

INDIAN CHRONICLE

15 September, 2024 | Sunday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:186

Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

₹ 3

SP inaugurates District Cybercrimes Coordination Centre in Kothagudem

Kothagudem: Superintendent of Police B Rohith Raju inaugurated the newly established District Cybercrimes Coordination Centre here on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion the SP said that the centre set up at Chunchupally police station would support the victims of cybercrimes across the district and help them recover the lost money. One cyber warrior each was assigned to 28 police stations to assist victims of cybercrimes. Cybercriminals were looting money from the accounts of innocent people by devising new techniques from time to time. Cybercrimes Coordination Centre would resolve the cases registered in all the police stations besides alerting people about cybercrimes, he noted.

Police asked to coordinate with other depts for peaceful Ganesh immersion in Nirmal

Nirmal: Multi Zone Inspector General of Police S Chandrashekhara Reddy instructed police officials to work in tandem with other departments and to have a prior action plan allowing the public to celebrate immersion of Ganesh idols peacefully. He convened a review meeting with police officials over security arrangements to be made in view of immersion of Ganesh idols in communally sensitive Bhainsa and Nirmal towns, here on Saturday. Reddy found out whether sufficient CCTV cameras were installed at important junctions to keep a watch on the trouble makers during the immersion. He asked them not to allow devotees to immerse the idols using loud music, laser lamps and in the inebriated condition.

Transgender persons to be deployed to manage traffic in Hyderabad: CM Revanth Reddy



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Friday announced that transgender persons would be deployed for traffic management in Hyderabad and asked the police department to explore recruitment on the lines of homeguards in police department.

This would be the first-ever recruitment to government service and social welfare program for transgender persons. The CM was reviewing the traffic scenario in Hyderabad when he suggested employing transgender persons. He said "explore the possibilities of training transgender persons for regulating traffic in Hyderabad on lines of homeguards." "The department would now identify, train and recruit transgender persons to support Hyderabad traffic police. The department will soon officially ask interested persons to approach them for training. The process of collection of details of interested individuals is likely to start soon.

Terrorism breathing its last in Jammu and Kashmir: PM Modi



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting ahead of the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, in Doda district. (PTI Photo) Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting ahead of the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, in Doda district. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said terrorism is taking its last breath in Jammu and Kashmir where his government projected a new leadership to counter dynastic politics which has "destroyed this beautiful region".

Addressing an election rally in the Doda district of Jammu region in support of BJP candidates, PM Modi said, "We and you together will make Jammu and Kashmir a secure and prosperous part of the country." This was the first election rally by the prime minister ahead of the first phase of Assembly polls scheduled on September 18. "After Independence, Jammu and Kashmir became the target of foreign powers and dynastic politics made this beautiful region hollow from within. The political dynasties projected their children and did not let new leadership grow," the Prime Minister said. He said his government focused on carving out a young leadership soon after "we came to power at the Centre in 2014." "Terrorism is breathing its last in Jammu and Kashmir," he further said.

Telangana Dy. CM Bhatti Vikramarka visit Karimnagar today to Launch development programs

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu is set to visit Karimnagar district today, where he will lay the foundation stones for multiple development projects. Accompanied by Ministers Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Ponnamp Prabhakar, as well as MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna and MLA Vijayaramana Rao, the Vice Chief Minister aims to address key infrastructural advancements in the region.



Recently, a review meeting was held at the SPDCL office in Hyderabad, where Bhatti discussed the potential for green energy production. He instructed officials to identify select villages to serve as pilot projects, wherein electricity generated from solar power will be connected to the power grid, funded by the state government.

Haryana has decided BJP will score hat-trick: PM Modi at poll rally in Kurukshetra

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched a scathing attack on the Congress party, calling them a "new form of Urban Naxals" who are not ashamed of lying. Addressing a Jan Ashirwad Rally at Kurukshetra's Theme Park to kick-start the BJP's assembly election campaign in Haryana, Modi said, "Appeasement is the biggest goal for the Congress, and they will do anything to achieve it." He criticised the Congress for allegedly putting Ganpati idols behind bars in Karnataka, and



said, "The whole country is celebrating Ganesh Utsav, while the Congress is creating obstacles in the puja of the 'Vighanharta'."

Modi also accused the Gandhi family of being anti-Dalit, anti-OBC, and anti-tribal, claiming they want to end reservations for these

groups. "The Congress family has said they will end the reservation of Dalits and backwards. They hated Baba Saheb Ambedkar and opposed reservation, but I want to tell them that Modi will not let you end the reservation." The Prime

Minister sought to woo farmers, ex-servicemen, OBCs, and Dalits by highlighting various initiatives like PM-Kisan, Lakhpati Didi, and Ayushman Bharat started by the BJP government. He also mentioned the situation in Himachal Pradesh, where employees are not receiving salaries on time under the Congress rule, and welfare schemes launched by BJP have come to a standstill. Modi urged the people of Haryana to vote for BJP and make it the ruling party for the third time, assuring that the government will speed up development in the state.

Sonia Gandhi pays last respects to veteran CPI-M leader Sitaram Yechury

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

New Delhi: Former Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Saturday visited the Communist Party of India (CPI-M) headquarters and paid her last respects to the veteran Left leader Sitaram Yechury, who passed away after a prolonged battle with pneumonia. Sonia Gandhi offered floral tributes to the CPI-M veteran, whose body has been kept at AK Gopalan Bhavan, the party headquarters for public viewing and paying homage. "Party workers and his well-wishers can visit the Gopalan Bhavan between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and pay tributes to the late Sitaram Yechury," the CPI-M said in a statement earlier. After paying homage to the veteran, Sonia Gandhi also met his family members and extended support in their moment of grief. Earlier, Sonia Gandhi offering her condolences over Sitaram Yechury's demise remembered their close association with during UPA-I.

"I am very saddened by the passing away of Sitaram Yechury. We had worked closely together during 2004-08 to begin with and the friendship that had been established then continued till his very end. He played a pivotal role in UPA-I and more recently contributed immensely to the formation of INDIA group in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," said the longest-serving Congress president. She also lauded his "uncompromising" commitment to the values of the Indian Constitution and said that his 12-year stint in Parliament will remain



etched in history. A day ago, Yechury's body was kept at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) for students to pay homage. It was here that Yechury made his foray into political space. He joined the Students Federation of India (SFI) at JNU and was elected its President thrice, starting in 1977. CPI-M General Secretary Sitaram Yechury breathed his last at the AIIMS on Thursday, following a prolonged illness. He was 72. He was in critical condition for the last few days and was on respiratory support before passing away on September 12. He was admitted to the hospital on August 19. The demise of Sitaram Yechury saw condolences pouring in from all political quarters including the BJP leaders.

KT Rama Rao questions Congress govt over medical admissions delays



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Hyderabad: Questioning the Congress government over the fate of aspiring medical students in the State as it continued to grapple with delays in the MBBS and BDS admission process, BRS working president, K T Rama Rao pointed out on Saturday that neighbouring states have progressed with their admissions while Telangana students face continued uncertainty. Calling it a failure of the state government, he said the brakes on the admission process had left students and parents in a state of anxiety. The delay was seen as a significant setback for those who had pinned their hopes on pursuing medical education this year.

On the Controversial GO 33, he questioned the Congress government's insistence on its implementation, which allegedly turned Telangana children into non-locals while giving priority to students from other states sparking widespread criticism. Questions are being raised about the government's stand on issue thus courting legal problems as a result.

The government's decisions are being described as the ones against the interests of the aspirants, he said that were killing the aspirations of thousands of parents who dream of seeing their children become doctors. He wanted the government to withdraw such decisions in the interest of the students in the State. Under the BRS regime, Telangana saw a significant increase in the number of medical colleges - from a mere five in the undivided State to 29, a number that was increased further to 34, with a slogan of "Medical College for every district." The

number of MBBS seats was increased to 8,915, making the State a hub for medical education. He said that the Congress government's current policies threatened to undermine these achievements. Stating that the vision of KCR's administration to make Telangana a "factory of doctors" was being eclipsed by the current government's failures, he pointed out that the lofty goals set by the previous regime are at risk of being scuttled. He stressed the urgent need to resolve the admission process while ensuring that the aspirations of thousands of students and parents are not dashed.

Ponnala to speak at 19th World Summit of Nobel Laureates

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Hyderabad: Veteran politician and BRS leader Ponnala Lakshmaiah will participate in the 19th world summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, taking place in Monterrey, Mexico from September 18 to 21.

The summit will be hosted by the World Meeting of Values ABP celebrating the 200th founding anniversary of Nuevo Leon, a State of Mexico. Ponnala was extended an invitation by Ekaterina Zagladina, president, Permanent Secretariat of World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates seeking his participation in a series of workshops and break-out sessions to be organised aiming at inspiring young individuals to don the role of proactive agents of peace and progress.

The summit, which offers a platform for amplifying the message of peace, aims to harness the collective wisdom of Nobel laureates and global peace advocates for crafting actionable strategies to tackle pressing issues. "Peace for progress" will be a focal point for discussion on leveraging peace as a catalyst for economic development, social justice and environmental sustainability. The summit is aimed at positive transformation, motivating communities worldwide to adopt peace building initiatives, according to a press release.

Hours before PM Modi's J&K poll campaign, 3 militants killed in Baramulla



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Three militants were killed in a gunfight that started Friday night after a joint team of security forces cordoned off Chak-e-Tapper village in North Kashmir's Kreeeri area in Baramulla district. This comes hours before Prime Minister Narendra Modi kicks off the poll campaign for the upcoming Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections from Doda. The Assembly seats in the Chenab valley vote in the first phase of J&K's Assembly polls on September 18. In 2014, the last time elections were held in J&K, the BJP had won four of these six Assembly seats. Police sources said that a joint team of J-K Police, Army's 29 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched a cordon and search operation at Chak-e-Tapper villager in Friday night after specific intelligence inputs about the presence of militants in the village.

Kashmir encounter Security personnel during an encounter with militants at Chak Tapper Kreeeri Pattan area, in Baramulla district, Jammu and Kashmir, on Saturday. As the joint team of forces zeroed in on the target, the hiding militants opened fire. The joint team of forces retaliated, leading to a gunfight. The operation was halted because of darkness and resumed on Saturday early morning. The three militants who were killed were hiding near a school building, the sources said.

Milad-un-Nabi preparations in full swing across Hyderabad



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Hyderabad: Hectic preparations are underway across the city for Milad-un-Nabi falling on September 16. The day marks the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammed and is celebrated on the 12th day of the month of Rabi ul Awwal, the third month of Hijri calendar. On the day, the community groups organize blood donation, fruit distribution, cloth donation, religious meetings and competitions in Islam related topics. Food is also served to the poor and the destitute at camps organized at different places. Around two dozen blood donation camps are scheduled to be held in next two days in the city to mark the occasion. Mohd Akram, a social worker said the blood donations camps are being held in coordination with several non-governmental organizations at Asafia Library Afzalgunj, Prime Function Hall Mallepally, Rajendranagar, Falaknuma, Khilwat and other places.

Maulana Ahsan Al Hamoomi, Khateeb, Shahi Masjid, Public Gardens said people should do something that benefits the humanity. At the public garden, he took up plantation of fruit saplings on Friday where public representatives and officials participated. A few youth organizations have taken up the task of distribution of education material and stationery among children in government managed schools in the city. Some social organizations are planning to visit Katedan Industrial Area and distribute snacks, umbrella and footwear among the workers mainly women. "It is joyous occasion and people who work hard to serve the society must be remembered.

BJP must respect linguistic diversity of India: KTR

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Hyderabad: Questioning the moves of the BJP to push the use of Hindi in the country undermining India's rich linguistic diversity, BRS Working President and MLA K.T. Rama Rao on Saturday criticized the BJP government at the Centre for its bid to impose Hindi under the guise of "amicable promotion." Rama Rao pointed out that the BJP's actions expose its true intent to undermine the cultural and linguistic fabric of India. He questioned the delay in forming the Parliamentary Committee on Official Languages, asking, "Why can't our languages be respected and celebrated for the diversity they bring? Why can't the BJP, for once, respect the cultural and linguistic fabric of India?"

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Chip challenge

INDIA is nurturing the grand ambition of becoming a global hub of semiconductor manufacturing. The ongoing Semicon India 2024 conference in Greater Noida is showcasing the country's semiconductor strategy and policy. PM Narendra Modi's catchy remark — the chips are never down in India — is an open invitation to industry stakeholders to make big-ticket investments here. Indeed, India's growth story is worth betting on, but the government's sustained support will be required to fulfil the PM's promise of providing an integrated ecosystem to international players.

It is no exaggeration to say that semiconductors power the contemporary world. Chips are everywhere — be it smartphones, cars, washing machines, pacemakers or aeroplanes. That's why this is a highly competitive field. Taiwan, which is home to thousands of semiconductor-related companies and has a robust end-to-end supply chain, is the global numero uno. Among the other leading nations are South Korea, Japan, the US and China. The Covid-19 pandemic slowed down the manufacture of semiconductors, particularly in Taiwan and China. Amid these large-scale disruptions, India got its foot in the door by launching the ISM (India Semiconductor Mission) in 2021. A critical lesson from the pandemic was that the global supply chain should be diversified. India is eyeing a bigger piece of the pie, but the road ahead is going to be anything but easy. Even as Asian nations are wooing investors with incentives, the US is projected to triple its domestic semiconductor manufacturing capacity by 2032, a decade after the CHIPS and Science Act was enacted. Beyond the optimism and hyperbole, India needs to set clear-cut timelines for achieving its goals. Ease of doing business holds the key to attracting long-term investments.

Meet the Pune youngsters who have joined a campaign to make Ganapati festival eco-friendly



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Omkar Jagdale, a third-year Environmental Science student and college representative of the NSS Unit of Pune's Fergusson College, first learnt about the campaign to recycle the clay from a Ganesh idol two years ago. The 20-year-old read the text about the Purnavartan campaign on a college WhatsApp group, and out of curiosity, he decided to volunteer. "I really liked the concept of recycling Ganpati. It is good for the environment as well as for Bappa," said Jagdale.

