accountability and trust among parties, according to the ODI researchers. Many developing countries, including India, have recently advocated for such an arrangement to enhance accountability among developed countries.

RG Kar's ex-principal Sandip Ghosh moves Supreme Court against CBI probe into corruption case

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

The former principal of Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College, Sandip Ghosh, has approached the Supreme Court challenging a Calcutta High Court decision that ordered a CBI investigation into his alleged financial irregularities. The plea, listed for hearing on September 6 before a bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, comes amid heightened scrutiny surrounding Ghosh following the alleged rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor in the seminar hall of the medical college.

On Tuesday, a Kolkata court remanded Ghosh, along with three others, to CBI custody for eight days as part of the ongoing investigation into alleged financial misconduct at RG Kar Medical College. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had sought a 10-day custody, arguing that there was a "large nexus" involved in the corruption case that required further investigation. "We have just arrested four people. There is a large nexus that needs to be exposed, and hence we are asking for their interrogation. We need their custody to unearth the entire nexus," the CBI argued before the Alipore Judges Court.

Ghosh, arrested by the federal agency on Monday night, was assaulted while he was being produced in court on Tuesday. The CBI has named Ghosh in its First Information Report (FIR), charging him under Section 120B of the Indian Penal Code (criminal conspiracy), Section 420 IPC (cheating and dishonesty), and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. The agency has been interrogating Ghosh since August 16 in connection with the alleged rape and murder of the trainee doctor and the allegations of financial irregularities during his



The former principal of Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College, Sandip Ghosh, has approached the Supreme Court challenging a Calcutta High Court decision that ordered a CBI investigation into his alleged financial irregularities.

Meanwhile, the state health department issued an order on Tuesday placing Ghosh under suspension. "In view of the ongoing criminal investigation against Prof (Dr) Sandip Ghosh, ex principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Dr Ghosh is placed under suspension under rule 7(1c) of West Bengal Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules 1971 with immediate effect," said the order.

SC pans Uttarakhand CM Dhami's decision to appoint IFS officer overruling objections



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Nadkarni submitted that in deference to the court, "the order posting Rahul, chief conservator of forest, as the field director of the Rajaji national park, has been withdrawn". The court, which recorded his submission, said no order was therefore necessary and closed the proceedings. Nadkarni sought to explain that the CM had considered all the objections and even the CEC report while giving his assent to appoint the IFS officer. But the court was not impressed. "You are trying to justify," the court told the counsel. "We are not in the feudal era ki raja jaise bole waisa chale", said Justice Gavai, adding that when all the subordinate authorities give objections, "he (CM) just ignores it... He doesn't consider all these objections right from the desk official". Gavai said the CM had made only a one-line comment when he should have given reasons.

Nadkarni said that unlike in a judgment, there is no system of giving detailed reasons in such matters. Justice Gavai, however, said, "He had to give reasons when he is disagreeing. He is ignoring everything... It's not a judgment, but he has to give reasoning as to why he disagrees with the bureaucrat, the minister."

Nadkarni said the matter went to the CM after the forest minister's noting. "They then ask what factually is against him. All these CEC notings, everything is considered. In deference to your lordship's orders, we have replaced him. But what I am showing is, you can't sacrifice a good officer against whom there is nothing." Justice Gavai said, "If there is nothing, why are you holding departmental proceedings against him?... Unless there is prima facie material, departmental proceedings are not initiated." Nadkarni said the departmental proceedings were initiated against all officials of the Corbett park following the discovery of some unauthorised constructions. He added that it was Rahul who ordered the demolition of those constructions. The senior counsel added, "I only said CEC never blamed him. State police never blamed him, ED never blamed him, CBI never blamed him... The only thing which is against him is the disciplinary proceedings...". As Nadkarni repeated that Rahul was a good officer, Justice Gavai said, "Unless he is exonerated in the departmental proceedings, you can't give a certificate of good officer". "Or withdraw the disciplinary proceedings," he added. The court added that had the CM stopped with the forest minister's notice and not proceeded further, it would not have gone into all these. Justice Gavai also said that the newspaper reports about the matter were correct. "There is no error in the newspaper reporting. The report said Chief Secretary and Forest Minister objected and in spite of that objection, the CM overruled. Nothing wrong in those reports," he said.

Centre pushes states, UTs for urgent hospital security measures, seeks report by Sept 10



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Union health secretary Apurva Chandra on Wednesday issued a directive to all states and Union Territories (UTs), urging them to provide an action-taken report by September 10 on the implementation of safety and security measures for doctors and healthcare workers. This directive follows a recent Supreme Court order that emphasized the need for immediate remedial actions to ensure the safety of medical professionals across the country. In a letter addressed to chief secretaries and directors general of police of all states and UTs, Chandra expressed gratitude for their participation in a recent video conference on this critical issue. The conference, which took place on August 28, discussed the provision of a safe working environment in all medical institutions

in the wake of recent violent incidents, including the horrific rape and murder of a trainee doctor in Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. Key security measures suggested by the health secretary included several key measures to be prioritised by states and UTs, including the identification of high-risk establishments, security audits, CCTV surveillance, background checks, and bereavement protocols, among others.

States and UTs have been urged to identify hospitals with high patient footfall and categorise them as high-priority establishments for security enhancements. The health secretary recommended regular security audits, conducted in consultation with local health and police authorities, to assess and improve existing security measures in hospitals. Special attention should be given to areas within hospitals that are prone to security breaches, such as emergency rooms, triage areas, intensive care units (ICUs), and labour rooms, according to Chandra. "Proper training and establishment of bereavement protocols for all doctors and healthcare workers to handle intense and emotional grief situations," the top official said. Chandra noted that several states have already initiated actions in line with the suggestions provided in a previous communication dated August 23. He also acknowledged that some states have gone beyond the ministry of health and family welfare's (MOHFW) recommendations, implementing additional measures to enhance security in healthcare settings.

Sodomy, lesbianism reintroduced as unnatural sex crimes in curriculum for medical students

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

The National Medical Commission (NMC), the country's apex medical education regulator, has reintroduced sodomy and lesbianism as unnatural sex offences in its revised curriculum for forensic medicine and toxicology for undergraduate students, PTI has reported. The regulator has also reinstated topics such as the hymen and its types, its medico-legal importance, definition of virginity and defloration, its legitimacy and medico-legal importance. The revised curriculum under forensic and toxicology also includes description of legal competencies including Bharatiya Nagarika Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), besides Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), civil and criminal cases, inquests (police and magistrate's), and cognisable and non-cognisable offences. However, there was no place for the seven-hour course on disability. The syllabus was revised as it was 'time to have a look at all aspects of the various components in the existing regulations and guidelines,' NMC noted in its Competency-Based Medical Education Curriculum (CBME) Guidelines, 2024. The revision was done also to adapt to the changing demography, socio-economic context, percep-



tions, values, advancements in medical education, and expectations of stakeholders," the commission added. It also stated that the undergraduate medical programme was designed to create an 'Indian Medical Graduate (IMG)'. "The IMG will possess requisite knowledge, skills, attitudes, values, and responsiveness, to function appropriately and effectively as physician of first contact of the community while being globally relevant," NMC said in the document. As per the document, such a physician should also have 'requisite skills for promotive, preventive, rehabilitative, palliative care and referral services.'

BSF to begin flag-lowering ceremony along India-Pak border in Rajasthan next year

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

BSF deputy inspector general (Jaisalmer) Yogendra Singh Rathore said BSF personnel will lower the Indian flag every evening along with a camel show and other events. The Border Security Force (BSF) will begin a flag-lowering ceremony along the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on the lines of the one held daily at the Wagah frontier in Punjab's Amritsar, an officer said on Wednesday. An amphitheatre with a capacity for 1,000 people was under construction for the purpose at the Tanot Rai Mata Temple complex. BSF deputy inspector general (Jaisalmer) Yogendra Singh Rathore said BSF personnel will lower the Indian flag every evening along with a camel show and other events. Unlike at Wagah, there will be no such ceremony on the Pakistani side.

