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TGSRTC to run 600 special buses to Hussain Sagar for Ganesh immersion on Tuesday

Hyderabad: In view of the Ganesh idols immersion and Shobha Yatra, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) will operate nearly 600 special buses from various routes in the city to the Hussain Sagar and its surroundings on September 17.

TGSRTC Managing Director VC Sajjanar said these special buses will be operated on the day to facilitate hassle-free movement of devotees. He said 15 to 30 buses have been arranged from each bus depot across the 30 depots under the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits.

Chilkur priest attends Milad blood donation camp in a mosque for child cancer patients

Hyderabad: In a rare gesture of fostering communal harmony and sending a positive message of inter faith brotherhood, Chilkur Balaji temple head priest C.S.Rangarajan along with the temple staff participated in a blood donation drive organized by the Helping Hand Foundation at Masjid-E-Muhammed Hussain in Rajendranagar on the occasion of Milad Un Nabi. The blood donation drive was organized to mobilize blood for children suffering from cancer at State MNJ Cancer Hospital. As per data from MNJ Cancer Hospital nearly 100 units of blood are required in the hospital daily, where nearly 2,500 major and 4,000 minor surgeries are done in a year.

PM Modi inaugurates 2nd phase of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated Phase-II of the Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project. He shared pictures on his X handle, showing him travelling in the metro and interacting with students. He was accompanied by Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. The phase-II project will connect 21 km between the Narendra Modi Cricket Stadium in Motera and Gandhinagar Sector 1 over eight stations. The project has been built at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,384 crore and will link major locations such as Gujarat National Law University (GNLU), Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU), GIFT City and more. After the inauguration of the second phase, the Ahmedabad Metro Rail will now have a network of 68 km on two lines -- north-south corridor and east-west corridor, with 54 stations, four of which are underground. The first phase, inaugurated by the Prime Minister in 2022, covers a 33.5-km-long north-south corridor, for which the travel time is 65 minutes and the fare Rs 35.

He will also inaugurate the country's first Vande Bharat Metro, which has been renamed as the Namu Bharat Rapid Rail, later today. According to the Railway Ministry, the train will enhance connectivity between Bhuj and Ahmedabad and will cover 359 km in 5.45 hours. For the public, the regular service will start on September 17 from Ahmedabad. The total journey will cost Rs 455. Notably, Prime Minister Modi arrived in his home state for the first time after the Lok Sabha polls on Sunday. He met the beneficiaries of the 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijlee Yojna', a free electricity scheme in the state's capital Gandhinagar on Monday morning. Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) at Mahatma Mandir in Gujarat.

'One nation, one election' is not possible under present Constitution: Chidambaram

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Insisting that "one nation, one election" is not possible under the present Constitution, senior Congress leader and former Union minister P Chidambaram said on Monday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi doesn't have the majority in the Parliament to bulldoze constitutional amendments. Chidambaram was replying to a question over media reports that the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government would implement 'one nation, one election' within its current tenure. The former Union finance minister said, "One nation, one election is not possible under the present Constitution. It requires at least five constitutional amendments, and Mr Modi doesn't have the majority in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha to bulldoze those constitutional amendments. There are greater constitutional obstacles to the one nation-one election. It is not possible. Anyway, the INDIA block is totally opposed to one nation, one election." Reacting to PM Modi's allegations in his recent Kurukshetra rally that the Congress will abolish reservation, Chidambaram said: "That's again totally, rhetoric. Why should we abolish reservation? We are the ones who are saying that the sealing of 50 per cent on the reservation must be removed. We are those who are asking for caste census, we are saying reservation must be according to the population." Claiming that there is anti-incumbency against the ruling BJP in Haryana, the Congress leader said: "In fact, Mr Modi recognised that there is an anti-incumbency mood. That is why he changed Mr (Manohar Lal) Khattar and brought Mr (Nayab Singh) Saini in the last six months. Why would a party change its chief minister of nine and a half years in an election year? The answer is under Mr Khattar, the BJP would have lost badly. Under Mr Saini also, the BJP will lose badly. Now, the people want a change." Replying to a question related to the statement of former Haryana home minister Anil Vij's announcement that he would stake a claim on the post of chief minister if the BJP wins upcoming assembly polls, the Congress leader said: "As far as Mr Anil Vij throwing in his hat... It only shows this is the consequence of the Lok Sabha verdict. The Lok Sabha verdict has certainly put a speed breaker in Mr Modi's juggernaut. One of the fallouts is that the central BJP is losing control over the state BJP. I won't be surprised if more people throw in their hats. Let them throw in their hats. It shows that the Haryana BJP is not united." Refusing any disidence in the Haryana Congress unit, Chidambaram said, "Naturally, there will be healthy competition among the leaders. My good friend Selja (Kumari) ji has not said a word against Mr (Bhupinder Singh) Hooda, nor has Mr Hooda said a word against Ms Selja. We are a united party, we will fight this election in a united manner. We are confident that we will win the support of the people of Haryana."

Revanth Reddy's claims on loan waiver, transfers and recruitment exposed

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Hyderabad: A day after Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy made a few statements regarding the promised crop loan waiver, teachers' transfers, providing jobs and others, people from different sections are questioning his statements and exposing his false claims. Nayini Anurag Reddy, an entrepreneur, countered the Chief Minister's claims regarding teachers transfers that since 18 years there were no transfers. Sharing a copy of GO Ms16 issued on June 6, 2018 on X, he said a large scale teachers' transfers process involving more than 50,000 transfers took place in 2018, aimed at addressing staffing imbalances. This process was conducted through an online system to ensure transparency. On the Regional Ring Road project, the Chief Minister claimed it was secured after ap-



proaching Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy. Fact was that in 2017, the BRS government had proposed it and by 2018, the Union Ministry gave provisional approval. In June 2021, the NHAI issued tenders for the DPR to the northern section of RRR. Subsequently, the then Chief Minister had appealed to the Union government to sanction the Southern section of RRR under Bharatmala Pariyojana, Anurag Reddy said. On the Chief Minister's claims that crop loan

waiver upto Rs.2 lakh of every farmer was completed by August 15, Anurag Reddy pointed out that as per SLBC, Rs.49,500 crore was required for loan waivers. Revanth Reddy estimated that at Rs.40,000 crore. The Cabinet approved Rs.31,000 crore for loan waivers.

Rs.26,000 crore was allocated in the budget and Rs.17,933 crore was waived in three phases, he said. "On one side, farmers in the State are committing suicide due to the failure of the loan waiver. On the other side, CM claims he

sees smiles on the faces of farmers," he said. Regarding recruitment claims by Revanth Reddy that 30,000 jobs were offered within 90 days, he said all of these jobs were notified by the BRS government. "All the exams for these jobs were conducted by KCR's govt and all the certificate verifications were done by the BRS govt. In conclusion, he didn't give 30,000 jobs, he merely issued appointment letters for jobs filled by the BRS government," Anurag Reddy pointed out. He further added that there were many more claims by Revanth Reddy that are nowhere near the truth. "It is surprising to see a CM lying so easily so many times in just one single speech without any discomfort. It is because he probably believes in what Goebbels said: "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." he pointed out.

Junior docs willing to attend meeting at Mamata's residence



GNS News Agency, Sept 16 Kolkata: Doctors during the 6th day of their protest dharna over R G Kar Hospital incident, in front of the Swasthya Bhavan, in Kolkata, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024. The first round of talks between the West Bengal government and the agitating junior doctors began at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's residence in Kalighat on Monday evening to address the RG Kar impasse.

After four unsuccessful bids to initiate a dialogue to

BRS to hold State-wide protests, perform 'Palabhishekam' to Telangana Talli statues

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Hyderabad: The BRS has announced Statewide protests on Tuesday, condemning the installation of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's statue in front of the Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat. The party opposed the Congress government's decision to unveil the former Prime Minister's statue in the place reserved for the statue of Telangana Talli. BRS working president KT Rama Rao called on the people to join the BRS cadre in performing 'Palabhishekam' and offer milk to the statues of Telangana Talli in all Assembly constituencies across the State. He said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was insulting the people of Telangana by replacing the symbol of Telangana's identity with Rajiv Gandhi's statue, driven by political motives.

"This is an insult to Telangana's self-respect and history. The people of Telangana will not forgive this disrespect to their history and struggle for statehood," the BRS working president said. Rama Rao stated that the installation of Telangana Talli statue, representing the aspirations of four crore people of the State, was meant to honour the sacrifices made during the Telangana movement. He warned that those who undermine the sentiment of Telangana do not survive in the State politics for long. He warned that the people of Telangana, who fought for statehood, would teach the Congress a lesson for this insult. The statue of Telangana Talli, symbolising the aspirations of four crore people, was originally planned to be placed near the Telangana Martyrs Memorial Amara Jyothi and the Secretariat. However, the BRS working president said the Congress which is known for selfish politics, decided to install Rajiv Gandhi's statue in such a significant location. "By placing Rahul Gandhi's father's statue there, the Congress has insulted Telangana's self-respect," he stated. Calling the Congress decision a grave disservice to Telangana's legacy and spirit, the former Minister said the people who fought for statehood would not tolerate such actions. "How dare you insult Telangana

resolve the deadlock, a delegation of agitating junior doctors arrived at Banerjee's residence for the crucial talks. The previous attempts to resolve the issue got stuck due to the state government's rejection of the doctors' demand for live-streaming and video recording of the meeting. The agitating medics later agreed to a compromise, now only asking to record the minutes of the meeting and receive a signed copy. The state government accepted this condition, with Chief Secretary Manoj Pant saying both parties will sign the minutes of the meeting and share copies for clarity. Meanwhile, the doctors continued their sit-in outside Swasthya Bhawan, the headquarters of the Health department, for the eight day and the 'cease work' for the 36th day seeking justice for the doctor who was raped and murdered at RG Kar Hospital and removal of Kolkata Police Commissioner and senior state health officials. On Saturday, Banerjee made a surprise visit to the protest site and assured the doctors that their demands would be addressed. However, the proposed meeting fell through when the protesters claimed they were asked to leave "unceremoniously" after waiting for three hours at the gates of the CM's residence.



Talli? Is this how you honour Telangana's legacy?" he asked, asserting that the people will not forgive the Congress for its attempts to erase Telangana's spirit and identity. He reiterated that Telangana's identity and the sacrifices made during the statehood movement should not be overshadowed for political gain.

Revanth Reddy conspired to kill me: Kaushik Reddy

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Hyderabad: BRS MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy charged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of conspiring to kill him, stating that the recent murder attempt on him was instigated by the latter. He demanded that the police register a case against the Chief Minister who must clarify on the provocative remarks made by him publicly in this regard. "It is shameful for a Chief Minister to claim that his party members attacked an opposition MLA. Revanth Reddy will be responsible if anything happens to me," he said at a press conference at Telangana Bhavan here on Monday.

PM Modi Envisions India as a Major Global Economic Power by 2047



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi has outlined a bold vision for India's future, projecting the country to become the world's third-largest economy by 2047. Speaking recently, Modi emphasized the government's commitment to transforming India into a developed nation within the next few decades. Highlighting the achievements of his administration, Modi noted that in the current term, the government is focused on ambitious infrastructure projects, including the construction of 30 million homes. Over the past 100 days, the government has granted approval for numerous highway corridors, which are expected to enhance connectivity and boost economic development. Modi also stressed India's growing role on the global stage, asserting that the country is increasingly positioning itself as a problem-solver for many of the world's challenges. "India is not just growing economically but is also contributing solutions to global issues," Modi remarked. The Prime Minister's statements reflect a broader vision for India's future, aiming to leverage economic growth and infrastructural development to establish the nation as a leading global power.

Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan Donates Rs.1 Crore to Chief Minister's Relief Fund for Flood Victims



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Actor and former Union Minister Chiranjeevi has generously contributed ₹50 lakhs to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to aid flood victims. The donation was presented to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at Chiranjeevi's Jubilee Hills residence. In addition to his own donation, Chiranjeevi also provided another ₹50 lakhs on behalf of his son, Ram Charan. This brings the total contribution from the Chiranjeevi family to ₹100 lakhs. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Chiranjeevi for his significant contribution and support in the relief efforts. Minister Sitaakka was also present during the donation ceremony, underscoring the importance of collective efforts in assisting those affected by the floods.

KT Rama Rao warns Congress over installation of Rajiv Gandhi's statue

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao lashed out at the Congress government for installing the statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, in the place earmarked for the statue of "Telangana Talli" opposite Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat. He charged the Congress of disrespecting Telangana's identity and history, calling it a direct insult to the people and their struggle for statehood.

The statue of Telangana Talli, symbolising the aspirations of four crore people, was originally planned to be placed near the Telangana Martyrs Memorial "Amarajyothi" and the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat. However, Rama Rao said the Congress which is known for selfish politics, decided to install Rajiv Gandhi's statue in such a significant location. "By placing Rahul Gandhi's father's statue there, the Congress has insulted Telangana's self-respect," he stated. The BRS working president termed the Congress' decision as an attempt to undermine the existence of Telangana and snuff out the spirit of Telangana movement from the people. "

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

J&K poll battle

AS Jammu and Kashmir approaches its first Assembly elections since the historic abrogation of Article 370, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a fierce attack on the region's established political dynasties during a rally in Doda on Saturday. He targeted the Congress, National Conference (NC) and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), accusing them of promoting family rule over the interests of the people. He claimed that dynastic politics had 'hollowed out' the region and hindered progress. He positioned the BJP as the only political force capable of uprooting entrenched interests, offering a new beginning with youth-driven leadership and a focus on development.

The upcoming elections signify a watershed moment for Jammu and Kashmir. With Article 370 read down, the BJP seeks to establish itself as the dominant force in the region by presenting voters with a vision for peace, stability and economic growth. Modi underscored that only the BJP could bring in meaningful change, addressing the high unemployment rate and drawing investments to a region long stifled by political instability. His statement that 'terrorism is breathing its last' highlights the BJP's emphasis on security, a critical concern for the region's populace, worn down by decades of militancy. However, the electoral outcome is far from predictable. The Congress and regional parties like the NC and PDP have vowed to restore J&K's special status, which was stripped with the revocation of Article 370. The Congress has pledged to reinstate full statehood, while the NC and the PDP focus on preserving the region's identity and democratic rights. Their alliance seeks to counter the BJP's narrative of development, positioning themselves as defenders of regional autonomy, capitalising on local discontent with Central policies.

Maharashtra AAP flays Anna Hazare's 'dangerous ignorance', says he harmed nation by shunning politics



A day after Anna Hazare recalled his advice to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal against joining politics, the AAP has said the social activist has caused an immense loss to the nation by staying away from politics.

Anna Hazare, Arvind Kejriwal, AAP, Vijay Kumbhar, Maharashtra. In a post on X, Kumbhar wrote, "Anna Hazare's stance on politics suggests a fundamental misunderstanding of how political decisions impact daily life.. "A day after Anna Hazare recalled his advice to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal against joining politics, the AAP has said the social activist has caused an immense loss to the nation by staying away from politics.

"If Anna Hazare had remained part of the political system, he would have helped the nation in a big way. The country would have gained in different ways as Hazare would have prevailed over the rulers to remove corruption from all government departments and spheres of public life," AAP Maharashtra vice-president Vijay Kumbhar told The Indian Express on Monday. On Sunday, hours after Kejriwal announced that he would resign as chief minister in two days, Hazare said he had urged the AAP chief not to join politics. "Right from the beginning I was telling him that he should not join politics but serve the people... He never listened to me and today what had to happen has happened," the social activist said.

