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## Narsingi Police files chargesheet against actor Raj Tarun

Hyderabad: The Narsingi police have filed a chargesheet against actor Raj Tarun in response to complaints lodged by his ex-girlfriend, Lavanya. Lavanya reportedly presented evidence, including hospital reports, indicating that she was compelled to undergo an abortion. She also claimed to have provided proof of Raj Tarun's infidelities. Lavanya reported that Raj Tarun, with whom she had been in a relationship for 11 years, had been unfaithful by dating his co-actress Malvi Malhotra and neglecting her.

## Article 370 now history, will never come back: Amit Shah at BJP manifesto launch for J&K polls



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Union Home Minister Amit Shah released on Friday (September 6, 2024) the BJP's manifesto for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, and asserted that Article 370 has become "history" and will never make a comeback in the Union territory. Addressing a press conference here, the senior BJP leader said the last 10-year period will be written in golden letters in the history of the country and J&K, and urged people to vote his party to power to continue good governance.

Mr. Shah reached Jammu earlier in the day on a two-day visit to kickstart the BJP's campaign for the Assembly polls scheduled to be held in three phases on September 18, 25 and October 1. "I have gone through the National Conference agenda. I want to make it clear to the whole country that Article 370 has become history and will never make a comeback," the Union Home Minister said in his speech before releasing the BJP manifesto. He said Article 370 is not part of the Constitution anymore. "This Article has only given arms and stones in the hands of the youth and facilitated them to tread the path of terrorism," Mr. Shah added. "I want to tell Omar Abdullah that whatever the results, we will not allow you to touch the reservation granted to Gujjars, Bakerwals and Pahadis," he said. Shah added terrorism will be completely eradicated from Jammu and Kashmir. "A white paper will be issued to fix the responsibility of those involved in the emergence of terrorism in J&K," he added. Appealing to the people of Jammu and Kashmir to vote for the BJP in the Assembly elections, Mr. Shah said, "Give us a five-year tenure to ensure the development of the region."

## AICC appoints MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud as new TPCC president

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Hyderabad: The Congress has appointed MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud as the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president much against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's recommendations. Currently, the Chief Minister is holding the position of TPCC president as well. Political observers say that the AICC had sent a clear message to the state leadership through the appointment of Mahesh Kumar Goud. Though Revanth Reddy had supported Mahesh Kumar Goud's (BC community leader) elevation, he is learnt to have strongly pitched for MP Balram Naik or Government Whip Adhuri Laxman for the party high command post.

However, considering the recent developments, especially a few unilateral decisions by Revanth Reddy, the party high command appears to have sent the message loud and clear. "This is Congress party. The high command definitely stamps its authority. It will monitor the State unit's affairs through proper channels and Mahesh Kumar Goud's appointment is one such move," opined a senior leader from Gandhi Bhavan. Mahesh Kumar Goud has earlier worked as All India Youth Congress General Secretary and has close contacts in New Delhi. It may be recalled that the Chief Minister along with his cabinet colleagues had flown to New Delhi quite a few times over the appointment of TPCC president and cabinet expansion.

After disturbances surfaced within the party in filling up the nominated posts, the high command took its own time and assessed different factors. Finally, after deliberating with a few senior leaders, a BC leader was appointed as the new TPCC president. However, AICC Spokesperson Madhu Yaskhi Goud, who was also a strong contender for the post, got a raw deal. More so, the Telangana Congress leaders point out two dimensions into the Mahesh Kumar Goud's elevation from TPCC working president into TPCC president. Since the local bodies elections are fast approaching, the high command wanted to strike a social balance in appointment. A few sections, including minorities and BCs are a bit disappointed over not getting due representation in filling up of nominated posts, cabinet berths and others. Further, the Congress had promised to offer 42 per cent reservations to BCs in the local bodies. As appointing a new BC Commission, conducting BC census and extending 42 per cent reservation to the community, is challenging, the high command to control the community leaders apprehensions through Mahesh Kumar Goud's appointment. Now, that a BC leader is appointed as the new TPCC president, the Congress can approach the people in the ensuing local bodies' elections, said another leader from the State unit.

## Conservation of water, environment part of India's cultural consciousness, says PM Modi

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday (September 5, 2024) called the conservation of water and environment a part of India's cultural consciousness, pitching for the "reduce, reuse, recharge and recycle" mantra to save water. He was virtually speaking at a programme marking the launch of the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative in Surat, a step aimed at strengthening community involvement in water conservation. "For water



conservation, we have to work on the mantra of 'reduce, reuse, recharge and recycle'. We also need to adopt innovative techniques and the latest technology to conserve water," said the Prime Minister. Mr. Modi said India has just 4% of freshwater resources, and many parts of the country face a water crisis. "In the

last few days, various parts of India have seen rain fury, which was unprecedented," said the PM. Stressing the need to save water, he said water and environment conservation is part of India's cultural consciousness.

The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative aligns with the ongoing "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" campaign, reinforcing Mr. Modi's vision of collaborative water management to ensure long-term water security, according to an official statement.

## Paris Paralympic Games, Men's High Jump T64: Praveen Kumar strikes gold

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

India's Praveen Kumar dazzled with a record-breaking performance in the men's high jump T64 event, adding a Paralympic gold to his Tokyo Games silver here on Friday. The 21-year-old from Noida, who was born with a short leg, smashed the Asian record with a best jump of 2.08m in the six-men field to finish on top of the podium. USA's Derek Loccident claimed the silver with a jump of 2.06m while Uzbekistan's Temurbek Giyazov, who notched a personal best 2.03m, finished third. India jumped to the 14th spot in the pecking order after Praveen's win. The country has so far won six gold, nine silver and 11 bronze medals to achieve its best-ever haul at a single edition of the Paralympic Games. Praveen Kumar reacts after finishing the gold medal jump at the Paralympic Games in Paris on September 6, 2024.

Praveen Kumar reacts after finishing the gold medal jump at the Paralympic Games in Paris on September 6, 2024. | Photo Credit: Reuters India surpassed its Tokyo Games gold medal tally after Praveen's triumph in the men's high jump T64 event. At the Tokyo Paralympics, India had won five gold, six silver, and eight bronze medals. Praveen won the country its sixth gold medal after clearing 2.08m. Opting to start from 1.89m, Kumar aced seven jumps in his first attempt to put himself in pole position to grab the coveted gold medal. The bar was then raised to 2.10m, with both Kumar and Loccident fighting for the top spot on the podium but failed to clear the mark. This was also the 2023 world championship bronze medalist's personal best performance.

T64 is for athletes with movement moderately affected in one lower leg or the absence of one or both legs

## Different sections of society on paths of agitation in Telangana



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Hyderabad: It has been hardly nine months since the Congress government came to power in the State and already it is facing the ire of different sections, reflecting the sorry state of affairs. Farmers, teachers, students, government employees and others are hitting the roads and staging protests in support of their demands. Farmers have been protesting against the government over its failure in implementation of the crop loan waiver scheme.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had promised to waive the crop loans before August 15 but failed to fulfill his promise. Now, in the guise of technical problems, farmers are made to run from pillar to post to get their loans waived. Farmers unions have also formed a Joint Action Committee. Apart from taking out rallies and staging demonstrations, farmers have been questioning the Congress elected public representatives and agriculture officers over their crop loans waiver. On Friday, a 52-year-old farmer Surender Reddy died by suicide at Medchal agriculture office. Like farmers, Telangana Social Welfare Educational Institutions Society part time teachers hit the roads at several places across the State. They are protesting against the government orders to discontinue their services with immediate effect. Similarly, the sports coaches' services in the society have also been discontinued, leaving them at a crossroads. Since the last two days, including on the Teachers Day,

below the knee. While T44, under which Praveen is categorised, is for athletes with movement affected at a low or moderate degree in one lower leg. His impairment, which is congenital, affects the bones that connect his hip to his left leg. Kumar's odyssey toward becoming a para-athlete was marked by considerable trials. He often grappled with profound feelings of inadequacy in comparison to his peers as a child. He started playing sports to counter these insecurities and found a passion for volleyball. His life changed when he took part in a high jump event at an able-bodied athletics competition.

This experience exposed him to the vast opportunities available for athletes with disabilities, igniting a new and inspiring trajectory in his journey. He is the third high jumper after Sharad Kumar and Mariyappan Thangavelu to secure a medal in Paris. Sharad and Thangavelu won silver and bronze in the men's high jump T63 event on September 3.

They have been staging protests. Extending support to their teachers, students are also protesting against the government to withdraw the orders and reinstate the teachers. Last week, tenth standard students of a government school at Shamshabad in Ranga Reddy staged a protest alleging that they were being served poor quality food and drinking water. They charged that they were being served food infested with insects, while teachers separately cooked quality meals for themselves. The students demanded that the government take action against the DEO. With the students unrelenting, police had to appeal to them to withdraw their strike and assured to take up the matter with the CMO.

This is not an isolated case. On August 3, students from Kasturba Gandhi Girls School at Nacharam in Kodangal constituency represented by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy hit the streets and staged a protest over poor quality food being served to them in the hostel. On Wednesday, over 2000 students at IIIT, Basara raised slogans against the government, citing inadequate facilities in the campus. They also said there was no regular Vice Chancellor and wanted all their 17 demands to be addressed at the earliest, failing which they would intensify the protests.

A large number of power staff belonging to Backward Classes and Other Castes gathered at Viduyt Soudha on Wednesday and staged a massive protest demanding the government to address the issues related to promotions. The Telangana Electricity Backward Classes and Other Castes Employees Joint Action Committee (JAC) had given the protest call. Likewise, members of 53 employees associations have recently formed an umbrella organization of Joint Action Committee of Telangana Employees, Gazetted Officers, Teachers, Workers and Pensioners. They passed 36 resolutions demanding payment of four pending DAs, uniform service rules for teachers, health insurance scheme with employee contribution, implementation of Old pension scheme, clearing pending bills of retired employees etc. On August 12, they decided to discuss their demands with the State government, failing which they would also announce their future course of action plan.

## SPDCL CMD asks consumers to lodge complaint against power staff demanding bribes

Hyderabad: Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL) Chairman and Managing Director Musharraf Ali Faruqi has asked consumers to contact 040-2345 4884 or 7680901912 to file complaints against corruption, if the staff demands for a bribe. Special arrangements had been made in his office to receive complaints of corruption in the SPDCL jurisdiction, Musharraf said, adding that the consumers could also send their complaints through WhatsApp. "The company is committed to providing quality services to its consumers by following high standards."

## Government of India Allocates Rs. 3,300 Crore for Flood Relief in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The Government of India has announced a substantial relief package of ₹3,300 crore to assist Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in addressing the aftermath of devastating floods that have impacted the two states. This funding is aimed at supporting recovery and relief efforts, including rebuilding infrastructure and providing aid to affected communities.

The decision follows a recent visit by Union Minister Shivraj Singh, who toured both states to assess the flood damage and the relief operations undertaken by the state governments. Singh's on-ground assessment highlighted the severity of the floods and the urgent need for additional support to manage the crisis effectively. The financial aid is expected to bolster the ongoing relief efforts, helping both states recover from the extensive damage and mitigate future flood risks. The allocation underscores the central government's commitment to supporting regional administrations in times of natural disasters.

## CM Revanth Reddy Mourns Jitta Balakrishna Reddy



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed deep shock and sorrow over the untimely demise of Telangana activist Jitta Balakrishna Reddy. The Chief Minister stated that he has lost a close friend and ally, sharing his grief over the loss. Describing Jitta as a leader who played an active and significant role in the Telangana movement by uniting the youth, Revanth Reddy praised his contributions and noted the unique identity he carved for himself. The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt condolences to Jitta's family, praying for his soul to rest in peace.

## Filling up of Budameru breaches is underway, minister Ramanaidu oversees



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu, is overseeing the urgent burial of Budameru Gandlu as floodwaters inundate several areas of Vijayawada. For the past four days, the region has experienced a deluge, with 30,000 to 40,000 cusecs of floodwater streaming through Rayanapadu, Aji Singh Nagar, and surrounding neighborhoods via the canal. In a swift response, the Water Resources Department successfully completed the burial of two wells on Thursday night and has now intensified efforts on the third. Minister Ramanaidu is in constant communication with officials to monitor the progress of the operations, with Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu frequently reviewing the situation. On Friday morning, an aerial survey was conducted to assess the flood impact, and Minister Ramanaidu expressed optimism that if weather conditions remain favorable, the digging of the third well will be finalized by Saturday morning.

# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## A desperate step

IN a dramatic response to the public outcry following the recent rape and murder of a young doctor in Kolkata, the West Bengal Assembly has passed the Aparajita Anti-Rape Bill, which mandates the death penalty for rapists if the victim dies or is left in a vegetative state. The swift passage of this Bill comes amid protests from the public, demanding justice and accountability from the Mamata Banerjee-led government. The Bill seeks to reassure citizens of the state's commitment to protecting women. However, it has sparked a debate about whether such measures are merely a politically motivated reaction to silence the growing unrest. Party leaders continue to face a public backlash. Comments comparing protesting doctors to 'butchers' have only intensified public ire, further alienating the government from those it seeks to placate. Also, the fact that the new Bill is in conflict with the Centre's Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which does not prescribe capital punishment for rape, creates a legal conundrum. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have struggled to secure the presidential assent on similar Bills. Plus, even as the death penalty has not proved effective as a deterrent, the irreversible nature of such a punishment raises human rights concerns. The passing of the Aparajita Bill is a desperate move by the TMC government, aiming to restore public faith and regain control over the narrative. Whether this legislation will bring the desired change or simply add to the long list of unimplemented laws remains to be seen. As the Bill awaits approval by the Governor and President, the broader question of its efficacy and ethical implications looms large. The state would do well to focus on improving the investigative and judicial processes, ensuring a swift and fair trial and addressing the systemic issues that lead to such heinous crimes.

## After 22 hours of dharna, Kolkata police lift barricades and allow junior doctors to meet Police Commissioner in Lalbazar



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Kolkata doctor rape-murder case live updates: A day after protesting doctors of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Forum (WBJDF) marched to the police headquarters in Lalbazar, the forum is scheduled to hold a pen down programme today. (PTI) Protesting doctors celebrate the arrest of Dr Sandip Ghosh, former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, amid allegations of financial misconduct linked to the institution. (Express photo by Partha Paul)

The Kolkata Police on Tuesday lifted the barricade in Lalbazar, allowing junior doctors — who had been staging a dharna for the last 22 hours — to march ahead. The cops also agreed to allow 22 representatives from among the protesting doctors to meet Kolkata police commissioner (CP) Vineet Goyal and submit their deputation. The junior doctors had called for "Lalbazar Abhiyan" on Monday to demand justice. The deadlock ended after senior officials from the Kolkata police held their third meeting with the junior doctors. The protest comes in the wake of the rape and murder of a trainee doctor on August 9 at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, causing a nationwide uproar. The doctors, who had started their towards Lalbazar from College Square at 2 pm on Monday afternoon, were stopped after the police put up a nine-foot iron barricade and guard rails at Phears Lane. Following this, hundreds of junior doctors had squatted in front of the Kolkata Police headquarters, demanding the resignation of Commissioner Vineet Goyal for "failing to provide justice to the victim and her family." Despite attempts by the police to disperse them, the protestors remained on the road, blocking traffic movement and vowing to continue until their demands were met. "We have demanded since yesterday to be able to march forward in a peaceful rally and have our representatives meet the CP. We want his resignation and we want to hand over a deputation. But the police did not allow us... Finally, now they have agreed, and we will march forward," one of the agitating junior doctors said. "After a meeting, we allowed them to march 100 metres towards Lalbazar. Their representatives will be allowed to meet the CP," confirmed a senior police official. The doctors had expressed their frustration over the way that the case was initially handled as well as the lack of progress in the investigation. They accused the police commissioner of "incompetence", demanding his immediate resignation as a sign of accountability.

