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Telangana Board extends intermediate admissions deadline to September 15

Hyderabad: The Telangana Board of Intermediate Education on Tuesday extended the deadline for admissions to first-year intermediate streams for the academic year 2024-25 till September 15. Principals of junior colleges offering two-year intermediate courses have been asked to make first-year admissions till the extended deadline.

Students and parents have been asked to take admission only in affiliated colleges. For a list of affiliated colleges, visit the website <https://tgbie.cgg.gov.in>.

Over Rs 1 crore returned to cybercrime victims in two cases

Hyderabad: An amount of Rs.1.09 crore was recovered and returned to the victims in two different cases of cyber frauds in the city. The City Cybercrime police have recovered an amount of Rs 1,09,10,000 crore in these cases where the victims were cheated by cyber fraudsters on the pretext of investment in trading and promising substantial profits. In the first instance, a 52-year-old private employee from Begumpet was cheated by cyber crooks on the pretext of online trading by promising substantial profits. In another instance, cyber fraudsters duped a 62-year-old man on the pretext of investment by promising huge profits.

Facilitate provision to restructure debts or extend assistance, Revanth to Finance Commission



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy appealed to the 16th Finance Commission to facilitate a provision of either restructuring debts or extend additional assistance. "I speak for all States on this increase allocation of central funds to States from 41 percent to 50 percent. I promise you, if you can do this, I will take a huge responsibility of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make India a 5 trillion dollar economy. I will make Telangana 1 trillion economy," Revanth Reddy said to the Commission members.

Welcoming the Commission members, the Chief Minister said Telangana was the youngest State of India. "We now call - The Future State," he said. He reminded that Telangana was an economically growing, rapidly transforming State, which contributed a lot to the nation. Despite strong advantages, and a good economy, the State was facing huge challenges, he said, adding "We have a heavy burden of debt, which now stands at over Rs. 6.85 lakh crore, as of end of last financial year. This includes both budgeted and off-budget borrowings." "If we don't manage our loans and interest payment it will slow down our progress. We seek your support in helping us address this problem," The Chief Minister said, stressing "We look forward to your support in strengthening fiscal federalism."

We will think of scrapping reservation when India is a fair place: Rahul Gandhi in U.S.



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The Congress Party will think of scrapping reservations when India is a fair place, which is not the case right now, Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition said. Mr. Gandhi made these remarks while talking to students at the prestigious Georgetown University. "We will think of scrapping reservations when India is a fair place. And India is not a fair place," Mr. Gandhi told students at the university here in response to a question on reservation and how long it would continue. "When you look at the financial numbers, then tribals get 10 paise out of 100 rupees; Dalits get 5 rupees out of 100 rupees, and OBCs get a similar number. The fact of the matter is that they're not getting participation," Mr. Gandhi said. "The problem is that 90% of India is not able to play. Go through the list of every single business leader in India. I've done it. Show me the tribal name. Show me the Dalit name. Show me the OBC name. Out of the top 200, I think there's one OBC. They're 50% of India. But we're not treating the symptom," he said. "That's the problem. Now, it [reservation] is not the only tool. There are other tools," he said. "There are many people who come from the upper caste who say, look, what have we done wrong? Why are we being punished? So, then you think about increasing dramatically the supply of some of these things. You think about decentralising power. You think about involving many more people in the governance of our country. You think of opening up. With all due respect, I don't think any of you are ever going to become Adani or Ambani. There's a reason for that. You can't. Because those doors are closed. So the answer to people in the general cast is you open those doors," Mr. Gandhi said. When asked about the Uniform Civil Code, Mr. Gandhi said he would comment on it only after he knows what is BJP's proposal. "BJP is proposing a Uniform Civil Code. We haven't seen it. We have no idea what they're talking about. For us to comment on it doesn't make sense. When they pull it out, then we'll have a look and we'll comment on it," he said. Mr. Gandhi also said members of the INDIA coalition had differences but agreed on a lot of things. "We agree that the Constitution of India should be defended. Most of us agree on the idea of the caste census."

PM Modi asks automakers to bring global best practices to India, focus on clean mobility

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday (September 10, 2024) asked the automotive industry to bring global best practices to India, while also working on green and clean mobility. In a written address to the annual convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Mr. Modi said the automotive industry will drive even higher economic growth and in turn, thrive on demand growth.

"As we shift gears towards our collective goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, I am confident that organisations like SIAM will continue to bring together all stakeholders and become a force multiplier in this mission," he said. The



prime minister said the road ahead demands that the country's progress is rapid, while also being sustainable. "Working (on) greener and cleaner mobility is a vital step in this direction. It is important that this climate-conscious and sustainable vision resonates with domestic and international partners," he asserted. "Further, at this critical juncture for India and the world, it is essential that our automobile sector set not only an example for others to follow, but also work towards bringing global best practices to India. I am confident that the discussions and deliberations during the Annual Convention will serve as a catalyst for this," he added.

He further said, "Through innovation and enterprise, I am sure that the automotive industry will drive even higher economic

growth and in turn, thrive on the demand growth that inevitably creates." He said over the last decade, India's automotive sector has witnessed tremendous and unprecedented growth. "This is as much a testament to our nation's expanding economic growth, as it is to the pivotal role played by the automotive industry," Mr. Modi said. The success story of Indian mobility is noteworthy. The nation is witnessing the creation of future-ready infrastructure, such as state-of-the-art expressways, high-speed railways and other forms of multi-modal connectivity that reaches every corner, the prime minister noted. "The holistic approach is ensuring that the benefits of growth are not just confined to a few, but shared by all," Mr. Modi said.

Manipur bans mobile internet, broadband, and VPNs for five days

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Amid ongoing protests demanding the restoration of peace in the strife-torn state rocked Imphal Valley, the Manipur Government imposed a temporary internet ban in the State, along with curfews in three districts preventing people from coming outside their houses. The Manipur Government's Home Department released an order to "curb/temporarily suspend internet and mobile data services including Lease Lines, VSATs, Broadbands and VPN services" in the State for five days from Tuesday. The order stated that order is justified by satisfying conditions like an apprehension of "some anti-social elements" using social media to share images, hate speech and hate video messages to incite "the passions of the public". It also says that inflammatory material and false rumours might be shared through social media. SMS and dogle services, which could lead to an "imminent danger of loss of life and/or damage to public/private property, and widespread disturbances to public tranquillity and communal harmony."

"To thwart the design and activities of anti-national and anti-social elements and to maintain peace and communal harmony and to prevent any loss of life or danger to public/private property, it has become necessary to take adequate measures to maintain law and order in the



public interest, by stopping the spread of disinformation and false rumours, through various social media platform such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc. on various electronic equipment like a tablet, computer, mobile phone etc. and sending bulk SMS, for facilitating and/or mobilisation of mobs of agitators and demonstrators, which can cause loss of life and/or damage to public/private property by indulging in arson/vandalism and other types of violent activities," it said. The curfews were placed in three districts of Manipur - an indefinite curfew in Imphal East and Imphal West, whereas prohibitory orders under Section 163 (2) of BNSS were imposed in Thoubal.

SC stays defamation proceedings against Shashi Tharoor over remarks against PM Modi



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the proceedings in the criminal defamation case filed by a BJP leader against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor over certain remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Tharoor had approached the top court challenging the August 29 Delhi High Court order dismissing his plea to quash the proceedings. A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and R Mahadevan issued notice on his appeal and stayed the proceedings. Appearing for the senior Congress leader, Advocate Mohammed Ali Khan informed the court that he had only quoted from an article published by the Caravan Magazine in 2012 that contained an alleged remark by an unnamed RSS leader comparing Narendra Modi to "a scorpion sitting on a Shivaling". The counsel wondered how the remark became defamatory in 2018 when it was not so in 2012.

Justice Roy remarked that the comment was a metaphor for the invincibility of a person. "Eventually, it is a metaphor. The metaphor would refer to the invincibility of the person who is spoken about. Can't the metaphor not be understood as pointing out the invincibility of the person?" asked Justice Roy. Pointing out that a metaphor could be understood in many ways, Justice Roy said, "I don't know why somebody has taken objection to this". While dismissing Tharoor's plea in August, the Delhi High said that "no grounds are made out for quashing"

the defamation proceedings and that it is expedient that the trial court continues the proceedings. Shashi Tharoor moved a plea before the Delhi High Court in 2020 challenging defamation proceedings against him based on a complaint by BJP leader Rajiv Babbar, who was vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Delhi unit. The Congress leader challenged the summons issued to him by a magisterial trial court in the case and setting aside the order dated April 27, 2019, wherein he was summoned as an accused.

HYDRAA targeting poor, middle class, says BJP MLA



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Hyderabad: Adilabad MLA Payal Shankar has accused the State government of using Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) to target poor and middle class houses. Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, Shankar alleged that the HYDRAA was adopting liberal attitude towards rich and influential persons and targeting poor and middle class families.

Will train 5,000 cyber commandos to combat cybercrime: Amit Shah



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

New Delhi: In a major effort to tackle cybercrime, Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled several key initiatives on Tuesday, including launching a Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre, a web-based module as a comprehensive data repository and portal for sharing cybercrime information, and deploying 5,000 "cyber commandos".

The Home Minister announced that the government aims to train 5,000 cyber commandos over the next five years to strengthen cyber defences across India. Four major cyber platforms have been introduced -- the Suspect Registry, Cyber Commandos, Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre, and the Coordination Platform. He emphasised the importance of creating a Cyber Suspect Registry at the state level, which will serve as a crucial database in the fight against cybercrime. The Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre will integrate police, financial institutions, and other relevant agencies onto a single platform, while the Coordination Platform will enhance collaborative efforts to address cyber threats.

With the rise in digital transactions, Amit Shah underscored the necessity of robust digital security measures. He highlighted recent legislative advancements, including the Indian Judicial Code, which aims to bolster cybersecurity. Acknowledging the evolving nature of cyber threats, including new types of fraud emerging from younger perpetrators, and stressing the need for a comprehensive prevention strategy, he said that, to this end, the government has established joint teams at several locations including Mewat, Jamtara, Guwahati, and Ahmedabad, to combat cybercrime more effectively. Addressing the first foundation day celebration of I4C, he stated: "The reach of cyber criminals knows no bounds. Therefore, a national-level suspect registry encompassing all states is very important for preventing future crimes." Beginning September 10, I4C will also launch a nationwide awareness campaign, utilising over 72 TV channels, 190 FM stations, and various cinema halls to promote the '1930' helpline number. Shah urged all state governments to support this campaign. He asserted that cybersecurity is crucial for the country's progress and is an integral part of national security as well.

Sitaram Yechury in 'critical' condition, on respiratory support at AIIMS: CPI(M)



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury, who is undergoing treatment for acute respiratory tract infection at All India Institute of Medical Science, is in a 'critical condition', a communication from the party's Polit Bureau informed on Tuesday (September 10, 2024). The 72-year-old was admitted to AIIMS on August 19 for the treatment of a pneumonia-like chest infection.

Godavari crosses first warning level at Bhadrachalam

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Kothagudem: First warning issued at Bhadrachalam in the district on Tuesday as river Godavari crossed the first warning level of 43 feet. The water level at 11 am was 45.50 feet with discharge of 10.32 lakh cusecs.

District Collector Jitesh V Patil informed that Godavari water level could rise further as the receiving huge inflows from its tributaries Taliperu, Sabari and Indravati in view of heavy rains in their catchment area.

He advised people living in the villages on the banks of the river to be alert and stay away from the river.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Take balanced stance

THE ongoing dispute between the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and various Waqf boards over the control of heritage monuments underscores the need for a balanced and thoughtful approach. The government must ensure that it upholds secularism while addressing this sensitive issue. At a recent parliamentary panel meeting, the ASI named over 120 monuments under its protection that are also claimed by Waqf boards. The ASI contends that some of these sites were declared Waqf properties long after being classified as protected heritage. The Opposition, however, accuses the ASI of misrepresenting facts and displaying political bias.

The ASI has flagged valid concerns that religious bodies are modifying or adding to the original structures, compromising the historical authenticity of these monuments. Unauthorised constructions like madaras or washrooms built by Waqf boards have reportedly altered the original fabric of some protected sites. However, it is important to acknowledge that such structures are often linked to religious practices.

Instead of adopting a confrontational stance, both the ASI and Waqf boards should engage in dialogue to resolve these differences. A collaborative approach would help protect these monuments while also respecting religious sentiments. This conflict highlights a larger issue: many heritage sites in India also have religious significance, such as the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya or the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi. The government must clearly define the responsibilities of both the ASI and religious bodies to prevent disputes. Amending the Waqf Act and related laws could help manage such sites without infringing on heritage or religious rights, ensuring a harmonious balance between preservation and faith.

Pune illegal telephone exchange: ATS probes financial transactions of accused who got Rs 9 lakh for sharing OTPs, activating SIM cards

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) is probing into the financial transactions of an accused who is suspected to have received Rs 9 lakh for sharing one time passwords (OTPs) and performing other tasks for an illegal telephone exchange which was operating from an apartment in the Kondhwa area of Pune. The ATS has arrested two more suspects, Mohammad Ujjair Shaukat Ali Ansari alias Sonu, 29, of Mamta Nagar, Bhiwandi, and Piyyush Subhashrao Gajbhiye, 29, of the Wardha district, in the illegal telephone exchange case. On August 24, the ATS sleuths, along with a team from the central Department of Telecommunication, raided an illegal telephone exchange at the MS Complex of Miha Nagar in Kondhwa. The ATS had seized seven SIM boxes which contained SIM cards of different companies, 3,788 SIM cards, nine Wi-Fi routers, an antenna, an inverter and a laptop during the raid. Subsequently, during the probe, the Thane ATS arrested Naushad Ahmed Siddiqui, 32, of Bhiwandi, from Rajasthan. He was later handed over to the Pune unit of the ATS. During further investigation, Sonu was arrested on Tuesday night and Gajbhiye in the early hours of Wednesday. The ATS produced all three accused before S K Dugaonkar, Judicial Magistrate First Class, on Wednesday. The court remanded the accused to ATS custody till September 6 for further investigation. Meanwhile, the investigators have named one more suspect as a wanted accused in this case. Assistant public prosecutor Bodhini Shashikala said that custody of the accused persons was sought to probe whether they have provided routing services to people from any foreign countries. Accused involved in supporting anti-national activities?