In April, Hazare criticised Kejriwal after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the liquor policy case, saying that "it was a consequence" of his own action. In a post on X, Kumbhar wrote, "Anna Hazare's stance on politics suggests a fundamental misunderstanding of how political decisions impact daily life. Hazare's preference for social work over politics ignores the fact that everything from food prices to housing costs is influenced by political decisions. His insistence on avoiding politics reveals a dangerous ignorance that can perpetuate corruption and societal issues, as Bertolt Brecht has articulated. Ignoring the role of politics in societal change is not a solution, it is a denial of reality."

Kumbhar said Kejriwal has proved himself to be an able leader, popular politician and an efficient chief minister. "Hazare says Kejriwal should not have joined politics. Right from the time Kejriwal stepped onto the political arena, he has proved himself to be a force to reckon with. Despite the fact that BJP had all the wherewithal with it, including a government at the Centre and huge money power, Kejriwal and the AAP emerged victorious in Delhi not once but twice. And that he secured landslide victories, which only proved that Hazare was wrong. Kejriwal as a politician created history on the political terrain of India," he said. Kumbhar said the world has taken note of the education system revamped by the Kejriwal-led AAP government. "It was an initiative of the Delhi Chief Minister to revamp the education system for a brighter future for poor and middle-class kids. The entire country and even the world have taken note of the revolutionary changes that the AAP brought in in Delhi's school education system. Therefore, Hazare's claim falls flat." Kumbhar alleged that Kejriwal was put in jail on cooked-up charges by the Narendra Modi government. "This was simply done so that the Modi government comes back to power. Had Kejriwal remained outside jail, it would have spelled doom for the Modi government," he said.

6,000 strong police deployment in Pune city for Ganesh immersion procession



GNS News Agency, Sept 16
About 6,000 police personnel have been deployed at different locations in Pune city to maintain law and order during Ganesh immersion processions scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday. As per the security deployment plan released by the Pune city police, four additional commissioners, 10 deputy commissioners, 25 assistant commissioners, 136 police inspectors, 653 assistant and sub-inspectors, 5,709 constabulary, a company of state reserve police force (SRPF) and 394 home guards would be on duty, mainly in the central part of the city, to control the crowd and prevent untoward incidents during immersion processions. Teams of swimmers from local groups will also be present to help devotees in im-

ersion. Pune city has over 1,750 registered Ganesh Mandals.

The police said 206 CCTV cameras have been arranged on the main immersion procession routes. Also, the Bomb Detection And Disposal Squad (BDDS), 12 Quick Response Teams (QRTs), and Riot Control Vehicles would be in place at strategic locations. The police have also warned legal action as per Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against those found filming Ganesh immersion processions using drones without permission.

The Pune city police have laid down a procedure for obtaining permission to fly drones. Those who want to do video recording with drones in the jurisdiction of Pune city police should submit their applications to the deputy commissioner of police (special branch). Permission would be granted after conducting essential verifications, the police said. Meanwhile, about 2,000 police personnel are being deployed by the Pune rural police for Ganesh immersion processions in the Pune district. Pankaj Deshmukh, Superintendent, Pune rural police, said that along with senior officers, 200 inspectors, 1,600 constabulary, and one SRPF company will be on duty in the Pune district for Ganesh immersion processions on Tuesday. Similarly, the police force is also being deployed in the jurisdiction of the Pimpri Chinchwad police commissionerate on the Ganesh immersion procession day.

Preambles, postcards and questions to Constituent Assembly: how visitors to Karnataka's Vidhana Soudha marked International Day of Democracy

GNS News Agency, Sept 16
In sight of the statue of Dr B R Ambedkar at the Vidhana Soudha, it is perhaps appropriate that Bengalureans of all ages on Sunday flocked to a stall to print out the Preamble of the Constitution he helped create. The stall was manned by volunteers from Reclaim Constitution, a group that promotes awareness of the Constitution and its values. Earlier in the day, a human chain featuring thousands of participants across the state was flagged off to promote International Day of Democracy. Rather than printing them en-masse via an electronic printer, they were hand-printed using a pre-treated fabric with the Constitution's Preamble on it. Through a process known as screen printing, ink mixed on the spot was forced through it, leaving an imprint of the Preamble on a sheet below. According to Vinay Kumar of Reclaim Constitution, "When people print these by hand, they say there is a special feeling of connection to the Constitution, they feel it is their Constitution. So far, we have done this in 20 cities and across 16 universities." The group had been invited by Mannivannan, Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department, and Uma Mahadevan, Chief Secretary, after they were noticed on social media. Several other groups were also recommended for participation alongside them. Karnataka Vidhana Soudha Two and a half hours in, the group had already printed out around 2,500 copies of the Preamble for eager visitors, with 4,800 copies printed by the end of the day. Two and a half hours in, the group had already printed out around 2,500 copies of the Preamble for eager visitors, with 4,800 copies printed by the end of the day. Vinay Kumar said, "There is a total mix of all age groups among the visitors. Early on, many schoolchildren participating in the human chain also visited the stalls." Nearby, students from Azim Premji University manned a stall as well. Faculty member Asim Siddiqui, who teaches a Youth and Democracy course, said, "We have close to 100 of our students here, partici-



pating and observing the events. We have also showcased democracy and what happens when it is absent through a street play. Alongside folk songs, we are also displaying books related to the Constitution from our library."

Students from the Dialogues on Democracy and Development group of the University had also put up handmade posters themed on the Constitution. Near the students, India Post also set up a stall where visitors could write out the Preamble on postcards and post them. A special cancellation on these postcards was also issued to mark the event with a special postal cover. The final stall was dedicated to posters bearing questions that could be asked to the Constitutional Observer, a digital interface that archives the data from the original Constituent Assembly debate and subsequent documentation of Lok Sabha discussions from 1985 to 2019. Adhavan, a Srishti Manipal Institute graduate working on this project, said, "There are people who are sidelined, whose rights are trampled on... what protects their rights and how do we begin to question how the Constitution has dealt with it and what the Lok Sabha is doing? The Observer is a way for us to ask these questions... Constitutional Observer is not a search engine in the sense that it does not give you an exact answer. It is meant to let you know how these (the questions) are being discussed."

Setback for Harsh Mahajan: Himachal Pradesh HC refuses to reject Abhishek Manu Singhvi's Rajya Sabha poll plea

GNS News Agency, Sept 16
The Himachal Pradesh High Court on Monday dismissed the plea of BJP Rajya Sabha MP Harsh Mahajan to reject the petition filed by senior Congress leader and Supreme Court lawyer Abhishek Manu Singhvi challenging the results of the Rajya Sabha election in which Mahajan defeated Singhvi. Sources said Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua's single bench maintained that the petitioner's arguments would be heard during the trial of Singhvi's main application. Meanwhile, the court allowed Mahajan two weeks to file his application in the main petition. Senior Supreme Court advocate Maninder Singh and advocate Vikrant Thakur of the Himachal Pradesh High Court represented Mahajan. Advocate Thakur told The Indian Express, "The court rejected our plea challenging the maintainability of Abhishek Manu Singhvi's petition on the grounds that we can file our objections during the hearing of Singhvi's main petition. The court has given us two weeks to file the plea during the hearing of the main plea." On April 6, Congress leader Singhvi filed a petition in the high court challenging the election officer's interpretation of the draw of lots rules after the polls were tied.



Himachal Pradesh High Court maintained that Rajya Sabha MP Harsh Mahajan's arguments would be heard during the trial of Abhishek Manu Singhvi's main application.

BJP nominee Mahajan won the February 27 election through a draw of lots after both candidates secured 34 votes each. Mahajan was sworn in as a Rajya Sabha member on April 3.

"There is nothing in the law, neither in the act nor in the rules, which compels an interpretation that requires the person whose name is drawn in the draw of lots to be a loser. This interpretation is wrong, and the result of an election based on this interpretation is also wrong," Singhvi had told reporters after filing his petition in the Himachal Pradesh High Court. When the lone Rajya Sabha seat elections were held on February 27, the ruling Congress in Himachal Pradesh had 40 MLAs. The BJP, with 25 members in the House, fielded Congress turncoat Mahajan against Singhvi. Six Congress members cross-voted in favour of Mahajan, who also secured the votes of three Independent MLAs. With both candidates tied at 34 votes each, Mahajan was declared the winner after Singhvi's name was drawn in the draw of lots. The Conduct of Election Rules has a provision for a

draw of lots for both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha elections. The key difference in the draw of lots in both elections is that in Rajya Sabha polls, the candidate whose slip is drawn loses the election, whereas in the Lok Sabha, the candidate whose slip is drawn wins. Following the Rajya Sabha election, a crisis erupted in the Congress, leading to the Assembly Speaker disqualifying the six party MLAs who had voted in favour of Mahajan. The Speaker, however, made it clear that the MLAs — Sudhir Sharma, Rajinder Rana, Chaitanya Sharma, Ravi Thakur, Inder Dutt Lakhnupal, and Devinder Kumar — were disqualified for not following the Congress whip to vote in favour of the cut motion and the budget in the Assembly.

All six joined the BJP were fielded from their respective constituencies for the bypolls to the Assembly seats that were held on June 1, along with the Lok Sabha polls for four seats. The three Independent MLAs — Hoshyar Singh, Ashish Sharma, and KL Thakur — also resigned from the Assembly on March 22 and joined the BJP. Later, Hoshyar Singh and KL Thakur lost the bypolls, while Ashish Sharma won from Hamirpur.

Tension prevails in 2 Karnataka towns after stone-pelting on place of worship

GNS News Agency, Sept 16
Tension prevailed in Katipalla town and Bantwal Cross (BC) road in communally-sensitive Dakshina Kannada district after an alleged incident of stone-pelting on a place of worship and gathering of a large number of people after exchange of provocative statements on the eve of Eid-e-Milad, police said on Monday. Window panes of a place of worship were shattered in the stone-pelting incident at Katipalla in Mangaluru taluk on Sunday night following which six persons were arrested.

"Due to quick action, the situation was brought under control and no untoward incidents were reported in the area," police officials said, adding, a heavy police deployment has been put in place. In Bantwal taluk's BC road, abutting National Highway 75, tension prevailed on Monday following an exchange of provocative statements between two groups on social media platforms leading to a huge gathering of people. The people, including from VHP and Bajrang Dal, converged in the area following an alleged voice message of former President of Bantwal Town Municipal Council Mohammed Sharief "challenging" VHP leader Sharan Pumpwell to "face them during the Eid-e-Milad procession," officials said. Following this, the Dakshina Kannada district police beefed up security right from Uppinangady to Panemangaluru as a precautionary measure. According to police, some of those who streamed to the BC Road Junction allegedly broke the police cordon. The gathering happened while the Eid-e-Milad celebrations were being held in different parts of the district.

Following a large number of people flocking to the town, the National Highway 75 was blocked and the police had to deploy more forces. Four cases have been registered in connection with the incidents, police said. According to police, the police have registered cases against Mohammed Sharief and Mohammad Hasinar, a councillor of the Bantwal Town Municipal council. The police have also registered two cases against Sharan Pumpwell and Puneet Attavar (from Bajrang Dal). Mohammad Sharief had allegedly challenged Pumpwell to "try and stop" the Eid-e-Milad procession on Monday on BC Road and the latter had responded to it in the same tone on the social media handles. Both conversations have been widely circulated, leading to tension. The police officials including Superintendent of Police Yathish N, are camping in the area following the 'challenges' posted by the two at each other on social media platforms. Slogans were raised against Mohammed Sharief, and Mohammad Hasinar, by the gathering. Pumpwell, who arrived at BC Road, said he has met the "challenge and brought thousands of Hindutva workers with us....." "This is a victory for Hindutva forces, let not anybody in the future challenge us and still hope to get away with it. We are united and have taken on any challenges thrown at us." Inspector General of Police (western range) Amit Singh and Yathish appealed to the protesters to cooperate in maintain law and order and to return to their homes. Meanwhile, Muslim youths took out a motorcycle rally on BC Road as a part of the Eid-e-Milad celebrations. This happened just after the Bajrang Dal and other Hindutva outfits left the area after three hours of demonstration in the morning. The Eid-e-Milad procession that was originally routed through the BC Road town was later diverted to inner roads as per the advice of the local leaders, officials said.

Karnataka Dalit man beaten and 'boycotted' by villagers for entering temple; 6 arrested

GNS News Agency, Sept 16
Karnataka Dalit man beaten The police booked 21 people in connection with the incident and arrested six of them. A 28-year-old Dalit man was thrashed after he tried to enter a village temple in Karnataka's Bagalkot district, police said, adding that they booked 21 people in connection with the incident and arrested six of them.

The incident took place in Ugalwat village of Badami taluka on September 10. The victim, Arjun Madar, told the police that when he visited the temple around 10.30 pm, a villager named Mudgouda Reddy stopped him and picked up a fight with him. Soon after that many villagers gathered there and started assaulting Arjun, whom they also tied to a pole. Around 7 am on September 14, a boycott call was announced in the village, stating that speaking to Madar would attract fines or punishment. After the incident came to light, Y Amarnath Reddy, Superintendent of Police, Bagalkot, visited the village. On Sunday, Deputy Commissioner Janaki K M also visited the village, held meetings with Dalit and upper-caste communities and appealed to them to maintain peace and harmony.

Set to start 6th hunger strike, Jarange-Patil mellows down, gives Govt 'another opportunity' on Maratha quota

GNS News Agency, Sept 16
As he prepares to launch his sixth hunger strike in the past one year for Maratha reservation, Manoj Jarange-Patil, who had announced a plan to field candidates in over 100 Maharashtra Assembly seats, has said he wants to shun politics and focus more on a quota for his community. "Neither I nor my community wants to enter politics. We don't take the political path. I don't want to even talk about politics. Our only focus and objective is to get reservation for our community," Patil told reporters on Monday.

Stating that he would on Monday midnight launch his sixth hunger strike, Patil said, "I am giving another opportunity to the state government to provide reservation to the community. Besides the reservation, we also want the government to fulfil our other demands." Patil, who had repeatedly targeted top government functionaries, appeared like a toned-down version of his old aggressive self. "We want Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and especially Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis to implement the notification regarding sage soyare (blood relatives) before the election code of conduct takes effect. We want the state government to provide Kunbi certificates to all those who are demanding it."

Shinde Sena MLA announces Rs 11 lakh reward to 'chop off' Rahul Gandhi's tongue



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

An MLA of Maharashtra Chief Minister-led Shiv Sena, Sanjay Gaikwad, on Monday sparked yet another controversy after he announced a reward of Rs 11 lakh to anyone who will "chop off the tongue" of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his statements on reservation in the US.

Gaikwad said Rahul Gandhi wants to end reservation for backward tribals and others and hence he is using language of ending it. "When the demands of reservation are rising in Maharashtra and the country, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi made a statement to end

reservation in the country. In the Lok Sabha elections, he spread a false narrative to get votes. Today he is speaking the language of ending reservation from the country and has shown the real face of the Congress. This is my challenge whoever chops off Rahul Gandhi's tongue will be given a reward of Rs 11 lakh on my behalf," said Gaikwad. Gaikwad, the Shiv Sena MLA from Buldhana, is not new to controversies. In a video posted on social media in February this year, Gaikwad claimed he had hunted a tiger in 1987 and has been wearing a tooth of the animal around his neck. He was subsequently booked by the forest department, which seized the accessory and booked him under the Wildlife Protection Act.