## Out for her wedding shopping, woman, 2 relatives shot dead in Punjab's Firozpur

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Firozpur woman on wedding shopping shot Kaur's father Akashdeep, her brother Dipreet Singh, and one Anmol Singh, who was driving the car, were seriously injured in the shooting. (Three members of a family travelling in a car were allegedly shot dead by unidentified motorcycle-borne assailants near Gurudwara Akalgarh in Punjab's Firozpur city on Tuesday afternoon. The police have so far identified only one of the deceased, Jaspreet Kaur, a resident of Kamboj Nagar in Firozpur city. Kaur was set to get married next month, and the family was out shopping for her wedding when the attack happened, said the police.

## Karnataka declares dengue an epidemic, to penalise erring house owners



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Karnataka dengue epidemic As of September 2, Bengaluru under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) tops the dengue fever chart with 11,590 positive cases and three deaths, followed by Mandya (872), Hassan (835), Mysuru (820), and Kalaburgi (793). The Karnataka Government on Tuesday declared dengue fever as an epidemic disease, in response to the increasing number of cases across the state. According to a gazette notification, the government will enforce stringent measures to control the spread of dengue fever, which has been identified as a significant public health concern.

As many as 25,408 cases of dengue have been reported across Karnataka with a death toll of 12. Two deaths each have been reported in Hassan, Dharwad, and Shivamogga and one each has been reported in Mysuru, Haveri, and Davangere. As of September 2, Bengaluru under Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) tops the dengue fever chart with 11,590 positive

cases and three deaths, followed by Mandya (872), Hassan (835), Mysuru (820), and Kalaburgi (793). As part of stringent measures to contain the outbreak, the notification grants authorities the power to penalise house owners who allow mosquito breeding on their premises — with a fine of Rs 400 in urban areas and Rs 200 in rural areas. Commercial establishments, restaurants, petty shops, vendors etc found violating the health guidelines will be fined — Rs 1,000 in urban areas and Rs 500 in rural areas.

A fine of Rs 2000 (urban area) and Rs 1000 (rural area) will be imposed on the owners of active construction sites, abandoned construction sites and vacant sites, if violations of health guidelines are identified. Further, if violators show non-compliance, 50 per cent of the total fine amount will be levied additionally for each week.

The government has directed the authorities to conduct regular inspections, implement sanitation protocols and provide medical aid to the affected areas. It has directed health workers to cover or secure the water storage containers, sumps or overhead tanks with a lid to prevent mosquito breeding and to dispose of solid waste materials to prevent water accumulation and mosquito breeding. Health officials have been directed to periodically inspect all vacant spaces, building premises, water tanks, parks, playgrounds and to enforce the guidelines of the Health & Family Welfare Department from time to time. In July, Bangalore Rural MP Dr C N Manjunath, also a cardiologist, urged the Karnataka Government to declare dengue as a state medical emergency amid rising cases. He had warned that if the mosquito breeding is not contained, it can lead to chikungunya, zika virus and more harmful diseases.

## Former R G Kar Medical College principal Sandip Ghosh, three others sent to 8-day CBI custody for 'financial misconduct'

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Former principal of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital Dr Sandip Ghosh and three others were on Tuesday remanded to CBI custody for 8 days in the corruption case related to alleged financial irregularities in the institution. The accused were escorted from the Nizam Palace to the Alipore Court, amid slogans of "chor chor" from the public gathered. Apart from Ghosh, the three others arrested are — vendors Biplav Singha (52) and Suman Hazara (46), and Afsar Ali (44), who was additional security to the former principal

The CBI had asked for a 10-day custody of the accused, while stating that financial irregularities in the RG Kar case are "large" and many more are involved. The agency alleged that during Sandip Ghosh's tenure, contracts were awarded to favored individuals, resulting in undue benefits. "The case is basically of financial irregularities. A great nexus is there between all the persons arrested. More people are involved... it is important to question all of them," CBI said before the court. CBI's coun-



sel also emphasised the importance of these arrests for the investigation, citing the case as one involving a nexus between the accused. The agency claimed to possess documentary evidence implicating all four as part of the "conspiracy." Meanwhile, the defense did not seek bail, instead arguing for a shorter custody period, stating that their client had cooperated with the investigation.

## One AAP corporator arrested, Surat's ACB looking for another in bribery case



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Surat's Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested an Aam Aadmi Party corporator Monday and are looking for another over their alleged demand of Rs. 10 lakh from a pay and parking contractor to prevent the latter's Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) contract from getting cancelled. The AAP corporators of wards 16 and 17 in Surat, Jitendra Kachhadiya and Vipul Suhagiya, had on a routine visit gone to the Magob area where the SMC had built a pay and parking facility. They allegedly found that the pay and parking contractor made an encroachment in the neighbouring vegetable market area.

Kachhadiya and Suhagiya allegedly threatened to cancel the contractor's SMC contract and register a police complaint. Per their demands, the contractor allegedly wrote an apology letter to them. After this, the corporators allegedly demanded Rs 11 lakh at first from the

contractor in meetings and calls with him. After "bargaining", the deal was allegedly "finalised" to Rs 10 lakh, per a police complaint filed by the contractor at the ACB office. While Suhagiya was arrested on Monday night under various sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, ACB officials are looking for Kachhadiya. The police complaint states that the corporators had not allegedly intentionally used the word "cash" or "money" and instead referred to a "word document".

With the intention of not giving the bribe amount, the contractor filed the complaint and handed over a CV of alleged mobile phone conversations with Kachhadiya and Suhagiya, containing details of the bribe and negotiations. ACB officials reportedly got the CD verified at the Forensic Science Laboratory office and got a "no tampering" certificate. Later, they performed a voice spectrograph test of both the accused corporators and found their voices matched the conversations recorded on the CD. Assistant director of Surat ACB R R Chaudhary said, "We received the complaint around one and a half months ago. There was a clear demand for a bribe by the accused corporators. We will obtain police remand of the accused this evening." Meanwhile, AAP state spokesperson Yogesh Jadwani said that contractors had "done corruption hand-in-glove with SMC officials" to make an encroachment on the vegetable market area. "The corporators found this scam... Corporators were complainants in the entire issue and they have been made the accused, while the accused had been made complainant. There is a vigilance probe going on against the contractor with SMC."

## Stock at 7 lakes, that quench Mumbai's year-round water needs, crosses 97%; no cuts likely in city till mid-May 2025

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Despite the city witnessing a dry spell, the total stock in the seven lakes supplying water to Mumbai surpassed 97 per cent of the total capacity on Tuesday morning. The cumulative water at the seven lakes now stands at 14.05 lakh million litre. On Tuesday, the lake levels soared to 97.12 per cent, which is significantly higher than last year, when the water stock had remained at 90.69 per cent on the same day. In 2022, the water stock had jumped to 98 per cent on September 3. The fear of the likelihood of water cuts until mid-2025 was already allayed in August when the cumulative water stock touched 90 per cent.

According to civic officials, every one per cent of water accounts for three days' supply and the current quantum of water is expected to last for 291 days which is equal to over nine months. Earlier this year, owing to rapid evaporation amid warm summers, the water in the lakes had plummeted to nearly 5 per cent by June, hitting a three-year low. However, with the city receiving excess rain in the month of July, the lakes in Mumbai and its

neighbouring districts replenished significantly with at least four of the seven lakes filling to the brim and overflowing. Mumbai receives water from seven lakes — Tulsi, Vihar, Bhatsa, Modak Sagar, Tansa, Upper Vaitarna and Middle Vaitarna — which are situated across Mumbai, Thane and Nashik districts. The catchment areas of these lakes get filled during the monsoons, following which the water is supplied through a network of pipelines throughout the year. Data furnished by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation shows that between Monday and Tuesday morning, the highest quantum of rain was recorded over Modak Sagar, 21 mm of rainfall, followed by Middle Vaitarna and Bhatsa lakes, which received 20 mm of rainfall each. Meanwhile, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Mumbai is unlikely to witness heavy downpour anytime soon amid a forecast of only moderate rains in the city as well as its neighbour Thane, until Saturday at least. Between Monday and Tuesday morning, the IMD's Santacruz station registered 21.9 mm of rainfall while the Colaba coastal observatory received 6.2 mm of rainfall.

## Upset over her love affair, UP farmer kills 18-year-old daughter and chops her body



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

farmer death Naeem Khan allegedly killed his daughter with a sharp weapon and cut her body into six parts outside their home in Motipur. A 42-year-old farmer upset over his daughter's relationship with a neighbouring youth allegedly murdered and dismembered her body outside their home in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich district on Monday. Police said the 18-year-old victim had eloped with the youth twice earlier and was not ready to end their relationship despite several warnings from her parents.

Naeem Khan allegedly killed his daughter with a sharp weapon and cut her body into six parts outside their home in Motipur. The victim, Khushbhoo, was the eldest of Khan's four children. Her mother and siblings had gone to a relative's house in Bahraich at the time of the incident. According to the police, they found Khan sitting next to his daughter's dismembered body when they reached the crime scene. They arrested him and sent Khushboo's body for an autopsy. He was presented before a local court in Bahraich, which remanded him in judicial custody, said Rakesh Kumar Pandey, Station House Officer at the Motipur police station. "The accused claimed that he acted out of shame and concern over the negative impact his daughter's behaviour would have on his other children. He suspected that she was planning to elope with the youth again," said a police officer. The police said cases had been filed after Khushboo eloped with the youth.

## Former Atlas Cycles president Salil Kapoor dies by suicide: Delhi Police

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Former Atlas Cycles president Salil Kapoor dies by suicide Kapoor was found dead on the ground floor of his three-storey house. Salil Kapoor, a former president of Atlas Cycles, died allegedly by suicide at his Lutyen's Delhi home in Aurangzeb Lane on Tuesday afternoon. He was 65. Kapoor was found dead on the ground floor of his three-storey house. "The incident came to light after the family members found Kapoor's body lying in a pool of blood just near the puja room inside their house. He was taken to AIIMS, where the doctors declared him brought dead on arrival," a senior police officer said. The local police were informed, and they, along with the forensic experts, visited the crime scene to extract the fingerprints. They recovered a purported suicide note, where the deceased has mentioned four to five names who were allegedly "physically, mentally and telephonically" torturing him. Police said they are verifying and probing the matter from "all possible angles".

In 2015, Kapoor was arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police when he was wanted in two separate cheating cases involving Rs 9 crore. The two cases were registered at the Defence Colony police station.

In 2020, Kapoor's sister-in-law Natasha Kapoor also died allegedly by suicide. She had returned from a wedding in Kolkata and left behind a purported suicide note saying she just could not live anymore. Her husband Sanjay Kapoor was a joint president of Atlas Cycles.

## Police to file chargesheet against actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, others this week

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Kannada actor Darshan arrested for murder of fan Darshan, his friend Pavithra Gowda and 11 others were arrested in connection with the murder of his fan Renukaswamy.

The chargesheet in the Renukaswamy murder case is in its final stages and will be submitted to the court in a day or two, B Dayananda, Police Commissioner, Bengaluru, said on Tuesday. Kannada film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa is among the many accused in the case. Thoogudeepa was arrested with his friend Pavithra Gowda and 11 others on June 11 in connection with the murder of Renukaswamy, a Chitradurga resident who was a fan of the actor. According to the police, Renukaswamy was murdered as he had allegedly sent abusive messages and photos to Gowda on Instagram.

Police chief Dayananda said that they have received the reports from the Forensic Science Laboratory and the chargesheet will be filed in a day or two. Seventeen people have been arrested in the murder case so far and all are presently in judicial custody.

Thoogudeepa was shifted to the Ballari central prison following allegations that he was getting special treatment inside the jail in Bengaluru after a photo and a video became viral on social media. In the photo, Thoogudeepa is purportedly seen sitting on a chair with a cigarette and a mug in hand along with rowdy sheeter Nagaraj J alias Wilson Garden Naga, Srinivas alias Kulla Seena and others, on the lawns of the jail. A video of the actor purportedly speaking to a person over a video call also surfaced online. Nine prison officials were suspended after the controversy. Apart from Thoogudeepa, some of the other jailed suspects in Renukaswamy's murder were also moved to prisons in different districts. While Pawan K, Raghavendra and Nandish were moved to Mysuru jail, Jagadish and Laxman were shifted to Shivamogga jail, and Dhanraj D, Vinay V, Nagaraju, and Pradosh were moved to Dharwad, Vijayapura, Kalaburagi, and Belagavi jails, respectively.

## Aspirants miffed over missing chance to appear for November CA Final attempt, say registration window should be extended



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Candidates have to take mandatory 40-hour online classes for the two papers under the SPOM and have to clear the papers through offline exams before the CA final examination. Candidates have to take mandatory 40-hour online classes for the two papers under the SPOM and have to clear the papers through offline exams before the CA final examination. With the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) introducing changes to the pattern of the examination and the registration process, several students have complained of missing out on applying for the November 2024 attempt of the CA final examination.

The registration window for the CA final exam was from August 7 to 23. The aspirants, who missed out on applying, said it is more than 10 days less than the regular registration window. The next attempt will be in May 2025. Although the change in the window for registration was uploaded by the ICAI on its official website, an aspirant from Delhi, Muskan Goel, said, "The ICAI should have created more awareness about the changes that reduced the number of days for registration for the CA final exam as students are busy with the articleship." Confusion over SPOM

Additionally, students also blame confusion over the Self-Paced Online Modules (SPOM) which were introduced in May this year. Two out of the total eight papers of the CA final examination are now covered under this module. Candidates have to take mandatory 40-hour online classes for the two papers under the SPOM and have to clear the papers through offline exams before the CA final examination. Many students were waiting to clear the SPOM and did not register for the CA final exam. But a new notification was issued by the ICAI, on August 22, declaring that candidates have until October to complete the SPOM for the November 2024 attempt of the CA final exam. One of the candidates, Rashi Rajput from Bhopal, said, "Many of us rushed to register but there were technical glitches and only one day left." Aakash Vedak, a student activist and a lawyer based out of Mumbai, said, "The ICAI should take a liberal view and open a window at least for two to three days as this is affecting the careers of thousands of students all over India. Students prepare for many years for competitive exams like CA. A longer wait will affect their studies and future career planning." He also said that students are also approaching the ICAI, urging them to open the registration window. ICAI response But the ICAI is firm on its decision. In a written response, the ICAI states that the changes were informed well in advance through its official website and sufficient timeline was given to the candidates. It added that more than 99,200 candidates have applied for the November 2024 CA final exam. Responding to reasons behind the changes in the registration window, it said, "In order to align with the best global practices and to allow students more opportunities to sit in the exam ICAI decided this year that Intermediate & Foundation course examinations will be held thrice a year." As a result, the registration window was brought down to 16 days for CA Intermediate and Foundation exams. While CA Final exam continues to follow the biannual format, "to keep parity, the same (registration) timeline was extended to CA Final November 2024 Exams", said the response.