The ATS has sent the seized SIM cards, SIM boxes and routers for forensic investigation. It is also probing the mobile phone calls made by the accused and the internet service they used to run the illegal telephone exchange. Shashikala submitted before the court that custodial interrogation of the accused is necessary to know from where the accused procured the SIM cards, got the Internet connection and details about the other seized material. "To whom the accused shared the OTPs generated for the illegal telephone exchange, where the phone calls were directed, whether the accused were involved in supporting any anti national activities, and the quantum of loss caused to the government through the illegal telecom set up are also being probed," she said. The ATS probe has revealed that all the three accused have previously worked together in Bhiwandi. It also suspects that the accused were allegedly operating the illegal telephone exchange at Kondhwa for the last eight months. The prosecution said Gajbhiye is suspected to have received an amount of about Rs 9 lakh for performing tasks like sharing OTPs and activating SIM cards. Gajbhiye has done a diploma in a course related to computers, while the other two accused are school dropouts, said ATS sources. Prima facie, the ATS investigation has revealed that Siddiqui and his associates were operating the unauthorised telephone exchange for money. Over the past few years, various police agencies and the telecom department have busted multiple illegal telephone exchanges and SIM box scams in different parts of the country. On July 31, 2024, the ATS had busted another unauthorised telephone exchange in the Bhiwandi area. During the action, the ATS seized nine SIM boxes, 246 SIM cards, eight routers, 191 antennas, and an inverter. The Thane unit of the ATS had arrested Jafar Babu Usman Patel, 40, in the case. After a similar action in Chennai, the telecom department stated last year that illegal telecom setups consisting of SIM boxes and a SIM-based wireless internet router are used to make international calls as local calls, bypassing the licensed international long-distance operators (ILDO) network. "The SIM box fraud is a setup where fraudsters team up with partners abroad to route international calls through the internet using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP). These international calls will appear as calls with local/national CLI. Such illegal telecom setups pose threats to national security in addition to causing revenue loss to the telecom service providers (ILDO, NLDO), mobile and landline phone service providers and Government exchequer," reads a 2023 media release from the Press Information Bureau.

Delhi Development Authority agrees to pay Rs 20 lakh to man whose wife, son died after slipping into Mayur Vihar open drain



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The Delhi Development Authority on Thursday agreed to pay Rs 20 lakh as compensation to the man whose wife and three-year-old son died after slipping into an uncovered drain in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar in heavy rain on July 31. The award of the compensation comes after the Delhi High Court bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela on August 22 had demanded accountability of officers as well as appropriate compensation for the kin of the

deceased. The DDA had claimed that the mother-son duo had fallen into the drain that comes under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), and that the bodies had only floated into the area under DDA's purview. However, the police probe revealed that the open drain was in the jurisdiction of DDA. While the DDA initially proposed to pay Rs 15 lakh, the amount was subsequently hiked to 20 lakh upon the insistence of the bench and the petitioner. The police submitted that it is likely to file a chargesheet soon, once the requisite sanctions are received. The bench disposed of the petition following the submission from the DDA.

The MCD additionally informed the court that it is making the best efforts to complete the work of the redevelopment of drains at the accident site by December although the scheduled deadline is April next year. The MCD also added that the area has been barricaded. The mother-son duo drowned in the drain while they were returning home amid heavy rain. The boy, Priyansh, slipped into the uncovered drain as it was not visible due to the surrounding area being completely waterlogged. His mother Tanuja fell inside while trying to rescue the boy.

BJP fields Rao Narbir Singh from Badshahpur; Gurgaon, Sohna incumbents miss out on ticket



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Haryana elections Speaking to The Indian Express on Tuesday, Rao had said: "My ticket from the BJP is almost certain and I would contest the election. I have started preparations for the poll battle." (Facebook/ Rao Narbir Singh) The BJP has published its first list of 67 candidates for the upcoming Assembly elections in Haryana, slated for October 5. Contesting from Badshahpur is former minister Rao Narbir Singh — his candidature comes days after he had unleashed a 'rebellion' against the party, threatening to contest from the Congress if the BJP does not consider him. Speaking to The Indian Express on Tuesday, Rao had said: "My ticket from the BJP is almost certain and I would contest the election. I have started preparations for the poll battle." He

was a minister in the 2014 Cabinet, but lost his seat in 2019. In Gurgaon and Sohna, the party has decided not to field its incumbents — Sudhir Singla and Cabinet Minister Sanjay Singh.

In Gurgaon, the party has gone with Mukesh Sharma, who has served as the national working committee member, Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, and was the national coordinator of BJP Sports Cell in 2009. He also contested from the Badshahpur constituency in the 2009 elections. In Sohna, the party has selected Tejpal Tanwar, who was the former MLA from the same constituency in 2014. He has also served as the BJP's Gurgaon district president. In Ateli, the BJP has given the ticket to Arti Singh Rao, the daughter of Gurgaon MP and Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh. Arti had earlier said she would certainly contest, "with or without BJP". Jawahar Yadav, who was an officer on special duty to former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, and among the contenders for the Badshahpur seat, said the party informed him that he would not contest the elections. "On August 26, I received a message from the party that I am not contesting the election. Therefore, I request my colleagues that whoever the BJP chooses as its candidate, we all must ensure that he wins," he said in a post on X Tuesday. "All of you have supported me a lot in my preparation to contest the election from the Badshahpur Legislative Assembly, for which I will be grateful to you throughout my life," Yadav, the chief spokesperson of the Haryana BJP, said.

'6 years since decriminalisation of same-sex relationships, daily challenges persist for LGBTQIA+ community,' Pune foundation writes to Ministry of Social Justice



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

LGBTQIA Same-sex marriages have no legal sanction. The Supreme Court last year ruled out constitutional validity to same-sex marriages and observed that it was for Parliament to formulate legislation. Six years since the historic decision of the Supreme Court decriminalising same-sex relationships between consenting adults, the LGBTQIA+ community continues to face challenges on account of lack of legal recognition for same-sex marriages, said Bindumadhav Khire, Director of Pune-based Bindu Queer Rights Foundation, in a letter to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Same-sex marriages have no legal sanction. The Supreme Court last year ruled out constitutional validity to same-sex marriages and observed that it was for Parliament to formulate legislation. "On October 17, 2023, a Constitution Bench of five Supreme Court judges, de-

clined to grant same-sex couples the right to marriage under the Special Marriage Act, 1954, which means that same-sex partners who are living in same-sex relationships continue to be regarded as second-class citizens," Khire said in the letter. The letter has also been sent to cabinet secretary T V Somanathan who is the president of the Committee that has been appointed this year to study issues affecting persons in same-sex relationships. Listing the challenges, Khire pointed out that a same-sex partner cannot be nominated under the Gratuity Act. "The same-sex partner is not considered a family and hence cannot claim gratuity. (Whereas if it were a married heterosexual couple, the man or the woman can nominate their spouse to claim gratuity)," he said. "Most medical insurance companies do not allow for a same-sex partner to be listed as a dependent. So, if the partner does not have medical insurance and is to be hospitalised, the expenses will not be taken care off through his partner's insurance," Khire added. When contacted, Nitin Karani, 53, a Mumbai-based LGBTQIA+ activist who was among the original petitioners in the same-sex marriage case in the Supreme Court, said, "whatever the government has announced so far, is only because the Chief Justice of India in their verdict last October asked them to do." "Although unsurprising, it is a shame that this government is unwilling to fulfill the Constitution's promise of equality. While the measures announced may be essential, not only they don't go far enough to achieve the goal of treating all people equally, but I would also caution that the proof of the pudding is in the eating. So, the quality and time frame of execution need monitoring," he told.

'Why is custody of ex-IAS trainee officer Puja Khedkar required?': Delhi HC to probe agencies

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The Delhi High Court Thursday asked probe agencies why they want to take former IAS trainee officer Puja Khedkar into custody when all the allegedly forged documents were already with the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). Khedkar has been accused of fraudulently clearing the civil services examination held by the UPSC. Meanwhile, the court of Justice Subramonium Prasad extended Khedkar's protection from arrest until September 26 when it's due to hear the matter again. It also granted more time to the probe agencies investigating the matter. Even as the UPSC maintained that Khedkar has "played with the law which is extraordinary," Justice Prasad orally remarked, "Your argument is very simple... all documents are in custody of UPSC then why do you need her custody? As far as the state is concerned, allegation is she has given false documents, wrong information, in which case trial will take place whether documents are false. Why do you need her custody?" Senior

advocate Sidharth Luthra representing Khedkar argued, "UPSC is not the state. This is the problem in the matter, if UPSC is going to dictate the investigation, where are we going to go?" The police submitted that there was a conspiracy in Khedkar attempting the civil services exam nine times as an OBC candidate — the maximum permissible limit for an OBC candidate — and then allegedly changing her name and declaring in 2022 that she only had three attempts. The police claimed that her custody was required to probe the conspiracy aspect. Justice Prasad said, "For that, it will be father, mother, daughter and the daughter has given false certificates, your investigation and chargesheet will be she has given false documents, fudged medical reports. Question again is, what purpose will be served by her custody? Only reason for her custody is if she is to tamper with evidence or is a flight risk." Addressing the UPSC, the Court remarked, "It's actually a mistake at your end that you permitted (her attempts) with the change of name."

Yettinahoe drinking water project: First phase inaugurated



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The first phase of the ambitious Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Supply Project, which aims to provide water supply to the arid districts in interior south Karnataka, will be inaugurated on Friday. The project, first proposed in 2012, was estimated to cost around Rs 12,000 crore. However, the government revised the cost to Rs 23,251 crore in 2022, citing cost escalation during the project's implementation. Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar told reporters on Thursday that once both phases of the project are complete, around 24 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water will be supplied to drought-prone regions of the state. "The project aims to recharge groundwater and supply drinking water," he said. The project aims to benefit seven districts, primarily Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, and Tumakuru. Parts of Hassan and Chikkamagaluru will also receive water from the project. The first phase includes diverting floodwaters from the west-flowing Yettinahole river and its tributaries, along with the necessary infrastructure for the process. The diverted water is then directed into gravity canals with a combined length of 252.61 km, reaching Kolar district at the state's eastern edge.

All work up to 42 km from the water source, running along the gravity canals, has been completed. According to a recent statement issued by Shivakumar, the supplied water will also fill tanks located along the Veda Valley in parts of Chikkamagaluru and Hassan districts. The second phase of the project, which is expected to be completed in 2027, involves completing the gravity canal works along the entire length of the project, construction of the Bhairagondlu balancing reservoir at the Koratagere taluk in the Tumkur district, component works at the reservoir, and construction of Kolar and Srinivasapur feeders.

Delhi to implement 21-point Winter Action Plan to combat pollution, says Gopal Rai



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said that the government will focus on the 21-point Winter Action Plan, as pollution levels in the city peak during the cold months. A joint meeting was held with 35 key departments, including the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), Delhi Police, Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC), Public Works Department (PWD), and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), among others.

During the meeting, the officials discussed strategies to implement a more robust plan this year, Rai said. In a press conference, Rai said, "Like last year, the government is committed to addressing pollution, especially during the winter months when it peaks. This time, we will focus on new measures as part of the 21-point Winter Action Plan." Rai said that in preparation for the upcoming winter, the government has begun working on an enhanced version of its winter action plan. Last year, the government implemented a comprehensive 15-point action plan to reduce pollution. He also said, "Ever since the Kejriwal government came into power, there has been a noticeable reduction in pollution levels across the capital."

5 snatchings reported in New Delhi's Mayur Vihar in 14 hours, 2 stabbed

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

On the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, a man named Pravesh, 28, was stabbed when he resisted the attempt of three assailants to snatch his mobile phone. On the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, a man named Pravesh, 28, was stabbed when he resisted the attempt of three assailants to snatch his mobile phone.

Five snatchings were reported in the Mayur Vihar area of New Delhi within a span of 14 hours recently. Two victims were also stabbed when they resisted the snatchers. According to the police, all the incidents happened within a 2 km radius, with the first case being reported at around 4 pm on September 1 — wherein two bikers snatched the mobile phone of a 52-year-old man. Within a couple of hours of that incident, two men riding a scooter snatched the phone of a 21-year-old youth while he was in an e-rickshaw. In the third incident, Arvind Parihar, a lawyer, was near the Mayur Vihar district centre on the evening of September 1, when his phone was snatched by a biker, the police said.

On the intervening night of Sunday and Monday, a man named Pravesh, 28, was stabbed when he resisted the attempt of three assailants to snatch his mobile phone. In the early hours of Monday, at around 6:30 am, three men on a bike followed one Vineet, 24, while he was on his way to the gym, and tried snatching his phone, the police said. When Vineet resisted, he was also stabbed.

Swachh Bharat Mission averted 60,000-70,000 infant deaths annually: Study



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The access to toilets and overall better sanitation conditions since the implementation of the flagship Swachh Bharat Mission prevented 60,000-70,000 infant deaths annually in India, a new study has found. After the implementation of the mission, there was an accelerated reduction in infant and child (under 5 years of age) mortality, in comparison to years prior to this intervention, the study, published in the Scientific Reports under the Nature publication group, showed. Reacting to the study, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday took to X and wrote, "Happy to see research highlighting the impact of efforts like the Swachh Bharat Mission. Access to proper toilets plays a crucial role in reducing infant and child mortality. Clean, safe sanitation has become a game-changer for public health. And, I am glad India has taken the lead in this."

Launched in October 2014, the Swachh Bharat Mission facilitated the construction of over 100 million household toilets till 2020. Over six lakh villages were subsequently declared Open Defecation Free. Mortality-related data obtained from the National Family Health Surveys

and the District Level Household Surveys from 640 districts across 35 states / UTs was used in the study.

The study estimated that one-fifth (about 10.80 lakh) of the total 5.4 million deaths of children aged under five around the globe involved cases from India. Sanitation being one of the crucial interventions in public health, the prevailing practise of open defecation was one of the key factors linked to infant and child health issues. The practice of open defecation resulted in recurrent infections through faecal or oral routes, leading to dehydration and ultimately death among these young children. The study noted an overall decline in the infant mortality between 2003 and 2020, with a noteworthy fall from 2015. For instance, in 2003, the toilet coverage in a district was below 40 per cent and by 2020, this jumped to over 60 per cent. An inverse relation between access and infant mortality was established. The study stated that a district even with a minimum of 30 per cent of toilet access coverage had managed to reduce the infant mortality rate by a substantial number and in absolute numbers, it amounted to 60,000-70,000 deaths annually.

In 2003, the infant mortality rate in a majority of the districts exceeded 60 per 1,000 live births with a district mean of 48.9. These included districts in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. But by 2020, the deaths had fallen below 30 per 1,000 live births with the district mean of 23.5. While many of these states still report infant mortality, their numbers have been significantly brought down, especially in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan. However, some pockets of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh continue to report infant mortality of 45-60 per 1,000 live births as recorded in 2020, the study underscored.