The Shiv Sena MLA also found himself embroiled in another controversy in March after a video of him assaulting a group of men with a policeman's baton went viral. Gaikwad admitted to assaulting the man and said he was forced to beat up the men who were being unruly. Last month, a video of a policeman seen washing Gaikwad's car surfaced on social media, with many calling it disgraceful. While on his trip to the US, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said the Congress party will "think of ending reservation when India is a fair place" and that he was not interested in living in a country "where 90 per cent of the people do not have access to opportunity".

Sharad Pawar writes to Eknath Shinde over jobseekers' demands, says not getting CM's time despite attempts



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Highlighting the delay in the conduct of competitive exams and appointments in government jobs in Maharashtra, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar has urged Chief Minister Eknath Shinde to call a meeting on the issue before the model code of conduct for the Assembly polls kicks in. "More than 32 lakh students prepare for the competitive exams. The only expectation these students have is to conduct the exams

on time and they get the placement in stipulated time frame. However, presently delayed placements, pending advertisements of examinations, delay in announcement of exam dates has led to severe discontent within the students," Pawar wrote to Shinde on Monday.

Five issues that Pawar highlighted in his letter are not announcing new dates of state service examinations postponed in August 2024 due to a clash with IBPS exam; not announcing Group B and Group C examinations, which are usually conducted in April or May; pending placements of successful candidates from the state service, agri-service and police sub-inspector examinations; judicial proceedings over 7,000 clerk posts; and vacant posts of professors all over the state. Pawar also wrote that his attempts to discuss the matter with Shinde were unsuccessful. "I have been trying to seek your time to discuss these rightful demands of students for sometime now but it has not been granted. The subject has become sensitive since despite the call for agitation by students the issue is not getting resolved," Pawar wrote, adding that he hoped the chief minister would spare time to hold a meeting on the issues raised by government job aspirants.

Pregnant teenager found dead in field in UP's Fatehpur, probe on

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

The Fatehpur police in Uttar Pradesh on Sunday recovered the body of a 16-year-old girl in a field, with injury marks on her head and face, likely inflicted by a blunt object. The Class 10 student, who had been reported missing by her family, was four months pregnant and had ante-mortem injuries (injuries suffered before death), said the police based on her post-mortem report. The girl's family claimed they were unaware of her pregnancy. After the body was handed over, they initially staged a protest, refusing to conduct the final rites until those guilty of her suspected murder were arrested. A police team intervened and convinced the family to proceed with the funeral. Dhawal Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police, Fatehpur, said the final rites were being conducted, adding that the investigation was exploring all angles.

According to police, after returning from school on Saturday, the girl left home to attend her coaching classes. Her family began searching for her when she did not return at the expected time. They contacted her friend, who also attends the same coaching centre, and learned she had already returned home. After this, the family approached the police and filed a kidnapping case against an unidentified person. On Sunday, a local resident discovered a body in a field, about two kilometres from the girl's house. The resident immediately informed the police, who rushed to the scene. The girl's family was called to the scene and they identified her body. The police recovered the girl's belongings, including a slipper and hairband, a short distance from the body. They also found an empty liquor bottle nearby. During a preliminary investigation, the discovered that the victim had not attended her coaching class on Saturday.

History isn't just something discussed by academics in ivory towers, says Anirudh Kaniseti

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Areas around Bengaluru have seen empires rise and fall — this is ground warred over by the Cholas and the Chalukyas, the Gangas and the Rashtrakutas. The city has also played a role as one of the best-known recent histories of the great empires of the Deccan was written by Anirudh Kaniseti, an engineer who came here to work like so many others. Kaniseti's debut work, Lords of the Deccan: Southern India from the Chalukyas to the Cholas, is a popular history spanning six centuries, bringing readers close to moments such as Pulakeshin II's rise to power, Danti-Durga Rashtrakuta forging a new empire, and Rajendra Chola's legendary naval invasions.



"Like many young professionals, I moved to Bangalore for my first job right after graduating. I had relatives here so I had been in and out of the city when I was young," said Kaniseti, currently an editor at the Museum of Art of Photography. When he moved to the city in 2016, Kaniseti said, "It was an 'incredible place'. Bangalore's culture felt very youthful and lively. I loved the fact that Bangalore had so many lovely old bookstores. In a lot of ways Bangalore is tied to my coming of age." He recalls going to Church Street one day, famously home to many of the great bookstores of the city, and searching through a store for a history of Karnataka and finding nothing. "That was just a huge shock to me, that such a diverse state had no easily available histories to read. It got me exploring more about the state, the politics, and the evolution of society in Karnataka, which is in many ways what led to Lords of the Deccan," he said.

that belongs to us all. It is the story of people just like you and me. The thrill of seeing people's minds open to the enormous history of the region... There was no looking back for me." During his early writing process, Kaniseti credits an "obsessive" reading of the major academic works that had been done up to the present along with an editor who advised him on the appropriate tone for a book of this nature. "It had to be more engaging than Netflix. We live in an age where books are in direct competition for time and attention. People have all the world's entertainment at the tap of a button," he adds.

Lords of the Deccan, which was published in 2022, came after two years of research and writing, and another two years of editing and fact-checking. Kaniseti was awarded the Yuva Puraskar by Sahitya Akademi for Lords of the Deccan. It also won the Tata Literature Live's Book of the Year Award in the non-fiction category in 2022. Kaniseti is working on a history of the Chola Empire, going into the evolution of Tamil society at the time, and how it affected the surrounding regions and economies, via a grant from Bengaluru's Museum of Art and Photography. It's going to have astonishing new architectural diagrams and infographics that bring to life the Chola world in a way that has not been done before," he said. New writers, he said, should take "advantage of the availability of books and bookstores". "Surround yourselves with writers and readers, with people who have a passion for books and reading. There are quite a few book clubs here. The most important thing is also to learn how to edit and how to take feedback from editors. A book is never the product of just one mind."

"I realised it had a lot in common with Telangana, where I grew up. I travelled to the North into Maharashtra and realised that there is this vast geopolitical region that has been integral to the history of South Asia that most of us don't think about. Thanks to the city's libraries, bookstores, and people, I was part of the Bring Your Own Book club. I was able to do this," he added. However, the transition from being an engineer to a historian did not happen overnight. Kaniseti said, "One of the lovely things about Bangalore is that it allows people to choose new paths." After doing a public policy certification at the city-based Takshashila Institution, where he worked as a geopolitical researcher, and a tie-up with IBM led him to start a history podcast in 2017. "History is not just something discussed by academics in ivory towers. It is something

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GNS News Agency, Sept 16

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examinations; judicial proceedings over 7,000 clerk posts; and vacant posts of professors all over the state. "I have been trying to seek your time to discuss these rightful demands of students for sometime now but it has not been granted. The subject has become sensitive since despite the call for agitation by students the issue is not getting resolved," Pawar wrote, adding that he hoped the chief minister would spare time to hold a meeting on the issues raised by government job aspirants.

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Hyderabad: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner, Amrapali Kata on Monday inspected the arrangements at Necklace Road and said all steps needed for smooth conduct of Ganesh idol immersion on Tuesday were in place. To ensure the idol immersion was carried out without any hiccups, around 15,000 staff members and officials drafted from the civic body's different wings of sanitation, engineering and others, were deployed round-the-clock in three shifts, she said.

Several coordination meetings with officials, festival committee members and other departments were held to plan and review the arrangements and address the shortfalls if any. These meetings were held at different levels — from zonal to the head office to ensure robust arrangements for devotees participating in the idol im-

Tension prevails in Mangaluru after stone pelting incidents on two places of worship

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Mangaluru police: The incidents of stone pelting at Katipalla town in Mangaluru taluk took place on late Sunday night, but due to quick action, the situation came under control and no untoward incidents were reported in the area. Tension prevailed in Katipalla town and BC road in Dakshina Kannada district on Monday after incidents of stone-pelting on two places of worship and clashes between two groups, police said. The incidents of stone pelting at Katipalla town in Mangaluru taluk took place on late Sunday night, but due to quick action, the situation came under control and no untoward incidents were reported in the area. Window panes of the place of worship were shattered, they said. According to police, the alleged stone pelters came on two bikes and sped off. Following the incident, heavy police deployment has been put in place. In Buntwal taluk's BC road town, abutting National Highway 75, tension prevailed on Monday morning following an exchange of provocative statements between two groups on social media platforms. Following this, the Dakshina Kannada district police said they have beefed up vigils right from Uppinangady on the eastern



side of Buntwal and Panemangaluru on the western side. According to the police, a case has been registered against VHP and Bajrang Dal leaders Sharan Pumpwell and Puneeth Attavar for making provocative statements. The Mangaluru police, who have been constantly monitoring the social media platforms, are taking action against those who make provocative statements. Mangaluru Police Commissioner Anupam Agarwal has already given a warning about this.

How an architect killed his paramour, claimed to be innocent but sought death penalty

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Bhukan took the police to the farmhouse in Pondhe village where he had buried Kadam's body underneath the bathroom flooring. Bhukan took the police to the farmhouse in Pondhe village where he had buried Kadam's body underneath the bathroom flooring. In 2010, a 33-year-old man was arrested by the Pune police for murdering a woman believed to be his paramour. While claiming innocence before a city court, Santosh Namdev Bhukan, an architect, sought the death penalty.



As per police records, Bhukan, a resident of Lohegaon in Pune city, was in a relationship with Vaishali Kadam, 32, a married woman, since 2008. Kadam worked as a receptionist at Bhukan's company in Narayan Peth. After her husband came to know about her extramarital affair, he separated from her. Meanwhile, Kadam quit her job at Bhukan's company, but continued to be in touch with him. The police said Kadam was allegedly forcing Bhukan to leave his wife and marry her, and he decided to kill her over her naggings. He is believed to have meticulously planned her murder. Two months before he killed Kadam, Bhukan bought a piece of land at a sparsely inhabited Pondha village under the Purandar taluka, about 70 kilometres from Pune city, and started constructing a farmhouse. A week before Bhukan allegedly executed the plan, he asked workers to lay tiles in all the rooms except the bathroom. According to the police, on August 10, 2010, he took Kadam to this farmhouse, spiked her drink with sleeping pills, and strangled her with a rope. He then dumped the body in the pit made for the bathroom and then covered it with gravel and cement.

A team led by Yashwant Nikam, who was then an assistant police inspector, arrested him on August 26, 2010. The Pune police said to mislead their probe, Bhukan kept his mobile phone with an ex-employee to show he was in the Bhosari area on the day of the murder. He allegedly made the same colleague take Kadam's mobile phone to Mahabaleshwar, a hill station 120 km from Pune, the next day. Then, as per his instructions, the ex-employee sent text messages from Kadam's phone to her family members that she was infected with HIV and hence was going away and they should not look for her. The phone could not be reached after these messages were delivered. When Kadam did not return after four days, her family members filed a missing report at the Vimaltal Police Station.

According to the police probe, Bhukan bought two

SIM cards in Kadam's name to talk to each other. The SIM in Kadam's phone from which messages were sent to her family from Mahabaleshwar was destroyed by Bhukan after he killed Kadam. But another SIM in Bhukan's cell phone was active. The tower location of this SIM showed that after Kadam's death, it was active in Pune, Chakan and then Dhule, places where Bhukan's relatives lived. The police then zeroed in on Bhukan. Bhukan took the police to the farmhouse in Pondhe village where he had buried Kadam's body underneath the bathroom flooring. The body was exhumed from the spot in the presence of witnesses. A team led by Yashwant Nikam, who was then an assistant police inspector, arrested him on August 26, 2010. During the trial before the court in Pune, then-additional public prosecutor Ramesh Ghorpade examined 35 witnesses and sought maximum punishment for the accused. However, Bhukan denied his involvement in the murder. In May 2013, the court of Additional Sessions Judge S P Tawade held him guilty and asked him to present his say, as part of the standard procedure before passing the sentence. Bhukan then made an unusual request. "My Lord, I don't accept the judgment (of conviction). I am innocent and there's no evidence against me. I plead with you to award me death..." said Bhukan. He said appeals in the death penalty are taken up by the High Court quicker than life imprisonment cases. "If you give me the death penalty, my case will come up for hearing in the High Court within six months and I will prove my innocence there," Bhukan told Judge Tawade. To which Judge Tawade said, "Why are you in such a hurry? You wanted a quick investigation, a quick trial, and now you want the High Court to take up your case quickly. I am not sitting here to expedite your High Court appeal." In 2015, the Bombay High Court upheld the conviction and sentence awarded to Bhukan by the Pune court. The High Court observed there was no doubt about his involvement in the crime.

All set for Ganesh idol immersion in the city: GHMC Commissioner Amrapali Kata

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Hyderabad: The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) Commissioner, Amrapali Kata on Monday inspected the arrangements at Necklace Road and said all steps needed for smooth conduct of Ganesh idol immersion on Tuesday were in place. To ensure the idol immersion was carried out without any hiccups, around 15,000 staff members and officials drafted from the civic body's different wings of sanitation, engineering and others, were deployed round-the-clock in three shifts, she said.



mersion processions. Across the city, 10 control rooms apart from command control manned by additional commissioner level officers were operational in three shifts to monitor the situation.

Highest recipient of air quality funds, Mumbai slips 18 positions to 28th in Centre's annual report



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Mumbai, the recipient of the highest grant from the Centre for improving air quality, slipped to 28th this year from tenth last year in the annual Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan report. The report, released on September 7, is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Under it, cities are ranked based on the implementation of activities approved under the city action plan for improving air quality under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The report is classified into three categories based on the total population living in the cities. In the first category, 47 cities with a population above 10 lakh are ranked. In the second category, 43 cities with a population between 3 and 10 lakh are ranked, and in the third category, 40 cities with a population of less than 3 lakh are ranked. Mumbai falls under the first category. The top three cities ranked in this category are Surat, Jabalpur, and Agra. Among other Maharashtra cities, Thane secured the 16th position in this category, followed by Nagpur at 19, Nashik at 23, and Pune at 27. Last year, Thane was in the third position, Nagpur was in the 20th, Nashik was in the 23rd, and Pune was ranked at 31. "Over the past few years, Mumbai's air quality has seen a steep decline, with the worst period being recorded around 2022-23. The PM10 components are increasing at a faster rate than the PM5. This trend could be directly attributed to man-made factors because PM10 is emitted from activities like construction and dust displacement," Dr Gufran Beig, chair-professor of the National Institute of Advanced Sciences (NIAS), told The report stated that ranking evaluation is being done based on a self-assessment report along with supporting documents submitted by urban local bodies. Some of the parameters of evaluation include steps taken to mitigate municipal solid waste burning,

road dust mitigation measures, and identifying and tackling various other emission sources. "Mumbai's local administration has been unable to implement adequate measures towards strengthening the overall mapping infrastructure of identifying the hotspots, therefore, identifying the core sources and mitigating them on the ground has not been possible," Dr Sachida Nand Tripathi, dean of Kotak School of Sustainability IIT Kanpur and member of the steering committee of the NCAP, told The Indian Express.

