

INDIAN CHRONICLE

12 September, 2024 | Thursday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:183 | Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

₹ 3

Drunk motorist attempts to immolate himself after being caught in Shamshabad

Hyderabad: A biker, who was allegedly drunk, self-immolated after being caught during a drunken drive test at the Tondupally toll plaza in Shamshabad on city outskirts on Tuesday night.

The man, identified as Shiva Kumar from Mailardevpally who has a previous criminal record, was riding a motorcycle and tested positive for alcohol during the special drive against drunken driving by the traffic cops. He had recorded a 157 BAC. Police said Shiva was instructed to arrange somebody to drive him back to home. However, he picked up an argument with the traffic cops and left, only to return later and set himself on fire.

Cyberabad Police busts rave party in Gachibowli guest house

Hyderabad: The Cyberabad police raided a guest house in Gachibowli on the city outskirts and busted a rave party in the early hours on Wednesday. Police have taken 18 people including women and the organisers from the spot. It was found that they were playing cards, placing bets using money and consuming liquor and drugs. A case was booked and is being probed.

Telangana Police Donates Rs 11,06,83,571 to CM Relief Fund for Flood Victims



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Telangana Police Department has donated Rs 11,06,83,571 to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support those affected by the recent floods. The donation, comprising one day's salary from police personnel, was handed over during the SI and ASI passing out parade at the Police Academy. The cheque was presented to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy by Home Secretary Ravi Gupta, DGP Jitender, Intelligence Chief B. Shivadhar Reddy, and representatives of the Police Officers' Association.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy lauded the police department for their timely and compassionate gesture in stepping forward to assist flood victims, highlighting the department's commitment to public welfare beyond their regular duties.

Pawan Kalyan donates Rs 1 Cr to Telangana CM's Relief Fund for flood victims

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Hyderabad: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan met Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the latter's residence here on Wednesday and handed over a cheque of Rs 1 crore towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the flood-affected. Actor-politician on September 4 announced a huge donation of Rs 6 crore for the flood-affected Telugu states.

He announced a donation of Rs 1 crore each to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF). The Jana Sena leader also announced an additional Rs 4 crore for the relief works in 400 villages in Andhra Pradesh. Both the leaders



are understood to have discussed inter-state relations and other issues during the meeting.

This was the first meeting between the two after Pawan Kalyan assumed office as the Deputy Chief Minister in June following the landslide victory of the TDP-Jana Sena-BJP alliance in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly

Pawan Kalyan hoped that Revanth Reddy would take Telangana state ahead on the development path by fulfilling the aspirations of the Telangana people. Revanth Reddy had also wished Pawan Kalyan after the latter was sworn in as the Deputy Chief Minister on June 12.

Pawan Kalyan had not attended the talks between the two state governments in Hyderabad in July. Chief Ministers Revanth Reddy and N. Chandrababu Naidu had led their respective states in the talks to resolve post-bifurcation issues. Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and some ministers from Andhra Pradesh also attended the July 6 meeting.

PM Modi pitches India to chip makers, talks of supply chain resilience



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (September 11, 2024) said resilience of supply chains is critical for the economy as he made a pitch to boost investments in domestic manufacturing of semiconductors – the foundation of everything from smartphone to EV and AI. Speaking at the SEMICON 2024 conference on the outskirts of the national capital, the Prime Minister said the COVID pandemic showed the importance of the supply chain and underscored the need to act to ward off any disruption. "Resilience of the supply chain is very important," he said. "India is working to create the same in different sectors of the economy." The world witnessed supply shocks during COVID-19, as stringent measures to control the spread of pandemic in China affected the industries and sectors dependent on imports from that country. One of the sectors impacted was chips that form a critical part of every electronic device. Prime Minister showcased India's reformist regime, stable policies and a market that has tasted technology to make a strong pitch for investments in semiconductor manufacturing.

"It is our dream to have an Indian-made chip in every device in the world," he said and added that "We will do everything that is needed to make India a semiconductor powerhouse." Talking of steps taken by his government to boost semiconductor manufacturing, he said a reformist government, a growing manufacturing base and an aspirational market that has tasted technology provide a 'Three-D Power' for chip making in the country. "Today's India inspires confidence in the world. When the chips are down, you can bet on India," he said. He said investment of over ₹1.5 lakh crore has already been committed in semiconductor manufacturing and many projects are in pipeline.

Godavari river flows above warning level



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Hyderabad: The Godavari river is flowing above warning levels at several upstream points in the State, causing concern. Local authorities are on high alert, monitoring the situation closely to manage the potential impact. The situation has been exacerbated by the swelling of the Indravathi river, a major tributary of the Godavari, due to heavy rains in Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

Indravathi is flowing above the warning level at Jagdalpur, contributing significantly to the rising flood levels. At Eturnagaram in the State, Godavari is flowing close to the warning level of 14.83 metres. At Dummugudem, the water level has reached 13.20 m, surpassing the warning level of 13 m. With heavy rains predicted in Vidarbha and Chhattisgarh, river levels are under constant watch. The current flows are Lakshmi Barrage (3.62 lakh cusecs), Sannakka Sagar (Close to 7 lakh cusecs), Sitamma Sagar (Dummugudem) – outflows stand at 12.05 lakh cusecs and Bhadrachalam, where it is close to 11 lakh cusecs. Meanwhile, the Nizam Sagar project (100%) and Singur project (99.13 %) on Manjira and Jaikwadi dam (98.56 %), Kaddam project (96.58 %) and Sripada Yellamapalli (91.76 %) have been listed as reservoirs in Godavari basin with storage above 90 percent of their gross capacity.

GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata examines proposals of H-CITI in LB Nagar zone

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Hyderabad: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner, Amrapali Kata accompanied by project chief engineer, superintending engineer and other engineers, examined the proposals of works to be undertaken under H-CITI in LB Nagar zone on Wednesday.

Telangana officials brief Central team on flood damage



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Hyderabad: A six-member Central team, which arrived in Telangana on Wednesday to visit flood-affected districts, was briefed by the state government on the extensive damage caused in many parts of the state. The team, led by Col Keerti Pratap Singh, Joint Secretary, Operation and Communications, in the Union Home Ministry, met Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari at the Secretariat. She briefed the visiting central team about the extensive damage caused in most parts of the state due to the unprecedented rainfall that occurred between August 31 and September 3. The Chief Secretary informed that even though the weather alert was received at very short notice, the administration was on high alert, and swift action was taken by the state government which minimised the loss of human life. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was reviewing the situation regularly and the Deputy Chief Minister, along with two other Ministers, reached Khammam weathering the rains to monitor the relief and rescue operations.

Female intern at Hyderabad's Gandhi Hospital attacked

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Hyderabad: A female intern at the casualty wing of the Gandhi Hospital was reportedly attacked by an intoxicated patient on Wednesday.

The patient, who was brought to the hospital's casualty for treatment by a relative, without any provocation grabbed the intern while she was attending to another patient and attacked her.

Fellow medicos and senior doctors rushed to the rescue of the intern and quickly subdued the attacker. The sudden assault on the female intern at Gandhi Hospital, in the backdrop of the recent strike by medicos demanding security following the death of the trainee doctor in Kolkata, has shocked the community of medicos.

"We promptly reported the incident to our Superintendent, who assured that both a police and an institutional FIR will be filed without delay to address the situation appropriately.

The Gandhi Junior Doctors Association (JUDA) strongly condemns this assault and calls for swift and decisive action to ensure the safety and security of all medical staff and interns. The association demands a thorough investigation into the incident and measures to prevent such occurrences in the future," the members of Gandhi Junior Doctors Association (JUDA) said.

KTR demands probe into Valmiki scam funds in Telangana polls

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Hyderabad: With the Enforcement Directorate filing its chargesheet in the infamous Valmiki scam in neighbouring Karnataka, BRS working president KT Rama Rao reiterated that the Congress misused the funds from Karnataka to finance its Lok Sabha election campaign in Telangana. He demanded for an in-depth probe into the multi crore scam and stringent punishment for those involved. Pointing to the recent chargesheet filed by the ED which indicated diversion of the Valmiki scam funds to Telangana, Rama Rao said the Congress indulged in brazen misuse of public funds. The ED had confirmed the involvement of Congress leader and former Karnataka minister B Nagendra as the mastermind behind the Valmiki scam.

"The Telangana Congress stooped to a new low by using funds meant for the welfare of tribals in their election campaign. This is not just unethical, but also a criminal act," he said. The scam allegedly involved the diversion of Rs 187 crore from the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Limited. These funds were allegedly funneled through Nagendra and used by the Telangana Congress to bolster their election efforts. "The ED has laid bare the truth we have been saying all along – Congress leaders have shamelessly siphoned off funds meant for tribal welfare and used them for their political gains," Rama Rao said, adding that Satyanarayana Verma, the prime accused in the scam and a Hyderabad-based builder, had close ties to two prominent Congress leaders in Telangana, raising suspicions about their involvement in the illicit activities.

The BRS working president appealed to the investigating agencies to thoroughly probe the matter and ensure that all those involved were brought to justice. "It's beyond dispute that several Congress leaders are implicated in this scam. The investigating agencies must reveal the full extent of this conspiracy and punish the cul-



priests severely," he urged. Rama Rao also hinted at another Congress scam in the making in Telangana amid reports that the Congress government in Telangana was joining hands with Dubai-based Emaar builders to develop 2,000 acres in Mucherla village of Rangareddy district, which is being promoted as the Fourth City by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The company reportedly agreed to come on board for the proposed project with a condition that the government would help it get rid of the decade-long 'Boulder Hills Project' case. He hinted at a possible connection between the deal and the decade-long controversy surrounding the Boulder Hills Project, a collaboration between the then Congress government and Emaar MGF. "Telangana is watching you, Scamgress. This seems like another scam in the making from another Congress administration," he posted on X.

Delhi court extends judicial custody of CM Kejriwal till September 25



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

New Delhi: A court here on Wednesday extended till September 25 the judicial custody of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in connection with the alleged liquor policy scam. CM Kejriwal was produced before the Rouse Avenue Court through video conferencing from Tihar Jail upon the expiry of previously granted judicial custody. In a brief hearing, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) assured the court that it would supply the soft copy of the charge sheet to the accused and would provide the hard copy within 3-4 days. Taking cognisance of the charge sheet filed by the CBI, Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court, last week, issued a production warrant for CM Kejriwal on September 11. Earlier, the CBI had filed its supplementary charge sheet before a court

here against the Delhi CM and other accused persons in the corruption case linked to the alleged excise policy scam. The Supreme Court is yet to pronounce its verdict on CM Kejriwal's plea challenging his arrest by CBI and seeking bail in the corruption case.

On September 5, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan reserved its decision after hearing the oral arguments advanced by senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supreme, and Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S.V. Raju, who appeared on behalf of the CBI. During the hearing, Singhvi contended that the CBI did not arrest CM Kejriwal for two years but made an "insurance arrest in a hurry" to prevent his release in the money laundering case. Singhvi added that Kejriwal, a constitutional functionary holding the position of Delhi Chief Minister, satisfied the triple test for grant of bail. "He is not a flight risk, he will turn up to answer the questions of the investigative agency, and cannot tamper with documents, running into lakhs of pages, and digital evidence after two years," he submitted.

