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## Hussain Sagar filled to the brim; continues to get inflow

Hyderabad: Due to heavy inflow, Hussain Sagar continued to be filled to the brim with water on Monday, even as the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Authority (GHMC) authorities opened four sluice gates to release the water. The current water level in the lake was recorded at 513.60 metres against the Full Tank Level (FTL) of 514 metres. Earlier, the GHMC had alerted people in areas along the discharge channels. Following incessant rains since the past few days, Hussain Sagar received huge inflows through storm water drains from different parts of the twin cities. With an Orange alert already issued for Hyderabad and rainfall continuing in and around the city, the GHMC officials are closely monitoring the water level.

## PM Modi enquires about AP flood situation, assures Naidu of all help



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Amaravati: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday assured Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu of all possible help from the Centre to deal with the crisis following heavy rains in the State. Modi spoke to Naidu over phone to enquire about the prevailing flood situation in the State where several places, Vijayawada being one of the worst affected, are being pounded by heavy rainfall for the past two days due to a depression.

"Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu explained about the ongoing flood relief work while Modi told him that Central government departments concerned have been directed to extend necessary help to the State," said an official statement released by the State government late Sunday. The Prime Minister said departments have also been instructed to immediately dispatch necessary equipment, it said and added that Naidu thanked Modi for the help. Earlier on Sunday, Naidu asked the Centre for additional National Disaster Response Force teams, power boats and helicopters to intensify relief operations.

Meanwhile, the Secunderabad-headquartered South Central Railway (SCR) zone, which also includes the Vijayawada Division, cancelled 140 trains and diverted 97 more on Sunday. Nearly 6,000 passengers were provided with breakfast and drinking water at Rayanapadu, Kondapalli, Tenali, Vijayawada, Nidubrolu and Bapatla railway stations. The Chennai-bound Tamil Nadu Express was halted at Rayanapadu railway station and its passengers were provided with packed food items, along with lunch arrangements. Besides setting up emergency control rooms and helplines, the railways also made alternative travel provisions by arranging buses from Rayanapadu to Vijayawada and Kondapalli to Vijayawada. As many as 84 buses were arranged. Telangana's Suryapeta Superintendent of Police Sunpreet Singh advised people heading to Vijayawada and Khammam to postpone their journeys due to the inclement weather. "Due to heavy rains, water is flowing on NH 65 at Chillakallu and Nandigama of Andhra Pradesh limits, and the Paleru river is overflowing on the road at Nayakinigudem on the way from Suryapeta to Khammam," said Singh in a press release.

## Strategic Nala Development Programme saved Hyderabad from floods, says KTR

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Hyderabad: Former Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister and BRS working president KT Rama Rao said on Monday that the Strategic Nala Development Programme (SNDP) implemented by the previous BRS government was the key reason why Hyderabad was spared from major flooding despite the heavy rains in the last few days.

In a statement, Rama Rao said the SNDP, initiated by former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao, provided a permanent solution to the perennial flooding issue in Hyderabad. Despite the incessant downpours, low-lying areas of the city did not experience the usual waterlogging, which he attributed to the success of the SNDP. Residents of the flood-affected areas have acknowledged that the SNDP was instrumental in protecting them from the deluge, he said, expressing gratitude to all those who were part of the SNDP implementation.

Pointing out that in the erstwhile State, heavy rains and floods would inundate low-lying areas of Hyderabad, he said the KCR government had identified the issue and conceived the SNDP as a comprehensive solution. Under the SNDP, the State government undertook 60 major works worth Rs.985 crore to strengthen the city's stormwater and sewage infrastructure. This proactive measure ensured that Hyderabad was spared from the flood crisis, even without any financial assistance from the Centre. Rama Rao said the SNDP involved the rapid development of 36 key nalas (drainage channels) that would otherwise overflow with even minor rainfall. The fact that these areas did not witness waterlogging despite the recent heavy downpours was a testament to the success of the SNDP, as confirmed by the residents themselves. Under the erstwhile Greater Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad, the stormwater and sewage systems were in a dilapidated condition, leading to the merging of the two systems and creating an overall chaotic situation. As part of the SNDP, the restoration of old nalas and construction of new ones were undertaken on a war footing, he recalled, conveying his appreciation to all stakeholders who were involved in the implementation of the SNDP.

## 16 dead in rain-related incidents, Telangana govt urges Centre to declare floods as national calamity

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

At least 16 people lost their lives in various rain-related incidents, while some persons were still missing during the current spell of heavy rainfall in Telangana even as Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy decided to urge the Centre to declare the floods in the state as a national calamity. State IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu told reporters that full details would be known after reports on the extent of damage were received. Revanth Reddy, who reviewed the rain situation with officials here, announced an ex-gratia of Rs five lakh each to the kin of those who were killed in rain-related incidents, a press release said. The state government will submit a comprehensive report on the flood damage to the Centre, it said. The government will write a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting him to visit the flood-affected areas in the state and also urging the Centre to declare the floods in Telangana as a national calamity. The release also said authorities were instructed to respond quickly to the damage caused to the public. It said compensation would be



increased for the loss of cattle, goats and sheep. During the CM's review meeting, officials have been asked to remain alert in areas where heavy rains have been forecast. District Collectors have been told to set up call centres in the districts to provide relief to the rain-hit citizens. CM Revanth Reddy declared Rs five crore immediate assistance to the flood-hit districts of Khammam, Bhadradi Kothagudem,

Mahbubabad and Suryapet. He asked officials to set up a system at the government's Command Control Centre here to deal with emergency situations.

He also directed officials to provide training to eight police battalions on par with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for emergency services during heavy rains.

The Police Commissioners of Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda have been asked to address traffic problems, if any, during heavy rains, the release said. The Chief Minister also told the officials to quickly carry out repairs to the roads damaged due to the rains and to address problems with regard to power supply.

## SC says law does not allow bulldozing of homes of accused, their kins; proposes framing uniform, pan-India guidelines



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

The Supreme Court on Monday (September 2, 2024) questioned the bulldozing of homes and private properties of persons accused of crimes or even their relatives by States as a possible act of public retribution, saying the law does not permit the destruction of the family shelters of even convicts. "How can anybody's home be demolished because he is an accused in a case? The law does not permit that... Can it happen even if a person is a convict?" Justice B.R. Gavai, heading a Bench with Justice K.V. Viswanathan, asked. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the petitioner side along with senior advocate C.U. Singh, urged the court to make a statement that "bulldozer justice will not be meted out anywhere in the country". Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Uttar Pradesh government which has been blamed for retributive demolitions, said municipal laws provide for the demolition of illegal structures. Mr. Mehta denied targeted, communal or retributive demolitions by States. He said the States follow the law. Demolitions happened after complying with statutory procedure. The law officer said even the government was against retributive demolitions of accused persons' or their families' homes and properties. That was not permitted under the law. However, he urged the court to consider an alternative to the petitioners' narrative.

Mr. Mehta asked what if a person, accused of a crime, had already been facing a notice from the municipal authorities, warning him that his illegal structure was

bound to be demolished. "If he has a pending notice, he will not be absolved because he happens to be an accused in a crime. From the facts gleaned in many cases, notices had been sent to these persons. They later happened to be accused in crimes," Mr. Mehta countered.

Justice Gavai acknowledged that municipal laws do provide for demolition of illegal constructions, but they seem to be implemented "more in breach". "We are not protecting any unauthorised structures, may it even be temples..." Justice Gavai remarked. Mr. Mehta intervened to say "any religious structures". Justice Gavai underscored that "immoveable properties can be demolished only in accordance with procedure laid down in law". Justice Viswanathan said the apex court was intending to lay down uniform guidelines on a pan-India basis to streamline the procedure for identifying unauthorised structures, issuing notice to persons concerned, giving them a fair hearing and subsequent action. "If we lay down guidelines, even digitalise the process, neither authorities nor the persons concerned can take advantage," Justice Viswanathan said. The court listed the case on September 17 for laying down guidelines. It asked petitioners to provide it with suggestions. The petitioners had highlighted the recent cases of demolitions in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In Madhya Pradesh, a family's ancestral home was pulled down. In Udaipur, the municipal corporation demolished a tenant's house for allegedly 'encroaching' on forest land. The razing of the house had followed shortly after the tenant's 15-year-old son was arrested for allegedly stabbing his classmate from another community, leading to communal tensions in the city. The last time the court heard the case in 2022, Mr. Dave, appearing for Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, had said the court should view the problem from a larger perspective. He said the country was facing an "extraordinarily serious" situation. Justice was being delivered by the arms of the bulldozer. Rule of law lay in the debris. Mr. Dave argued that powerful State governments and its functionaries were taking advantage of municipal laws to "wreck vengeance" by using bulldozers to demolish the private homes and buildings of people whom they believe were behind communal violence and riots.

## SC granted bail to Bibhav Kumar in Swati Maliwal assault case, subject to certain conditions



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

New Delhi: Bibhav Kumar was granted bail on Monday by the Supreme Court in the assault case against Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal. The Supreme Court granted Bibhav Kumar this relief subject to certain limitations. During the hearing of Vibhav Kumar's bail request, the Supreme Court made a significant statement.

According to the Supreme Court, the accused has

been in jail for almost 100 days. As per the medical report, this was a simple injury. However, the Delhi Police rejected Bibhav's bail at the Supreme Court. According to the police, the presence of many key witnesses in this case is still awaited, and Bibhav has the ability to influence the evidence and witnesses. On this, the court said that we will keep such conditions so that he cannot do so. During the hearing, the Supreme Court further stated that the records show that 51 witnesses are to be examined in court. The trial will take time. The Additional Solicitor General claims that the accused can influence key witnesses, according to the judge. He believes that bail should not be granted until the witnesses testify. We want to put such a condition that he cannot do so. If the accused tries to influence the witnesses, it will be considered a misuse of bail.

\* Accused not to visit CM's residence.\* Immediate recording of important witness statements.\* The accused and people associated with him should not comment on the case.\* The accused should not be given any such position by which he can influence the case.\* Bibhav should not be appointed as CM's personal secretary or any such post.\*

## SCR cancels trains due to waterlogging on tracks

Hyderabad: Due to heavy rains and water logging over the tracks at several locations, the South Central Railway (SCR) has cancelled various trains running on September 2 and 3.

Accordingly, Secunderabad – Sirpur Kaghaznagar (17233); Sirpur Kaghaznagar – Secunderabad (17234); Secunderabad – Shalimar (12774); Shalimar – Secunderabad (12773); Secunderabad – Visakhapatnam (22204); Visakhapatnam – Secunderabad (12805); Secunderabad – Visakhapatnam (20707); Visakhapatnam – Secunderabad (20708) and Secunderabad – Visakhapatnam (20834).