The Purnavartan campaign, an initiative of the eCoexist Foundation and organised by a collective of 16 organisations, aims to collect and recycle clay after the immersion of Ganesh idols. It encourages devotees to buy natural clay idols as opposed to Plaster of Paris, which is banned, requests citizens to hold home immersions of the idols, and then collect the clay and return it to the artisans for reuse. In his first year as a volunteer, Jagdale worked with the campaign's Sinhgad Road centre. He conducted surveys, asking people if they use clay or Plaster of Paris Ganesh idols, and if they would be willing to switch to clay. He was motivated to do more work as almost 90 per cent of residents gave him a positive response. "When I was in my first year, not many people knew, but slowly due to support from the media, there is awareness. There is still some way to go, more support is needed," said Jagdale. In the past few years, 20,000 kg of clay has been collected and returned for free each year. This year, the campaign aims to collect 50 tonnes of clay and has readied 60 collection centres across Pune, hosted by the Poornam Ecovision Foundation. Volunteers will stand at these centres to receive the clay on September 15 and September 22, between 10 am to 1 pm. The Pune Municipal Corporation has also endorsed the campaign and offered 50 dedicated immersion tank locations to collect the clay sludge from the idols immersed here. Jagdale recalled a heartwarming experience from the first time he volunteered. "I was sitting at the centre, waiting for people I had spoken to during the survey to turn up with clay. One senior citizen whom I had not met before, came to me and struck up a normal conversation. After reading the board, he asked me about the campaign. He said that he had collected clay for the last four years. He got all the clay, and since then, he donates every year," Jagdale said. Namita Bhavne, a postgraduate in the development field, has been volunteering with SWaCH waste pickers for the past three years. They are a part of the Nirmalya to Nisarga Initiative, which works to collect segregated votive offerings during the Ganpati festival. "On the tenth day, I visit the ghats where Ganpati visarjan (immersion) is done and work with the waste pickers, requesting the people to not drop any materials in the water body," said Bhavne. Mrunal Karandikar, a BA Psychology student who originally hails from Satara district, has been volunteering with Purnavartan for the last two years. The 19-year-old first found out about it through a friend, and while Karandikar was aware and only used idols made of natural clay at home, she was inspired after learning about the initiative to recycle the clay. Pune's success with this campaign was presented before Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. Subsequently, 43 Amrut cities across Maharashtra were instructed to replicate the Pune model by implementing the Purnavartan campaign. This year, the campaign is being jointly organised by the eCoexist Foundation, Poornam Ecovision, Swachh Coop, Jeevit Nadi, Pune Climate Warriors, The Youth Cosmo, Bavdhan Citizens Forum, Team Swachh Kalyani Nagar, Fergusson College, Modern College, Cummins Foundation, Emcure Foundation, Trusteeship Foundation, Parimal and Pramod Chaudhari Foundation, Radio Big FM, Mission City Chakra and Paryavaran Gatividhi.

Congress uses Constitution as a political tool, plotted Ambedkar's defeat twice: Fadnavis



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Wednesday that Opposition leader Rahul Gandhi's comments abroad had exposed his and his party's "anti-reservation sentiments". "What was in their mind has come out through his lips. Their anti-reservation sentiments are out in public. It shows the Congress and Rahul Gandhi want to end reservation," Fadnavis told reporters at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur.

2 brothers who stole ornaments from Karnataka temples with help of Google Maps arrested



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Two brothers who scoured Google Maps to locate lesser-known temples with limited security in north Karnataka and stole valuables from them were arrested on Tuesday, the Gadag district police said, adding that further investigation had revealed that the siblings had also murdered their elder brother a year ago. Eight temple theft cases and seven chain-snatching cases were solved and gold ornaments, cash and valuables worth Rs 46 lakh were seized following the arrests of the accused, the police said.

It was an investigation into a temple theft case in Gadag district that led the police to arrest Srikanth Gudagura, 29, his brother Prasad, 28, and their accomplice Pradeep, 24, from Ranabennur in Haveri district. A former jailer, Srikanth was the kingpin of the gang, the police said. The subsequent probe led the police to conclude that Srikanth and Prasad had also murdered their elder brother Ramesh, 31, in May 2023 and buried his body in Ranabennur taluk. How the accused were caught in June this year, a temple theft case was reported in the jurisdiction of Lakshmeshwara police station in Gadag district. The theft came amid an increase in temple robberies that had put the police in Gadag, Vijayapura and Haveri districts under severe pressure.

Police Sub-Inspector Eeranna Ritti and his team identified Prasad as one of the possible suspects. But Prasad's whereabouts were not known. After nearly two months, the police, with the help of technical evidence and ground intelligence, learnt that Prasad stayed with his brother Srikanth in a rented house near Ranabennur.

Kalupur main road closed for 3 years for Ahmedabad railway station renovation; BRTS routes changed and trains to be diverted by end of 2024

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

The main road in the Kalupur area, passing through the front of Ahmedabad railway station, has been closed for all movement for the next three years. Accordingly, the BRTS bus route has also been changed. Over the next couple of weeks, the Western Railway (WR) is set to announce the full-scale diversion of trains to other railway stations as tracks will be affected by the renovation, shutting down parts of the train routes. In a set of orders from the administration on Wednesday, the Ahmedabad City Police closed the road for all traffic while the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation changed the routes of the buses. Road closure and impact on traffic

The notification from the Commissioner of Police stated that the stretch of road between the Kalupur circle and the Sarangpur circle will remain closed due to the demolition of the current building of Ahmedabad railway station and the construction of a new set of buildings, and related infrastructure, in its place. The road will remain closed from September 11, 2024, to September 10, 2027. The notification further states that those found contravening it will be booked under section 223 of the BNS and section 131 of the Gujarat Police Act, both of which deal with "disobedience of an order promulgated by a public servant".

While the 200-metre stretch of road remains closed for the next three years, traffic will be diverted. The options include: 1. From the Sarangpur circle, the entry gate of the railway station can be accessed by going through Panchkuva road or by Moti Mahal Hotel road.

2. There will be a one-way road open for traffic moving from the Kalupur circle and heading towards Sarangpur, Raipur, Kankaria, and Gita Mandir.

3. The old entry gate of the railway station will be made accessible for passengers and exiting passengers. A new foot-over bridge and a 30-metre stretch of road connecting to the main road have been constructed inside the premises. BRTS diversion and impact on public transport: The BRTS Janmarg administration on Wednesday released a notification announcing changes in bus routes due to the closure of the main road. While the Civil Hospital Cabin bus station will become inaccessible,

The BJP leader alleged that the Congress had always had double standards when it came to the Constitution and reservation. "The architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr B R Ambedkar, was defeated in the Lok Sabha polls twice because the Congress conspired against him. They never supported Ambedkar," he said. Addressing students in Georgetown, US, Rahul Gandhi said recently, "We will think of scrapping reservation when India is a fair place. At the moment, India is not a fair place."

"On the one hand, the Congress projects itself as a champion of the Indian Constitution. On the other hand, it talks about ending reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs," Fadnavis said. Fadnavis also said the Congress had always opposed Ambedkar. "They plotted to ensure the defeat of the veteran leader twice, in the Mumbai North Central and Bhandara Lok Sabha seats," he said. Ambedkar unsuccessfully contested the 1952 Lok Sabha polls from Mumbai North Central and a bypoll from Bhandara. "The Congress has been using the Constitution as a tool to score political points. They weaved a false narrative against the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls," Fadnavis added, referring to the Opposition campaign that the saffron party would amend the Constitution and end caste-based reservation if voted to power with an absolute majority.

The police arrested the brothers. The gang had stolen ornaments from Ambabhavani temple, Hemagiri Mutt, Durgadevi and Maruti temple, Hemagiri Channabasaveshwara Mutt, Banashankari temple, Gramadevathe temple and Banashankari Devi temple, the police said.

According to an investigating officer, Srikanth was the leader who planned the robberies and disposed of the ornaments that were stolen from the temples. A jail warden at a Chitradurga prison, Srikanth was suspended following allegations against him in a theft case. He was reinstated but was transferred to Kalaburagi jail in 2022. During this period, Srikanth's brothers Ramesh and Prasad were in prison following their arrest in a theft case. Srikanth helped them get out of prison on bail on the condition that they work for him, the police said. "Srikanth randomly searched temples on Google Maps. He wanted less famous temples, which meant limited security. He would send Prasad or Ramesh to study temple security. Srikanth would plan the robbery, ensuring the accused switched off their mobile phones at least 50km away from the temple," a police officer said. Asked why the accused used Google Maps, a police officer said that Srikanth wanted to target random temples. The gang stole chains during the day and targeted temples late at night, he said. They stole the jewellery of gods and goddesses and money from the donation boxes, the officer added. Most of the stolen money was spent in casinos in Goa or used in gambling, he further said. The police were aware that the three brothers operated together and that Ramesh was missing. "When we questioned them about Ramesh, both Prasad and Srikanth started to give vague answers. When we interrogated them separately, we found out that he was murdered," a police officer said. According to the police, Ramesh was married but his wife had left him a month after the wedding. On May 10, 2023, the brothers were partying in an under-construction layout outside Ranabennur town when Ramesh allegedly raised objections over how the loot was being shared. He then allegedly threatened to inform the police and this prompted Srikanth and Prasad to strangle him to death, the police said. On the same night, the duo buried Ramesh's body after digging a grave, the police added. However, the incident never came to light as the brothers informed their parents that Ramesh was arrested in a theft case and transferred to a jail in another district.

No relief for SpiceJet, Delhi High Court upholds grounding of 3 engines



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

A division bench of the Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to interfere with a single-judge bench decision where it had directed the grounding of three engines of SpiceJet, leased to it by two French companies. The bench, however, left SpiceJet's rights open to take all defences in the main suit action initiated by the two French companies: Team France and Sunbird France. SpiceJet had challenged a verdict by a single-judge bench on August 14, in which the court ruled in favour of the two French lessors and grounded three engines. The French companies instituted suits in December 2023 to obtain the repossession of three engines they had leased to the airlines after SpiceJet defaulted on payments.

The division bench of Justices Rajiv Shakdher and Amit Bansal, while upholding the single-judge bench's verdict, prefaced its judgement, "The above-captioned appeals are emblematic of the adage that fools create assets and wise men use them. The use of a lessor's assets without recompense, on agreed terms, by the lessee often leads to consequences which disrupt the interests of both sides."

The division bench reiterated that SpiceJet "is in default, and past and current outstanding dues remain unpaid". "At the risk of repetition, it must be stressed that SpiceJet has violated an agreed interim arrangement for payment of dues, which included a term that, upon breach, it would ground the engines that Team France and Sunbird France could then repossess... engines being depreciable assets, they would be of little use to Team France and Sunbird France if they are used without recompense," it said.

"The fact that the financial condition of SpiceJet is weak is evident from its conduct and the stand taken on its behalf in court, which is that it is attempting to infuse funds through loans and/or equity. If the position in which SpiceJet is at this juncture, Team France and Sunbird France could well end up both without its (their) engines or the monies due under the engine lease agreements. Therefore, compensation in terms of money does not seem probable from the point of view of Team France and Sunbird France," the court recorded while not granting any relief for SpiceJet. Following the verdict, SpiceJet issued a statement saying, "Our operations continue as normal and remain completely unaffected. We are currently reviewing the court order."

Schoolchildren caught in the middle as communal tensions over a mosque continue in Himachal's Sanjauli

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Hundreds of schoolchildren were caught in an unpleasant situation at Sanjauli, a sub-town in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla district where communal tension prevailed over a mosque as protesters and police came face to face on Wednesday. Residents, including parents and guardians of the students, criticised the local administration for allowing educational institutes to remain open despite probationary orders barring the gathering of five or more people. They were seen rushing to schools to collect their wards amid growing tension.

"My seven-year-old son Anuj usually comes home from school on his own with his friends. But today, I received a message from his school urging me to pick him up because of the tension in the area. I didn't waste a moment and rushed to the school. On my way, I encountered huge barricades, where slogans were being shouted. The area was only cleared after police resorted to lathicharge," said Santosh Devi, a resident of Engine Ghar Ward in Sanjauli. Manoj Sharma from Dingu Dhar in Sanjauli said, "The administration should have kept educational institutions closed today. It was negligence on their part. The safety of children was put in jeopardy. The officers lack foresight. This tension will not subside in just a day or two." Parents gather outside a school to take their children home. Parents gather outside a school to take their children home. At Monal Public School in Sanjauli, parents were seen taking their children home. They were allowed to do so only after the school's staff checked their identity cards and verified their signatures.

Parents were struggling to find out which ways to come to the schools and through which way to return home. A man was spotted guiding students and their parents to avoid the risk. Ritu Sharma, administrative in-charge of the school, told The Indian Express, "We sent messages and made calls to parents only after getting approval from the district administration. We know most of the parents personally because they are locals. While the tension outside is real, we followed the district administration's directions before contacting the parents."

She added, "Our school is up to Class 12 but we are not allowing even senior students to go home on their own. We called their parents also." There are a dozen schools, including primary and senior secondary institutions, in Sanjauli.

Deputy commissioner's assurance to the public on Tuesday, Anupam Kashyap, Deputy Commissioner, Shimla, issued prohibitory orders for Sanjauli using his powers granted under section 163 of the Indian Civil Protection Code 2023 to maintain law and order. Under the orders, gatherings of five or more people are strictly prohibited. Carrying weapons such as firearms, sticks, spears, axes, bicycle chains, machetes, swords, and inflammable substances is completely banned. This order will remain effective from 7 am to 11.50 pm on Wednesday. But schools, colleges, government and private offices, and markets remained open as usual. In his order, Kashyap said that normal life in the area would continue as usual, adding that the public would not face any inconvenience.

Gujarat infrastructure firm 'forged state govt documents to claim payment for railway project', FIR filed



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Kutch East police, Ranjit Buildcon Limited, RBL forgery case, Gujarat industries and mines department. As per the FIR, the then Anjar geologist Pranav Singh issued a no-due certificate to RBL on September 16, 2022, for 5.40 lakh metric tonnes of black trap and 35,721 tonnes of sand RBL had mined for the railway project. Kutch East police in Kutch district have booked Ranjit Buildcon Limited (RBL), a well-known infrastructure company which was among the firms that had purchased electoral bonds, for allegedly forging documents of the Gujarat government's industries and mines department to claim payment from the government for a railway project in Kutch. The FIR came more than a year after Juvansinh Dabhi, a senior clerk in a geologist's Kutch East office of the geology and mining department in Anjar town in Kutch, filed an application complaint at Anjar police station on May 25, 2023. In his application, Dabhi had alleged that Dipesh Sorathiya, an executive of RBL, forged seals and signatures of the geologist of Kutch East for forging two no-due certificates and a letter.