In an RTI response to The Indian Express, the MoEFCC said that between 2020 and 2023, Mumbai Urban Agglomerate received Rs 929 crore from the Union ministry as part of fifteenth finance commission grant (XVFC) for improving air quality, which is the highest in India. Of this, Rs 620 crore was allocated to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), out of which Rs 493 crore (80 per cent) was earmarked for buying electric buses on a wet-lease model. Sectors pertaining to solid waste management and road dust mitigation have barely received any funding. Maharashtra received the highest funding of Rs 1,555 crore in the 15th Finance Commission grants for Air Quality Index (AQI) management during this period, followed by Uttar Pradesh with Rs 1,449 crore and Gujarat with Rs 796 crore. Dr Tuhi Banerji, former engineer and scientist from CSIR-NEERI, told The Indian Express, "Diverting 80 per cent of the funds towards buying electric vehicles is unfair since mitigating issues like poor air quality would require equitable distribution across multiple sectors. There is a requirement of a holistic source apportionment study so that we can identify contributing factors like displacement of road dust, garbage burning and solid waste management towards air pollution, following which mitigation measures could be adopted." When contacted, a civic official said, "In 2021, the state government had made a policy which mandated the usage of 80 per cent of these grants for acquiring buses because the source apportionment study that was carried out that time identified vehicular emission to be the primary source of air pollution. Therefore, a decision was made to convert the existing public vehicle fleet to EVs." When contacted, an official from the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) said, "Mumbai has also been experiencing a change in weather pattern due to which the wind speed during the winter becomes slow, leading to poor AQI and issues like construction and garbage burning couldn't be blamed alone."

Maximum City gets India's 'maximum' weather radar cover

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Mumbai has become India's first mega metropolitan city to come under the cover of a short-range polarimetric radar network. The four new X-band radars have been installed and are undergoing testing. The radar network was inaugurated on September 14 by M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, in the presence of Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General, India Meteorological Department, and other officials. This comes just two days after the cabinet-approved Mission Mausam, which envisions strengthening of the observational network and the installation of up to 100 radars across India over the next two years.

Mumbai will now have a total of six weather radars monitoring its region, making it the most extensively covered city in India with respect to weather surveillance. Two of the currently operational radars are owned and maintained by the IMD. These include an S-band radar located in Colaba and a C-band radar situated in Veravali. In addition, there are hundreds of rain gauges that measure real-time rainfall at regular intervals.

Every monsoon season, Mumbai suffers from severe waterlogging and urban flooding, crippling the road and rail traffic and throwing normal life out of gear. Mumbai falls under a heavy rainfall category. The city receives annual rainfall of 2,123 mm, of which 2,040 mm is recorded during the June-September period. Thane's annual rainfall is 2,435 mm. The new short-range polarimetric radars are best suited for dense and urban localities. Though similar short-range radar networks have been installed and tasted success in Japan, China and the US. Now, they are being experimentally attempted for Indian cities, where urban flooding following heavy rainfall has become an annual event. Each with a range of 60 km, the four X-band radars will cover the entire Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), spanning Vile Parle, Panvel, Vasai-Virar and Kalyan-Dombivli in addition to the area limits under the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

"For the first time in India, we are introducing the concept of a short-range polarimetric radar network set-up in Mumbai. The observations from each individual radar will be combined into a single mosaic, which will monitor the weather systems across the MMR. This unified mosaic will enable real-time tracking of rainfall activity, providing a comprehensive view of the weather patterns affecting the region. Since there are four radars, chances of any rain-bearing weather system getting missed are slim," G Pandithurai, Senior Scientist and Project Director, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, told IITM and the IMD are jointly operationalising the radar observations. Data from all the radars will be provided to the National Centre for Coastal Research in Chennai, which has been producing flood warning forecasts for Mumbai in recent years. Of the total operational 39 S-band, C-band and X-band radars across the country, most have been installed along the east and west coasts and are both efficient and useful for tracking large-scale systems like low pressures and cyclones. An S-band radar has a range of 400 km, C-band between 150 and 200 km and an X-band offers up to 100 km. The short-range radars cover smaller geographical areas and are apt for mega cities, like Mumbai, where skyscrapers often obstruct the field of view of radars. "Four radars have been strategically positioned to ensure that, even if one radar's observations are blocked by tall buildings or other obstructions in a particular sector, the remaining radars will still have comprehensive coverage. The infrastructure requirements for the installation of short-range radars are less than a regular radar, making them easier to deploy in densely populated urban areas," said Subrata Kumar Das, another IITM scientist involved in the project.

The IMD issues location-specific nowcast warnings ahead of a significant weather event, like thunderstorm, heavy rainfall, with a lead time of up to three hours. Such precipitation-centric nowcasts are particularly crucial for the local administration and decision makers. "Forecasters



will obtain high-resolution rainfall maps in real-time once these new radars get commissioned. While the existing two operational radars perform scanning once every 10 minutes, the four new short-range radars will scan at an interval of five minutes, ensuring no weather system goes undetected," said Sunil Kamble, Head, Regional Meteorological Centre, IMD, Mumbai. The biggest advantages of having a short-range radar network will be the significant improvement to the IMD's nowcasts, said K S Hosalkar, Head, Climate Research and Services, IMD, Pune. The project was in its design phase while he headed the IMD office in Mumbai. In order to optimise the network, these radars will operate with adaptive scanning techniques. This allows targeted and site-specific scanning. "For instance, if rainfall is observed to be concentrated over a particular locality, all the four radars could be tuned to scan that location. In this way, we will be able to obtain more information and reduce the uncertainties in short-duration weather events, like thunderstorms," Pandithurai explained. Setting up such a state-of-the-art radar network in Mumbai will accelerate the observational capabilities of weather in urban areas.

Maharashtra discom urges Pune citizens to maintain safe distance from overhead electricity lines

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL) on Sunday urged engineers, Ganesh mandal workers, and citizens in Pune to remain vigilant about electrical safety as preparations are underway for the Ganesh idol immersion procession on September 17. Rajendra Pawar, chief engineer, MSEDCL (Pune zone), asked citizens to maintain a safe distance from the power grid and overhead lines while standing on tractor trolleys or raising tall flags. During the immersion processions, engineers and staff with mobile vans and equipment will be on standby. He said a temporary control room will be established in the Modi Ganapati area, covering key routes like Laxmi Road and Tilak Road. He said MSEDCL personnel will monitor the immersion procession routes to ensure devotees maintain a safe distance from power lines, feeder pillars, and other electrical infrastructure. Special care is requested, particularly for children, to avoid climbing or leaning on any electrical equipment. "We are continuously monitoring the power supply throughout the festival, with measures taken to ensure electrical safety. Prior to Ganeshotsav, electrical systems were inspected, and maintenance was conducted at public Ganesh mandals and along procession routes. Feeder pillars were secured to prevent children and citizens from climbing them in crowded areas," he said. Around 4,574 engineers, technical staff and contractors are on duty in Pune, Pimpri-Chinchwad, Mulshi, Velhe, Haveli, Ambegaon, Junnar, Khed and Maval talukas.

On dharna site, a groundswell of support as people bring food and encouragement



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Amid the downpour on Saturday, IT engineer Biplab Saha reached Swasthya Bhavan, the headquarters of the state Health Department, in Salt Lake near Kolkata where junior doctors have been sitting on a dharna for the last few days over the rape and murder of their colleague at RG Kar Hospital. Saha reached there with a box of cakes for the protesting medicos.

He is not alone. Like Saha, people from all walks of life have been visiting the dharna site. Some with food, others with umbrellas and tarpaulin amid a wave of solidarity for the protesters. "I stand by their cause. After office, I buy fruit cakes, biscuits and distribute them to the doctors sitting on a dharna. This is my small contribution to a cause I stand for," said Saha. The protest site now has turned into a hub of community support with people and some outfits coming together to provide essential supplies and also encouragement. At the protest site, which gives a feel of a mela but a sombre one, tables and chairs are arranged in an orderly manner, resembling food counters. A variety of items, including biscuits, cakes, water bottles, sandwiches, ORS, napkins, tents, dry fruits, khichdi and biryani are brought for the protesters. "Some people even bring disinfectant and toilet cleaner and we clean the area every hour. The protest wouldn't have been possible without such help and support. It doesn't feel like we are on the road," said a junior doctor. On Friday night, Pratap Mondal and Pinaki Biswas brought 100 packets of biryani and within 15 minutes, none was left

on the counter. "In the last two days, we have distributed 250 packets of biryanis. This gives us inner satisfaction to be a part of this protest," said Pratap Mondal. Numerous organisations, including NGOs like Little Kitchen and Poushtik Life, alumni of Ramkrishna Mission schools, employees from various private IT firms, university student associations, and many others, are also bringing essential items or offering monetary donations.

"We may not have a complete understanding of their immediate needs as we know they have sufficient food. They might require other materials. Therefore, we have decided to provide them with funds so they can purchase what they need," said a Ramkrishna Mission alumnus. Tapas Chatterjee, a resident of Garia, had brought tarpaulins to the protest site.

"On Thursday night, we came to know through a WhatsApp group that the junior doctors need help. Since they are not regular political activists, they don't know how to manage a long-term movement," said Chatterjee. Ruth Chattopadhyay from Poushtik Life described the scene at the dharna site as "overwhelming". "Many come here, but they may not have money. So, they sit with the doctors and chant slogans with them," said Chattopadhyay. "Many people from other states have been delivering food to the protesting doctors through delivery apps. I have seen many delivery boys bringing food with just the address of the dharna site and a reference phone number... We had never seen such a huge solidarity for the protesters. We heard about the farmers' movement in Delhi and Punjab, and we are seeing such a groundswell of support for the first time," Chattopadhyay added. A junior doctor, who has been camping at the protest site, said, "We are welcoming all our well-wishers. We are overwhelmed by getting support from different sections of the society. We are grateful to them." However, as food is coming from every corner, there are apprehensions too. Even Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who made a surprise visit to the dharna site on Saturday, warned, "Ekta kotha bole jai. Sobai ekhane khabar dichchen. O-sob khabar khaben na (I want to say one more thing. Everybody is giving food, don't eat all that food)."

Bengaluru groom approaches consumer court after studio hands over CD of another man's wedding, ordered compensation

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Bengaluru The court of Vijaykumar M Pawale directed Bandapi to refund Rs 20,000 and pay Rs 5,000 for the mental agony and litigation cost within 45 days after the order. A local Bengaluru court recently ordered an Andhra Pradesh wedding coverage studio to refund Rs 20,000 and pay fine of Rs 5,000 for providing faulty service to the groom. Hearing a plea filed in March by R Prasanna Kumar Reddy, a native of Andhra Pradesh and resident of NRI Layout in Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban Second District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission on September 11 ordered Nagesh Bandapi, owner of Eye Photo Studio, to pay compensation to the petitioner.

According to the petition, Reddy, who was scheduled to get married on December 29, 2021, came into an agreement with Bandapi to capture and document their marriage ceremony and paid Rs 40,000 before the ceremony. However, Bandapi allegedly did not provide the photo albums and CDs on time after the wedding, giving excuses and breaking the agreed terms. After a long delay, Eye Photo Studio allegedly handed over photo albums and a Blu-ray disc. To Reddy's shock, the disc contained footage of another man's wedding. When Reddy complained about it, Bandapi allegedly gave excuses and eventually admitted that the original raw and edited video files were lost due to purported hard disk corruption. After Reddy issued a legal notice, the studio owner responded on January 17 that there was no con-



tract and told that no full payment had been made and that Rs 34,000 was pending.

Then, Reddy filed a petition before the consumer court seeking compensation of Rs 1.50 lakh for the service deficiency and a refund of Rs 70,000, which was the agreed amount for the service. The court of Vijaykumar M Pawale directed Bandapi to refund Rs 20,000 and pay Rs 5,000 for the mental agony and litigation cost within 45 days after the order. In the order, Pawale said, "Looking to the facts and circumstances of the complainant's case and evidence on record which had not been denied by the OP (Nagesh) by providing contrary evidence by remaining exparte, we are of the considered opinion that there is deficiency of service on the part of the OP as CDs provided by him are corrupted and same are not reading or showing any scenes of wedding ceremony."

Suicide of Muktsar resident who topped NEET in 2017 shocks Punjab: 'youngsters were inspired by him'



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

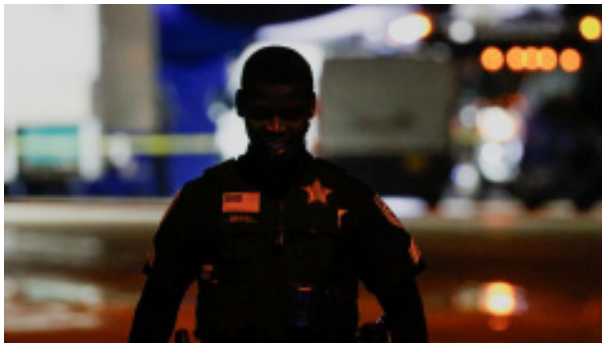
In June 2017, Dr Singh hit the headlines after he got AIR 1 in NEET. He had said he wanted to study at Maulana Azad Medical College because of its fee structure. He had said cracking NEET was his main target and hence he was satisfied with his 88 per cent in Class 12 board examinations. In June 2017, Dr Singh hit the headlines after he got AIR 1 in NEET. He had said he wanted to study at Maulana Azad Medical College because of its fee structure. He had said cracking NEET was his main target and hence he was satisfied with his 88 per cent in Class 12 board examinations. The news of the death of Dr Navdeep Singh has brought a pall of gloom in the Muktsar district of Punjab. Dr Singh, who belonged to Muktsar and was a second-year MD student at Delhi's Maulana Azad Medical College (MAMC), was found dead on Sunday morning. The body of Dr Singh, 25, who had topped the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) in 2017, was handed over to the family after postmortem by Sunday evening. The cremation will take place on Monday afternoon in Muktsar. "When he wasn't picking up calls, his father sent a friend to check on him. The friend found that the door of his hostel room was locked from inside. It was prima facie found that the deceased died by suicide. Inquest proceedings are ongoing. No suicide note has been found," said a Delhi Police officer. In June 2017, Dr Singh hit the headlines after he got AIR 1 in NEET. He had said he wanted to study at Maulana Azad Medical College because of its fee struc-

ture. He had said cracking NEET was his main target and hence he was satisfied with his 88 per cent in Class 12 board examinations. His father Gopal Singh, the principal of the government senior secondary school at Sarainaga village in the Muktsar district, earlier told The Indian Express, "I am a Physics teacher, perhaps this was the reason that my son developed an interest in science subject and wanted to be a doctor." Kapil Sharma, Principal, Government Senior Secondary School, Tamkot village, told The Indian Express, "When he had topped the exam, people came to know about Muktsar. Many youngsters were inspired by him and many functions were organised in the district to honour him. We are indeed in shock to hear this news". Sharma, a family friend of Dr Singh's father, said, "Gopal had spoken with Navdeep on Saturday evening and he was perfectly normal. He had not indicated anything that he was having any stress. He used to share everything with his parents. We are surprised at how he took such an extreme step".

APTA extends helping hand to flood affected families in Khammam

Khammam: American Progressive Telugu Association (APTA) has extended a helping hand to the flood affected families in Khammam. SBIT chairman Gundala Krishna distributed about 300 kits of essential items along with vegetables provided by the APTA to the affected families. He said that many families have lost everything due to unprecedented floods Khammam witnessed recently. He informed that essential home kits were distributed to more than 700 flood-affected families in Telangana and AP under the aegis of APTA. He thanked APTA president Trinadh Mudrageda, global operations chair Madhu Vulli, Khammam in-charge Karthik Gundala and Vijayawada in-charge Kotes Chavvakula for their kind gesture.

Donald Trump thanks U.S. secret service, law enforcement after failed assassination attempt



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Former U.S. president Donald Trump on Sunday (September 15, 2024) thanked the U.S. Secret Service and other law enforcement officials following an assassination attempt while he was golfing on one of his golf courses in Florida's West Palm Beach. The former president remained unharmed in what the FBI said was "an attempted assassination" while playing golf two months after another attempt on his life at a Pennsylvania rally.