## IIT Bombay placement report: More companies but fewer jobs as only 75% students placed

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

As the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay concluded placements for the academic year 2023-24, it has been able to place only close to 75 per cent of its students who registered for the process, even after witnessing a 12 per cent increase in the number of companies recruiting on campus this year. The premier technology institute in the city released its Placement Report for the academic year 2023-24; it reflected a poor placement record compared to the last academic year, 2022-23, when 82 per cent of participating students were successfully placed. Even as the average salary package has increased from Rs 21.82 lakh per annum (LPA) to Rs 23.50 LPA, the number of offers has dropped this academic year.

Last academic year (2022-23), IIT Bombay saw 324 companies recruiting on campus, making 1,788 offers, out of which 1516 were accepted. In the academic year 2023-24, however, 364 companies recruited on campus, making 16,50 job offers, out of which students accepted 1,475. There were a total of 1,979 who had registered for placements seeking jobs. "Considering the total number of participating students, the placement percentage is nearly 75 per cent. Most of the remaining unplaced students have identified avenues to be gainfully employed. Some of the unplaced students prefer higher studies, self-employment, or entrepreneurship over the jobs being offered to them," stated the report. It added, "Some of the 435 deregistered students want to pursue higher studies, such as M.S./M.Tech./PhD and MBA courses, while others opted for entrepreneurship or civil services, and didn't appear or had minimal participation in the placement drive." Students registering for placements in the academic year 2023-24 witnessed an increase by 11 per cent compared with the previous year, indicating that more students were seeking jobs. Last year, 2,174 students registered for the placements at IIT Bombay, out of which 1,845 actively participated. In the academic year 2023-24, 2,414 students registered for the placements, and 1,979 participated actively. Even as IIT students are generally criticised for taking up lucrative non-engineering job profiles, the IIT Bombay placement report for the academic year 2023-24 shows that engineering and technology were the top recruiting sectors.

According to the report, 430 students were selected for entry-level positions in various engineering domains in 106 core engineering companies, making it the biggest recruiter on campus. Information technology and tech hirings are slightly higher this year than last year. Around 307 students have been offered IT/Software jobs by over



84 companies through campus placement, making IT the second biggest recruiter after the engineering sector. "Compared to last year, there were fewer selections, i.e., 117 consulting offers were made by 29 consulting companies. Trading, banking, and fintech companies were prominent recruiters. The finance sector has 113 offers from 33 financial service firms this year," stated the report. Profiles in artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), product management, mobility, 5G, data science and analytics, and education also saw brisk hiring trends. Seventeen Design companies have offered 33 jobs. The education sector saw 11 companies participating, with only 30 jobs being offered. Research and development witnessed companies in automation, energy science, battery technology, chemical and mechanical research, energy efficiency solutions, application development, materials research, semiconductor, power electronics, AI/ML and research laboratories, where 36 organisations offered 97 positions in 2023-24. Salary packages of jobs offered along with average salary packages, the academic year 2023-24 also saw an increase in median salary from Rs 16.66 LPA last year to Rs 17.92 LPA. It adds that 22 offers were of above Rs 1 crore per year. Out of 1,475 accepted offers, 558 are above Rs 20 LPA. Regarding gross salary range, there were 230 offers between Rs 16.75 LPA and Rs 20 LPA, followed by 227 offers between Rs 14 LPA and Rs 16.75 LPA.

Ten students bagged packages between Rs 4 LPA and Rs 6 LPA, while 68 students bagged packages between Rs 6 LPA and Rs 8 LPA. As many as 128 students bagged gross salary packages between Rs 8 LPA and Rs 12 LPA. Even as the report claims that due to the war in Ukraine and the subdued global economy, IIT Bombay saw fewer international recruiters, it states, "This year, we have received 78 international offers from different firms based in Japan, Taiwan, Europe, UAE, Singapore, USA, Netherlands, and Hong Kong, which has increased from 65 in the previous year."

## Women's Commission seeks report from Bengaluru city police commissioner on death of victim's mother, Dayananda denies getting letter

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The woman had filed a complaint against Yediyurappa on March 14, accusing him of sexually abusing her minor daughter during a visit to his house in Dollars Colony on February 2. (File Photo) The woman had filed a complaint against Yediyurappa on March 14, accusing him of sexually abusing her minor daughter during a visit to his house in Dollars Colony on February 2. The Karnataka State Commission for Women has written to Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda seeking a report on the death of a woman who had accused former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa of sexually assaulting her minor daughter at his residence in February. However, Dayananda said on Tuesday that he has not received any letter from the Women's Commission regarding the death of the 54-year-old woman, a cancer patient, on May 26. In the letter dated August 27, Women's Commission chief Nagalakshmi Choudhary expressed concerns over the mysterious circumstances that led to the woman's death. "On May 27, the Akhila Bharatha Mahila Sangathane and Nagaraj K from Shikaripura raised concerns with Hulimavu police regard-

ing the funeral being conducted without an autopsy. After discussions with the Deputy Commissioner of Police (southeast), I received an update, but since the complainant's family and social workers are still suspicious, I request a formal inquiry and report," Choudhary wrote. The victim's mother died on May 26 at Nano Hospitals in Bengaluru due to lung complications. The police reported that she had advanced cancer and was admitted for breathing issues before succumbing to her illness. The woman had filed a complaint against Yediyurappa on March 14, accusing him of sexually abusing her minor daughter during a visit to his house in Dollars Colony on February 2. The visit was to seek help in previous cases of sexual abuse. A case was registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act and Section 354 (a) (sexual harassment) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on March 14. The investigation was handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which filed a 750-page chargesheet on June 27. Yediyurappa was charged under Section 8 of Pocso Act and Sections 354(a), 204 (destruction of evidence), and 214 (offering gifts to conceal an offender) of the IPC.

## Patient dies 41 days after historic heart transplant at Mumbai's KEM Hospital



Mahesh Pandav, 38, underwent a groundbreaking heart transplant at the KEM Hospital, marking a significant achievement in the Mumbai hospital's history. However, the Aurangabad man died of a severe infection 41 days later. Possibly the first of its kind in India, the surgery was initially deemed a success. When Mahesh underwent the 12-hour procedure on July 12, it was only the second heart transplant in the 56-year history of the hospital run by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. The operation was especially momentous as the KEM Hospital's first attempt at a heart transplant had ended unsuccessfully, in 1968. That historic surgery was led by Dr Prafulla Kumar Sen, following the world's first heart transplant, by Dr Christiaan Barnard in 1967. Mahesh's surgery renewed hope. The excitement grew when he recovered and returned home without complications, with a 60 per cent pumping capacity. He was discharged on 1 August and the doctors were cautiously optimistic. Talking to The Indian Express, his wife Swati Pandav said the family was filled with hope and happiness, as they believed their long struggle had finally ended. However, their

joy was short-lived. On the night of 20 August, Mahesh suddenly developed a high fever and began experiencing difficulty breathing. Swati immediately contacted the doctors at the KEM Hospital, who advised her to admit him to a local hospital in Sambhajnagar if his condition did not improve by the next morning.

By the next morning, Mahesh's symptoms had worsened significantly. He was unable to pass urine and was struggling to breathe. The family rushed him to the Seth Nandlal Dhoot Hospital, where he was placed on oxygen support. Despite the efforts of both the local doctors and those at the KEM Hospital who were in constant communication, Mahesh's condition deteriorated rapidly. He was put on a ventilator after his condition failed to stabilise, and he succumbed to the infection on August 22. Sources from the KEM Hospital said the infection had caused Mahesh's heart to fail, leading to his untimely death. He had been on immunosuppressive drugs, which are necessary for all transplant patients to prevent the body from rejecting the new organ. These medications, while life-saving, also leave patients vulnerable to infections, a risk that proved fatal in Mahesh's case. Swati, who had been by her husband's side throughout his battle, said, "The doctors had told us that the first six months after the transplant were critical. We were happy that a month had passed. He told me that only five months were left, and everything would be fine. Even in the hospital, he told me not to worry. I still can't believe he's gone; it feels like he's still in the hospital, and I need to take a tiffin for him." The family's grief is shared by the doctors at the KEM Hospital, who had worked tirelessly to save Mahesh's life. The medical team's efforts underscore the complexities of post-transplant care, where the battle against infection remains one of the most significant hurdles.

## On Rajkot outskirts, residents block road to Nakaravadi landfill site, protesting leachate mixing with local rivers

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Residents of Nakaravadi village, on the outskirts of Rajkot, have been blocking the road to the Nakaravadi landfill site since Monday afternoon in protest of leachate from the site allegedly mixing with local streams and rivers. This has affected municipal solid waste disposal operations in Rajkot as protestors haven't allowed trucks loaded with solid waste to go to the site.

Devang Desai, municipal commissioner of Rajkot, told The Indian Express. "We tried to persuade them, saying that we will address the problem. However, they blocked the trucks late on Monday night. They did the same on Tuesday morning also." Desai sent a team of Rajkot Municipal Corporation officers to Nakaravadi to persuade the residents to allow the resumption of waste disposal operations. "Due to heavy rain, surface water is mixing with leachate. However, the leachate is not on a scale comparable with the Pirana dumping site in Ahmedabad. Nonetheless, we will suck the leachate out and dispose of it properly," said the commissioner. "RMC collects around 700 to 750 metric tonnes of municipal solid waste from Rajkot every day. The under-construction waste-to-energy plant is likely to take time till March next year to commence operations. Presently, we are not able to process all the waste daily. Thus, some waste lies in a dump, creating the problem," he added.

Meanwhile, door-to-door garbage collection operations in the city were carrying on per usual. "Refuge trans-



fer stations can handle such disruptions," Desai said. After complaints from villagers, a team from the Gujarat Pollution Control Board's regional office in Rajkot had rushed to Nakaravadi on Monday for a spot inspection. "Our team observed that leachate was streaming into local streams as the volumes of leachate had increased, apparently due to the recent heavy rains. The landfill site has leachate collection tanks but they are not proving sufficient," said BM Makwana, regional officer (RO) of GPBC in Rajkot. Makwana said that no leachate is "permitted" to mix with local water bodies. "Based on observations of our team which made the site visit yesterday, we are preparing a report which we will forward to the tour head office. In the meantime, we have instructed the RMC to immediately prevent leachate from flowing into streams," said the RO.

## Over 250 fall sick after drinking contaminated water at Greater Noida residential society

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

However, an official of the Greater Noida Authority said the problem seemed to have been caused by a lack of proper flushing of chemicals in the society's water tank. (Representational Photo) However, an official of the Greater Noida Authority said the problem seemed to have been caused by a lack of proper flushing of chemicals in the society's water tank. More than 250 residents of the Supertech Eco Village 2 society in Greater Noida, including 25 children, fell sick after drinking contaminated water. "We are looking into the matter," said Dr Sunil Kumar Sharma, Chief Medical Officer at the Gautam Buddha Nagar district hospital. "Last night a team of doctors from Birsakh visited the society and provided treatment to the children. Today teams from the district hospital and Birsakh have been sent. We are waiting for a detailed report," he said. "A lot of people are suffering. Ambulances have been here since last night," said D K Sinha, a resident of the society. Sinha said the water that comes to the society is provided by the Greater Noida Authority.

"The lab test of the water will be done today. Only then will we know the source of the contamination," said Sinha. However, an official of the Greater Noida Authority said the problem seemed to have been caused by a lack of proper flushing of chemicals in the society's water tank.



He said that while the authority provides water to the society, the systems are installed by the society."

The water tank was not flushed properly before refilling the water, it seems," he said. Many residents were treated at a nearby private clinic. Dr Jaitavya Kushwaha, a doctor at the clinic, said that 8-10 patients are at the hospital's outpatient department. "Last night we closed the OPD at 1.30 am. We checked 80 people who complained of diarrhoea, stomachache and vomiting. He said the residents of the society first started contacting the hospital at midnight. "All of them have the same symptoms," said Dr Kushwaha.

## Prolonged repair work at Siddharth College leaves students, staff in a limbo

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The staff and students at Siddharth College of Commerce and Economics are expressing frustration over prolonged repairs taking place on the college premises that has affected the normal functioning of the college. The college, which is located in the heritage building Anand Bhavan in Mumbai's fort area, has been undergoing repairs for the past two years. The renovation work, which commenced two years ago, was halted midway due to delays in funding. With a National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) supervision committee scheduled to visit at the end of the month, there are concerns that the incomplete repairs might result in a poor rating for the college. Siddharth College of Commerce and Economics is managed by the People's Education Society, founded by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in 1945. Anand Bhavan is classified as a Grade II heritage structure. According to college officials, the state government allocated over ₹12 crore in 2021 for the building's repairs under the then Social Justice Minister Dhananjay Munde.

"The repair work commenced as planned, starting from the top of the building. Consequently, Siddharth

College of Law, which occupies the third and fourth floors, has been fully repaired. However, work on Siddharth College of Commerce and Economics, which occupies the ground to the second floor, stopped midway. This halt occurred because, during the course of the repairs, an additional funding requirement arose.

A new proposal for a total of ₹42 crore was submitted, replacing the initially approved ₹12 crore. The delay in securing this additional funding has led the contractor to stop work," a college official said. Principal Dr Umaji Mhaske said, "Out of over 900 seats allotted for Class XI admissions, only about 500 have been confirmed. In the Bachelor of Commerce programme, the intake was reduced from 840 to 500 this academic year. Parents are hesitant to enrol their children here due to the college's condition." Dr Mhaske also pointed out that fans and tubelights removed for repairs have not been reinstalled, and classroom walls are left with exposed plaster. "The NAAC committee is expected in the last week of September," he added. The Republican Bahujan Vidyarthi Parishad, a student organisation, has alleged that the funding delays are intentional. Advocate Sushil Mahadik from the organisation stated, "

## Karnataka yoga teacher arrested in rape case after US NRI lodges complaint



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Kevala Foundation in Chikkamagaluru. Ullal was arrested after the woman, who has been taking online yoga classes from him, approached the police on Sunday and filed a complaint.

In the complaint, the woman said her family hails from Punjab and they have been staying in California in the United States since 2000. The woman visited Ullal thrice in 2021 and 2022 when she was sexually assaulted, she said in her complaint. Ullal made her believe that they had a relationship in their previous birth, spoke about "spirituality, energy work and divine love", and sexually assaulted her, the complaint stated. The woman further said that she became pregnant and eventually had a miscarriage. The Chikkamagaluru rural police have booked a case under Section 376(2)(n) (commits rape repeatedly on the same woman) of the Indian Penal Code. "Ullal is settled in Bengaluru and worked in Dubai earlier. During his stay in Dubai, he is said to have started yoga classes there. He returned to India later, bought three acres of land in 2010, and started yoga classes in Chikkamagaluru district," a police officer said. "Ullal used to take people on Himalayan trips, bird watching, and other events. His operations were mainly online and there were many students," the officer added.