On the other hand, the central agency apprehended that the release of CM Kejriwal would turn many witnesses "hostile" and urged the apex court to not release him on bail. ASG Raju said that many candidates of the AAP in the Goa Assembly election came forward to give their statements to the central agency only after CM Kejriwal was arrested. "They (witnesses) will turn hostile if your lordships release Kejriwal on bail," he said.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Haryana polls

THE upcoming Haryana Assembly elections mark a critical juncture in the state's political landscape. The elections have taken a decisive turn, with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) releasing its first list of 20 candidates, effectively ending alliance talks with the Congress. This development transforms the contest from a straightforward Congress-AAP vs BJP battle into a multi-cornered fight, adding complexity to an already charged political atmosphere. By fielding candidates in key Congress strongholds such as Rohtak, Bahadurgarh and Samalkha, AAP has made its intentions clear. Leaders like Anurag Dhanda contesting from Kalayat and Kuldeep Gadrana taking on the Jannayak Janta Party's (JJP) Digvijay Chautala in Dabwali signify that AAP is positioning itself as a serious contender. The decision to go solo, particularly in segments with sitting Congress MLAs, shows the party's ambition to gain ground beyond its urban base. AAP's electoral success in constituencies like Kalayat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections adds weight to this bold strategy. Meanwhile, this shift leaves the Congress vulnerable as the splintering of the Opposition vote is likely to benefit the BJP. The ruling BJP, already facing factionalism and rural discontent, may use the fractured Opposition to its advantage, although anti-incumbency remains a formidable challenge for it. As AAP and the Congress intensify the battle, regional players like the JJP and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) are increasingly fading away. The JJP, which once helped the BJP form the government, is struggling to maintain its rural base, particularly after the farmers' protests. The INLD, banking on its traditional agrarian support, remains relevant in only a handful of constituencies. The election, hitherto expected to be essentially a contest between the BJP and the Congress.

How IAS officer Suhas Yathiraj, Karnataka native, shot to fame in para-badminton at Paris 2024 Paralympics

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

In a world where the demands of public service and the pursuit of athletic excellence often seem improbable, Suhas Lalnakere Yathiraj stands as a remarkable exception. Yathiraj, 41, has not only scaled the heights of Indian bureaucracy but has also carved out a formidable reputation in the world of para-badminton. The ongoing Paris 2024 Paralympics saw Yathiraj clinching a silver medal in the SL4 category, marking a remarkable achievement in his dual career.

Yathiraj's life is a testament to the power of balancing ambition with dedication. By day, he serves as a highly regarded Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, currently posted as the District Magistrate (DM) of Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. By evening, he transforms into a world-class para-badminton player, demonstrating a rare ability to excel in two demanding arenas simultaneously. Born in Hassan, Yathiraj was diagnosed with a limb impairment at birth. However, his parents raised him with the belief that no obstacle was too great to overcome, a philosophy that has guided him throughout his life. Yathiraj's academic achievements are as commendable as his sporting accolades. He holds a degree in Computer Engineering and was drawn towards public service, eventually cracking the UPSC exams to join the IAS in 2007. Despite his professional commitments, Yathiraj's love for sports, particularly badminton, never waned. It wasn't until he was posted in Azamgarh in 2015 that he began to seriously pursue para-badminton. Encouraged by friends and colleagues, he started training rigorously, juggling his administrative duties with his sporting ambitions. Yathiraj's entry into the world of para-badminton was marked by rapid success. His first major international victory came in 2016, when he won a gold medal at the Asian Para-Badminton Championships. This achievement was the first of many, establishing him as one of India's leading para-athletes. Yathiraj's performance on the global stage continued to improve, and in 2021, he became the first-ever IAS officer to win a medal at the Paralympic Games, securing a silver in Tokyo. The road to Tokyo was not an easy one. Yathiraj had to navigate the challenges of a global pandemic, intense training sessions, and his responsibilities as a public servant during one of the most challenging periods in modern history. Fast forward to the Paris 2024 Paralympics, where Yathiraj once again showcased his exceptional skills on the court. Competing in the SL4 category, he battled his way to the finals, displaying the grit and tenacity that has become his hallmark. However, despite his best efforts, Yathiraj fell just short of the gold, securing a silver medal after a hard-fought match against his French opponent, Lucas Mazur. For Yathiraj, the silver was both a triumph and a source of introspection. After the event, he spoke in a mix of pride and disappointment. "...coming here as world no.1 and as world champion, there was pressure and expectations on me. I too expected that I will do well here. Ideally I would have liked to win a gold medal, which is every player's dream," he said. He added, "winning the silver is a mixed feeling, there is sadness and disappointment of missing the gold. But when the feeling sinks in then you realise qualifying for Paralympics and representing your country was a big thing. And winning the silver is a proud moment and I feel extremely humbled and grateful." In fact he also shared the events leading up to the Paralympics qualification, which he describes as an enjoyable journey. "When I started this Paralympics qualification journey, I had not played for one-two years and was world no. 39. From there to reach top-12 and then qualify for Level-1 tournaments and from there to win Asian Para Games gold, world championships gold, become world no.1...you need to enjoy this journey," he said. Yathiraj's contributions to public service are as remarkable as his achievements in sports. In 2016, he was honoured with the Yash Bharti award, Uttar Pradesh's highest civilian accolade in recognition to his exceptional service. His innovative approach to governance is evident in the mobile applications he developed, such as 'Kuposhan ka Darpan' and 'Pregnancy ka Darpan', aimed at improving the health of undernourished children and pregnant mothers. Additionally, he created a mobile app designed to assist differently-abled voters during the General Elections, in an effort to work towards inclusivity and accessibility.

Consumer court directs Lufthansa to pay student passenger Rs 1 lakh for mental pain caused two years ago, ticket cost



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

A consumer court in Gujarat's Gandhinagar on Friday partly allowed compensation to a student passenger who sought a refund from German airline major Deutsche Lufthansa for not informing him about the need for a Schengen visa for his Mumbai-Toronto journey that had halted at Munich and Frankfurt in Germany. The complainant Maharshi Yadav, 25, who was heading to Canada for higher studies, was stopped at Mumbai airport on April 13, 2022, for not possessing a Schengen visa - which is mandatory for halts in European countries like Germany. Yadav, in his complaint before the Gandhinagar District Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission against Lufthansa, alleged that the airline had engaged in unfair trade practices as it did not inform him about any prerequisite requirement towards any other visa for en route stoppages.

The commission, including president D T Soni, and members Dr S R Pandya and Hemkalaben Shah, directed Lufthansa to pay Yadav Rs 1 lakh, and also the ticket fare of Rs 67,612 at an interest rate of 8 per cent from the date of filing of the complaint. The amount has to be paid within 30 days from the date of receiving the certified copy of the judgment, it said. Yadav had sought Rs 67,612 for one ticket and another Rs 1,70,576 for the ticket he had to purchase from another airline because he was not allowed to board the previous one. Yadav has recently completed his studies in supply chain management from a university in Toronto, Canada, even as the judgment on the problems he faced during his first travel to Canada, has been finalised in India. His lawyer Sunil Chhabaria told The Indian Express that Yadav had obtained Perma-

nent Residency status in Canada at the time of writing this report. Yadav had booked a flight ticket from Mumbai to Toronto on February 23, 2022 for a journey on April 13, 2022. He would fly from Mumbai to Munich, and from there to Frankfurt and then on to Toronto.

The consumer court order stated, "Thus, when the complainant went to check in for his flight at Mumbai airport, he was stopped from boarding as he did not have a transit Schengen visa. He tried to seek help from the airlines and sought a different arrangement but to no avail. The complainant had to forfeit his ticket cost. The complainant claimed that the airline had thus engaged in unfair trade practices." Yadav, who had booked a flight ticket to Toronto on February 23, 2022, had to purchase another ticket at the last minute on an Emirates flight to Toronto via Dubai on April 14, 2022, paying Rs 1,70,576. The complainant then, through his mother Pushpa Yadav, on March 14, 2023, approached the District Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission (DCDR) in Gandhinagar to get refunds for both the tickets on the basis of deficiency in service by the airline. The commission's order said, "The airline argued that it was not the fault of the airline that the complainant did not have a Schengen visa that was required for him to travel through Germany as a domestic passenger, that the ticket was non-refundable and that the complainant had himself cancelled the ticket." Chhabaria told The Indian Express, "The court found it fit to grant court costs, refund of the original ticket as well as impose Rs 1 lakh compensation from the airline due to the mental anguish caused to my client who was forced to stay in an unknown city, with his ticket to a foreign country cancelled and make arrangements due to the airline not informing him about the requirement for a Schengen visa even though it was the airline that was hopping through Germany before heading to Canada." The commission's order says, "The complainant is entitled to recover the amount of Rs 1,00,000 under the head of mental pain and suffering from the opponent within 30 days as stated above". At Mumbai airport Yadav had tried to seek help from the airlines and sought a different arrangement but to no avail. The complainant had to forfeit his ticket cost. Later, on May 2, 2022, the complainant sent a legal notice to Lufthansa. However, the airline only replied two months later and refused to pay the refund.

Delhi Police arrest kingpin of baby-selling racket in North India



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

The Delhi Police arrested a fugitive criminal who had been on the run in connection with the trafficking of newborn babies in North India, said the police on Saturday. Sangram Dass, 38, who landed in the police net in Kolkata, was allegedly the kingpin of the gang involved in buying and selling of babies, particularly from Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. He was booked on February 20, following reports that newborn babies were spotted in the care of suspicious individuals in Jain Nagar Extension in Rohini, the police said. The Crime Branch of the Delhi Police had earlier announced a reward of Rs 20,000 for those providing information on Dass. DCP (Crime Branch) Sanjay Kumar Sain explained that Dass targeted vulnerable families in need, promising them a

better future for their babies. The complaint detailed that the infants were found in neglectful conditions, raising concerns of a possible human trafficking ring. "During interrogation, Dass revealed that he was the kingpin of the gang," the officer said.

Despite numerous raids in Delhi, Odisha, and West Bengal, Dass managed to stay one step ahead by frequently changing his hideouts, said the police. However, the Crime Branch team soon received a credible tip about Dass's location in Kolkata. During investigation, the police found evidence connecting nine people, including four men and five women, involved in the racket. They were arrested earlier; but Dass managed to evade arrest, said an officer. A combination of technical surveillance and intelligence gathering was employed, and the police also interrogated other criminals who had been caught previously in similar cases.

"They (Dass and his gang) would also deceive parents at hospitals, railway stations, and other public areas, kidnapping infants under the guise of offering them a good upbringing. The babies were then kept under the care of female members of the gang until a buyer was found," the DCP said. According to the police, Sangram Dass had moved to Delhi in 2004 for a housekeeping job, and later became involved in criminal activities, gradually building a network of traffickers across the region. He and his associates have been linked to four other cases across Delhi and Haryana, the police said.