The private firm then allegedly submitted the three forged documents to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) as genuine, in connection with a contract it had

executed. RBL had won an RVNL tender worth Rs 169.4 crores for the construction of the roadbed, bridges, supply of ballast, installation of track, electrical (general electrification), signalling and telecommunication work for the doubling of 34.66 km-long railway track between Samakhiali and Kidiyanagar in Kutch. As per the FIR, the then Anjar geologist Pranav Singh issued a no-due certificate to RBL on September 16, 2022, for 5.40 lakh metric tonnes of black trap and 35,721 tonnes of sand RBL had mined for the railway project. The company had applied for the no-due certificate on May 7, 2021.

"However, the RBL submitted to RVNL a no-due certificate mentioning that the former had mined 6.38 lakh metric tonnes of black trap and 48,613.72 tonnes of sand. Not only that, it also submitted to RVNL another no-due certificate for 4.44 lakh cubic metres of ordinary clay and a letter confirming issuance of the no-due certificates," Dabhi told The Indian Express, adding, "The matter came to light when RVNL, a Central government undertaking which undertakes infrastructure projects on behalf of Indian Railways, wrote to our office on November 21, 2022, for the verification of the certificates." Late on Monday evening, an FIR was filed at Anjar police station against RBL and Sorathiya under the Indian Penal Code's Sections 465 (forgery) 467 (forgery of valuable documents) 468 (forgery of documents for the purpose of cheating), 471 (using forged documents as genuine) and 120B (criminal conspiracy). After the geologist's office came to know about the alleged forgery, the FIR states, the geologist's office served a notice to the RBL for an in-person hearing. "In response, Rakesh Bala, a representative of Ranjit Buildcon Limited remained present. He gave an oral and written undertaking that he was ready to pay a penalty for the difference in the amount of minerals mentioned in documents of our office and those submitted by them (RBL) to Rail Vikas Nigam Limited in Ahmedabad. However, he didn't give any explanation about the forged documents," reads the FIR.

Delhi HC refuses to revoke wrestler Bajrang Punia's provisional suspension, seeks doping agency's response

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant interim relief to wrestler Bajrang Punia by setting aside his provisional suspension by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) on June 21 for alleged anti-doping rule violations. The court of Justice Sanjeev Narula issued notice and sought a response from NADA on the contentions being raised by Punia in his petition. NADA had submitted in court that a disciplinary panel has been set up to look into the issue where a decision is pending and "this kind of litigation will derail" its process. With the upcoming Senior World Wrestling Championships due to be held in Albania from October 28-31, Punia's provisional suspension casts doubt on his participation at the event. Punia has challenged NADA's provisional suspension after he refused to be tested owing to various reasons. Senior advocate Rajiv Dutta, appearing for Punia, informed the court that on December 13, 2023, NADA had attempted to collect Punia's samples by using expired sample test kits. In October 2023, NADA had allegedly attempted to collect Punia's sample by bringing only one sample kit as opposed to three kits. Punia had then written numerous emails demanding an explanation of the violations from NADA.

Punia in his petition has also submitted that on March 10 this year, while he was participating in the wrestling selection trials conducted by the now defunct ad-hoc committee of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), he was approached by "two alleged doping control officials/chaperones" who had demanded his samples immediately, to which he had contended at the time that he would be willing to provide his sample subject to them explaining the use of expired test kits earlier. On April 23, Punia was "arbitrarily" provisionally suspended by NADA "alleging an apparent anti-doping rule violation for refusing to submit to sample collection during Wrestling Selection tri-



als". The provisional suspension was revoked by the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel following a hearing on May 13. Subsequently, Punia was charged with an anti-doping rule violation by serving a notice of charge dated June 21 and was provisionally suspended a second time.

Punia has submitted in his petition that another illegal notice was issued by NADA in April 2024 to ban him for two years for three missed doping tests, but the notice was later withdrawn. While making submissions before the court, Dutta stated on Wednesday, "They are finishing my career, I am 31-year-old... I did not refuse (to be drug tested)... The person who came to test brought an outdated kit." "NADA on the other hand orally contended, "There is a disciplinary panel to look into it all... As NADA, we will never want to put our Olympian players in a bad position. Them saying 'they're targeting me is wrong here'. Disciplinary panel is in place, decision is pending, this kind of litigation will derail it." Punia in his petition is seeking an independent investigation and inquiry to investigate the use of single/expired test kits and the previous instances from December 2023, and March and April this year. He was also seeking interim relief that his provisional suspension be revoked.

Man kills estranged wife for demanding maintenance amid divorce case at Karnataka court



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

The Hassan district police of Karnataka on Tuesday arrested a 47-year-old man for allegedly killing his estranged wife after she approached a court seeking maintenance. The accused, Jagadeesh, is a resident of the Magadi village in Chikkamagaluru district. The deceased has been identified as Sheela, 42, a resident of the Belur taluk of Hassan district. The murder came to light when the couple's daughter, Vinutha Y J, 20, filed a missing complaint with the police on September 8. Jagadeesh and Sheela separated 10 years ago and a divorce case was on in the court, the police said. A police officer said, "On September 7, Sheela went missing from near her home around 5.30 pm. Vinutha, who searched for her mother, approached the police the next day (September 8). The police checked the CCTV footage and found out that Sheela was strangled using a towel and later, her body was dragged towards a farmland."

The officer added, "When Jagadeesh's role emerged, we immediately arrested him. However, the role of his friend, Nirvanaiah, has also emerged. Nirvanaiah allegedly helped him transport and dispose of the body. The police have launched a manhunt to nab the accused." "Around 11 pm on September 7, Jagadeesh and Nirvanaiah packed Sheela's body in a gunny bag

and dragged it to a well which is 2 km away from the house. They tied three to four big stones and a barbed wire to the body and threw it into the water," the officer further said. After his arrest, Jagadeesh confessed to the crime. He reportedly told the police that he was enraged as his wife had sought maintenance in the court and thus, he killed her, said a police officer.

West Bengal Police seeks names of ASIs for transfers — 'harmful nexus affecting policing'

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

delhi policeSPs and police commissioners were required to respond in a set format that included names of the officers, their police identification numbers, present postings, and reasons for transfer by August 29. The West Bengal Police have sought a list of assistant sub-inspectors who should be transferred out for possible "harmful nexus harming effective policing".

A circular sent to all superintendents of police and commissioners from the office of the Additional Director-General of Police (Administration) on August 27 said that "general transfers" of assistant sub-inspectors was underway. The message also sought names and present postings of officers "required" to be transferred.

Significantly, this comes at a time when the state's policing system is under intense scrutiny in the aftermath of the rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Thousands defy prohibitory orders to protest against Sanjauli mosque in Himachal; 2 injured in lathicharge



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Despite the imposition of prohibitory orders barring the gathering of more than five people at Sanjauli in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla district, thousands thronged the sub-town on Wednesday demanding the demolition of a mosque. At least two people were injured when police resorted to lathicharge to disperse the protesters. They also used water cannons to prevent the protesters from reaching near the mosque, which was cordoned off. Sources in the district police intelligence wing said that people from other districts of the state had reached Sanjauli to join the protest against the mosque. On Tuesday night, Deputy Commissioner Anupam Kashyap and Superintendent of Police Sanjeev Gandhi held a discussion with representatives of certain organisations to defer the protest but the effort failed. Also on Tuesday, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu assured the Assembly during the last day of its monsoon session that nobody would be allowed to take the law into their hands.

The issue was raised in the Assembly after Wednesday's protest was announced and Shimla (Urban) MLA Harish Janartha sought the chief minister's intervention. The protest call was given even as the legality of additional construction on the mosque is under the consideration of a court. On September 5, the area remained tense as hundreds of people, following a call from two Hindu outfits, gathered in the main market and raised slogans demanding the mosque be demolished. They alleged that outsiders were being given shelter at the mosque. "There is another call of protest. I urge the CM to intervene in this direction," Janartha said while raising the issue. Janartha, a legislator from the ruling Congress, also called for a strict vendor policy to control the influx of people from other states. The Assembly agreed to formulate a policy to regulate street vendors

across the state.

Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh, who had earlier demanded the demolition of the mosque and called it illegal, said, "Some people are giving this issue a communal and political colour. Anti-social elements have been exacerbating the situation through social media platforms. I urge the CM to implement a strict vending zone and vendor policy." Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania said, "The House has taken cognisance of the issue. The state government must deal firmly with any untoward situation". In his response, Sukhu said in the House, "Yesterday, Harish Janartha and Anirudh Singh met me regarding this issue. I have agreed to form a subcommittee of ministers or an inter-ministerial committee involving Opposition members to formulate a vending zone and vendor policy. The matter of the religious structure in Sanjauli is sensitive. The Government will not allow anyone to take the law into their hands."

Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur said, "I want to clarify that no political leaders were involved in last week's protest in Sanjauli over the illegal structure. People took to the streets on their own. A vending zone and vendor policy for Himachal Pradesh is essential. During our tenure, we initiated the registration of vendors, particularly those coming from other states." Thakur also reminded Sukhu of the statement the Congress leader made after the 2022 Assembly elections: "In a state where 97 per cent of the population is Hindu, we defeated a Hindutva political party." "Such statements encourage a specific section of society to take certain actions," Thakur, a BJP MLA, said. Meanwhile, Sukhu assured Thakur that the Government would review the previous administration's policy on vending zones and vendors. The state waqf board had earlier submitted in a Shimla court that the mosque is located on its land, but it has no idea "who constructed additional four floors". It also submitted that the matter is not about the legality of the mosque but of the additional floors. Local residents, however, claim the land on which the mosque was built belongs to the revenue department and that the waqf board is an encroacher. On Monday, Director General of Police Atul Verma said a meeting of all stakeholders was called. "We are considering it as a local dispute. Intelligence was gathered accordingly and preparations were made. The district administration, the municipal commissioner and the SP, with the help of all other departments, are trying to defuse it. Hopefully, no untoward incident will happen," Verma told reporters.

Cable-stayed bridge connecting Madh and Versova to be ready in 36 months, construction cost goes up by 60%

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

The flyover will be 2.06 km long and cable-stayed. The bridge will pass above Madh Creek and connect Madh Island in the western suburbs with Versova. Currently, a jetty connects the two places, and there is no vehicular access. BMC The flyover will be 2.06 km long and cable-stayed. The bridge will pass above Madh Creek and connect Madh Island in the western suburbs with Versova. Currently, a jetty connects the two places, and there is no vehicular access. Six months after floating the tenders for the construction of a cable-stayed flyover between Madh and Versova in the western suburbs, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has approved the issuance of work orders for this project this week. Meanwhile, the project cost has increased significantly by 60 per cent within these six months.

The tenders for this project were floated in March 2024 at an estimated cost of Rs 1,800 crore, following which construction firm APCO Infratech Private Limited was selected as the winning bidder at Rs 2,029 crore. Earlier this week, the civic administration passed a proposal to award the contract at Rs 3,246 crore. When contacted, civic officials maintained that the estimated cost was updated, taking into account the change in market rates. Several factors, such as labour charges and material costs, were also included in the final cost of the project. "The timeline of completing this project is three years. Therefore, we have considered factors like rent of the casting yards, maintenance of the bridges for three years after construction and change in market prices of raw materials in the final cost, which made the overall cost go up by a certain margin," said an official.

The flyover will be 2.06 km long and cable-stayed. The bridge will pass above Madh Creek and connect Madh Island in the western suburbs with Versova. Cur-



rently, a jetty connects the two places, and there is no vehicular access. Motorists must travel via Link Road, S V Road, or Western Express Highway when commuting between these places, which takes more than 45 minutes during peak hours. Also, the ferry service in the jetty remains suspended during the monsoon season. Once the flyover is constructed, the travel time between these two places will come down to five minutes.

This ambitious flyover project was officially proposed in 2015, but it never saw the light of day. The BMC finalised the final blueprint in 2020. Due to the project's alignment passing through a dense mangrove cover and coastal regulatory zone, the civic body required environmental clearances. In March 2022, the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) asked the BMC to devise an alternate alignment for the bridge to minimise damage to the mangroves. The project also faced opposition from the fishing community in Versova-Madh, which claimed that the proposed bridge would make parking boats inconvenient. Finally, in January this year, the BMC obtained the necessary environmental clearances to proceed with the bridge's construction, following which tenders were floated.

Govt contemplating fast-track court, says Karnataka Home Minister Parameshwara



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Tuesday indicated that the government is contemplating setting up a fast-track court to hear the Renukaswamy murder case, in which Kannada film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, Pavithra Gowda and 15 others are the accused. Last week, the Bengaluru police filed a 3,991-page preliminary chargesheet in the case. Speaking to the media, Parameshwara said, "It will be decided. There is thinking in this regard so that the court can complete the hearing in the case soon and give its verdict." B Dayananda, Police Commissioner of Bengaluru, said the police would discuss this with legal experts and decide whether to establish such a court.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka High Court issued an ex-

parte interim order barring media outlets from broadcasting, printing, or publishing any information from the chargesheet against Thoogudeepa, whose judicial custody will end on Thursday. According to sources, the actor may move for a bail application. On June 11, Thoogudeepa, Gowda and 15 others in connection with the murder of Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga. The accused have been in judicial custody since then. According to the police, Renukaswamy was allegedly murdered over sending lewd comments to Gowda, also a Kannada actor, on Instagram.

In the chargesheet, the Bengaluru police recorded the statements of 97 people, including the 27 recorded before the magistrate under Section 164 (recording of confessions and statements) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and those of three eye witnesses, eight Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) reports, 59 panchas and eight government officials (tehsildars, doctors, RTO officials and engineers). As many as 56 police officers were also included in the evidence list. Besides Thoogudeepa and Gowda, the others named in the chargesheet are Pawan K, 29; Raghavendra, 43; Nandish, 28; Jagadish, 36; Anukumar, 25; Ravi Shankar, 32; Dhanraj D, 27; Vinay V, 38; Nagaraju, 41; Laxman, 54; Deepak, 39; Pradosh, 40; Karthik, 27; Keshavamurthy, 27; and Nikhil Nayak, 21.