Man accused of conspiracy in beheading of Rajasthan tailor Kanhaiya Lal gets bail

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Javed, who was accused of conducting a recce for the main accused, was granted bail by a bench of Justices Pankaj Bhandari and Justice Praveer Bhatnagar. On June 28, 2022, two persons — Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad — had allegedly hacked to death Kanhaiya Lal Teli at his shop in Udaipur, over a post shared by him on social media in support of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma. The BJP leader had made comments about the Prophet during a live television debate.

Javed's lawyer Syed Saadat Ali said that, "An

appeal was filed by Mohammad Javed. We had filed an appeal on the grounds that he was arrested merely on the basis of call details. He has been in jail since July 21,

2022 and the only thing against him were the call details. But the NIA could not even prove the location in the call details or that all three of them conspired." Ali said, "They could not point to the location where all three allegedly sat (and conspired). NIA said that Mohammad Javed called the main accused at 11 am and informed him that Kanhaiya Lal is at his shop. However, neither in the challan or in the map, the distance between Kanhaiya Lal's shop to Javed's is shown. And if Javed still left his shop and went to see Kanhaiya at his shop, then he would've been captured in the CCTV and his face would have been there. But no videography or CCTV evidence was presented, nor his location was proved. On this ground, the honourable High Court released Mohammad Javed on a bail of Rs 2 lakh." While main accused Mohammad Riyaz and Ghouse Mohammad were picked up within hours of the murders, some others, including Javed, were arrested later in connection with the murder. Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan Assembly, Congress's Tika Ram Jyoti, said, "The accused are getting bail under the BJP rule, which did politics over the murder of Kanhaiya Lal. This is the real face of the BJP."

BJP chief Ravinder Raina files nomination from Nowshera assembly seat



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Jammu and Kashmir BJP chief Ravinder Raina on Thursday filed his nomination papers from the Nowshera Assembly constituency in Rajouri district. Raina held a roadshow in Nowshera with RSS functionary and former BJP general secretary Ram Madhav. This marks Raina's second contest from the seat.

"This isn't just my candidacy, it represents the aspirations of 1.25 lakh people of the Nowshera constituency. It is their mandate and the voice of the people. The overwhelming turnout here, reminiscent of (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi ji's rallies, shows BJP's imminent victory," Raina said during a public rally. Raina thanked the people for their support, asserting that the massive turnout was a promising sign for the BJP's prospects in the elections. "The people of Nowshera await us with even

greater enthusiasm," he added. Expressing confidence in the BJP's victory in the polls, Raina said he was hopeful that the party would form government with a majority.

Raina also criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and his alliance partner National Conference for allegedly disrespecting the region's Maharajas. "The people of Jammu and Kashmir will respond to the Congress and its allies," he asserted. He further denounced the alleged remarks against tribals by some NC leaders and said the people would teach them a lesson in the elections. Madhav urged voters to support BJP for continued peace, progress, and development. "BJP will emerge as the single-largest party in Jammu... Our candidates contesting in the valley are strong and poised to lead in the elections," Madhav said. "The forthcoming government in Jammu and Kashmir will be of nationalists, not anti-nationalists," he added. Raina, 47, who previously won from Nowshera in the 2014 polls, has been nominated once again from his home constituency. He took over as BJP's Jammu and Kashmir president in May 2018. Raina's primary opponent is former MLC Surinder Choudhary, who joined the National Conference in July 2023 after over a year with the BJP. In the 2008 elections, National Conference candidate Radhaya Sham Sharma secured the seat. In 2002, Congress candidate Romesh Chander Sharma won the seat. The Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in three phases with voting for the first phase to be held on September 18 followed by the second phase on September 25 and the third phase on October 1.

Amid rising prices, Centre starts selling onions at Rs 35 per kg

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

With retail prices of onion hovering over 47 per cent higher as compared to a year ago, Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi flagged off vans of two government cooperatives — National Cooperative Consumer's Federation (NCCF) and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation — which will sell the bulbs at Rs 35 per kg. The Central Government has decided to intervene in the market because of the rising prices of onions.

Speaking to reporters, Joshi said keeping food inflation under control is a priority of the Centre and several direct interventions through price stabilisation measures have played an important role in bringing down the inflation rate in recent months. Joshi said the onion buffer stock available with the government is 4.7 lakh tonnes from the Rabi crop. The Price Stabilisation Fund, which was started under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims at intervening in the market when the price of essential commodities increases, Joshi said, adding that the retail sale of onion will provide relief to the consumers across the country. The all-India daily average price of onion was recorded at Rs 49.21 per kg on September 4, which is 47.29 per cent higher as compared to Rs 33.41 per kg a year ago, according to the data available on the portal of the Department of Consumer Affairs. The increase is even sharper in the wholesale prices. Data shows that the all-India consumer wholesale price of onion was recorded at Rs 4,158.71 per quintal on September 4, which was 62.40 per cent as compared to Rs 2560.19 per quintal a year ago.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said retail sales of onion are starting from Thursday in Delhi, the National Capital Region (NCR), and Mumbai. Thereafter, in the next one-week agencies will cover Kolkata, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Raipur, and Bhubaneswar, she said. By



the third week of September, there will be pan-India distribution, she said, adding agencies are also tying up with other Cooperatives and big retail chains across the country. Khare said a sufficient quantity of onions is available in the buffer stock. As of date, a quantity of 4.70 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of onion is available in the buffer stock, which is higher as compared to last year's stock of 3 lakh tonnes. She said 95 per cent of the stock is in Maharashtra, while the remaining 5 per cent is in Madhya Pradesh. The overall availability of onion is comfortable as about 38 lakh metric tonnes of onions are still stored with farmers and traders, she added. Khare said farmers received a better price for onions because of the procurement of the buffer stock. The average buffer procurement price this year was Rs 2,833 per quintal as against Rs. 1,724 per quintal last year, she said. She added the outlook for onion availability and prices in the coming months remains positive as the Kharif sowing area has seen an increase of 102 per cent until August 26, 2024, over last year. As per data compiled by the Department of Agriculture, 2.90 lakh hectares have been covered under Kharif onion until August 26, 2024, as against 1.94 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year, she added.

Ahead of J-K polls, Army doubles down on counter-infiltration, redeploys troops in temporary bases, LoC fence

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Ahead of the elections in Jammu and Kashmir, the Army is working on further strengthening its counter-infiltration grid by redeploying its troops, including along the Line of Control (LoC) fence, in Temporary Operating Bases (TOBs) in the higher reaches as well as in forests and mountains, where intense search operations would be carried out, officials aware of the plans told The Indian Express. This redeployment of troops at all three levels is aimed at destabilising terrorists by disrupting their hide-outs and drawing them into contact, as well as denying them access to population centres. Around 300 additional companies of central armed paramilitary forces have been deployed for the first phase of the elections, on September 18, and this would be stationed in towns and hinterlands for the protection of booths, candidates and the voting population. The Army would stay away from the population centres and a sector of the Assam Rifles is also being inducted in the Jammu region. The Army will be carrying out intense search operations as part of the exercise, the sources added, while there will be large-scale seek and destroy operations. Sources said that tourist access would be temporarily denied to specific spots, especially forested areas of North Kashmir that lie close to the LoC. The troops are deployed along the LoC, LoC fence, and the permanent operating bases round the year and operations are carried out regularly. However, the intensity of operations will be raised and a larger number of TOBs will be established in specific vulnerable areas as part of enhanced security measures during the polls.

As part of the preparations, Route Opening Parties will also step up operations, and more check posts, including mobile vehicle ones, will come up at population centres and roads. Drones will be deployed for increased surveillance and area domination. Surveillance has already been stepped up as regards activities of known overground workers. Officials said adequate reserves have also been kept by the Army to respond to any contingency in a faster timeframe. An official admitted that given the enhanced tempo of operations, which can "be sustained for a limited time frame", they will only be carried out ahead of and during the forthcoming elections. Intelligence reports have suggested that the terrorists may carry out "low-key incidents to disrupt election activities", ensuring that they don't attract any large-scale retaliation from security forces.

The sources quoted above also said that security forces have prepared their response strategies to deal with various situations that may arise during the elections. J&K has seen a spate of terror attacks in the last few months, resulting in fatalities among security forces. The Indian Express reported last month that the common factors in these attacks — a majority of them in areas south of the Pir Panjal range — are that the mili-



tants have better communications equipment to send out encrypted messages and modern rifles, they seem better trained psychologically and physically, and they also seem to be trading in narcotics. Last week, three terrorists were killed in two encounters with security forces in Kupwara district. As per sources, the strict vigilance and increased area domination which is being carried out during the election season has played a role in the success of the joint operation that was launched by the Army and the Jammu and Kashmir police. Additionally, the security drills of military establishments have also been stepped up.

Telangana govt educational institutions to get free electricity

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Hyderabad: The State government on Thursday announced free power supply to all government educational institutions in the State. An order to this effect has been issued by Secretary to Government (Energy department) D Ronald Rose. For the scheme, which came into force immediately, the Telangana Discoms would create an online portal with logins given to respective departments of all the government educational institutions. As per modalities issued by the Energy department, secretaries of the department concerned would finalise the list of institutions to be covered in the scheme and include the same on the online portal. Monthly billing would be done for each institution and displayed in the department's login. Hard copy of the bill would be given to the respective institution in-charge, showing consumption in units and billed value, the order read. The portal would also enable generation of reports pertaining to the consumption, bill amount, historical consumption, billing, payments and balance etc., institution, mandal and district wise and would be available to all the departments, it said.

'Thought I had a stable job': An unhappy Teachers' Day for thousands of men and women in Chhattisgarh

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Shashank, Rakesh, Tumeshwari and Neelam are among the 2,897 B.Ed teachers appointed as assistant teachers in Chhattisgarh's primary schools who now face the prospect of losing their jobs after the Supreme Court, on August 28, dismissed their petition appealing against a HC order deeming their appointment illegal. Shashank, Rakesh, Tumeshwari and Neelam are among the 2,897 B.Ed teachers appointed as assistant teachers in Chhattisgarh's primary schools who now face the prospect of losing their jobs after the Supreme Court, on August 28, dismissed their petition appealing against a HC order deeming their appointment illegal. Shashank, Rakesh, Tumeshwari and Neelam are among the 2,897 B.Ed teachers appointed as assistant teachers in Chhattisgarh's primary schools who now face the prospect of losing their jobs after the Supreme Court, on August 28, dismissed their petition appealing against a HC order deeming their appointment illegal. 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Ahead of Supreme Court hearing, officer transferred out from Rajaji reserve



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Rahul has now been posted as Chief Conservator of Forests of the Monitoring, Evaluation, IT, and Modernization division, the position he held before moving to the Rajaji reserve. The order issued by a Deputy Secretary of the Forest Department said Rahul himself requested for his transfer from Rajaji reserve on September 3. In a statement, the state government said it had removed Rahul as Rajaji director on September 3, and that the government gave this information to the Supreme Court Wednesday. Following this, the Supreme Court had closed proceedings in the matter. "The state government had transferred many IFOs officers in the past, in which senior officer Rahul was made the director of Rajaji National Park. But later some controversy started arising on this, which was immediately cognized by Chief Minister (Pushkar Singh) Dhami. Along with this, the Chief Minister had summoned a report on the entire process from the department. As per guidelines from the Chief Minister, the Forest Department removed Rahul from the post of Director of Rajaji National Park on Tuesday," the statement said. Banshidhar Tiwari, Uttarakhand's DG Information, told The Indian Express that the government removed Rahul from the post after the controversy arose. "The state government representative put this information before the Court, and the Supreme Court has accepted that," he said.

Asked on what grounds had he sought a transfer from Rajaji, Rahul said: "Nothing specific... Though there is no anomaly in my transfer order and it can pass any judicial scrutiny, the process may be quite lengthy and

tiresome... (and) I may not be able to do proper justice to my present assignment, which requires focused attention in the multifarious activities of the tiger reserve. So I requested the government to discharge me of the responsibilities of Rajaji."

On August 29, The Indian Express reported that Chief Minister Dhami had overruled the state Forest Minister and the Chief Secretary to hand the charge of Rajaji TR to Rahul who was removed two years ago as head of the Corbett TR after the Uttarakhand High Court took note of illegal tree felling and construction there. Following The Indian Express report, Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal contested it, claiming that the decision to post Rahul to Rajaji TR had been taken unanimously – Uniyal was not available for comment Wednesday. In December 2021, The Indian Express reported how the state government had started work on a tiger safari in Corbett before receiving forest clearance from the Centre. It highlighted how the state had embarked on a construction spree. In January 2022, the Uttarakhand High Court directed the state government to take action against officials responsible for the alleged illegal activities. In April 2022, the state suspended two forest officers and removed Rahul from the post of Corbett's director. He was attached to the office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) in Dehradun.

As reported by The Indian Express, the first step to get Rahul back in charge of a tiger reserve took place on July 18 when Minister Uniyal, with approval from the Chief Minister, proposed his appointment as Rajaji director. But the Forest Minister himself resubmitted the file to the Chief Minister on July 24, seeking his approval to maintain the status quo with Rahul and also proposed the name of another officer for the Rajaji reserve post. This was after a note routed through the Principal Secretary and the Chief Secretary sought to reconsider the decision to post the officer in Rajaji in view of "an ongoing disciplinary proceeding" against him, a "CBI probe" and a "case in the Supreme Court" regarding the alleged illegal activities inside Corbett. Disregarding these submissions, file notings showed, Chief Minister Dhami reiterated the decision to post Rahul in Rajaji through a handwritten note on August 8. Rahul was posted to Rajaji the next day.

China floods global market with state support, harms economic, national security: White House Official

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Slamming China for "flooding" the global market with "state support", a senior White House official Wednesday said it would next enter the artificial intelligence and electric vehicle market, harming economic stability and national security. During an event in New Delhi, United States Deputy National Security Advisor and Sherpa for G20 and G7, Daleep Singh said, "There's one country, China, that is flooding the market with supply... and the consequence is that it's pricing out the competition and undercutting the financial viability of the hundreds of billions of dollars that we're putting to work to revitalise our industrial capacity."

"It started in steel, aluminium, wind, machine tools, and medical equipment. Now, the trend is intensifying to strategic sectors — EVs, batteries, semiconductors, quantum AI will be next," said Singh, who is on a two-day visit to New Delhi just months ahead of the US presidential elections. "However," he said, "if China's growing dominance... was purely the by-product of indigenous innovation and market forces, we would applaud the positive spillovers... That's not what's happening. It's the byproduct of massive, unrivalled state support... that's causing harm to our economic security... our national security." During his visit, Singh will meet Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, and business leaders to discuss deeper collaboration in key areas including AI, biotech, semiconductors, and clean energy. His comments come days after Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar had flagged that India has a "special China problem", over and above the world's "general China problem", calling for investments from China to be scrutinised.