Former RG Kar principal Sandip Ghosh made illegal appointments and siphoned funds: CBI in court



The CBI made these submissions before the special court in Alipore on September 3, when Ghosh was produced with three others—Biplab Singha, Suman Hazra and Afsar Ali. All four are in the agency's custody.

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

The CBI, which is investigating the rape and murder of a doctor and alleged financial irregularities at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, has told a special court that former principal Dr Sandip Ghosh siphoned off funds and made 84 illegal appointments in 2022 and 2023. The CBI made these submissions before the special court in Alipore on September 3, when Ghosh was produced with three others—Biplab Singha, Suman Hazra and Afsar Ali. All four are in the agency's custody. After he took over as the RG Kar principal, Dr Ghosh was transferred to a medical college in Murshidabad in September 2023. He returned to RG Kar Medical College within a month and continued until the August 9 incident of rape and murder. He resigned on August 12 and was immediately posted at the Calcutta National Medical College and Hospital. The next day, the Calcutta High Court stepped in and made him go on leave. He was suspended after his arrest by the CBI.

The CBI stated in the court, "It is suspected that Dr. Sandip Ghosh surpassed the process and straightway

appointed house staffers of his choice without adopting a transparent method for the same. The sole purpose of these discrepancies appears to be to pick and choose candidates of his choice. For 2024, a 13-member committee was formed for selection, merit list as well as counselling of house staffship for MBBS was prepared. "All the documents such as resolution, final merit score have been signed by all committee members and final order of selection staff has been signed by Dr. Sandip Ghosh, Principal, RG Kar, Medical College. But the documents with respect to selection for the years 2022 and 2023, does not contain resolution, detailed calculation of marks. They simply contain final marks and final order for selection of 84 candidates. Whereas in these selection procedures too, committees were formed but the signature of committee members is missing in the mark-sheet and other documents."

On the financial irregularities, the CBI said, "During investigation, instances have come which indicate siphoning of funds by way of managing tender in a collusive manner and the money thereafter reaching to the accused persons of this case. Further verification/investigation in this regard is going on." It is primarily revealed that Dr. Sandip Ghosh showed undue favour to M/s Khama Louha by way of awarding space on rent for running a café under due to clout of Chandan Louha with influential people.... the firms which were awarded contracts, i.e. M/s Maa Tara Traders, M/s Hazra Medical, Nisha Enterprises (controlled and operated by Sk Afsar Ali Khan) etc, were awarded multiple works just below Rs 1 lakhs in order to be eligible for the quotation process for procurement of limited tendering. Multiple bills have been seized in which amounts are just below Rs 1 lakhs. Similarly multiple instances have been identified wherein the amount limit has been kept a few rupees below Rs 10000 in order to avoid quotations at all," the agency added. The CBI submitted that it arrested Dr Ghosh and other three accused "under section 120B /w 420, 409, 467 of IPC and Section 7 & 13(1) (a) of PC Act (as amended by the PC Act Amendment Act, 2018) and accordingly a prayer for adding these sections in the FIR was made".

Police accuse 'conman' Omkar Joshi of posing as member of National Commission for Backward Classes, files fresh FIR



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

'Conman' Omkar Shyamrao Joshi has been booked for allegedly posing as a member of the National Commission for Backward Classes. Police Havaldar Tushar Salunkhe lodged the FIR in this matter at the Sangvi police station on Friday. This is in addition to the cases already pending against Joshi. Joshi, 45, was earlier arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Pimpri Chinchwad city police for allegedly cheating a businessman to the tune of Rs 4.41 crore by falsely claiming to be the director of the Department of Heavy Industries under the Central Government.

During the investigation, the police seized visiting cards on which Joshi claimed to be a member of the National Commission for Backward Classes. Images of the Ashok Stambh were also illegally printed on these cards, the police said. The police suspect the accused has cheated people since May this year by claiming to hold government posts and assuring them to provide jobs or earning opportunities. A fresh FIR was lodged against Joshi under Sections 204, 205, 336 (2), 336 (3), 340 (2), 319 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections of the State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005.

Delhi court to take cognisance of charge sheet against Lalu Prasad, Tejashwi on Sep 13



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

land for jobs case The Delhi court is likely to take cognisance of a charge sheet a supplementary charge sheet against former railway minister Lalu Prasad, his son and former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav and eight others. A Delhi court is likely to take cognisance of a supplementary charge sheet against former railway minister Lalu Prasad, his son and former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav and eight others in alleged land for jobs scam, on September 13.

Special Judge Vishal Gogne on Saturday fixed the matter for the next week after noting that no further clarification was required from the ED on the matter. The final report was filed before the court by the ED on August 6.

The ED filed its case based on an FIR lodged by the CBI. The case pertains to Group-D appointments made in West Central Zone of the railways based in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, during Lalu Prasad's tenure as the railway minister from 2004 to 2009 in return for land parcels gifted or transferred by the recruits in the name of the RJD supremo's family or associates, the ED said.

Surat cop booked on woman's complaint of rape and acid attack threat

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

According to the police, Hitesh Mori, 35, a resident of Rampura and head constable with the Udhna police station, met the complainant in December 2021. According to the police, Hitesh Mori, 35, a resident of Rampura and head constable with the Udhna police station, met the complainant in December 2021. A head constable has been booked in Gujarat's Surat city on a rape complaint lodged by a bank employee who rejected his marriage proposal, police said.

According to the police, Hitesh Mori, 35, a resident of Rampura and head constable with the Udhna police station, met the complainant in December 2021. As he had an account with the bank where she worked, the duo became friends and later started meeting after office hours. The woman, who stays with her mother and nephew, said in her police complaint that she had rejected Mori's marriage proposal and stopped answering his phone calls and meeting him. Mori then allegedly started stalking her and, a few days ago, intercepted her while she was returning home after work. As she refused to change her mind, Mori broke the glass of her car's door and allegedly threatened to pour acid on her and kidnap her nephew.

The woman, who escaped from the spot, later complained against Mori to the Dindoli police, which booked him under Indian Penal Code sections 376 (rape), 354D (stalking), 323 (punishment for voluntarily causing hurt), 427 (mischievous causing damage to the amount of fifty rupees), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace), 506(1)(criminal intimidation), 506(2)(threat to cause death or grievous hurt). Inspector R J Chaudasma said, "The accused wanted to marry her but she rejected his proposal as he is already married and has children. The accused has been with the Surat police department for the past 10 years and is serving with the Udhna police now."

'This is just the start': Shikhandi, Maharashtra's first transgender Dhol Tasha Pathak, looks to make its mark



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

In the bustling lanes of Pune's Market Yard area, filled with vibrant flowers, bright lights, and idols with heart-felt eyes, a 25-member team with dhols around their waists awaits the arrival of Lord Ganesh, looking forward to leaving a mark in this year's Ganeshotav celebrations as Maharashtra's first transgender Dhol Tasha Pathak. Named 'Shikhandi' after a warrior from the Mahabharata who was born a princess but raised as a man, the Dhol Tasha Pathak was founded under the vision of social activist Kadambari Shaikh and mentored by Manasvi Goikar, Pravin Sonawane, Pritesh Kamble, and Mannat. "None of us knew how to play the instruments nor did we have access to them," founding member Pravin Sonawane told The Indian Express, ahead of the group's debut with the Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganesh Mandal on Ganesh Chaturthi on Saturday. Dhol Tasha, an instrumental art form integral to the Ganeshotsav celebrations in Pune, became a beacon of light for the group when they saw a gap in the art they wanted to fill. "We want the community to stand tall and take pride in what they do. This group is a passive source of income for many, but for many others, it is their identity," Sonawane added.

Asked about why the group chose 'Dhol Tasha',

Sonawane said that traditionally, the transwoman-dominant community has relied on dancing, begging, or 'Basti Badhai' (blessings to families on auspicious events) and sex work. Teju, a transwoman and a member of the group, mentioned the importance of art and culture for the community. "Dancing, singing, performing...they have been given to us as our legacy. We all are natural artists," Teju said. Having started their training in late July, the group has been practising with the Nadbrahma Dhol Tasha Pathak under Atul Bhere's mentorship and is looking forward to performing at the major processions of five prominent Ganpati pandals in Pune and the renowned Shreemant Dagdusheth Halwai Ganesh Mandal. Asked about the support that the group has been receiving, Teju said, "People have been appreciating our efforts as they are seeing something different. They didn't know who we were and hence, did not try to understand our hardships. They only saw us begging at the signal or standing around the corners at night but now they see us working hard. They appreciate our work and this gives us hope." Speaking on the bonding within the group, Sonawane said, "Every member has been working relentlessly. People travel two hours and stay back for 3-4 hours of practice daily to build morale." Only four members of the group have a fixed salary. Three members are unemployed and work on freelancing projects while the rest earn their livelihood by engaging in daily wage tasks. Highlighting the challenges of balancing the responsibilities of being a Dhol Tasha Pathak member with holding a job and managing finances, Sonawane said, "There have been times when our members have not had money to travel to Market Yard and the group has pitched in. Many of our members still work on meagre salaries and it becomes a challenge to commit to such participation daily." However, despite the hurdles, the group is hopeful about the future. "This is just the start, we want to grow. We have a lot to offer and a lot to showcase," Manasvi, a member of the group, said.

Minister Atishi asks her officials to plan mental health counselling of Delhi govt school children

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Delhi Education Minister Atishi on Friday directed officials in the Directorate of Education (DoE) to plan for mental health counselling of children in all government schools in the capital. According to a statement by the office of the education minister, over 20,000 students received counselling last year. Calling the pilot project a success, it stated that Educational and Vocational Guidance Counsellors (EVGC) and school psychologists were engaged to support the children in maintaining their mental health under the project. Group sessions and social-emotional learning to manage stress were also a part of the pilot phase.

"The mental health Initiative has played an important role in this direction. Under this scheme, we aim to provide better health services to school students. With the help of which, a healthy mind, society and a healthy nation will be contributed," read the statement, quoting the minister. It further stated that the minister spoke with the school psychologists and EVGC counsellors posted



in clinics and took their feedback. In the interaction, Minister Atishi was informed of the importance of timely counselling and the lack of awareness of mental health. The minister's office mentioned that in the interaction, the psychologists shared that they have identified problems at the school level through teachers and student counselling is done to solve them.

Row over gatecrashing engagement ceremony ends in murder, 1 held in Delhi



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

The Delhi Police on Friday arrested a man on murder charges after he allegedly assaulted an acquaintance with bricks in the Vikas Nagar area, leading to the man's death. The deceased had berated the accused for gatecrashing an engagement ceremony only to have free food and liquor, the police said.

According to the police, at around 2.33 am on September 6, the Ranhola police station received a police

control room (PCR) call, informing them that an injured man was lying near Star Shine Public School, Vikas Nagar. When they reached the spot, there were bricks covered with blood in the area, the police said. Pramod had been taken to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital before the police arrived at the spot and was declared brought dead, the police said.