As impasse continues, Mamata govt proposes another meeting 'with delegation of 12-15 doctors'



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Kolkata doctor rape protests Protesters during a march seeking justice for the doctor who was raped and murdered at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. Hours after protesting doctors rejected the health secretary's proposal to hold talks with a 10-member delegation, they have once again been invited for negotiations – this time by the chief secretary. In an email sent to the protesters, Chief Secretary Manoj Pant extended an invitation to a "delegation of 12-15". This came hours after the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front – the outfit leading the protests against the rape and murder of a junior doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital – wrote insisting that the delegation should comprise "25-35 representatives".

This, they said, was meant to represent interests of several medical institutions in the state. "Once again, as another opportunity, we invite your delegation – preferably consisting of 12-15 colleagues – to join us for a discussion at 6.00 pm today, i.e. 11.09.2024, in Nabanna," the email from the chief secretary said, adding: "A list of the members of your delegation may please be intimated by email". The email also urged the doctors to resume their duties, saying: "The common people have been deprived of your vital services, compassionate care, and

the healing touch over the past 32 days. Keeping this aspect in view, the Hon'ble Supreme Court... directed that junior doctors must resume duties by 5 p.m. on September 10, 2024... Unfortunately, it has not been adhered to so far". In their email to the CM on Tuesday, the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front sent a detailed proposal on the six main points they want to be discussed. The protesters also called the government's email an "insult", saying that it was sent from the ID of the Health Secretary, one of the officials they are demanding the resignation of. The mail went on to list the doctors' central demands: expediting investigation and trial, action against Sandip Ghosh, the controversial ex-principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital; dismissal of Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and action against DCP North and Central and the ensuring security in all hospitals and government healthcare centres and "ending threat culture" against doctors. "The whole state of West Bengal is eagerly waiting for this meeting. We know that your administration conducts serious meetings in an open manner, with live telecast to maintain transparency amongst all parties. We expect the same from this meeting as well," the doctors' outfit said in the mail. The rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital and Medical College on August 9 has sparked massive protests in the state, with several junior doctors going on strike to demand justice and better work conditions. The protests, now ongoing for over a month across West Bengal, have crippled medical services across the state, with the Supreme Court on Monday setting an ultimatum for junior doctors to join work by 5 pm on Tuesday. In response, the protesting doctors in response had set a deadline of 5 pm for the state government to accept their five demands, including the resignation of key officials. When these demands were not met, junior doctors decided to hold a march from Karunamoyee to the state health headquarters Swasthya Bhawan in Salt Lake to hold a sit-in protest there. By Tuesday night, families of several patients had joined the protest.

Second-line Congress leaders in Karnataka write to Rahul Gandhi to stop CM seat claims of first-line leaders

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

A group of 15 Congress leaders from Karnataka, who are former ministers and legislators, has written a letter to Rahul Gandhi, leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, to crack down on Congress ministers in the state who are staking claims to replace Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Their letter comes in the wake of several Congress ministers projecting themselves as being in the reckoning to replace the chief minister in the event of the party leadership signalling a change of guard in the state on account of Siddaramaiah facing the possibility of a probe over land allotments to his wife.

In the light of the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) land allotment controversy created by the former BJP and JD(S), which has been challenged by Siddaramaiah in the Karnataka High Court, "more than six leaders including senior ministers are issuing statements claiming the post of Chief Minister instead of fighting against BJP and JD(S)," the group of 15 leaders have stated. The letter has called for the Congress leadership "to take note of the statements issued by the said leaders and warn them and also direct them not to issue such damaging statements in the future in the interest of Congress Party and the state of Karnataka". Among the signatories to the letter are former ministers B L Shankar and H M Revanna and former MPs L Hanumanthaiah and V S Ugrappa. Many of the signatories are considered to be closely associated with Siddaramaiah. The claims by multiple leaders of being frontrunners to replace Siddaramaiah have resulted in "many of our leaders and workers getting demoralized and losing their hopes in the government and the party", says the letter to Gandhi. "Similarly people of Karnataka are slowly losing their faith and confidence with our party and government, because of infighting and reckless statements of our leaders. The state government's administration too has been hampered to a great extent," the letter states.

This is the second such letter written to the high command by local Congress leaders in Karnataka. Earlier MLCs Dinesh Gooligowda and Manjunath Bhandary had written to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for his intervention. The unrest in the Congress arose after Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot granted sanction on August 16 to three activists to seek investigations into the allotment of 14 housing sites to the chief minister's wife in



2021. While Siddaramaiah has challenged the Governor's sanction order in the high court and the Congress high command has indicated its backing for the chief minister—in the light of what is being portrayed by the party as a concerted effort by the Opposition to dislodge a backward-class leader—many Congress leaders have staked claim to his post.

Many of those who have staked claims are also close associates of the CM, suggesting a strategy from the Siddaramaiah camp to remain in power by citing the presence of too many aspirants. Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress chief D K Shivakumar considers himself next in line for the chief minister post but is known to be opposed by many in the Siddaramaiah camp. Home Minister G Parameshwara, Public Works Department Minister Satish Jarkiholi, Industries Minister M B Patil, and Basavaraj Rayareddy, financial advisor to the CM, are among those who have claimed to be as eligible to be the chief minister as Shivakumar. Shivakumar, who is on a trip to the US, has stated that Siddaramaiah will continue to lead the Government. His brother and former MP D K Suresh went a step further to add that the current chief minister will complete his full term. The high court is set to resume hearing on September 12 on the plea filed by Siddaramaiah against the Governor's prosecution sanction for filing cases against him over the alleged illegal land allotments made to his wife in 2021, when the BJP was in power. The Congress high command is widely expected to allow the MUDA issue to run its full legal course before taking a decision on replacement of the chief minister. Siddaramaiah, who is the finance minister, is likely to present the budget for the next financial year in 2025, according to Congress insiders.

Bombay HC Registrar General cautions lawyers, public over 'fake calls, messages' from judges

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

The notice issued by the Registrar General of the High Court (HC) stated that while the administration has initiated action and is also taking the issue to the law enforcement agencies, the stakeholders, including lawyers, litigants and others were informed and cautioned about the same to ensure that there is no loss to any individual. Registrar general The notice issued by the Registrar General of the High Court (HC) stated that while the administration has initiated action and is also taking the issue to the law enforcement agencies, the stakeholders, including lawyers, litigants and others were informed and cautioned about the same to ensure that there is no loss to any individual. The Bombay High Court administration, in a notice to lawyers, litigants and other stakeholders, on Wednesday flagged concerns about instances of "fake calls and messages in the name of High Court judges and other judicial officers" demanding money being made to the public. The notice issued by the Registrar General of the High Court (HC) stated that while the administration has initiated action and is also taking the issue to the law enforcement agencies, the stakeholders, including lawyers, litigants and others were informed and cautioned about the same to ensure that there is no loss to any individual. "It is brought to the attention of the High Court Administration that some calls are being made in the name of the Judges of the High Court demanding money. It is also brought to the attention that text messages/links are being sent/shared/circulated involving Judicial Officers working under control of the Bombay High Court," the HC notice reads. The HC administration noted that "it seems some unknown people are making such calls and send-



ing text messages or links portraying fake identity involving names of HC judges and judicial officers working under supervision and control of Bombay HC." The Registrar General said that such instances should be reported to jurisdictional police stations concerned. "Although the High Court Administration is independently initiating action against such miscreants and also taking this matter to law enforcement agencies, as a matter of caution and to avoid any loss to any individual, by this notice everyone is being informed that if any such calls, text messages/links are received, apart from not responding such calls, text messages/links, the same may be informed to Nodal Officer Shri Rajendra T Virkar on his email and/or his cell phone," the notice reads. Last month, the Supreme Court had filed a cyber crime complaint with Delhi Police against a social media handle for impersonating Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud and demanding money to avail a cab to attend collegium meeting.

Sanjay Raut slams BJP's 'fake Hindutva', says Sanket Bawankule ordered beef cutlet in Nagpur bar



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Criticising the BJP's "fake Hindutva", Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday alleged that Sanket Bawankule, the son of state BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule, had ordered beef cutlet at a Nagpur bar where he met his friend. Sanket's Audi car had hit several vehicles in Nagpur city on Sunday, following which the driver of the car was arrested. The BJP

dismissed Raut's allegations as "baseless and meaningless".

"Look at BJP's fake Hindutva. Son of a top BJP leader ordered beef cutlet when he visited the bar in Nagpur on Sunday. Had it been a person from another community, the BJP would have resorted to mob lynching," Raut alleged at a press conference. Later, speaking to The Indian Express, Raut said he had the details of the food Sanket ordered and alleged that he was being let off because he was Chandrashekhar Bawankule's son. "Besides Sanket, there were other occupants in the car. They all fled. No action has been taken against them, no alcohol test has been conducted. The number of the Audi car is not even mentioned in the FIR," he said.

Targeting Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Raut said, "He (Fadnavis) is the worst home minister Maharashtra has seen in its history. He only knows to target the Opposition and put them in jail. He has raked up a four-year-old case when Anil Deshmukh was the home minister. He got a fake case registered against Deshmukh who will now be arrested. Fadnavis is ruling Maharashtra as per his whims and fancies. BJP leaders and workers involved in crimes are getting away scot-free while Opposition leaders are being repeatedly charged with fake cases and put in jail." BJP spokesperson Keshav Upadhye dismissed Raut's allegations. "He is known for making wild, baseless and meaningless allegations. His latest allegations fall into the same category. He is trying to play politics in an accident case. The police are doing their job, they will not spare the guilty," Upadhye said.

Ferozepur ex-MLA 'inaugurates PHC' in village, hands over key to staff; civil surgeon 'clueless'

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

The health department, however, had no clue about this PHC nor they know if it was ever being constructed. The civil surgeon later told The Indian Express that she did not even know if any such PHC was coming up at that place. The health department, however, had no clue about this PHC nor they know if it was ever being constructed. The civil surgeon later told The Indian Express that she did not even know if any such PHC was coming up at that place. A former Congress MLA, Parminder Singh Pinki, from Ferozepur created ripples in the district health department when he 'inaugurated' a Primary Health Centre (PHC) in village Attari of Ferozepur city on Monday.

The health department, however, had no clue about this PHC nor they know if it was ever being constructed. The civil surgeon later told The Indian Express that she did not even know if any such PHC was coming up at that place. The district health officials got activated only after the 'inauguration ceremony' of the PHC, led by Pinki went viral on social media, including the pictures posted by Pinki on his social media handle on 'X'. Pinki's action infuriated the people from ruling party who raised this issue with the concerned officials. On Tuesday evening, Dr. Rajwinder Kaur, civil surgeon Ferozepur told The Indian Express, "Monday evening, I saw a video in which the ex-MLA was seen giving a speech in which he claimed he had inaugurated a PHC and given keys to the health department staff. We have a health and wellness clinic and not a PHC in this hospital."

One community health officer, an auxiliary nursing midwife and accredited social health activist (ASHA) operate from there. They were given two rooms in the village Gurdwara with the consent of Gurdwara management committee. This staff acts as bridge between the



villagers and doctors. I am clueless as which PHC has been inaugurated and why my staff has been shifted there without my knowledge. I have issued a notice to the ex-MLA asking him to tell me as to which PHC he had inaugurated. I gave him two days to provide me the details". Dr. Kaur added that "there are no sanctioned posts for a PHC in Attari village" and "I do not know which building that the ex-MLA is claiming as a PHC, has been inaugurated by him". Pinki, however, told The Indian Express, that "Being a public figure, villagers had invited me at the Akhand path organised in the village Gurdwara. Later, the village panchayat gave the keys to the health staff as the PHC was built on panchayat land. I had earlier got money sanctioned for it's construction. The work has recently been completed. So what is the harm, if village panchayat invited me? I don't think that the civil surgeon is authorised to issue any notice to me. Also, I have not received any such notice so far". It is learnt that Pinki, during his tenure as MLA had also laid the foundation stone of construction of this PHC in the fag end of his term ahead of assembly polls in February, 2022.

'Madrasa is an unfit place to receive proper education': Top child rights body to Supreme Court

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Stating "Taliban extremist groups" were allegedly "influenced by the religious and political ideologies of Darul Uloom Deoband Madrasa" founded in Uttar Pradesh's Deoband, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has told the Supreme Court the education imparted to children in madrasas "is not comprehensive, and is therefore against the provisions of Right to Education Act".

The top child rights body said this in written submission to the court which is seized of a clutch of appeals challenging the Allahabad High Court order which had declared the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004, "unconstitutional" on the ground that it violated "the principle of secularism" and fundamental rights provided under Article 14 of the Constitution. On April 5, a Supreme Court bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud stayed the HC order. The Commission said "a Madrasa is an unsuitable/unfit place to receive 'proper' education" and they "do not only render an unsatisfactory and insufficient model for education but also have an arbitrary mode of working which is wholly and in absence of a curriculum and evaluation procedure as laid down under Section 29 of the Right to Education Act, 2009". They work "in an overall violation of the Constitutional mandate...and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015."

"The denial to extend the right to education to children by these institutions with minority status not just deprives the children of their most important fundamental right to education but... snowballs into depriving them of their fundamental right to Equality before law (Article 14); prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth (Article 15(1)); that children are given opportunities and facilities to develop in a healthy manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity and that childhood and youth are protected against exploitation and against moral and material abandonment (Article 39(f)) and also interrupts States' responsibility under Article 13 (2) to not make any law which takes away or abridges the rights conferred under the fundamental rights and any law made in contravention of this shall, to the extent of the contravention, be void," said the Commission.

Thus, the UP Act, "instead of an enabling tool, becomes a depriving tool for the children studying in minority institutions", the Commission said adding "such institutions are also providing Islamic Religious Education to Non-Muslims which is further in violation of Article 28 (3) of the Constitution of India". Though the RTE Act exempts

madrasas from its purview, the children studying in them "have never been exempted from the ambit of Article 21A of the Constitution of India in any judicial decision or constitutional interpretation", it pointed out. "All those children who are not in formal schooling system are deprived of their fundamental right to elementary education including the entitlements such as Midday Meal, uniform, trained teachers etc. and since Madrasas are exempted from the purview of the RTE Act, 2009, all children studying in the Madrasas are deprived of not only formal education in schools but also benefits as provided under RTE Act, 2009," it added. It also said madrasas "merely teaching a few NCERT Books in the curriculum is a mere guise in the name of imparting education and does not ensure that the children are receiving formal and quality education". "It cannot be overlooked that a child getting education in such an Institution will be devoid of basic knowledge of school curriculum which is provided in a school".