## Delhi HC asks AIIMS director to implement Dr S K Sarin Committee recommendations, lambasts govt for 'complete lack of consensus'

GNS News Agency, Sept 6



The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to ensure the implementation of the Dr S K Sarin Committee report. It also expressed its consternation at "the complete lack of consensus" between the bureaucrats and the Delhi health minister that is affecting healthcare and leaving the common man as the "ultimate victim of apathy and indifference at the hands of those who are responsible for the present state of affairs". The committee headed by Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) Chancellor Dr S K Sarin was appointed by the high court on February 13 while hearing a 2017 suo motu plea initiated over the alleged lack of ICU beds and ventilators in government hospitals. The court also vested the AIIMS director with overarching powers to ensure the implementation of recommendations, including powers for administering and managing, fund raising through CSR, and purchase decisions. Not mincing words to record that "all is not well in the health department", the court opined that it "instead of declaring war on disease and misinformation seems to be at unease with itself". The observation was made after four of the six doctors on the court-constituted committee recused themselves from it. The court had asked the committee to monitor and verify the implementation of its recommendations.

In a communication by Dr Sarin on behalf of the committee, addressed to Acting Chief Justice Manmohan, dated August 26, it was stated, "...the committee members feel challenges as 4 out of 6 members of the committee are working under the hospitals run by the Govt. of Delhi, and are subordinate to the Govt. Hence, it is requested that this Hon'ble Court may consider the current Committee to be recused from this new responsibility, and as deemed appropriate, to appoint another committee for this."

Following the August 26 communication by the committee, the division bench of ACJ Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora observed, "This court is of the view that if four of the senior doctors of GNCTD (Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi) after preparing well-deliberated exhaustive pro-bono report, recuse themselves from carrying out the Court mandate of monitoring and verification of implementation of its recommendations, it shows that all is not well in the health department, GNCTD. In the opinion of this court, the aforesaid letter speaks volumes." The court directed the AIIMS director to constitute a team or task force to ensure speedy implementation of the committee's recommendations. It further directed that if the emergency units of the Delhi government and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) hospitals are not working well, the AIIMS director "should administer and manage them through AIIMS staff and/or contractual staff". "The funds for this should be provided by the GNCTD. The director of AIIMS is also permitted to purchase or rent equipment, machines, drugs, etc., according to the applicable norms at AIIMS. The funds for this should also be provided by the GNCTD. The said director of AIIMS will also be allowed to raise funds through CSR donations if required," the court said. The court directed the government to ensure that the services of the four government doctors of the committee are renewed for the next two years and "that they are not victimised or harassed in any way during this period". Notably, AAP MLA Atishi last month filed a report before the court in this petition, alleging the GNCTD standing counsel Avnish Ahlawat of making false statements before the court. The bench noted, "This court also takes judicial notice of the statements of the senior functionaries of Health Department, GNCTD in the press. Though the Health Minister, GNCTD blames officials for the sad state of affairs in the GNCTD hospitals, the Administrator, GNCTD blames political establishment in Delhi for the disorder and chaos in the Delhi Hospitals. It is pertinent to mention that this court had summoned the Health Secretary, GNCTD and the Health Minister, GNCTD some months back in another contempt proceeding and orally suggested to them that they should work together amicably in a bid to improve the quality of health care of the citizens of Delhi."

"However, it seems that the said suggestion has not found favour with them... It has become apparent from the complete lack of consensus between the bureaucrats and the Minister that the quality of healthcare services in Delhi continues to be dismal and the common man is the ultimate victim of apathy and indifference at the hands of those who are responsible for the present state of affairs," it added. Meanwhile, the amicus curiae in the case, Ashok Agarwal, also sought the court's directions "to create as many as 38,000 posts of doctors, specialists and paramedics for the upcoming" 24 Delhi government hospitals, which have been under construction for the past five-six years. Agarwal highlighted that the court must clarify the authority responsible for recruitment to avoid any delays. To this effect, following a suggestion from GNCTD's counsel, senior advocate Rahul Mehra, the court directed that a meeting chaired by the Lieutenant Governor be held within a week, comprising the health minister, chief secretary, health secretary, Services Secretary, and Secretary (Administrative Reforms), to create 38,000 additional posts of doctors, specialists, and paramedics for the functioning of the upcoming hospitals. Further, taking note of a report by The Indian Express that highlighted that 23 doctors selected through the UPSC have been awaiting appointments for over a year now, the court directed the GNCTD to ensure that notifications for appointments of these doctors are issued within one week.

## What is the case against a Punjab cop over which Speaker has summoned DGP?

The case against Faridkot Assistant Sub-Inspector Bohar Singh, over which Punjab Assembly Speaker Kulraj Singh Sandhwan has summoned DGP Gaurav Yadav, is related to a 2015 FIR of sexual harassment registered against Anantdeep Singh, who has accused the police officer of bribery. Anantdeep, 38, son of the Congress municipal councillor from ward 2 in Kotkapura in Faridkot district, Surinderpal Kaur, complained to the police on August 20 that ASI Bohar Singh had accepted a bribe for cancelling the FIR against him. In 2019, Bohar Singh was mukh munshi in the Kotkapura city police station. "I used to get work done from him and he was given his fees. We were close. FIR 162 of 14 Sept 2015 under section 341 (wrongful restraint), 294 (reciting, singing or uttering any obscene song, ballad or words), 354 A (sexual harassment), 354 B (criminal force to woman with intent to disrobe), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the IPC was registered against me. This FIR was cancelled in November 2015. Cancellation report was submitted in court in December 2016. But the complainant refused to agree to the cancellation and the case was sent back to the police station for reinvestigation," Anantdeep said in his complaint. Anantdeep told The Indian Express that he did not know the complainant in the case against him. "I was framed during the SAD-BJP government as I have been a Congress worker," he said. Anantdeep alleged that Bohar Singh had asked for 1.5 lakh to get the FIR cancelled. "On December 5, 2019, I gave him Rs 50,000 in advance. I promised to give him Rs 50,000 in some days. Then Bohar Singh was trans-

ferred out of Kotkapura. I met him in Faridkot several times. In April 2020, I met him again and asked him for help. He demanded Rs 50,000 more. On April 17, 2020, I gave him a cheque of Rs 50,000. Bohar Singh got it encashed. As it was Covid time, he kept on promising me. But he has still not got my work done. I met him 15 days ago again and he demanded Rs 50,000 more from me. I asked him to return my advance but he refused. He is now an ASI. I want action taken against him," he said. Pragya Jain, SSP, Faridkot, said on Monday that Bohar Singh was suspended on August 24. Bohar Singh was unavailable for comment as all his phones were switched off. Anantdeep said that Bohar Singh had been posted at the Kotkapura city police station for seven to eight years before he was transferred to the Faridkot police station in 2020. Anantdeep said he had three FIRs pending against him. "Another one was about a fight with my neighbour. I do not remember the third one. I will give you the details after checking," he told The Indian Express. He said the police had declared him a gangster sometime ago. "At that time, I had only one FIR against me and they declared me a gangster. But I want to tell you that all these are fake cases. I have been framed," he said. Congress's allegation against Speaker Meanwhile, Congress leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira has alleged that Speaker Sandhwan has a personal score to settle with the ASI, posting online a daily diary report (DDR) from June 13. "The PC ACT case registered against the ASI is a result of DDR No 015 Ps Sadar Faridkot of 12.6.24 registered against Birinder Singh, brother of Speaker Sandhwan, on the complaint of ASI Bohar for abusing & threatening him," Khaira wrote on X

## 'Intense rainfall in Gujarat worsened by extensive urban development in flood-prone areas': IITGN study



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Gujarat's Morbi, Dwarka, and Jamnagar recorded rainfall levels that surpassed their 50-year return periods (with Dwarka exceeding 100 years), marking an intensity of rainfall that typically occurs only once in half a century. A return period is a statistical measure indicating the average interval between such intense events. "However, the flooding was likely exacerbated by extensive urban development in flood-prone areas, altered elevations, and drainage patterns compromised due to rapid urbanization and clogged drainage systems," said Udit Bhatia, assistant professor in civil engineering, computer science, and engineering at IIT Gandhinagar and Principal Investigator of the MIR Lab, who works on the resilience of urban systems to extreme events.

These are some of the key insights of an analysis of maximum rainfall between August 20 and August 29 conducted by researchers at the Machine Intelligence and Resilience Laboratory (MIR Lab) at the Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar. Terming the spells of rain across Gujarat as a classic example of concurrent extreme events, where multiple regions experience severe weather simultaneously, the researchers said that such concurrence complicates emergency response and evacuation efforts as resources become stretched across multiple affected areas. The overlapping demands for rescue, relief, and evacuation operations can overwhelm emergency services, making it more challenging to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of those impacted by the floods. This underscores the need for robust and scalable emergency response strategies that can handle the complexities of concurrent extreme events.

For example, in Vadodara, which experienced severe urban flooding during this period, the three-day rainfall corresponded to a return period of less than 10 years. This suggests that the heavy rain was not unprecedented

in magnitude, the researchers said. The analysis further revealed that twelve of Gujarat's 33 districts experienced one-day rainfall totals of such intensity that they exceeded the 10-year return period, which is a statistical measure indicating the average interval between such intense events. "The situation became even more critical over two-day periods, with 17 districts exceeding the 10-year return period, including Jamnagar, Morbi, and Devbhumi Dwarka, where rainfall surpassed 50-year return levels," the analysis states. Gujarat rains The overlapping demands for rescue, relief, and evacuation operations can overwhelm emergency services, making it more challenging to respond effectively and efficiently to the needs of those impacted by the floods. Additionally, fifteen districts recorded three-day rainfall totals exceeding the 10-year return period, with Jamnagar, Morbi, Devbhumi Dwarka, and Rajkot all experiencing levels above their 50-year thresholds. In particular, Jamnagar and Dwarka saw three-day rainfall totals that even exceeded their expected return levels, which the researchers said emphasised the prolonged and intense nature of the rain.

"The granularity of the available data may not fully capture the nuances of urban flooding, which often results from short-duration, high-intensity rainfalls that overwhelm city drainage systems," explained Bhatia. He further said, "When rainfall persists for longer durations, the soil becomes saturated during the initial spells, and subsequent rainfall is more likely to contribute directly to surface runoff. This runoff exacerbates flooding, especially when drainage systems are either incapacitated or unhealthy."

Therefore, the recurrence of these unusual weather events along the western coast of India highlights the "urgent need to reassess urban planning and infrastructure resilience", in Bhatia's words. "As rapid urbanization continues to modify regional and local hydrology, placing greater strain on drainage systems, it is crucial to keep hydrology at the core of urban development strategies," he said. Between August 20 and August 29, Gujarat was inundated by heavy rainfall resulting from Cyclone Asna, the latest in a series of unusual weather events along India's western coast. Following Cyclone Biparjoy in 2023, Asna has drawn attention to the growing frequency of severe weather in the region. However, experts caution that it is premature to directly attribute these events to climate change without a thorough statistical and dynamic investigation.

## Centre moves SC, says Bengal not providing logistics support to CISF at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The Union Home Ministry Tuesday moved the Supreme Court accusing the West Bengal government of "non-cooperation" in providing logistics support to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), deployed at the R G Kar Medical Hospital in Kolkata after a trainee doctor was found raped and murdered there on August 9. In its application, the Ministry alleged that the state government had not provided enough security equipment, such as metal detectors, or made adequate accommodation arrangements for the CISF members deployed at the hospital, calling this "unpardonable". The Supreme Court, which took suo motu cognisance of the rape and murder as well as a mob attack on the hospital on August 14, had on August 20 directed the CISF to provide security at the hospital.

Referring to this, the application said that when the suggestion for the deployment of the CISF was put forward before the court, "the state government through its counsel stated that there is no objection if such a course of action is adopted". The Home Ministry said "such wilful non-compliance" of the court's orders "is not only contemptuous but it also goes against all the constitutional and moral principles which the State should abide by... due to non-availability of accommodation, security gadgets and paucity of transportation, duty personnel are facing a lot of difficulties in performing duties coming from various locations, especially the lady contingent. It is submitted that the same is highly detrimental considering the present situation in the State of West Bengal. The CISF, in light of the above, requested that the matter may be taken up by the Ministry of Home Affairs with the Government of West Bengal," the application said.



The Ministry said that the CISF has deployed 2 companies, each having a strength of 92, at the hospital from August 22. The application said that the CISF had thereafter received a requisition to deploy personnel at five other hostels of R G Kar which are outside the main campus. The Home Ministry said it took this matter up with the West Bengal Chief Secretary through a letter on September 2, requesting adequate logistics arrangement and the security gadgets sought by CISF. "But thereafter, there has been no response from the state government..." the Ministry told the court. The application said: "CISF personnel deployed at R G Kar Hospital are facing severe difficulties due to lack of accommodation and lack of basic security infrastructure. The troops are presently staying at CISF Unit SMP, Kolkata despite the constraints being faced by the accommodating unit. The traveling time from SMP Kolkata to R G Kar Hospital is nearly 1 hour from one side and it is difficult to discharge duties effectively and to mobilize CISF troops to duly and promptly respond during contingencies".

## Welcome Rahul Gandhi's 'interest' in Congress-AAP alliance in Haryana: Sanjay Singh

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Tuesday welcomed reports claiming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has shown interest in the possibility of an alliance with Arvind Kejriwal-led party in poll-bound Haryana. Singh told reporters that defeating the BJP is a priority of all the opposition parties and added any decision regarding alliance will be taken with the approval of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal. There were several reports claiming that Gandhi, in a meeting of Congress' Central Election Committee (CEC) on Monday, expressed interest about the possibility of alliance with AAP for assembly polls in Haryana. Voting on 90 assembly seats in Haryana will be held on October 5 and counting of votes will be undertaken on October 8. "Defeating the BJP and its politics of hatred and politics against



people, farmers and youth is a priority for all of us," Singh said. Singh, however, said any official stand on the issue will be made by AAP's in-charge of Haryana affairs Sandeep Pathak and state president Sushil Gupta. "Any final decision in this regard will be taken by our leaders associated with organisational and election related works in Haryana, after approval of Kejriwal," said the senior AAP leader. Delhi minister Atishi said the decision will

only be taken after Kejriwal is released. "Rahul Gandhi has sought opinion from Congress leaders and only they can answer. We have got to know about it from media. As far as alliance goes, the decision will be taken after Arvind Kejriwal comes out," she told reporters on the sidelines of an event. The Congress leaders in Haryana, however, have rejected the possibility of any alliance with AAP in the state. Recently, senior Congress leader in Haryana, Kumari Selja ruled out the possibility of an alliance with AAP for the assembly polls, saying her party is strong in the state and will fight the elections on its own. Earlier, the Congress and AAP, partners in Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA bloc), entered into seat adjustments for Lok Sabha polls in Delhi Haryana and Gujarat. In Haryana,

## Far-right AfD's victory triggers fear of a return to the past in Germany



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Nicki Kämpf watched her daughter toddle across the sand in a Berlin playground and wondered whether she and her wife should move their 1 1/2-year-old west, after Alternative for Germany became the first far-right party to win a state election in post-World War II Germany. Ms. Kämpf, 29, and her wife discussed a backup plan as Sunday's election results came in. They're concerned that a gay couple and their child might not be safe in the future if parties like Alternative for Germany, or AfD, gain more power in the formerly communist and less prosperous eastern states.