According to the police, Pramod was working as a waiter at an engagement ceremony in Shiv Vihar when he spotted Suresh, who was known to him. A resident of JJ Colony, Shiv Vihar, Suresh had entered the function uninvited, a police official said. Noting that he was there just for the free food and liquor, he was thrown out by the organisers and verbally abused by Pramod, the police said. "Suresh went away and was standing near Tyagi Dairy, Shiv Vihar when Pramod came and abused him again. Suresh then followed Pramod till F-block, Krishna Sweets and beat him with bricks," Jimmy Chiram, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer), said. "The accused was trying to escape from Delhi but was apprehended at 9 am from Nala Road, Vikasपुरी. He was arrested at 3 pm after he confessed to the crime," a police official at Ranhola police station said.

Khet Bhavan 'gifted' to MGSAMT; member objects, approaches HC

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

The acquisition of Khet Bhavan on September 5 by the Mahatma Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram Memorial Trust (MGSAMT) has run into a controversy after one of the warring factions at the trust that runs the non-governmental organisation has moved the Gujarat High Court questioning the "gift deed" through which the building was handed over to the state government. Pradip Dave, reportedly an executive committee member of Gujarat Khet Vikas Parishad (GKVP) — the trust that runs Khet Bhavan, has moved the Gujarat High Court objecting to the transfer alleging that the building, situated close to the Gandhi Ashram, has been gifted through a "so-called" legal process that was done in "a hasty and suspicious" manner. He also claimed he was elected GKVP president on November 5 last year and that an application moved by another trustee and GKVP secretary, Dinesh Batua, before Charity Commissioner R V Vyasa seeking permission to "gift" Khet Bhavan to MGSAMT was not a unanimous decision.

On the other hand, Batua and former Congress MP Amarsinh Z Chaudhary refuted Dave's claims saying they are the secretary and president, respectively. On September 5, the Ahmedabad Collector took possession of Khet Bhavan, which housed the office of GKVP — a registered public trust founded by veteran Congress leader late Zinabhai Darji and linked to many political and social movements in the state, on behalf of MGSAMT that is

implementing the Rs 1,200-crore Sabarmati Ashram redevelopment project. The collector's move followed Batua's application on June 16 seeking permission to "gift" Khet Bhavan to MGSAMT. Following this, on July 22, Charity Commissioner Vyasa issued a public notice in newspaper inviting suggestions/representations from concerned interested parties in the form of an affidavit by August 7. The hearing on those suggestions/representations was kept on August 8. Eventually, Vyasa issued an order on August 27 allowing Batua's application to gift Khet Bhavan to MGSAMT. A copy of Vyasa's order was officially sent to various people, including Batua and Dave.

The Ahmedabad Collector took possession of Khet Bhavan on September 5 following the order. A government official confirmed that they have taken over the possession of Khet Bhavan Thursday evening. A banner has also been placed at the entrance of Khet Bhavan stating that the building has been gifted to MGSAMT as per the order dated August 27, 2024. "Its possession has been taken by Collector, Ahmedabad on behalf of the Trust (MGSAMT)," the poster reads, warning of legal action against trespassing. However, Dave has taken objection to "gift deed". "I was appointed GKVP president on November 5 last year. As per the rules of our trust (GKVP), the resolution of gifting Khet Bhavan has to be done unanimously. I was not even consulted. Batua does not have the authority to move the application before the Charity Commissioner seeking permission to gift Khet Bhavan to MGSAMT," Dave told The Indian Express. Questioning

"Visas for Canada, UK": How brother-sister travel agent duo duped people including Punjab Police cop on CM Security



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

A brother-sister duo from Punjab, both travel agents, were arrested for allegedly duping several persons of crores on the pretext of sending them to the UK and Canada, including a woman police officer from Mohali, who is a member of the chief minister's security team, Ludhiana police said Friday. Police said Rs 1.07 crore in cash was seized from their possession which they allegedly collected from victims on the pretext of arranging their visas.

In her complaint submitted to Ludhiana police in May this year, Senior Constable Ravneet Kaur from Mohali stated that her brother and his wife were duped of Rs 14.30 lakh by Dugri residents Amit Malhotra, 39, and his sister Veenu Malhotra, the owners of Global Way Immigration at Ishmeet Singh Chowk in Ludhiana. According to the FIR registered at the Model Town police station, Ravneet Kaur stated, "I am posted with the CM's security team. My brother Jagdeep Singh and his wife Sukhvir Kaur wanted to move to the UK and had paid Rs 14.30 lakh to the Ludhiana firm in 2020 to arrange visas for them. However, the firm adopted dilly-dallying tactics and

made them wait for four years on one pretext or the other. The firm neither arranged their visas nor returned them their money." After a thorough probe, an FIR was registered against the duo on September 4 under the sections 420 (cheating) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) (as the crime reportedly took place in 2020) and section 24 of the Immigration Act at the Model Town police and then the brother-sister duo was arrested, police said.

Police said the prima facie probe revealed the siblings duped several people to the tune of crores of rupees, and further investigation was being conducted. Additional DCP Zone-3 Shubham Aggarwal said the brother-sister duo would lure people with the false promise of sending them abroad, mainly the UK and Canada. "After receiving the fee for the visa, they would point out flaws in the documents and claim their application was rejected. Gradually, they would swindle money from several victims which is being probed further," the officer said.

Protesting against the same company, a couple — Hardeep Singh and Amandeep Kaur from Dhuri in Sangrur — had climbed atop a water tank in Ludhiana's Model Town Extension on August 12, alleging they were duped of Rs 10 lakh on the pretext of arranging visas to the UK for them, and threatened to end their lives. Hardeep's brother Lakhwinder Singh said, "A deal was sealed for Rs 26 lakh, with an advance payment of Rs 10 lakh made via RTGS in February. However, the firm allegedly kept delaying the process and started making excuses when approached for updates on the visa. Besides, the company's bouncers would misbehave with us." The couple climbed down after police assured them of action. Later, the Ludhiana district administration cancelled the firm's licence. Previously in 2018, three FIRs were registered against Veenu Malhotra for cheating at the Division Number 8 police station, police said.

635 huts razed in Gujarat's Kandla port as 2-day mega demolition drive ends

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

The Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) in Gujarat razed more than 600 huts of fishermen at Kandla port in Kutch district and cleared "encroachments" on more than 250 acres of land during a mega demolition drive that concluded on Friday. Multiple excavators ran through Banna Basti, demolishing huts and sheds which served as homes to around 6,000 fishermen. Officials of DPA, an autonomous body functioning under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said that 580 huts were demolished on Thursday and 55 more were pulled down on Friday. "Around a month ago, the DPA had served notices to vacate the area. However, people remained under the impression that their huts would not be demolished during the rainy season. But the bulldozers came all of a sudden and people hardly had time to salvage valuables from their huts," a fishermen leader told The Indian Express on Friday, requesting anonymity.

The leader said that many fishermen had been living there for generations. "The DPA had been serving notices for the past two or three years to vacate the area but most of the people there had nowhere else to go. Many of them had been living there for generations. So, they stayed put," the leader said, adding, "They are camping on the road in the area amidst intermittent rains after their huts were demolished." DPA chairman Sushil Kumar Singh said. "These huts were located on a patch of land between dry cargo jetties and liquid cargo jetties. Between two custom-bonded areas of the port, we had this open area with access to our waterfront. They were encroachments on DPA land and therefore, we demolished them after serving them notices," Singh told The Indian Express. Kandla is the largest public sector port in India. It is also a major landing port for imports of crude oil and edible oils into India.

Singh added that the settlements were amidst a maze of jetties, pipelines for transmission of hazardous chemicals like ammonia, and tank farms with a storage capacity of 34 lakh kilo litres. "We had complaints of people puncturing pipelines for stealing cargo. If gases like ammonia leak, it can lead to a tragedy like the Bhopal gas tragedy. Additionally, though Kandla port is an ISPS (International Ship and Port Facility Security) Code-compliant port, these settlements were a huge concern during periodic audits. In any case, they were unauthorised settlements," said Singh.

He added that the DPA had facilitated the rehabilitation and resettlement of some fishermen. "They were offered residential facilities outside the port area more



than a decade ago. But some of them sold those houses, returned to Kandla port and rebuilt huts," he said. Kandla is the second port in Kutch district to witness a mega demolition drive in recent years. The Gujarat government had demolished more than 300 huts, sheds and godowns in Jakhau port in Kutch in October 2022 after terming their encroachments on government land. Asked why the DPA undertook the drive amid intermittent rains in Kutch, Singh said: "We had been getting lots of inputs about threat to coast security, maritime security and security of cargo that is handled by the port." He said that the DPA was providing food packets and drinking water to the affected people. "We are providing them food and water on humanitarian grounds. However, their resettlement and rehabilitation is not our mandate," he added. There are four notified fish landing points within Kandla port through which fishermen operate their boats. "The Gujarat government has notified 114 fish landing points, including four in Kandla, along the coast of Gujarat. The DPA will continue to allow fishermen access to the waterfront through these four fish landing points. But to prevent the settlement of huts from coming up again, we will construct a wall and fence around the land which has been cleared," Singh said. "We will also request the Gujarat government reconsider the notification notifying the four points in Kandla port in view of the plans for further development of Kandla port, including increasing the cargo throughput to 150 million tonnes, developing the port as a hub of green hydrogen ecosystem etc," he added. The fishermen leader, however, said that the fishermen were upset that they were being seen as a security threat. "My grandfather had ferried material on his head during the construction of Kandla port and all of a sudden, we are told that we cannot live on this land. If the DPA wants to flush us out of Kandla, so be it. But it hurts deeply when we are considered a security threat. We are poor people who barely earn enough to meet daily needs but we are Indians first."



Khet Bhavan). I am president of the trust and there are decisions of the Charity Commissioner."

But Dave alleged that the "gifting" was a move to retain control over GKVP. "My predecessor, Amarsinh Z Chaudhary (former Congress MP), was removed from the post of president on November 5, 2023 in a meeting of the trust. As a result, Batua, too, lost the post of secretary. I was appointed the president. So, they have managed to do this to retain their control over GKVP," he said. On allegations of corruption leveled against him by Dave, Chaudhary said, "I am associated with Khet Bhavan for the past 50 years. I have been in public life for the past 50-60 years. Till date, no finger has been pointed against me. I am also the president of Gandhi Vidhyapith, Vedchi for the past 25 years. I have been associated with around 100 educational organisations across Gujarat. It is for the people to decide who is what."

Court discharges doctor accused in 17-year-old egg donor's death



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

STATING THAT there is no sufficient ground for proceeding against him, a sessions court, in a recent order, discharged a doctor accused in a case of a 17-year-old egg donor's death in 2010. The court also noted that the investigation in the case was not up to the mark. The court discharged Dr Gautam Allahabadia, a gynaecologist, who runs a fertility clinic in Bandra, and was named in the chargesheet filed by the Mumbai police in 2015. "... in the overall view of the matter, I find that there is no sufficient ground for proceeding against the applicant-accused Dr Gautam Allahabadia," additional sessions judge V M Pathade said in the order on September 2.