The Babliyan border post near Tanot was earlier developed for the retreat ceremony in 2021 under the government's border tourism initiative. A stadium, watchtower, selfie points, etc were constructed at the site by 2022 before Tanot was chosen for the ceremony. The Union tourism ministry last year approved ₹17.67 crore for the development of the Tanot complex under the border tourism initiative. The BSF has completed 70% of the work so far. The complex spread across 4.57 acres will also include a 434 square metre cafeteria, a 183 square metre VIP block, a souvenir shop, and a toilet block with



the amphitheatre as the centrepiece. Officials said Tanot has a variety of attractions including a museum and weapons gallery showcasing military history. Mural walls are also dedicated there to fallen soldiers. The Tanot complex will have an area for families and children, a food court, a surveillance system, and solar-powered LED street lighting. Rathore said Tanot is set to offer a ceremony mirroring the grandeur of the Wagah border. "We are making rapid progress. The construction of the amphitheatre is underway, and we expect the Tanot complex to be completed by the year's end," said Rathore. He added that Tanot is expected to become a significant landmark for tourists.

Centre flags 200% variable pay to IIM Rohtak director, institute denies wrongdoing:



GNS News Agency, Sept 9 The audit report submitted to the ministry flagged that variable pay component cannot be more than a certain percentage of salary. The ministry of education wrote to the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Rohtak raising objections to findings by its Internal Audit Wing (IAW) that found the institute had paid around 200% of variable pay to its director Dheeraj Sharma from the financial year 2018-19 to 2020-21. The audit wing found that variable pay released by the institute was around 200% of Sharma's fixed salary in his capacity as IIM Rohtak's director. Its report found that the formula adopted by the institute was "void" and went against financial prudence as variable pay can only be a percentage of a person's total salary. The report also flagged to the ministry that the institute board approved Sharma's variable pay component before the institute's

rules were notified under the IIM Act.

The board also considered the institute's financial health while approving variable pay, but the audit report flagged to the ministry that "financial health of the institute was irrationally inflated by adding unspent grants-in-aid and the interest earned thereon into the corpus fund of the institute." The institute in response to The Indian Express denied any wrongdoing in the matter. It claimed to have followed the IIM Act and said the institute paid Sharma only after IIM Rohtak's rules were notified under the act. It claimed that the payment was approved with complete consensus of all board members and the ministry was informed about the same one-and-a-half years ago. The board secretary also claimed that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) did not find any discrepancies after due examination. The director is already under government scrutiny for allegedly misrepresenting his educational qualifications to secure his term as IIM Rohtak's director in 2017. The institute's board approved his candidature for a second term in February 2022, despite objections by the ministry's representative. The government had acknowledged the issue during a hearing in Punjab and Haryana High Court in March 2022, but only after Sharma completed his first term. The alleged financial discrepancies were found by the audit wing, when tasked by the ministry to probe following a complaint received by President Droupadi Murmu, the Visitor of all IIMs in India.

Ex-spokesperson of BJP ally condemns cow vigilante attacks in party-ruled Haryana

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Senior Janata Dal (United) leader KC Tyagi, who recently resigned as spokesperson of the Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar-led party, on Wednesday slammed 'cow vigilantes,' describing their actions as 'unconstitutional.'

Tyagi's statement came amid outrage over two incidents of cow-related 'vigilantism' in Haryana, where JD(U) ally Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is in power and faces an election in October. "What they (cow vigilantes) are doing is unconstitutional. It is very much against our Constitution, which gives us the right to liberty. If anyone has an issue, then they should complain in police stations. How can an outfit act like a police force?" he said during an interaction with PTI. Stating that no one should be allowed to take law into their own hands, Tyagi also recalled prime minister Narendra Modi taking a similar line years ago. In Haryana's Faridabad, a 19-year-old student was fatally shot by cow vigilantes on the Agra-Delhi highway on August 23. It later emerged that the attackers opened fire at the victim's car mistaking it to be occupied by cattle smugglers about whom they had been tipped off. Five suspects are in police custody for allegedly chasing the car and opening fire at it, resulting in the boy's death. On August 28, a Muslim worker from West Bengal



was lynched in Charkhi Dadri on suspicion of beef consumption. Seven people, including two minor boys, were apprehended by police. The state's ruling BJP, already facing anti-incumbency having been in power here since 2014, has come under attack from the opposition, with Congress' Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, accusing the saffron party of 'climbing the ladder of power by using hatred as a political weapon.' Muslim body Jamiat-Ulema-e-Hind has called the attacks an attempt to create 'communal mobilisation' ahead of the election in Haryana.

IMA issues appeal to protesting doctors; insurgent groups in Tripura sign peace deal; and more

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

The president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has urged doctors protesting the rape and murder of a junior doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital to resume their duties and leave the pursuit of justice to the Supreme Court. "The sacrifice of the young postgraduate resident of RG Kar has moved the conscience of the nation. The anger and frustration of the entire nation are equally on the fact that she happened to be a budding doctor as well as that she was the only girl child of lower-middle-class parents. The entire nation has adopted her as their daughter," ANI quotes IMA's letter as mentioning. The IMA president stressed the importance of the Supreme Court's response and said that the entire medical community should adhere to the apex court's ruling. Dig deeper. Educationalists, actors, teachers, students, and other professionals take part in 'Maha Michil' to protest against the alleged sexual assault and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Hospital, in Kolkata.

Educationalists, actors, teachers, students, and other professionals take part in 'Maha Michil' to protest against the alleged sexual assault and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at RG Kar Hospital, in Kolkata. A peace agreement was signed on Wednesday between the Government of India, the Government of Tripura, and representatives of two major insurgent groups—the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF)—in the presence of Union home minister Amit Shah to end violence in the northeastern state. The agreement was formalised at a ceremony held in New Delhi, marking the end of decades of armed conflict in the region. Union home minister Amit Shah, who presided over the signing, hailed the event as a historic moment. "This is a matter of joy for all of us that after the struggle that was ongoing for 35 years, you have given up weapons and joined the mainstream," Shah said. Dig deeper.

With less than 24 hours left for the first round of Duleep Trophy matches, India D batter Ishan Kishan has opted out of the opening round of the tournament. The reason behind this sudden move is not confirmed but



according to an ESPNcricinfo report, Ishan's pullout has to do with an injury he's picked up, probably a hamstring. Although the BCCI hasn't informed anything publicly, Ishan is pretty much expected to miss the first round. India D, captained by Shreyas Iyer take on India C, led by Ruturaj Gaikwad, in Anantapur starting Thursday, and with Ishan being a doubtful starter, Cricbuzz has reported that Sanju Samson, who wasn't part of any of the four squads, is likely to be drafted in. Dig deeper. Happiness is an elusive emotion that falls short in determining the checklist. Everyone has their own definition of happiness. However subjective happiness may be, this emotion follows a few patterns. An intriguing study published in the journal 'Motivation and Emotion' explored the complexities of happiness and uncovered two fundamental pillars of happiness. Passion and self-regulation are important in defining happiness. This challenges our perception of a happy person, who's always expected to be cheerful and optimistic even when they do things they dislike. Dig deeper. Prateek Gupta and Neha Maheshwari moved from Bengaluru to the small European country of Luxembourg in 2020, trading bigger paychecks for superior quality of life. In a conversation with Live Mint, the couple spoke about the perks and the drawbacks of living in Europe vis à vis India. Prateek is a senior analyst with Amazon, while Neha works as a finance manager for a German real estate company. The NRI couple acknowledges that living in India would have resulted in bigger increments, while they could have earned more by moving to the United States or Dubai. Dig deeper.