The child rights body said apart from "issues of curriculum, teacher eligibility, non-transparency/funding, and violations of the law of land, the Madrasa also fails to provide a holistic environment to the children. The majority of madrasas have no idea as to how to plan social events or extracurricular activities, like field trips, that could provide students with some level of experiential learning". "Even though Madrasas are running across the country in all States/Union Territories, but on the basis on the information available, only... Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand have Madrasa Board". The Commission said it found "various abnormalities" in the curriculum published by these Madrasa Boards. Further, the Commission said after going through the list of books available on the website of the Madrasa Board, it also "found objectionable content in Diniyat books being included in their curriculum". "It is humbly submitted that on perusal of the Diniyat books as available on the website, it has been observed that as per the prescribed curriculum, the Madrasa Board through the books, are teaching texts that professes about Supremacy of Islam." NCPCR said it has received "complaints regarding the fatwas issued by Darul Uloom Deoband which contained references from a book titled 'Bahishti Zewar'... the said book contained content which is not only improper but is also objectionable and illegal regarding children as the same contains text regarding engaging in a sexual relationship with a minor, the book is also alleged to be taught to children in madrasas, and further fatwas containing such objectionable information is accessible for all."

Who is Ilhan Omar, US Congresswoman whose meeting with Rahul Gandhi sparked row?



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's meeting with Ilhan Omar, a US House of Representatives member, has stirred a row with the BJP condemning it over her alleged anti-India stance. The BJP leaders cited Omar's comments on the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, her views on Kashmir, and her visit to Pakistan, among other actions, to criticise the Congress leader's meeting. Ilhan Omar represents Minnesota's 5th Congressional District in the US House of Representatives, which includes Minneapolis and surrounding suburbs.

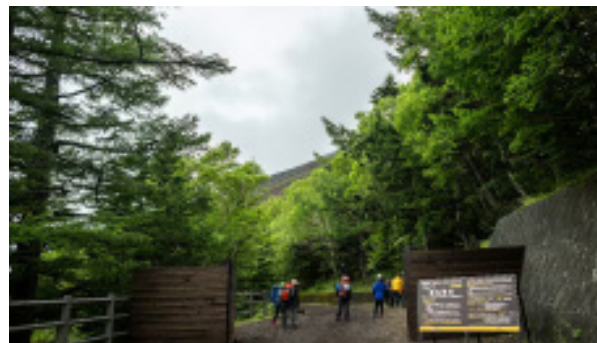
A policy analyst, organiser, public speaker and advocate, Omar was sworn into office in January 2019, making her the first African refugee to become a Member of Congress and the first woman of colour to represent Minnesota. She was one of the first two Muslim-American women elected to Congress. Born in Somalia, Omar and her family fled the country's civil war when she was eight. The family spent four years in a refugee camp in Kenya before coming to the United States in 1990s. In

1997, she moved to Minneapolis with her family.

Before entering politics and running for office, she worked as a community educator at the University of Minnesota, was a Policy Fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and served as a Senior Policy Aide for the Minneapolis City Council. Omar is the Vice-Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee. She also serves on the House Education and Workforce Committee, where she is a member of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections and Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labour, Pensions (HELP). She is the Deputy Chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus and Vice-Chair of the Medicare For All Caucus. ILHAN OMAR'S 'ANTI-INDIA' STAND

In September 2023, Omar said the US must fully support the Canadian investigation into India's alleged role in the assassination of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. She also introduced a resolution to condemn alleged human rights violations and violations of international religious freedom in India, including those targeting Muslims and other religious minorities. She introduced a resolution in June 2022 calling on the US Secretary of State to designate India as a country of particular concern for alleged violations of religious freedom. In April 2022, she visited Pakistan, met with top Pakistani leaders, including former Prime Minister Imran Khan, and travelled to Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK). India condemned the US Congresswoman's visit to POK. In 2019, she also criticised the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam, calling it a part of the "Hindu nationalism project" of PM Modi. She has also been openly critical of the decision to abrogate Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Japan imposes measures at Mount Fuji due to tourists' influx



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Fewer climbers tackled Mount Fuji during this year's hiking season, preliminary figures show, after Japanese authorities introduced an entry fee and a daily cap on numbers to fight overtourism. Online reservations were also brought in this year by officials concerned about safety and environmental damage on the country's highest mountain. The number of climbers fell by 14 percent between early July - when the volcano's hiking trails opened for the summer - and early September, according to the environment ministry. To calculate its preliminary figures, the ministry used infrared devices installed on the four trails.

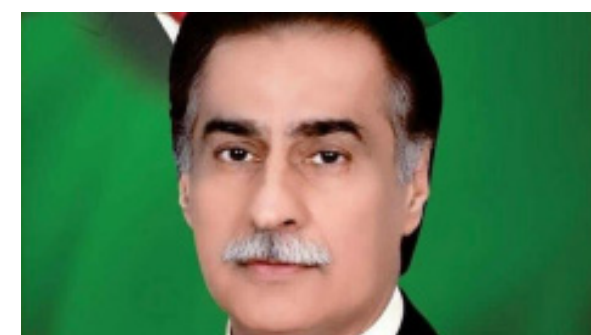
It comes despite Japan welcoming a record influx of foreign visitors, with nearly 18 million tourists entering the country in the first half of 2024. Officials raised the alarm last year about overtourism at the once-peaceful pilgrimage site, with the local governor of Yamanashi region warning that "Mount Fuji is screaming". This summer the environment ministry counted around 178,000 climbers, compared to more than 200,000 the previous year and before the pandemic. Gates to the trails were closed on Tuesday, marking the end of the hiking season. The preliminary data runs to September 4 and will be updated on a later date, a ministry official told AFP on Wednesday. The mountain is covered in snow most of the year, but during the summer many trudge through the night to see the sunrise from the 3,776-metre (12,388-foot) summit. This year, an entry fee of 2,000 yen (\$14) plus an optional donation was charged on the popular Yoshida Trail, with numbers capped at 4,000 per day. The three other trails remained free. Concerns have been raised that some climbers were sleeping on the trail or starting fires for heat, while others became sick or injured after trying to reach the summit without breaks. Mount Fuji is about two hours from central Tokyo by train and can be seen for miles around. The majestic mountain is a symbol of Japan that has been immortalised in countless artworks, including Hokusai's "Great Wave".

Pakistan NA Speaker Ayaz Sadiq suspends five security officials following arrest of Opposition lawmakers

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Pakistan's National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq on Wednesday (September 11, 2024) suspended five security officials following the arrest of Opposition lawmakers belonging to jailed former premier Imran Khan's party from the Parliament building. Mr. Sadiq, the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader, took action after plain-cloth officials reportedly entered the Parliament on Tuesday (September 10, 2024) to arrest lawmakers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, including party chairman Gohar Ali Khan. The crackdown prompted an outcry even by the parties which are part of the coalition government. Members of the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), both government allies, expressed discontent with the arrests, warning that it would further escalate tensions. "The Speaker was livid after the incident, which showed his inability to safeguard the rights of his fellow Parliamentarians and vowed to fix the responsibility and punish the attackers. Following an inquiry, Sadiq took action," sources said. According to an official statement, Sergeant-at-Arms (BPS-20) Muhammad Ishfaq Ashraf was suspended for 120 days.

"During the period of his suspension, he will be entitled to draw pay and allowances as admissible under the applicable rules," the order read, adding that the action was taken under Rule 5(1) (suspension and leave) of the Civil Servants (Efficiency and Discipline) Rules, 2020. In a separate notice, the suspension orders were issued for Security Assistant Waqas Ahmed (grade-14 official) and three junior security assistants (grade-9 officials), including Obaidullah, Waheed Safdar and Muhammad Haroon. The four were suspended for 120 days and were entitled to draw pay and allowances as admissible under the applicable rules. PTI leaders faced the ire of the authorities after its rally held on Sunday (September 8, 2024) in the suburbs of Islamabad, demanding the release of their leader Imran Khan and warning to get him out of jail through street protests. Apart from the controversial speeches made by some leaders, the PTI workers clashed with police, resulting in injuries to several police officials. The 71-year-old former-cricketer-



turned-politician faces a slew of legal cases and has been in prison for more than a year after being sentenced in a graft case. Imran Khan was arrested on August 5 last year after his conviction in the first Toshakhana corruption case filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan. Since then, he has been in jail in different cases. Top leaders of Imran Khan's PTI arrested outside parliament in Islamabad Police filed cases against the PTI workers and lawmakers following the clashes. Those arrested included at least 11 members of Parliament and so far only PTI chairman Gohar Khan has been released. Gohar, while addressing the Parliament, announced a boycott of the proceedings and said only nine to ten of its members would attend to show token presence. "This is our protest," the PTI leader said, as he clarified that the PTI would not resign from the Parliament or any assembly. Speaking to the media after his release on Tuesday evening (September 10, 2024), Gohar termed the arrests as an attack on the Parliament and September 9 as "a black day for Pakistan". "PTI will not forget this," he said. "This time, CCTV footage would be disclosed and this time, the common person would not be punished." He said that the PTI was targeted by the government, but the party forgave it for the sake of the country, people and democracy. He warned that if the largest political party was not given space, then non-political elements would get stronger. "Extremist and separatist movements will get stronger," he said. He also announced to challenge the arrest of other party leaders in the high court.

Explosion at US military facility in Baghdad ahead of Iranian president's visit

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

An explosion occurred at a site used by the US military near Baghdad airport late Tuesday, just before Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's scheduled visit. Iraqi security forces are investigating the incident, which has not resulted in any immediate reports of damages or casualties. Iraqi security officials said an explosion targeted a site used by the US military next to Baghdad airport late Tuesday, one day before an expected visit by Iran's president.

The expected visit by Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Baghdad Wednesday would be his first official trip abroad since taking office. Iraq's security media cell said in a statement that an explosion was heard at 11 p.m. at the airport, in an area used by advisers to the US-led international coalition. The statement said Iraqi security forces were unable to determine the "type or causes of the explosion, and no party has claimed responsibility for it." It added that the incident was under investigation and civilian air traffic continued as normal. There was no immediate information on damages or casualties. US officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment. An Iraqi security official at the airport, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak publicly about the matter,



said that officials who were at the airport preparing for Pezeshkian's visit heard "the sound of two strong strikes," which apparently targeted a logistics support site for the coalition. Over the past 11 months, Iranian-backed Iraqi militias have periodically targeted bases housing US forces in Iraq and have said that the strikes were in retaliation for Washington's support of Israel in the war in Gaza. One of those militias, Kataib Hezbollah, appeared to be trying to distance itself from Tuesday night's strike. Jaafar al-Husseini, the group's spokesperson, said in a statement that the targeting of the airport was "carried out by suspicious hands, and its aim is to disrupt the Iranian president's visit to Baghdad."

2024 US Presidential election: Key dates left on path to election day

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

As the 2024 US elections approach, several key dates will shape the race. Early voting begins in Virginia on September 20, followed by a vice-presidential debate on October 1. Election Day is set for November 5, when voters will decide the next president and the makeup of Congress. Democrat Kamala Harris and her Republican rival Donald Trump shook hands before the start of their first presidential debate. The 2024 US election is well and truly underway with Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump facing off during their first presidential debate on Tuesday night (US time). Hosted by US broadcaster ABC News and moderated by David Muir and Linsey Davis, the 90-minute debate featured discussions on key election issues including abortion rights, economy, immigration and border policy, and the Israel-Gaza conflict. Harris and Trump also exchanged personal jabs throughout the debate. Harris claimed that world leaders were laughing at Trump, while Trump alleged that President Joe Biden "hated" her. This debate marked the first in-person encounter between Trump and Harris, held on September 10 (US time) on ABC News.

Previously, on June 27, Trump debated Joe Biden, in which Biden's performance was widely seen as poor. The poor show sparked worry within the Democratic Party over whether the incumbent was fit enough to run a presidential campaign. On July 21, Biden gave in to pressure from within his party and withdrew from the race, endorsing his running mate and current US Vice-President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee. Now, with Harris and Trump having met for their debate, the stage is set for November 5, when American voters will decide who will succeed Joe Biden as the next President of the United States. However, before that there are several key days



that will shape the 2024 US election. Here's a look. September 18 - Special election in New Jersey's 10th District

A special election will be held in New Jersey's 10th congressional district after the passing of Democratic Representative Donald Payne Jr Newark City Council President LaMonica McIver is the Democratic candidate, while small business owner Carmen Bucco is running for the Republicans. September 20 - Early voting starts in Virginia. Virginia will be the first state to open early voting, allowing residents to cast their ballots ahead of the general election. Kamala Harris's running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, will face off against Donald Trump's vice-presidential pick, Ohio Senator JD Vance, in a debate on CBS News. The debate will be moderated by Norah O'Donnell, anchor of CBS Evening News, and Margaret Brennan, moderator of Face the Nation and CBS News' chief foreign affairs correspondent. On Election Day, voters will not only choose the next president but also determine the makeup of Congress and state governments. 34 Senate seats, all 435 House seats, and 12 governorships are up for election.

Republican leader collapses at event after 'stroke-like symptoms', hospitalised

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Congressman Joe Wilson fell ill as he was sitting in the front row of a celebration of Ukraine's Independence Day at the Ukraine House in Washington's diplomatic enclave. Republican representative Joe Wilson, a senior member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, collapsed at an event on Tuesday and was rushed to hospital, his office said. The official X profile for Wilson, 77, wrote a message that said the congressman "was taken ill and is being evaluated at a local hospital in Washington, DC". Wilson's son Alan Wilson, the attorney general of South Carolina, wrote on his X profile that "doctors have confirmed to us that he has experienced stroke-like symptoms". "I was able to speak with him moments ago, and I am incredibly thankful that he is stable and being monitored by medical professionals," he added. Wilson



fell ill as he was sitting in the front row of a celebration of Ukraine's Independence Day at Ukraine House in Washington's diplomatic enclave.

Bangladesh ramps up border vigilance as thousands of Rohingya flee Myanmar

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Bangladesh has ramped up vigilance at its border with Myanmar, with at least 18,000 Rohingya Muslims crossing over in recent months to escape escalating violence in Myanmar's western Rakhine state, officials in Dhaka said. The influx of refugees from Myanmar has mounted as fighting escalates between the troops of the ruling junta and the Arakan Army, the powerful ethnic militia that recruits from the Buddhist majority.