The case dates back to 2010, when Sushma Pandey, a scrapyard worker, died after she was rushed to civic-run Rajawadi Hospital, with complaints of abdominal pain, three days after she had donated eggs. The police had claimed that the procedure was done at Bandra-based 'Rotunda-The Centre for Human Reproduction' for the third time. The police had alleged that this was in violation of the Assisted Reproductive (Regulations) Bill and Rules as well as the Indian Council of Medical Research guidelines, which fixed the age for a person donating

eggs to be between 18 and 35.

Allahabadia through his lawyer Priyanka Dubey had submitted before the court that Pandey had submitted a PAN card, which stated that her age was 19/20 years of age and that her name was Sushma Dubey. The PAN card was later found to be bogus. The lawyer said that there was no mechanism at the clinic to determine the age or name of the patient, or to verify if a document submitted is genuine, and that the hospital acts upon the statement made by the patient or their relative along with supporting documents.

Allahabadia had also cited a report of a panel of doctors of state-run J J Hospital, issued on December 9, 2013, claiming that there is no evidence to suggest that there was medical negligence by doctors of Rotunda Hospital. The doctor also submitted that the expert committee reports of the J J Hospital claim that the death was caused due to ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome, a known remote complication of the process of egg donation. It was submitted that Pandey or her relatives had not come to the hospital when she had pain, hence it could not be said to be medical negligence. Allahabadia also cited other co-accused being discharged in the case, including doctors at the clinic. The police had opposed the discharge plea stating that procedure was not followed to ascertain Pandey's age, which was below 18 years, or to check if she is psychologically capable to undergo the procedure. The court said that there is no clarity in the investigation about where Pandey was after she left the clinic on August 8, 2010 around 4 pm, or what had happened to the Rs 25,000 paid to her in a cheque after the process, and the injuries received by her, as seen in the post mortem. "After having perused the material available on record, it is prima facie apparent that the investigation conducted in this case is not up to the mark," the court said.

Govt exempts sugar factories NOC requirement from previous lender despite financial dept warning

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

The factory sought the change because it needed additional funding beyond a loan already secured from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF), which had refused to issue an NOC. The factory sought the change because it needed additional funding beyond a loan already secured from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF), which had refused to issue an NOC. The State Cabinet last month approved changes to the norms governing government guarantees for loans to co-operative sugar factories, despite objections from the Finance Department. The revised norms exempt factories from needing a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from previous lenders when applying for new loans. The proposal, approved by the cabinet on August 25, was prompted by an application from Shree Chhatrapati Co-operative Sugar Factory in Bhavaninagar, Pune. This factory is linked to NCP MLA and former Indapur minister Dattatraya Bharane, a close aide of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

The factory sought the change because it needed additional funding beyond a loan already secured from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF), which had refused to issue an NOC. Additionally, the cabinet meeting introduced a provision making it the collective responsibility of the entire board of directors, as well as the individual responsibility of the directors, to repay loans. Previously, if a co-operative sugar factory had an existing loan, the NOC clause required the factory to obtain clearance from the previous lender before securing new financing. This clause has now been removed.

The mandatory clause about NOC said, "If the co-



operative sugar factory has taken loan earlier, the claim of lender, state government and state co-operative bank will continue on the assets of the factory and to claim new loan, the responsibility of taking the NOC from the lender will be mandatory on sugar factory." This clause was deleted with approval from the state cabinet. The co-operative department proposed the changes, but the finance department raised concerns about potential future liabilities to the state government. "If the clause about mandatory NOC from the lender while taking another loan is removed and in future if Shree Chhatrapati sugar factory failed to pay Rs 128-crore loan, the burden will fall on the state government as it has given guarantee to pay the loan," objected the finance department. Despite these concerns, the state cabinet approved the changes, including removal of the mandatory NOC clause. Moving forward, board directors must submit personal bonds before loan disbursement, and the entire board will collectively share the responsibility for loan repayment.

Karnataka eyes tripling bioeconomy to \$100 bn by 2030 with new biotechnology policy



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Information Technology-Biotechnology Minister Priyank Kharge on Friday unveiled the Karnataka Biotechnology Policy 2024-2029, which aims to propel the state's bioeconomy to \$100 billion by 2030, significantly contributing to India's goal of a \$300 billion bioeconomy within the same timeframe. India currently stands among the top 12 global biotechnology hubs, with Karnataka playing a crucial role, boasting a bioeconomy valued between \$27 billion and \$31 billion. The state, home to over 1,000 biotech startups, has seen substantial investments surpassing \$200 million. At the launch, Kharge said, "We are thrilled to unveil the Karnataka Biotechnology Policy 2024-2029, which marks a landmark moment in our journey to establish Karnataka as a global biotechnology leader. The bioeconomy in Karnataka has experienced extraordinary growth, and the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of startups has been significant in shaping the future of Karnataka's bioeconomy."

The Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, operating under the Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, spearheads this ambitious policy. The mission is to position the state as a leading global biotechnology destination by fostering a dynamic ecosystem that attracts top talent, builds world-class infrastructure, drives cutting-edge research and innovation, and promotes international collaboration, entrepreneurship, and inclusive economic growth. Building on previous successes, the policy is designed to exponentially accelerate growth by aligning with existing policies while addressing the specific needs of the biotech sector. The policy objectives are multifaceted and aim to build on past achievements while strategically implementing new policies to drive growth in Karnataka's biotechnology sector. The key objectives are the following: Strengthening biotech education: The policy emphasises skilling to enhance employability and

entrepreneurship in the biotech sector. This will ensure that Karnataka develops a future-ready workforce capable of meeting the demands of a rapidly evolving industry. Streamlining regulations: To attract investment and facilitate business, the policy aims to make it easier for startups and established companies to operate in Karnataka. Supporting biomanufacturing: The policy aligns biomanufacturing activities with health, climate, and energy goals, enhancing food security and positioning Karnataka as a global biomanufacturing hub.

Supporting startups and mid-stage ventures: Early-stage biotech startups will receive continued support through funding and mentorship, while mid-stage ventures will benefit from growth facilities and market access. The policy also encourages preferential procurement of local biotech products. Establishing regulatory sandbox: The policy introduces a regulatory sandbox to expedite the use of biotech innovations. This will enable quicker implementation of cutting-edge technologies, giving Karnataka a competitive edge in the global biotech market. Job creation and skill development: The policy aims to create 30,000 high-quality jobs in the biotech sector by 2029. To support this, the state will partner with over 200 institutions to train 20,000 individuals in specialised biotech skills. Fiscal incentives and concessions: A significant feature of the new policy is the array of fiscal incentives and concessions offered to startups, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), and large industries. These are designed to stimulate growth by reducing operational costs and encouraging innovation.

Startups will benefit from state GST reimbursement, marketing cost reimbursement, patent cost reimbursement, quality certification cost reimbursement, and support for incubation/acceleration centres, including one-time capital grants for establishment and upgradation or expansion. MSMEs will receive similar benefits, with additional incentives such as prototyping cost reimbursement, interest subsidy, stamp duty exemption, land conversion fee incentive, and power tariff concession. Large industries are also well catered for, with incentives including STP cost reimbursement, rainwater harvesting cost reimbursement, interest subsidy, land cost reimbursement, production-linked incentives, and more. The policy places a strong emphasis on emerging biotech fields such as ag-bio-culture, bio-industrial applications (including bio-energy and nutraceuticals), marine biotechnology, synthetic biotechnology, medical devices, and diagnostics.

Mumbai police step up school safety measures after Badlapur sexual abuse case



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Badlapur school case, badlapur sexual assault case, mumbai news, maharashtra news, badlapur sexual abuse case, badlapur news, mumbai latest news, pocso act, pocso act badlapur, indian express Mumbai Commissioner of Police has issued new guidelines aimed at enhancing security protocols in schools. In response to the recent sexual abuse incident at a Badlapur school, Mumbai's Commissioner of Police Vivek Phansalkar has issued new directives aimed at enhancing safety protocols in educational institutions across the city mandating that local police regularly inspect schools, colleges, and coaching centers in their areas.

The directives come after a 24-year-old janitor allegedly assaulted two four-year-old girls in a Badlapur school washroom on August 12 and 13. The assailant was arrested on August 17 and is still in custody. The incident has led to a significant increase in child sexual abuse cases being reported under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. From August 20 to September 2, Mumbai police stations have recorded at least 121 new POCSO cases, surpassing the monthly average of 90. This includes several cases occurring on school premises. In a new order accessed by The Indian Express, Phansalkar outlined a nine-point plan for police officers, including station heads, Assistant Commission-

ers (ACPs), Deputy Commissioners (DCPs), and additional commissioners. The directives require regular visits by women police officers to ensure that educational institutions adhere to safety guidelines. These guidelines include the installation of CCTV cameras, appointment of supervisors, verification of staff, and enhanced security at washrooms and throughout school premises. Should any institution fail to comply, police teams are instructed to meet with the principal or operator to enforce adherence.

The Commissioner also emphasized the importance of conducting 'Police Didi' sessions to educate students about their legal rights and safety measures, fostering a supportive environment where students feel confident approaching law enforcement. Additionally, the Nirbhaya squads have been tasked with visiting educational institutions to raise awareness about legal consequences for sexual crimes and other emerging issues like cyber extortion and blackmail. "Police should also do confidence-building exercises among students so that they should not hesitate or fear approaching police when they are in any sort of trouble," Phansalkar stated in the order. The new directive calls for senior officers to monitor the efficiency and sensitivity of complaint handling at police stations, ensuring complaints are processed promptly and in the complainant's preferred language.

The Commissioner also mandated Deputy Commissioners to visit homes of POCSO victims in plain clothes to offer support and build trust. This approach aims to prevent further distress to the victims' families and ensure they feel secure in their interactions with the police. In the Badlapur case, Inspector General Arti Singh, leading the Special Investigation Team (SIT), personally visited the victims and their families on the first day of the investigation. It also instructs police stations to hold regular grievance redressal sessions for victims of sexual offences to ensure they are satisfied with the investigation and to address any ongoing concerns, including harassment by accused individuals on bail.

Waqf board 'scam': ED has no fresh material, ignoring CBI chargesheet, AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan tells court

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Special Judge Vishal Gogne of Rouse Avenue was hearing a money laundering case related to illegal recruitments in the Delhi Waqf Board in which Khan was arrested earlier this week. While Khan was sent to ED custody for four days on Monday, Judge Gogne extended it by another three days. "... the investigative agency may require extended time to unravel the multi-layered and masked financial transactions which may have been designed to launder a substantial amount of money (Rs 36 crore) into properties fronted by the agents of accused Amanatullah Khan," said Special Judge Gogne in his order.

Meanwhile, the court also cautioned the ED to be "cognizant of the attrition of liberty and the constraints on the individual agency of an accused through the instrumentality of custodial investigation". The agency was further directed to maintain a detailed record of the custodial investigation of the accused during the following three days and present it before the court in the next hearing. Advocate Rajat Bharadwaj, appearing for Khan, questioned the need to arrest the Okhla MLA: "Khan appeared before the ED on April 18. He was enquired for 13 hours. In the four-day ED custody (which started on Monday), the same questions were asked to him again."