## KTR slams Rahul Gandhi over Congress failure in Telangana



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's remarks on the Telangana government's response to the floods here, and said the Congress leadership in the State had actually failed to deliver on its responsibilities during the ongoing crisis. Unlike Gandhi's claims of 'tireless efforts', he said the State government's performance was marked by inadequate relief efforts and lack of accountability. "Rahul Ji, your government and the Chief Minister have failed the people of Telangana and their mandate," Rama Rao said, adding that it was not enough for him to merely urge action. Gandhi must ensure that the Congress government in Telangana takes effective relief efforts and take responsibility for the disaster, he said, charging the Congress party with shattering Telangana's vision due to its neglect, leading to a growing loss of faith among the people. "If you truly care about Telangana as much as you claim, these many instances of gross negligence and deliberate harm wouldn't be happening," he said. The BRS leader also questioned the purpose of an elected government if people were left to fend for themselves during such crisis. "The onus of this systematic failure is on the Congress Party. If people have to fend for themselves and pray for a miracle instead of receiving timely aid, what is the point of an elected government?" he questioned.

## Badminton player Nitesh Kumar wins maiden gold



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

India's Nitesh Kumar clinched his maiden gold medal at the Paralympics, defeating Great Britain's Daniel Bethell in a gripping men's singles SL3 badminton final in Paris on Monday. The 29-year-old from Haryana showcased incredible resilience and tactical brilliance, overcoming Tokyo silver medallist Bethell in a nail-biting contest that lasted an hour and 20 minutes, with the final scoreline reading 21-14 18-21 23-21. "I still don't feel it. May be when I go to the podium and the national anthem is played, it will sink in," Nitesh said after the match. "What an absolutely phenomenal performance by Nitesh Kumar in the Men's Singles SL3! After a thrilling three-set match, Nitesh has clinched the gold with a final scoreline of 21-14, 18-21, 23-21. The 3rd set was an edge-of-the-seat battle that... pic.twitter.com/ReQa663Hfm" Competing in the SL3 category, which is reserved for players with severe lower limb disabilities and requires to play on a half-width court, Nitesh's journey to gold was anything but ordinary. At the age of 15, he lost his left leg in a train accident in Visakhapatnam in 2009. However, this devastating event didn't crush his spirit. His victory on Monday (September 2, 2024) not only marked a personal triumph but also ensured that India retained the SL3 gold, which Pramod Bhagat had won three years ago when badminton made its Paralympic debut in Tokyo. Facing an opponent who had beaten him nine times in the past, Nitesh, an IIT Mandi graduate, displayed immense mental fortitude as he recorded his first win over Bethell. "I didn't think it this way."

## Harish demands urgent relief as floods leave State in chaos

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Hyderabad: Senior BRS leader T Harish Rao on Sunday demanded the government provide urgent relief as the flood has left the State in chaos.

He took to X stating, "An unexpected disaster has left the State in chaos, with the loss of many lives deeply saddening us. We extend our heartfelt condolences to the affected families. While some mourn the loss of their loved ones, others have been left homeless and desperate. Many have lost their livestock, crops, and livelihoods, and the sorrow is palpable. Each person's story is a reminder of the tragedy this disaster has brought."

# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## NDA rift in J&K

AS the 2024 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections approach, the Janata Dal (United) has sparked a controversy with its promise to facilitate the release of political prisoners and stone-pelters. This promise, aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation, contrasts starkly with the stringent policies of the BJP, its ally, on the issues of separatism and militancy in the Valley. The JD(U) has submitted a list of over 800 stone-pelters to the Union Home Ministry, urging for their release, despite Home Minister Amit Shah's stance against separatists and earlier warnings against any leniency towards such elements.

The other key objectives in the JD(U)'s election manifesto include the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood and the protection of local jobs and land through special legislation. Additionally, the party has been actively engaging with separatist leaders and Islamic scholars in the region, positioning itself as a bridge between these groups and the Central Government. The JD(U)'s manifesto highlights a significant rift within the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). While the JD(U) hopes to attract votes by addressing the grievances of many in the Valley, the BJP faces the challenge of maintaining its headline stance that has resonated with its core electorate.

This glaring difference in approach could pose risks to both parties. For the JD(U), it could either translate into voter support in a region craving reconciliation, or backfire if perceived as appeasement. For the BJP, the promise could alienate its supporters, who view strong security measures as crucial to restoring stability in Kashmir. As the NDA navigates this complex terrain, the electoral outcomes in J&K may not only reshape the region's political landscape but also test the resilience of the country's ruling alliance.

**'If Tanaji Sawant is not sacked, we should quit Mahayuti': NCP spokesperson Umesh Patil hits out after minister's jibe**



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

tanaji sawantSpeaking at a public event on Thursday, Sawant, who belongs to the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, said, "I have never got along with Congress and NCP all my life. In the Cabinet meeting, when I sit next to each other, I come out of the meeting and vomit." Maharashtra Health Minister Tanaji Sawant's remark that he "vomits" after sitting with Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) ministers during Cabinet meetings has ruffled feathers in Ajit Pawar's party with spokesperson Umesh Patil demanding that the Shiv Sena leader be sacked. "Either he stays or the NCP. If he is not sacked, we should quit the Mahayuti Cabinet. I request our national president Ajit Pawar and all our senior leaders to quit the Cabinet," Patil told on Friday. Pawar should not attend any Cabinet meeting till Sawant is sacked, Patil added. "Even our ministers should boycott Cabinet meetings till Sawant is sacked. We will not accept Sawant's apology or statement that he was misinterpreted. We want him out immediately," Patil said.

Speaking at a public event on Thursday, Sawant, who belongs to the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, said, "I have never got along with Congress and NCP all my life. In the Cabinet meeting, when I sit next to each other, I come out of the meeting and vomit." Shiv Sena spokesperson Naresh Mhaske refused to comment on the matter. "This is not my subject," he said.

Patil said the NCP was not desperate for power. "We cannot work with a minister who makes such a disparaging comment. He is not a minister who deserves to be in the Mahayuti Cabinet...he should be sacked immediately," said Patil.

Hitting out at Sawant, Patil said, "I don't remember any politician in the country who has made such humiliating comments against fellow politicians. Sawant is a cruel man at heart. If he is allowed to continue, it will tarnish the image of politicians. People will not allow politicians to purchase flats in their societies or live amidst them." Meanwhile, reacting to Sawant's remarks, Mahesh Tapase, the chief spokesperson of the NCP (SP), expressed disbelief at how Ajit Pawar's party was tolerating such an insult. "I never imagined that Ajit Dada, who once commanded immense respect within the NCP, would compromise his self-respect for power," Tapase said, criticising Ajit Pawar's decision to break away from Sharad Pawar's party, saying it appeared to have led to public humiliation rather than political gain.

Tapase pointed out that Sawant's remarks reflected the growing discomfort among Shinde Sena members over Ajit Pawar's inclusion into the government. He also questioned the silence of senior NCP leaders like Praful Patel, Chhagan Bhujbal, and Sunil Tatkare. "Sawant's statement has effectively erased Ajit Dada's political standing, and yet, his own party members remain silent," Tapase said. He also took potshots at Bhujbal's assertion that Ajit Pawar's NCP would secure 80 to 90 seats in the upcoming Assembly elections in the state. "Given the current state of affairs, Ajit Dada's NCP might not even secure 25 seats, and it's this desperation that has led to such humiliating treatment,"

Tapase added. Tapase said sitting next to Ajit Pawar used to be a matter of pride among party cadres when Ajit Pawar was with Sharad Pawar's NCP. "Today, it is disheartening to see him endure such indignity," Tapase said, hinting that Sawant's words likely reflect the sentiments of CM Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

# MSRTC gets nod to convert 5,000 diesel buses to LNG



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

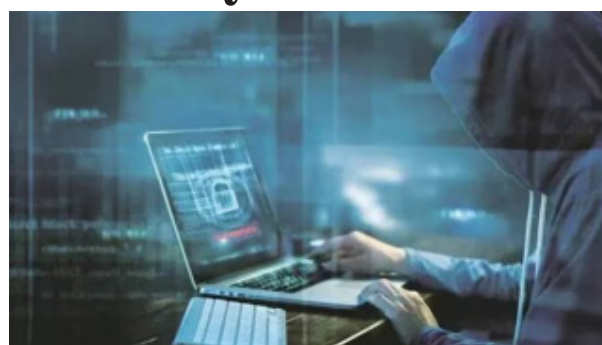
The initiative, announced by the Deputy Chief Minister in the 2023-2024 budget speech, has now received a green signal from the home department. The conversion process, which will span four years, is set to receive a total funding of Rs 970 crore. MSRTCThe initiative, announced by the Deputy Chief Minister in the 2023-2024 budget speech, has now received a green signal from the home department. The conversion process, which will span four years, is set to receive a total funding of Rs 970 crore. In tune with the state government's green transit plan, the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) plans to convert 5,000 diesel-run buses to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) on Monday. As part of the same initiative, the Pune division will receive 250 electric buses by March next year. The initiative, announced by the Deputy Chief Minister in the 2023-2024 budget speech, has now received a green signal from the home department. The conversion process, which will span four years, is set to receive a total funding of Rs 970 crore.

## Delhi court grants bail to alleged mastermind of Rs 91 lakh cyber fraud

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

cyber fraudAdvocate Pravesh Dabas, representing the accused, argued before the court that the investigation relating to Dinesh had already been completed and no purpose would be served by keeping him in judicial custody. The alleged mastermind of the nearly Rs 91 lakh cyber fraud, who was among eight people arrested in July by the Delhi Police, was recently granted bail by a court. According to the Delhi Police, Dinesh was among those who defrauded a man named Sachin Bansal of Rs 90 lakh through a WhatsApp group called "Thakor Academy of Financial Institution". Bansal, who joined the group on January 17, was given "stock market investment tips" by the members of the group. He was also asked to open a cryptocurrency account on the website <http://www.yotemog.com> under the pretext of high trading returns. From April 2 to June 16, Bansal transferred nearly Rs 90 lakh to 19 different accounts provided to him by the members of the group. Bansal later realised he had been defrauded, after which the alleged accounts were frozen. While granting Dinesh bail last Friday, Chief Judicial Magistrate Nabeela Wali of Patiala House Court said, "...recovery of incriminating material has already been affected from the applicant/ accused and mobile phone of applicant/ accused has been seized and the IO has not produced anything before the Court to show the basic information and material for arresting the accused". Advocate Pravesh Dabas, representing the accused, argued before the court that the investigation relating to Dinesh had already been completed and no purpose would be served by keeping him in judicial cus-