John McCain's son Jimmy endorses Kamala Harris, faces MAGA fury for denouncing Trump's Arlington visit as 'violation'



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

Lt. Jimmy McCain, the son of the late Republican senator from Arizona, blasted former President Donald Trump over his last week visit to Arlington Cemetery and disclosed that he has become a registered Democrat in a bid to support Vice President Kamala Harris' candidacy for the White House. Trump arrived at the cemetery to pay tribute to the 13 US service members who died in Abbey Gate in 2021. He laid a wreath in remembrance of the fallen soldiers and later posed for pictures with Gold Star families, prompting massive backlash online.

Although taking pictures at Arlington Cemetery is not prohibited, there are guidelines about "partisan political activities" that must be followed. Jimmy McCain ac-

uses Trump of violating 'sacred area' appearing for an interview with CNN's "The Lead with Jake Tapper" on Tuesday, Jimmy called Trump's visit a "violation," alleging that the Republican front-runner used the most significant cemetery in the country as a platform for his campaign. Calling the cemetery a "sacred area," he noted that three generations of McCains were buried there. Continuing his tirade against the former President, he went on to say that "you take away the respect" of the people buried there when "you make it political." Despite the fact that his father was the Republican presidential nominee during the 2008 elections, Jimmy changed his party affiliation from independent to Democrat. He told CNN that he "would get involved in any way I could" on November 5 to assist Harris in crossing the finish line. Meanwhile, a few MAGA-affiliated accounts online posted a video of John McCain's visit to Arlington National Cemetery, stating that it was used as a "campaign backdrop." John McCain, a presidential candidate at the time, was seen strolling around Arlington in the ad. He was compelled to remove the advertisement after the video garnered lot of attention. "Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain will remove footage of Arlington National Cemetery from his campaign's biographical television ad," the LA Times report read. MAGA activist Jack Posobiec reposted the ad on X and wrote, "Be a shame if this went viral." Collin Rugg, a well-known MAGA influencer, also reposted the video, enquiring, "Will Jimmy be condemning his father?"

Prince Harry 'missed an opportunity' to make amends with Prince William, says royal expert

As the rift between the members of the royal family continues to grow, a royal expert recently said that Prince Harry "missed an opportunity" to make amends with Prince William. This comes after the two brothers' reunion at Lord Robert Fellowes' memorial service last month. Despite being gathered together at their uncle's funeral, the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex avoided having an awkward run-in, reported BBC.

Taking note of their current situation, royal expert Kinsey Schofield told Fox News, "Prince William and Harry are currently not on speaking terms, and everything was carefully choreographed so that they wouldn't have to interact with each other." "There was nothing joint about this appearance. It was two family members showing their respect in a personal capacity," he added.

Prince Harry and Prince William fell apart after the former's move to the US, along with his wife, Meghan Markle. The rift between the two princes further grew after the release of Prince Harry's bombshell memoir, Spare, in 2023. "There's clearly still plenty of bad blood between them," Schofield, the host of the To Di For Daily podcast, went on while noting that it was "significant" for the Duke of Sussex to attend the funeral. "Prince Harry has done irreparable damage to his relationship with his brother," Schofield continued, adding, "Harry can deny his intention in hurting members of his family through the



release of 'Spare,' but quotes like, 'his alarming baldness, more advanced than my own; his famous resemblance to Mummy, fading with time.' That was unnecessary and cruel. That came from a place of envy and bitterness."

"With a paperback release of 'Spare' due in October, I think Harry really missed an opportunity to update the book with a sincere apology for all the hurt that he's caused," he added. Meanwhile, royal commentator Hilary Fordwich told the outlet, "The brothers were at the back of the church, apart." "They neither spoke to each other nor were seen looking at each other," said Fordwich, who is the founder of Strelmark, LLC, a Washington, DC-based consulting firm.

Campaign to boost Indian-American votes by one million ahead of US elections



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

The "Indo-American Votes Matter" campaign has been launched by the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) to encourage Indian-American voters to participate in the US presidential elections. The campaign aims to register one million Indian-American voters, survey their policy views, and ensure their voices are heard by both parties. The "Indo-American Votes Matter" campaign is ensuring that Indian-American voters get their voices heard in the US Presidential elections which will be a contest between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump. (Image: AFP) With just two months left for the US Presidential elections, the race for the White House is heating up. The Democratic and Republican parties are in a tough fight for the Presidency, and the candidates are going all out to ensure their win. At this time, an Indian-American diaspora group has launched a campaign to increase the participation of Indian-American voters and policy impact in the upcoming polls.

The "Indo-American Votes Matter" campaign, launched by the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS), a US-based non-profit institution for policy research and awareness, aims to encourage Indian-American voters to vote and make their voices heard. The FIIDS aims to register at least one million Indian-American voters for the election.

Indian-Americans, now a community of 4.5 million, have emerged as one of the most influential immigrant groups in the US. Despite making up just 1.5% of the US population, their votes could be decisive in determining the outcome of crucial races in key swing states. "Both Democrats and Republicans should recognise the importance of Indo-Americans as they are concentrated in critical races spanning states such as Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Virginia, New Jersey, Texas, and California," FIIDS stated.

US Vice President and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris will contest Republican candidate Donald Trump on November 5. Kamala Harris is half-Indian and half-Jamaican. Her mixed race has been brought up several times in the course of the Presidential elections. The campaign by the Foundation for India and Indian Diaspora Studies (FIIDS) includes a comprehensive survey of Indian-Americans to gather their opinions on both domestic and global policy issues.

US may likely send senior Pentagon official to China military forum: Report



GNS News Agency, Sept 9

The United States is set to send Michael Chase, the deputy assistant secretary of defence for China, Taiwan and Mongolia, to China's top annual security forum in mid-September, a US official told Reuters. The choice of Chase has not been previously reported. He is more senior than the US official who attended the Xiangshan Forum last year, but his rank is in line with historical norms for the Pentagon. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for China Chad Sbragia attended the forum in 2019.

There is some hope that this could signal deeper working-level engagement with China amid regional disputes. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Chase's expected attendance was not unprecedented, but sent a message that the United States prioritises engagement at the military level with China even at a time of heightened tensions. More than 90 coun-

tries and international organisations plan to send delegations to the Sept. 12-14 forum in Beijing, Chinese state media reported Wednesday. Washington sent Xanthi Carras, China country director in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense, when the forum resumed last year after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. It was a sign of thawing military ties; however Carras' title is of a lower rank than Chase or Sbragia. Chase co-chaired US-China military talks in Washington in January - the first such working-level talks since 2022, when most bilateral military engagement was suspended after then-U.S. Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan.

Taiwan and the South China Sea remain contentious flashpoints in the US-China relationship, with both sides unwilling to compromise on "core issues". US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said no new agreements had been reached on the South China Sea during a visit to China last week. China has repeatedly criticised US deployments in the Asia-Pacific region, including the placement of long-range missiles in the Philippines, as well as US arms sales to democratically governed Taiwan, which China considers its own territory, over the strenuous objections of Taipei. Meanwhile, the US has raised concerns over China's "aggressive" actions in the South China Sea, its frequent military manoeuvres in the air and waters surrounding Taiwan, and what it says is the opacity of China's nuclear buildup. Official nuclear talks were halted by Beijing in July in protest over US arms sales to Taiwan. But both sides have agreed that US Indo-Pacific Command leaders would soon speak by phone to their counterparts in China's southern theatre command, which covers its southern seas.