Even though they live in the liberal city of Berlin, Kämpf was scared the far-right's power could spread. She's especially worried because the paperwork to formally adopt her daughter is still pending — and could be for another year or more. "I don't think I would be able to adopt her if they're in power," Ms. Kämpf told The Associated Press on Monday. "I don't want to bring her up in a hostile environment." The couple talked about a possible move west to Cologne — "people there are really open-minded" — but Kämpf is reluctant to take their daughter far from the toddler's 91-year-old great-great-grandmother and other family in Thuringia and neighboring Saxony. AfD won its state election in Thuringia on Sunday under one of its hardest-right figures, Björn Höcke. In Saxony, the party finished only just behind the mainstream conservative Christian Democratic Union, which leads the national opposition. Deep discontent with a national government notorious for infighting, inflation and a weak economy, anti-immigration sentiment and skepticism toward German military aid for Ukraine are among the factors that contributed to support for populist parties. A new party founded by a prominent leftist was the second big winner on Sunday — and will probably be needed to form state governments since no one is prepared to govern with AfD.

AFD is at its strongest in the east, and the domestic intelligence agency has the party's branches in both Saxony and Thuringia under official surveillance as "proven right-wing extremist" groups. Höcke has been convicted of knowingly using a Nazi slogan at political

events, but is appealing. Höcke bristled Sunday when an ARD interviewer mentioned the intelligence agency's assessment, responding: "Please stop stigmatizing me. We are the No. 1 party in Thuringia. You don't want to classify one-third of the voters in Thuringia as right-wing extremist."

Voters went to the polls on the 85th anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of Poland at the start of World War II. Some far-left protesters demonstrated against AfD in Hamburg, Dresden and Leipzig. Lukas Meister said his sons, 6 and 3 years old, are too young to understand elections. But as the 3-year-old played with sand toys Monday, the 38-year-old father thought about how his eldest child will have to learn about it someday. "We don't talk much about politics so far. He's more into 'Paw Patrol,'" Meister said. "It's hard to explain. How is it that people are so proud to vote for a party that is so bad for everyone?" Older Germans who lived through the Nazi reign of terror are frightened. Many believed their country had developed an immunity to nationalism and assertions of racial superiority after confronting the horrors of its past through education and laws to outlaw persecution. But Holocaust survivor Charlotte Knobloch, president of the Jewish Community of Munich and Upper Bavaria, cautioned against labeling AfD's successes as an aberration. "Nobody should now speak of 'protest' or look for other excuses," Knobloch said in a statement. "The numerous voters made their decision consciously, many wanted to make the extremists on the fringes responsible." Knobloch was 6 years old when she saw the synagogues of Munich burning and watched helplessly as two Nazi officers marched away a beloved friend of her father on Nov. 9, 1938, or Kristallnacht — the "Night of Broken Glass" — when Nazis terrorized Jews throughout Germany and Austria.

Gudrun Pfeifer and Ursula Klute, two retirees from the northwestern city of Osnabrueck who are visiting Berlin this week, said Sunday's vote also brought back grim memories from their early childhood days during and after World War II.

"I know what this can all lead to," Pfeifer, 83, said Monday as her voice broke, recalling how her family was separated during the last months of the war and beyond. She was stranded in Berlin for more than a year. "The city was in ruins, we were all starving. I was very ill — my sister thought I was going to die," Pfeifer added. Thorsten Faas, a political scientist from Berlin's Free University, called AfD's popularity for younger voters "very worrying." In Thuringia, 38% of people aged between 18-24 gave their vote to the far-right party — compared to 33% overall, according to public broadcaster ARD's Tagesschau election analysis. "These first voting experiences are very formative and you can assume that this will also affect future voting decisions of this generation," Faas said.

## On Germany's electoral architecture

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The story so far: On July 30, Germany's federal constitutional court upheld the government's move to downsize the lower house of parliament, with effect from the 2025 federal elections. The present 20th Bundestag (German Parliament) is its largest ever, since the first post-war legislature was inaugurated in 1949, with a total of 736 deputies. The current tally positions the Bundestag as the largest Parliament among democratically elected assemblies, even bigger than the 720-strong parliament of the European Union. The steady rise in the number of representatives has raised concerns on the strain imposed on the public coffers, as well as implications for the functional efficiency of the Bundestag.

What is the background? The context to the July judgment is the constant enlargement of the Bundestag, a consequence of Germany's complex electoral architecture as well as the fragmentation of the party system in recent years.

Since the country's second quadrennial federal elections of 1953, each voter has exercised two votes, in what is known as the personalised proportional or mixed-member proportional representation system. The first vote is cast to directly choose a candidate from a local constituency via the conventional first-past-the-post method of obtaining a simple majority for a total of 299 seats. Voters simultaneously cast a second ballot to choose a political party for another 299 parliamentary seats, which are distributed across Germany's 16 regions. A party must have secured either 5% of the second vote share or a minimum of three individual constituencies to qualify for entry into parliament. The 5% threshold was stipulated to prevent too many splinter parties from entering the Bundestag. It is the second, that is, the state list vote that determines the relative strength of parties in the Bundestag, because the allocation of seats is proportionate to the number of second votes each party has received. The conversion of the second votes into seats involves a two-stage process. Each region receives seats in proportion to the population resident therein. These are then distributed among the parties based on their respective share of second votes. The seats for each party at the federal level is subsequently fixed as per the number of candidate seats it won in the state, as well as the number of seats it was entitled to, based on the share of the second vote it received. The higher of the above two figures is the final tally of the party's seats in a region. The cumulative addition of seats across the regions makes up the party's strength in the Bundestag.

Germany's two largest parties, the ruling Centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) and the opposition Centre-right Christian Democratic Union (CDU), have over the decades garnered the maximum number of directly elected seats. These first vote seats are invariably greater than the seats that they would be entitled to on the basis of their share of the second votes and as such are known as extra seats or overhang seats. However, in view of Germany's personalised proportional system, parties have been allowed to retain these overhang seats. Crucially, even though the support base of the larger parties has eroded in recent years consequent to the emergence of smaller parties, they have managed to retain their dominance of first vote seats. In a 2008 decision, the constitutional court ruled the rising numbers of overhang seats as violative of the equality of elections and hence unconstitutional. In 2012, the constitutional court addressed this imbalance by ruling that the large number of extra or overhang seats that accrued to the larger parties must be compensated through the creation of "balance seats" for smaller parties. This would be in accordance with the principle of equal suffrage, direct elections and equal opportunities for political parties. The verdict therefore inevitably resulted in a further addition to the number of legislators. The Court has since upheld amendments to



the election law that broadly reflect its 2012 judgment.

What move did the govt. propose?

On March 17, 2023, the government enacted legislation which would cap the size of the Bundestag at 630 representatives with effect from the 2025 federal elections. Whereas the number of candidate seats will remain at 299, the party list will increase to 331 seats. The new limit was decided under the guidance of an Electoral Rights Commission in 2022 and would be achieved by scrapping both the "overhang seats" and "balance seats". Crucially, the weightage hitherto attached to candidate seats would be reduced. Obtaining a simple majority in an individual constituency will not henceforth automatically translate into a parliamentary seat. Where parties win more candidate seats than their second vote share entitles them to, individual winners who poll the lowest share of the vote will not be awarded a seat. This has now been upheld by the federal constitutional court. However, the government has faced strong criticism that the new measure was not backed by a wide consultative process ahead of its passage. The main opposition CDU has already said that it would roll back the law when it regained office.

## A suicide bomber detonates in Afghan capital, killing at least 6 people and injuring 13

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Police in the Afghan capital say a suicide bomber carried out an attack Monday (September 2, 2024), killing at least six people and injuring 13 others. The blast took place in the southwestern Qala Bakhtiar neighbourhood in Kabul, said Khalid Zadrán, spokesman for the Kabul police chief.

The dead included one woman, he said, while 13 people were wounded, all of them civilians who were taken to a hospital for treatment. A police investigation is underway. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing.

The Islamic State group's affiliate, a major rival of the ruling Taliban, has carried out previous attacks on schools, hospitals, mosques and Shiite areas throughout the country.

The Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021 during the chaotic departure of U.S. and NATO troops after 20 years. Despite initial promises of a more moderate stance, the Taliban gradually reimposed a harsh interpretation of Islamic law, or Shariah, as they did during their previous rule of Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.

## Russian pipeline gas exports to Europe down 2% in August, calculations show



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Russian energy giant Gazprom's average daily natural gas supplies to Europe declined in August by 2% from July and 2.3% year on year, Reuters calculations showed on Monday. The calculations, based on data from the European gas transmission group EntsoG and Gazprom's

daily reports on gas transit via Ukraine, showed that average daily pipeline exports decreased to 89.6 million cubic metres (mcm) last month. That was down from 91.5 mcm in July this year and 91.7 mcm in August 2023. Gazprom's total natural gas supplies to the European Union stood at about 2.78 billion cubic metres (bcm) in August, the data showed. Of that, 1.29 bcm, or 41.7 mcm per day, was sent via Ukraine.

Gas transit via Ukraine was slightly below historic levels owing to fighting in the Kursk region, location of the last trans-shipping point for Russian natural gas to Western and Central Europe. Gazprom's natural gas exports to Europe this year have reached about 21.1 bcm so far and are up 19.2% year on year. The company, which has not published its own monthly statistics since the start of 2023, did not respond to a request for comment. Russia supplied a total of about 63.8 bcm of gas to Europe by various routes in 2022, Gazprom data and Reuters calculations show. The volume decreased by 55.6% to 28.3 bcm last year.

## Mpox patients lack medicine, food, in east DR Congo hospital

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Dozens of feverish patients lay on thin mattresses on the floor of a makeshift mpox isolation ward in east Democratic Republic of Congo, as overstretched hospital workers grappled with drug shortages and lack of space to accommodate the influx. Congo is the epicentre of an mpox outbreak that the World Health Organization declared to be a global public health emergency last month. Vaccines are set to arrive within days to fight the new strain of the virus, while Congo's President Felix Tshisekedi has allowed a first USD 10 million disbursement to fight the outbreak. But at the hospital complex in the town of Kavumu, where 900 symptomatic patients have been taken in over the past three months, health workers are desperate for support.

"We run out of medicine every day," said head doctor Musole Mulamba Muva. "There are many challenges we struggle to overcome with our local means," he said, noting that donations from international organisations rapidly dwindled. Last week there were 135 patients in the mpox ward, children and adults combined, crammed between three large plastic tents pitched into damp earth without a floor cover. Relatives that usually provide the bulk of meals in underfunded public facilities such as the Kavumu hospital were banned from visiting the mpox ward to avoid contamination. "We do not have anything to eat," said Nzigire Lukangira, the 32-year-old mother of a hospitalised toddler. "When we ask for something to lower our children's temperature, they do not give us anything," she said, coaxing honey into her daughter's mouth. The head of Congo's mpox response team, Cris Kacita, acknowledged that parts of the vast central African country lacked medicine and that dispatching donations, including 115 tonnes of medicine from the World



Bank, was a priority. Traditional remedies

Mpox causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions and, while usually mild, it can kill. Children, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems are all at higher risk of complications. Like other mothers in the Kavumu mpox ward, Lukangira had started improvising with traditional remedies to ease her baby's pain. They dipped their fingers in potassium bicarbonate or salty lemon juice and popped their children's blisters. Adult patients did the same to themselves. Most cases came from the town itself and surrounding villages. Two other makeshift mpox wards have been set up in the area. Local health ministry representative, doctor Serge Munyau Cikuru, called on the government to continue pushing for vaccines. Kacita said high-risk contacts and nine priority areas had already been identified for the first vaccination stage. There were 19,710 suspected cases of mpox reported since the start of the year in Congo by August 31, according to the health ministry. Of those, 5,041 were confirmed and 655 were fatal.

## Dozens of migrants are dead after a boat rips apart in waters off northern France

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

The mayor of a French coastal town being used in a rescue operation says 13 migrants are dead after their boat ripped apart Tuesday (September 3, 2024) during an attempted crossing of the English Channel. Dozens of people plunged into the treacherous waters of the busy channel. "Unfortunately, the bottom of the boat ripped open," said Olivier Barbarin, mayor of Le Portel near the fishing port of Boulogne-sur-Mer, where a first aid post was set up to treat victims. "It's a big drama." A maritime rescue official who spoke on condition of anonymity, as he was not authorized to discuss details of the operation, confirmed that at least 13 migrants were dead. Etienne Baggio, a spokesman for the French maritime prefecture that oversees that stretch of sea, said "more than 10" people were dead but he didn't have an exact number. The prefecture said the boat got into difficulty off Gris-Nez point. Both Baggio and the mayor said rescuers recovered 61 people from the waters.

Sea temperatures off northern France were around 20 degrees C, or about 68 F.

At least 30 migrants have died or gone missing while



trying to cross to the U.K. this year, according to the International Organization for Migration. At least 2,109 migrants have tried to cross the English Channel on small boats in the past seven days, according to U.K. Home Office data updated on Tuesday (September 3, 2024). The data includes people found in the channel or on arrival. Europe's increasingly strict asylum rules, growing xenophobia and hostile treatment of migrants have been pushing them north.

## Pope Francis arrives in Indonesia to begin ambitious Asia-Pacific tour

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Pope Francis arrived in Indonesia on Tuesday (September 3, 2024) for the first leg of an ambitious Asia-Pacific tour where he is expected to urge global action on climate change during what will be his longest trip yet. The 87-year-old pontiff landed at Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta airport on a chartered ITA Airways flight also carrying his entourage and accompanying reporters. Pope Francis will also visit East Timor, Singapore and Papua New Guinea over the next 10 days. Sitting in a wheelchair, he disembarked from the plane via a lift and was handed a bouquet of local produce by two children dressed in traditional Indonesian attire. On a red carpet flanked by honour guards, he was greeted by Indonesia's religious affairs minister, its ambassador to the Vatican and several of the country's bishops, before entering a waiting car, waving and smiling as it drove away. The ageing pope was not scheduled to attend any public events on Tuesday to allow time for him to rest after a 13-hour overnight flight from Rome. Inter-religious meeting His first official event will come on Wednesday, when he is due to address Indonesia's political leaders. On Thursday, Francis will take part in an inter-religious meeting at Istiqlal Mosque, the largest mosque in Southeast Asia.