"Thousands of Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh and many are waiting to cross. The situation is dire," said a foreign ministry official, who asked not to be named as he was not authorised to talk to media. The new arrivals add to more than one million Rohingya refugees already living in overcrowded camps in Cox's Bazar district after they fled a military-led crackdown in Myanmar in 2017. They have little hope of returning to Myanmar, where they are largely denied citizenship and other basic rights. Arrivals have more than doubled from what the government estimated earlier this month, despite Bangladesh repeatedly saying it cannot accept more Rohingya refugees as resources are already



Bangladesh increases border vigilance as Rohingya refugees flee Myanmar violence, with challenges in managing the influx

stretched thin. "The vigilance at the border has increased, but managing our 271 km (168 miles) border with Myanmar is challenging, especially without a security counterpart on the other side," said another government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said many Rohingya were desperate and were finding ways to cross into Bangladesh. The government was yet to de-

cide on whether to register those who have entered recently and are living in refugee camps, said the foreign ministry official. "If we decide to register them, it could open the floodgates, and that's something we can't afford," he said. "But at the same time, how long can we ignore this issue? That's the real question." The head of Bangladesh's interim government, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, has called for a fast-

tracked third-country resettlement of Rohingya as a long-term solution, but the foreign ministry official said progress on resettlement has been limited. "Around 2,000 people have gone under the resettlement programme since it resumed in 2022 after a gap of 12 years," he said, adding that the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Ireland were among the countries taking in refugees.

Inflows into equity mutual funds drop 9% to Rs 37,113 crore in July: AMFI



Net inflows into equity mutual fund schemes declined by 8.6 per cent on a month-on-month basis to Rs 37,113.39 crore in July, as flows into small, mid and large cap funds moderated, the latest data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed. In June, flows into equity-oriented schemes touched an all-time high of Rs 40,608.19 crore. Despite witnessing moderation in July, inflows into equity schemes continued to remain positive for the 41st month.

The contribution of systematic investment plans (SIP) touched an all-time high of Rs 23,332 crore in the reporting month, compared to Rs 21,262 crore in June. In the reporting month, the SIP assets under management (AUM) were at a record high of Rs 13.09 lakh crore and the number of SIP accounts stood at its highest ever at 9.3 crore. "It's evident that mutual funds have become an integral part of retail investors' financial strategies. SIP contributions reaching an all-time high of Rs 23,331.75 crore in July 2024 reflects the growing financial discipline among retail investors, helping them build wealth systematically over time," said Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive, AMFI.

The net assets under management of the mutual fund industry grew by 6.23 per cent to touch a record high of Rs 64.97 lakh crore as on July 31, 2024. This rise was largely driven by increase in net inflows into debt-oriented mutual fund schemes. In July, net assets under management of equity mutual funds stood at an all-time high of Rs 29.33 lakh crore, which is nearly 45 per cent of the industry's AUM. Small cap funds received inflows of

Rs 2,109.2 crore in July compared to Rs 2,263.47 crore in June. Net inflows in the mid cap funds stood at Rs 1,644.22 crore, as against Rs 2,527.84 crore in the previous month. Flows into large cap funds moderated to Rs 670.12 crore compared to Rs 970.49 in June. Among equity mutual fund schemes, sectoral/thematic funds garnered the highest net inflows of Rs 18,386.35 crore. However, flows into this category of funds dropped compared to Rs 22,351.69 crore of flows in June, the AMFI data showed. Flexi cap fund witnessed Rs 3,052.92 crore worth of inflows compared to Rs 3,058.81 crore last month. The inflow data shows an underlying change in the mood of investors. They are shifting their focus from the core side of the portfolio to the tactical or satellite side of the portfolio. This is evident from the fact that in the last two years, we saw small caps getting heavy inflows, which now is tapering as investors are now shifting to sectoral funds. It will be interesting to see if this is a shift in risk profile to it is just blatant near term return chasing," said Swarup Mohanty, Vice Chairman & CEO at Mirae Asset Investment Managers (India).

According to Jean Christophe Gougeon, Director & Chief Marketing Officer, Sharekhan, by BNP Paribas, the impact of the tax changes implemented in Budget 24-25 may have led to the sluggish investor sentiment. In the Budget 2024-25, announced on July 23, the government proposed to increase the rate for short-term capital gain on units of equity-oriented mutual funds to 20 per cent from 15 per cent. The long-term capital gains tax on all financial and non-financial assets was also proposed to be increased from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent. The debt oriented mutual fund schemes saw net inflows of Rs 1,19,587.6 crore in July, as against outflows of Rs 1,07,357.62 crore in the previous month. Inflows into liquid funds was Rs 70,060.88 crore in the reporting month, compared to outflows of Rs 80,354.03 in June. Net inflows into hybrid funds stood at Rs 17,436.09 crore, as against Rs 8,854.74 crore in June. Inflows into gold exchange-traded funds (ETF) touched a record high of Rs 1,337.35 crore in July. Higher inflows into gold ETF can be attributed to the drop in gold prices after the government, in the Budget 2024-25, announced reduction in customs duty on the yellow metal to 6 per cent from 15 per cent earlier, said Chalasani.

China files WTO complaint against EU over tariffs on electric vehicles

China WTO China's auto exports rose in July compared with the same month last year, while domestic sales fell, an industry association reported Friday. The Chinese government said it filed a complaint Friday with the World Trade Organisation over European Union tariffs on electric vehicles made in China. The Commerce Ministry said that China had resorted to the WTO dispute settlement mechanism "to safeguard the development rights and interests of the electric vehicle industry and cooperation on the global green transformation". The EU has imposed provisional tariffs of up to 37.6% on EVs made in China, saying they unfairly benefit from government subsidies. China says its support for the EV industry conforms with WTO rules. The two sides have until early November to try to resolve their differences, after which the provisional tariffs become official. China's auto exports rose in July compared with the same month last year, while domestic sales fell, an industry association reported Friday. China's Commerce Ministry said that the EU tariffs violate WTO rules and undermine global cooperation on climate change. In response, China has launched investigations



into French cognac exports and European pork in what some analysts fear could develop into an economically harmful trade war with the EU

Filed ITR before deadline? Your refund can still be delayed if...



The deadline to file the income tax return (ITR) for AY 2024-25 was July 31, 2024. However, filing your ITR before the deadline does not guarantee that you will receive your refund on time. If your refund is stuck for an extended period, you may need to request a refund re-issue. Filing your income tax return (ITR) on time doesn't guarantee that your tax refund will arrive promptly. The refund process involves several steps, and if any part of this sequence encounters a problem, it can delay your refund. If your refund is stuck for an extended period, you may need to request a refund re-issue. If that doesn't resolve the issue, you can lodge a grievance with the tax department. Taxpayers are eligible for a tax refund when the tax paid in advance (through TDS, self-assessment tax, etc.) exceeds your actual tax liability. The income tax department calculates your tax liability after considering all deductions and exemptions.

What to do if tax refund is stuck

Filing your ITR is just the beginning of the refund process. Once your ITR is filed and verified, the tax department processes it and sends you a Section 143(1) intimation. This notice confirms that your ITR has been processed and includes details of your tax calculation. If you are due a refund, this will be mentioned along with any applicable interest. Typically, taxpayers receive their refunds within 4-5 weeks of processing. However, delays can occur due to errors on the taxpayer's part or issues within the tax department. If you haven't received your refund within this timeframe, you may need to take action. How to deal with delayed refund One option is to request a refund re-issue. Vishal Gehrana, Principal Associate at Karanjawala & Co. and Advocate on Record at the Supreme Court, told The Economic Times, "Income tax refund re-issuance is the process by which a taxpayer requests that a refund that was not received or not processed correctly be issued again." Akhil Chandna, Partner at Grant Thornton Bharat, said that a refund re-issue request is necessary in cases such as: Incorrect bank details (e.g., account number, MICR Code, IFSC

Code, or name mismatch). Bank account not pre-validated on the e-Filing portal. Pending KYC for the account holder. Incorrect account type or description. When to raise tax refund re-issue request, file grievance if your refund has been delayed, you can either: Check for issues on your end and request a refund re-issue. File a complaint with the tax department's grievance cell if you can't resolve the issue yourself. Gehrana said that if your refund status shows 'Refund Failure' due to incorrect bank details or if the refund was issued but not received because of address or technical issues, you should request a refund re-

Merger has strengthened HDFC Bank's pathways for future growth: Chairman Atanu Chakraborty

Chairman Atanu Chakraborty, HDFC Bank Merger, HDFC future growth, Atanu Chakraborty on HDFC merger, HDFC amalgamation, HDFC Ltd, HDFC Bank, Annual General Meeting, Indian express news Chakraborty praised the recently announced Union Budget and said that it has laid the pathway for the country's future growth. (Express Archive)

The merger of HDFC Ltd's into HDFC Bank has strengthened the private lender's pathways for future growth and has enhanced its ability to provide a wider spectrum of financial services to its customers, its part-time chairman and independent director Atanu Chakraborty said on Friday. The amalgamation of erstwhile HDFC Ltd with HDFC Bank, which came into effect from July 1, 2023, remains amongst the largest in the history of corporate India and also the most complex in the financial services sector in the country, Chakraborty said in his address at 30th Annual General Meeting of the private sector lender. "The bank is now a financial services conglomerate. The successful execution of the merger has significantly enhanced the bank's ability to serve its existing customers, acquire new customers and provide to our customers a wider spectrum of financial services being offered by various companies of the HDFC Bank group," he said.

These fashion mistakes could break your maternity looks; stylists share what to avoid



Fashion for moms-to-be has been a tricky subject in India. While our mothers and grandmothers swore by loose maxis and nighties to cover their bumps, the newer generation is bold enough to turn pregnancy into a fashion statement. From Hollywood A-listers to Bollywood celebrities, stars are flaunting their bumps and bringing their maternity A-game forward. But to err is to be human, and these faux pas may put a snag on their looks.

Indianexpress.com spoke to stylists and fashion designers to understand how expecting mothers can avoid common mistakes and put their best foot (bump?) forward. "Nowadays, showing off the baby bump has become a trend. People are opting to show it off instead of hiding it. Take cues from Rihanna during her pregnancy days," said Isha Bhansali, celebrity stylist. Bhansali advised against wearing belts, noting that they not only put pressure on the tummy but also disrupt the visual flow by breaking the curve, adding clutter to the look. She recommended keeping the tummy area clean and neat, as this in itself will make a statement. While some women embrace heels, Bhansali advised sticking to block and sturdy

heels and avoiding pencil heels at all costs. Speaking about colour palettes, she advised against adding too many prints to your outfit. "Add just one print. Or else go solid," Bhansali said. Neha Saluja, design head of PinkFort, reflected on the time she was pregnant. She said, "Honestly, I was struggling to have good fashionable clothes. This could be a gap in the Indian market because we don't have many brands offering fashion-forward maternity wear. But chunky jewellery helped. Nice shirt dresses, and elasticated skirts with nice tops or camis were my go-to." Saluja said tight jeans are a strict no-no. "When you gain volume in the belly, the skin becomes so sensitive that anything tight might give you rashes." She also advised against using high heels, saying, "High heels should be avoided as you gain so much volume that the center of your body keeps shifting, making it easy to lose balance." Saluja suggested wearing loose clothing for comfort and easy movement, especially during the last few months of pregnancy. As a bonus tip, she recommended garments with pockets. "I would stock my snacks in my pockets as I felt hungry all the time," she said.

Can washing your hair frequently lead to hair growth? Learn what experts have to say

With social media inundating us with haircare trends, hair aficionados are struggling to keep up. Whether it's scrubbing your scalp clean, using moisturising masks, or training your hair to control oil production, your tresses need some guided advice. Indianexpress.com consulted an expert on how often to clean your hair in hot, humid months, especially if your sweat glands love working overtime!

"You should wash your hair ideally three times a week, or every alternate day. If your scalp produces excess sebum, you'll need to wash it more often, making hair training unsuitable," said Dr. Shareefa Chause, dermatologist and cosmetologist at Shareefa's Skin Care Clinic. Chause said hair growth depends mainly on nutritional factors, and hence, the frequency of washing hair seldom comes into play. However, she does not recommend washing every day either.

When should you wash hair more often?

"For people suffering from dandruff and seborrheic dermatitis, hair fall results from frizziness and breakage. Sweat glands on the scalp produce excess sebum, so keeping the scalp clean by washing it often is key to preventing hair fall," Chause said. For people with an oily



scalp and dry lengths, balancing hydration between the scalp and the ends is key. In summer, the scalp may secrete more sebum due to hot and dry air. "People with combination hair tend to wash their scalp more often, not realising that it makes their ends dry. The oils at the top of the head do not reach the ends," said Chause. She advised using chemical and sulfate free gentle formulations to clean the scalp and hydrating and moisturising products for the lengths of the hair. Washing every alternate day, rather than daily, is recommended.

Nancy Tyagi turns designer for Ananya Panday, creates a 'simple aur stylish' outfit



Influencer Nancy Tyagi has recently crafted a stunning custom couture piece for actor Ananya Panday, marking the success of her latest OTT show, Call Me Bae. The series, available on Prime Video, features Ananya as Bae, a wealthy, fashion-forward young woman embarking on self-discovery.

Known for creating designs from scratch and gaining widespread fame for her Cannes debut earlier this year, Nancy Tyagi created a look that perfectly captures the essence of Ananya's bold and confident character 'Bae' in the show, including her extravagance. The stunning couture piece is adorned with intricate floral embellishments, resembling a garden in full bloom. It blends ethereal beauty with a structured, powered silhouette.

Nancy shared a behind-the-scenes look on Instagram, showcasing the meticulous craftsmanship in-

involved in making the outfit and Ananya's reaction to it. She wrote in the caption, "Simple aur stylish ka perfect combo! Mera yeh khaas outfit @ananyapanday pe lag raha hai bilkul shandar? Dekho unhe #CallMeBaeOnPrime mein, ab sirf @primevideoin par." Inspired by nature, the couture piece reflects the high-fashion world inhabited by Bae throughout the series. Nancy's attention to detail and avant-garde approach have been widely praised, blending elegance with an edgy vibe that perfectly complements Ananya's off-screen persona. The self-made designer first gained popularity on Instagram for her daily series, in which she made outfits and documented the entire process. This year, she also made her debut at the Cannes International Film Festival, wearing designs made by her. For those who don't know, Nancy is the daughter of a former factory worker and hails from Baranwa village in Uttar Pradesh.