Mexico protesters block Congress over judicial overhaul, lawmakers vote in gym

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

The plan would make judges stand for election, something critics say would deal a severe blow to the independence of the judiciary and the system of checks and balances. Law students block a street to protest against constitutional reform proposals that would make judges stand for election, outside a sports center in Mexico City. After protesters blocked the entrance to Mexico's Congress on Tuesday in an attempt to stop a controversial judicial overhaul, lawmakers took the first steps to jam through the proposal at a nearby gymnasium.

The plan would make judges stand for election, something critics say would deal a severe blow to the independence of the judiciary and the system of checks and balances. The overhaul has fuelled a wave of protests by judges, court employees and students across Mexico in recent weeks, and reached another inflection point on Tuesday when protesters strung ropes across entrances to the lower house of Congress to block legislators from entering. That came as the country's Supreme Court voted 8-3 to join strikes, adding more weight to the protests. "The party with the majority could take control of the judicial branch, and that would practically be the end of democracy," said protester Javier Reyes, a 37-year-old federal court worker. "They want to own Mexico." Despite that, lawmakers from Mexico's governing party, Morena, and their allies appeared determined to quickly pass the reform. Unable to meet at the congressional building, they instead gathered in a sweltering gymnasium about 5 kilometres away to begin the voting process. The party's strong majority in a recently inaugurated Congress is paving the way for the reform to sail through the process with relative ease. The proposal was met by hours of fierce debate Tuesday night after workers laid out grapes, juices and other snacks in a congressional session reminiscent of a summer camp. As Morena politicians said they were building a justice system that would be an example globally, opposition lawmakers from the National Action Party (PAN) railed on the governing party. "We should inaugurate a wall of shame that says: 'Today begins the fall of our Republic.' And it should have the date and all the faces of the Morena congressmen," shouted Paulina Rubio Fernández, a PAN congresswoman, surrounded by other members of her party. Rubio Fernández accused the president and his party of "lying" to get a majority in Congress, while another colleague in her party warned Morena was "shoot-ing itself in the foot" by passing the reform.

Outside, a pack of protesters roared, blocking streets and demanding lawmakers hear their objections to the proposal. The constitutional reforms submitted by outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Morena have drawn criticism both domestically and from foreign governments and investors. López Obrador, a populist who has long been at odds with the judiciary and other independent regulatory agencies, maintains the proposal is necessary to fight corruption.

Critics say the overhaul would stack the courts in favour of López Obrador's party, politicise the judicial system and pose a threat to foreign investment. Under the current system, judges and court secretaries, who act as judges' assistants, slowly qualify for higher positions based on their record. But under the proposed changes, any lawyer with minimal qualifications could run, with some candidacies decided by drawing names from a hat. The Morena party has the two-thirds majority in Congress needed to approve the reforms, which they should be able to do handily in the lower house of Congress. The party's congressional leader, Rep. Ricardo Monreal, said there were no plans to abandon the reforms, noting "This reform is going ahead." Monreal told lawmakers they were in for a long night on Tuesday.

Mexico's courts have long been plagued by corruption and opacity, but in the last 15 years they have been subject to reforms to make them more open and accountable, including changing many closed-door, paper-based trials for a more open, oral-argument format. Voices both at home and abroad say the new changes could mark a setback in the effort to clean up courts. US Ambassador Ken Salazar said Tuesday that "there is a great deal of concern," claiming the changes "could damage relations a lot, and it's not just me saying that." Salazar has pointed to the election of judges as his main qualm with the overhaul, noting that it would negatively affect investment and the Mexican economy. López Obrador said last week he has put relations with the United States and Canadian embassies "on pause" after the two countries voiced concerns over the proposed judicial overhaul.

President-elect Claudia Sheinbaum, López Obrador's close ally, on Tuesday night once again defended the reform, writing on the social media platform X that it "does not affect our commercial relations, nor na-



tional or foreign private investments. On the contrary, there will be more and better rule of law and more democracy for all." "If judges, magistrates, and ministers are elected by the people, where is the authoritarianism?" she added. The proposed changes would cover about 7,000 judges at various levels and would introduce a time limit for judges to rule on many cases to combat a tendency for some trials to stretch out over decades. More controversially, the reforms would also introduce "hooded judges" to preside over organised crime cases; their identities would be kept secret in order to prevent reprisals.

And the courts would be largely stripped of their power to block government projects or laws based on appeals by citizens. It would also almost certainly assure that the president's party continues with significant political power long after López Obrador leaves office at the end of this month. After Morena and its allies won overwhelming majorities in the June 2 elections, López Obrador pledged to push forward with other constitutional changes that would eliminate most independent regulatory and oversight agencies. Still, protesters like Reyes hold onto hope that their weeklong demonstrations will pay off, roaring in unison "Mexico stay strong, justice is coming." Protesters chanted in front of a wall of murals painted with López Obrador's face reading "hasta siempre, presidente." My president, forever.

US congressional committee summons Antony Blinken over Afghanistan

GNS News Agency, Sept 9

The US House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee subpoenaed Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday, saying he had refused to appear before the panel to testify on the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021. In a letter about the subpoena, Chairman Michael McCaul said Blinken must appear before the committee on September 19 or face contempt charges, the committee said. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller said Blinken was not currently available to testify on the dates proposed by the committee, but has proposed "reasonable alternatives" to comply with McCaul's request for a public hearing.

"It is disappointing that instead of continuing to engage with the Department in good faith, the Committee instead has issued yet another unnecessary subpoena," Miller said in a statement. He said Blinken had testified before Congress on Afghanistan more than 14 times, including four times before McCaul's committee. He also said State has provided the committee with nearly 20,000 pages of department records, multiple high-level briefings and transcribed interviews. McCaul asked Blinken in May to appear at a hearing in September on the committee's report on its investigation of the withdrawal from Afghanistan. In his letter, opens new tab to Blinken, the Republican committee chairman said current and former State Department officials confirmed that Blinken was "the final decision maker" on the withdrawal and evacuation. "You are therefore in a position to inform the Committee's consideration of potential legislation aimed at helping prevent the catastrophic mistakes of the withdrawal, including potential reforms to the Department's legislative authorisation," McCaul wrote. The subpoena from McCaul's committee, which has been investigating the deadly and chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan for years, comes as events surrounding the pullback become an increasingly politicised issue ahead of the November 5 elections. Former President Donald Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, visited Arlington National Cemetery late last month and took part in a wreath-laying ceremony honouring the 13 service members killed during the US withdrawal.

India's export-linked jobs declined as it missed out on post-China opportunity: World Bank



World Bank economists noted that India's share in global exports of labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, leather, textiles, and footwear has declined. Jobs in India generated directly and indirectly connected to international trade have declined over the last decade, the World Bank said, adding that the country has missed out on the export opportunity presented by China's withdrawal from labour-intensive manufacturing sectors.

World Bank economists noted that India's share in global exports of labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, leather, textiles, and footwear has declined. Meanwhile, countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Poland, Germany, and France have managed to increase their global export share in major job-creating sectors by up to 2 per cent between 2015 to 2022. In May, The Indian Express reported that India's labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, leather, gems and jewellery, and marine products are experiencing a sharp decline. India's shipments from these four high job-generating sectors have dropped nearly 12 per cent compared to pre-pandemic levels five

years ago (FY18), this paper reported.

India's textile and garment exports have remained stagnant at around \$35 billion, while Vietnam and Bangladesh have gained market share, bolstered by free trade agreements (FTAs) and Least Developed Country (LDC) status, which provide a 10-15 per cent duty concession in the Western countries. The Bank observed that while India is the fastest-growing major economy, with an 8.2 per cent growth rate in the last fiscal year, urban youth unemployment remains high at 17 per cent. The Bank suggested that to create more trade-related jobs, India should integrate more deeply into global value chains, which would also create opportunities for innovation and productivity growth.