Calling the ED's investigation "unfair", Bharadwaj said the material in this case already existed with the ED in 2023 and that Khan is not named as an accused in the chargesheet filed by the agency this January. On the other hand, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Manish Jain, representing the central probe agency, sought 10-day custody of the accused, stating that he had to be confronted with material against him — this included a diary owned by a co-accused and statements of co-accused and witnesses. "The accused is saying he doesn't understand English and only understands Hindi. We need to translate statements of the witnesses to confront him," said Jain. Bharadwaj, however, argued that all the evidence — including the diary and the statements — existed with the agency since last year. "... they can't arrest me to confront me with statements which existed in 2023... kuch to naya le aate. Kuch bhi nahi hai inke paas (they have to bring new material... they have nothing against me)," he added. Bharadwaj also argued: "They could have shown Khan the statements of witnesses on April 18 itself (when he was questioned by the ED). All their statements were recorded before that." Addressing the ED, Judge Gogne



said: "A substantive part of your confrontation is over it seems. Other accused persons have also already been questioned and confronted."

It was, however, Jain's case that there were new witnesses who will be named in the supplementary chargesheet that will be filed and Khan is yet to be confronted with their statements. "On 14 occasions, Khan has not joined the investigation," the SPP added. "... the examination of the case diaries by the court today suggests the possibility that the statements or material collected from about 48 witnesses... who are not part of the first prosecution complaint may be required to be confronted to the accused," the court said in its order. The case registered by the ED against Khan stems from two FIRs: one filed by the CBI concerning alleged irregularities in Waqf Board appointments, and another by the Delhi Anti-Corruption Branch regarding an alleged case of disproportionate assets. In the CBI's case, Khan was granted bail as he wasn't arrested. In the case registered by the ACB, he was granted regular bail after being arrested. Bharadwaj argued that the ED had ignored the CBI's chargesheet in this case. "In the CBI chargesheet (against Khan), it is said that there were administrative irregularities and not corruption," he said. "No money has been generated in the predicate offence (CBI's case). Khan has not received any bribes," Bharadwaj concluded, referring to the CBI chargesheet. On April 18, the ED summoned Khan and questioned him for 13 hours. According to the agency, he allegedly acquired "huge proceeds of crime" through illegal recruitment of staff, and invested the amount to purchase immovable assets in the name of his aides. All four of his alleged aides are currently in judicial custody.

Customer helpline number launched: Pune RTO deploys squads to keep check on overpriced bus tickets

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

A day ahead of the Ganesh festival, private bus travel agencies in Pune surged their fares beyond the limits permitted by the RTO, with some fares recorded at more than double the allowed rates. In response to this, the Pune RTO deployed teams along bus routes and launched a helpline number for passengers to report overcharging. Despite the Pune RTO deploying squads across the city to inspect overcharging, many bus travel agencies continue to demand exorbitant prices, using the festive season as an excuse. Numerous passengers have complained about being overcharged.

Shantanu Shedge, who frequently travels from Pune to Parali, Nanded, said that State Transport (ST) buses to Nanded usually charge around Rs 535 to 550 for non-AC and slightly higher, by a hundred or two hundred rupees, for AC buses. However, when he tried to book a ticket recently through a private agency, he was asked to pay Rs 1,160 for a non-AC bus and Rs 1,700 for an AC bus ticket, citing the festival as reason for the higher rates. The booking app showed fares starting from Rs 1,200 going up to Rs 2,000. Another passenger, Vishal Meshram from Gadchiroli, noted that there was no direct bus to Gadchiroli and the state-run ST buses ply only from Pune to Nagpur, creating a wait of four to five hours to change buses. "The only option is private buses, which usually cost around Rs 1,500 on regular days, but during Diwali



and Ganesh festivals, the fare varies from Rs 3,000 to 4,000, even for the Pune to Chandrapur route," he said. After checking on an app, a bus operator charged nearly Rs 3,200.

To address the issue, the Pune RTO constituted squads in the city and deployed them along major routes to resolve the problem. Deputy RTO Swapnil Bhole stated that in response to passengers' concerns about overcharging, the RTO has formed ten squads, each comprising two inspectors. "These officials will closely monitor routes such as Sangamwadi Bridge, Pune-Nagar Road, Pune-Satara Road, and others. They will check passenger tickets, and at the same time, the team will keep a vigil on bus booking applications," he said.

Hina Khan says she is facing 'so many problems': 'Can't even eat properly without feeling pain...'



Hina Khan, who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer, keeps her fans updated about her health. Recently, the actress took to her Instagram handle to share how "everything hurts" and she is facing "so many problems". Hina shared two pictures of herself, where she flaunted her smile and said, "I choose to smile and encourage myself." In the photos, the actress dressed in an athleisure can be seen smiling at the camera, as the marks on her body can be seen. In the caption, she revealed, "Everything Hurts, Lekin smile nahi jaani chahiye.. Haina? (But, we cannot let go of the smile)." She further shared, "So many problems, can't even Eat properly without feeling pain. But that's No reason to be negative. I choose to Smile and encourage myself. I tell myself that all this will be over and we will get through this." Recently, the Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai actress revealed that she is suffering from another side effect of chemotherapy—Mucosi-

tis. Hina, in a post, informed that she is following the doctors advice to treat it. However, she requested her fans to suggest some "useful remedies". "It's really hard when you can't eat. It will greatly help," added Hina.

Mucositis is a painful inflammation of the mucous membrane lining the mouth, throat, esophagus, stomach, intestines, and rectum. Hina Khan rose to fame with her character Akshara in Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai. She then went on to take part in reality shows Khatron Ke Khiladi and Bigg Boss. Hina was also seen in a couple of music videos as well as films. On June 28, Hina took to her Instagram handle to share a long note revealing her cancer diagnosis. She wrote, "I have been diagnosed with Stage Three Breast Cancer. Despite this challenging diagnosis, I want to reassure everyone that I am doing well. I am strong, determined, and fully committed to overcoming this disease."

Shama Sikander reveals she suffered from depression: 'I even tried to die by suicide'

Shama Sikander, who disappeared from the small screen at the peak of her career, recently opened up about what made her quit the television industry. The actress rose to fame with her music videos in the 90s. Her popularity got a boost with the lead role in the show Yeh Meri Life Hai. Yet, things soon went downhill.

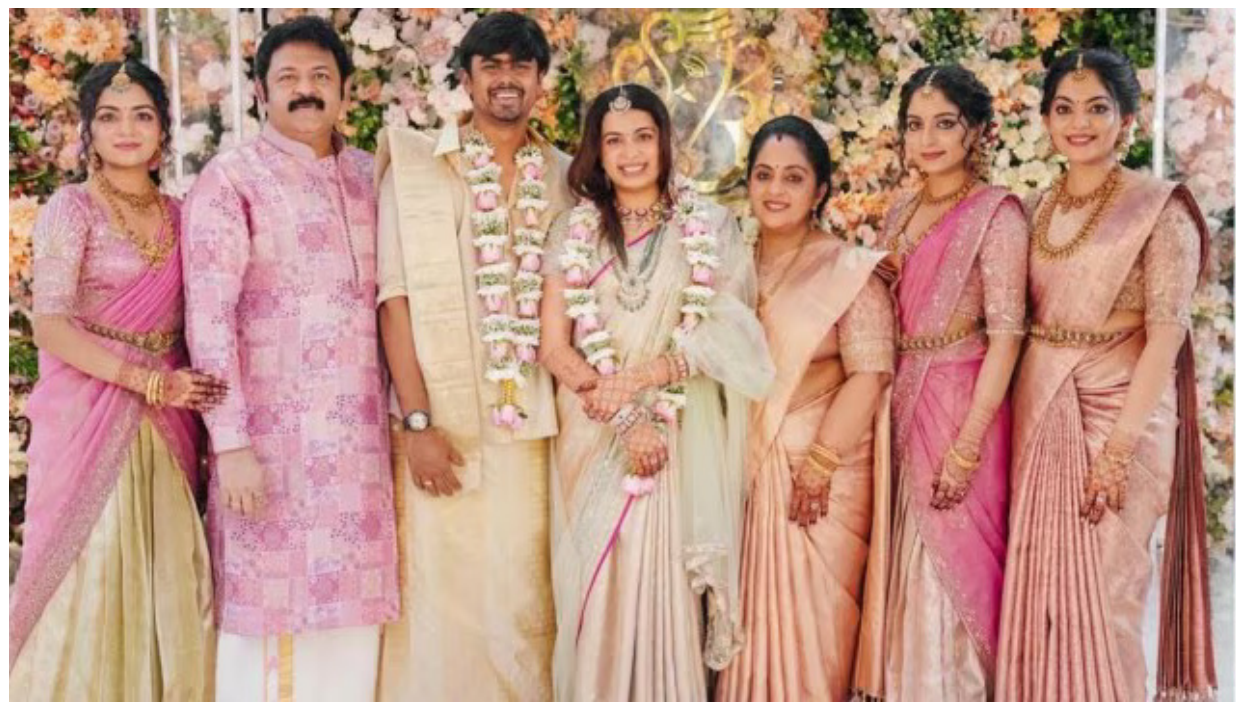
In an interview with Pinkvilla, Shama claimed "burn out" was the real reason behind her sudden disappearance from acting. She explained, "I had worked without a break for quite a long time and it started to take a toll on my mental health. I started to feel uneasy and I decided to stay indoors. I stopped going out and socializing. I was going through depression and even tried to commit suicide but thankfully my parents saved me at the nick of time."

Shama Sikander also detailed her battle with depression. Sharing the reason behind feeling depressed, the actress said, "I feel the industry has a lot of unrealistic expectations from people. It requires you to be what they perceive of you and slowly and steadily you lose yourself completely in the darkness. When I felt the burnout, I gave



up the stardom and industry and took my own time for healing." Sharing another reason, Shama claimed she was a people pleaser, which eventually took a toll on her. The actress claimed in early 2000s, there wasn't much awareness around depression. "My parents weren't able to gauge the reason for me wanting to be home and not being productive at all." However, they did support her during the dark phase.

Actor and BJP leader Krishna Kumar's daughter, social media celebrity Diya Krishna, ties the knot with Aswin Ganesh.



Diya Krishna made a unique appearance at the wedding, dressed in a pastel bronze saree, paired with a net dupatta over her head and a striking emerald green necklace. Diya Krishna and Aswin Ganesh with Diya's parents Krishna Kumar and Sindhu, and her siblings Ahaana Krishna, Ishaani and Hansika

Actor-politician Krishna Kumar and his wife Sindhu's second daughter, social media celebrity Diya Krishna tied the knot with her long-time boyfriend Aswin Ganesh in a traditional ceremony on Thursday, attended by their family members and close friends. Aswin, who works as an application development analyst at Accenture, and Diya held the event at a high-end hotel in Thiruvananthapuram.