Jiiva's car crashes into road divider, actor escapes with minor injuries



time, to make a sharp turn to avoid a collision. This caused the car to hit the road divider and overturn. While the vehicle was significantly damaged, Jiiva and Supriya were fortunate to sustain only minor injuries. Jiiva confirmed to DT Next that they did not suffer any major injuries and were soon transported to Chennai in another vehicle. Recently, Jiiva had sparked controversy with his comments on the Justice Hema Committee report, suggesting that the issues highlighted were specific to the Malayalam film industry and not present in Tamil cinema. Referring to it as a 'Malayalam cinema issue,' Jiiva also had a verbal altercation with a journalist, calling him 'foolish' for asking about "an inauspicious thing during an auspicious event."

The son of veteran film producer RB Choudary, Jiiva began his film career as a child artist at the age of seven with his father's production Perum Pulli (1991). Choudary later launched him as a lead actor in Aasai Aasaiyai (2003). Jiiva's was last seen in director Mahi V Raghav's political drama Yatra 2, where he played the role of former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy.

Ram Kapoor says getting typecast as 'family face' limited his opportunities: 'They felt audience may not accept me as the villain'

Actor Ram Kapoor recently shared that he initially faced challenges in the film industry due to being typecast as a "family face." Actor Ram Kapoor stated that he never saw typecasting as an issue, viewing it as a testament to his talent in a particular kind of role. Actor Ram Kapoor, known for his memorable performances and unique project choices, has won acclaim from both movie and TV audiences. He began his career with popular TV soaps and later made a successful transition to cinema. Despite this, Kapoor recently shared that he initially faced challenges in the film industry due to being typecast as a "family face." He stated that this typecasting limited his opportunities to explore diverse roles.



"I was very strongly cast as a typical family face of the country, and I did so many successful television shows. So, whenever I used to get a good film offer or whenever a big role would come my way, I would always be shortlisted in the last two or three rounds. I have done a lot of roles in the first few years," Kapoor, who will be next seen in the action film Yudhra and the musical drama TV series Khalbali Records, recalled during a chat with Pinkvilla. He also noted that filmmakers would often choose other actors before finalising him for a role, explaining, "They said, 'Don't let him do something so different because he is very strongly loved by the audience

as a typical family face of the country. So they may not accept him as the villain or as the negative character or anything else." Kapoor, however, stated that he never saw this as an issue, viewing typecasting as a testament to his talent in a particular kind of role. "For example, when you look at comedy, we have Johnny Lever, and everyone knows that he got typecast in comedy. But this was because nobody was as good as him. He was the best of the best," Kapoor explained. He also cited the cases of Pran and Prem Chopra, noting that they were typecast as villains because no one was as good as them.

Nivin Pauly claims sexual abuse complaint against him part of larger conspiracy, suspects involvement of film industry insiders



Venkatesh IPS, who oversees the Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up by the Kerala government to investigate sexual harassment allegations involving several industry insiders. He submitted his complaint directly at the crime branch headquarters.

In his complaint, Nivin asserted that the allegations were baseless and that he was innocent. He urged the officials to conduct a thorough investigation into the claims made against him, reiterating his belief that a serious conspiracy was at play, possibly involving members of the film industry. After the police registered an FIR against Nivin under various IPC sections, including Section 376 (rape), the actor denied the allegations and stated that he would address the matter legally. Shortly after being charged, he addressed the media, where he denied knowing or ever meeting the complainant. According to the woman's complaint, the alleged incident took place in November 2023. Following the emergence of the allegations, several of Nivin's friends and colleagues, including actor-director Vineeth Srinivasan and actors Parvathy Krishna and Bhagath Manuel, came forward to dispute the claims. Vineeth shared that they had been working together on the set of his film Varshangalkku Shesham during the period mentioned in the complaint. Meanwhile, when the complainant appeared before the SIT recently to give her statement, where she claimed that her previous allegations were made while she was half-asleep and expressed concern that some unknown persons were attempting to sabotage the case, Mathrubhumi reported.

Nivin Pauly made these allegations in a complaint to Crime Branch ADGP H Venkatesh IPS, who oversees the SIT set up by the Kerala government to investigate sexual harassment allegations involving several industry insiders. Actor Nivin Pauly was recently booked based on a woman's complaint that he sexually abused her in a Dubai hotel last year after promising her a role in a film.

Days after a rape case was filed against Malayalam star Nivin Pauly based on a woman's complaint that he sexually abused her in a Dubai hotel last year after promising her a role in a film, the actor voiced suspicions that the complaint is part of a larger conspiracy. He also suggested that people within the Malayalam film industry might be responsible for orchestrating it. Nivin made these allegations in a complaint to Crime Branch ADGP H

Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner officially divorced after year-long custody battle for daughters

A Florida judge has declared Joe Jonas and Sophie Turner divorced and single, signing off on a confidential agreement reached between the two. The Miami-Dade County judge approved the agreement on Friday, one year after the 35-year-old Jonas Brothers singer filed to divorce the 28-year-old Game of Thrones and X Men actor and five years after the two were married.

The split brought a quiet and relatively quick end to a divorce that briefly became acrimonious and looked headed for a long and ugly custody fight. The documents said that moderated negotiations led to an agreement on splitting assets, spousal support and custody of their two daughters, 4-year-old Willa and 2-year-old Delphine. Judge Gina Beovides declared that the marriage was "irretrievably broken," and that the couple's agreement, especially their parenting plan, was in the best interest of the family. After-hours emails seeking comment from representatives of both Turner and Jonas were not immediately returned.

The couple met through Instagram messages and began dating in 2016. They married in a secretive ceremony at a Las Vegas wedding chapel in May of 2019 after the Billboard Music Awards. Country duo Dan + Shay performed at the wedding. Jonas filed for divorce in September of 2023. In the filing he sought joint custody and said the two had a pre-nuptial agreement. The following day the two posted an identical amicable statement to



each of their Instagram accounts. But the split turned into a serious dispute within weeks when Turner sued to force Jonas to turn over the girls' passports so they could join her in her native England.

The daughters, who were born in the US but have dual citizenship, were with Joe Jonas in New York, where he was on tour, according to court documents, in which Turner said they had been planning on raising the girls together in England when their marriage fell apart. Turner said she learned of Jonas' divorce filing through the media, while Jonas said the two had had multiple conversations about it. The custody fight was dropped in January, a sign that the two were on a path to a settlement. Turner, who is from Northampton, England, played Sansa Stark for eight seasons on HBO's Game of Thrones.

Sai Pallavi dances to 'Apsara Aali' and 'Zingaat' at her sister's sangeet ceremony, fans say 'Nobody can match her energy'



Sai Pallavi's sister Pooja Kannan tied the knot last week. Days after the wedding, photos and videos from the festivities have surfaced online. In a couple of videos that have made it to the internet, actress Sai Pallavi can be seen performing to popular songs "Apsara Aali" and "Zingaat". The videos have attracted a lot of reactions online. In one of the videos, what seems to be from her sister's sangeet ceremony, Sai Pallavi donning a blue kurta and white palazzo can be seen giving an electrifying performance on the song "Apsara Aali". She was sharing the stage with one of her friends or family members. In another video, the actress was seen performing in a group to the song "Zingaat" from Janhvi Kapoor's 2018 film Dhadak.

Sai looked elegant as she flaunted her dance moves. To complete her look, the actress wore matching blue bangles and a pearl necklace. She also adorned her hair with white flowers. A fan commented, "She just steals the show...like a wave in the sea...seamless." "Nobody can match her energy", wrote another user. Photos from Haldi ceremony have also leaked online. For Haldi, the entire family was dressed in white as the venue was decorated in yellow. The entire family posed for a huge group photo, capturing Sai Pallavi's candid moments. On the work front, Sai Pallavi will soon be seen in Chandoo Mondeti's Thandel, also starring Naga Chaitanya as her co-star. The film is set to release on December 20. The actress will also be seen in the Tamil film Amara, co-starring Sivakartheeyan.

Badshah declined Karan Johar's offer to star in Lust Stories as a 'guy who can't satisfy his wife', told him, 'Main aisa lagta hoon?'

Rapper Badshah recalled turning down the lead role in Karan Johar's short film in the Lust Stories anthology, because he was taking himself 'too seriously' at that stage, and didn't think it would suit his image to play someone who can't sexually satisfy their wife. Little did he know that Karan would also offer him a role in Good Newwz, but once again, he was being called upon to play a man who can't have kids. Badshah eventually made his acting debut in the film Khandani Shafakhana, in which he played a character with erectile dysfunction. In a chat with The Lallantop, Badshah recalled his near brushes with acting in Karan Johar productions. "I was offered Vicky Kaushal's role in Lust Stories," he said, and went on to narrate the story of how Karan approached him with it. "I thought Karan sir was joking. He said, 'There's a role of a guy who can't satisfy his wife'. And I was like, 'Yeh kya baat hui sir? Main aisa lagta hoon kya (Do I look like the kind of guy who can't satisfy his partner)?'"

Asked if he actually said this to Karan, Badshah explained, "Yes, genuinely. We were judging a show called Dil Hai Hindustani, and he was sitting right next to me. He said, 'There's this role that I think will fit you'. I thought he was joking, or just being kind. But he brought it up again on the next shoot. Then Varun Dhawan came for a shoot and congratulated me on being launched by Dharma. But I declined that role, because I didn't know if I'd be able to do it. I was taking myself too seriously."

He said that he was also offered the role that even-



tually went to Diljit Dosanjh in Good Newwz, but at the time, Rajkumar Rao was attached to the main role. "I was trekking in Manali, and I saw Karan sir's missed call. He summoned me to Mumbai, and Shashank Khaitan was there too. They told me to audition with Raj, but the role was of a character who can't have kids... The role that I finally did was of a rapper with erectile dysfunction, in Khandani Shafakhana. I did it because I wanted to spread awareness, and it was a very good film." Lust Stories proved to be difficult to cast. Previously, Kriti Sanon had revealed that she turned down the female lead role, which eventually went to Kiara Advani. Good Newwz eventually starred Akshay, Diljit, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Kiara Advani. Coincidentally, both roles that Badshah turned down would have featured him opposite Kiara.

BTS' Jin reveals he has 'never being asked out', shocks fans: 'I don't know anyone'



BTS' Jin recently surprised his fans with a candid confession in a new episode of Run Jin, where he revealed that, despite being a member of the world's one of the biggest boy bands, he has never been asked out on a date. The episode featured YouTuber Kwaktube, MMA fighter Kim Dong Hyun, and TXT member Yeonjun. While participating in one of the games, Jin shared this unexpected detail about his personal life.

During the episode, the contestants were asked an

amusing question: "Would you rather be asked out in a work group chat or have someone perform a traditional mask dance while asking you out in the middle of the street in Hongdae?" While MMA fighter Kim Dong Hyun commented, "Isn't it nice to be asked out?", Jin responded, "If someone asks you out in a group chat, you can just decline." Kim Dong Hyun added, "I think it's better to be asked out in front of strangers than people you know." Jin then humorously remarked, "Would someone really do a dance while asking me out? That would be so embarrassing in front of a crowd." As the conversation progressed, YouTuber Kwaktube admitted that he had "never been asked out before." This led Jin to confess the same, stating, "I've never been asked out either." His revelation shocked the other contestants. Yeonjun and Kim Dong Hyun were visibly surprised, responding with remarks like "Stop lying" and "That's surprising." Jin explained further, saying, "I don't know anyone, so I've never been asked out." Jin, the oldest member of BTS, was recently discharged from his mandatory military service earlier this year. In a previous interaction, he mentioned that he has been recording songs since his return from the military.

Ajay Devgn and Vaani Kapoor's Raid 2 to release in theatres on February 21

Ajay Devgn's Raid 2 will now release in theatres on February 21, 2025, the makers announced on Wednesday. The upcoming movie is a sequel to the 2018 film Raid that saw Devgn play the role of IRS officer Amay Patnaik. It was earlier slated for release on November 15.

"Bringing back the action, intensity, and suspense your way! #Raid2 releasing on 21st February 2025!" Bollywood studio T-Series posted on Instagram. Raid 2 will celebrate the "unsung heroes of the Income Tax De-

partment" and narrate a true case from their books. It will also feature Vaani Kapoor and Rajat Kapoor in pivotal roles. Ritesh Deshmukh is essaying the role of the antagonist in the movie, which is directed by Raj Kumar Gupta, who also helmed the first part. The sequel is backed by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, and Kumar Mangat Pathak and Abhishek Pathak under their banners T-Series and Panorama Studios, respectively. Raid, which also featured Saurabh Shukla and Ileana D'Cruz, was based on the real-life raid conducted by the officers of the Income Tax Department in the 1980s.

Asian Champions Trophy hockey: India toy with Malaysia in 8-1 thrashing for third straight win; Raj Kumar Pal scores three goals



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Harmanpreet Singh, usually the last man standing in Indian defence, was suddenly in the attacking third, gliding past Malaysian players with slick stick-work and having a go at the goal. It was one of those rare matches in which the India captain did not have to worry about protecting a lead in the dying minutes. His team had an extra-large lead – 8-1. And Harmanpreet tried something he never does – scoring a field goal. He couldn't. But the way India were toying with Malaysia in their Asian Champions Trophy hockey encounter demonstrated the team's superiority yet again.

Three matches, three wins, 16 goals scored and just two conceded. Four Indians (Raj Kumar Pal, Sukhjeet Singh, Uttam Singh and Abhishek) are among the top five scorers of the tournament where India have scored almost one-third of the goals. And this is just scratching the surface to underline India's dominance in the Asian Champions Trophy. Getting deadlier with every passing match, increasing their goal tally each time, India demolished Malaysia, once a banana-skin opponent, by a seven-goal margin in their third match of the competition to extend their lead at the top of the table. The result – India's biggest win over Malaysia, as per International Hockey Federation records – means Craig Fulton's side

is the only team with a 100 percent winning record so far. South Korea, placed second, and third-placed Pakistan are the two other unbeaten teams, but they have drawn two of their three matches. These two teams will be India's next opponents – they play South Korea on Thursday followed by Pakistan on Saturday. Both will be wary of taking on the high-flying Olympic bronze medallists, who have been making short work of their Asian opponents. It took India less than two minutes to open the scoring against Japan on Monday. On Wednesday, they needed an extra minute. Raj Kumar Pal – the only contentious pick in the Paris Olympics squad – continued to prove his naysayers wrong as he dribbled his way into the Malaysian 'D' and flicked the ball past the goalkeeper to open the floodgates for India.