The allocation will be disbursed over four financial years, from 2024-25 to 2027-28. The initial amount allocated in the year 2024-25 will be Rs 40 crore, which will increase to Rs 200 crore in FY 2025-26. The amount will then grow to Rs 370 crore in FY 2026-27 and Rs 360 crore in FY 2027-28. Pramod Nehul, an MSRTC official in the Pune division, said that as part of the initiative to adopt green mobility solutions, MSRTC plans to add 5,150 electric buses to its fleet across the state. Of which, 250 electric buses are mentioned as 'awaiting' for Pune. "The plan has been bifurcated based on Maharashtra's regions; thus LNG and CNG buses will be provided to Nagpur and coastal regions like Konkan where pipelines are available. However, regions like Marathwada and Pune will receive electric buses, as CNG rates are high in these areas," he said. "We are waiting for 250 electric buses to be deployed in Pune, which, according to higher authorities, are expected to arrive by March 2025," Nehul added. Nehul also informed that currently, 824 MSRTC buses are operating in Pune, consisting of 200 CNG buses, 64 electric buses, 450 Ordinary High-Speed Diesel (ORD HSD) buses, and 110 AC High-Speed Diesel (AC HSD) buses. According to an official resolution dated August 26, 2024, provided by MSRTC official Abhijeet Bhole of Mumbai division, the proposal was finalised last year following a high-level meeting on September 22, where the plan to convert diesel buses to LNG was discussed in detail. The official document stated that a total of 5,000 LNG buses would be inducted, with each bus costing Rs 19.4 lakh, totalling Rs 970 crore. As per MSRTC, the transport corporation currently has a total of 15,000 buses in its fleet, with 60,000 commuters travelling daily across Maharashtra.



tody. He also claimed Dinesh had no relation to the crime and was falsely implicated based on statements given by the co-accused. On the other hand, the prosecution strongly opposed his bail plea stating that he was the "shrewd" mastermind in this case and that if released on bail, he may help his associates escape and destroy evidence.

During the probe, all the suspected accounts were frozen at the direction of the police. One of the accounts registered in the name of Gaurav Trading had a balance of Rs 46 lakh in it. Ajay and Mohit — the accused in the case — allegedly visited the bank where this account was opened to de-freeze it using a "forged" notice. They also allegedly sent an e-mail to the bank manager, impersonating the investigative officer of the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Delhi Police and asking him to immediately "de-freeze" the said account.

## Punjab govt approves proposal to enhance cadre strength of PCS officers by 59



Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said, "This will enhance the strength of Punjab Civil Services (Executive Branch) cadres from existing 310 posts to 369 posts."

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

The Punjab government will have 59 more state civil services officers, with the Cabinet Thursday giving a nod to the decision to increase the Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC) posts to 369 from the existing 310. Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said, "This will enhance the strength of Punjab Civil Services (Executive Branch) cadres from existing 310 posts to 369 posts. This is done to provide more employment opportunities to the youth and enhance the administrative efficiency of the state government in the larger public interest." Cheema said, "The decision has been taken based on the administrative requirements to increase the number of Sub Divisions and creation of a new district." "The numbers of civil services officers reviewed after more than eight years will pave the way for increasing posts at the level of Joint Secretary in Punjab Civil Secretariat, Chief Minister's Field Officers (earlier AC, Grievances), Sub Divisional Magistrates, EM-cum-Protocol Officers, ADC (UD), Directors, Mission Directors in the field and others," the minister added. Ponds along Ghaggar

The Cabinet also gave a nod for the construction of ponds along the Ghaggar river in Chandu village to recharge the groundwater. Cheema said, "The government require 20 acres of panchayat land for ponds which would be dug up to 40 feet. The Ghaggar in spate will fill these ponds with floodwater and villages like Chandu and others will be saved from flooding." "However, during other seasons, canals will replenish ponds for judicious

## Structural consultant named in FIR in Shivaji statue collapse held from Kolhapur



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Chetan Patil, the structural consultant named in the FIR registered in connection with the collapse of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district, has been arrested from Kolhapur, police said on Friday. Patil was taken into custody late on Thursday night and was handed over to the Sindhudurg police for further investigation, said Kolhapur Superintendent of Police Mahendra Pandit. According to the Sindhudurg police, Patil has been arrested in the case.

Patil, a resident of Kolhapur, had claimed on Wednesday that he was not the structural consultant for the project. Speaking to the Marathi news channel ABP Majha, Patil, named in the FIR along with artist Jaydeep Apte, had said that he had submitted the design of the platform to the Indian Navy through the state's Public Works Department (PWD) but had nothing to do with the statue itself. "A Thane-based company did the statue-related work. I was just asked to work on the platform on which the statue was being erected," Patil had said. The 35-foot statue of the 17th-century Maratha warrior king, unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rajkot fort in Malvan tehsil of Sindhudurg on Navy Day (December 4) last year, collapsed around 1 pm on Monday. The incident caused embarrassment to the Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led state government and invited criticism and protests from the opposition parties. Shinde said the statue was designed and constructed by the Indian Navy.

## Mohali's Bajwa builder arrested a day after HC rap

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Recently, Vigilance Bureau (VB) had booked Bajwa the Managing Director of Bajwa developers, Deepak Kumar, Shampur, both employees of Bajwa, Manbir Singh, a notary, and Harbir Singh, a property dealer in another case of cheating and forgery. The accused were booked on the complaint of Sucha Singh, a resident of Raipur village. Mohali Recently, Vigilance Bureau (VB) had booked Bajwa the Managing Director of Bajwa developers, Deepak Kumar, Shampur, both employees of Bajwa, Manbir Singh, a notary, and Harbir Singh, a property dealer in another case of cheating and forgery. The accused were booked on the complaint of Sucha Singh, a resident of Raipur village. A day after Punjab and Haryana High Court summoned Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) over the issue of arrest of Mohali-based developer Jarnail Singh Bajwa, the district police on Thursday arrested Bajwa in an old case registered against him at Sohona police station.

The sources in the district police confirmed that Bajwa was arrested Thursday in a case registered against him at Sohona police station. Bajwa remained in controversy after several cases were lodged against him for cheating by the state police. Recently, Vigilance Bureau (VB) had booked Bajwa the Managing Director of Bajwa developers, Deepak Kumar, Shampur, both employees of Bajwa, Manbir Singh, a notary, and Harbir Singh, a property dealer in another case of cheating and forgery. The accused were booked on the complaint of Sucha Singh, a resident of Raipur village. On Wednesday, the Punjab and Haryana High Court had directed Mohali realtor Jarnail Singh Bajwa of Bajwa Developers to furnish details of all immovable and liquid assets owned by him, either as a partner, director, or in an individual capacity. Justice Sandeep Moudgil had further instructed that the properties/assets be fully identified as per the Land Revenue Records maintained by the concerned authorities.

The HC had issued these directions while hearing a petition filed by Kuldeepak Mittal against the State of Punjab and other respondents. The petitioner had noted that while Bajwa's bail had been cancelled by the high court on October 20, 2023, no action to arrest him had been taken so far. During the resumed hearing, the HC had inquired about Bajwa's whereabouts from his counsel, Senior Advocate PS Hundal, who had stated that the Supreme Court had stayed Bajwa's arrest, so his personal appearance before the court was not required. Hundal had requested 15 days for Bajwa to appear before the court. However, the court had found this excuse vague and lacking a solid basis, noting that Bajwa had been a habitual offender.

During the proceedings, it had been revealed that Bajwa had been monitoring the court proceedings via video conferencing. Upon questioning, Bajwa had pleaded guilty, claiming he had not intentionally evaded court directions but had been occupied with managing his affairs and arranging funds to settle disputes. He had assured the court he would appear in person when directed. The DGP of Punjab, Gaurav Yadav, had assured the HC that steps would be taken to conclude the pending investigations against Bajwa in a time-bound manner. The HC had also noted that Bajwa had been declared a proclaimed person by the Judicial Magistrate First Class, Kharar, on July 4, 2022, in a 2017 complaint case pending before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Mohali. Despite this, Bajwa had not participated in the trial proceedings.

The court had criticized Bajwa's conduct, pointing out that he had been involved in 53 FIRs, which had reflected his disregard for the law. However, based on assurances from the Advocate General of Punjab and the DGP, the HC had directed the state to file a comprehensive response within a specified timeframe to ensure all pending investigations had been concluded.



## Cluster bus catches fire at Delhi bus stand, 40 passengers rescued



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

fire at Delhi bus stand, Delhi bus stand fire, Central Secretariat, Seemapuri, delhi news, India news, Indian express, Indian express India news, Indian express IndiaExpressing concern over the incident, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "This is a cause of concern for us also... as the bus is just four years old... We will investigate the incident to find out how and why the bus

caught fire and how it can be prevented in future." A blue cluster bus of route no 340 with almost 40 passengers, going from Central Secretariat to Seemapuri, caught fire at Jagatpuri bus stand, police said. At 9.48 am, the Jagatpuri police station received a PCR call about the cluster bus up in flames at the bus stand. According to police, the surrounding area of the bus was cordoned off and three fire tenders also reached to douse the flames.

"The fire was put out at 10.20 am. All passengers were rescued and no injuries were reported," a Delhi Fire Services official said. A short circuit in the air conditioning system might have caused the incident, police added. Expressing concern over the incident, Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot said, "This is a cause of concern for us also... as the bus is just four years old... We will investigate the incident to find out how and why the bus caught fire and how it can be prevented in future." "Whatever fault will be found during the probe will be addressed and action will be taken accordingly," Gahlot added.

## Opp sharpens attack on CM Mamata: 'Her tricks have been caught this time'

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

The Opposition parties on Thursday sharpened their attack on the TMC government in the state, especially Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, over the handling of the rape and murder of a junior doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Hospital earlier this month. Senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who led a protest march in the heart of Kolkata dressed in black clothes, accused the chief minister of "playing tricks". "Mamata Banerjee is playing tricks. But her tricks have been caught. She wants to hold the CBI responsible for everything. When the Calcutta High Court ordered a CBI probe, she could have filed an affidavit seeking 10 more days for Kolkata Police to crack the case," Chowdhury, who lost the Lok Sabha elections, said.

Chowdhury, who marched from College Square to Shyambazar, with hundreds of party supporters called it a people's movement. "I will not say people should fight for justice holding a political flag. They can fight without any political identity. We are with them. It is a people's movement," he said. CPI(M) leader Srijan Bhattacharya, who took part in another protest march from College Street from Esplanade, seeking justice for the doctor, said: "Every time, the chief minister was able to manage the rape cases alleging conspiracy or casting doubt on the victim or other things. This time her every possible trick and process for tampering evidence flopped. She is trying to change the direction of the movement by politicising it. Now, she is saying she will bring a law against rape. This is again a bluff. People of Bengal will understand this."