Diya made a unique appearance at the wedding, dressed in a pastel bronze saree, paired with a net dupatta over her head and a striking emerald green necklace. She chose minimal jewellery and subtle makeup. Her bridal saree, designed by Joyal Jacob Mathew, took a month to craft entirely by hand and cost nearly Rs 2 lakh. Aswin complemented her look in traditional Tamil groom attire, wearing a shirt, mundu (dhoti) and veshti matching the colour of Diya's saree. Diya's family, including her parents Krishna Kumar and Sindhu, along with her sib-

lings Ahaana Krishna, Ishaani and Hansika, wore elegant light pink outfits.

After the ceremony, Diya shared that it was she who chose to have a small, intimate wedding without a large crowd. Manorama Online reported that notable figures from the film and political spheres, such as Suresh Gopi and Suresh Kumar, were in attendance. Krishna Kumar expressed his deep joy at his daughter's wedding, explaining that they would not be hosting any additional celebrations, emphasising that the Covid-19 pandemic taught them the value of a simple and modest wedding. Aswin proposed to Diya on January 23 and she eagerly accepted. Since then, the couple has been actively planning their wedding. According to Mathrubhumi, they also recently participated in a traditional Thali Puja at Aswin's family temple in Nagercoil, with his parents in attendance. Krishna Kumar, a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), was the party's candidate for the Thiruvananthapuram constituency in the 2021 Kerala Legislative Assembly election and for the Kollam Lok Sabha constituency in the 2024 general election, but was unsuccessful in both races. While Diya's sisters Ahaana and Ishaani are actors, the entire family is well-known on social media, though they have occasionally run into controversies for casteist and elitist remarks.

Tumbbad re-release trailer: Sohum Shah is back to search an old treasure, but the monster still awaits.

Tumbbad Movie Re-release Trailer: The greed is hungrier, but so is the monster. Makers of the folk horror film Tumbbad dropped a new trailer of the acclaimed film as it gears up for a re-release in cinemas next week. Originally released in 2018, Tumbbad slowly charmed viewers, taking them into its original world of mythology and horror.

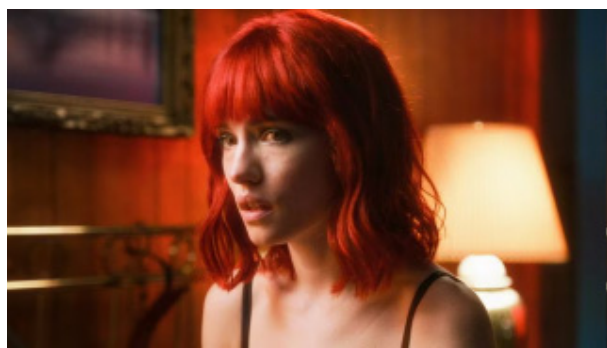
The film has since then enjoyed a royal status among cinephiles, who have praised the film for its story, cinematography and world building. The movie will now re-release on September 13.

The revamped trailer of the film features a new voice over by actor-producer Sohum Shah, who re-introduces the audience to Tumbadd and the legend. "The cycle of time is amusing. What has gone by, will keep returning," the voice over says, perhaps cheekily also referring to the film's re-release after six years. The trailer, which is cut knowing in mind that a section has already seen the film while others have definitely heard about it, then deep dives into the past and present, as it showcases the myth, the horror and the monster of Tumbadd. The team also dropped a new poster of Tumbadd which featured an old lady entangled in dark, twisted branches. Presented by Eros Now, Tumbadd is directed by Rahi Anil Barve, with



Anand Gandhi as the creative director and Adesh Prasad as the co-director. Written by Mitesh Shah, Prasad, Barve, and Gandhi, the film was produced by Sohum Shah, Anand L. Rai, Mukesh Shah, and Amita Shah. The film also stars Jyoti Malshe and Anita Date-Kelkar. Tumbbad is among the many Bollywood films which are re-releasing after Ranbir Kapoor's Rockstar, Imtiaz Ali backed Laila Majnu, Rehna Hai Terre Dil Mein, Anurag Kashyap's Gangs of Wasseypur. Interesting, Tumbbad will clash at the box office with Shah Rukh Khan's Veer Zara, which was directed by Yash Chopra.

Strange Darling movie review: An impressively crafted thriller



We meet her as she runs out of the woods, the green behind her, dressed all in red, blonde hair matted, fear written on her face, tears streaking down her cheeks. The image can't be starker, our fears never more sure — about Little Red Riding Hoods and Big Bad Wolves. Strange Darling is a film about a serial killer that hopes to surprise you at every twist of its turn, starting from that shot of 'The Lady' (Fitzgerald) trying to escape 'The Demon' (Gallner). Those are the only identities writer-director Mollner gives its two leads, who are thrown together in dangerous foreplay and then a combat that switches — and switches back — moods, tones and power dynamics so subtly and constantly, that the couple are not the only ones unsettled. After opening the film with a declaration that it's about the final few days of a serial killer's rampage across several American states, between the years 2018 and 2020 — giving it a patina of a true story, when it is not — Mollner goes on to tell the story via "six chapters", which are not in a linear form.

However, as the film unfolds, it is unclear why this non-linear structure is more than a stylistic flourish that can often be irritating. Like that foreplay, it keeps us guessing throughout about the motives and identities of the two leads, and what really brought them together on this risky one-night stand.

The director of photography is well-known character actor Giovanni Ribisi, in his first feature behind the camera. And his work here is impressive, right from the intimacy of the two leads flirting and feeling their way around each other in a car bathed in the blue of the hotel's neon light, to the danger that hangs in the air as they engage in role-play in a room with heavier, denser hues, to when they break free into the almost dazzling light of empty roads or the woody warmth of quaint cottages. It's in one such cottage where 'The Lady' lands up seeking

help that she meets an old couple (Hershey, Begley Jr) enjoying a leisurely, calories-loaded Sunday breakfast and solving a jigsaw puzzle, who too may not be all there. Various, they describe themselves as "old hippies", "old bikers", "doomsdayers". Mollner wants us to rethink our assumptions about first appearances, gender stereotypes, bodily strength and violence. Before she checks into the hotel with 'The Demon', 'The Lady' tells him: "Do you know the kind of risks women like me run every time we go into a room like this?" It's an interesting thought. However, while he asks the right questions, Mollner isn't really interested in getting too deep into them. And somewhere in the "epilogue", after the six chapters are over, the film stops being smart about its gender politics and is just lazy. There is one too many killing, needless dialogue, and a mention of the devil that does no one any good.

'Super beauty', 'secret live-in' proposal: Charge sheet reveals startling details in K'taka fan murder case

Bengaluru: Bengaluru Police charge sheet has revealed that the victim, Renukaswamy, had asked Pavithra Gowda to have a secret live-in relationship with him over messages. "You are hot. Hi, please send your number. What will you expect from me to see? Shall I send it? Wow, super beauty. Will you be in a secret live-in relationship with me? I will give you Rs 10,000 every month," reveals the 3,991-page charge sheet submitted to the court in connection with the sensational fan murder case involving Kannada superstar Darshan and his partner Pavithra Gowda. The charge sheet mentions that Pavithra Gowda, nable to handle the slew of vulgar messages and photos of Renukaswamy's private parts, asked another accused in the case, Pavan, to deal with Renukaswamy's messages. To track down Renukaswamy, Pavan started chatting with him under the guise of Pavithra Gowda. Accused Pavan chatted with much leniency to dig out his whereabouts and asked Renukaswamy to send his pictures outside the pharmacy shop where he worked.

Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh visit Siddhivinayak temple ahead of due date.

A day ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, parents-to-be Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone on Friday visited the Siddhivinayak temple with their families. Deepika, who is due this month, was seen draped in a beautiful green silk saree. It had a golden thread work on it. Meanwhile, Ranveer was seen complimenting her in an off-white kurta set.

Deepika Padukone just wore a pair of earrings to complete her look. She gracefully hid her baby bump behind the pallu of her saree. Videos of the couple's visit to the temple are being widely shared online. In one video, the couple can be seen walking towards the temple. Deepika was seen greeting people outside the temple. Ranveer followed his wife and greeted people around them. He then slowly guided Deepika inside the temple, walking hand-in-hand. Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone are due this month. The couple announced their first pregnancy on February 29, just hours before heading to Jamnagar to attend the pre-wedding festivities of Anant



In one video, the couple can be seen walking towards the temple. Deepika was seen greeting people outside the temple. Ranveer followed his wife and greeted people around them. He then slowly guided Deepika inside the temple, walking hand-in-hand.

Ambani and Radhika Merchant. The couple, in a joint Instagram post, shared a cute postcard that had the text "September" written on it, while drawings of little baby accessories were present on the card. This

will be the couple's first baby together after their marriage in 2018. On the work front, Deepika was recently seen in Nag Ashwin's sci-fi drama Kalki 2898 AD, also starring Prabhas. The actress will

soon be seen in Ajay Devgn-starrer Singham Returns. The film will also feature her husband and actor Ranveer Singh, who will reprise his role as Simmba. The film is set for a Diwali release.

Ajaz Patel, New Zealand's sub-continent specialist, eyes another sweet homecoming



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Almost three years ago, Ajaz Patel became only the third cricketer to claim 10 wickets in a Test innings after Jim Laker and Anil Kumble. It was a sweet homecoming for New Zealand's India-born spinner Ajaz Patel, but despite his heroics at the Wankhede, he has failed to become Blackcap's leading spinner. Since that match against India in Mumbai, New Zealand have played 19 Tests and Ajaz has featured only in five of them. The 35-year-old has played 16 Tests so far out. Eleven of them have been in the sub-continent.

In the next two months, New Zealand are set to play six Tests in the sub-continent, starting with a one-off Test against Afghanistan in Greater Noida next week, followed by two Test matches in Sri Lanka and then will return to India again for a three-match Test series. Patel, who has predominantly been as a sub-continent specialist, will have a chance to feature in all six Tests and make the most out of it. Interestingly, it could also be the first time when the left-arm spinner can play this many Test matches on the trot. "If you ask all New Zealand spinners, it is difficult sometimes. Obviously you don't get as many opportunities at home because of our home conditions," Patel told reporters ahead of their first training session at the Greater Noida Sports Complex.

"At the same time, I guess it breeds more hunger when you know conditions are spin friendly and you're quite hungry to get out there and play and put your best foot forward and perform. But it's really important that you prepare accordingly and prepare well. So it's just about going into these games and really enjoying the conditions and making the most of it." Out of his 62 scalps, Ajaz has taken 58 wickets in the sub-continent. Although he admitted that it's frustrating how he has failed to cement the spot of his side's leading spinner since his historic feat.

"I guess after the 10 wickets, obviously you're a little bit disappointed because you don't get as many opportunities but at the same time as a player, it's still about growing your game and it's an opportunity to develop and grow," he said. "I mean since my 10 wickets, I've kind

of somewhat remodelled my run up and look to grow myself and try and get better. So, it's always about improving, making sure that you're ready whenever that next opportunity comes and putting your hand up. It's always a privilege to play for New Zealand and certainly playing for your country. It's never easy to get those opportunities, it's always quite special." The next two months are going to be crucial for the inaugural World Test Championship winners. New Zealand are currently placed in third place. Although the one-off Test against Afghanistan will not come under WTC matches, it will give them a good opportunity to prepare for the tougher challenges against Sri Lanka and India.