Three minutes later, Arajjeet Singh Hundal doubled India's lead by finding the corner of the Malaysian post. A minute later, penalty corner specialist Jugraj Singh added one with a powerful drag flick. As was the case against Japan, the outcome was sealed inside the opening 10 minutes and all that was left to be seen was how many goals India would score. As it turned out, the three quick goals were only the beginning of Malaysia's misery. Harmanpreet, the highest goal-scorer of the Paris Olympics, buried the ball into the Malaysian goal with a vintage flick to make it 4-0 in the 22nd minute. Three minutes later, Arajjeet and Uttam Singh combined to set-up Raj Kumar, who ensured India went into the half-time break with a 5-0 lead. After Rajkumar had found the target for the third time, Malaysia managed to pull a goal back soon through Anuar Akhimullah but that proved to be mere consolation. If anything, that goal jolted India out of any complacency as they added two more to their tally. Arajjeet had a simple tap-in from close range from a Nilakanta Sharma pass in the 39th minute and a minute later, Uttam scored his third of the tournament by latching on to a rebound from a penalty corner. There were no goals in the fourth quarter but by then, India were just having fun, as Harmanpreet's stroll into the attacking third showed.

Bounty of batsmen, shortage of fast-bowling all-rounders, bustling keeper-batsmen and limited spin variety

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

India's talent pool has only been getting bigger with every passing season. The ongoing Duleep Trophy is a testament to it, as even after losing 16 players to the India Test squad, each of the four teams look strong on paper. It has led to the competition for places raise to never-before seen levels, with players only a couple of innings or series of low scores away from their place being questioned. While it definitely leads to players being on their toes all the time, one cannot overlook the overwhelming impact at the disposal that is making the selectors job even more harder. One of the main reasons is players emerging from all parts of the country and not just the traditional centres, from Sriganganagar in Rajasthan and Rohtas in Bihar to Kodagu in Karnataka to North 24 Parganas in West Bengal. "If you look at Indian cricket today, Indian cricket is extremely strong, it's extremely powerful. One of the big reasons for that is that talent comes from everywhere, from all over the country," India's former captain and head coach Rahul Dravid said in Bengaluru recently. The Indian Express takes a stock of India's enormous talent pool. Just over 12 months ago, there were way too many openers in the domestic circuit who were vying for spot in the national team, that the likes of KL Rahul, Devdutt Padikkal and Rituraj Gaikwad decided to try their luck by dropping down as middle-order batsmen. Gaikwad has since returned to opening, but like many others is in the queue. Making the noises: Musheer Khan (Mumbai), Sudip Kumar Gharami (Bengal), Suyash Prabhudessai (Goa), Pradosh Ranjan Paul is the most crowded pack. At any given time, there are multiple players auditioning for each slot that in case they make it to the national squad, some have to bat outside their usual position. With a wicketkeeper coming at No 7, it leaves just three spots in the XI. It is a spot India have been waiting to fill patiently for decades. Since Kapil Dev, none of them has come close to being a frontline all-rounder. Hardik Pandya tried for a year before injuries made him give up on Test cricket. In the domestic circuit, there are a few in the pack,



with Nitish Kumar Reddy high in the pecking order. It is one area where India are so short that Shivam Dube is featuring in the Duleep Trophy. Another spot that is facing plenty of competition. The most encouraging bit is all these wicketkeepers happen to be solid batsmen, capable of winning games with the bat too. From those opening the batting to middle-order and lower-order, there is excellent flexibility in the ranks. Sanju Samson although has been named as a wicketkeeper in the Duleep Trophy, he isn't Kerala first-choice and plays mostly as a batsman. There isn't much of variety here. Compared to yesteryears, India unfortunately doesn't have the richness in the ranks. Thanks to the advent of T20s, off-spinners and leg-spinners are struggling to come up the ranks in long format with most of them preferring to be left-arm orthodox. The most encouraging sign is that every season a new crop of fast bowlers emerges through the ranks, especially in the age-group levels. But there are also instances where some of their struggle to bowling in the long format, which has prompted the BCCI to hand fast bowlers contract to preserve them for the long run to some of them. Making the noises: Avesh Khan (MP), Khaleel Ahmed (Rajasthan), Vidwath Kaverappa (Karnataka), Harshit Rana (Delhi), Tushar Deshpande (Mumbai), Umran Malik (J&K), Navdeep Saini (Delhi), Anshul Khamboj (Haryana), Vijaykumar Vyshak (Karnataka).

Australia coach says top six likely to remain the same for India series

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Australia coach Andrew McDonald thinks the top six batsmen who finished the last test season are likely to start the much-anticipated five-match series against India later this year, but not necessarily in the same order. Steve Smith moved up from number four to open the batting after the test retirement of David Warner midway through last season and McDonald said it was by no means certain he would stay there. "While we've got an eye to it, we haven't made any firm decisions around that one," McDonald told SEN radio from England on Wednesday. "We've already had some chats in Sydney initially around what we're thinking for the summer, and that goes right down to depth bowling and all those hypotheticals and 'what-ifs' that we always go through." Clearly, if we make a shift with Steve Smith, then someone else will have to go to the top. We've seen Cameron Green be really successful at number four as well. So that adds layers to the decision-making.

While Smith hardly set the world on fire in his outings as an opener, Green scored 174 not out against New Zealand at number four in the last series of last season. Regardless of what the selectors decide about whether Smith opens, his place in the side alongside Green, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Travis Head and Mitchell Marsh looks assured. "We've spoken about that, and we're still a big believer in the best six batters," he added.

"We feel as though that the team that finished in New Zealand, should they get a clean run at it and be well prepared, then they would be the best-placed play-



"We've already had some chats in Sydney initially around what we're thinking for the summer, and that goes right down to depth bowling and all those hypotheticals and 'what-ifs' that we always go through.

ers to fill that, there's no doubt about that." McDonald said Australia would prioritise the series against India in the home summer and might rest test players from the white-ball series against Pakistan that precedes it to allow them to play red-ball cricket in the Sheffield Shield. The India series opens in Perth on Nov. 22 with tests following in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

Litton Das mentions challenges against SG ball ahead of India tour: We rarely play with that ball...



GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Bangladesh after a historic win against Pakistan will next travel to India for a two-match Test series. While Bangladesh looked well equipped for the conditions in Pakistan they will face a different challenge in India none so important than the ball. Bangladesh's wicket-keeper batter Litton Das mentioned about the SG ball and the lack of Bangladesh players' exposure to the media.

"India is a big team, and the ball will also change. We rarely play with that ball. It will be challenging. The players are working very hard. As for preparation, we are facing the main bowlers as much as we can. The SG ball is somewhat difficult. We are practicing; let's see what

happens." In Bangladesh the balls usually used are Kookaburra.

SG balls are hand-stitched balls, and assist the bowlers for longer. In contrast, the Kookaburra is machine-stitched, and the seam gets flat after some time making it more batter-friendly. "The SG ball does not swing initially. After 8-10 overs it starts swinging and again the chance of reversing is also high. In English conditions the ball may not reverse early it may take more than 60 overs," said former Indian coach Bharat Arun speaking to this publication once. "In Kookaburra is different it swings about 15-20 overs when the ball is new and it is hard. After the seam is not as prominent as SG or Dukers. Kookaburra- batsman love it! Especially after 30 overs. It doesn't swing around much," Arun would say. "The hardest and the most sprout seam is Dukers and then comes your SG and then comes your Kokka tells former Indian cricketer Deep Dasgupta speaking the The Indian Express on level ease to bat against. Litton would also mention how India is a difficult team to beat at home. "When we play India at their home, they are always the better side. I wouldn't say it will be extremely challenging or very easy. They are a very good team in their conditions. If you look at the rankings, they are so high up. So, I think it will be a challenging series for us."

Congress politician slams IOA chief PT Usha for hospital bed picture, says legend 'gave no support'

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Vinesh Phogat: Indian Olympics Association President PT Usha meets wrestler Vinesh Phogat after the latter was hospitalised following her disqualification from the Paris Olympics as she was found overweight ahead of her women's 50kg final match, in Paris. Vinesh Phogat: Indian Olympics Association President PT Usha meets wrestler Vinesh Phogat after the latter was hospitalised following her disqualification from the Paris Olympics as she was found overweight ahead of her women's 50kg final match, in Paris. (PTI) Indian wrestler-turned-politician Vinesh Phogat: During the 2024 Paris Olympics Vinesh Phogat was guaranteed to win a medal for the country before she was disqualified from the competition being 100 grams overweight in the 50 Kg category for the final. The 29-year-old in the local news channel slammed IOA chief PT Usha claiming she did not support her at the time.

"I don't know what support I got there," Vinesh said in a local news channel. "PT Usha Madam visited me at the hospital. One photo was clicked... As you said, in politics a lot happens behind closed doors. Similarly, politics happened there (in Paris) as well. That's why I was heartbroken. Otherwise, many people are saying 'Don't leave wrestling'. For what should I continue? There is politics everywhere." "You are on a hospital bed, where you don't know what's happening in life outside, you are going through one of the worst phases of your life. At that place, to show everyone you are standing with me, aap bina bataye photo kheench rahe ho, fir social media pe daal



ke bol rahe ho hum saath mein khade hain (clicked a photo without telling me and then putting it on social media to say you are standing with me). "That's not how you show support (pretending to). What was it more than (posturing)!" "Mother, wrestling beat me, I lost. Your dream and my courage are all broken. I don't have any more strength now. Goodbye Wrestling 2001-2024. I will forever be in your debt," Vinesh wrote on her X account announcing her retirement. Vinesh has also resigned from the Indian Railways citing personal reasons and joined the Congress ahead of the Haryana Assembly elections alongside Bajrang Punia. Phogat said that the fight against the former BJP MP and WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh will continue and stated that all parties stood with the wrestlers during the protest against Singh except the BJP during interaction with the press.

From Jodhpur to Kabul: Meet Devender Kumar, the voice of Afghanistan cricket

GNS News Agency, Sept 14

Three weeks ago, during the toss for the 2024 Shpageeza Cricket League final, the jam-packed Kabul International Cricket Stadium gave a standing ovation to an Indian. It was for the commentator Devender Kumar, who has become the voice of Afghanistan cricket. "It still gives me goosebumps," Kumar tells The Indian Express on Day 3 of the one-off Test match between Afghanistan and New Zealand.

"They started chanting my name, they clapped for over a minute. It was a pretty surreal feeling. Something I am going to treasure till my last breath," says Kumar. Former Afghanistan assistant coach Raees Ahmadzai, who has played 5 ODIs and 8 T20Is, and his currently working with the U-19 cricketers in Kabul, lauded Devender for all the work he has done for their country. "He is more Afghan than India now. He knows the stats and numbers of Afghan's domestic cricketers like no one else. He is loved by the cricketers, the fans and he indeed is voice of Afghanistan cricket," says Ahmadzai. The 36-year-old Kumar has been going to Afghanistan as a broadcaster for the past seven years. Despite a near-death experience during the regime change in 2022, he never thought twice when the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) invited him again later that year.

"I know that there has been a war going on for the past 40 years. But is it their war? In my experience Afghans are the most peaceful people you will ever come across," he says. "You remember the bomb blast that happened at the Kabul Cricket Stadium in 2022? I was 10 yards away from the blast site. Two people died and there were several injuries. It happened during the innings break of the Shpageeza League match between Pamiir Zalmi and Band-e-Amir. It was not the first time I witnessed a blast," he reminisces.

Devender Kumar during the final of the 2024 Spageeza Cricket League at the Kabul Cricket Stadium in Kabul. (Special Arrangement) Devender Kumar during one of the matches of the 2024 Shpageeza Cricket League at the Kabul Cricket Stadium in Kabul. (Special Arrangement) Following the incident, when Kumar left Kabul, Afghanistan all-rounder Gulbadin Naib shared a heartfelt note on social media, thanking Devender for his support towards the Afghan people during the difficult period. "@asdevender_bbc Thanks for your love and support with @ACBofficials and our Nation in this difficult time. We never forget your great efforts and respect to give us," Naib posted on X. "This is the bond I have with the players and fans, and that's why I kept on going back. My parents are still worried about me but Afghanistan cricket has helped me live my dream. During the 2023 ODI World Cup, I was working with the BBC's Test Match Special team as a commentator and expert," says Kumar with a booming smile. The cricket enthusiast Unlike a million Indian kids, Kumar was not fascinated by Sachin Tendulkar's desert storm in Sharjah. It was the voice of Tony Greig that inspired Kumar to become a



commentator. "I never played cricket at any level. The voice of Tony Greig is the reason I wanted to become a commentator. I am just a cricket enthusiast, who is learning and falling in love with this beautiful game every day," he says. Kumar hails from Chutarpura village in Shergarh Tehsil in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. He left his village at the age of 18 to pursue his dream. "I reached Jaipur in 2006 and the first place I visited was Sawai Mansingh Stadium. I had no clue about anything. People were surprised that where people usually come to join the cricket academy, I came to become a commentator!" laughs Kumar. "Greg Chappell and Ian Fraser used to work at the RCA Academy. I used to interact with Chappell. He saw me practicing my commentary one day and gave me a signed cap. "During my time in Jaipur, I spent lots of time listening to BBC's programmes, be it cricket commentary, football or tennis. I used to try to copy it," he says. In 2015, after seven years of endless struggle, Kumar finally had his baptism-by-fire moment. He got his first break in a horse polo tournament in Jaipur, which was telecasted on Doordarshan. Things began to then stir along.

"My first international break came in 2017 during the Afghanistan vs Ireland series. I still don't know who recommended my name. During my endless visits to the SMS stadium, I met Alan Wilkins, Danny Morrison, Harsha Bhogle and others. And I guess one of them recommended my name to the ACB," he says. From 2017, onwards, Afghanistan became Kumar's adopted nation. He spends 30-40 days every year in Afghanistan doing commentaries in their List A and first-class matches. "Cricket in Afghanistan is like football in Brazil or Argentina. You will see kids playing in the mountains. They will clear the snow and will play cricket. This game has become a binding force for the Afghans. The entire country was on the streets after Afghanistan reached the semis of the T20 World Cup. The visuals sent by my friends were unbelievable. Even in the domestic matches, people do come in good numbers," he says. Devender Kumar with renowned cricket commentator Mike Haysman (Special Arrangement) Devender Kumar with renowned cricket commentator Mike Haysman (Special Arrangement)