"There is a general China problem. We are not the only country in the world that is having a debate about China. Go to Europe, and ask them what is among their major economic or national security debates today. It is about China. Look at the US. It is obsessed with China, and rightly so in many ways," Jaishankar had said at the ET World Leaders Forum. Singh, in conversation with



India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant at an event by Delhi-based foreign policy think-tank Observer Research Foundation, also spoke about the future of G20 and how it was intertwined with the US election results. "Last year's G20 was a masterful demonstration of how to bring together countries that don't necessarily share all the same values, even the same interests, towards a consensus statement. I think it's going to be harder now," he said. "Multilateralism and diplomacy are on the ballot... and the G20 summit happens two weeks after the US election. So it's almost a binary." Singh returned to his role as Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economics earlier this year after having served under Barack Obama. He was a key player in discussions on sanctions against Russia over its war in Ukraine till 2022. During his earlier visit to India in April 2022, he had warned of consequences for any country that seeks to circumvent sanctions on Russia, at a time when India continued to buy oil from Russia. Two years later, without a mention of Russia Wednesday, he said forging enduring alliances with countries that have shared interests, is not through sanctions but through economics and technology. "We know two-thirds of the world's population is not part of American sanctions. We need to reflect on that and decide," he said.

Russia sourcing sensitive goods from India for its war effort: UK daily FT

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Russia sourcing sensitive goods from India for its war effort: UK daily FT. Russia and its Indian partners, the report claimed, targeted dual-use technologies — goods with both civilian and military applications — that are subject to Western export controls. Citing leaked Russian state correspondence and unnamed Western officials, the UK-based daily Financial Times reported Wednesday that Russia has been secretly acquiring sensitive goods in India and explored building facilities in the country to secure components for its war effort. According to the FT report, Russia's industry and trade ministry, which oversees defence production to support its invasion of Ukraine, drew up confidential plans in October 2022 to spend about Rs 82 billion (\$1bn at the time) on securing critical electronics through channels hidden from Western governments. According to the report, the plan was to use "significant reserves" of rupees amassed by Russian banks from booming oil sales to India. It saw India as an alternative market to source crucial goods "previously supplied from unfriendly countries", it said. Russia and its Indian partners, the report claimed, targeted dual-use technologies — goods with both civilian and military applications — that are subject to Western export controls. India has defended its purchase of Russian oil at discounted prices, and even pointed out the "hypocrisy" of the West given that Europe's energy needs are still met by Russia via indirect routes. In Kyiv last month, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Ukraine, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar defended India's energy trade with Russia. Responding to questions, he said it came up during the discussions with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and it was explained to the Ukrainian side about the "tight energy market".

"India is a big oil consumer. It's a big oil importer



because we don't produce oil. So, it's not like there is a political strategy to buy oil. There is an oil strategy to buy oil. There's a market strategy to buy oil... The fact that the market is tight, that today big suppliers like Iran and Venezuela, who used to supply India, are constrained from operating freely in the markets... This factor needs to be taken into account," Jaishankar said. The FT report stated that "Moscow even envisaged pumping investment into Russo-Indian electronics development and production facilities" but added the disclaimer that the extent to which Moscow enacted its plan was unclear. The report stated that Wally Adeyemo, the US deputy treasury secretary, wrote in July to three of India's top business organisations warning them that "any foreign financial institution that does business with Russia's military industrial base risks being sanctioned itself". Adeyemo added: "This heightened sanctions risk exists regardless of the currency used in a transaction." On August 20, The Indian Express reported that US government officials were sensitising Indian companies and exporters to deter them from supplying Russia with items and technology that could end up being used in Russian missiles and other defence equipment.

Deafening silence and choreographed timidity in SAU, says Sri Lankan scholar forced to quit over Chomsky's criticism of NDA govt



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Describing South Asian University's inquiry into a PhD proposal citing linguist Noam Chomsky's criticism of the NDA government as "utterly unreasonable", Sasanka Perera (62), the scholar who later quit over the issue, told The Indian Express that the "deafening silence" of his colleagues and the "choreographed timidity", on campus suggests that SAU "will never again stand for academic freedom." Perera, a Lankan cultural anthropologist who taught Sociology at SAU for 13 years, was a founding member of its Sociology department and one of about six foreign faculty on campus. He took voluntary retirement amid a disciplinary inquiry against him over the research proposal, with July 31 being his last day on campus.

Speaking to The Indian Express from Sri Lanka, Perera said, "I decided to retire prematurely as I did not see any semblance of justice coming from a process that was initiated, in the first place, on trumped up and irrational charges. So, yes, if not for the disciplinary inquiry and the illegal, let alone unethical ways in which it unfolded, I would have opted to remain at SAU until next year to retire as I had planned. But this was simply not possible." As first reported by this newspaper on July 27, SAU had issued notices to the PhD student and his supervisor Perera earlier this year over the former's proposal on Kashmir's ethnography and politics which cited, among

other things, an interview with Chomsky in which the linguist is heard saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi comes from a "radical Hindutva tradition" and is attempting to "dismantle Indian secular democracy" and "impose Hindu technocracy." Perera said that the student "...merely stated that he apologises if the interview he had conducted and referred to in his proposal has hurt anybody's feelings... And I think that is reasonable. But what has been done to the student and to me, are utterly unreasonable acts and should not be faced by anyone... No one has said a word. My former department and university colleagues have maintained a deafening silence... This is a classic example of the parochiality now apparent in SAU coming to the fore." When contacted, Dev Nath Pathak, head of SAU's Sociology department declined to comment. The Indian Express reached out to Sanjay Chaturvedi, the Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences through calls and messages but didn't receive a response.

Perera added: "Unfortunately, the fallout of this silence and the institutionalised and choreographed timidity is that no critical and self-reflective research will ever be undertaken at the South Asian University. Not in any department. No one will be willing to supervise such research even if some students may want to." Referring to Chomsky's critique of the NDA government in the proposal which triggered the inquiry, Perera said that targeting him and his student "for an opinion that neither of us have authored is beyond ridiculousness." "Chomsky's criticism of the Indian Prime Minister... is nothing new. It also has nothing to do with the study of Kashmir. This is a general criticism which he has made elsewhere too... If these people have a problem with these views, they should have questioned Prof Chomsky," he said. "It appears there was an expectation that I would compromise the student concerned, and also come begging to the Dean and the SAU President and ask for their 'pardon'. But this is not the background I come from. For me, what is wrong is wrong and I will not pander to anyone to save my own skin. Expectedly, this was not a welcome trait in the SAU environment which rewarded subservience," he added. Perera says he plans to co-edit a book on South Asian intellectual traditions, write about pilgrimage, continue a heritage project, and translate poetry.

Most solar investments flowing to developed countries and China: ISA head

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

While the deployment of solar energy for electricity generation has been happening at an ever increasing rate, most of the investments are still flowing in to the developed countries, China and large developing nations like India. But head of International Solar Alliance Ajay Mathur (ISA) says that the last few years of ground work in the low-income countries, particularly in Africa, would begin yielding fruits soon. "Yes, it is true that most of the solar power plants are being installed in the developed world and in China. When we had started, there was a target to attract one trillion dollars into solar energy. That target has been achieved. But unfortunately, about 74 per cent of these investments have gone to the developed countries and China. If you add India to it, this goes up to more than 80 per cent. We haven't seen much in other developing countries, in Africa, for example. But that is expected to pick up soon," Mathur, director general of ISA, a New Delhi-based multilateral organisation, said in an interview with The Indian Express. Mathur said the lop-sided pattern of deployment of solar energy was not unexpected or surprising.

"There is no running away from the fact that the entry barriers in most of these (low-income) countries are much higher. It would be unrealistic for them to compete with countries like China in attracting investments. And their requirements are also very different. They are not running for massively large solar farms. They need solar-powered solutions, solar-enabled applications rather than large solar plants. ISA has been working in 92 countries to create the right environment for deployment of solar energy. There have been some remarkable successes, like in Democratic Republic of Congo, or in Cuba, but challenges remain. But I can confidently say that within a year or two we will see many more solar projects flowing to these countries," he said. ISA, set up at the initiative of India at the 2015 Paris climate change conference, now has 100 members. It is organising a two-day 'solar festival' in Delhi, beginning Thursday, in which hundreds of people from the member countries would participate. The first of its kind event expects to create greater awareness about solar solutions amongst the people and share success stories and best practices.

"Community participation is the key to deployment of solar energy in many of these countries. They need to see what is happening in other countries, talk to each other and learn from each other," Mathur said. ISA plans to make this festival an annual event to be held in different member countries. Mathur said he expected the solar deployment in India too to pick up pace in the coming



months. "From what I have learnt, in the last eight months or so there have been at least four tenders for round-the-clock renewable energy supply projects (solar plus wind plus batteries) where the offer price per unit of electricity is lower or similar to the price for new coal power projects. This is like crossing a threshold. There are certain other kinds of challenges like land availability that are still hurdles. But I expect the solar deployment to pick up strongly now. I think India's target of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy installed capacity by 2030 is well within reach now. It can probably do more," he said. At the global level, the heavy concentration of solar manufacturing in China was a big challenge, Mathur said. "Currently, about 97 per cent of the silicon ingots that go into the manufacturing of the solar cells come from China. I don't see how other countries see this as sustainable in the long run. The price advantage that China has in manufacture of solar cells is unmatched. But solar cell to solar panel conversion is something that a lot of other countries, including India, can ramp up significantly. In markets with high demand, the cost of this conversion, with a little bit of incentives, is comparable to solar panels made in China. The geographical diversification of solar manufacturing is crucial for quick deployment in other countries as well. In the longer term, countries like the US, India or Germany would need to compete with China in the manufacture of solar cells as well," he said.

Allu Arjun among top celebrity taxpayers, pays Rs 14 crore for FY24

Hyderabad: Telugu superstar Allu Arjun has emerged as one of the highest tax-paying celebrities in India for the financial year 2023-24, according to Fortune India's latest report.

The actor, known for his strong fan base in South Indian cinema, is the only Telugu actor to make it to the list of top 22 celebrity taxpayers in the country.

Allu Arjun, who gained widespread acclaim for his role in Pushpa: The Rise, paid Rs 14 crore in taxes, placing him among the top tax contributors from India's entertainment industry. Meanwhile, topping the list of tax-paying celebrities for FY24 is Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan, who paid a staggering Rs 92 crore in taxes. Following closely is Tamil cinema icon "Thalapathy" Vijay, who moved ahead of established names like Salman Khan, Amitabh Bachchan, and Virat Kohli to secure the second spot with Rs 80 crore in tax contributions. Among Southern cinema stars, Malayalam actor Mohanlal also joins Allu Arjun in paying Rs 14 crore in taxes.



9-year-old girl wounded in UK stabbing attack dies, toll climbs to 3



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

A 9-year-old girl wounded in a knife attack in the UK's Southport died on Tuesday. Three children aged 9, 7 and 6 years died in the attack while eight others and two adults remain hospitalised. A 9-year-old girl wounded in a stabbing attack at a Taylor Swift-themed dance and yoga class in northwestern England died Tuesday, bringing the death toll to three, as police questioned a 17-year-old suspect arrested minutes after the rampage. Merseyside Police said the other fatalities were girls aged 6 and 7.

Eight children and two adults remain hospitalised after the attack in Southport. Both adults and five of the children are in critical condition. Swift said she was "completely in shock" and still taking in "the horror" of the event. "These were just little kids at a dance class," she wrote on Instagram. "I am at a complete loss for how to ever convey my sympathies to these families." A 17-year-old boy was arrested on suspicion of murder and attempted murder.

Local people left flowers and stuffed animals in tribute at a police cordon on the street lined with brick houses in the seaside resort near Liverpool — nicknamed "sunny Southport" — whose beach and pier attract vacationers from across northwest England. Witnesses described scenes "from a horror movie" as bloodied children ran from the attack just before noon on Monday. The suspect was arrested soon after on suspicion of murder and attempted murder. Police said he was born in Cardiff, Wales, and had lived for years in a village about 3 miles (5 kilo-

meters) from Southport. He has not yet been charged. Police said detectives are not treating Monday's attack as terror-related and they are not looking for any other suspects. "We believe the adults who were injured were bravely trying to protect the children who were being attacked," Merseyside Police Chief Constable Serena Kennedy said. It is the latest shocking attack in a country where a recent rise in knife crime has stoked anxieties and led to calls for the government to do more to clamp down on bladed weapons. Witnesses described hearing screams and seeing children covered in blood emerging from the Hart Space, a community center that hosts everything from pregnancy workshops and meditation sessions to women's boot camps. The attack happened during a Taylor Swift-themed yoga and dance workshop for children aged about 6 to 11. "They were in the road, running from the nursery," said Bare Varathan, who owns a shop nearby. "They had been stabbed, here, here, here, everywhere," he said, indicating the neck, back and chest. Prime Minister Keir Starmer called the attack "horrendous and deeply shocking." King Charles III sent his "condolences, prayers and deepest sympathies" to those affected by the "utterly horrific incident."

Prince William and his wife Catherine said that "as parents, we cannot begin to imagine what the families, friends and loved ones of those killed and injured in Southport today are going through." Colin Parry, who owns a nearby auto body shop, told The Guardian that the suspect arrived by taxi. "He came down our driveway in a taxi and didn't pay for the taxi, so I confronted him at that point," Parry was quoted as saying. "He was quite aggressive, he said, 'What are you gonna do about it?'" Parry said most of the victims appeared to be young girls.

"The mothers are coming here now and screaming," Parry said. "It is like a scene from a horror movie. ... It's like something from America, not like sunny Southport." Britain's worst attack on children occurred in 1996, when 43-year-old Thomas Hamilton shot 16 kindergarteners and their teacher dead in a school gymnasium in Dunblane, Scotland. The U.K. subsequently banned the private ownership of almost all handguns. Mass shootings and killings with firearms are rare in Britain, where knives were used in about 40% of homicides in the year to March 2023.

That means she likes me: Trump says Melania was 'traumatised' after murder bid

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

US presidential candidate Donald Trump said his wife, Melania Trump, was watching the July 13 Pennsylvania rally live on TV and was left "traumatised" by the shooting incident in which he suffered an injury to his right ear. In his interview with Fox News, Trump said Melania thought the "worst had happened" when Thomas Matthew Crooks opened fire at the rally. "When I went down, she thought the worst had happened... because I went down and grabbed my hand and my hand was loaded up with blood," Trump told Fox News host Laura Ingraham.