"We know Afghanistan are a quality team and obviously they don't have as much experience, but they'll certainly put up a good fight and certainly grow from every experience that they get and have. So yeah, we're definitely not gonna take them lightly and then, you know, there's a lot of cricket to look forward to," said Ajaz. This could be Ajaz's last trip to India as a cricketer, because as per the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Future Tours Programme (FTP), New Zealand's next trip to the sub-continent for Test matches is in February 2027, and by the time he would have turned 38. In an exuberant press conference, Ajaz spoke about how special it is for him to come back to India after what he did in his last outing in the country of his birth. And if this turns out to be his last tour here with the Blackcaps, he would certainly be looking for another dream homecoming.

The New Zealand Cricket on Friday roped in former India batting coach Vikram Rathour and Sri Lanka spin great Rangana Herath as members of their coaching staff ahead of Tests against Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. Herath, who has taken 433 Test wickets, has been appointed for Tests against Afghanistan and Sri Lanka as New Zealand's spin bowling coach. "Sri Lankan spin maestro Rangana Herath has been appointed as spin-bowling coach for the three upcoming Tests in Asia, replacing former Pakistan spinner and coach Saqlain Mushtaq who was originally announced to fill the temporary role before pulling out to take up a position with the Pakistan Cricket Board," New Zealand Cricket said in a statement. On Herath's appointment as spin-bowling coach, Ajaz Patel said: "To be honest, if you look at me and you look at him, it was pretty similar in terms of the build and the body type and stuff like that." "And when I was developing and growing my spin, I kind of watched him with a lot of admiration. So it's special to have him here and I guess for me it's a great opportunity to spend some time with him and understand how he crafted his spin bowling. He was very successful and a phenomenal bowler. So it's just a great opportunity for me personally to learn a lot from him." Meanwhile, Rathour, who had a successful run as India's batting coach under head coach Rahul Dravid will be with the New Zealand team only for the one-off Test against Afghanistan.

After Pat Cummins and Johnny Grave, Michael Vaughan now becomes latest to advocate windows for Test matches



GNS News Agency, Sept 11

After Australian cricketer Pat Cummins, former West Indies CEO Johnny Grave, former England cricketer Michael Vaughan becomes the latest to advocate the idea of having a window for Test matches. With franchise cricket eating away a chunk of the cricketing calendar the Test tours have become smaller in terms of the number of matches played and preparation time for the touring teams ahead of the series.

"I would book three one-month windows into the schedule, where there's no franchise cricket, so Test cricket is the only show in town. Hopefully, that would persuade a few players to keep playing Test cricket rather than just sticking to franchise stuff year-round. In those windows, I'd have all the teams playing at the same time. Possibly, towards the end of a cycle, that could mean everyone playing concurrently in the same country, or on the same continent," wrote Vaughan in his Telegraph column.

"Franchise cricket for some countries is more lucra-

tive, more appealing than international cricket. If I went and played franchise cricket, I could probably be away for a half or a third of the amount we are for Australia," Cummins said at the MCC World Cricket Connects 2024 at Lord's earlier this year. "In Australia, Test cricket is from November to January, and basically, no other cricket is going to get in the way of us playing Test cricket then. If we can have specific windows for IPL, but then also Test windows, that makes the decision-making for the players a lot easier," Cummins added.

"I support the concept of finding Test match windows, where there are periods in the year when only Test cricket is played and we have a number of series going on in different times," Grave echoed similar sentiments speaking to this publication earlier. "It might be a test match starting in Sydney or Wellington, then Kolkata or Dhaka followed by one starting at Lord's or Newlands and then one starting at Kennington Oval so eight Test teams, four Test matches filling up almost the entire 24-hour clock," Grave added.

Nathan Lyon says 'It's been an absolute privilege to play against' R Ashwin

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Nathan Lyon and Ravichandran Ashwin are arguably the best red-ball spinners in the last decade. They have played pivotal parts for their sides over the years contributing to memorable wins. Both with a little over 500 test scalps will add to another sub-plot to the already narrative-filled Australia vs India Test series later this year. "I know Ashwin and we debuted around similar times and we've competed against each other in a number of series now and between me and Ashwin I have got nothing but respect for him. I feel like I love watching him bowl, he's an absolute master in the craft of off-spin bowling and it's been an absolute privilege to play against him and learn from him." Lyon said speaking to Star Sports. Earlier in an interview, Lyon would acknowledge that Ashwin has been his biggest coach. "There's an opportunity to learn from the people you play against, and without knowing it he's probably been one of my biggest coaches in a way."

What did Joe Root say on facing both?

England's Joe Root is arguably one of the best players of spin in world cricket and has faced substantial amounts of both Ashwin and Lyon over his career. Speaking of the difference in facing them he would say on Sky



Sports: "I'd say, Ashwin is making sure that you don't play the previous ball. He is very good at trying to drag you across the crease and get your head to one side of it and beat both edges quite frequently." "With Lyon it is all about, I think, especially in the first half of the Test match to get really over the top of the ball, get bounce bowl in between you like the knee roll and hit and try to bring short leg and leg slip into the game as much as he can and then just slowly, get slower with his pace and drift wider into that. There's that footmarks, um, Mitchell Starc has so kindly done for him for such a long period of time," explained Root

Rahul Dravid appointed head coach of Rajasthan Royals

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Dravid's tenure as India's head coach ended in June after he helped the Men in Blue win the T20 World Cup, their first ICC title since the Champions trophy in 2013. "The former Royals' captain and coach spent five seasons with the franchise from 2011 to 2015, and will commence with the team immediately, working with Royals' director of cricket Kumar Sangakkara to implement the franchise's overall cricketing strategy," the Royals said in a statement.

Dravid was the captain of the Royals in IPL 2012 and 2013 and then was the team director and mentor for them in the 2014 and 2015 seasons. After leaving the Royals in 2016, Dravid had signed with the Delhi Daredevils and stayed there till 2019 when he was named the head of the National Cricket Academy. He was appointed the coach of the Indian cricket team in 2021 and recently ended his tenure after 3 years. "After the World Cup, I feel it's the ideal time for me to take on another challenge, and the Royals is the perfect place to do that," Dravid said after returning to RR. "His exceptional coaching capabilities are evident with the transformation he's driven in Indian cricket. He also has a deep connection to the franchise, and we've seen that passion come through in all our conversations," Jake Lush McCrum, CEO of the Royals Sports Group said. "Rahul has already got to work with Kumar (Sangakkara) and the rest of the team, as we



prepare for this exciting new period for the franchise starting with IPL retention and the auction just around the corner," he said. "We have made fantastic progress in our on-field performance over the past few years, but there is still lots to learn, improve and grow. His return will, hopefully, further accelerate our progress and will be a great boost for everyone involved, most importantly our players and our fans," said lead owner Manoj Badale. Sangakkara said, "Rahul is one of the greatest players to have played the game, but what he has achieved over the past decade as a coach is extraordinary." "The characteristics that he possesses as a coach to nurture talent but also enable them to consistently perform at the highest level, will allow the Rajasthan Royals to further challenge for the title," he added.

Musheer Khan falls 19 runs short of double century after weathering storm at Bengaluru in Duleep Trophy

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Musheer Bengaluru: India B team player Musheer Khan celebrates his century during the first day of Duleep Trophy 2024 match between India A and India B teams, at Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

Despite an overcast morning, a green texture to the M.Chinnaswamy wicket, and his side India B in trouble teenager Musheer Khan showed his temperament. With solid defense and crisp shot-making pulled his side out of the hole on Day 1. Carrying his bat overnight Musheer fell shot of 19 runs for his double hundred. A steady collapse which saw his team reeling at 94 for seven on Day 1 prompted Musheer to gradually unfurl his attacking range. Having devoured spin in the domestic and age-group circuit, Musheer chose his battles wisely. He displayed admirable dexterity when he sliced and swept left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav and took on off-spinner Tanush Kotian. The knock in the Duleep Trophy game is more of a check of temperament than Musheer's skill set. He churned out 360 runs at an average of 60 in the U-19 World Cup held earlier this year in South Africa where India lost in the final. Later in the year, he won the Ranji Trophy with Mumbai. His ton in the final made him the youngest batter (19 years 14 days) to score a ton surpassing Sachin Tendulkar.

Similar game to elder Sarfaraz "My brother (Sarfaraz Khan) and I have the same game. I try to follow whatever he does. In the middle, he only asked me to follow my technique. Usne bola agar tere ko lagta aage bad sakta



hai, to aage bad kar khel (If you feel like moving forward, go ahead and do it)," Musheer said post Day-1 play. Despite the failure elder on Thursday brother Sarfaraz too has a habit of piling on big scores consistently. "Acha time chal raha hai, dunno bhai ka time chal raha hai (The fortunes of both brothers have changed). I don't want to think too much," Musheer said at the end of the day's play at the BKC ground earlier this year after scoring his maiden first-class ton.

"Bhai just said acha kiya hai ab tak par real cricket ab shuru hone wala hai. Taiyaar hona uske liye. (You have played well till now but the real cricket begins now. Be ready for it.) Just stay at the wicket and runs will come." Musheer would recall about the advice given to him by Sarfaraz.

Magnus Carlsen vs Hans Niemann: For 1st time since cheating scandal, rivals play face to face, but in online event in Paris

GNS News Agency, Sept 11

Magnus Carlsen will take on Hans Niemann in Paris later on Friday in a grudge rematch after their acrimonious feud at the 2022 Sinquefeld Cup, which had led to unsubstantiated cheating allegations against Hans Niemann, and a \$100m lawsuit from the American against the Norwegian. Magnus Carlsen and Hans Niemann will face off in the semi-final of Chess dot com's Speed Championship. The tournament's previous rounds were played online. But the semi-finals and the final will be held across the board in a hybrid event where the opponents will sit opposite each other but play on separate computers. The other semi-final will see American GM Hikaru Nakamura take on French-Iranian star Alireza Firouzja. Reacting to his opponent in the semi-final,



Magnus Carlsen said that he would prefer a different opponent. "He's playing quite well. But if I have a decent day I'll probably win without too many issues," he shrugged. "I'm looking forward to playing in Paris. This whole thing started on a chess board and it should end on the chess board," said Hans Niemann. The Norwegian is the favourite heading into the match. He is the reigning world blitz champion, having won the

title seven times. Hans Niemann is also considered a strong blitz player, and will have a point to prove. While Magnus Carlsen is ranked No 1 in the world (rated 2832 in classical, 2834 in rapid and 2888 in blitz), Hans Niemann is No 16 in classical (rated 2733 in classical, 2618 in rapid and 2709 in blitz).

The other semi-final will see two of the strongest contenders in this format —

Nakamura and Firouzja — battle it out. Each match will have 90 minutes of 5+1 blitz, 60 minutes of 3+1 blitz, and 30 minutes of 1+1 bullet.

What was the cheating controversy regarding Hans Niemann? World No 1 Magnus Carlsen had pulled out of the Sinquefeld Cup two years ago after losing to Hans Niemann.