The World Bank stated that the global trade landscape is challenging and undergoing significant changes, yet India has considerable untapped potential to leverage international trade for development despite dynamic services exports. "India could further leverage Global Value Chains (GVCs) to their full potential, generating more jobs and enhancing productivity," the Bank said in its statement. The Bank noted that Indian firms could benefit significantly from integrating into GVCs; however, India's share in GVCs has declined due to "policy barriers and other limitations." World Bank economists suggested that India could benefit from a new strategic plan to diversify exports, leverage the changing geopolitical landscape, reduce trade costs, and improve trade facilitation. "India has made progress in facilitating trade and re-engaging with global markets, but progress is limited by new barriers affecting goods, services, and investments," the Bank said. The Bank also highlighted that while FTAs have a strong impact on India's exports, recent agreements that exclude key areas like digital trade limit their potential.

More Indians taking multiple foreign trips a year, new destinations gain popularity: MakeMyTrip



A growing number of Indians are travelling to international destinations with those taking two or more overseas trips growing 32 per cent on a year-on-year basis in the 12 months ended May 2024, while those taking three or more international trips rising by 37 per cent, according to a report by online travel major MakeMyTrip. Interestingly, while the staple destinations for Indians remained largely unchanged from last year, a number of other geographies have rapidly gained popularity, registering a staggering growth in interest from travellers.

Unsurprisingly, the top 10 countries of interest for Indians in the June 2023-May 2024 period remained the same as the previous years—led by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Thailand, United States (US), Singapore, and Indonesia. In all, the top 10 countries accounted for 64 per cent of all searches by Indians, per MakeMyTrip.

Notably, though, a bunch of other countries are fast becoming popular with Indian travellers. Some of these geographies were traditionally not on the map for most Indians. Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan topped the list of the emerging destination countries and saw a jump in interest with online searches surging by 491 per cent and 404 per cent, respectively. Bhutan, Hong Kong, and Sri Lanka were the next three on this list, each seeing search volumes more than double on a year-on-year basis. Indians The top 10 countries accounted for 64 per cent of all searches by Indians. "There has been a 70% increase in the combined search volume for the top 10 emerging destinations. Almaty (in Kazakhstan) and Baku (in Azerbaijan) have seen phenomenal growth rates of 527%

and 395%, respectively. The overall contribution of searches for emerging destinations on our platform has increased from 10% to 14%, indicating that Indians are exploring newer global destinations," MakeMyTrip said. In July, based on an analysis of data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and airline schedules, The Indian Express had reported that Central Asian countries—including Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan—were drawing Indians in droves. The popularity of these emerging destinations is underscored by an enhancement in direct flight connectivity with India over the past couple of years and easy and convenient visa regimes for Indians. In fact, Indian passport holders currently do not need a visa to travel to a few of these countries, for instance Kazakhstan, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. For a few other emerging travel destinations, there are swift and hassle-free electronic visa regimes in place. Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan topped the list of the emerging destination countries and saw a jump in interest with online searches surging by 491 per cent and 404 per cent, respectively.

"While domestic tourism remains buoyant, as noted in our previous report, our latest findings highlight the notable changes in international travel behaviour driven by macroeconomic factors that are fuelling the surge in travel among Indians. These trends present an exciting opportunity for the travel and tourism industry to innovate and cater to the evolving needs of Indian travellers," said Rajesh Magow, Co-founder and Group CEO, MakeMyTrip. The report suggests that international travel search volumes remain relatively steady across all seasons, with December being the most active month for international travel searches among Indians. The October-December quarter attracts the most searches for short-haul destinations, while the six-month period between April and September sees higher searches for mid and long-haul destinations. Notably, close to half of international flights and 56 per cent of international hotel rooms were booked less than two weeks before the travel date, suggesting substantial impulsive travel. Oman, Nepal, and the UAE had the highest last-minute flight bookings, while Qatar, Oman, and Azerbaijan led in last-minute hotel bookings. European cities, on the other hand, had the longest advance purchase windows.

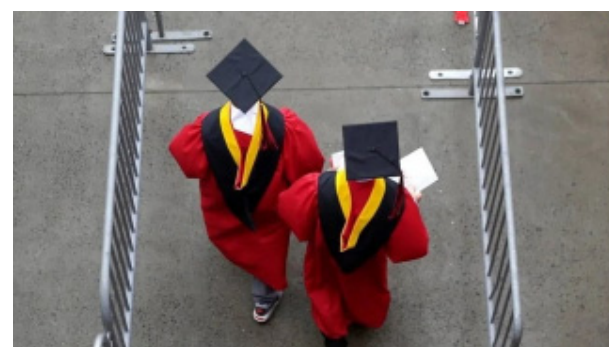
Education loan AUM of NBFCs to top Rs 60,000 crore this fiscal

'Education loan AUM of NBFCs to top `60,000 crore this fiscal' According to RBI data, education loan outstanding of banks was Rs 123,066 crore as of July 2024. After a robust growth of over 80 per cent and 70 per cent in fiscals 2023 and 2024, respectively, education loan assets under management (AUM) of non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) is expected to grow at a healthy clip of 40-45 per cent to cross Rs 60,000 crore in the current fiscal from Rs 43,000 crore in FY2023-24, according to a Crisil report.

Education loans, primarily those to fund courses overseas, will continue to be among the fastest-growing segments for NBFCs because of rising demand for higher education, Crisil said. On the asset quality front, metrics should remain stable despite country-specific concerns, a Crisil Ratings analysis indicates, it said.

According to RBI data, education loan outstanding of banks was Rs 123,066 crore as of July 2024. The number of Indian students studying abroad is estimated to have doubled in the past five years to around 13.4 lakh as of last fiscal. "Only a tenth are being funded by these NBFCs, and even including education loans by banks, the financed quantum is not much higher," Crisil said. "What that indicates is that a large portion of overseas education is being funded through alternative means — informal financing, self-funding, or perhaps other forms of loans. That shows education loan companies have significant headroom for growth. Rising ticket sizes because of ascending tuition fees, inflation and living expenses are also tailwinds," said Ajit Velonie, Senior Director, Crisil Ratings.

It said strong micro-market intelligence and fast turn-around times have allowed NBFCs to carve out a niche in the education loans space. "Their specialised business model — backed by strong understanding of rel-



evant geographies, courses, universities, tenures and profiles of students and their families — affords customisation of products, enabling better assessment of employability and risk-adjusted pricing," said a Crisil report.

The portfolio performance of these NBFCs have been resilient so far based on strong credit underwriting. "Their 90 plus days' past due (dpd), for education loans was 0.2 per cent as on March 31, 2024, whereas for private and public sector banks, gross non-performing assets were 2.0 per cent and 3.9 per cent, respectively. Peak quarterly delinquency on the vintage pool of 90 plus dpd for NBFCs was also below 1 per cent," it said. "Additionally, prepayment and foreclosure rates are high — 35-45 per cent of the loans get prepaid during the initial moratorium period of typically 3 years.

And most of the loans are repaid in 5-7 years even where the contractual tenure is higher," Crisil said. However, given the recent high growth, around 90 per cent of the portfolio is currently under moratorium. So, asset quality performance over the longer term remains to be seen, it said.

Blood fats could predict if weight loss will help pre-diabetics manage sugar, study suggests



A blood test measuring fats in serum could help predict if weight loss will be effective in helping a pre-diabetic patient manage blood sugar levels, according to a new study. Pre-diabetics are individuals whose blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not yet in the diabetic range.