The former US President said Melania was deeply affected by the event. "She was watching live... She can't really even talk about it. Traumatised. Which is okay because that means she likes me," Trump said. NEW: Donald Trump says Melania was watching his rally live when he was shot in the face by Thomas Crooks, says she is traumatized. Ingraham: What was Melania's reaction? Trump: She was watching live. It was all over the place. I asked her that, I mean, I wasn't there. I was on a pic.twitter.com/2CYLRuSBw4 — Collin Rugg (@CollinRugg) July 30, 2024 Crooks, 20, opened fire at the rally in Butler, injuring Trump and killing one person. The shooter was then killed by a Secret Service sniper. The Republican leader has made the incident a major part of his White House campaign, repeatedly saying that he "took a bullet for democracy". Trump has also said that he



planned to return to Butler to hold another rally. In the Fox News interview, Trump said he would hold outdoor events in the future despite the shooting incident. The former President, however, sympathised with the Secret Service, which has come under fire over security lapses on the fateful day. "I just want to say one thing about the Secret Service... They were very brave. They were coming," he said. Bullets were flying over me. I went down, and they were on top of me... I had a lot of very big, strong people on top of me," Trump further said. However, he said the Secret Service agents should have coordinated better with local police to stop the incident. "There should have been somebody on the roof. There should have been communication with the local police," he said.

Bella Hadid breaks silence over Adidas ad row, says lacked sensitivity

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

American Supermodel Bella Hadid has responded to criticism over her involvement in an Adidas shoe campaign tied to the 1972 Munich Olympics, where 11 Israeli athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists. Hadid, a model of Palestinian origin, said the lack of sensitivity that went into the ad campaign disappointed her. American supermodel Bella Hadid, a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause, has responded to last week's controversy over her role in an Adidas shoe campaign. In an Instagram story, Bella shared her regret and clarified her stance on the issue. Adidas faced massive backlash for picking Hadid for the ad and ultimately had to discontinue the campaign.

The choice of Bella Hadid was problematic because of the bloody history of the 1972 Munich Olympics. Hadid calls herself a "proud Palestinian". The Adidas campaign, which featured the SL 72 "coveted classic" sneakers from the '70s, coincided with the 52nd anniversary of the Munich Olympics, where 12 Israeli coaches and athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists. After Adidas launched the campaign, the American Jewish Committee tweeted against the Adidas campaign. Adidas then apologised and even removed all tweets featuring Hadid from their X and Instagram handles. Supermodel Bella Hadid took to Instagram Stories to express her "disappointment in the lack of sensitivity that went into the campaign." "I am shocked, I am upset, and I am disappointed in the lack of sensitivity that went into this campaign. Had I been made aware, from the bottom of my heart, I would never have participated," Hadid wrote on her Instagram story on July 29. She explained that she had no prior knowledge of the historical connection to the 1972 events before the campaign's release. "I would never knowingly engage with any art or work that is linked to a horrific tragedy of any kind. In advance of the campaign's release, I had no knowledge of the historical connection to the atrocious events in 1972," Bella wrote.

Supermodel Hadid admitted that both her team and Adidas should have conducted more research to avoid such a situation. "While everyone's intentions were to make something positive and bring people together through art, the collective lack of understanding from all parties undermined the process. I do not believe in hate in any



American Supermodel Bella Hadid has responded to criticism over her involvement in an Adidas shoe campaign tied to the 1972 Munich Olympics, where 11 Israeli athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists. Hadid, a model of Palestinian origin, said the lack of sensitivity that went into the ad campaign disappointed her.

form, including antisemitism. That will never waiver, and I stand by that statement to the fullest extent," she stated.

The supermodel also criticised the idea that Palestine is linked to terrorism, rejecting the connection between "the liberation of the Palestinian people" and the antisemitic attack. Hadid calls herself a "proud Palestinian" and has been vocal in her support for Gaza in the Israel-Hamas war. She had even marched against former President Donald Trump's decision to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital. "Palestine is not synonymous with terrorism and this campaign unintentionally highlighted an event that does not represent who we are. I am a proud Palestinian woman and there is so much more to our culture than the things that have been equated over the past week," Hadid wrote on her Instagram story. I will forever stand by my people of Palestine while continuing to advocate for a world free of antisemitism. Antisemitism has no place in the liberation of the Palestinian people. I will always stand for peace over violence, any day. Hate has no place here, and I will forever advocate for not only my people, but every person world wide," she added.

Nostradamus of US presidential polls favours Kamala Harris over Trump



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Renowned election forecaster Allan Lichtman, known for his accurate predictions using the "13 Keys to the White House" formula, currently favours Vice President Kamala Harris over former President Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election. Lichtman has yet to make his final prediction though. Renowned American election forecaster Allan Lichtman, known as the Nostradamus of US presidential elections, has made a preliminary prediction for the 2024 presidential election, which will be held on November 5. Lichtman, who has accurately predicted nine of the past 10 elections since 1984, currently favours Vice President Kamala Harris over the Republican presidential candidate, Donald Trump, according to his "Keys to the White House" formula. However, a final prediction for the race is yet to be made.

Nostradamus was a famous 16th-century French astrologer who is said to have predicted many important world events that happened long after his death. Lichtman, on the other hand, has been predicting US elections for the past 40 years. The US presidential election occurs every four years. As a history professor at American Uni-

versity for 50 years, Lichtman developed the renowned "13 keys to the White House" method that establishes a strong indication of who will win the election. This method consists of 13 true/false questions, and if six or more keys go against the incumbent party, Lichtman predicts their defeat. If fewer than six went against it, it would win. At the beginning of the presidential election cycle, Democrats were handed one automatic "key" for President Biden's incumbency. However, the ballot has since seen a dramatic shift. After President Joe Biden's poor performance in the first presidential debate held on June 27 in Atlanta, Georgia, he quit the presidential race and endorsed Kamala Harris for the presidency. Kamala Harris is an Indian-American politician.

DEMOCRATS WITH KAMALA HARRIS AS NOMINEE HAVE 6 OF 13 KEYS Democrats, with Harris as the likely Democratic presidential nominee, currently hold six of the 13 keys, including primary contest, short-term economy, long-term economy, policy change, no scandal, and no challenger charisma, reported the New York Post. Republicans hold three keys -- winning the House majority in the 2022 midterms, the current incumbent not seeking re-election, and the current incumbent lacking charisma. If Democrats lose three more keys, they would be the projected "losers" according to Lichtman's formula. Despite this, Lichtman believes "a lot would have to go wrong for Harris to lose", according to the New York Post. Nostradamus of US presidential elections will make his final prediction for this cycle after Democrats choose their nominee at the Democratic National Convention (DNC). The DNC is scheduled for August 19. Lichtman has a strong track record, correctly predicting Trump's win in 2016 and Biden's win in 2020. His formula has been used to predict the outcome of presidential contests with a high success rate since its development in 1981.

New Zealand woman jailed after 53-kg 'severely overfed' pet dog's death

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals described Nuggi as "one of the most obese animals we've ever encountered." The dog was so overweight that it could barely walk and suffered from severe health complications. Nuggi weighed 53 kg and was severely obese, which eventually led to its death. (Photo credit: X)

A woman in New Zealand has been sentenced to two months in prison after her severely obese dog died. The dog, named Nuggi, weighed a staggering 53 kg when rescued by authorities in 2021. According to a Newsweek report, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) said Nuggi was in such a critical condition that it could barely walk 10 metres without stopping to catch his breath. Its legs were visibly buckling under his immense weight. The dog was removed from his owner's home, where multiple dogs were found, and placed in the care of the SPCA. A veterinarian who examined the dog concluded that the excessive weight caused severe long-term discomfort and distress. It is reported that the owner fed Nuggi up to 10 pieces of chicken a day, in addition to dog biscuits, and failed to provide it with adequate exercise. Despite losing nearly 9 kg in two months, Nuggi died from a liver haemorrhage. An autopsy revealed underlying health issues including liver disease and Cushing's disease.



SPCA chief executive Todd Westwood described Nuggi as "one of the most obese animals we've ever encountered." He stated that the dog was clearly suffering due to severe overfeeding and lack of exercise. Instead of seeking help or fixing the dog's diet and lifestyle, Nuggi's owner continued to overfeed it until it could barely walk, he said. The owner pleaded guilty to neglecting the dog's physical, health, and behavioural needs and was sentenced in the Manukau District Court. In addition to jail time, she was fined NZ\$1,222 (Rs 60,313 approximately) and banned from owning dogs for a year.

Indian-origin cab driver jailed in Singapore for stealing mother's jewellery

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Michael Raj, a 48-year-old Indian-origin taxi driver in Singapore, was sentenced to one year and five months in jail for multiple thefts. His crimes included stealing jewellery from his 70-year-old mother and Rolex watches from passengers. An Indian-origin Singaporean taxi driver was sentenced to one year and five months jail after he pleaded guilty to four theft charges, including SGD 43,400 jewellery from his 70-year-old mother. Michael Raj, 48, with financial problems stole three Rolex watches worth more than SGD 200,000 in total from three sleeping passengers on separate occasions, and sold the timepieces, The Straits Times reported.

His crime spree started when he stole his mother's jewellery between May and June 2021. Deputy Public Prosecutor Tan Shi Yun told the court: "This was not a case of a careless victim who left her valuables lying around in the open." The victim's (valuables) were locked in a drawer in a cupboard and (its) key was kept in another drawer in the same cupboard." After that, Michael pawned the valuables at various pawnshops without his mother's consent and paid his debts. On July 5, 2021, his mother discovered that several pieces of her jewellery were missing. She confronted him two days later and then reported the matter to the police. Michael has since made partial restitution of around SGD 3,000 to her. On September 2, 2022, he was driving a taxi and picked up a heavily intoxicated 33-year-old man near Orchard Towers shopping mall at around 5 am. The passenger was asleep when they reached the man's destination. Michael



then removed the man's Rolex watch, worth SGD 45,000, from his wrist. The following month, he stole a second Rolex watch, worth nearly SGD 67,300, from a 44-year-old male passenger who had also fallen asleep in his taxi. The two passengers alerted the police when they found their valuables missing. Their watches were not recovered and Michael has made no restitution to the two victims, the court heard. On June 15, 2023, Michael stole a third Rolex watch, worth SGD 88,000, from a 30-year-old man who had boarded the offender's taxi before nodding off. The watch has since been recovered and returned to the victim after he had made a police report. On July 30, defence lawyer Wee Hong Shern urged the court to sentence Michael to a year and three months in jail. Wee added: "He sincerely wishes to turn over a new leaf. He will serve his sentence and thereafter commit himself to work and to make up for lost time with his wife and daughter."

Radical preacher raising millions to buy Scottish island, create Sharia country

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

London-based radical preacher Sheikh Yasser al-Habib and his followers are looking to buy an island, Torsa, in Scotland. Experts say the Sharia country will have its own army and administration. Al-Habib got asylum in the UK after facing imprisonment in Kuwait, his home country, over his religious views. Sheikh Yasser al-Habib left Kuwait and reached the UK. This was no simple change of country. He was facing 10 years of imprisonment in absentia for spreading extremism in his home country. Now, two decades later, the London-based preacher is buying a small island in Scotland for his community of Sharia followers.

Al-Habib, 45, is already in "advanced talks" to buy the island of Torsa, off the west coast of Scotland, reports The Daily Mail of the UK. He runs military-style training

camp and aims to build schools, hospitals and mosques associated with his organisation on the island. Here, everyone will practice Islamic law or Sharia. "They will have their own army, their own justice system, they will manage their own schools and hospitals," said Sarah Zaami, a deputy director for communications at the American think tank Atlantic Council, who has worked on Al-Habib. "It does challenge the notion of sovereignty. MUSLIMS 'FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD' CAN COME HERE In a recent video, Sheikh Yasser al-Habib asked his supporters to donate £3.5 million to buy the island. He has made a promise of allowing Muslims "from all over the world to get a visa to live in their new homeland". "If you want to live free under the banner of the imam [Shia leader], in a special homeland where you feel everything in it reminds you of the awaited mahdi, everything is the Shia homeland and we support this project," said Al-Habib.

India offers USD 500 billion investment opportunities in clean energy, other sectors by 2030



India offers huge investment opportunities worth over USD 500 billion, particularly in clean energy value chain including renewables, green hydrogen and EV, by 2030, the commerce ministry said. This was stated by Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal, who is in Singapore for the two-day meet of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum. The meeting, which started on Wednesday, brought together the region's top investors, clean economy companies, and start-ups to mobilise investments into sustainable infrastructure, climate technology, and renewable energy projects. The 14-member IPEF bloc was launched jointly by the US and other partner countries of the Indo-Pacific region on May 23, 2022, in Tokyo. Together, they account for 40 per cent of the world's economic output and 28 per cent of trade.

The framework is structured around four pillars relating to trade, supply chains, clean economy and fair economy. India has joined all the pillars except the trade.

Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the US, and Vietnam are members of the bloc. Barthwal, during the inaugural IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum, acknowledged the forum as a unique platform that brought global investors, policy makers, and academia under one roof, which would be instrumental in advancing sustainable infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific Region. The secretary while addressing the forum underlined the huge investment opportunities that "India offers of more than USD 500 billion, particularly in the clean energy value chain including renewables, green hydrogen and EV and its infrastructure transition, by 2030". Barthwal also highlighted key reforms around ease of doing business in India to improve business environment over the last decade. During the two-day event, more than 300 participants from financial institutions, multilateral development banks, venture capital funds, project owners, entrepreneurs and government agencies from IPEF partners actively participated under the sustainable infrastructure and climate tech engagement tracks.

In the sustainable infrastructure track, after the screening, "four companies (ReNew Power, Avaada Energy Pvt Ltd, Indusbridge Capital Advisors LLP. Founder,

SEIP, and Powerica Ltd) from India were shortlisted for pitching their concepts on energy transition, transport and logistics, and waste management/waste to energy to global investors," the ministry said. Similarly in the climate tech track, 10 Indian startups and companies (BluSmart, Recykal, LOHUM, Sea6 Energy, EVage Ventures, Kabira Mobility, Batx Energies, Newtrace and Alt Mobility, IgrenEnergy, Inc.) were selected to pitch their innovative ideas, technologies and solutions that contribute to mitigating or adapting to climate change.