The Asia-Pacific tour will last 12 days in total and is the longest trip yet by the pontiff, who will have travelled nearly 33,000 km (20,505 miles) when he arrives back in Rome late evening on September 13. The pope, who pushed for the 2015 Paris climate agreement, is expected to continue his appeals to confront the dangers of a warming globe. Jakarta, the Indonesian capital of at least 10 million people, is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, with chronic flooding and sinking land. The gov-



## The Asia-Pacific tour will last 12 days in total and is the longest trip yet by the pontiff

ernment is in the process of building a new capital, Nusantara, on Borneo island. Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, has about 280 million inhabitants, only about 3% of them Catholic. Ahead of the Pope's arrival, Indonesian President Joko Widodo said his people warmly welcomed Francis on a visit that had been planned long ago but was delayed by the pandemic. "This is a very historic visit," he told reporters. "Indonesia and the Vatican have a similar commitment to cultivate peace and brotherhood as well as ensure prosperity for the people."

## Making exaggerated, bogus claims to get refunds punishable offence: I-T Department



formed the taxpayers that their claims should be "correct and accurate." "Filing a false or bogus claim is a punishable offence," the public communication said. Taxpayers can claim a variety of deductions and exemptions to lower their tax liability under the old ITR filing regime while those opting for the new regime will get a lower tax rate but cannot avail these benefits. CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal had recently told PTI during a post-Budget review that more than 66 per cent of ITR filings this time were under the new regime which is being promoted by the government to make the direct tax system better and simpler.

The communication stated that in case due refunds are delayed, taxpayers should check their e-filing account to see if the I-T department has sent them any message in this context and if yes, then it should be responded through the "pending action and worklist section" tab. CBDT chief Agrawal was also asked about the recent Budget proposal of withholding the refund being extended up to 60 days, from the existing thirty days, from the date on which such assessment or reassessment is made. He said such cases "would not be very substantial in numbers." "This is basically in those cases where there is already a demand in the case of the same assessee or the demand is likely to arise," Agrawal said. Suppose, he said, the refund has been generated but the assessment proceeding is going on and it is felt that there is a demand that is likely to come. "The provisions are that once the assessment is completed, then an assessee gets 30 days to pay the demand. So, demand gets due 30 days after the assessment and therefore, to adjust the refund, that 30-day period has to be there, and therefore, this timeline." It is just rationalising that effectively. But then those refunds would be not very substantial in number, they would be very minuscule. It is only enablement," the head of the direct taxes body said.

The I-T Department has asked income tax return filers to not make bogus claims for expenses, under-report their earnings or exaggerate deductions as this is a punishable offence and causes a delay in issuance of refunds. The ITR filing season for assessment year 2024-25 will end on July 31 for all categories of taxpayers whose accounts are not supposed to be audited. According to the Income Tax Department and its administrative body Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), over five crore ITRs have been filed, as of July 26. In a recent public communication, the Income Tax Department asked taxpayers to file their returns correctly to get timely refunds. "Refund claims are subject to verification checks, which may cause delays. Accurate filing of ITR leads to quicker processing of refunds. Any discrepancies in the claims made will prompt a request for a revised return (to be filed by the taxpayer)," it said.

It cautioned ITR filing taxpayers to not claim "incorrect" Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) amounts, not "under-report" their income or "exaggerate" deductions or submit claims for "bogus" expenses. The department in-

## Sonam Kapoor on why she gained 35 kilos during pregnancy: 'In the first 3 months...'



Many celebrities have opened up about their pregnancy and postpartum journey, but leading that list is actor Sonam Kapoor. The Dilli 6 actor, who welcomed her firstborn, son Vayu Kapoor Ahuja, in 2022, recently revealed the reason behind gaining 35 kilos during pregnancy. "When I got pregnant, I was over 35. I had taken progesterone shots in the first 3 months of pregnancy. So, you gain a lot of weight with it," shared Kapoor, 38, in an interview with mom vlogger Tanya on her YouTube channel. Kapoor also shared that her diet included "drinking lots of water", and eating "a lot of fruits like watermelon and mango". "All that helped in the pregnancy. Moisturiser helps but you need to hydrate from the inside," added Kapoor. How progesterone shots work in the

body. Progesterone shots, often prescribed in the first three months of pregnancy to support the pregnancy in cases of miscarriage history or other complications, can lead to weight gain due to several physiological effects. "Firstly, progesterone increases water retention, causing noticeable weight gain as the body holds onto more fluid. Secondly, it stimulates appetite, leading to higher calorie intake and subsequent weight gain. Additionally, hormonal changes triggered by progesterone can prompt the body to store more fat, particularly around the abdomen," said Dr Priyanka Suhag, consultant, dept of obstetrics and gynaecology, CK Birla Hospital (R), Delhi. For women over 35, the use of progesterone shots requires careful consideration due to an increased risk of complications such as gestational diabetes and hypertension, necessitating closer prenatal monitoring, noted the expert. "The decision to administer progesterone should be tailored based on the individual's health history and current condition," Dr Suhag mentioned. Not all pregnant women need progesterone shots, according to Dr Suhag. "They are typically prescribed to those with a history of miscarriage, those undergoing certain fertility treatments like IVF, or women with a short cervix to reduce preterm birth risk," said Dr Suhag. Consulting a healthcare provider for personalised advice and discussing potential side effects or concerns is crucial for making informed decisions regarding progesterone use during pregnancy, added Dr Suhag.

## Why some cancers are diagnosed more frequently in higher-income populations



## India's digital economy poised to constitute 1/5th of GDP by 2026: RBI report

India's digital economy is poised to constitute a fifth of GDP by 2026 from one-tenth at present, according to a Reserve Bank report released on Monday. In the foreword of 'Report on Currency and Finance (RCF) for the year 2023-24', Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasised that digitalisation in finance is paving the way for next-generation banking and improving access to financial services at affordable cost. India is at the forefront of the digital revolution, the report said.

The country has embraced not just financial technology (FinTech) by speeding up digital payments but has also celebrated India Stack comprising biometric identification, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), mobile connectivity, digital lockers and consent-based data sharing. The digital revolution is galvanising banking infrastructure and public finance management systems covering both direct benefit transfers and tax collections, the report said.

Vibrant e-markets are springing up and expanding their reach. "It is estimated that the digital economy currently accounts for a tenth of India's GDP; going by growth rates observed over the past decade, it is poised to constitute a fifth of GDP by 2026," the report said. Several enabling forces have come together to energise this revolution. Although internet penetration in India was at 55 per cent in 2023, the internet user base has grown by 199 million in the recent three years. India's cost per gigabyte (GB) of data consumed is the lowest globally at an average of Rs 13.32 (USD 0.16) per GB. India also has one of the highest mobile data consumption in the world, with an average per-user per-month consumption of 24.1 GB in 2023. In the foreword of the report, the RBI Governor also said the flagship UPI has revolutionised the retail payment experience for end-users, making transactions faster and more convenient. In the digital currency arena, the Reserve Bank of India is at the forefront with pilot runs of the e-rupee, the central bank digital currency (CBDC).

The digital lending ecosystem is becoming vibrant with initiatives such as Open Credit Enablement Network, Open Network for Digital Commerce and the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit. He said fintechs are collaborating with banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) as lending service providers. They are also operating platforms to facilitate digital credit. BigTechs are backing payment apps and lending products as third-party service providers. "Digitalisation in finance is paving the way for next-generation banking; improving access to financial services at affordable costs; and enhancing the impact of direct benefit transfers by effective targeting of beneficiaries in a cost-efficient manner," Das



said. He noted that loans in the retail segment are being enabled by online payments and innovative credit assessment models with instant disbursements. Also, e-commerce is being boosted through embedded finance. "All these innovations are making financial markets more efficient and integrated," the Governor said. At the same time, Das said digitalisation also presents challenges related to cybersecurity, data privacy, data bias, vendor and third-party risks, and customer protection. "Increased inter-connectedness may lead to systemic risks. Additionally, emerging technologies can introduce complex products and business models with risks that users may not fully understand, including the proliferation of fraudulent apps and mis-selling through dark patterns," he said. The report, on the theme 'India's Digital Revolution', said digitalisation is transforming India's financial sector by changing the way financial institutions operate and interact with their customers and provide financial products and services. Amidst several benefits, digitalisation also brings new challenges in terms of complex financial products, greater interconnectedness, cybersecurity risks, financial frauds, and customer protection, with implications for macro-financial stability. These issues need to be addressed to realise the full potential of financial digitalisation, it said. The report, the central bank said, reflects the views of the contributors and not of the Reserve Bank. Digitalisation can impact inflation and output dynamics, and monetary policy transmission in diverse manners and the overall impact could vary over time given the fast pace of developments, the report noted. In this environment, it said central banks would need to incorporate digitalisation aspects comprehensively into their models for the continued efficacy of monetary policy and the achievement of their price and financial stability. The report finds empirical support for the positive role of the regulatory framework in increasing the confidence of consumers in digital financial products, boosting operating and technical efficiencies of financial institutions and engendering more liquid and integrated financial markets.

## Struggle for Old Tankers Transporting Russian Oil to India

Russian aggression against Ukraine has brought change to the global oil market. Following the imposition of comprehensive financial and economic sanctions on Moscow by the West, Asian companies have become the primary buyers of Russian 'black gold'. Since the start of the war in Ukraine, India has managed to prevent a sharp rise in inflation by purchasing Russian oil at prices below market value. This country is now the second-largest buyer of Russian crude oil after China. In 2023, Indian refineries purchased nearly half (47%) of the oil transported by the Russian maritime oil fleet. The highest monthly figure of 1.2m barrels was recorded in October 2023. Given that 80% of India's oil needs depend on imports, access to cheap Russian oil allows the country to meet its substantial domestic demand for the resource. Moreover, imports from Russia enable India to refine crude oil and sell it at market prices to third countries, mainly in Europe.

India's domestic demand for oil is also growing rapidly. According to forecasts, between 2023 and 2030, demand will rise by 1.2m barrels per day (BPD), compared to a global increase of 3.2m bpd — meaning India will account for a third of the world's demand increase over the period. An overview by the Observer Research Foundation for India, published on July 15th, states that since the start of the war in Ukraine, the trade turnover between Delhi and Moscow has rapidly and significantly increased. In 2019, that figure stood at \$10 billion; despite the sanctions imposed after the annexation of Crimea in 2014, the European Union remained Russia's

main foreign trade partner at the time. However, 2022 changed everything, and trade turnover between India and Russia began to rise sharply, reaching \$65 billion in 2023, fuelled mainly by oil imports. In recent days, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Moscow to outline the course of collaboration between the two countries in coming years. During his visit, Modi and President Vladimir Putin of Russia announced that, by 2030, annual trade turnover between the two countries would reach \$100 billion. Undoubtedly, this growth will largely be achieved through an increase in Russian oil exports to India. During his visit, Modi called Russia an "all-weather friend" of India. Due to financial sanctions imposed on Russia, India pays for imported Russian oil in its national currency—the rupee. Until recently, Russia had problems receiving payments from Indian banks, with the latter unable to transfer rupees worth tens of billions of dollars to Russian banks due to restrictions imposed by local law. Recently, however, Andrey Kostin, CEO of Russia's VTB Bank, stated that "a mechanism to solve the payment issue had been found." Through intermediaries in India and the United Arab Emirates, rupees were converted into roubles. India's domestic demand for oil is also growing rapidly. Moreover, banks in Russia have invested rupees in Indian stocks, government securities and infrastructure projects, and the transaction costs associated with converting rupees into roubles have decreased, making trade smoother. This means there are no significant obstacles to increasing the import of Russian oil by India. The situation has already led to an unprecedented increase in Indian shipping activity.

There's a common misconception that wealth protects against all diseases. However, the link between socioeconomic status (SES) and cancer is more nuanced. While some cancers are diagnosed more frequently in higher-income populations, this doesn't necessarily mean wealth itself causes cancer. A recent study by the University of Helsinki in Finland sheds light on this complexity. The study by doctor Fiona Hagenbeek, of the Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland (FIMM), involving 280,000 Finnish individuals explored the association between SES and various diseases. Interestingly, it found that wealthier individuals might have a higher genetic predisposition for certain cancers like breast and prostate cancer, compared to those with lower socioeconomic status.

So, what's going on?

This finding suggests a more intricate interplay between genetics, lifestyle factors, and access to healthcare. It's important to remember that genetics aren't the sole determinant of cancer risk. Environmental factors and healthcare access also play a significant role. Dr Mandeep Singh Malhotra, Director of Surgical Oncology at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, explained this increased risk may be linked to lifestyle factors prevalent among the affluent, such as higher consumption of processed foods, increased alcohol intake, and a sedentary lifestyle, all contributing to obesity and chronic diseases. Additionally, the study highlights a polygenic risk, indicating that multiple genetic factors, more common in higher SES groups, may predispose individuals to cancer.

Festive offer TGH-Onco Life Cancer Centre, lung cancer, prostate cancer, artificial intelligence, Pune news,

Pune news, Maharashtra news, Indian express news This finding suggests a more intricate interplay between genetics, lifestyle factors, and access to healthcare (file). "However, the applicability of these findings to other populations, especially those with different genetic backgrounds and lifestyle patterns, remains uncertain. The genetic homogeneity within higher SES groups may reinforce these risks, suggesting the need for further research to understand how these findings translate across diverse populations and socioeconomic contexts," said Dr Malhotra. The study also highlighted that people of lower socioeconomic status (SES) are more prone to diseases like diabetes, arthritis, depression, and alcoholism.

This trend is attributed to several factors specific to their socioeconomic conditions. In Finland and other countries, those in lower SES often rely on government support, leading to limited financial resources for essentials like food and housing. Dr Malhotra explained that this economic strain can result in stress and depression, contributing to poor mental health and behavioural issues such as binge eating. Additionally, the lack of stable employment and financial security can exacerbate feelings of hopelessness and isolation, further increasing the risk of depression and related conditions. However, Dr Malhotra added that unlike other populations, the Finnish low SES group's challenges are distinct, with their living conditions and support systems shaping their health risks differently. Thus, while insights from the first part of the study may offer some value in understanding genetic inheritance and disease risk, the second part may not be directly applicable to other societies, he noted.

## Ranbir Kapoor says he was always 'on edge' because of his parents' fights: How to identify and address signs of distress in children exposed to parental conflicts

Actor Ranbir Kapoor recently opened up about the impact of his parents' tumultuous relationship on his childhood in an episode of Nikhil Kamath's podcast titled 'WTF is with Nikhil Kamath'. Kapoor revealed that he was always "on edge" due to the frequent fights between his parents, Rishi Kapoor and Neetu Kapoor, during a particularly rough patch in their marriage.