"I would like to thank everyone for your concern and well wishes — It was certainly an interesting day! Most importantly, I want to thank the US Secret Service, Sheriff Ric Bradshaw and his Office of brave and dedicated patriots, and all of the law enforcement, for the incredible job done today at Trump International in keeping me, as the 45th President of the United States, and the Republican nominee in the upcoming presidential election, SAFE," the presidential candidate said. Local authorities said the U.S. Secret Service agents protecting Mr. Trump fired at a man pointing an AK-style rifle with a scope while the former president was golfing with donor Steve Witkoff when shots were fired. CNN quoted a source familiar with the development as saying. President Joe Biden and vice-president Kamala Harris were briefed and updated on the investigation.

Ms. Harris, the Democratic presidential candidate and Mr. Trump's rival in the upcoming election, in a state-

ment, said "violence has no place in America". Mr. Biden echoed that thought in his statement, adding that he had directed his team to ensure the Secret Service "has every resource, capability and protective measure necessary to ensure the former president's continued safety".

Elon Musk, the billionaire owner of X (formerly Twitter), in his comments about attempts on Mr. Trump's life, questioned why no similar threats were being made against Mr. Biden or Ms. Harris. Mr. Musk's controversial remark came in response to a query from an X user who asked why Mr. Trump was being targeted. The Tesla CEO replied: "And no one is even trying to assassinate Biden/Kamala." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, expressing shock after the apparent assassination attempt, said: "Sara and I were shocked by the second assassination attempt against [former] president Trump and were relieved to hear that it too failed. But we should not rely on luck." "We send our best wishes to Donald and Melania along with our hopes that all measures will be taken to ensure that such deadly attacks on a candidate for the US presidency will be foiled in advance," the Israeli prime minister added. It was the latest jarring moment in the former president's life following the July 13 failed assassination attempt on Trump during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, when a bullet grazed his ear.

The incident spawned new questions about Secret Service protective operations after the agency's admitted failures in preventing the attempted assassination this summer. It was not immediately clear whether the development would affect Mr. Trump's campaign as he was set to speak from Florida about cryptocurrency on Monday night on the social media site. Mr. Trump has had a stepped-up security footprint since the July assassination attempt. Former presidents and their spouses have Secret Service protection for life, but the security around former presidents varies according to threat levels and exposure, with the toughest measures typically being taken in the immediate aftermath of their leaving office. Mr. Trump's protective detail has been higher than some other former presidents because of his high visibility and his campaign to seek the White House again.

Pakistan's anti-terrorism court orders release of arrested lawmakers of Imran Khan's party



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Monday (September 16, 2024) ordered the immediate release of all the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) lawmakers arrested from the Parliament House following the party's power show on September 8 in Islamabad. "Anti-Terrorism Court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain heard the bail pleas and granted post-arrest bail to the PTI MNAs who were taken into custody by the Islamabad police with their cases registered at the Sangjani police station," Geo News reported. "The bails were granted against surety bonds worth ?30,000 each," it said. Pakistan at risk of parochialism, says former PM Imran Khan. During the hearing, prosecutor Raja Naveed told the court that Sunni Ittehad Council lawmaker Muhammad Ahmed Chattha is also named in the case. He requested the court against approving bails

as the minimum sentence for provisions imposed in the case is three years, the channel said.

"Has anything been recovered from Sher Afzal Marwat, Ahmed Chattha and other MNAs [Member of the National Assembly]?" the judge questioned the prosecutor. He responded to the question in the negative. Meanwhile, the court also approved the pre-arrest bail petition filed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leader Ali Bukhari in the case pertaining to his violation of the No Objection Certificate (NOC) and assault on police personnel during the party's rally. Following the hearing, the court issued a notice and adjourned the hearing of the case till October 1. The police arrested several leaders of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party, including its chairman and around a dozen lawmakers, after the authorities accused his supporters of pelting stones at police personnel and violating the permission for the rally by over-stepping the allotted time limit by several hours. PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Khan and lawmaker Sher Afzal Marwat were also arrested from the Parliament House for allegedly violating the newly enacted public gathering law during the party's power show. Mr. Marwat had resisted the arrest and asked the police to show an arrest warrant. While Mr. Gohar was later released, Mr. Marwat was kept in custody for violating regulations devised under a new law — Peaceful Assembly and Public Order Bill, 2024, and also accused of clashing with police personnel on the rally day. At least 10 PTI lawmakers, who were arrested from the premises of Parliament House, were brought to the lower house on September 12 after their production orders were issued by National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq. During the rally, the PTI supporters demanded the release of their leader and warned to get him out of jail through street protests. 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.

the reported suspect behind Trump assassination attempt

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

A gunman attempted to assassinate former U.S. president Donald Trump on Sunday (September 15, 2024) at Mr. Trump's golf course in Palm Beach, Florida, authorities said. Several news organisations identified the suspect as Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, of Hawaii, citing unidentified law enforcement officials. The FBI declined to comment. Here is what we know so far about the suspected gunman: Gun barrel in bushes. The Secret Service said its agents were accompanying Mr. Trump on the golf course, when one who was securing holes ahead of the Republican presidential candidate spotted a gun barrel in some bushes near the property line.

Multiple agents engaged the gunman and fired at least four rounds at him. The gunman then dropped his AK-47 style rifle, two backpacks, a Go Pro camera and other items and fled in a black Nissan car. Palm Beach County sheriff Ric Bradshaw said a witness managed to take a photo of the suspected gunman's car and license plate and gave it to authorities. Shortly after, sheriff's deputies in neighboring Martin County stopped the suspect on Interstate 95 and took him into custody. Posts on Ukraine, democracy

Reuters found profiles on X, Facebook, and LinkedIn for a Ryan Routh, and public access to the Facebook and X profiles was removed hours after the shooting. The three accounts bearing Routh's name suggest he was an avid supporter of Ukraine in its war against Russia. On April 21, Routh directed an X message to Elon Musk, in which he wrote: "I would like to buy a rocket from you. I wish to load it with a warhead for Putins Black sea mansion bunker to end him. Can you give me a price please." Follow updates on the Donald Trump shooting. The New York Times reported it had interviewed Routh in 2023 for an article about Americans who were volunteering to help



the Ukraine war effort. Routh told the Times he had travelled to Ukraine and spent several months there in 2022 and was trying to recruit Afghan soldiers who fled the Taliban to fight in Ukraine. On X in 2020, Routh expressed support for Democratic U.S. presidential candidate Bernie Sanders and mocked Mr. Biden as "sleepy Joe."

Earlier this year, Routh tagged Mr. Biden in a post on X: "@POTUS Your campaign should be called something like KADAF. Keep America democratic and free. Trumps should be MASA... make Americans slaves again master. DEMOCRACY is on the ballot and we cannot lose." The suspected gunman's son, Adam, reached by Reuters at the hardware store where he works in Hawaii, said he had not yet heard of the newest Trump assassination attempt and had "no information," adding it was not something he believed his father would do. Later, the reporter called back to the store and a colleague said Adam had gone home because of an emergency. Another son of Routh's, Oran, told CNN in a statement that "I don't have any comment beyond a character profile of him as a loving and caring father... I don't know what's happened in Florida, and I hope things have just been blown out of proportion."

Typhoon Bebinca, the strongest storm to hit Shanghai since 1949, shuts down megacity



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Tens of millions of people in Shanghai and across China's densely populated east coast hunkered indoors Monday (September 16, 2024) as the strongest storm to hit since 1949 swept in, downing trees and disrupting transport across the region.

Typhoon Bebinca landed early Monday morning in the city's eastern coastal area, with wind speeds of up to 151 kilometres per hour (94 miles per hour), state media said. It is the strongest storm to hit Shanghai since Typhoon Gloria in 1949, state broadcaster CCTV said shortly after Bebinca made landfall. Many businesses were already closed for the Mid-Autumn Festival public holiday, and the city's 25 million residents have been advised to avoid leaving their homes. Shanghai's flood control headquarters told CCTV they had already received dozens of reports of incidents related to the typhoon — mostly fallen trees and billboards. An uprooted tree completely blocked one road in the city centre, an AFP reporter saw. Ferocious winds Xiong Zhuowu, a doctor and resident of the northern Baoshan district, posted a video of a real estate agent's sign being ripped away onto a roof in his compound.

"I feel quite nervous today, I'm constantly checking what the situation is out the window," Xiong told AFP.

"The property management found some trees with loose roots downstairs and immediately called me to

move my car to prevent the tree hitting it if it fell." A government livefeed from Baoshan showed ferocious winds ripping through a line of trees on the riverbank. Despite the violent downpours and sudden gusts of wind, some were still braving the weather to go about errands. Resident Wu Yun said she had ventured outside because she had to sort something out at her sales job. "I think it's okay, because I also saw a lot of typhoons in the south, so I think Shanghai is okay (compared to them)," she told AFP as she struggled to open her umbrella against the wind. Branches and fallen bikes littered the road in the city's former French Concession, as delivery workers and clean-up crews persevered against the driving rain. A view from the Bund shows rising river levels after Typhoon Bebinca made landfall in Shanghai, China September 16, 2024. All flights at Shanghai's two main airports are grounded, and ferry services and some trains have been suspended. Highways were closed at 1 a.m. local time, and a 40-kilometre (25-mile) per-hour speed limit is in place on roads inside the city. At rush hour, live video feeds showed Shanghai's normally jammed roads almost empty of traffic, and its famed skyline obscured by thick fog.

Nine thousand residents have been evacuated from Chongming District, an island at the mouth of the Yangtze River, authorities said. CCTV broadcast footage of a reporter by the coast in neighbouring Zhejiang province, where waves pounded the craggy coastline under leaden skies. "If I step out into [the storm], I can barely speak," the reporter said. "You can see that the surface of the sea is just wave after wave, each higher than the last." Another typhoon, Yagi, killed at least four people and injured 95 when it passed through China's southern Hainan island this month, according to national weather authorities. Bebinca has also passed through Japan and the central and southern Philippines, where falling trees killed six people. CCTV said Bebinca was expected to move northwest, causing heavy rain and high winds in Jiangsu, Zhejiang and Anhui provinces. China is the world's biggest emitter of the greenhouse gases that scientists say are driving climate change and making extreme weather more frequent and intense.

UN says Taliban suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralyzing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan. News of the suspension was relayed to U.N. agencies right before the September immunisation campaign was due to start. No reason was given for the suspension, and no one from the Taliban-controlled government was immediately available for comment. A top official from the World Health Organization said it was aware of discussions to move away from house-to-house vaccinations and instead have immunisations in places like mosques. The WHO has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year, all but two in the south of the country. That's up from six cases in 2023.

"The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is aware of the recent policy discussions on shifting from house-to-house polio vaccination campaigns to site-to-site vaccination in parts of Afghanistan," said Dr. Hamid Jafari from the WHO. "Partners are in the process of discussing and understanding the scope and impact of any change in current policy." Anti-polio campaigns in neighbouring Pakistan are regularly marred by violence. Militants target vaccination teams and police assigned to protect them, falsely claiming that the campaigns are a Western conspiracy to sterilise children. The suspension of the September campaign is a blow for the eradication of polio in Afghanistan. As recently as August, the WHO reported that Afghanistan and Pakistan were continuing to implement an "intensive and synchronised campaign" focusing on improved vaccination coverage in endemic zones and an effective and timely response to detections elsewhere. "During a June 2024 nationwide campaign, Afghanistan used a house-to-house vaccination strategy for the first time in five years, a tactic that helped to reach the majority of children targeted," the WHO said. But southern Kandahar province, the base of Taliban supreme



leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, used site-to-site or mosque-to-mosque vaccination campaigns, which are less effective than going to people's homes.

Kandahar continues to have a large pool of susceptible children because it is not carrying out house-to-house vaccinations, the WHO said. "The overall women's inclusion in vaccination campaigns remains around 20% in Afghanistan, leading to inadequate access to all children in some areas," it said. "Any setback in Afghanistan poses a risk to the program in Pakistan due to high population movement," the WHO warned last month. The campaign suspension is the latest obstacle in what has become a problematic global effort to stop polio. The initiative, which costs about \$1 billion every year, has missed multiple deadlines to wipe out the disease and technical mistakes in the vaccination strategy set by WHO and partners have been costly. The oral vaccine has also inadvertently seeded outbreaks in dozens of countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East and now accounts for the majority of polio cases worldwide. This was seen most recently in Gaza, where a baby was partially paralysed by a mutated strain of polio first seen in the oral vaccine, marking the territory's first case in more than 25 years.

Many killed after shootouts between tribal warriors near Papua New Guinea gold mine

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Representative image. Police said 30 men had been killed across the rival clans and hundreds of women and children displaced, with "many" homes burned to the ground.

Shootouts between hundreds of tribal warriors have left at least 30 people dead in Papua New Guinea's highlands, police said on Monday (September 16, 2024) as security forces were given emergency powers to quell the violence. Police said the unrest started in August when "illegal miners" inflicted life-threatening injuries on a landowner in the Porgera Valley, home to one of Papua New Guinea's largest gold deposits. Police said 30 men had been killed across the rival clans and hundreds of women and children displaced, with "many" homes burned to the ground. Two officials were also killed while waiting for a lift home after work, said Mr. Tondop. Police Commissioner David Manning said "lethal force" would be used to restore order in the hard-to-reach highlands region.



used to restore order in the hard-to-reach highlands region.

"Put simply, this means if you raise a weapon in a public place or to threaten another person, you will be shot," Mr. Manning said in a statement at the weekend. "This deteriorating situation has been caused by illegal miners and illegal settlers who are victimising traditional landowners and using violence to terrorise local communities." Police said illegal miners from the Sakar clan had been squatting on land owned by their

Piande rivals. Alcohol sales have been banned and an overnight curfew is in place, added Manning, who vowed to remove the artisanal miners from the valley. Tribal conflicts are a frequent occurrence in Papua New Guinea's highlands, but an influx of automatic weapons has made clashes deadlier. The latest burst of fighting had been turbocharged by the presence of more than "100 high-powered weapons in the wrong hands," police said. Security teams have been posted along the highway leading to the mine, using loudhailers to broadcast messages of peace. Stop the spiral! The Porgera gold mine once accounted for around 10% of Papua New Guinea's yearly export earnings. But recurrent flare-ups of tribal violence and a drawn out government takeover have slowed production in recent years. Gunfights between rival clans living near the mine killed for at least 17 in 2022. And at least 26 people were killed, including 16 children, when three villages in East Sepik province were attacked earlier this year. development."

India's growth story intact, polls brought govt expenditure down: RBI governor day after GDP slips to 5-quarter low



ures, though he is yet to get a detailed report from the monetary policy team of the RBI, Das said that private consumption – a proxy for consumption demand – in the first quarter has grown by 7.4% against 4% in the fourth quarter of the previous fiscal year. "Investment has grown by 7.5%, industries sector has grown by 7.4%, manufacturing has grown by 7%, services sector has grown by 7.7% and construction sector has grown by 10.5%," he said.

He suggested accelerating government spending in the remaining period of the fiscal to ensure high growth. "We are reasonably hopeful and expect that budgeted expenses of the central government and the state governments should be spent in the next three quarters. Whatever shortfall has been noticed in the first quarter, I would like to believe that it will be spent in the next three quarters," said Das. Despite slow growth in the agriculture sector in the first quarter, the RBI governor said, "Monsoon initially made a slightly late start but it has covered large parts of the country except a few parts in eastern and northern India." "The credit growth is 10 percent vis-à-vis 4 percent last year. We see big confidence in all business houses. Two important things are happening – capacity utilisation in the manufacturing sector is 76 percent, which is all-time high, and the balance sheets of banks and corporates are de-leveraged. Corporates have reduced their liabilities by reducing their debt," he said. He said that balance sheets of banks suggest whatever provision had to be made for bad assets or non-performing assets for the year have already been made.