Further, the ministry said that the forum resulted in USD 23 billion investment opportunities for sustainable infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific. The coalition estimates that its members, taken together, have over USD 25 billion in capital that can be deployed in Indo-Pacific emerging market infrastructure investments in the coming years. DFC's (Development Finance Corporation) Board has also approved an equity investment as part of the USD 900 million Eversource Climate Investment Partners-II fund, which will provide capital, management, and expertise to innovative companies using new and existing capabilities to address climate change in India and Southeast Asia. It added that the IPEF partners and the Private Infrastructure Development Group announced the operational launch of the IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund, which would deploy concessional financing, technical assistance, and capacity-building support to expand the pipeline of quality, resilient, and inclusive clean economy infrastructure projects in emerging and upper-middle income economies, for instance, projects in development include a renewable energy platform in India. The fund's founding supporters include Australia, Japan, Korea, and the US, which plan to provide USD 33 million in initial grant to catalyse up to USD 3.3 billion in private investment. "A coalition of investors, including Singapore's Temasek and GIC, have committed to injecting USD 25 billion in infrastructure investments in emerging markets that are part of an economic alliance between the US and several Asia-Pacific countries," it added. The event also witnessed signing of an offtake agreement between Sembcorp Green Hydrogen India, Kyushu Electric and Sojitz for production and export of 200 KTPA (kilotonne per annum) green ammonia from India to Japan. The programme was attended by ministers from Singapore and Japan and Barthwal. The agreement aims to increase production and export of 200 KTPA green ammonia in Phase-I (total 800 KTPA in 4 phases) at Tuticorin Port in India and export to Japan. The project proposed above would further the objective of the National Green Hydrogen Mission implemented by India towards making the country as global hub for production and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives. During an interaction with Indian companies and startups, Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce and India's Chief Negotiator for IPEF Rajesh Agrawal said the forum provides an opportunity for Indian companies and startups to seek funding and collaborate with global investors.

BJP's vote share shrinks in most states with low growth rates in per capita income

food inflation, Lok Sabha Election Results 2024, Lok Sabha Elections 2024, Consumer Food Price Index, Indian express news, current affairs. The Modi government has taken a host of measures to control food inflation in last couple of years. The Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) vote share in the 2024 general election contracted in most of the states and union territories (UTs) that had relatively low rates of growth in per capita income since the previous Lok Sabha polls in 2019, shows an analysis of Election Commission of India (ECI) data and per capita net state domestic product (NSDP) data from states. NSDP per capita is taken as the per capita income of a state and is counted among states' key economic indicators.

Of the 12 states and UTs where per capita NSDP grew by a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of up to 2 per cent, and where the BJP contested in the recently-concluded Lok Sabha elections, the party's vote share shrunk in nine. These nine states and UTs include Bihar, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur, and Chandigarh. Kerala, Sikkim, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands were the outliers to the trend.

For the purpose of this analysis, the CAGR of per capita NSDP was divided in three segments: low (up to 2 per cent), medium (2.1-4.0 per cent), and high (over 4 per cent). Among all states and UTs, the overall range of per capita NSDP CAGR ranged up to 6.1 per cent. CAGR was considered over absolute growth as per capita NSDP data for some states was not updated for 2023-24 (FY24) and was available either till FY23 or FY22. The base year for the comparison was taken as FY19. A few UTs that do not maintain per capita NSDP data were not considered.

bjp, Lok Sabha Election Results 2024, Lok Sabha Elections 2024, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Election Commission, per capita net state domestic product, per capita income, Indian express business, business news, business articles, business news stories. While the data



does suggest a correlation between per capita state income and the BJP's vote share among most of the low-growth states, the trend is not as stark when it comes to states and UTs in the middle- and high-growth segments. It is worth noting that like most economic indicators, per capita incomes and their growth rates vary across states and are contingent upon a number of factors and conditions. Also, election outcomes depend on a host of factors — many of which are not directly linked to the economy — and their various permutations and combinations.

Among the nine states with a per capita NSDP growth rate of over 4 per cent, the BJP registered an expansion in vote share from 2019 levels in five — Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Tamil Nadu. Four states — Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Arunachal Pradesh, saw a contraction in the BJP's vote share despite a relatively high rate of growth in their per capita incomes. Similarly, the BJP's vote share expanded in five of the nine states and UTs with per capita NSDP growth rate of 2.1 per cent to 4 per cent. These five states included Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana, Tripura, and Mizoram. The four where the BJP saw a decline in vote share were Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir.

Tier-II cities continue to witness consistent growth in hiring activities: Report

Hiring in tier-II cities showed consistent growth trends compared to metropolitan areas during May, mainly led by cities such as Kochi, Coimbatore, and Jaipur, which have emerged as key hiring locations, a report said on Wednesday. "It is remarkable to note the flourishing performance of tier-II cities in terms of hiring, outpacing their metropolitan counterparts. These cities have showcased consistent upward trends, particularly driven by the Production and Manufacturing sector, where we are witnessing a surge in recruitment," foundit (formerly Monster APAC & ME), a Qness company, CEO Sekhar Garisa said, quoting the foundit Insights Tracker (fit).

He said, this can be attributed to several factors, including infrastructural development, favourable government policies, and a burgeoning talent pool eager to contribute to India's industrial landscape. "It's evident that tier-II cities are becoming increasingly attractive hubs for businesses seeking expansion opportunities and tapping into diverse talent pools for sustainable growth," he added.

Coimbatore, and Jaipur dedicating resources to infrastructure development initiatives, and enhancing connectivity, transportation, and other amenities, corporate firms are bound to be attracted here for their business expansions. In terms of the metro cities, Kolkata and Delhi/NCR stand out as leading hiring hubs on a year-on-year basis, it stated. While tier-II cities have outperformed metro cities on a year-on-year basis, metros have witnessed a significant upswing in hiring in the last few months, it said. According to the tracker, tier-II cities are seeing stronger growth rates in sectors such as production and manufacturing (29 per cent), IT-software and services (17 per cent), real estate (8 per cent), and education (8 per cent), where recruiters are seeking diverse talent with specialised skill sets. Metro cities have shown an affinity for hiring from IT-software and services and advertising, public relations segment, due to the uptick in the demand for IT service providers and digitalisation, signalling a recovery from the layoffs and reduced bench strength, the report added.

Storing cooking near the stove and other common mistakes you may be unknowingly making



affecting overall health," said Chahal.

"Cooking oils should never be transferred into special containers or pourers because it allows oxygen to degrade the oil. Oxygen and moisture reduce the quality of the oil causing rancidity. It's best to keep cooking oils in the containers it comes in, and buy only what you'll use within 1-2 months." "I used to think buying in bulk was best but I never finished my 5L bottle of oil within 2 months, so the heat, light, oxygen, and moisture made the oil rancid. These 4 variables affect the composition of the oil, causing long-term negative effects on our health," mentioned Bhutani.

Recently, we informed you about the importance of using the right cooking oils, the pros and cons of consuming palm oil, the new dietary guidelines issued by the Indian Council of Medical Research, and also the harmful effects of having fake oils. Taking this series a step further, today we are here to inform you about the correct way to store cooking oils. According to Chef Divya Bhutani, the practice of keeping oils near the stove for easy access could well be landing us in trouble with numerous health issues, including cancer. "Avoid storing your oils right by the stove. I used to do this before I researched how the heat from the gas accelerates the oxidation process, turning the oil rancid," said Bhutani in an Instagram post. She added that oxidation produces free radicals that are very harmful to the body, and cause cancer.

Explaining the phenomenon, Rashi Chahal, dietitian, La Femme Hospital said that due to their high fat content, cooking oils start deteriorating as soon as one opens the pack due to oxidation. "It is a chemical reaction in which atmospheric oxygen attacks triglyceride molecules' fatty acid chains," said Chahal, adding that one should use a proper container for storing oil and keep the lid tightly sealed to prevent oxidation (the interaction of oil with oxygen in the air). Chahal pointed out that rancid oils can cause digestive distress and are also associated with diseases related to free radicals. "These toxic compounds can deplete our vitamins B and E negatively,

Just like all other products, it is best to "always check the expiration date of your oils". "Generally, extra virgin olive oil can be kept for up to 6 months after opening. It generally has a very long shelf life but storage conditions can change the oil's shelf life significantly," said Bhutani. One should purchase oils in dark green bottles to reduce UV light exposure to the oil and reduce the effects of oxidation. It's best to store oils in a cool dark place, like a cupboard. It's ok if you've transferred your oils in special containers or pourers already. Just use it up within the expiration date and throw away any unused oil in the bin. Agreeing, Chahal added that light accelerates fatty acid oxidation. "It can cause a significant loss of antioxidants in polyunsaturated oils. Try and store them in dark-coloured bottles to prevent light from entering the bottle, which can degrade the quality of oil," said Chahal. "Try and use glass bottles when storing for longer periods as plastic can leach chemicals over time, stressed Chahal. "This can affect overall taste. Don't store in iron and copper bottles either as they interact with oils and make them unsafe for consumption," said Chahal. "Some cooking oils are best stored at room temperature. But certain oils like truffle oil, avocado oil, corn oil, safflower oil, and chili oils are "best stored in the refrigerator to improve their shelf life", said Chahal. "Use heat-resistant oil for high-temperature cooking" Label the containers with dates to keep track of when were these bottles opened and also know how long can you store them.

Employee claims she was 'ethnically humiliated' at workplace: 'Ek chamaat maareng, Bihar pahuch jaogi'

The harsh realities of workplace discrimination have once again come into the spotlight with a viral LinkedIn post from a woman who hails from Bihar. In a harrowing account, Hyderabad-based employee Nitika Kumari claims to have been subjected to "ethnic humiliation" by colleagues, with the shocking threat of being "slapped so hard" if she didn't comply.

She recalled, "There have been quite a few incidents that happened during the last one year which I neglected thinking 'Isn't this what corporate life feels like?' I neglected everything to the point where it became unbearable for me and made me go through some serious mental health issues and panic attacks." She added, "The most recent incident that I would like to share with you all is when I was ethnically humiliated by one of my colleagues. The incident happened on 22 April 2024 when I was subjected to ethnically insensitive remarks by my colleague. The exact words which were used by him are 'EK CHAMAAT MAARENGE, BIHAR PAHUCH JAOGI' which means — I will slap you so hard, you will go back to Bihar (sic)." Despite raising concerns with the HR department, her pleas for intervention allegedly fell on deaf ears. This disturbing incident underscores the profound mental and emotional toll that discrimination can have on employees, eroding their sense of safety, dignity, and overall well-being within the professional environment.

Gurleen Baruah, organisational psychologist and executive coach at That Culture Thing, explains, "It's important to understand the underlying reasons for ethnic discrimination. This often stems from an 'us vs. them' mentality, which creates divisions and tribalism, fuelled by insecurity and deep-seated biases. People on the receiving end of such discrimination bear the brunt of these attitudes." "How individuals react to ethnic discrimination varies based on their personality, genetic makeup, and general approach to stress and challenges, she says. "Com-



How does workplace discrimination affect a person's emotional and mental health? Expert elucidates

ments and actions rooted in discrimination can severely damage a person's self-esteem, causing them to feel unwarranted shame. This can intensify the 'us vs. them' mindset, making the affected individuals view others as adversaries and widening the social gap. "Strategies that are effective in addressing the mental and emotional toll of discrimination Baruah reveals that while discrimination can occur in any workplace, it is often not a 100% accurate reflection of the organisation's policies and ways of working. "Most organisations have strict anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies. Unfortunately, since this is a people issue, such incidents may still occur." Therefore, it's crucial for organisations to be vigilant and proactive. They should design and communicate robust Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) policies, and regularly train employees on how unconscious biases and comments can contribute to harassment and perpetuate an 'us vs. them' mentality.

The organisational culture plays a critical role here, Baruah asserts. "If an employee reports an incident to leadership or HR, the response and actions taken are crucial. How the organisation mitigates the issue, whether the appro-

ropriate actions are taken, and whether the complainant feels heard and supported are all vital aspects." workplace, discrimination How individuals react to ethnic discrimination varies based on their personality, genetic makeup, and general approach to stress and challenges.

It is imperative for leadership and HR to take corrective actions guided by ethics and morality, according to her. Additionally, organisations should foster a supportive environment by offering resources such as counselling services, employee support groups, and workshops on emotional resilience. Encouraging open communication and creating safe spaces for employees to express their concerns without fear of retaliation are also effective strategies.

Best practices for employers to proactively create a supportive and inclusive work environment Employers can proactively create a supportive and inclusive work environment that not only prevents discrimination but also promotes the mental health and well-being of all employees by implementing the following best practices, as stated by Baruah: Psychological safety training: Conduct training sessions focused on psychological safety,

helping employees feel safe to take risks, express their ideas, and voice concerns without fear of negative consequences. Hire experts to deliver these kinds of sessions from outside. Unconscious bias training: Implement regular unconscious bias training to help employees recognize and mitigate their biases. This can reduce discriminatory behaviour and foster a more inclusive culture. Case studies and communication: Design and share case studies that highlight instances of discrimination and how they were effectively addressed within the organisation. Communicating these examples can reinforce the company's commitment to handling such issues properly and transparently. Open door policies: Encourage open door policies where employees feel comfortable approaching management or HR with their concerns. This helps in creating an environment where issues can be addressed promptly and effectively. Counselling and mental health support: Provide access to counselling services and mental health resources. Offering Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) can support employees dealing with stress, anxiety, or trauma related to workplace discrimination.

Vineeth Sreenivasan defends Nivin Pauly in sexual harassment case, says actor was shooting for Varshangalkku Sesham on day of alleged incident



2023. He added that they were together until 3:00 am on December 15. He further mentioned that the film's shooting took place at Kochi's ABAD Nucleus Mall and later at Crown Plaza, continuing until the early hours of the next day. Since the filming occurred in public spaces, Vineeth assured that many people could confirm Nivin's presence on those dates.

The police registered the rape case on Tuesday after the woman alleged that Nivin Pauly sexually abused her at a hotel in Dubai last year, after promising her a role in a film. Nivin has denied the allegations, and he took to Instagram to share his side of the story, calling the accusations "entirely untrue". In his Instagram post, Nivin wrote, "I have come across a false news report accusing me of abusing a girl. Please know that this is entirely untrue. I'm determined to go to any extent to prove these allegations are baseless and will take all necessary steps to bring those responsible to light. Thank you for your concern. The rest will be handled legally." Following the allegations, Nivin Pauly also held a press conference to clarify his stance. He stated, "If fake allegations become the norm, it isn't right. I am fighting for everyone who is facing such false allegations. Procedure does take some time. Friends from cinema did express their solidarity. But even if I have to fight it out on my own, I will do it. Also, I am not running away, or going in hiding. I am here, and I will be here."

Two days after the Kerala Police registered a sexual assault case against actor Nivin Pauly, Vineeth Sreenivasan has come forward to defend him. The multi-faceted Bollywood star vouched for Nivin's innocence, claiming he can prove Nivin's alibi. Vineeth shared that they were together on the sets of his directorial Varshangalkku Sesham during the dates mentioned in the complaint. According to the police report filed against Nivin, a woman alleged that he sexually abused her in Dubai. However, Vineeth, in his latest statement, confirmed Nivin's presence in Kochi on the same dates listed in the complaint.