The CPI(M) leader was referring to the CM's speech on Wednesday where she said her government would bring a law in the state to ensure capital punishment in rape cases. The Left Front, meanwhile, has announced to hold a "mega protest march" on September 3. The Left Front has asked other parties, including the Congress, to join their march. The BJP, which had called a 12-hour bandh on Wednesday over the police action of protesters during Nabanna Abhijan, held a sit-in demonstration near Esplanade on Thursday. A delegation of BJP leaders, led by state BJP chief Sukanta Majumdar, also met Governor C V Ananda Bose in Raj Bhavan and urged him to take a "decisive action to address the turmoil" in the state. "We requested the Governor to protect the rights of people in Bengal and take whatever measures are necessary to lift the state out of this dire situation," Majumdar told mediapersons after coming out of Raj Bhavan. He was accompanied by senior party leader



Dilip Ghosh. Accusing CM Mamata Banerjee of inciting unrest through her statements, Majumdar said: "We have provided the Governor with detailed information about the situation, which has deteriorated since the (rape-murder) incident on August 9. We urge the Governor, as the custodian of the Constitution, to address these issues." Several BJP leaders, including Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, have called for Banerjee's resignation, accusing her of failing to prevent the rape-murder of the doctor, and for allegedly attempting to cover-up evidence and protect some of the perpetrators. They also suggested the imposition of Article 356, which allows for central intervention in states under certain circumstances. Following their meeting with the Governor, Majumdar and other BJP leaders participated in a sit-in protest, demanding the CM's resignation.

In response to the BJP team's visit to Raj Bhavan, TMC leader Kunal Ghosh told reporters, "We had been asking for the removal of the Governor, who is himself facing charges of sexual misconduct by a former Raj Bhavan staffer." "Instead of making the demand to remove a democratically elected government, BJP leaders should explain why this Governor cannot be removed despite serious complaints against him," Ghosh said. Regarding the emergence of an audio recording purportedly related to the RG Kar hospital case, Ghosh commented, "We cannot confirm the authenticity of this recording. It should be examined by the CBI and become part of the investigation. We continue to call for all perpetrators to be held accountable, for the victim's family and friends to receive justice, and for the truth to be uncovered." The woman postgraduate trainee doctor was found raped and murdered in the hospital on August 9, which triggered a spate of protests across the city and the state for the past 21 days.

## After Sanjay Roy's arrest in Kolkata doctor's rape and murder case, a question: Who are civic volunteers and why police bank on them?

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

The arrest of Sanjay Roy, a civic volunteer attached to Kolkata Police, for the rape and murder of a 31-year-old trainee doctor at RG Kar Hospital has once again put focus on the group of Class VIII pass men hired to assist traffic police and do odd ancillary jobs for the cops. This is not the first time a civic volunteer has hit the headlines for all the wrong reasons. Two years ago, a civic volunteer was arrested for the murder of student leader Anis Khan in Amta, Howrah. A year later, another civic volunteer made news for allegedly abducting a businessman in Bhangar. Mandated only with the task of managing traffic and assisting police during festivals and awareness campaigns, the civic volunteers are allegedly used to collect bribes, assist in arrests, and even control law and order situations. A year after the Trinamool Congress (TMC) came to power in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched the civic police and village police forces in 2012 to "assist police". At present, there are about 1.17 Lakh civic volunteers in the state. According to the state Home Department, the first criterion for recruiting a civic police volunteer is that the applicant should be a resident of the area where they will be deployed. The age band of the applicant is 20-30 years old and the minimum educational qualification is Class VIII pass. Generally, preference is given to the applicants who have done well in sports and have experience as NCC cadet/ Boy Scouts/ NSS guide/ Civil Defence Volunteers etc. or possess technical skills such as driving, technician, computer skills etc. They should not have any criminal records and be physically and mentally fit.

The salary of a civic police volunteer is Rs 10,000 per month with additional benefits of Rs 5 lakh medical insurance and Rs 6,000 Puja bonus. On retirement, they are entitled to get Rs 5 lakh one-time benefit. "On paper, there is a provision for the background check of the applicants before they are recruited. But since the civic volunteers are locals, word of mouth is also generally accepted," said a senior police officer. "After recruitment, they get a training of 10 days. Thereafter, they are supposed to get regular refresher training. This, however, seldom takes place," added the officer. In March, 2023, the Calcutta High Court ordered West Bengal Police that civic volunteers can't be engaged in any law-and-order duties. Following the High Court's order, the government issued a guide-

line for civic volunteers. According to the state Home Department, civic volunteers should only assist police in traffic management, major festivals, dealing with unauthorized parking vehicles and ensuring public safety. They cannot be engaged in any investigative work or law and order-related subjects of the police force. Stop-gap arrangement Sources in the police administration said that despite the guidelines, civic volunteers play a crucial and more elaborate role covering most aspects of policing since there is a dearth of constables. The West Bengal Police is understaffed with less than 100 police staff for 1 lakh population. Bihar and West Bengal have the lowest ratio of police personnel to per lakh population in the country at 75.16 and 97.66, respectively, according to a reply by Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai in Lok Sabha last year. The sanctioned strength of West Bengal police-population ratio is 160.76 per lakh population. In contrast, as on January 1, 2022, the number of police personnel per lakh persons in the country is 196.23 as per sanctioned strength and 152.80 as per actual strength. "The system of civic police is a stop-gap system. How can it make up for the loss in policemen retiring or the need to fill in vacancies? There is no proper recruitment system or fair drill for the civic police. They are mostly recruited from recommendations of ruling party leaders. The Calcutta High Court and later the Election Commission barred them from law-and-order duties and election duties. Their role in policing or assisting the police is already being questioned," said former Inspector General (Intelligence Branch) Pankaj Dutta. "There is also no legal obligation on the part of the civic volunteers in case they make a mistake. A constable on the other hand faces stringent scrutiny and punishment for any mistake," added Dutta. Echoing him, an officer in charge of a police station in North Kolkata said: "In every police station, there is a dearth of constables. We need to have constables put in armory, sentry duties, lock-up duties where no one else can be assigned. This further reduces the numbers we need. If there are multiple law and order situations in an area, we are forced to send civic volunteers. We are helpless. But if anything the civic volunteer does, we are blamed." Former Director General of Police Bhupinder Singh said: "I am not in favour of such a force. Anybody, who is in the police force or assisting the police, all must be properly trained. Discipline has to be there.

## Hooliganism, anarchy and violating women are SP's only hallmarks: Adityanath



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath alleged on Thursday that the misdeeds of the Samajwadi Party were well known and that hooliganism, anarchy, violating women and endangering the safety of traders were its only hallmarks when the party was in power in Uttar Pradesh. "Samajwadi Party ki topi laal, lekin kaaname kaale hain (SP leaders wear red caps but commit evil deeds). Their public image is a facade, hiding their true nature. It is because of them that the people of Sisamau are now facing by-election," the CM said addressing a public meeting at a government college in the Sisamau Assembly constituency of Kanpur district which is scheduled to go to the bypolls soon. The seat fell vacant after SP MLA Irfan Solanki was disqualified from the Assembly following his conviction in a criminal case. In Ayodhya, an SP leader raped a 'Nishad daughter,' but instead of addressing the issue, their party chief (Akhilesh Yadav) shamelessly supported the perpetrator, the CM alleged. Another model of the SP was evident in Kannauj, the CM pointed out. "They violate daughters using their ill-gotten property. Nawab brand is their real identity. This accused is also linked with the SP. A look at their history reveals it is filled with evil deeds," he claimed.

The Chief Minister, who inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth Rs 750 crore, also distributed appointment letters to over a thousand youths and tablets and smartphones to 5,027 students. He also disbursed loans totalling Rs 191 crore to 5,027 beneficiaries. He thanked people for electing Ramesh Awasthi from Kanpur and Devendra Singh 'Bhole' from Akbarpur in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. "The SP members grab the properties of the poor and incite riots. On the day when the former president (Ram Nath Kovind), a son of this soil, visited Kanpur, the SP MLA from Sisamau (Irfan Solanki) was plotting to ignite riots in Sisamau and Kanpur. Now, he is facing the consequences for his actions. The public had given them a five-year mandate, but they are now facing by-elections. The SP never misses an opportunity to foment anarchy," Adityanath added.

The "double-engine" government in UP has established a model of security, good governance, and development, the CM claimed, urging people to look forward

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The "double-engine" government in UP has established a model of security, good governance, and development, the CM claimed, urging people to look forward to a bright future with renewed aspirations. "Before 2017, UP was struggling with an identity crisis. Riots were common during festivals, and both daughters and traders were unsafe. The state was unattractive to investors, and youth were leaving in search of better opportunities. In response to PM Modi's call, the public elected the BJP in 2017. Over the past seven-and-a-half years, the state has made significant progress. Today, UP sets the standard for development, good governance, and law and order," he added. The CM noted that the firm Lal Iml, which once was a symbol of Kanpur, was shut down due to Congress' corruption. "A company, which should have provided jobs and employment for the youth, supporting the livelihoods of thousands of families, stands today as a monument of Congress' corruption. Our government is committed to revitalizing Lal Iml with a significant revival package. We have expanded efforts to include the revival of the entire land and sick units as part of this initiative," he said.

Claiming that 6.5 lakh youth secured government jobs in the past-seven-and-a-half years without recommendations or bribes, Yogi said, "Our government jails those who jeopardise the future of our youth. We are impounding their illegal properties and redistributing it

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"In November 2017, I emphasised the need for industrial investment. Initially, our target was Rs 20,000 crore, but thanks to the robust law and order situation, the UP Global Investors Summit has attracted investment proposals worth Rs 40 lakh crore," he added. Announcing that 2 lakh youth will be provided government jobs within two years, he said the recruitment process for over 60,200 police vacancies is underway. "Those who attempt to disrupt this process will face life imprisonment, a fine of Rs 1 crore, and confiscation of property. Within two years, 1 lakh youths will be recruited into the UP Police, with 20% of these positions reserved for women, ensuring that daughters can combat the hooliganism of those associated with the SP on the streets."

Over 1 crore youth will be provided jobs through various investment proposals, he said, adding that 50 lakh youth will be linked to self-employment schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Swarojgar Yojana, Mukhyamantri Yuva Swarojgar Yojana, ODOP, PM SVANidhi, PM Vishwakarma, and Mukhyamantri Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana. The CM said a senior minister in the government has been tasked with overseeing Kanpur's development and the city is moving towards resolving its traffic congestion problem. Earlier, sewage from Sisamau was discharged into the Ganga, but now Kanpur is becoming integral to maintaining the Ganga's uninterrupted flow, he said. "While the Green Field Express between Lucknow and Kanpur is expected to boost development, the Ganga Expressway will link Meerut to Prayagraj via Kanpur and Lucknow. The Defense Manufacturing Corridor is poised to become a cornerstone of this development," Adityanath said.