As India's real Gross Domestic Product growth slipped to a five-quarter low of 6.7 per cent in April-June 2024-25, Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das Saturday said the country's "growth story is intact". Addressing the national CA conference in Bhubaneswar, Das said the one component which pulled down the country's growth is a dip in government expenditure (capital expenditure) by both the Centre and state governments. "The model code of conduct was in force because of elections. Therefore, government expenditure has come down. It's minus 0.2%," said Das. He said that among all the drivers of growth, the growth rate is 7 percent-plus, and exuded confidence that the country would achieve 7 percent-plus in the current financial year. "Going ahead, whatever growth projection we have given for the current FY, which is 7.2%, should be materialised," said Das. Based on his quick analysis of the growth fig-

DGTR recommends anti-dumping duty on aluminium foils imported from China



tion of 2,89,735 MT and 1,26,495 MT. These companies thus collectively command about 45 per cent of capacity and 54 per cent of production in the POI," the order dated 30 August read. Notably, other companies, in their views submissions to the DGTR, warned against the "creation of a monopoly." "If duties are imposed, it will adversely affect downstream producers and lead to an inability to source the subject goods with good product quality and lead times, impacting the ability of downstream producers to meet customer demands. Due care should be taken to prevent the creation of a monopoly," the industries' submission to the DGTR stated. The industry warned that an anti-dumping duty would increase the cost of downstream finished goods, making the Indian downstream industry unviable. Moreover, imports of finished goods from other countries would increase, causing injury to the flexible packaging industry in India. Despite several efforts to curb imports from China, goods are increasingly making their way from the neighbouring country. Imports from China have already crossed \$60 billion during the first seven months of 2024, which is 10 per cent higher than the \$55 billion recorded during the same period last year. Imports from China in FY24 exceeded \$100 billion.

this five year roadmap has different elements. "It is not just about digital at the front-end, we are focusing more on technology and technology resilience," he said. This includes investment in data architecture, revisiting infrastructure, network, and what we are focusing now is especially the customer omni-channel experience – a customer who is a branch customer can seamlessly move to internet banking, but this requires deeper architecture of IT platform and this is what we will do in 2.0. It is about scalability, robustness, resilience and more importantly cybersecurity," Setty said. "We are also looking at large scale adoption of marketing technology, which will enable us to make hyper personalization offers for retail, financial inclusion, MSMEs, and our digital transformation is also focusing on new to bank customers," Setty said.

Rupee rises 5 paise to 83.87 against US dollar on weakening USD

Mumbai: The rupee appreciated by 5 paise to 83.87 against the US dollar in early trade on Monday supported by weakening of the American currency in the overseas market and significant foreign fund inflows.

Forex traders said market participants are eagerly awaiting cues from the US Fed policy on Wednesday, with a rate cut all but certain. However, the magnitude of the cut remains uncertain. Moreover, the rupee continues to hold steady within a well-defined range on active intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), they added.

Is it safe to consume petroleum jelly? Expert weighs in

Did you know Robert Augustus Chesebrough, founder of Vaseline, consumed a spoonful of petroleum jelly every day? He claimed the "wonder jelly" had medicinal properties and could cure various ailments, stated Britannica. You might be surprised, but according to the Food Distribution Authority (FDA), petroleum jelly surpasses safety checks and complies consumption guidelines.

But, does that mean you should go about ingesting petroleum jelly straight out of the tub? Before you begin to shake your head, find out whether consuming this product can come with any health risks or promises any particularly unsuspecting rewards. "It is not safe to consume, even though it isn't toxic," said Dr Prashant, Consultant Pediatrician at Yatharth Super Specialty Hospital, Greater Noida. He explained that ingesting petroleum jelly can lead to abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea, and potentially serious complications like intestinal obstruction. "This happens because petroleum jelly is thick, greasy, and difficult to digest," he said. Dr Prashant said that petroleum jelly is primarily used in skincare to add moisture to the skin and protect against external bacteria and irritants. It's effective for healing minor cuts, abrasions, cracked heels, lips, and diaper rashes. When asked about common mistakes people make with petroleum jelly, Dr



Prashant noted that applying it to an infected wound can prevent proper healing. According to him, some people like to apply it all over their face, often in an attempt to heal their skin barrier. But he shared that doing so is a recipe for disaster and clogs up pores and leads to acne, or in certain cases aggravates acne already present on the skin. The doctor warned against applying it all over the face, as it can clog pores and lead to or worsen acne. He also advised against using petroleum jelly as a sexual lubricant, recommending products specifically designed for that purpose instead. **DISCLAIMER:** This article is based on information from the public domain and/or the experts we spoke to. Always consult your health practitioner before starting any routine.

Can wrapping your feet in cabbage leaves help relieve joint pain? Health expert reveals the secret

The comments on an Instagram post about cabbage leaves having the ability to relieve joint pain ranged from "This is completely true. Its more effective if you add mayonnaise with it," to "Day 63 of wrapping cabbage on my chest to reduce pain inside my heart ?????????? still nothing happening". Intrigued, indianexpress.com consulted a health expert to find out if there's any truth to this claim. According to holistic nutritionist Isha Lall, cabbages are rich in vitamins and phytonutrients, including antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds. "When you wrap cabbage leaves around your feet, these beneficial compounds are absorbed through the skin and help reduce swelling and pain. It's a simple, natural remedy that our grandparents would also swear by," she said.

"Choose fresh cabbage leaves, ensuring they are clean and undamaged. Slightly crush the leaves using a rolling pin, belan, or your hands to release their beneficial juices," Lall said. "Place the crushed cabbage leaves around the painful areas of your feet or joints and secure them with a cloth or bandage." Lall suggested keeping the leaves on for about two hours or even overnight for better results. "You can repeat this process daily for four to five days or as needed," she said. Natural alternatives for joint pain: Turmeric: Known for its powerful anti-inflammatory properties, turmeric can be taken as a part of your regular diet. Ginger: Another potent anti-inflammatory, ginger can be consumed fresh, as a tea. Epsom Salt Soak: Soaking in a warm bath with Epsom salts can help re-



duce pain and inflammation. Essential Oils: Oils like eucalyptus, peppermint, and lavender can be massaged into the skin to relieve pain. Exercise: Gentle exercises like yoga and swimming can help keep joints flexible and reduce pain. Heat and Cold Therapy: Applying heat or cold packs to the affected areas can provide immediate relief from joint pain. Lall, however, said that while these natural remedies can help, it's important to consult a healthcare professional before trying new treatments, especially if you have underlying health conditions. She also recommended a holistic approach including a balanced diet, regular exercise, and stress management, to improve joint health.

Lifting weights at the gym? Don't overlook this skincare blunder that might be causing issues

Have your weight-lifting sessions left you with severe itching on your palms and arms? In your quest to stay fit and build muscle, don't let your skin suffer. It might be time to rethink your routine before it leads to a visit to the dermatologist. indianexpress.com spoke to Dr Sri Sahithi Konidena, founder and chief dermatologist of Prime Derm Skin and Hair Clinic, Hyderabad, to understand how to prevent this situation.

Can weightlifting at the gym lead to skincare woes?

"Yes, exposure to various irritants and allergens during physical activity can lead to contact dermatitis," said Dr Konidena. The combination of mechanical stress, increased sweating, and elevated temperatures can cause small breaks, fissures, and abrasions in the skin. She also noted that some weightlifters avoid using gloves, leading to hardened skin on their palms, which can become painful over time. "There have been cases of fungal infections due to sharing gym equipment, which can spread diseases," she added. Dr Konidena recommends carrying a small towel to blot sweat during workouts. "After physical activity, change out of sweaty clothes immediately, as staying in wet clothes can irritate the skin," she said. She also recommends showering right after exercise and applying a good moisturiser, along with powders, to soothe the skin.

"Working out in a well-maintained gym should be a priority, and maintaining personal hygiene—like washing hands immediately before touching your face or



arms—is crucial," said the dermatologist. Choosing high-quality gym wear that absorbs excess moisture is another key tip. "Make sure to wash your gym clothes and sun-dry them thoroughly," Dr Konidena said.

How can contact dermatitis be treated?

Dr Konidena explained that a patient's history is taken into account to rule out the cause and advise them precautions. Generally, the patient is advised anti-inflammatory treatments with corticosteroids, moisturisers, and antihistamines to prevent allergies or prescribed suitable soaps and powders to reduce the complications of sweating or fungal infection.

For solo explorers, a solitude-friendly 'Paradise' amid the crowds

Public space, by definition, is meant to be shared. So why are architects throughout the world designing parks, airport lounges, museums, shops and other communal areas to accommodate the lone individual? Americans are spending an increasing amount of time alone, and we do not need political candidates to remind us that single-person households are rising throughout the world. Last year, the World Health Organization deemed loneliness a "global health threat."

With more of us flying solo, more spaces are catering to visitors who may or may not be in the company of others. Urban planners and architects are recognizing a paradox: Public spaces designed to increase opportunities for social interaction may have the unintended consequence of making isolated people feel marginalized, whereas spaces that support solitary experiences in the midst of a crowd may encourage a feeling of belonging. Wutopia Lab, an architectural studio in Shanghai, used this paradox as a springboard for its design of the Monologue Art Museum, a cultural center for visitors to explore in collective solitude. Opened in 2022 in Qinhuangdao, a popular seaside resort in northeast China, the center fosters "the peaceful solitude that emerges only when you're experiencing it in public," said Yu Ting, the co-founder of Wutopia Lab. The museum is laid out as a sequence of locations, including a tearoom, a yoga room, an art gallery and a water garden with six trees.

(The arboreal arrangement pays homage to "Six Gentlemen," a 14th-century painting that is a representation of seclusion.) Yu said he and his team designed the museum to be a "paradise for the individual" where "one can find solitude and express their inner thoughts." He described the surrounding city as a cacophonous tourist destination that chips away at "the opportunity to be with oneself." The museum is a form of compensation, offering visitors something they do not normally experience in their own homes. Because even introverts frequently like company. According to Erin Peavey, a design leader in health and well-being at the global firm HKS Architects, shared public spaces can allow lone individuals "to feel a part of the world but not have to engage in it or feel a responsibility to perform." Peavey cited prospect-refuge theory, or the concept that people feel secure in spaces that allow them to observe their surroundings while remaining hidden themselves. Originally formulated in 1975 by Jay Appleton, a British geographer, the theory was later applied to built environments that were developed with four features: a view or outlook, partial framing of that view, a degree of visual complexity and a degree of "discoverability." Harvey Milk Terminal 1 at San Francisco International Airport, whose final section opened in June, is one of Peavey's examples. HKS designed the terminal to include a row of lounge chairs looking out to the flight line. The seats are buffered from behind by a tall planter that prevents other travelers from getting too close.

We're not getting into rate war, competition for deposits to continue: SBI Chairman



State Bank of India Chairman (SBI) CS Setty on Friday said most of the banks including SBI are not getting into a rate war but competition for deposits is likely to continue for some time amid the movement of funds to other asset classes. Addressing the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) in Mumbai, Setty said, "It is a fact that due to the change in asset allocation of the customers, some movement of investments is going to other asset classes. So, obviously, increase in credit growth and savings to other asset classes is putting pressure on deposits of the banks." "We want to attract customers by way of improved service quality and some banks are looking at opening branches," Setty said. Banks have been witnessing a bigger growth in credit offtake and a sluggish growth in deposits of late. "Everyone is looking at how to get more value out of their existing customers and attract new customers by offering better quality of service. Essentially there will be some tweaking in interest rates particularly in the one-to-two-year bucket, which is the popular one. Competition for deposits is likely to continue for some time," Setty said. "Fortunately, we have very comfortable CD ratio, and we are not under pressure to reduce CD ratio. We have robust credit growth, and we expect 14-15 per cent credit growth," he said. Even if we have 8-10 per cent deposit growth in SBI, because of the large base in absolute number, it will be larger than the absolute amount of credit growth, he said. On the fintech sector, Setty said, "the good thing about fintech ecosystem is they are reshaping the way we do business. It is helping conventional players to re-imagine customer journey. The agility to deliver is a good factor of fintechs." "One suggestion for fintechs is – any solution that fintechs bring in, it should be available to scale. The scalability has to be brought in," he said.

Sharing his views on AI (artificial intelligence) and Gen AI, Setty said, "we are widely using AI for quite some time. We were the first to have AI/ML based lending models on personal loans. We use AI extensively for lending, fraud management, KYC, proactive risk management and our approach to AI is enterprise-wide adoption of AI." As far as Gen AI is concerned, it is too early to say what will be the commercial impact of Gen AI in the BFSI space, essentially the first use case is to be knowledge based – how easily internal knowledge is available to employees, and efficient delivery of services, he said. On the digital transformation of the SBI, Setty said, "SBI is a microcosm of India... it is as diversified as our country. The digital transformation for SBI is a five-year roadmap and

Meena Kumari, Kamal Amrohi's timeless love story to be turned into film by Siddharth P. Malhotra

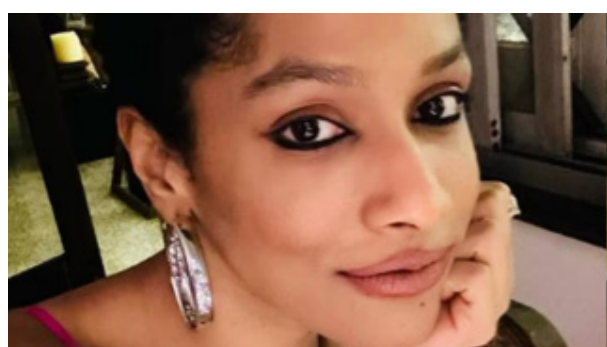


Mumbai: Bollywood star Sanjay Dutt on Wednesday shared a glimpse of "Tragedy queen" Meena Kumari and filmmaker Kamal Amrohi's poignant love story that will be revisited soon in a feature film, which will be helmed by Siddharth P. Malhotra. The Hindi film will chronicle their 20-year journey, culminating with the 1972 masterpiece, "Pakeezah", which also stars Raaj Kumar and Nadira. Sanjay took to Instagram, where he shared a teaser of the film, which begins with letters featuring their pictures and a voice over saying: "Mere aadeb, mere mirsha, mere shehzaade, meri rubayi." A Filmmaker, a muse... their star crossed love story... A dream that refused to die... A love that went beyond the grave... Kamal Aur Meena. "The iconic number 'Chalte Chalte Yun Hi Ko' from the 1972 film "Pakeezah" could be heard playing in the background. Sanjay captioned: "Dear Saachi and Bilal, all the best for your new venture. May it be a successful one! Love always, from Sanjay Mamu. It's a must-watch."

@saachikumaramrohi @bilalamrohi. "Director Siddharth P. Malhotra said in a statement: "It's a profound privilege to direct this incredible true story, though the responsibility is immense. Their relationship was one of deep love and artistic collaboration, spanning over 20 years—from their first meeting when she was just 18 and he was 34, from the creation to shoot and release, The legacy of 'Pakeezah'; Their story gives me an opportunity to create a cinematic world where love, passion, emotion and music plays a huge part." "I'm glad to be allowed to get a stellar team of Bhavani Iyer and Kausar Munir along with Irshad Kamil and the maestro himself A.R. Rahman sir to score the music of the film. Kamal sir and Meena ji have long been idols of mine, not only for their unmatched contributions to cinema but also for the indomitable spirit they brought to their craft."