Analysing fats in blood serum, researchers at the University of Sydney, Australia, found that while weight loss through dieting significantly impacted several types of lipids (fats), changes in different fats affected different types of blood sugar. For example, changes in fasting blood sugar were linked to certain sphingolipids — a type of fat found in a cell's outer layer — while those in HbA1c, insulin and insulin resistance were linked to other fats in blood serum. "Six baseline bioactive sphingolipids primarily predicted changes in fasting plasma glucose. In addition, a number of baseline lipid species, mainly diacylglycerols and triglycerides, were predictive of clinical

changes in hemoglobin A1c, insulin and HOMA-IR (Homeostatic Model Assessment for Insulin Resistance)," the authors wrote.

Weight loss through a low-energy diet — low-carb, fibre-rich — is commonly recommended to help pre-diabetic people bring blood sugar levels back to normal. However, the researchers said that over half of these individuals do not achieve normal blood sugar levels afterwards. Weight loss through a low-energy diet — low-carb, fibre-rich — is commonly recommended to help pre-diabetic people they found that measuring certain fats in serum before one loses weight could predict which type of blood sugar will improve following weight loss. The findings are published in The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

"Our findings reveal that certain fats in the blood can tell us a lot about a person's chances of improving their blood sugar levels through weight loss," lead author Yanfei (Jacob) Qi from the university's Centenary Institute said. For the study, blood serum samples from 104 pre-diabetic participants were analysed before and after they started a low-energy diet for eight weeks. In this duration, the individuals were found to have lost at least eight per cent of their body weight. Lipidomics — the use of AI-based techniques to study changes in hundreds of different lipids — was used in analysing the serum samples. "The findings could be a game-changer in how we approach diabetes prevention, allowing us to personalise treatment plans for those who are less likely to benefit from standard diet recommendations," Qi said.

All about the monotrophic diet, an eating pattern Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli swear by



Several celebrities, including sportspersons and actors like Anushka Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Sunil Chhetri, have confessed to eating one type of food for months without getting bored. Anushka shared in a conversation, "That's not a difficult thing for me because I do eat the same thing almost every day sometimes. Especially, when I am filming a movie. I eat the same thing. So, there have been times when I have had khichdi and baingan bhaja for a month straight for dinner. That's all I have eaten. Or idli sambar for breakfast for 6 months straight," shared Anushka in 2023.

Gastroenterologist Dr Pal Manickam, in an Instagram post, informed that such an eating pattern is called the monotrophic diet. "It is an effective tool for fat loss. It is simple, convenient, and most importantly, you can be consistent in your portion size. Also, it reduces decision fatigue and prevents you from the impulsiveness to eat more. When pre-planning, ensure you include all macros," said Dr Manickam. Gut health nutritionist Payal Kothari shared that consuming only one type of food at each meal is also based on the minimalist way of living and eating.

"This diet is based on the idea that simplifying food combinations can ease the digestive process, allowing

the body to break down and absorb nutrients efficiently. By eating just one food type, the digestive system isn't overburdened with complex combinations, which can sometimes lead to bloating, indigestion, or other digestive discomforts," explained Kothari. The benefits of a monotrophic diet include easier digestion, as the body only needs to produce specific enzymes to break down a single type of food. According to Kothari, this can lead to better nutrient absorption. Agreeing with Dr Manickam, Kothari shared that decision fatigue helps save time and confusion at the end of which many tend to binge eat. "Additionally, by focusing on whole, nutrient-dense foods like fruits, vegetables, or lean proteins, individuals can ensure they're getting a concentrated dose of vitamins, minerals, and other essential nutrients at each meal. Remember to maintain your portion sizes! Too much of anything is more calories," cautioned Kothari. Kothari noted that most individuals fail to get in all the nutrients with a monotrophic diet. "It might offer short-term benefits, but it's important to ensure a variety of nutrients over time to avoid deficiencies. A balanced approach to this diet, possibly incorporating it as a temporary cleanse or a way to reset digestion, can be beneficial when done mindfully," said Kothari.

Other than Australia, here are some countries that have the 'Right to Disconnect' law

A landmark law in Australia has granted employees the right to disconnect from work outside of their official hours. This new legislation, which came into effect on Monday, August 26, aims to protect workers from the increasing pressure to be constantly available and responsive. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese championed the "right to disconnect," emphasising that employees should not be penalised for not being online 24/7, especially when they are not being compensated for that time. The law is a significant step towards promoting work-life balance and protecting workers' well-being. Several countries around the world have introduced or implemented similar laws. Here's a look at some of these countries:

1. France France was the pioneer in establishing the right to disconnect, implementing the law in 2017 as part of its Labour Code. The law mandates that companies with 50 or more employees negotiate with unions to establish policies that limit after-hours digital communication. The goal is to protect employees from the intrusion of work into personal time and ensure rest periods are respected. This law is particularly significant given the long work hours often expected in professional environments. By drawing a clear line between work and personal time, France has set a precedent that other countries have followed.

Spain introduced its "right to disconnect" law in 2018 as part of its data protection regulations. Under this law, employees are entitled to disconnect from work-related communication outside of office hours, especially in the digital space. The law applies to both public and private sector employees, ensuring that they are not obligated to be available 24/7, thus safeguarding personal time and mental well-being. Companies in Spain are also required to create policies that define the conditions for digital com-

munication, protecting employees' work-life balance.

3. Italy In Italy, the right to disconnect was embedded into legislation in 2017 as part of labour reforms aimed at regulating remote work. Italy's law is tied to flexible working arrangements and the increasing prevalence of teleworking. Employees have the right to disconnect from work-related activities outside normal working hours unless otherwise agreed upon. This law came as a response to the evolving nature of work and the need to protect employees from burnout, especially with the rise of digital tools making work more accessible beyond the traditional office environment. Burnout shrinks the hippocampus, leading to memory problems, difficulty concentrating, and trouble making decisions. (Source: Freepik)

4. Belgium Belgium passed its right to disconnect legislation in 2022, requiring all federal public sector workers to disengage from work-related communications after hours. The law emphasises that employees are not required to respond to calls, emails, or messages outside regular working hours unless there is an emergency. This policy aims to combat burnout and improve overall mental health and well-being, acknowledging that constant connectivity has blurred the boundaries between work and personal life. 5. Portugal In 2021, Portugal introduced a new labour law that gives remote workers the right to disconnect from work outside regular hours. The legislation came as part of broader measures to regulate remote working, particularly after the shift in work culture due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under this law, employers who contact workers after working hours face penalties, marking a significant step in protecting employee boundaries. This law is a response to the growing pressure on remote workers who face difficulties separating personal life from professional responsibilities.

Devara song Daavudi: Janhvi Kapoor-Jr NTR match steps in this fast-paced number designed for social media reels.



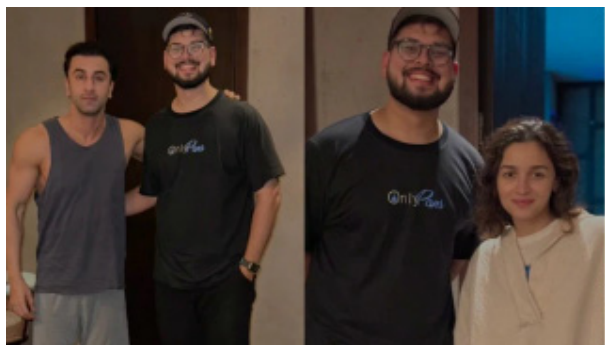
Devara song Daavudi: This new track is a dance number with fast and heavy beats, in contrast to the melody "Chuttamalle," released last month. Devara song Daavudi: Actors NTR Jr and Janhvi Kapoor dance to the tune of the track. Devara song Daavudi: After captivating listeners and viewers with the sensual and sultry song "Chuttamalle," the makers of director Koratala Siva's upcoming action drama Devara: Part 1 have released another track from the film starring NTR Jr and Janhvi Kapoor. Titled "Daavudi," this new song is a dance number with fast, heavy beats, in contrast to the melody "Chuttamalle."