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## Differences in Gadwal Congress to the fore over Market Yard Committee chairman post

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Jogulamba Gadwal: Internal rumblings continue to surface in the district Congress unit. Ever since BRS MLA B Krishnamohan Reddy defected to Congress, the party incharge and former Zilla Parishad Chairperson Saritha Tirupataiah has been locking horns with the former over different issues.

This time, the two groups engaged in a battle over appointment of chairman for Gadwal Market Committee. Both the groups insisting that the person recommended by them should be considered for the appointment. To this effect, both the groups have written letters to the party leadership as well.

## Kamala Harris fires back over failed border czar job: 'Trump killed border bill'



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

US Vice President Kamala Harris on Thursday strongly rebuked former President Donald Trump's recent attacks on her handling of border security, accusing him of undermining a bipartisan effort to strengthen the US-Mexico border. In her first major interview since becoming the Democratic presidential nominee, Harris blamed Trump for the very border security issues he has frequently castigated. This comes after a Trump campaign attack ad linked Harris to the issue of illegal immigration and crime stemming from it. "Donald Trump got word of this bill that would've contributed to securing our border," Harris told CNN. "And because he believes that it would not have helped him politically, he told his folks in Congress, 'Don't put it forward.' He killed the bill: a border security bill that would've put 1,500 more agents on the border."

In recent weeks, Trump and the Republican Party

have relentlessly attacked Harris about the border. "If border czar Harris stays in charge, every week will bring a never-ending stream of illegal alien rapists, bloodthirsty killers, and child predators to go after our sons and our daughters," Trump said at a rally in North Carolina. Harris fired back, pointing out that the border bill Trump opposed would have bolstered efforts to stop fentanyl, a highly addictive opioid, from entering the US. Harris pledged that if elected, she would revive the bill, which she argued could have made a significant impact on border security. "Not only [would I] push it, I would make sure that it would come to my desk and I would sign it," she said. Harris also clarified her stance on border security, stating that she does not support decriminalising illegally crossing the border into the US. "I believe there should be consequences," she stated. "We have laws that have to be followed and enforced that address and deal with people who cross our border illegally. And there should be consequence." At the Democratic National Convention, Harris backed the construction of a wall along the United States' southern border, a project she once opposed and called "un-American" during the Trump administration. When asked how voters should view her policy shift, the Vice President was firm: "My value around what we need to do to secure our border, that value has not changed." The Democrat also highlighted her experience in dealing with border issues. "Let's be clear, in this race, I'm the only person who has prosecuted transnational criminal organisations who traffic in guns, drugs, and human beings," she said. "I'm the only person in this race who actually served a border state as attorney general to enforce our laws. And I would enforce our laws as President going forward," Harris asserted.

## My grammar's not always correct: Tim Walz admits he misspoke about being in war

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, the running mate of Kamala Harris for the US presidential election, admitted that he misspoke about participating in a war. Walz clarified his claims, including an old video in which he claimed to have carried weapons in war, stating his grammar is not always correct. However, he defended his career in the Army National Guard during an interview with CNN on Thursday (US local time), saying, "the record speaks for itself," as he sought to dismiss Republican charges against him regarding his military service. Walz could be heard saying in a 2018 video clip that the Harris-Walz campaign previously circulated, "We can make sure that those weapons of war that I carried in war are the only place where those weapons are at." Although Walz served 24 years in the Army National Guard, he was never in a combat zone. When CNN's Dana Bash specifically asked whether he misspoke about his participation in the war, Walz said, "My wife, the English teacher, told me my grammar's not always correct." Further, in the interview along with Kamala Harris, where Walz remained largely silent, he said he was "incredibly proud" of his National Guard service. "My record speaks for itself, but I think people are coming to get to know me. I speak like they do. I speak candidly, I wear my emotions on my sleeves, and I speak especially passionately about our children being shot in schools ... I think people know me. They



know who I am. They know where my heart is," the Minnesota Governor said. He stressed, "One thing I'll never do is, I'll never demean another member's service in any way. I never have. And I never will."

The Harris campaign also recently acknowledged that Walz "misspoke" during a 2018 campaign event when he said he handled assault weapons "in war". Donald Trump's campaign has been targeting Walz, questioning his service in the Army.

Earlier this month, Trump's running mate, JD Vance, accused Walz of evading deployment to Iraq by retiring from the Army National Guard to run for Congress in 2005. Vance, who served in the Marine Corps, accused Walz of "stolen valour".

## X suspends 'Barry Stanton' account after Indians outrage over racist posts



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

The action came after Barry Stanton's posts were flagged by hundreds of irate Indians, with several calling out Elon Musk for not suspending the account. The X handle of an anonymous social media user, Barry Stanton (@barrystantonGBP), who went viral for his racist posts and rants in which he criticised Indians and Indian immigrants, was suspended on Friday. The action came after Stanton's posts were flagged by hundreds of irate Indians, with several even calling out X owner Elon Musk for not suspending the account.

The suspension of the account became a subject of intense debate and memes on X. The hashtag "suspended" was among the top trends on X on Friday morning. Stanton, who has a verified handle with over 1.8 lakh followers, has shared several cartoons and memes depicting Indians defecating in the open. He also praised

a post on X on how to drive Indians away from "white neighbourhoods". Several hateful and abusive posts against Jews and Africans have also been tweeted from the handle. "Why do black people think comedy is just loud people shouting?" one of his posts said. An X user, Akshit Singh, tweeted that he had flagged the Barry Stanton account to Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw and the UK High Commission in India. He sought an investigation into the activities of the 'Barry Stanton' X account. "This account has been engaging in the propagation of hate speech and offensive remarks that target individuals based on race and nationality," he said in his complaint. Another user commented, "Musk has opened the gates of hell. It's been proven, in fact, that the current Twitter algorithm is pushing racist tweets up against Indians."

WHO IS BARRY STANTON? Barry Stanton's bio on X claims that he is a British national and a father of five. According to a report by a UK website, the pictures on Stanton's account are not his, but of another man, a pensioner from Worcestershire. Surprisingly, the X handle has been posting hateful content over several years, which has been garnering thousands of retweets and likes. One of his posts on X that was retweeted over 4,000 times said, "Just picked my lad up from school. He tells me he was forced to read the korma in religion class." "Barry Stanton does not exist -- or, not in the way Twitter users want to think he does. The account is a parody, created either by a liberal mocking the racists they detest or a real racist spreading their views via humour while hiding behind another person's face," the report said.

infections in the country, and eight deaths have now been reported, according to CDC. This is the largest listeriosis outbreak since the 2011 outbreak linked to cantaloupe. The CDC requested the public not to eat recalled deli products. People who are at higher risk of getting sick with Listeria, such as those who are pregnant, are aged 65 or older, or have a weakened immune system, are suggested to avoid eating meats sliced at deli counters, unless heated until steaming hot just before serving. The new deaths include two in South Carolina and one each in Florida, Tennessee and New Mexico. Illinois, New Jersey and Virginia have also reported deaths in the outbreak, which genetic testing has linked to liverwurst products manufactured by Boar's Head. Boar's Head has recalled more than 7 million pounds of 71 different meat and poultry products as of July 30, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

## Kamala Harris's nod to Republican in cabinet, if elected: Diversity of opinion



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

The Democratic candidate for the US presidential election, Kamala Harris, on Thursday (US time) said that she might name a Republican to her cabinet if elected, in her first interview since being nominated for the November election. She emphasised "diversity" and serving as President for "all Americans," but said she did not have a particular name in mind. "But I would, I think, I think it's really important. I have spent my career inviting diversity of opinion. I think it's important to have people at the table when some of the most important decisions are being made that have different views, different experiences. And I think it would be to the benefit of the American public to have a member of my Cabinet who was a Republican," Vice President Harris told CNN's Dana Bash.

She stressed, "I have spent my career inviting diversity of opinion". US presidents have previously appointed members of the opposite party to their Cabinet. However,

no such move has been made during the tenure of Joe Biden or former president Donald Trump in the past eight years. Harris, in her interview, explained her stance on several policy matters and insisted that her "values have not changed," even as she is "seeking consensus". When specifically asked about reversals of fracking and decriminalising illegal border crossings, she said, "I think the most important and most significant aspect of my policy perspective and decisions is my values have not changed".

"I believe it is important to build consensus. It is important to find a common place of understanding where we can actually solve the problem," Harris said. She further said, if elected, her administration would renew a push for comprehensive border legislation that would tighten migration into the United States. "We have laws that have to be followed and enforced, that address and deal with people who cross our border illegally, and there should be consequences," she said. On Israel's war with Hamas in Gaza, Harris said, "I am unequivocal and unwavering in my commitment to Israel's defence and its ability to defend itself." But the vice president also reiterated what she's said for months, that civilian deaths are too high amid the fighting. She also brushed off Republican Donald Trump's questioning of her racial identity after he said she "happened to turn Black." Harris, who is of Black and South Asian heritage, said it was the "same old, tired playbook." Harris, who was nominated as the Democratic candidate for the presidential race after Joe Biden opted out, is set to debate with rival Donald Trump on September 10.

## 5 dead as Typhoon Shanshan hits Japan, power lines snapped, flight ops hit

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

At least five people have been killed in southwestern Japan as Typhoon Shanshan made landfall in Kagoshima prefecture, bringing heavy rain and very strong winds as well as snarling air traffic and knocking out power to over a quarter million households. Typhoon Shanshan slowly barrelled up the Japanese archipelago Friday, dumping torrential rains and causing transport havoc as its reported death toll reached five. The typhoon, one of the strongest to hit Japan in decades, had weakened by early morning, though gusts were still reaching 126 kilometres (78 miles) per hour.

Even before making landfall on the island of Kyushu, a landslide caused by the heavy rains preceding it killed three members of the same family late Tuesday in Aichi prefecture, around 1,000 kilometres (600 miles) away. Two more people were reported to have died including a man last seen on a small boat in Kyushu and another whose two-storey home partially collapsed in Tokushima prefecture on the neighbouring island of Shikoku. At least 81 others have been injured, including many hurt by broken glass after the typhoon smashed windows and ripped tiles off roofs when it slammed into Kyushu on Thursday with gusts up to 252 kph. Authorities issued their highest alert in several areas, with more than five million people advised to evacuate, although it was unclear how many did.