I'm beyond excited to bring their story to life on the silver screen. Bilal Amrohi, grandson of the two icons, said it was a great honour to bring to the screen the untold love story and the struggle behind making of the film. "Their story is a beautiful yet tragic chapter in the legacy of Indian cinema. With access to over 500 handwritten letters exchanged between my grand parents Kamal Sahaab and Meenaji as well as personal journals detailing their life together thanks to my "Aphua", Rukhsaar Amrohi who has selflessly preserved them and my father Tajdar Amrohi who has lived so closely with them both on and off film shoots, I would like to show the world audience the real heart wrenching story which no else knows. May I end by quoting, "Jo chup rahegi zabaan-e-khanjar, laho pukarega aasteen ka". However, no details were shared about the film, which was announced by Saregama & Lionheart Cinema. Amrohi and Meena met during the filming of the 1952 film "Tamasha" through veteran actor Ashok Kumar. The two fell in love and got married in the same year. According to reports, only Amrohi's friend Baaqar Ali and Meena Kumari's younger sister Madhu were aware of this. The two then worked on films such as "Daera" in 1953, which traced their love story, however the movie tanked at the box office. The two have also worked together in the iconic film "Pakeezah", which hit the screens 14 years after it first began. Weeks after the release of the film, Meena Kumari fell ill and later slipped into a coma. Two days later, she passed away in 1972 aged 38. It was reported that the cause of her death was determined to be liver cirrhosis. Amrohi died in 1993, twenty one years after his wife Meena Kumari's death and ten years after making his last film, "Razia Sultan" in 1983. He was laid to rest next to Meena Kumari in Rehmatnagar Qabristan.

Masaba Gupta reveals she didn't have Rs 12,000 to pay to her cook during COVID: 'We shut 5 stores in 2 months...I was crying'



Masaba Gupta, who is currently expecting her first child, recently recalled a time when she didn't have Rs 12,000 to pay to her cook. The celebrity fashion designer, actor and the daughter of veteran actress Neena Gupta, talked about the time when she shut 5 of her stores in a span of two months and was left with just Rs 2 lakh in her bank account. In an interview with Faye D'Souza, Masaba recalled the darkest phase of her life. She said, "In 2020, when COVID hit, it was the worst time of my life. I don't think I had even Rs 12,000 to pay to my cook. It was that bad. In March, 2020, the lockdown happened and we thought it was mostly for a day or two, and it was extended to 14 days. In those 14 days, my life completely turned around."

Masaba Gupta recalled being stuck in Goa with her now husband Satyadeep Mishra. "I think it was end of March or the beginning of April when my business head said, 'There is no money now. It's done. Nobody is buying anything.' Fashion was at the bottom of the food chain at that time." She added how she asked her artisans, who too were stuck in the store, and living there during COVID, to start making masks with the available fabric. Masaba said, "Even if it makes us just Rs 20,000, it's alright. Make

something. Some money should keep coming. And it did, a little bit. I remember during that time from 2 pm to 5pm in the afternoon, I would be on calls, hearing the brand will shutdown on July 10. The dates would keep changing. Sometimes July 15, sometimes August. House of Masaba was wrapping up. We were on calls with malls, every store, landlords, requesting them to reduce the rent. Some people were very kind. We were so bad that we took our security deposits back from some people. We were in the middle of a crazy expansion. I had my investors on call, who said you should think of wrapping up. We don't think this is going to work and there is going to be a different world post-COVID." She added, "I remember crying after every call. My business head was confident, he was sure something would work out. But, we shut down five stores in two months. Some were franchises. Some were company owned. I think I had some Rs 2 lakhs in the bank account. So we thought we will hold on to that Rs 2 lakhs, keep making masks and keep our focus and cut our losses."

During the interview, the fashion designer also revealed how the release of Masaba Masaba in August changed her world. "In August, Netflix approached. They were like we have shot Masaba Masaba and we are going to release it. I was shocked. It was amid COVID. They sent a crew over to Goa, we did some marketing and a lot of things virtually. I was nervous. I didn't know if anyone would watch it. I didn't think if anybody had the temperament at that time." On August 20, it came out, and my sales head called me and said, 'We did sales on the website. I think we did some couple of lakhs and suddenly I had some power. I think from then on, I just went with it. People started to watch the show, they started to discover the brand. Masaba Masaba saved me in a time where I didn't know what else to do. A year after that, things stabilised and I didn't have to shut my label down', she added.

Dream Warrior Pictures announce Karthi's next with actor-director Tamizh

Karthi and filmmakers making their sophomore directorial ventures are a match made in heaven. Close on the heels of making his sixth such film, Meiyazhagan, with 96 director Premkumar, Karthi is set to star in the second movie of actor-filmmaker Tamizh, who made a terrific debut with Vikram Prabhu's Taanakkaraan.

Tentatively titled Karthi 29, this project will be backed by the actor's long-time collaborator SR Prakash Babu and SR Prabhu's Dream Warrior Pictures. This marks the seventh collaboration between the actor and the production house after Saguni (2012), Kaashmora (2016), Theeran Adhigaram Ondru (2017), Kaithi (2019), Sulthan (2021), and Japan (2023). The makers announced the project with the concept poster of the film, which features a ship sailing through stormy waters. It is said that the movie will have a period setting. Tamizh, who is also known for his terrific performances in films like Jai Bhim



and Asuran, is an erstwhile assistant of Vetri Maaran. Pegged to be one of the most ambitious projects of Dream Warrior Pictures, Karthi 29 will be co-produced by Ishan Saksena, Sunil Shah, and Raja Subramanian under the B4U Motion Pictures and Ivy Entertainment banners.

Jr NTR says Devara co-star Janhvi Kapoor reminded him of Sridevi: 'It is in the way she performs...'

We are just days away from the release of Devara Part-1, which marks the first film of Jr NTR after the massive global success of RRR. The Koratala Siva directorial is set to hit the screens on September 27, and the team is on a promotional drive all over the country to ensure that the pan-Indian movie, featuring the likes of Saif Ali Khan and Janhvi Kapoor, becomes a smashing success. In one of the promotional events, Animal director Sandeep Reddy Vanga sat down with the team of Devara, including Jr NTR, Saif, Janhvi, and director Siva, to discuss a lot of things about the film, and set the tone for the film's movie. Although Janhvi is new to the Telugu film industry, she has strong connections courtesy the stellar career of her mother and superstar Sridevi.

In fact, the late actor featured in some of the biggest successes in Telugu cinema, and her pairing with the legendary actor and former Chief Minister NT Rama Rao continues to be iconic. Bringing this connection to the fore, Sandeep discussed the curiosity among the Telugu audience to see Sridevi's daughter Janhvi share screen space with NT Rama Rao's grandson Jr NTR in Devara. Talking about the way Janhvi Kapoor embodies her legendary mother, Jr NTR said, "I remember, there was this photoshoot where we did a look test of sorts. There was this picture of hers where she was sitting on the boat and looking at the camera. She looked so much like Sridevi garu." The Simhadri star also spoke about how this resemblance is something ingrained in his Devara co-star. "In certain angles, she definitely looks like her. But, it is in the way she performs, and the way she smiles. It brings the reminiscence of Sridevi garu."

Expressing how this phenomenon happened in



Devara, Janhvi said, "I don't know how to explain it, but I feel that more when I perform and speak in Telugu. It felt like home to me." While it is understandable that Janhvi felt at home in Telugu cinema, Saif Ali Khan, who was also making his debut in Telugu with Devara, revealed how Jr NTR's demeanour made things easy. "He is such a lovely co-star, who had no massive attitude or a larger-than-life persona off camera. He was a normal, fun guy, who made me feel really welcome," said Saif, who also expressed admiration for the way Jr NTR transformed into a star when the camera started rolling. "On camera, he seemed to grow taller and stronger. He is larger than life. That is a remarkable quality. After the director says 'cut,' he is back to normal. It was very magical to watch it," said the Adipurush actor. With music by Anirudh Ravichander and cinematography by Rathnavelu, Devara-Part 1, which is being released as a duology, is bankrolled by Yuvasudha Arts and NTR Arts.

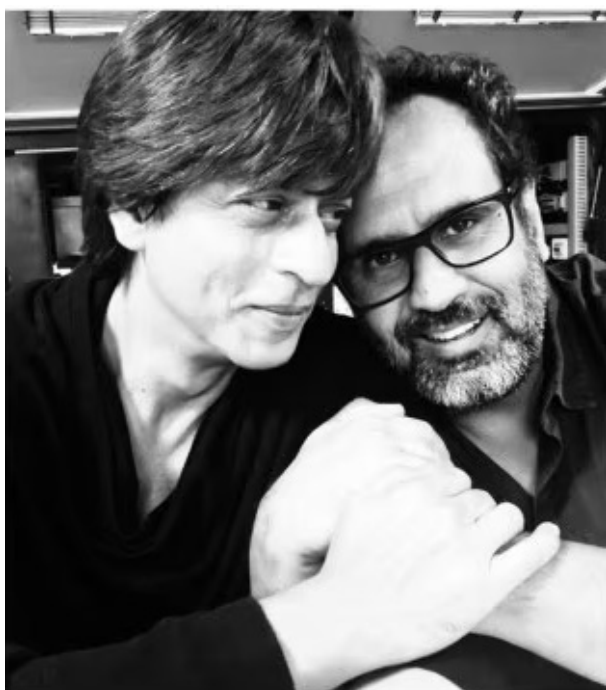
Ramesh Varma to helm Raghava Lawrence's landmark 25th film

Actor-filmmaker Raghava Lawrence had the most diverse career graph in 2023. After starring in a lacklustre sequel to the blockbuster Chandramukhi, and playing the lead in the disastrous Rudhran that only pegged his career back by more than a couple of paces, he starred in a career-defining role in Karthik Subbaraj's Jigarhanda DoubleX. Post the success of the film, which also featured SJ Suryah and Nimisha Sajayan, Lawrence has been on a signing spree. Capitalising on the goodwill gained from the sequel to the 2014 blockbuster Jigarhanda, Raghava Lawrence is set to be part of interesting films that would test his acting capabilities. Joining this list is director Ramesh Varma's next, which also marks the choreographer-actor-filmmaker's 25th movie as an actor. Tentatively titled RL 25, the project will be backed by Koneru Satyanarayana's A Studios LLP in collaboration with Neeladri Productions and Hawwish Productions. In the announcement poster of the film, we see the silhouette of Lawrence sporting a new hairdo, standing on a railway track, and facing a blazing inferno. Reports suggest that this movie is the official remake of Nikhil Nagesh Bhat's Kill, which starred Lakshya, Raghav Juyal, and



Tanya Manikatala in pivotal roles. However, there have been no official updates about this speculation. Ramesh Varma, known for helming the films Rakshasudu (a remake of the Tamil film Ratsasan) and Khiladi, is teaming up with Koneru Satyanarayana for the third time after the two aforementioned films. The movie is expected to go on floors in November 2024, and hit the screens in 2025. RL 25 will be released in both Tamil and Telugu to cater to the fanbase of Lawrence in both the industries.

'Shah Rukh Khan lives on tandoori chicken and coffee, but will eat anything served with...': Aanand L Rai



Filmmaker Aanand L Rai, who directed Shah Rukh Khan in Zero and Akshay Kumar in Atrangi Re and Raksha Bandhan, recently spoke about his experience working with the two stars, along with some insights into their food habits. In a conversation with Mukesh Chhabra on Mashable India, Aanand revealed that during the shooting of Zero, he and Shah Rukh often discussed their evening plans after wrapping up for the day. He also described Akshay as 'sensitive' and 'highly focused' in his approach to work.

During the interaction, Aanand was shown a photo of himself having a conversation with Shah Rukh on the sets of Zero. Commenting on the image, Aanand revealed that despite appearing to be deep in discussion, the two were actually chatting about their evening plans after wrapping up the shoot. He then shared details about Shah Rukh's eating habits, saying, "If you give Shah Rukh tandoori chicken, coffee, and one of his beverages, he could live on that meal forever. But if something is served



with love, he'll eat anything." Talking about Akshay, Aanand called him a "sensitive" and "highly focused" person. He shared, "Akshay doesn't understand things if they're too straightforward; he likes everything with a little 'masala.' He is very sensitive person but he doesn't show. He also wants to enjoy the process. He wants to enjoy every moment. He has gotten everything in life because he is very hard working and very focused. He isn't misunderstood by people. No matter how big a star he is, he never forgets his values."

Zero (2018), which also starred Katrina Kaif and Anushka Sharma, was a box office disaster. After its failure, Shah Rukh took a long break, returning in 2023 with back-to-back hits, Pathaan and the mega-blockbuster Jawan. As for Akshay, Atrangi Re, which also featured Sara Ali Khan, saw modest box office success, but their next collaboration, Raksha Bandhan, failed to perform and was declared a flop.

After Sudhanshu Pandey, actress Madalsa Sharma aka Kavya quits Rupali Ganguly's show

Days after Sudhanshu Pandey, actress Madalsa Sharma too has quit Anupamaa. The actress, who played the role of Kavya, revealed it was not a sudden decision to leave the Rupali Ganguly-headlined show. In a recent interview, the actress shared she felt the story moved on from Vanraj, Kavya, and Anupamaa.

In an interview with Bombay Times, Madalsa claimed the character of Kavya had brought an upheaval in nupama's life that change things for everyone. She said, "My character had tremendous growth, but in the past

one year, I felt that the story moved on from Vanraj, Kavya, and Anupamaa."

She added, "There was not much spice or spark left in my character." The actress revealed if Kavya had continued playing the grey character then she would have continued to be a part of the show. "For the past few months, the creative team tried to do something different with my character, but nothing worked out." She claimed she along with the show's producer Rajan Shahi mutually decided to move on.

India vs Bangladesh Test series: Despite historic high in Pakistan, visitors face a totally different ball game



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Home Test wins over Australia and England, beating Sri Lanka and New Zealand in away Tests. Most significantly, a Test series triumph in Pakistan against all odds earlier this month... All of it should give Bangladesh confidence ahead of the two-Test series against India starting on Thursday. But according to Wasim Jaffer and Sridharan Sriram, two coaches who have worked in the Bangladesh set-up in recent times, the upcoming assignment is a different ball game altogether. A 16-member Bangladesh squad, led by Najmul Hossain Shanto, arrived in Chennai on Sunday (Shakib Al Hasan is scheduled to join the team on Tuesday from the UK). As they hit the nets at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Monday afternoon, the buzz and confidence in their ranks was hard to miss. Having remained "noisy neighbours" over the past decade, in sub-continental conditions Bangladesh have shown that they are not pushovers anymore. A fortnight ago, with the country still recovering from months-long student protests that led to the incumbent government collapsing and the prime minister leaving the country, Bangladesh arguably had their biggest moment in Test history. After beating Pakistan despite conceding 448 in the first innings in the first Test, they recovered from 26/6 in the second to seal the series 2-0.

Now, as they set foot in India for only their second full-fledged series since becoming a Test nation in 2000, they will face conditions closer to the ones they find back home in Bangladesh. The two venues – Chennai and Kanpur – have historically aided spinners, with the pitches offering slow turn. But according to Sriram and Jaffer, Bangladesh's biggest challenge would be in getting used to the SG ball. The SG ball, used for Tests in India, is known to be spinners' favourite as the seam tends to last longer and it takes time to get soft. But visiting spinners, especially on traditional Indian decks which take time to undergo wear and tear, have historically struggled to bowl with the SG variety with Shane Warne and Muttiah Muralidharan too being no exceptions. And Bangladesh, whose biggest strength is their army of spinners – Shakib, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam and Nayeem Hasan – will have their task cut out in Chennai, where a red-soil strip has been rolled out for the first Test.