In the music video, NTR Jr and Janhvi Kapoor, dressed in striking outfits, dive into a dance-off while being surrounded by a large group of lively background dancers. The 132-second video showcases their dynamic dance moves and emphasises visually distinct sets, with choreography designed to make the hook steps both memorable and likely to go viral. However, "Daavudi" is likely to face similar criticism as "Chuttamalle" for making the 41-year-old NTR Jr romance the 27-year-old Janhvi Kapoor, as well as concerns about the hypersexualisation of the woman and objectifying lyrics. Composed by Anirudh Ravichander and penned by Ramajogayya Sastry, the track features vocals from Nakash Aziz and Akasa. The song is also available in Tamil, Hindi, Kannada, and Malayalam. In May, the makers had released another track titled "Fear," which highlighted the protagonist's bravery and strength. The song was released on the eve of NTR Jr's birthday. In addition to NTR Jr and Janhvi Kapoor, the film features Saif Ali Khan, Prakash Raj, Srikanth and Shine Tom Chacko in key roles. Produced jointly by Yuvasudha Arts and NTR Arts, Devara boasts cinematography by Rathnavelu ISC, production design by Sabu Cyril, and editing by Sreekar Prasad. Devara: Part 1 is set to release on September 27, 2024.

Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt's private chef dishes on cooking for 'this very cutesy couple'.

There's a storm brewing in Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor's kitchen every day. Don't believe us? Perhaps the couple's private chef, Suryansh Singh Kanwar, who is part of The Private Chefs Club, can convince you. Suryansh recently shared a video showcasing the array of mouth-watering dishes he prepared for the couple, along with a few glimpses of his interactions with them.

The video begins with Suryansh posing alongside Ranbir and Alia at their home. It then features a variety of dishes, including dosa, appam, smoothie bowls, and different Asian delicacies. Alia's cat, Edward, even makes a special appearance in the video. In the caption, Suryansh wrote, "Cooked up some magic for #RanbirKapoor & @AliaBhatt over the past few days! Had such a great time working for this very cutesy couple! @theprivatechefsclub @chefharsh." Before working with Ranbir and Alia, Suryansh had cooked for cricketer Hardik Pandya and his then-wife Natasa Stankovic. He shared a video of his culinary experience with the Pandya family during Christmas, captioning it, "Cooked up a storm for the #Pandyafamily this Christmas ??????" As for Alia and



Ranbir, the couple is soon set to move into their new bungalow in Mumbai. They are often spotted visiting their home's construction site, accompanied by their daughter Raha and Ranbir's mother Neetu Kapoor. On the work front, the couple will star together in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love and War, which will also feature Vicky Kaushal. Alia has Jigra in the pipeline, while Ranbir will next be seen in Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayan.

Vijay's GOAT eyes Rs 100 crore opening, to be the biggest Tamil release of 2024:



Vijay's GOAT advance booking is giving hope to a beleaguered Tamil film industry. The 'Thalapathy' film will start showing at 4 am in many states, Tamil Nadu has passed an order for special shows but there won't be any release in Hindi.

There is no doubt that September 5 will be a festive celebration that will rival the likes of a Diwali or New Year's. It is not just the day we celebrate our teachers, but our Vaathi too. Venkat Prabhu's The Greatest Of All Time (GOAT) marks Vijay's penultimate film before he hangs up his acting boots to switch careers to active politics. The hype is unreal and the film is expected to have a blockbuster opening that might break quite a few records on the way. Raahul of Romeo Pictures, who is distributing the film in Tamil Nadu, shared that the film would be released in every theatre in the state. Even if there are a few misses here and there, the film will be hitting at least 1000 screens making it one of the widest releases of a Tamil film in recent times. An industry tracker, who wishes to remain anonymous, said, "Kabali was the last film to face such a hype among the audience. GOAT is the biggest Tamil film release this year, and it will overcome the extended slump for theatres since last year's Leo." It is Leo's numbers that are in jeopardy as the AGS Entertainment-backed GOAT is breaking new territories, especially outside India. Talking to us, Gulzar Begum, managing director of XGen Studio shared that the film is opening in many countries, opening up the market for Tamil cinema in newer regions. "GOAT will open in 500+ theatres in the US, 200+ in the UK, and 350+ in the rest of Europe. We are also releasing the film in 18 countries in the African continent, including Zambia, Ghana, Senegal, Uganda, and Botswana. We are also planning a massive release in the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, Japan, and New Zealand. This is undoubtedly the biggest film of the year," said Gulzar, adding that the film will also have a strong presence in countries like Russia, Ukraine, Tajikistan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Georgia, and Moldova.

Considering the wide release of the film, the opening numbers are expected to come close to the coveted Rs 100 crore mark, which will be a massive boost in the arm for Tamil cinema, which has been lying low this year. GOAT is expected to open the floodgates for Rajinikanth's

Vettaiyan, Ajith Kumar's Vidaa Muyarchi, and Suriya's Kanguva expected to follow suit.

Apart from the wide global release, GOAT is also set to have a really massive screen count in states like Karnataka and Kerala. With Sree Gokulam Movies distributing the film in Kerala, the company revealed that GOAT would release in over 700 screens and run 4000 shows on Day 1. This is an unprecedented number in the state, and it shows the box-office pull of Vijay, who has earned a spot in the hearts of Malayalam audiences. While things seem to be going well, there are issues cropping up in sections of Tamil Nadu where the agreement between the theatre owners and distributors are yet to be signed. It is said that there is a major issue going on regarding the share percentage between the stakeholders, and it is expected to be resolved before the first show of GOAT on September 5.

However, the Hindi version of GOAT, titled Thalapathy the GOAT, has run into the old issue of multiplexes not signing on the dotted line. Noted film analyst Taran Adarsh said, "No Hindi release at National Chains. The Hindi version of GOAT, starring Thalapathy Vijay, is not releasing in the National chains like PVR, INOX, and Cinepolis, in North India." He shared that since the national chains require all new Hindi films to maintain an 8-week gap between their theatrical release and their premiere on OTT platforms, the agreement fell out between the makers and them. However, the Tamil and Telugu versions of the film would run in their theatres in the South. This would result in a considerable dent in the final figures of GOAT, considering how the South Indian films that made massive numbers in India did it on the back of its Hindi version also raking in the money. However, the foreign territories are expected to pull above its weight, and bring the money to compensate for losses in other places. "We are expecting the film to open to over Rs 30 crores on Day 1," says Gulzar, adding that it is Vijay's focus on catering to all kinds of audience that makes him a sureshot success at the box office. "When an actor caters to all age groups, then winning hearts is what will happen automatically. His comic timing, and his holistic approach to films ensures his family audience are as satisfied with the product as his hardcore fans."

With the Government Order finally coming in that Tamil Nadu theatres can begin their show at 9 am, and finish the maximum allotted fifth show by 2 am, all the roadblocks for the film's release have been removed. But the runtime of 183 minutes might act as a deterrent for theatres. The earliest shows in India are in Kerala, and Karnataka where the film will be screened from 4 am. With Vijay just having one more film in his kitty, all eyes are on the performance of GOAT. The film has a grand ensemble featuring the likes of Prashanth, Prabhu Deva, Mohan, Jayaram, Meenakshi Chaudhary, Laila, Sneha, Ajmal, and Yogi Babu. It is also getting a solo release with a two-week window where no big film would be clashing alongside. But it is also not having the famed "Lokesh Cinematic Universe" tag that has been creating magic in the Tamil cinema box-office with films like Vikram and Leo becoming massive successes. Nevertheless, as AGS Entertainment head Archana Kalpathi said, "People are going to come to the theatre and ask for a Vijay film ticket. They don't care about the name of the film itself. That is Vijay sir's stardom." It is this stardom that will face its litmus test on Thursday, but from what is being anticipated by the trade, Vijay might just once again prove that he is the most saleable star in Tamil cinema right now.