As far away as the town of Ninomiya near Tokyo, authorities urged residents to take "immediate measures" to secure safety such as moving to higher floors after a local river flooded. Some parts of Kyushu saw record rains for August, with the town of Misato recording a staggering 791.5 millimetres (31 inches) in 48 hours, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. Power cuts hit more than 250,000 Kyushu households but the utility operator said Friday that only 6,500 were still without electricity as en-



gineers repaired damaged transmission lines. Overnight, many motorways were fully or partially closed in Kyushu, as well as others further afield, media reports said. Shinkansen bullet trains remained suspended in Kyushu and were also halted on the major route between Tokyo and Osaka, with operators warning of disruptions elsewhere. Japan Airlines and ANA had already announced the cancellation of more than 600 flights between them for Friday, having scrapped a similar number the previous day, affecting almost 50,000 passengers. Nissan and Honda also halted operations at their Kyushu plants, as did chipmakers including Tokyo Electron, reports said. Shanshan comes in the wake of Typhoon Ampil, which dumped heavy rain that disrupted hundreds of flights and trains this month but caused only minor injuries and damage. Typhoons in the region have been forming closer to coastlines, intensifying more rapidly and lasting longer over land due to climate change, according to a study released last month. Another released by World Weather Attribution (WWA) on Thursday said that climate change turbocharged Typhoon Gaemi, which killed dozens of people across the Philippines, Taiwan and China this year.

## ABBA asks Donald Trump not to play their music while campaigning



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Swedish supergroup ABBA has asked Donald Trump to stop using their music at campaign rallies, but the Republican presidential nominee's campaign says it has permission. "ABBA has recently discovered the unauthorised use of their music and videos at a Trump event through videos that appeared online," said a statement to The Associated Press from the band, whose hits include "Waterloo," "The Winner Takes It All" and "Money, Money, Money." "As a result, ABBA and its representatives have promptly requested the removal and deletion of such content. No request has been received; therefore, no permission or licence has been granted."

A spokesman for the Trump campaign said it had obtained a licence. "The campaign had a licence to play ABBA music through our agreement with BMI and ASCAP," the spokesperson told the AP. ABBA joins a long list of performers who've objected to Trump using their songs. Ahead of the 2020 election, that included Bruce Springsteen, Rihanna, Phil Collins, Pharrell, John Fogerty, Neil Young, Eddy Grant, Panic! at the Disco, R.E.M. and Guns N' Roses. This cycle, Celine Dion asked the candidate to stop using "My Heart Will Go On" and Beyoncé blocked Trump from using her song "Freedom" in a campaign video. In 2016, Adele asked Trump to quit playing her songs at political rallies. Campaigns don't need an artist's express permission to play their songs at rallies as long as the political organisation or the venue has gotten what's known as a blanket licence from the performing rights organisations ASCAP and BMI. Swedish daily newspaper Svenska Dagbladet said its reporter in July attended a Trump rally in Minnesota where "The Winner Takes It All" was played. Universal Music in Sweden said videos had surfaced of ABBA's music being played during at least one Trump event. ABBA, who have

scored 20 songs on the Billboard Hot 100, mostly in the 1970s and 1980s, released a comeback album, "Voyage," in 2021.

## Israel kills five more in West Bank, including well-known local commander



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Jerusalem: The Israeli military says it has killed five more militants in a large-scale operation in the occupied West Bank, including a well-known local commander. There was no immediate Palestinian confirmation of the death of Mohammed Jaber, known as Abu Shujaa, a commander in the Islamic Jihad militant group in the Nur Shams refugee camp. The military said he was killed along with four other militants in a shootout with Israeli forces early Thursday after the five had hidden inside a mosque. It said Abu Shujaa was linked to numerous attacks on Israelis, including a deadly shooting in June, and was planning more. He was reported killed earlier this year, but then made a surprise appearance at the funeral of other militants, where he was hoisted onto the shoulders of a cheering crowd. The military said another militant was arrested in the operation in the West Bank city of Tulkarem, and that a member of Israel's paramilitary Border Police was lightly wounded. Israel launched a large-scale operation in the West Bank overnight into Wednesday. Hamas said 10 of its fighters were killed in different locations, and the Palestinian Health Ministry reported an 11th casualty.

## Airline to operate flights till November 11, will merge ops with Air India thereafter



the merger process between Vistara and Air India, and the broader transformation of the Air India Group," Air India said in a statement. "We are immensely grateful to all our customers for their support and patronage over the last 10 years. As we progress further in our growth journey, we want to emphasize that this merger is about offering them more choice with a larger fleet and a wider network, while elevating the overall travel experience. Vistara and Air India are committed to ensuring that this transition is smooth and hassle-free. We are excited about this new phase in our journey and look forward to welcoming our customers again soon — as Air India," said Vistara's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Vinod Kannan. For Vistara flights on or after November 12, the flight numbers will change to those of Air India, even though in nearly all cases the aircraft, schedule and operating crew will be unchanged until early 2025. All customers already booked on Vistara flights after November 12 will automatically have their reservations converted to Air India flight numbers. This will occur in phases during September, and customers will be individually informed when this occurs. "For our Vistara colleagues, the HR (human resources) teams are working on the transfer of those who have not already been seconded into Air India. As with those who have already joined, we look forward to welcoming our new Air Indians, helping them feel at home, and to having their assistance in catalysing and accelerating the new Air India," Air India's CEO Campbell Wilson said in an internal communication to Air India employees. Kannan, too, shared the news with Vistara employees in an internal communication and thanked them for their contribution to Vistara's growth. Kannan, who is also the chief integration officer for the merger, told Vistara employees about the merger roadmap over the coming weeks and updated them on staff migration and harmonization activities. Kannan also tried to dispel fears among Vistara employees, saying that the merger is the "beginning of an exciting new chapter" in the airline's growth story that will provide "numerous opportunities" to all employees, part from merging Air India and Vistara, the Tata group is also in the process of merging its budget carriers Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India). Once both the mergers are complete, the Air India group will have a full-service carrier Air India and a low-cost airline Air India Express. The consolidation is a critical part of Air India's transformation programme Vihaan.Ai, that seeks to build Air India into an airline of global repute.

Vistara will operationally merge into the Tata group's flagship airline Air India on November 11, drawing curtains on the decade-old brand that made a mark for its product and service quality as India's foremost full-service carrier. The wheels for the merger were set in motion in 2022 after the Tata group acquired Air India from the government. "Starting 03 September 2024, customers will, progressively, no longer be able to make bookings with Vistara for travel on or after 12 November 2024. All Vistara aircraft thereafter will be operated by Air India and bookings for the routes operated by these aircraft will be redirected to Air India's website. Vistara will continue to take bookings and operate flights as usual till 11 November 2024," Vistara said in a statement Friday.

"As the merger process moves ahead, regular updates will be shared with customers on the websites and social media channels of Vistara and Air India, and via e-mail. This includes information on web check-in, lounge access, ancillary services, and all other possible touchpoints. All efforts will be made by the dedicated teams across both airlines to ensure a seamless transition," the airline said. The announcement came close on the heels of the government approving Singapore Airlines's investment into the merged carrier. As a joint venture partner in Vistara, Singapore Airlines holds 49 per cent stake in the airline and will have 25.1 per cent stake in the enlarged Air India after the merger. The Indian government's approval to Singapore Airline's Rs 2,059-crore investment in the merged airline was the final hurdle before the merger.

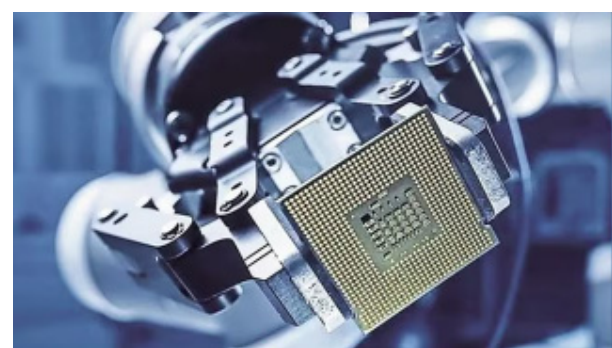
"Air India welcomes the Union Cabinet's approval for the foreign direct investment by Singapore Airlines in Air India. This is an important milestone that facilitates

## In new chip push, Centre ready with \$15-billion blueprint

In new chip push, Centre ready with \$15-bn blueprint Under the new scheme, the government could also offer capital equipment and ecosystem support such as gases, chemicals, and raw materials needed at assembly and testing plants. AFTER HAVING committed nearly all of the \$10 billion in subsidies under its ambitious semiconductor manufacturing incentive policy, the government has prepared a blueprint for the second phase of the scheme — it could increase the outlay of the programme to \$15 billion, offer capital support for raw materials and gases used in chip manufacturing, and reduce subsidies for assembly and testing plants. The Indian Express has learnt. "In a short period of time, we managed to clear four chip proposals including a fabrication plant. The original incentive policy outlay of \$10 billion will almost get over once subsidy payments are made to the entities setting up these facilities. We want to attract more such plants, and therefore, have pegged that the new 2.0 scheme should have a higher outlay of \$15 billion so that we can remain competitive, given that many countries are trying to attract chip manufacturing," a senior government official said, requesting anonymity since the discussions are currently private.

India has ambitions to become a major chip hub on the lines of the United States, Taiwan and South Korea, and has been courting foreign companies to set up operations in the country. So far, the country has approved a fabrication plant worth \$11 billion being set up by Tata Electronics in partnership with Taiwan's Powerchip, and three different chip assembly plants being set up by the Tatas, US-based Micron Technology, and Murugappa Group's CG Power in partnership with Japan's Renesas.

In an internal note prepared with the projections for the renewal of the scheme, the government has also decided to reduce the capex subsidy for assembly and testing plants (ATMP/OSAT) from the current 50 per cent to 30 per cent for conventional packaging technologies, and 40 per cent for advanced packaging technologies. THE NEW scheme could see an increased focus on fabrication plants, and more advanced display technologies as India looks to climb the complexity ladder in the chips ecosystem, going beyond packaging and assembly plants where countries such as Malaysia already have a stranglehold. In the first iteration of the incentive policy, which was released in December 2021, the Centre had



offered a 30 per cent capex subsidy for chip packaging and testing plants. However, in September 2022, it had increased the subsidy for such plants to 50 per cent. It is understood that it was done as a precursor to Micron Technology's proposal, as the government wanted to facilitate the company establishing an assembly plant in India, which was eventually approved in June 2023.

Now though, the government wants to go back to its earlier subsidy contribution, there is a growing perception within sections of the administration that it has overspent on packaging and assembly plants. For instance, in Micron's case, nearly 70 per cent of its \$2.7 billion plant will be paid through subsidies offered by the Central Government, and the Gujarat government. The government also does not want to support technology transfer costs under the new incentive scheme, it is understood. This means that companies partnering with others for using their chip manufacturing technology may have to pay out of their own pocket. Under the new scheme, the government could also offer capital equipment and ecosystem support such as gases, chemicals, and raw materials needed at assembly and testing plants. It could also look at incentivising fabrication of micro-LED displays. It is also learnt that Micron Technology's ATMP plant in Gujarat's Sanand is running 133 days behind schedule, due to the company's inability to hire sufficient construction headcount. The Tatas have sought that the requirement for PSMC to demonstrate capability to manufacture 28 nanometre chips should be exempted for extending fiscal support for the node. The government is considering the company's request, but has not come to a conclusion yet.