"Back home they play on black soil pitches, where the ball usually keeps low and takes slow turn. But on red soil surfaces, the characteristics are totally different," Sriram tells The Indian Express. "Here (Chennai), apart from the turn, one has to factor in the bounce as well. If the conditions assist spinners, it will turn and bounce more. So as a spinner, your seam positioning and re-

lease have to change. Even the trajectory – it's usually low back home so that deliveries skid on – have to be worked on," says Sriram, who has worked in the Bangladesh white-ball set up at two World Cups. With black soil pitches usually being on the slower side and the bounce lower, Bangladesh spinners have relished such conditions. When India last toured Bangladesh towards the end of 2022, the hosts came close to springing a surprise before Shreyas Iyer and Ravichandran Ashwin baited them out in a tricky chase at Mirpur.

That India have preferred to go with a red-soil surface is a clear sign that they are showing Bangladesh spinners respect. Their four spinners have 647 Test wickets between them, which easily make them the strongest unit to visit Indian shores in recent times. With a well-rounded pace attack to complement, and given Indian batsmen's struggles against spinners in recent years, they have it in them to stretch the hosts provided their plans work to the T. "Spinners will definitely like the SG ball, but if you are not used to the angle of the seam and the release, you will struggle. If you don't do these things right, you will not get enough purchase from the pitch. They have a very good spin attack, but in Ashwin and (Ravindra) Jadeja, India have two spinners who will make full use of the conditions," says Sriram, who visited the Bangladesh net session in the afternoon. While Bangladesh went with just two spinners (Mehidy and Shakib) against Pakistan, it remains to be seen whether they go with an additional spinner in India. "They have three quality spinners, but if you ask me, Nayeem could be an interesting prospect," says Sriram about the 6-foot tall off-spinner. Not easy for batsmen either. Jaffer believes Bangladesh batting unit will have to cope with the SG ball, which will keep not just India's spinners but also their pacers in play. "They are a competitive side in sub-continental conditions and their confidence will naturally be high after their recent success in Pakistan. They were quite comprehensive wins too, from 26/6 if you go on to win a Test, it will lift your confidence and you will believe you can do it from any situation. But India will be a different cup of tea," Jaffer warns. Jaffer's warning isn't without a reason. Since the start of 2013, India have lost just a handful of Test matches at home. And in recent times, even if the opposition gets past the spinners, their fast bowlers have inflicted telling blows. "India at home is a tough opposition and they have rarely lost a match in the last 10 years. Playing with SG balls means their (Bangladesh's) batsmen also need to get used to the extra bounce that will be on offer. Also, reverse-swing will be a factor here, which they are not used to as much. Bangladesh have a good batting line-up, but in these conditions, you need to show good application. If you have to win here, you have to bat well in both innings and against this Indian attack, it is a mighty task," Jaffer feels. The challenge of playing with the SG ball is something Bangladesh have been preparing for. Soon after they returned from Pakistan, they had a five-day camp in Mirpur, where they practised with SG balls as they are used to playing with Kookaburras in domestic cricket. "The ball will be a different one in India. It is a little harder to play against the SG ball. The Kookaburra ball is easier to play when it gets old. It is the opposite with the SG ball. It is harder to get away against the old ball," wicketkeeper-batsman Litton Das had said prior to their camp.

When and where to watch India vs Korea semifinal match live?



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

IND vs KOR hockey match Asian Champions Trophy 2024: Harmanpreet Singh-led India will fancy their chances when they take on a below-par but unpredictable Korea in the semifinals of the Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament at the Daur Ethnic Park in Hulunbuir, China on Monday. Paris Olympics bronze medallist India have been in rollicking form in the tournament so far, registering five wins out of five league matches. The Harmanpreet Singh-led side started their campaign with a 3-0 win over hosts China and then trounced Japan and Malaysia 5-1 and 8-1 respectively. India then beat Korea 3-1 before eking out a narrow 2-1 win over arch-rivals Pakistan. It has been a commanding performance from the Indians as they excelled in every department – be it forwardline, midfield or defence. Harmanpreet, one of the best drag-flickers in the world currently, has led from the front and has continued his good form of Paris, converting as many as five penalty corners. When India struggled for field goals, Harmanpreet stood up with his penalty corner conversions.

India vs Korea head-to-head record: Matches played: 61 India won: 38 Korea lost: 11 Draw: 12 Here are all the live streaming details between the India vs Korea Asian Champions Trophy 2024 semifinal match. When will the India vs Korea semifinal match take place in the Asian Champions Trophy 2024? The India vs Korea semifinal match will be played on Monday, September 16. What time will the semifinal match between India and Korea in the Asian Champions Trophy 2024 start on September 16? The semifinal match between India and Korea will start at 3:30 PM IST in the Asian Champions Trophy 2024.

Where will the live telecast of the Asian Champions Trophy 2024 semifinal match between India and Korea be available in India?

The live telecast of the semifinal match between India and Korea in the Asian Champions Trophy will be available on the Sony Sports network. Where will the live streaming of the Asian Champions Trophy 2024 semi-

final match between India and Korea be available in India?

The live streaming of the Asian Champions Trophy 2024 semi-final match between India and Korea will be available on the SonyLIV app. India vs Korea squads: India: Manpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Suraj Karkera, Raj Kumar Pal, Vivek Sagar Prasad (VC), Mohammed Raheel Mouseen, Harmanpreet Singh (C), Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Nilakanta Sharma, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Jarnanpreet Singh, Sumit, Amit Rohidas, Sanjay, Uttam Singh, Arjijet Singh Hundal, Gurjot Singh. Korea: Kim Jaehan, Lee Gansan, Park Geonwoo, Kim Sunghyun, Kim Junghoo, Oh Daewon, Lee Jungjun, Kim Minkwon, Hyun Jigwang, Park Cheoleon, Kim Hyeonhong, Sim Jaewon, Kang Yoonho, Lee Hyeeseung, Oh Seyong, Jung Hyunho, Yong Jihun, Cheon Min Su, Bae Soung Min, Bae Jongsuk

PSG condemns racist abuse directed at defender Nuno Mendes

GNS News Agency, Sept 16

Paris: Paris Saint-Germain strongly condemned the abusive and racist comments directed at its defender Nuno Mendes on social media after a Ligue 1 game. The club expressed its full support for the Portuguese left back, after he shared the comments he had received on his Instagram story following PSG's 3-1 win against Brest on Saturday. Brest took the lead in the match after Mendes brought down Ludovic Ajorque to concede a first-half penalty, which was converted by Romain del Castillo. "Paris Saint-Germain offers its full support to its player Nuno Mendes, who was targeted with offensive and racist comments on social media following yesterday's match against Stade Brestois," the club said in a statement. "Paris Saint-Germain doesn't tolerate racism, antisemitism or any other form of discrimination. The racial insults directed at Nuno Mendes are totally unacceptable. We stand firmly by Nuno and all those affected, and we are working with the relevant authorities and associations to ensure those responsible are held accountable for their actions. "At Paris Saint-Germain, we are committed to fostering an environment of inclusion, respect, and unity both on and off the pitch. Racism has no place in football, and we will continue to uphold the values of tolerance and respect that define our club," it added. Mendes has made 80 appearances for PSG in all competitions.

Sunil Gavaskar cautions India ahead of Bangladesh series: 'They are a force to reckon with...'



GNS News Agency, Sept 16

India will play home Test series against Bangladesh starting on Thursday in Chennai. Despite India's formidable home record former Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar cautioned the Indian team about the visitors and gave the example of their recent historic series whitewash against Pakistan. "By beating Pakistan in both the Test matches played in Pakistan, the Bangladesh team have shown that they are a force to reckon with. Even a couple of years back, when India toured Bangladesh, they were given a good fight by the Bangladeshis. Now with the series win against Pakistan under their belt, they are primed to take on India too," wrote Sunil Gavaskar in his

Mid-Day Column.

"They have some fine players in their ranks and some new promising players who no longer have the awe of the opposition that seemed to characterise their early forays into the international game. Now, every team that play them know they can't put their guard down as they could be knocked down as the Pakistanis found out. It will certainly be a series to look forward to," he added. Gavaskar opined that it would have been better for star players Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli to have participated in the Duleep Trophy. He would reason that lack of game time in the mid-thirties might weaken the "muscle memory" of players if they don't play high standards for prolonged periods.

"The selectors have not picked the skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli for the Duleep Trophy so they will most likely go into the Bangladesh Test series without much match practice. Once a player hits the mid-thirties in any sport, then regular competition will help him maintain the high standards he has set," Gavaskar said.

Rohit last played a red-ball game in the final Test against England in Dharmshala earlier this year whereas Kohli last appeared in the format for India in the New Year Test at Cape Town in South Africa. "When there's a longish gap then the muscle memory weakens somewhat and to get back to the high standards from earlier is not easy," Gavaskar added.

'He is playing extremely well, he is a favourite to win World Chess title'

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Chess Olympiad 2024: Another layer of intrigue at the Chess Olympiad will be whether Gukesh and China's Ding Liren, break out any of their World Championship preparation in a match situation. (PHOTO: Lennart Ootes via Grand Chess Tour) Chess Olympiad 2024: Another layer of intrigue at the Olympiad will be whether Gukesh and China's Ding Liren, break out any of their World Championship preparation in a match situation. (PHOTO: Lennart Ootes via Grand Chess Tour) Defending champion Ding Liren has tipped his teenage challenger D Gukesh "favourite" to win the FIDE World Chess Championship final, which will be held in Singapore later this year. "I can see my opponent (Gukesh) playing extremely well in this tournament. Maybe he is a favourite in the World Championship Match. He also has a higher rating than me," Liren said in an interaction with the International Chess Federation (FIDE) in the mixed zone. "I have dropped a lot since last year, but I will fight my best to try to overcome the rating difference," he added in a candid admission. Liren, 31 is the highest rated chess player of all time and won the world crown in May last year after defeating Russian GM Ian Nepomniachtchi. Liren took a break from the game after that, owing to his battle with depression. Liren returned to action earlier this year at the Tata Steel Chess Tournament, finishing ninth in the event. Meanwhile, on the other hand, two years after heartbreak at his home in Chennai,



Gukesh has arrived at the Olympiad in Hungary's capital like a man who has unfinished business. In the four games he has played so far at the Olympiad in Budapest after sitting out the first round, he's accounted for four strong grandmasters – Vignir Vatnar Stefansson (Iceland), Adam Kozak (Hungary), Alexandr Predke (Serbia) and finally Aydin Suleymanli (Azerbaijan) — with an average rating of over 2600. On Sunday, he claimed his fastest win at the 2024 Olympiad rather than the slow death that he has delivered to other opponents. Gukesh won the Candidates tournament in April to become the youngest challenger to the world title at the age of 17. He turned 18 in May. Liren and Gukesh will clash in Singapore from November 20 to December 15 for the coveted title and a prize fund of USD 2.50 million.

Brazil's plight in World Cup qualification points to the rot that entered its footballing soul long ago

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Brazil's latest coach Dorival Junior has waged several battles for survival. As a journeyman defensive midfielder, he turned up for 13 different clubs in 16 years; his 25 years as manager has been scattered across 23 clubs. In between, he outlasted cancer. Yet, his biggest fight for survival could yet to be, as the coach of the most successful football country in the world, a journey intertwined with Brazil's fate in qualifying for the 2026 World Cup. The burden on his broad shoulders is inhuman, a crushing weight no other coach in his country has shouldered. It is not to lift the World Cup, a load most coaches in Brazil's history had to drag, but to qualify for the World Cup. A bloated tournament — a leap from 32 to 48 — could allay some anxiety. Brazil can't be that bad. ain't they?

But the eventuality of the world's most decorated football country, the breathing soul of the game for the romantics, missing out on the tournament is not just a lurid fever dream, but a distinct possibility. The Selecao have won a lone game in the last five World Cup qualifying matches, losing not only to established rivals Uruguay, Argentina and Colombia, but even to Paraguay. At the COPA America, they crashed out before the last-four for the ninth time in major tournaments outside Brazil since 2009. But the shocking bit was not that they lost in the quarterfinals, but that they reached that stage, brandishing the sort of insipid football that would make the 1994 pragmatists red with rage. Brazil's Vinicius Jr, second from right, pokes fun at Lucas Paqueta, during a training session ahead of a World Cup qualifier against Ecuador, in Curitiba, Parana state, Brazil. Brazil's Vinicius Jr, second from right, pokes fun at Lucas Paqueta, during a training session ahead of a World Cup qualifier against Ecuador, in Curitiba, Parana state, Brazil. (AP) The plain reality, cleansed of romance and nostalgia, is that they are no longer the most superior team in the Americas, rather they are the fourth or fifth best team in the continent, an imitation of an imitation.

Style had long departed Brazilian football, in the last few years it has lost its soul too. Since the 2014 World Cup, the stasis has only been disguised by its imposing history. It is a malaise classical of the fall of the world's great empires. The decay might have set in long ago, but the brutal reality would hit only when an epochal defeat arrives. Like Brazil failing to qualify. Like how Italy felt eight years ago — now it has become normal and accepted, after they missed out on the subsequent edition too. The difference was that Italy's rot was bleeding obvious. The Serie A's drop in standards was dramatic. The great talent factory that was AC Milan disintegrated. They stopped producing impenetrable defenders and insouciant forwards, even those staple number nines. Brazil's dysfunction is less conspicuous. Personnel-wise, they still boast an army of highly-skilled players. The Real Madrid trident of Vinicius Junior, Endrick and Rodrygo are nightmares for most defenders in La Liga. When Neymar heals his injury, he too would be in the mix. There



is no shortage of firepower and sturdiness in midfield. The defence is not slack either; they possess two of the most progressive goalkeepers in the world. The fall guys

In such a backdrop, the knives are instantly sharpened at the coaches. To an extent, it is reasonable. The coaching standards in Europe have leapt enormously — for all the riches, Brazil has never been a coaching country. So Brazil identified Carlo Ancelotti as Tite's successor. But the dream never materialised, and dejected, they sought the exact opposite path and embraced the left-field option of Junior, their third manager in the last two years. Now that they have picked, it's better that they persist with him, and give him time to build a team, to find the formula that could make them tick.

It's a strange yet typical modern-day predicament. The coach has those that shimmer in club jerseys, but turn off their light in the famous canary yellow shirts. Maybe, it could be that they could only function in the regimented shapes and systems of the club, their imagination stifled when out of their comfort zone. Not just Brazil, a host of other teams too face this. For instance, the paradox that was Phil Foden for Manchester City and England. Brazil's coach Dorival Junior enters the field prior to a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 against Ecuador at Couto Pereira Stadium in Curitiba, Parana state, Brazil. Brazil's coach Dorival Junior enters the field prior to a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 against Ecuador at Couto Pereira Stadium in Curitiba, Parana state, Brazil. (AP)

The chemistry among Brazilian players in the recent outings has been non-existent, each player unto a planet, or a bunch of strangers stitched into a team. In the Paraguay game, the forward-line was toothless, neither creative nor energetic. Midfielders were ponderous — consuming too much time on the ball — functioned without coherence and were frequently outmuscled by the Paraguayans. But Junior insists the team has improved from when he had taken over. Perhaps, he has a point. He has a clear vision — he has stepped away from the usual 4-2-2-2 to a more modern, possession-based 4-2-3-1. But his teams lack the dynamism to harness the best from the system. The 62-year-old is popular among the public and media, and has pleaded for patience after every defeat. "We're working with love and patience. We all want this team to get back to where it once was.