Shah Rukh Khan rejected 'Lungi Dance', said 'beta mazaa nahi aaya': Honey Singh recalls he decided to shoot it as single 'in anger'



Honey Singh has gifted Punjabi music lovers some of their all-time favorite tracks, and even Bollywood couldn't resist featuring his music in films. In a recent interaction, the singer spoke about how Shah Rukh Khan initially rejected his song "Lungi Dance," which ultimately featured in the film Chennai Express and became one of the most beloved tracks of all time. He also shared an anecdote about incurring a significant loss after having to discard a music video shot in Thailand with 400 bikini-clad girls.

During a conversation with Lallantop, Honey Singh recalled shooting the music video for "Angreji Beat" in Thailand with Gippy Grewal. He said, "Me and Gippy paji shot an elaborate video of 'Angreji Beat' in Thailand which showed some 400 girls in bikini. So we shot the video with 400 girls in a villa and it was a glamorous video. By the time video was completed my effigies were burning in Punjab." Discussing the protests in Punjab against him for allegedly using vulgar lyrics and how Gippy convinced him to scrap the video, Honey Singh said, "Gippy told me, 'You live in Delhi. You don't care if they burn your effigies, but I live in Punjab. They will come to my house. Let's not release this video.' I argued that we had spent so much money on the video and urged him not to worry about Punjab, believing they would eventually accept us. Instead, I asked him to consider reaching audiences in Bangalore, Hyderabad, Varanasi, and beyond. But Gippy insisted that he wouldn't speak to me if I released the video. So, we decided to drop it. We had spent all our

money on the Thailand shoot and were left with no funds, so we shot a different video—the one that eventually reached the audience."

Addressing the perception of him being labeled as arrogant in Bollywood and his refusal to be stereotyped, Honey Singh remarked, "An arrogant image of me was created, and to some extent, it was true. And why not? 'Angreji Beat' was my first song to be released in Bollywood, in the film Cocktail. The makers told me they wanted a song like 'Angreji Beat,' but I told them it wasn't possible and suggested another track, 'Party All Night.' However, they insisted on 'Angreji Beat' and ultimately took it. Another person picked up 'Party All Night,' paid me, and even shot the video with me."

The singer also revealed that even Shah Rukh Khan didn't initially see the potential of his song "Lungi Dance" and rejected it. "When 'Angreji Beat' and 'Party All Night' became hits, the next person came to me and said they wanted a song like those tracks. I suggested 'Lungi Dance,' but it was rejected." When asked who turned down the song, Honey Singh shared, "Shah Rukh bhai rejected it. He said, 'Beta, maza nahi aaya (I didn't like the song).' I was very upset. I asked Bhushan Kumar if he saw the potential in the song, and he told me it was a superhit. We planned to release it as a single, but when Rohit Shetty found out, he decided to take it. I've had to say no to a lot of big people because everyone was trying to stereotype me," he explained.

On Rishi Kapoor's birth anniversary, Neetu Kapoor shares adorable 'what could have been' photo of Chintu with granddaughter Raha.

The image, reportedly generated by AI, shows Rishi Kapoor planting a tender kiss on the cheek of his adorable granddaughter Raha Kapoor, the daughter of actors Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. Actor Rishi Kapoor, who passed away in 2020, would have turned 72 on Wednesday. Actor Rishi Kapoor would have been celebrating his 72nd birthday today (September 4) had his life not been tragically cut short in 2020 after a long fight with cancer. Nevertheless, he continues to live on through his loved ones, who have been sharing heartfelt posts on social media since morning remembering their beloved Chintu (Rishi's pet name).

His wife, actor Neetu Kapoor, has also shared and reshared several posts on her Instagram stories that fondly recall her moments with him. One of her stories, in particular, has captured the attention of many netizens, as it features a sight that his dear ones would have cherished but never had the chance to see. The image, reportedly generated by AI, features Rishi planting a tender kiss on the cheek of his adorable granddaughter Raha Kapoor, the daughter of actors Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt. The picture was originally shared by Neetu and Rishi's friend Pammil Bakshi Gautam, with the caption, "What could have been...????? Wishing a happy, happy birthday to my dear friend Chintu." Raha was born on November 6, 2022.

Rishi Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor, Raha Kapoor, rishi kapoor neetu singh, rishi kapoor family, rishi kapoor wife, rishi kapoor birthday, Neetu Kapoor husband, Neetu singh, alia bhatt, neetu kapoor alia bhatt, alia bhatt neetu singh, alia bhatt neetu Kapoor, Bollywood, Bollywood news A photo, reportedly generated by AI, of Rishi Kapoor with granddaughter Raha. Rishi Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor, Raha Kapoor, rishi kapoor neetu singh, rishi kapoor family, rishi kapoor wife, rishi kapoor birthday, Neetu Kapoor husband, Neetu singh, alia bhatt, neetu kapoor alia bhatt, alia bhatt neetu singh, alia bhatt neetu Kapoor, Bollywood, Bollywood news Riddhima Kapoor remembers her father Rishi Kapoor on his birth anniversary. Neetu Kapoor calls daughter-in-law Alia Bhatt embodiment of perfection

Earlier in the day, Rishi's elder daughter Riddhima Kapoor Sahni also expressed how much she wished he were here to celebrate his birthday with his granddaughters. "Baby Raha is the cutest — she is a mini you," Riddhima wrote on Instagram. The company announced the news on Tuesday, sharing on social media a video of Alia delivering a powerful monologue encouraging women to not let others' opinions define them. "Because my worth is my choice," she declares in the campaign celebrating women. "She (Alia) draws inspiration from the extraordinary women in her life and inspires others through her own journey," L'Oreal wrote in the description.

Rishi Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor, Raha Kapoor, rishi kapoor neetu singh, rishi kapoor family, rishi kapoor wife, rishi kapoor birthday, Neetu Kapoor husband, Neetu singh, alia bhatt, neetu kapoor alia bhatt, alia bhatt neetu singh, alia bhatt neetu Kapoor, Bollywood, Bollywood news Neetu Kapoor shares an Instagram story stating her daughter-in-law Alia Bhatt embodies perfection. Sharing the video to her Instagram stories, Alia's mother-in-law and actor Neetu Kapoor affirmed that Alia embodies perfection. "You are ??," she wrote. Over-



whelmed by her sasur ma's reaction, Alia reshared Neetu's story on her Instagram, noting, "My beauty inspiration always and forever ??." According to the Hindustan Times, Alia Bhatt will represent the brand in its global campaigns, joining Aishwarya Rai Bachchan as another global ambassador from India for L'Oreal Paris.

Relief for 'Thalapathy' Vijay fans as Tamil Nadu government approves special screening on release day

Theatres in Tamil Nadu are permitted to hold five screenings of 'Thalapathy' Vijay's penultimate movie The Greatest of All Time (GOAT) on its release day on September 5. Director Venkat Prabhu's sci-fi action film The Greatest of All Time - GOAT stars 'Thalapathy' Vijay in the lead role. In a major relief for the makers and fans, director Venkat Prabhu's sci-fi action film The Greatest of All Time (GOAT), starring "Thalapathy" Vijay in the lead role, has received government approval to hold a special show on its release day on Thursday (September 5). On August 24, production company AGS Entertainment, which is bankrolling GOAT, had requested the Tamil Nadu government's permission to increase the number of screenings.