## Kriti Sanon swears by this 'underrated' skincare ingredient: 'It helps hold moisture'

Kriti Sanon has often shared bits and pieces about her skincare routine. She once again did, this time listing a couple of her favourite skincare products. One among them glycerine. "I think glycerine is so underrated but it is so multitasking in so many ways. It is amazing. It is a humectant. It helps hold moisture. It is antiseptic. It soothes your skin and calms your skin. It goes with any and every skincare ingredient," the Mimi actor said in a chat with Grazia. Sanon also spoke about her "love" for peptides "as they are amazing for skin elasticity and bounce".

What makes glycerine such a "multitasking" skincare ingredient?

Glycerine is an ingredient in many moisturising skincare products. "It doesn't clog pores but hydrates and refreshes the skin, helps with soft and smooth skin appearance, is gentle on the skin, reduces the appearance of wrinkles, and tackles acne," said Dr Rinky Kapoor, consultant dermatologist, cosmetic dermatologist and dermato-surgeon, The Esthetic Clinics.

How much to use?

Add 2-3 drops of glycerin to your regular moisturiser if you wish to hydrate the skin or mix two spoons of milk with 1 spoonful of glycerin for smoother skin, shared Dr Kapoor. "Dab on a little glycerin diluted with water to



minimise the appearance of pores. It is known to give a youthful glow," added Dr Kapoor. It can be used in the form of a moisturiser, night cream, soap, or mist. However, it will be imperative for everyone to use glycerin only after consulting the expert, stressed Dr Kapoor. "Try to do a patch test before using glycerin. If there is a burning sensation or redness then discontinue usage," said Dr Kapoor.

What to keep in mind?

One should not use undiluted glycerin directly on the face as doing so can dehydrate the skin. "One can even get blisters, a burning sensation, or even skin irritation. Avoid following any trend because your favourite celebrity is doing so.

## Shifted from some liberal positions, but my values have not changed: Harris

GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Savannah: Vice President Kamala Harris has defended shifting away from her some of her more liberal positions in her first major television interview of her presidential campaign, but insisted her "values have not changed" even as she is "seeking consensus". Sitting with her running mate Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, Harris on Thursday was asked about changes in her policies over the years, specifically her reversals on fracking and decriminalizing illegal border crossings. "I think the most important and most significant aspect of my policy perspective and decisions is my values have not changed," Harris replied.

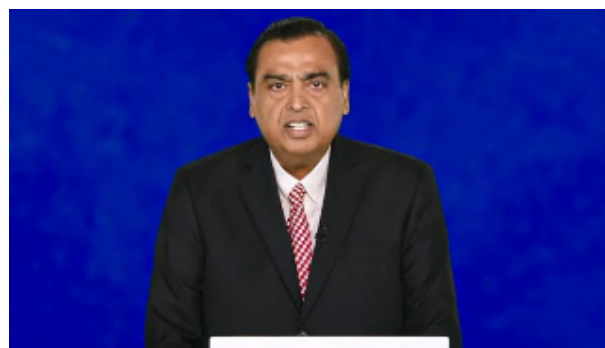
The interview with CNN's Dana Bash gave Harris a chance to try to quell criticism that she has eschewed uncontrolled environments while also giving her a fresh platform to define her campaign and test her political mettle ahead of an upcoming debate with former President Donald Trump set for Sept 10. But it also carried risk as her team tries to build on momentum from the ticket shakeup following Joe Biden's exit and last week's Democratic National Convention. "First and foremost, one of my highest priorities is to do what we can to strengthen and support the middle class," Harris said. "When I look at the aspirations, the goals, the ambitions of the American people, I think that people are ready for a new way forward." The CNN interview was taped at 1:45 pm Thursday at Kim's Cafe, a local Black-owned restaurant in Savannah, Georgia, and aired in the evening. Harris also brushed off Trump's questioning of her racial identity after the former President said she "happened to turn Black". Harris, who is of Black and South Asian heritage, said it



was the "same old, tired playbook". "Next question." She also said she'd name a Republican to serve in her Cabinet if she were elected, though she didn't have a name in mind.

Joint interviews during an election year are a fixture in politics; Biden and Harris, Trump and Mike Pence, Barack Obama and Biden — all did them at a similar point in the race. The difference is those other candidates had all done solo interviews, too. Harris hasn't yet done an in-depth interview since she became her party's standard bearer five weeks ago, though she did sit for several while she was still Biden's running mate. Harris and Walz are still introducing themselves to voters, unlike Trump and Biden, of whom people had near-universal awareness and opinion. Harris said serving with Biden was "one of the greatest honours of my career," as she recounted the moment he called to tell her he was stepping down and would support her.

## RIL plans 1:1 bonus issue; to invest Rs 75,000 cr in new energy ecosystem



Seven years after its previous bonus issue, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) on Thursday said it proposes to issue a bonus issue in the ratio of one-for-one to the shareholders and invest up to Rs 75,000 crore to establish the manufacturing ecosystem in new energy businesses, extensively enabled by all emerging technologies including AI, IoT, Machine Learning and Robotics.

Addressing the annual general meeting of RIL, Chairman and MD Mukesh Ambani said RIL is targeting to double its revenues and EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) over the next three to four years, led by the momentum in connectivity. "RIL has sent a notice to the stock exchanges that the Board of Directors will meet on September 5 to consider issuing bonus shares in the ratio of 1:1. When Reliance grows, we reward our shareholders handsomely," Ambani said. The last bonus issue that RIL had announced was in 2017 in the ratio of 1:1. It had announced four bonus issues since 1983.

By 2025, Jamnagar will become the cradle of our new energy business, he said. The Dhirubhai Ambani Green Energy Giga Manufacturing Complex will be the world's largest, most modern, modular, and integrated ecosystem at a single location, he said. "Our complete ownership and automation of the integrated value chains will allow us to maximise margins that are higher than those of stand-alone, non-integrated players. To support our investments, we are committed to partnering with leading global technology companies, building world class, state-of-the-art R&D capabilities, and expanding our large, dynamic talent pool of PhDs, technologists, and engineers from various nationalities," Ambani said. He said Reliance spent over Rs 3,643 crore in FY24 towards R&D, taking RIL's spend on research to over Rs 11,000 crore (\$1.5 billion) in the last four years alone. "We have more than 1,000 scientists and researchers

## This is what happens to the body when you suddenly stop taking diabetes medication

We all know the importance of taking prescribed medicines for good health. But have you ever thought about what would happen when you think you feel better and no longer need them? That's exactly what we are here to tell you — especially those of you taking pills to manage your sugar level or diabetes. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India has around 101 million people living with diabetes, said Dr Manoj Chawla, consultant, diabetology, P.D. Hinduja Hospital and MRC, Khar, adding that it is a chronic condition warranting continuous care through lifestyle modification, monitoring, and medications and a failure to do so can have serious consequences on the blood sugar levels, leading to a rapid spike.

Agreeing, Dr Rajeev Gupta, director, internal medicine, CK Birla Hospital (R), Delhi stressed that there is no cure for diabetes. "Remission is possible only in a few cases, that too only in the early years by following vigorous lifestyle modification, weight loss, care, and prescribed medication. Uncontrolled diabetes very often may be asymptomatic, making many patients 'feel fine'. However, that is an inaccurate way to assess one's diabetes level. Conditions like diabetes warrant the continuity of medications as an interruption or sudden stoppage may lead to an increased risk of infections and the possibility of acute complications like diabetic ketoacidosis, a life-threatening condition characterised by the buildup of acids in the blood, which can lead to coma if not treated promptly," explained Dr Gupta. He added that the silent nature of diabetes can be tricky, and diabetics often may not feel anything till it is too late. "Stopping medications can also lead to glycaemic variability and increase chances of long-term complications like blindness, kidney failure, and leg amputations. There is also the possibility of muscle and weight loss, dehydration, fatigue, and



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medications losing efficacy due to interrupted care," Dr Gupta told indianexpress.com.

Furthermore, the risk of acute medical events like stroke and myocardial infarction (heart attack) increases significantly. "It's essential to manage diabetes with a consistent treatment plan to prevent these potentially dangerous outcomes. Always consult with a healthcare provider before making any changes to your medication regimen to ensure safe and effective diabetes management," said Dr Chawla. It is important for a person with diabetes to monitor the levels and follow their diabetologist's advice regarding medication adjustment and timely screening for complications at all times.

## When Dimple Kapadia reflected on her efforts going unnoticed by Rajesh Khanna: Understanding the role of appreciation in healthy relationships



GNS News Agency, Sept 2

Dimple Kapadia once revealed that during her marriage to Rajesh Khanna, she "never got a word of praise" from him, despite dedicating all her energy to meeting his expectations. Khanna, who was one of the most sought-after stars in Bollywood back in the 60s and 70s, married Kapadia when she was just a teenager. The couple split in the early 80s after their daughters Twinkle and Rinke were born. In an interview with Screen magazine in 1987, Kapadia reflected on her relationship with a man twice her age, revealing that the superstar was aware of the admiration she had for him. She said, "Everywhere I went, I was told that I was the most gorgeous woman in the world. But I never got a word of praise from him. It was as if he hadn't noticed me." She went on to add, "I was always waiting for some reaction, but it never came. All my energy was spent in doing what he wanted and anticipating his approval. It was like climbing a ladder. No matter how fast I climbed, he was still many rungs ahead."

Positive reinforcement and appreciation are crucial aspects of relationships. When one partner constantly feels unrecognised or unappreciated, it can lead to deep-seated feelings of inadequacy and emotional disconnect, undermining the foundation of the relationship.

Rhea Joseph, consultant psychiatric social worker and relationship counsellor at Cadabams Hospitals, tells indianexpress.com, "When individuals feel valued and acknowledged, they experience a boost in self-esteem and are more likely to maintain healthy emotional ties with their partner. However, the absence of positive reinforcement can lead to significant psychological impacts, creating feelings of inadequacy and emotional disconnect." Absence of positive reinforcement and its effects on self-esteem and emotional well-being

Joseph says, "Without reinforcement, individuals may begin to doubt their value, both within the relationship and in their lives more broadly. Feeling unseen or unappreciated often leads to a gradual erosion of self-worth. This can be particularly damaging in relationships

where one partner is consistently striving to meet the other's needs without receiving validation or praise in return." Positive reinforcement in relationships serves as a means of emotional bonding, she adds. When a partner doesn't express appreciation, the person on the receiving end may feel disconnected or emotionally isolated. Over time, this emotional neglect can foster resentment, creating distance in the relationship. When someone feels undervalued, they might constantly overextend themselves in hopes of finally receiving validation from their partner. This constant striving can lead to chronic stress and anxiety. When someone feels undervalued, they might constantly overextend themselves in hopes of finally receiving validation from their partner. This constant striving can lead to chronic stress and anxiety. Psychological impact of feeling unappreciated or undervalued constantly feeling unappreciated or undervalued can have deep psychological ramifications, informs Joseph. Individuals in such situations may experience:

**Chronic Stress and Anxiety** When someone feels undervalued, they might constantly overextend themselves in hopes of finally receiving validation from their partner. This constant striving can lead to chronic stress and anxiety, as they may feel they are never good enough, no matter how much they give. Feelings of being unappreciated can contribute to depression. Without positive reinforcement, individuals may become despondent, feeling hopeless about the future of the relationship. They might start to believe that their efforts are meaningless, leading to a pervasive sense of sadness and low motivation. Over time, the emotional toll of being unappreciated can breed resentment. This resentment can create a toxic cycle where the individual begins to withdraw emotionally from the relationship, either as a form of self-protection or as an unconscious way of punishing their partner.