He told Kamath, "My parents went through a lot of fights. We lived in a bungalow, so I have spent most of my childhood on the stairs, hearing them fight. I was always scared and on the edge." Admitting that he was scared of his father and never saw the colour of his eyes, the Animal actor added, "He never shouted at us, never raised his hand at us, but just because around us his temperament was so volatile that it always scared me." Rishi's cancer diagnosis became a turning point, as he witnessed his mother's selfless care for his father, ultimately helping his parents reconcile their differences. Despite his upbringing in a privileged background, Kapoor's experience is far from unique. Many children grow up in households where parental disagreements are a regular occurrence, and the consequences can be far-reaching. While some level of conflict is normal in any relationship, persistent and intense disputes between parents can create a stressful environment for children, potentially leading to long-term emotional and behavioural issues. Common signs of emotional and behavioural distress in children who witness frequent parental conflicts

Gurleen Baruah, occupational psychologist and executive coach at That Culture Thing, says, "Witnessing frequent parental conflicts can significantly affect a child's emotional and behavioural well-being. While the impact can vary depending on the child's temperament, certain common signs of distress are often observed. The environment, parenting style, home dynamics, socioeconomic status, and other contextual factors all play a crucial role in shaping a child's response." Here are some common patterns of emotional and behavioural distress in children exposed to frequent parental conflicts: Withdrawal and isolation: Children may become withdrawn, spending excessive time in their rooms and avoiding social interactions. They might shut down emotionally, becoming uncommunicative and detached from family and friends. Speech difficulties: Some children might develop speech issues, such as stammering or difficulty expressing themselves. This can be a manifestation of the anxiety and stress they are experiencing. Academic problems: Children might struggle with their schoolwork, showing a decline in academic performance. They may have difficulty concentrating in class, exhibit daydreaming behaviours, or appear sombre and disinterested in school activities. Loss of interest in play and friendships: There may be a noticeable decline in their interest in play and social activities. They might distance themselves from friends and show a lack of enthusiasm for activities they once enjoyed. Rebellious and stubborn behaviour: In an attempt to seek attention or express their frustration, children might exhibit rebellious or stubborn behaviour.

## Kerala Police register case against actor Nivin Pauly over sexual assault allegation



brought her to Dubai in the pretext of offering a role in a film, and sexually assaulted her in November 2023. It is reported that after receiving the complaint, the police conducted a preliminary investigation before filing the case against Nivin, and five other people, including a film producer. It is said that Nivin is the sixth accused in the crime. The case has been registered by the Oonukul Police in Ernakulam.

This is the latest revelation in a series of allegations being levelled against Malayalam cinema stars. There are cases already being investigated against the likes of Siddique, Jayasurya, and director Ranjith. The Kerala government has created a Special Investigation Team for this purpose. The Justice Hema Committee Report has shaken Malayalam cinema to its core with the top brass of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), including Mohanlal, resigning from their posts citing accountability for the issues that surfaced. However, this has created a domino effect in Indian cinema with many strong voices asking for such a report to be made in other languages too. Telugu female stars called for action along with select voices in Tamil cinema hoping that the report would be emulated across the country, without prejudice, to ensure women's safety and security become paramount.

GNS News Agency, Sept 6. Read more at: <https://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/sexual-assault-case-against-actor-nivin-pauly-1.9869598> Sexual misconduct case registered against Nivin Pauly. Post the Justice Hema Committee Report, sexual abuse and harassment allegations have been levelled against many prominent Malayalam actors. In what has come as a shocking development on this front, Kerala police have filed a non-bailable case on Nivin Pauly for allegedly sexually assaulting an aspiring actor. The survivor filed a police complaint in Ernakulam alleging that the actor

## Aamir Khan recalls Ashutosh Gowariker was asked to change ending of Lagaan to Bhuvan stabbing British officer

When Aamir Khan decided to back Ashutosh Gowariker's *Lagaan*, the decision wasn't immediate. Aamir went through many phases of doubts and could not find the courage in himself to take up the film all by himself. In an earlier chat, the actor recalled that when he did Ashutosh's final version of the script, he knew that this was a great script but he couldn't get himself to be a part of it. Aamir recalled that when Ashutosh was narrating the film to other producers and actors, someone told him to change the climax to Bhuvan stabbing the British officer in the end instead of the poetic match winning scene.

In a video shared by ViralBollywood's YouTube channel, Aamir can be heard saying, "I told Ashutosh that your script is unbelievable but I don't have the courage to do your film. This is so different, it is breaking so many rules of mainstream cinema but I don't have the courage to do this. I also wondered who will produce this? I couldn't imagine a producer who will do this sincerely. Go to England, find all the British actors and give this the scale that it needs." Aamir later produced the film and this became his first production. After much back and forth, Aamir Khan asked Ashutosh Gowariker to pitch *Lagaan* to other producers and actors. He recalled, "I asked him to approach other actors with the script in case they say yes. He went to every actor in the industry, every producer and he would tell me about it. Someone suggested him that Bhuvan should stab the British officer in the end. But they were very few people who actually said that this is a great script."

Aamir said that a year after he had passed it on, he found himself frequently wondering why he had given up



on the film. "Every three months, I would think why am I not doing this?" he said. The actor-producer said that at this point, he thought about Bollywood legends like Bimal Roy and Guru Dutt and wondered how they took risks while making movies, and breaking the mold of mainstream cinema. He felt that he was finally in a place to try something new and this was his chance to be in the same bracket as them. Aamir then called Ashutosh and asked him to narrate *Lagaan* in front of his parents. The narration worked wonders as both his mother and father were in tears by the end of that narration. "They were crying throughout. My father said that I don't know if this will work or not but I know that when you make a film, it should be a great story and this is it. Mother said you should do this and it gave me the confidence," he shared. *Lagaan* became one of the biggest hits of Aamir Khan's career. The film was also nominated at the Oscars in the Best Foreign language film category.

## When Zeenat Aman answered if she has 'forgiven' the men who 'ill-treated' her: 'No point in holding grudges'

Zeenat Aman was a movie star in the 1970s but for the generation today, she is an inspirational social media icon who has aged gracefully and shared some wise advice with her followers. Zeenat led her life in an unconventional way and while that included her choice of films, her personal life also saw a reflection of the same.

Zeenat was reportedly in a relationship with actor Sanjay Khan and it did not end well as Sanjay was married at the time. Zeenat had previously spoken about dealing with physical abuse "publicly" and said that it was "brief" chapter in the past in a chat with Simi Garewal. In another recent chat with Rediff, when Zeenat was asked if she had forgiven the men who "ill-treated" her, Zeenat said she had forgiven them as she saw no point in holding grudges. "I've forgiven them completely. I see no point in holding grudges. I'd rather not have any negativity within me. It's all gone, washed away. With every passing year, it's only the here and the now that seems important," she said.

Sanjay, who was accused of hitting Zeenat in a public gathering, told Hrishikesh Kannan on his podcast that he "never slapped her" and said that it was a "PR attack against me which came like a blitzkrieg." In the interview, Sanjay defended himself by repeating that he "never slapped" her. "I was even accused of her eye going out... she is losing her eye which is not right. If you see '81, '82, '83, '84, she has done several films. There is evidence to the fact that she has perfect eyes. Later on in life she



became a little squint because her mother was squint a little bit. It was a hereditary thing that was labelled one me that I slapped her, I never slapped her, and this was blasphemy," he said. When asked if he ever spoke to Zeenat after the alleged altercation, Sanjay said that he "met her the very next day and she was perfectly okay." Zeenat did not sat much at the time. In a chat with Simi Garewal in the 1990s, Zeenat hinted at this incident and shared, "For many years, in my mind, it's been obliterated because I think that's what the human mind does. When there is something distinctly unpleasant, you just close your mind to it and pretend that it never happened and you promise yourself that it will never happen again. And that's how you cope." Zeenat and Sanjay starred together in the 1980 film *Abdullah*.

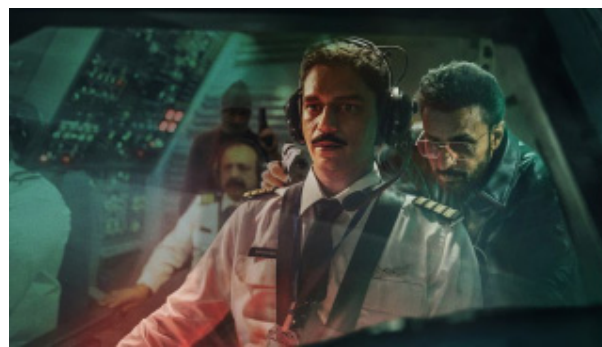
## Rima Kallingal responds to 'baseless statement' of singer Suchitra against her, Mammootty, Mohanlal: 'I have sent a defamation notice'

Even as the Justice Hema Committee Report continues to create a stir across many cinema industries, especially Malayalam, there are many incidents that are sidetracking the focus from the principal issue. Primary among such incidents has been the recent interview of Tamil singer Suchitra, which has become a major point of contention. In an interview with a Tamil YouTube channel, she mentioned her opinions on the Hema Committee Report and made statements that undermined the focus of the important document. Apart from calling it a "sabotage" orchestrated by Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, and Malayalam superstars Mammootty and Mohanlal to disrupt the careers of the young actors like Fahadh Faasil, Suchitra also claimed that raids were conducted in WCC member Rima Kallingal's house, and it used to be a haven of sorts for "using drugs in parties."

Responding to these statements, Rima wrote a strongly worded statement of her own, and shared it on her social media handles. It read, "For years, many of you have stood with the WCC and its cause. It is this support

and trust that prompts me to write to you now. Over the past two days, several news outlets have reported on statements made by Tamil singer Suchitra in an interview with a YouTube channel. In the 30-minute interview, she not only names and shames the survivor of the 2017 sexual assault, claiming the survivor "knew it was coming" but also alleges that CM Pinarayi, Mohanlal and Mammootty conspired through the Hema Committee to sabotage the careers of actors like Fahad. We all know why the Hema Committee was formed, and anyone suggesting otherwise should be questioned." Rima also put forth a pertinent point as to how sections of the mainstream media, which didn't pay heed to these "wild theories" focussed on her story about her arrest and gave it traction. "Although these wild theories did not make it into the mainstream news, her baseless statement about me - based on a news article she read about my so-called "arrest" - gained traction. Let me make it clear that such an event never occurred," said the actor, who revealed her future plan of action to clear her name. "

## IC 814 The Kandahar Hijack row: Netflix to add disclaimer with hijackers' real names, says committed to 'authentic representation'



Netflix series *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack* found itself in the middle of a controversy after a section of viewers objected to the code names used by the hijackers in the series. The show, which is based on the real-life incident of the 1999 hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight, used the codenames that were used by the hijackers on board - Burger, Doctor, Bhola, Shankar and Chief. There was a row over the names Bhola and Shankar being used in the series. Now, Netflix has announced that they will update the opening disclaimer of the series to include the real-life names of the terrorists along with the codenames.

A statement released by Monika Shergill, Vice President, Content, Netflix India, read, "For the benefit of audiences unfamiliar with the 1999 hijacking of Indian Air-

lines Flight 814, the opening disclaimer has been updated to include the real and code names of the hijackers. The code names in the series reflect those used during the actual event. India has a rich culture of storytelling and we are committed to showcasing these stories and their authentic representation." In the show directed by Anubhav Sinha, many character names have been changed but the codenames of the terrorists are the same that were used in the real-life incident. The incident was heavily documented at the time with many interviews of the survivors, pilot Captain Devi Sharan Singh and other government officials, and they also recalled the same codenames in their interviews. On Monday, a PIL filed by Surjit Singh Yadav, requested to ban the public viewing of the series. The plea alleged that the series shows the hijackers having Hindi names Bhola and Shankar, and said that this was historically inaccurate. Many social media users objected to the use of these names and started using hashtags like #BoycottNetflix, #BoycottBollywood and #IC814. However, casting director Mukesh Chhabra defended the series and said that their research was accurate. "I am reading so many tweets about the names of the hijackers. We did the proper research. They used to call each other by those names—nicknames or fake names, whatever you want to call them. And thank you, everyone, for loving the ensemble cast. A big thank you to my team, and especially to Anubhav Sinha for trusting us and giving me the freedom to explore. #IC814 #Netflix," he wrote on X.

## Rohit Shetty, Ramesh Taurani, Javed Akhtar help veteran actor Rehana Sultan amid ill health, financial woes

National Film Award-winning actress Rehana Sultan recently underwent a cardiac valve replacement surgery after experiencing severe breathing issues. The veteran actress lives in Mumbai with her brother and has been going through an acute financial crisis due to which her treatment was getting delayed.

However, IFTDA (Indian Film and Television Directors' Association) president Ashoke Pandit has confirmed that filmmakers Rohit Shetty, Ramesh Taurani and veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar have contributed funds to help Rehana. Pandit told indianexpress.com, "Rehana Sultan has been in touch with me for quite some time and she has not been well. She had a cardiac issue, she had valves in her heart and there was some problem in that. She started feeling very unwell around three days back. So, her brother Rishabh Sharma called me and told me that she was in a serious problem and that he had to admit her to a hospital. He also informed me that they had financial issues due to which her treatment was getting delayed."

Ashoke also informed us that due to the intervention of IFTDA the hospital fast-tracked her treatment. He also shared that the doctors at the hospital, Dr Namjoshi and Dr Sharma started her treatment without any prepayment. "Meanwhile I called up Rohit Shetty, Ramesh Taurani, Javed Akhtar sahab, Rajen Sahani, Sunil Bohra and Vipul Shah, television producer Rajan Shahi and they immediately transferred money into the hospital's



account for her treatment and procedure. Funds came in immediately and her valve replacement surgery was carried out yesterday. She is doing well, but she is in the ICU and will be under doctors' observation for a few more days." Rohit Shetty was out of town, Ramesh ji was at the Golden Temple, Sunil Bohra was also in Rajasthan but they all helped immediately. "Rehana, 74, is best known for her debut role in *Dastak* (1970) which won her the National Film Award for Best Actress. She is a graduate of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, and is also known for another bold role in the film *Chetna* (1970). Rehana stays in Mumbai with her brother. IMPPA (Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association) has been supporting the veteran actress with a monthly allowance and is now also looking after her post surgery treatment expenses.

## Raj Kapoor's wife Krishna Raj Kapoor left his home due to his affair with Vyjayanthimala: 'He tried to woo her, bought an apartment'



## Raj Kapoor's son Rishi Kapoor wrote about his father's affair with veteran actor Vyjayanthimala in his memoir.

Raj Kapoor was known as one of the most popular actor-directors of his generation and while his films impressed his fans, stories about his personal life also got many interested. Raj Kapoor had a few "affairs" when he was married to Krishna Raj Kapoor and his son Rishi Kapoor wrote about some of these incidents in his memoir *Khullam Khulla*. Rishi shared in the book that his mother, along with the kids, moved out of the house when Raj was having an affair with his Sangam co-star Vyjayanthimala.

Rishi shared in the book, "I was very young when my father had an affair with Nargis Ji, and so was not affected by it. I don't remember feeling anything was amiss at home either. But I do remember moving into the Natraj Hotel on Marine Drive with my mom during the time Papa was involved with Vyjayanthimala." He further wrote, "My mother had decided to put her foot down this time. From the hotel, we shifted for two months into an apartment in Chitrakoot. My father had bought the apartment for Mom and us. He did all he could to woo her back, but my mother didn't give in until he had ended that chapter of his life." In

the book, Rishi also addressed Vyjayanthimala's denial of the affair as the veteran actress had accused Raj of manufacturing the romance for the sake of publicity. Rishi wrote, "In an interview published a few years ago, Vyjayanthimala denied ever having an affair with my father. She claimed that he had manufactured the romance because of his hunger for publicity. I was livid. How could she be so blasé; and pretend the affair never happened? She had no right to distort facts just because he was no longer around to defend the truth."