Vineeth shared that he was with Nivin on the sets of Varshangalkku Sesham on both December 14 and 15,

Sanjana Galrani meets Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, requests formation of Sandalwood Woman Artist Association

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

A day after a Bengaluru-based cinema industry group FIRE (Film Industry for Rights and Equality) requested the Karnataka government to appoint a committee similar to Justice Hema Committee to look into the issues in Sandalwood, actress Sanjana Galrani visited the chief minister's office in Bengaluru. Sanjana visited the CM's office with a memorandum that requested to form an association to ensure the safety of female artistes working in the Kannada film industry. A video of the same has surfaced online, where the actress can be seen explaining her request as CM Siddaramaiah listens to her quietly.



The purpose of Sanjana's visit to CM's office was to request the state government to initiate a few important safety measures for female artistes in the film industry. The actress also requested the formation of an association called Sandalwood Woman Artist Association (SWAA). Her memorandum, submitted to the Chief Minister, read, "After observing a series of women exploitation episodes that are happening in other film industries, I felt the need of writing this particular letter to you all in order to maintain the serenity of 'Namma Kannada industry' for that reason, to prevent our 'Kannada film industry' from having any such embarrassing situation & to mainly protect our KFI from any such Black Mark in future." The actress shared the letter submitted to the CM on her Instagram handle, which had suggestions that needs to be implemented for safety of individuals in the Kannada film industry.

The development came after the release of the Justice Hema Committee report in Kerala which highlighted sexual harassment and exploitation of women working in the Malayalam film industry. On Wednesday, FIRE sub-

mitted a letter signed by 153 prominent personalities including leading actors, directors, producers, film critics, writers, journalists, and activists, requesting an investigation into the systematic issues faced by women in the Kannada film industry, including sexual harassment. It also recommended a policy for a healthy and equitable work environment for women in the industry. The letter by FIRE has proposed that a retired judge of the high court or the Supreme Court, who has demonstrated a strong commitment to gender justice during his/her years of service, should head the committee. Unlike, the Justice Hema Committee report, the members of FIRE have requested the government to investigate and submit a report within three months and make it public without any delay. Prominent members to have signed the letter are actors Sudeep, Shruti Hariharan, Kishore, Ramya aka Divya Spandana, Anidriha Ray, and Diganth, among others. FIRE was set up in 2018 to advocate for the rights and equality of individuals in the film and entertainment industry.

Arslan Goni opens up about his relationship with Sussanne Khan, says 'dignity, respect' between him and Hrithik Roshan



Talking to Zoom, Arslan said, "Honestly, if you are a good person and you are doing something which is not hurting anybody, I don't find any reason for anyone on this earth to not wish you well. People, for some reason, find it difficult to stay honest. My father taught me that be it your personal or your professional life, you have to be honest."

Actor Arslan Goni and Sussanne Khan have been together for a few years now. Sussanne, who was previously married to actor Hrithik Roshan and shares two sons with him, famously gets along with Hrithik's girlfriend Saba Azad and Arslan also has a healthy relationship with Hrithik. The four of them are often clicked at social gatherings and they also cheer for each other on social media. In a recent interview, when Arslan was asked about his relationship with Hrithik that he has maintained with "dignity" and "respect" and the actor said that if one is a good person, there is no reason to not wish them well. Talking to Zoom, Arslan said, "Honestly, if you are a good person and you are doing something which is not hurting anybody, I don't find any reason for anyone

on this earth to not wish you well. People, for some reason, find it difficult to stay honest. My father taught me that be it your personal or your professional life, you have to be honest." Arslan said that perhaps it is his honesty that is appreciated by those around him. "God knows what others like in me, it could be my honesty. I can never think bad for anybody. Maybe it's that. You just go with the flow and be yourself."

It's very important to be yourself and to be with someone who lets you be yourself," he said. When asked about his relationship with Sussanne and how it's full of respect, Arslan said that one cannot claim to be in love with the other person if there is no love. "You cannot claim to be in love if you don't have respect," he said.

Anushka Sharma says she sleeps early because of daughter Vamika, saw lots of benefits: 'She'd have dinner at 5.30 pm'



Actor Anushka Sharma says she grew up in a disciplined family, learnings from which is now trying to instill in her children, Vamika and Akaay. The actor, who made a rare public appearance in the city on Wednesday, talked about parenting and what has been the most important learning from the way she was raised by her parents.

Responding to the question by actor-designer Masaba Gupta, Anushka Sharma said the current generation of parents are privileged because they have a lot of information on parenting. "It's like, 'Oh I'm struggling with this' and boom, Instagram algorithm, which is going to tell you what wrong you're doing with your kid and what you just do instead. It's a great blessing, sometimes it can drive you insane." The actor said the one thing which her parents did "naturally", which is perhaps also because she comes from an Army background, was to live

a very disciplined life, which had a natural routine.

"For example, if we were being finicky on the table and didn't want to eat something, our father wouldn't shout at us. He'd just say, 'Sure, you can leave. But when you're hungry, that's what you're going to eat.' These things are important because then we value what our parents would do for us. It had made me appreciate things a lot. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to give that to my kids. The routines, the discipline and appreciation for what you have," she added. During the event, Anushka Sharma also opened up about her habit of sleeping early, which she credited solely to "convenience". Anushka, who is married to star cricketer Virat Kohli, said when her daughter was born, going early to bed became her pattern—and now the entire family follows it.

"It started out as convenience, because my daughter would want her dinner early. She would eat it around 5.30 and most of the time it would be me and her home alone. So, I'd think what am I going to do now, might as well sleep. I started to see the benefits—I slept better, felt fresher in the morning, there was less brain fog. That works for me. I didn't read it somewhere and started following it, it was out of convenience but it's now something that the entire family does," she added. This was Anushka's second visit to India since the birth of her son, Akaay. She was previously in India for the IPL in May. On the work front, she was last seen on the big screen in Shah Rukh Khan's Zero in 2018.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui was unimpressed by early cut of Anurag Kashyap's Gangs of Wasseypur, thought, 'Yeh kya bana diya hai yaar'

Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, hailing filmmaker Anurag Kashyap as a 'genius', admitted that he wasn't impressed with Gangs of Wasseypur when he watched an early cut of the film. It was only until he watched the final film at the Cannes Film Festival that he recognised what Anurag had pulled off. Recalling stories about playing the gangster Faisal Khan in the epic film, which was released in two parts in 2012, the actor said that Anurag's contributions to Indian cinema can't be emphasised enough.

Appearing on the ANI podcast, Nawaz was asked if he knew that they were onto something while they were working on the film, and he said, "Not at all. You can never tell while you're working on a film. In fact, I didn't know even after we'd finished it. When I watched the first cut, I thought, 'Yeh kya bana diya hai yaar (What in the world has he made)'. But when I watched the final film at Cannes, after it had been refined, that's when I realised why Anurag is Anurag." The actor continued, "He's a genius man. He changed the face of Indian cinema, and the entire world took notice. He might not be appreciated in his own country, but I'm sorry, the world knows what he has done." Gangs of Wasseypur premiered in the Directors' Fortnight category at the 2012 edition of Cannes. Anurag followed it up with two more Cannes selections, the 2016 film Raman Raghav 2.0, which also played in the Directors' Fortnight category, and 2023's Kennedy, which premiered in the Midnight Screenings category. In an earlier interview, Nawaz admitted that Anurag wasn't



impressed with his acting choices in Gangs of Wasseypur, and let him know this very early in the process. Nawaz recalled in an interview with Shubhankar Mishra, "He said, 'Yeh kya kar raha hai tu? Tu pagal hai kya? Kis tarah se kar raha hai tu? Overacting kyu kar raha hai? (What in the world are you doing? How are you playing it? Have you lost your mind, why are you overacting?)' Nawaz worked with Anurag on Raman Raghav 2.0, and then in the first Indian Netflix original series, Sacred Games. In the same interview, the actor expressed dissatisfaction with the show's second season, and speculated that the main reason behind the lukewarm reception was the depiction of his character, Ganesh Gaitonde. He said that because the formidable gangster was portrayed as 'weak' in the second season, audiences that had become fans were let down.

Esha Deol says comparisons with mom Hema Malini after first film 'overwhelmed' her: 'Mom asked why are you here'

Esha Deol, daughter of movie stars Hema Malini and Dharmendra, made her film debut in the early 2000s amid much anticipation. In a recent interview, Esha recalled that she did not feel much pressure about carrying her parents' legacy when she signed her first two films but as soon as those films released, she started getting "overwhelmed" with audience's reactions. Esha recalled that she was often compared to her mother Hema Malini who had been a superstar for a long time and she felt that this comparison was unjust as she had just started her career. Her debut film was 2002's Koi Mere Dil Se Pooche.

Talking to Zoom, Esha said that she was "very excited" about starting work in the movies but "the pressure pump started after the films released and things were written. Then I was like, they are comparing me in my first film to my mother who has done 200 films. And they would say a lot about my baby fat. 'Oh she has so much baby fat'. I had, I was 18, those cheeks were there. But they looked cute in those roles, the kind of roles that I did, I thought they looked nice." Esha said that after getting such comments, she had a word with her mother who asked her to rethink if she wanted to stay in this profession as one needs to have a thick skin to survive in the entertainment business. "Then I had a chat with my mom. I told her that I am getting a little overwhelmed and these things



are being written. I don't know how to handle it but it's affecting me. Then she said 'why are you here?' I said I have always wanted to join movies and act and this is something I have been wanting to do since I was a kid. She said 'just focus on the goal, this is going to be part of it, you are my daughter, there is going to be constant comparisons. If you are going to let it affect you, then you are in the wrong profession, if you can handle it, then continue.' So that was a golden tip that I got," she recalled. Esha appeared in many popular films like Dhoom, Dus among others. She was last seen with Suniel Shetty in the web series Hunter.

Shah Rukh Khan is the highest tax paying celeb with Rs 92 crore, Akshay Kumar missing from the list

Shah Rukh Khan is the highest tax paying celebrity of the year but Akshay Kumar is missing from this year's list. Shah Rukh Khan is the highest tax paying celebrity of the year but Akshay Kumar is missing from this year's list.

The list of celebrities who paid the highest amount of income tax in 2024 in India is out now and it is topped by actor Shah Rukh Khan. The Jawan actor reportedly paid Rs 92 crore in taxes, as per a report by Fortune India. Shah Rukh Khan is followed by the likes of Vijay, Salman Khan and Amitabh Bachchan. The highest tax paying celebrity cricketer in India is Virat Kohli who paid Rs 66 crore.

Vijay, who is on the brink of starting his political journey, paid Rs 80 crore in taxes and Salman Khan, who was last seen in Tiger 3, paid Rs 75 crore. Amitabh Bachchan, who declared combined assets of Rs 1,578 crore with wife Jaya Bachchan, paid taxes of Rs 71 crore. The next actor on the list is Ajay Devgn, who reportedly paid Rs 42 crore in taxes. Ajay has appeared in two

films this year – Shaitaan and Maidan – and will soon be seen leading Rohit Shetty's cop film Singham Again. He was followed by Ranbir Kapoor, who paid Rs 36 crore in taxes. Ranbir was last seen in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal. Ranbir's wife, actor Alia Bhatt is missing from this list. Hrithik Roshan and Kapil Sharma paid Rs 28 crore and Rs 26 crore in taxes respectively.

Kareena Kapoor, who was last seen in Crew, paid Rs 20 crore in taxes. Her husband, actor Saif Ali Khan, is missing from this list. Shahid Kapoor paid Rs 14 crore and so did actors Mohanlal and Allu Arjun. Kiara Advani, who famously endorses a bunch of brands, paid Rs 12 crore, followed by actors Katrina Kaif and Pankaj Tripathi, who both paid Rs 11 crore. Aamir Khan, who has been on a break from movies since the debacle of Lal Singh Chaddha, paid Rs 10 crore. Akshay Kumar, who has previously appeared on many such lists, was missing this year. In 2022, Akshay Kumar had received the 'Samman Patra' from Income Tax department for being the 'highest taxpayer' in the country.

Crisis man Axar Patel responds again, sends strong reminder to selectors



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The stocks of Axar Patel, the red ball terminator on crumbling tracks, have plummeted. But the profile of Axar, the crisis man with the bat down the order, continues to rise, effectively guaranteeing a spot in the Test squad, or even recommending his case to the first eleven. His scorching 86 off 118 against India C in Anantapur, accounting for half the runs India D put on the board (164), was a knock he has played several times in his career. The side in distress, a step away from obliteration, and Axar firefought with an array of blistering strokes and defiant defence, an approach that has fetched him a robust average of 35.88 in 22 outings, and one that could bring him more Test caps. When he strode in, India C seamers had reduced India D to 34 for 5 on a surface with lateral movement and bounce. The ball hemmed and hooped, but Axar diligently clung on, seeing off the seamers Anshul Kamboj and Vijayakumar Vyshak, bedding in and then taking on the spinners. His first run came off the 18th ball, the first four arriving off the 25th ball, a thud through extra cover. Of all their batsmen, he alone had the discretion to leave balls outside the off-stump and the technical adeptness to stretch forward and defend. He alone had the wisdom to seize moments too.

Once he began to lose partners — India D tottering at 76/8 — and the surface its sting, he began to employ his tremendous reach and fluent bat-swing to good effect. To the spinners, he would clear his right leg and

clump them either straight down the ground or through mid-wicket. Left-arm spinner Manav Suthar bore the brunt, as Axar smacked him for a pair of sixes and a four in the space of four balls, an onslaught reminiscent of his dismembering of the Australian spinners in Nagpur last year. Off-spinner Hrithik Shokeen could have had him stumped on 54, but Axar made most of the life by smoking him for consecutive sixes.

He didn't spare the seamers either. Himanshu Chauhan was scythed for successive boundaries, one past him and the other through extra cover, both flat and powerful drives, before Anshul Kamboj was clipped through fine-leg. For much of the innings, he stole a single off the last or the penultimate ball, shielding Arshdeep Singh in an innings resurrecting stand of 84 runs, of which the latter contributed 13 runs. The cornerstone of his batting is his uncluttered bat-swing, like a pure scythe of a sickle. There is no fear, or doubt, no second thoughts, as he swings the bat through a crisp line. Even when hitting across, his head doesn't waver, the body doesn't flail, the balance is immaculate. A deserved three-figure mark eluded, but he reinforced why the Indian team management insists with him. He could be as important a figure in the Gautam Gambhir era as he was in the Rahul Dravid reign. His day wasn't finished, as he returned to pick two wickets, with India C ending their day on 91/4. Shreyas Iyer could console that it was not a short ball that nailed him. But that would hardly be an encouragement if he were to watch the dismissal. Rather, it was even more damning an expose of his technique. His front-foot nervously half-forward, hands hard and stabbing away from the body at a good-length Vyshakh Vijayakumar ball that moved a shade away after pitching. Iyer would loathe watching the dismissal video again, as time is running out for him to push his case for the Bangladesh series. Runs have dried up for him after the ODI World Cup. His measly returns against South Africa (away) and England (home) have put his Test spot in jeopardy. Though he missed the last three Tests against England due to injuries, the path back looks arduous if keeps getting out like this.