How can couples cultivate a habit of expressing appreciation?

Joseph says, "Building a habit of expressing appreciation is essential for nurturing emotional bonds in a relationship." It's important for partners to express their appreciation verbally and be specific about what they are grateful for, she states. Incorporating appreciation into everyday routines can help solidify it as a habit. This could be as simple as thanking each other for small tasks or acknowledging each other's contributions, whether through words or gestures like a hug or a kind note. She continues, "Appreciation doesn't always have to be verbal. Small acts of kindness—like making your partner's favourite meal, surprising them with something they love, or doing a chore they dislike—can serve as non-verbal cues of gratitude and help strengthen the bond."

## IC 814: Captain Devi Sharan told jokes to hijacker named Burger, who 'won the hearts' of hostages by singing songs

The release of Anubhav Sinha's new streaming series, IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack, has reintroduced the harrowing incident to the minds of Indian audiences. The six-episode series, based in part on Captain Devi Sharan's account of the week-long siege, was released to positive reviews on August 29. In the show, the captain is played by Vijay Varma, while the rest of the impressive cast plays various bureaucrats who found themselves working around a system to ensure the safe return of Indian citizens. The stand-off ended on December 31, 1999, and Captain Devi Sharan got a hero's welcome in India.

In an interview with The New York Times five days after his return, he spoke about the mood inside the plane, and recalled that the hijackers and hostages began to loosen up as the days wore on. He even recalled telling the hijackers a joke, which he narrated in the interview as well. "I just wanted to make the best of that time, so that nobody should be nervous and think the world is finished now," he said, recalling how the hijacker named Burger 'won the hearts of people' by singing songs with them and chatting 'companionably'. Captain Sharan, too, 'joined in the games'. He added, "Whenever the hijackers laughed, we laughed. Whenever they were tense, we were tense." Captain Sharan then recalled the joke that he told during one of these interactions with the hijackers and hostages. "Like one guy was traveling with a parrot. See, an air hostess comes, so the parrot kisses her. OK? The master of that parrot thinks I can also do that. He also kisses her. The commander comes out and asks, 'Why did you do this?' The master says, 'Because my parrot



did that.' So the commander decided to throw them both out of the plane, the parrot and the master. They opened the door. The parrot asks his master, 'Can you fly?' Captain Sharan, who began flying only a few days after the ordeal, declared in the NYT interview that he was prepared to return to work, and that he was 'ready to face another hijack also'. In more recent interviews, director Anubhav Sinha also shared anecdotes that he gathered from his interactions with Captain Sharan, who told him about the camaraderie that emerged in the cabin as the siege wore on, and about the mark that remains on his neck from where the hijackers kept him at gunpoint.

In 1999, a passenger airliner from Kathmandu was hijacked by a group of terrorists, eventually landing in Kandahar. There, the Indian authorities engaged the hijackers in negotiations, ultimately agreeing to release three high-ranking terrorists in exchange of the hostages. One person was murdered.

## Deepika Padukone's mother-in-law Anju thanks paps as they congratulate her ahead of the arrival of her grandchild.

Actor couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh are preparing for the arrival of their first baby in September. While the parents-to-be have taken a break from public appearances for some time, Ranveer's family recently stepped out for dinner. His mother Anju Bhavnani expressed excitement as she awaits her grandchild's arrival. Anju, along with some friends was spotted exiting a restaurant in Mumbai, after dinner on Thursday night. Paps, stationed outside the eatery, congratulated the soon-to-be-grandmother and she flashed a beaming smile and thanked them. See the video here:

The video of Anju thanking the paps as they congratulated her has surfaced on Instagram. Deepika and Ranveer's fans poured in their love for the happy family. One user commented, "Ranveer beautiful mom is humble personality," another user wrote, "Mumma Ranveer looks so beautiful.. ????", yet another person commented, "so excited to see the first glimpses of Deepika and Ranveer's child."

Deepika Padukone is due in September, according to her pregnancy announcement post. The couple announced the good news in February, this year. The couple



shared a cute post which had drawings of baby clothes and other baby accessories with the month September written on it.

On the work front Deepika was last seen in Nag Ashwin's sci-fi drama Kalki 2898 AD along with Prabhas, Amitabh Bachchan and Kamal Haasan. She will next be seen in Rohit Shetty's cop drama Singham Again, which will also star Ranveer. He will reprise his role of Simbaa. The film will also star Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, and Arjun Kapoor. Ranveer will next be headlining Farhan Akhtar's Don 3 along with Kiara Advani.

## Javed Akhtar heaps praise on Alia Bhatt, calls her 'the finest actor' of the generation; Zoya Akhtar reveals why Jee Le Zaraa is delayed



Lyricist-writer Javed Akhtar joined his filmmaker daughter Zoya Akhtar at Expresso, held in Mumbai on Thursday. During their interaction, the father-daughter duo discussed contemporary Hindi cinema. Javed also heaped praises on actor Alia Bhatt, and talked about her performance in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 2022 film Gangubai Kathiawadi. Praising Alia's recent performances, Javed said, "With Gangubai, Alia, today, is perhaps one of the few finest actors." He added with his trademark cheek, "Actually, I feel she is the finest but I am being diplomatic so other heroines don't get upset." Watch the video here: Zoya Akhtar, who was set to produce the film Jee Le Zaraa, with Alia Bhatt, Priyanka Chopra and Katrina Kaif, gave an update on the project and revealed the reasons behind its delay. She said that the film is very



much in the pipeline, and that the delay is because they are not able to align the dates of the three stars. "I think aligning the three of them, their dates, and Farhan, his dates," said Zoya.

Zoya Akhtar and Javed Akhtar have collaborated on several films, including Luck By Chance (2009), followed by Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara (2011), Dil Dhadakne Do (2015), among others. Zoya recently co-produced the documentary series Angry Young Men, based on the life and works of her father and his screenwriter partner Salim Khan. The duo co-wrote 24 films in just 11 years during the 1970s, with 20 of those becoming blockbusters. Salim's sons - Salman Khan, Arbaaz Khan and Sohail Khan - were also a part of documentary.

## Vikram decodes chemistry with Aishwarya Rai, says she's always been 'somebody else's wife' in their films: 'Abhishek is a very close friend'

Aishwarya Rai and Vikram have shared screen space in films like Ponniyin Selvan and Raavan, and their on-screen chemistry is loved by their fans. In a recent interview, when Vikram was asked about his friendship with Aishwarya in real life, the actor said that he shares a great bond with her husband, Abhishek Bachchan, as well. Vikram starred with Abhishek and Aishwarya in Mani Ratnam's Raavan. Talking to Siddharth Kannan on his YouTube channel, "Abhishek is a very close friend of mine so automatically, the family becomes friends too. The thing is, Aishwarya and I, we have very good on-screen chemistry, like whether it was Raavan or whether it was Ponniyin Selvan and both were unrequited love, both were somebody else's wife, I get killed in both."

Vikram said that he actually Mani Ratnam to let them have a happy ending



in one of the films, just for the fans. "I told Mani sir, 'Please one film, let's get together, at least for the fans'. I think she is a fantastic actor to work with. She is very committed, perfectionist and we are very good friends but Abhishek is like very, very close friend," he said. Aishwarya Rai has not appeared in any films since Ponniyin Selvan 2. She has also not announced any future

projects. Vikram was recently seen in the Tamil film Thangalaan. The Hindi version of the film will release on September 6. During the promotions of Ponniyin Selvan 2, Vikram spoke about their on-screen chemistry and said, "It is very interesting because in Raavan, we do not get to be with each other. Even in PS 1, I was just there in one scene, it

was hardly just a glimpse of her and me together. And again in part two, I don't know how many scenes are we together for. I think that the love and romance between the two (characters) is so strong that the audience wants them to meet. That is why they go back to Raavan. But again in Raavan, we do not get together and that is working in our favour I think."

## Javed Akhtar says all religions belong in the 'dark ages': 'This is schizophrenia, people have split personalities'



Writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar, in a recent conversation, said that the reason why he is an atheist is that he has the ability to think. Javed was a guest at the latest session of Expresso, conducted on Thursday in Mumbai. When asked about how he "escaped religious indoctrination," Javed said that as thinking individuals, "we are rational, logical but a part of our brain is damaged in a childhood when we had no choice." He then spoke about the time when people who went against societal norms were punished for their scientific thinking, and quickly added that "the 20th and 21st century is the time of schizophrenia, people have split personalities."

Elaborating on his thoughts, Javed Akhtar said that when a scientist from ISRO sends a rocket to moon, they offer their prayers at a temple, thus questioning this clash of scientific thinking and blind faith. "A man in India from ISRO, who can send a rocket to the precise place of moon... But moon had chandralok, devi-devtas used to live there, you are sending a rocket there, and the mo-

ment you send it, you go out and you go to the temple. This is schizophrenia. It has happened for the first time in human history where your own knowledge and information, which you own, and your faith are not on the same page," he said. Javed Akhtar then proceeded to say that all religions belong in the "dark ages" and added, "All these religions, all the religions without exception, belong to the dark ages. Their roots are in the dark ages. You bring the dark age with you. Your umbilical cord has not been cut from the dark ages."

## Mrunal Thakur flaunts this tempting delight on her cheat day

Mumbai: Actress Mrunal Thakur on Thursday shared a glimpse of her cheat day, in which she can be seen enjoying a delicious scoop of an ice-cream. Taking to Instagram, Mrunal, who has 13.4 million followers on the photo sharing application, dropped photos from an ice-cream parlour. She is wearing a denim-on-denim outfit and has rounded off the look with a sling bag. Mrunal is holding an ice-cream cone and is flaunting her smile. Meanwhile, on the work front, Mrunal began her acting career in 2012 with the television show 'Mujhse Kuchh Kehti... Yeh Khamoshiyaan'. She has featured in shows like 'Arjun', 'Kumkum Bhagya'. She has also participated in 'Nach Baliye 7'. Mrunal was also a part of the web series 'Made in Heaven 2'.