Rishi said that when Vyjayanthimala's book released, many people asked him for his reaction. "With time though, my anger has ebbed. I've come to accept that people tend to gloss over uncomfortable facts for reasons of their own. But I can say with absolute certainty that if Papa had been alive, she wouldn't have denied the affair so blatantly or called him publicity hungry," he wrote. Raj Kapoor and Vyjayanthimala first worked together in the 1961 film *Nazrana*. They then starred together in Raj Kapoor's directorial *Sangam*, which also starred Rajendra Kumar.

## New head coach Manolo Marquez starts rebuilding process after failure to progress in World Cup qualifying



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Manolo Marquez Indian football coach presentation press conference Marquez, who will coach both the Indian team and FC Goa in his first season, and then transition full-time to the national setup, was brought in due to his success in developing Indian players at the Indian Super League level. Manolo Marquez would be the first to say that his debut as manager of the Indian national football team could have come under better circumstances. Just two training sessions with his 26-man squad before his first selected 11 take the pitch at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad is not an ideal situation.

The two games against Mauritius and Syria start a tricky climb for India – these matches will be the first of a series of friendlies until March 2025 – when the team will attempt to make it to the 2027 AFC Asian Cup. In an alternate universe, this period should have seen India's first foray into the third round of the World Cup qualifiers, but two abysmal results against Afghanistan led to former coach Igor Stimac's ouster and a fresh start under Marquez, who doubles up as Indian Super League (ISL) club FC Goa's coach as well as the India boss. "The first FIFA window now is a little tricky because we are still in pre-season. Some clubs played with their reserve teams in the Durand Cup. We don't exactly know the physical situation of all the players. That won't happen in the next FIFA windows because the ISL will be ongoing. But again, I think this is not an excuse. We are ready for tomorrow," the Spaniard said. "In two training sessions, it's difficult to change a lot of things. We have players from seven or eight different teams. It's difficult because every team plays a different style. But finally, we will enter the pitch with 11 players and try to play a good game."

The 55-year-old finds himself in an unenviable po-

sition. The national team coach's reach in terms of improving players is quite restricted, due to the inadequate time they get to spend with the players. In that sense, not much will change for Marquez, from what was the situation for Stimac. Both had to contend with a set of professionals who are not near Asian standards when it comes to physicality, the speed with which they pass, and their tactical acumen. The Indian team that played at the AFC Asian Cup at the start of the year, and the one that lost at home to Afghanistan, were out of their depth in matches that actually mattered.

Chhetri retires from international football as world's fourth highest goal-scorer. In a country that has idolised IM Vijayan, Bhaichung Bhutia and the recently-retired Sunil Chhetri, finding someone to take on the mantle of goalscorer has been tough. How much Marquez can work on that aspect of Indian football is questionable. There is an argument to be made that as an ISL coach, he continues to have a better chance of developing Indian players, as opposed to being in a position that allows the coach to do so only for a couple of months a year, as would have been the case if he were the full-time India handler.

Marquez will also have the task of finding the next Indian striker. In a country that has idolised IM Vijayan, Bhaichung Bhutia and the recently-retired Sunil Chhetri, finding someone to take on the mantle of goalscorer has been tough. The problem once again trickles down to the top league in India that rarely allows local players to play in crucial positions – be it striker, central midfielder or central defenders. Finding young Indian players enough game time in the league has been a major failing that has directly resulted in the already poor standards of the national team going down further. In a previous media interaction, Marquez had indicated that India's lack of goals could be addressed by creating a team that scores goals, rather than finding an individual striker who may or may not live up to the position. In that sense, these two games give India a chance to start building towards a style of play that can coexist with their domestic circumstances. Marquez already seems prepared for the inevitability of an undercooked squad. In his press conference ahead of the game against Mauritius, he admitted that the true reflection of the team won't emerge from these two games. "Whatever result we get, it won't be the real situation of the national team," said Marquez, ahead of a game against an opponent ranked 179th in the world. Mauritius and India last faced each other in 2017 in the same friendly tournament where the home team won 2-1.

## Ajay Ratra appointed member of India men's selection committee

GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Ajay Ratra India men's selection committee Previously, Ratra has worked as a Head Coach of Assam, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. He was also a part of the coaching staff of the Indian team during their ODI series in South Africa in 2023. (BCCI) The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday appointed Ajay Ratra as the newest member of the Men's Selection Committee as a replacement for Salil Ankola.

Ratra will work under chief selector Ajit Agarkar and will join the other members of the committee who are Shiv Sundar Das, Subroto Banerjee, and Sridharan Sharath. Ratra is a former India wicketkeeper-batter, having played 6 Tests and 12 ODIs after his 2002 debut for the country. He has also played over 90 First Class matches, scoring close to 4000 runs and had over 240 dismissals for Haryana.

He also scored an unbeaten 115 against the West Indies in 2002-03 and became the youngest wicketkeeper to score a Test century. He was also the second Indian wicketkeeper to do so in an overseas series. Ratra was part of a India U-19 team which won the Youth World Cup in 2000 and led the team against England to a home



series victory. "As a selector, Mr. Ratra will work alongside the existing members of the selection committee to identify and support the next generation of cricketers who will represent India on the global stage," a BCCI release stated. "His insights will be instrumental to the committee in ensuring that the best talent is identified, nurtured, and given the opportunity to excel at the highest level," it added. Previously, Ratra has worked as a Head Coach of Assam, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. He was also a part of the coaching staff of the Indian team during their ODI series in South Africa in 2023.

## Pakistan captain Shan Masood on series loss to Bangladesh: 'We waited 10 months for this opportunity...story has been the same'

Pakistan cricket team captain Shan Masood on series loss Bangladesh's Shabib Al Hasan, second left, and teammates appeal for dismissal of Pakistan's Mir Hamza, second right, during the fourth day of second test cricket match between Pakistan and Bangladesh, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024. (AP/PTI) Pakistan captain Shan Masood was blunt in his assessment of a Test series loss, first-ever, against Bangladesh at home. Speaking in the post-match presentation, Masood stated that while Pakistan were looking forward to make an impact in the Test season, the story that has unraveled has been the same as their previous Test series in Australia. "I mean, extremely disappointed, especially when you start the home season, something we've all been very excited about. We waited 10 months for this opportunity.



The story has been a bit of the same, like, Australia. We haven't learnt our lessons," Masood said.

"I think now it's time where we've realised that where we thought we were playing good cricket in Australia and not finishing games. That's something that we really need to work on," he added. Having lost the first Test by a comprehensive margin of 10 wick-

ets, Pakistan were trumped by six wickets in Rawalpindi on Tuesday as Bangladesh sealed a 2-0 clean sweep. Masood however, conceded that there was an opening for the hosts to take charge of the second Test after they had managed to clinch six wickets early in the first innings.

"I think two opportunities were here in both test matches where we could

have bowled their side out, especially in this game, when they were 26 for 6, we let them back in the game, and that's something that under my tenure happened consistently over four test matches," he said. Pakistan will next tour England for a three-match Test series starting October 7. Masood signed a warning alarm for his teammates ahead of the big tour.

## From biting opponents to that infamous Arsenal bid, the colourful and controversial life of Uruguay's talismanic striker



GNS News Agency, Sept 6

Luis Suarez retirement controversies Luis Suarez's career is riddle with controversy with the Ghana handball incident, the Patrice Evra racism incident and biting opponents just the tip of the iceberg. Luis Suarez, one of the most prolific and controversial strikers in world football announced international his retirement at 37 years of age, revealing that his 17-year-long career will end after the World Cup qualifier against Paraguay at Centenario Stadium on Friday "It hurts to say it, but Friday will be my last match with my country's national team. I am retiring because I want to step aside. I am 37 years old, there are a lot of talented players, and I know it would be difficult to get to the next World Cup. It is comforting to know I can retire on my terms and not have to retire due to injuries, or to not being called up. I want to say goodbye here, with my people. This is the ideal moment," he said at a press conference on Monday.

Suarez debuted in 2007 and is Uruguay's all-time leading scorer with 69 goals in 142 matches. He played in four World Cups and five Copa America. He helped to lead the team to the title at the 2011 Copa, where he scored twice in the semifinals and the match-winner in the final and was named player of the tournament. But for all his accolades, the forward has been in the midst of countless controversies through the years. Here's listing a few of them: In the early parts of the 2010s, the Uruguayan striker was more famous for his on-field misdemeanors than achievements. The most talked about incidents revolved around the times he bit his opponents while playing with the first one coming in 2010 when he was in Ajax and PSV Eindhoven's Otman Bakal Otman Bakal. He was suspended for 2 matches by Ajax and then had an additional 7-match suspension given by the Dutch League. After that, he would get a transfer to Liverpool in 2011 and had a breakthrough season for

them 2012/13 where he scored 30 goals in 44 matches. But controversy reared its ugly head as Suarez was banned again for 10 matches, this time for biting Chelsea defender Branislav Ivanovic.

Not learning his lesson, Suarez would repeat the same in football's biggest stage, the 2014 FIFA World Cup where he bit the shoulder of Italy's Giorgio Chiellini. This was when Suarez had to face his harshest punishment getting a ban from football for four months and suspended for nine competitive Uruguay matches.

The Patrice Evra incident When Suarez wasn't getting banned for biting players, he was getting suspended for racism. In 2011, Suarez had racially abused Manchester United's Patrice Evra in a match between the two sides in October. Suarez categorically denied the claims but according to a FA report published in 2012, Suarez told Evra, "Porque tu eres negro". "Mr Evra said that at the time Mr Suarez made that comment, he (Mr Evra) understood it to mean 'Because you are a n\*\*\*\*\*'," the report added. "He now says that he believes the words used by Mr Suarez mean 'Because you are black,'" the report continued. As a result, Suarez was banned for eight matches and given a £40,000 fine. That would not be the end of the matter, however. In February, when the two teams met for the return fixture, Suarez refused to shake Evra's hand before the match. He, however, apologized for that.

The Ghana handball incident

In the 2010 World Cup quarterfinals, Suarez became the pantomime villain to everyone but Uruguay when he used his hand in the closing stages of extra-time to deflect a goal bound header by Dominic Adiyiah when the match was tied at 1-1. He was sent off but had the last laugh as Ghana's Asamoah Gyan missed the resultant spot-kick, resulting in Uruguay qualifying for the semifinal after winning a penalty shoot-out. As the camera panned top Suarez, the striker was seen celebrating wildly near the sidelines. The infamous Arsenal bid In 2013, Arsenal had the world in splits when they bid £40m plus £1 to Liverpool for their star striker Suarez. This came after the Gunners' initial bid of £30m plus £5m in add-ons, was rejected by the Merseyside club, informing the London club that Liverpool would not consider a sum of £40m for Suarez. That is why Arsenal from returned with an offer that activated a clause in Suarez's contract by one pound where according to Suarez's contract, Liverpool must inform him of a club's interest once they receive a bid of more than £40m. However, nothing came of that saga as Suarez was ultimately sold to Barcelona in 2014 where he went on to be the part of a famous trio with Lionel Messi and Neymar which was dubbed the MSN.

## Chess legend Judit Polgar says women's titles should be abolished: 'It would not hurt at all, neither women nor men'

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Chess legend Judit Polgar has suggested that women's titles should be done away with in order to ensure that the "environment and the life of girls and women in chess could change". One of the strongest female chess players of all time, Judit Polgar is the youngest of the three Polgar sisters

Judit Polgar was talking about her views on what's holding back women in chess in a podcast for the New in Chess magazine, hosted by Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam. In 1991, Judit Polgar became a grandmaster at the young age of 15 years and four months, thus breaking the record of the legendary Bobby Fischer, which the American had held since 1958. Judit Polgar then went on to become the first and only woman to ever break into the world's top 10. There are four specific titles that a female chess player can achieve: Woman Grandmaster (WGM), Woman International Master (WIM), Woman FIDE Master (WFM), Woman Candidate Master (WCM). This is besides the four other titles that are common for male as well as female players: Grandmaster (GM), International Master (IM), FIDE Master (FM), Candidate Master (CM). As Chess dot com pointed out, it is easier to obtain a Women's Grandmaster title than an International Master title: three norms of a 2400+ performance rating and a FIDE rating of 2300 are enough for WGM, while three norms of 2450+ and a FIDE rating of 2400 are needed for IM. Judit Polgar's recommendations Judit Polgar's recommendation was that instead of title for women, there should be titles based on rating milestones. "Lately, I was thinking that is there something, let's say one thing that we could change and



then maybe the environment and the life of girls and women in chess would change... I thought that maybe it would be possible and it would be just a very good try to test it at least, to delete the women titles. I mean, why do we have women titles? Why don't you have a title for 2000 (ELO rating), for 2200, for 2300, for 2400, for 2500, for 2600, for 2700? Isn't it much better to have the rating titles and not that it's women or men?" Judit Polgar told Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam. Judit Polgar went on to add: "Sometimes, with a very simple thing, very big changes can happen, because suddenly the mindset of ladies would also say: 'Okay, it does not matter whether I play in an open tournament or a women's tournament, I'm aiming to get this title. This title belongs to my rating, not to the gender. It's my strength, it's my knowledge, it's what I can perform, right?'" So I think that would be kind of a first step which could be an extremely simple solution, and it would not hurt at all, neither women nor men."

## Ahead of Avani Lekhara's 50m 3-Positions final at Paralympics, here's how kneeling, prone and standing rounds work

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Rifle Paralympics Shooting Now, like at the Olympics version of 3P that we are familiar with, the Paralympics 50m Rifle 3 Positions event – where Avani had won a bronze in Tokyo – also has Kneeling, Prone (pictured above), Standing rounds. In SH1, shooters are able to hold their gun without difficulty and shoot from a standing or sitting position (in a wheelchair or chair). SH1 athletes could compete in both pistol and rifle events. Whereas in SH2, shooters are unable to hold their rifle independently, so they will need to use a stand, but can aim by themselves and control the rifle when they shoot. There are no pistol events for the SH2 category.

Now, like at the Olympics version of 3P that we are familiar with, the Paralympics 50m Rifle 3 Positions event – where Avani had won a bronze in Tokyo – also has Kneeling, Prone, Standing rounds. Only one elbow must rest on the table or board and the body must be well clear of the board; the supporting forearm must form an angle of not less than 30 degrees from the horizontal. Only the

point of the elbow may be supported on the 10cm block, no support may be gained from the board/table frame/arm rests.

Rifle shooters paralympics In 50m Rifle Prone, athletes may choose to compete either in the position as described in the ISSF Rules, or with the use of a Shooting Chair and table. Both elbows must rest on the table or board. The upper arms must not touch the table or board. The forearm must not form an angle of less than 30 degrees from the horizontal, measured from the axis of the forearm. In 50m Rifle Prone, athletes may choose to compete either in the position as described in the ISSF Rules, or with the use of a Shooting Chair and table. Rifle Shooters Paralympics In the standing round, not any part of the elbows is to make contact with the lap, wheel or gain support other than from the ribcage, hip or abdomen. Standing (SH1): he rifle must be held with the arms only, without support (as per the ISSF Rules). No part of the arms may come in contact with any part of the Shooting Chair.