Kamran Akmal slams Pakistan team management for showing lack of faith in spinners

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

Former player and national selector Kamran Akmal has slammed the past and present national team management including captains for showing lack of faith in spinners while playing home Test series. Akmal said spinners in the country have been systematically sidelined and not given proper chances to show their worth in last three years, in the wake of Pakistan's 0-2 defeat against Bangladesh at home. "There is no way we will win a home series without a spinner taking wickets. My observation is that in the last three-four years, the management and captains have not shown patience to develop the spinners," he told PTI. Akmal said there were no reasons for sidelining experienced spinners such as Yasir Shah, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan, Bilal Asif, Zahid Mahmood or Usman Qadir. "When Babar (Azam) was captain, he kept some spinners in the squad but never bothered to play them regularly. Unless spinners get constant exposure, how will they come through?" he said. Akmal pointed out that Pakistan have won matches at home with a combination of both pace and spin in the past. "Even when we were forced to play in UAE, we won Tests mainly because of our spinners," he said.

"We don't have pacers who are as strong as those we had in the past and yet we are expecting them to win us the series. The recent series against Bangladesh is an example." "Where is Yasir Shah? Isn't he still active in first class cricket? Where has Noman Ali gone? Didn't he take wickets? Did he get punished? He had appendicitis in Australia, got operated on, and was then sidelined." "What was Usman Qadir's fault? What was Sajid Khan's fault? What was Bilal Asif's fault? All of them have taken five-wicket hauls and yet are out of the team," he said. Akmal said Pakistan batters "legs start to give way" against pacers. "Our batters are comfortable against pacers bowling at 130-140 kmph, but when they face a pace



of 140 kmph or more, and they see that on the scoreboard during the match, their legs start to give way," he said. "See how we struggled against Nahid Rana and Taskin Ahmed who bowl 140 kmph plus. Look at the way our main batters were dismissed," he said.

Akmal said players need to prioritise domestic cricket and not focus only on overseas leagues. "They prefer to go and play in useless foreign leagues to earn money and this is not helping them develop their skills. This lack of commitment towards domestic cricket is leading to inconsistent performances at the international level." Kamran said there was nothing wrong with players wanting to earn money from foreign leagues. "But I think as a professional you have to balance your schedule and ensure that while you earn money you also improve yourself as a player for your country," he added. Akmal said Babar is struggling for form due to some technical flaws. "He is unsure of himself and his off-stump early on and has this tendency to leave his leg stump exposed. Balls that should be played towards cover are being played straight, and the bat doesn't go towards the ball's direction," he said.

Who is Dharambir, India's 5th gold medallist who won Club Throw after struggling for first four attempts

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

For the first four of his six attempts in Men's Club Throw F51, Dharambir struggled. He just couldn't get the club cleanly out of the seated throwing area that is surrounded by a net, and when he did, it went outside the throwing sector. He came into the event as a medal favourite, as he had won bronze at the World Championships. And suddenly, with two throws left (in seated throws athlete throw all six tries in one go) he was in trouble. He then took a pause, adjusted his harnesses, reset his poise, got his grip adjusted and with the fifth attempt, threw a massive 34.92m for a new Asian Record. No one else would overtake him for the rest of the event, and Dharambir ended up winning India's fifth gold medal at the Paralympics, equalling the tally from Tokyo.

"As quadriplegic athletes we are not even able to hold the club, so we use a sticky gum on our fingers. Sometimes it is not in our control how it will release from the hand," Dharambir said after the final. "For the first four throws, I was not able to get it right. This happens a lot with me. But I was confident that one straight throw would bring rewards, and it did. After my fifth throw, I knew I would win a medal but wasn't sure which colour. In the end it was my day. It was my throw that stood up, and I got gold." Dharambir hails from Sonapat in Haryana. A diving accident in his village canal left Dharambir paralyzed from the waist down after he misjudged the water's depth and crashed into rocks underneath. In 2014, Dharambir got introduced to para sports, and he began training in club throw under the mentorship of Amit Kumar Saroha, a fellow para athlete who shares a similar condition. And that is why you could see Amit, who was also competing in the final, glow with joy despite himself finishing 10th in the event. It was a special moment for the mentor-mentee combination, who competed in a Paralympics together as far back as Rio 2016.



In 2014, Dharambir got introduced to para sports, and he began training in club throw under the mentorship of Amit Kumar Saroha, a fellow para athlete who shares a similar condition. (X/ French Embassy in India)

It's not always been easy for Dharambir at the international level, he finished eighth at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. "In Tokyo, I was well-prepared, but it was so hard there. Here, with extra training, I was able to get the medal," he said.

"I don't have words to explain the joy and emotions that are going through me right now. Coming from a middle-class family with the worst disability in Paralympic sports, I feel immense gratitude for the gold medal. It is uplifting to give my nation so much joy." On what his gold, and silver by teammate Pranav Soorma, meant for India Dharambir said. "This is an immensely proud moment for the entire nation. I could see the Indian contingent standing and dancing, waving flags and singing, 'Gold and silver are coming home'. When we left India we promised that we would come back with 25 medals, and these two medals have brought us very close — to 24. So they are the most crucial of the entire campaign. This means the world to me."

Messi-Ronaldo era ends? Neither footballer in shortlist of Ballon d'Or for first time in 21 years



GNS News Agency, Sept 10

The 30-player shortlist of Ballon d'Or contenders, for the first time since 2003, did not feature Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, perceptibly marking the end of a duopoly that has defined football this century. Between them, the forward-pair, all-time greats, had been crowned the best footballer of the year 13 times. Another eleven times, they have emerged runners-up, often to each other. But riding the sunset of their career, perhaps they would never again kiss the gold-plated, football-shaped trophy again, as a wave of new heirs has sprung.

An era ends?

Barring a devilish late resurgence in their careers, it is unforeseeable that either Ronaldo or Messi would again enter the race. Both have retreated to lesser leagues, the 37-year-old Argentine had endured an injury-ridden season; the 39-year-old Portuguese has been belting goals as usual, but is far from the irresistible physical force he once was. Both are national-team regulars and have set their eyes on the 2026 World Cup, but their impact would be diminished. Hence, practically, even though the romantics would yearn for a relapse one last time, the Ballon d'Or colossus would never steal the show at the spectacular Théâtre du Châtelet, the Ballon d'Or venue.

Six Englishmen, Spaniards The European Championship finals dominate the list, but the domination also owes to their club performances. Seven of Real Madrid's first eleven snuck into the list, unsurprisingly after their season of treble. Two of them—Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham—are among the favourites. Four of Manchester City's indispensables too have forayed into the list. Bayer Leverkusen mainstays, Granit Xhaka, Alejandro Grimaldo and Florian Fritz too are in the fray after the

German club's fairy tale season. Arsenal too have four representatives, even though none are remotely close to winning the prestigious award. Goals and assists weigh more than tackles and blocks—out of 68 instances, forwards have scooped it 45 times. In sync with the traditional nomination patterns, attackers (forwards, strikers, wingers and attacking midfielders) consume a large slice of the cake. The lone goalkeeper is Argentina's Emiliano Martinez, instrumental to his country's COPA defence and club Aston Villa's ascent to the Champions league, though he is an outsider. So are a clutch of high-art defenders, especially Ruben Dias and William Saiba. The odds are overwhelmingly against them—Lev Yashin is the only goalkeeper to have won the award (in 1963) and only three defenders have ever claimed it (Fabio Cannavaro, Matthias Sammer and Franz Beckenbauer twice).

A potential three-way race is underway, between Spanish and Manchester City midfielder Rodri and Real Madrid pair of Vinicius Junior and Jude Bellingham. Rodri, considered the finest player in the world by City manager Pep Guardiola, was the heartbeat of Spain's Euro triumph and City's title defence. A rare blend of intelligence, vision and physicality, he makes the teams he plays tick, and was grossly unfortunate to miss out the year before. His value can't be judged by numbers—but by the fact that City didn't lose a single league or Champions League game when he bossed the midfield. Rather, all three of City's league defeats last season arrived when he was injured or suspended. Vinicius and Bellingham, though, could show more trophies and numbers. The Brazilian slammed 26 goals (including UCL semifinals and final) and plotted 11 assists in a treble-winning season; Bellingham, donning a variety of roles, belting 27 goals and 15 assists, apart from rescuing England from defeats several times en route to Euro final, was in raging form too. If Rodri wins, he would be just the fourth central midfielder to the honour.

Before realising his dream of joining Real Madrid this season, Kylian Mbappe enjoyed another prolific season, but without trophies to show. He netted 44 goals and contributed 10 assists, but couldn't inspire PSG to Champions League glory. He was lacklustre in the Euros too, where he could muster a lone goal (in 24 attempts) and conceive two assists in five games, as France lost 1-2 to Spain in the semifinal. Maybe, Madrid could inspire him to both his unreciprocated wishes—Champions League and Ballon d'Or glory. But this time, he would just be part of the A-list audience.

How Harvinder Singh shot 10s when it mattered and won a historic archery gold for India

GNS News Agency, Sept 10

On Wednesday at the brilliant setting of Invalides in Paris, Harvinder Singh went where no Indian archer had gone before in the history of the Paralympics or Olympics. In a sport that has been synonymous with heartbreaks and missed opportunities over the years, Harvinder clinched gold in Para Archery — Men's Individual Recurve Open event to take India's medal tally to 22 at the Paris Paralympics 2024. And Harvinder did so by saving his best for the last in the final against Poland's Lukasz Ciszek. He shot 9, 9, 10 in Set 1. He shot 9, 9, 10 in Set 2. Then, with the finish line in sight, he shot 10, 10, 9. In recurve archery over 70m, to not shoot a single arrow outside the gold zone on the target was a stunning display of high-pressure matchplay. Harvinder is no stranger to shooting clutch arrows under pressure at the Paralympics. Or to make history. In Tokyo, he had won India's first-ever medal in archery at any Summer Games, and while doing so he came through three tiebreaker shootoffs. It was a proper emotional rollercoaster, and in the end, years of practising to remain calm when under the pump came in handy.

While he didn't need a single shootoff in Paris, he came up with some massively important 10s on his way to the final as well. In the round of 32, he overcame a slow start to defeat Taipei's 65-year-old veteran Tseng Lung-Hui 7-3. In the round of 16 against Indonesia's Setiawan, Harvinder dropped the first set. But started the next two sets with 10s to transfer the pressure to his opponent and win 6-2. In the quarterfinal against Colombia's Hector Ramirez, he shot 10s with the last arrow in three sets, and repeated it in the semifinal against Iran's Mohammad Reza Arab Ameri. He wasn't flawless in either of the



matches, with a few stray 7s and 8s. But once more he managed pressure situations well, and found the big arrow when he needed them the most. And after those wins where he was under the pump different situations, he produced a masterclass in the final to clinch gold.

Harvinder, who hails from Ajit Nagar village in Haryana's Kaithal district, was born into a farming family. When he was around a year or so old, he contracted dengue. He required injections for treatment but had adverse effects that led to long-lasting leg injuries, eventually leading to a loss of functionality. The semifinal loss in Tokyo ranked Harvinder. Against Kevin Mather of USA, who went on to win gold, he 4-6. It was a closely-fought five-setter where Harvinder did well to take the match to distance but couldn't close it out. "You feel good when your efforts are rewarded. This bronze is good but next time I will work even harder and try and improve my game so much that I can win gold," he had told reporters then.

How Harvinder Singh rode cruel fate that impaired his left leg and claimed Paralympics gold and a PhD

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Harvinder Singh Paralympics Gold In Paris, Singh first scored a 7-3 win over Chinese Taipei Lh Tseng before scoring a 6-2 win over S Setiawan of Indonesia in pre-quarters. In quarters, he scored a 6-2 win over Colombian Ramirez before Ameri Arab of Iran 7-3 to enter the finals. (X/Narendra Modi) In 1992, when farmer Paramjeet Singh took his 18-months-old son Harvinder to a local clinic for treating an illness, he hardly knew the turn his son's life would take. "The doctor gave him the wrong injection, which resulted in the impairment in his left leg," says Paramjeet, a resident of Ajitgarh village in Haryana's Kaithal district. The painful memories passed through his mind on the day, nearly three decades and several other twists later, his son claimed gold in the men's recurve open event in Paris Paralympics, beating Poland's Lukasz Ciszek 6-0. "To see him win his second Paralympic medal and this time a gold helps us erase memories of that day in 1992," Paramjeet tells The Indian Express. The impairment kept him mostly indoor and bound to the textbooks—recently he completed his doctorate in labour reforms. "When he grew up, his only interest was getting good marks in studies. Even the reason he showed interest in archery was because the score (tens) fascinated him," he says. Harvinder Singh has struck gold with unmatched precision in the Para Archery Men's Individual Recurve Open at #Paralympics2024! ???Watching archery events during 2012 London Olympics further stoked his interest. Soon he enrolled at the Punjabi University in Patiala, where he bumped into coach Jivanjot Singh Teja and began training under coach Gaurav Sharma too. Initially, he competed in compound events, once competing with a bow used by Abhishek

Verma, an Asian Games medallist. Three years later, in 2015, he switched to recurve. Teja dusts up those days to The Indian Express: "He was a good archer in the compound. But when we decided to make Harvinder compete in recurve, the main challenge was to work on his posture and balance. Since he suffers the impairment in his left leg and recurve archery sees more than 60 percent of body weight falling on the left leg, our task was to make the right leg take the load," remembers coach Teja while speaking with Persistence and discipline took time to bear fruits. He clinched multiple medals in para nationals in 2016 and 2017, but managed only a seventh place in World Para Archery Championship in 2017. An year later, arrived the breakthrough, when he clinched gold in Jakarta 2018 Para Asian Games by scoring a 6-0 win over Chinese Zhao Lixue. He didn't turn back. Three years later, he nabbed bronze in Tokyo Paralympics with a 6-5 shoot-off win over Korea's Kim Min Su, which was India's first archery medal in Paralympics. Before Tokyo, during the pandemic that has shut all training facilities, Singh used to train at the family farm. "I was planning to compete in Korea after training in the USA but the lockdown didn't let me. Since the wheat season was over, my father ploughed a major portion of our farm to make the archery field for me to train. Also coach Gaurav Sharma made me simulate shoot-off conditions too," the archer had told this paper. The archer, who just had two top ten finishes in international tournaments in the last two years—apart from a team bronze medal in Hangzhou—had to juggle with the tedious process of completing his PhD earlier this year from Punjabi University, Patiala. Coach Gaurav Sharma, who is with the Indian archery team in Paris, had talked to this paper about Harvinder's love for academics: "