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IMD issues yellow alert for Telangana districts amid heavy rainfall

Hyderabad: Amid two days of incessant rainfall across Telangana, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Hyderabad has issued a yellow alert for several districts.

The alert warns of heavy rain, thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds over the next two days. After days of relentless rain and overcast skies, Hyderabad is finally enjoying sunlight and clear skies on Tuesday, with pleasant weather and comfortable temperatures. However, light to moderate rains are expected in the evening.

After 11 hours, police rescue 10 people trapped in Dindi canal

Nagarkurnool: After a rescue operation that spanned 11 hours, 10 Chenchu tribals, including infants and women, who were trapped in the swelling Dindi canal, were saved by the police.

The 10 people were identified as residents of Bommanpally of Achampet mandal. The villagers had crossed the Dindi canal for fishing and got trapped after water levels increased. Since last evening, they were stranded there and had spent the entire night in fear.

PM Modi arrives in Brunei, the first leg of two-nation visit



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday (September 3, 2024) said he was looking forward to strong ties with Brunei, especially in boosting commercial and cultural linkages, as he arrived in Bandar Seri Begawan, on the first leg of his two-nation trip during which he will hold talks with the country's top leadership. Modi, who is the first Indian Prime Minister to travel to Brunei on a bilateral visit, said he was looking forward to his meetings with Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and other members of the royal family to advance the historical relationship to new

heights. "Landed in Brunei Darussalam. Looking forward to strong ties between our nations, especially in boosting commercial and cultural linkages. I thank Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah for welcoming me at the airport," Mr. Modi said in a post on X. As a special gesture, Prime Minister Modi was received by Crown Prince Al-Muhtadee Billah at the airport. Modi was accorded a warm welcome and given a guard of honour at the airport.

"PM @narendramodi alights in Brunei to a ceremonial welcome. Warmly received by Crown Prince His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X. "This visit is special as it is the first ever bilateral visit by an Indian PM and is taking place as the two countries are celebrating 40 years of the establishment of diplomatic ties this year," Mr. Jaiswal added. The Prime Minister expressed confidence in advancing India's historical ties with Brunei Darussalam and deepening its strategic partnership with Singapore during his three-day visit to the two countries. Mr. Modi was welcomed by the Indian community members when he arrived at the hotel where he would be staying during his visit. He interacted with the community members. Earlier in his departure state-

ment in New Delhi, Mr. Modi said he was embarking on a first-ever bilateral visit to Brunei Darussalam. "As we celebrate the 40 years of our diplomatic relations, I look forward to my meetings with His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and other esteemed members of the Royal family to advance our historical relationship to new heights," Mr. Modi said.

The visit will further strengthen India's cooperation with Brunei in all existing sectors, including defence cooperation, trade and investment, energy, space technology, health cooperation, capacity building, culture as well as people-to-people exchanges and explore avenues for cooperation in newer sectors, the MEA earlier said. From Brunei, Mr. Modi will travel to Singapore on Wednesday, where he will meet President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.

He would also meet with leaders of Singapore's vibrant business community. "Both countries are important partners in our Act East Policy and the Indo-Pacific Vision. I am confident that my visits would further strengthen our partnership with Brunei, Singapore and the larger ASEAN region," Mr. Modi said.

CM Revanth Reddy Announces 5 lakhs Compensation For Every Affected Family



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has announced several relief measures for families affected by the recent floods. The government will provide a compensation of 5 lakhs to each affected family.

CM Revanth Reddy visited the affected areas to assess the damage and support the victims. He stated that three villages in the Maripeda mandal will be relocated to safer areas. A dedicated colony will be set up for the displaced residents. The Chief Minister emphasised the need for the central government to immediately declare the floods a national disaster. He expressed concerns about the potential rise in diseases like cholera and malaria due to the situation. Medical teams have been instructed to remain vigilant, and additional water tankers will be deployed to assist with mud removal. Reddy also called for full coordination among government agencies and suggested seeking assistance from police and officials from other districts if necessary.

Hundreds rescued from flood-hit Vijayawada, rescue ops in full swing

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Vijayawada: Hundreds of people from flood-hit parts of Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada were rescued by NDRF and SDRF teams on Monday while five helicopters of the Indian Air Force and the Navy and nearly 190 boats were pressed into service for rescue and relief operations, officials said. Three helicopters from the IAF and two from the Navy were deployed for airdropping food items and for airlifting people stranded in inundated areas. Drones were also being used to drop food packets in Singh Nagar, one of the worst-affected areas in Vijayawada. Nineteen teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 17 teams of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) were deployed for rescue and relief operations in NTR, Krishna and other districts, where heavy rains and floods during the last three days have claimed 19 lives, while two people were missing. The heavy rains and floods have affected nearly 4.50 lakh people. More than two lakh people were affected in Vijayawada alone, where overflowing Budameru rivulet inundated several residential areas. Nearly 42,000 people from flood-affected areas were shifted to 176 relief camps. Authorities have set up 171 medical camps for them. Authorities in Vijayawada were closely monitoring the situation in Krishna River due to unprecedented inflows. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who is camping in Vijayawada to monitor rescue and relief operations, visited Prakasam Barrage to assess the flood situation. Officials said 11.25 lakh cusecs of water were being released from 70 gates of the Prakasam Barrage. The second warning remained in force at the barrage, which has been closed for vehicular traffic. Five wooden boats, which came in floods, got stuck in Gate Number 69 in the early hours of Monday. According to irrigation officials, the base of the pillar was also damaged. The Chief Minister discussed with officials the steps for the repair of the damaged gate. According to officials, 15 NDRF and nine SDRF teams were deployed in Vijayawada and other parts of the NTR district. The remaining teams were deployed in Guntur, Krishna, Eluru, Bapatla, and Palnadu districts. Three more NDRF teams from Agartala and three SDRF teams from different places in the state were on their way to Vijayawada. A total of 188 boats (152 motorised and 36 nonmotorised) were deployed to evacuate people from inundated areas of Vijayawada and other parts of NTR district, Krishna and Bapatla Districts. Minister for Water Resources Nimmala Ramanaidu termed the flood level in Krishna River as unprecedented. He said the flood this time was more intense than the floods of 1998 and 2009.

Centre moves SC, alleges 'unpardonable' non-cooperation by West Bengal

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

The Centre on Tuesday (September 3, 2024) moved the Supreme Court alleging "unpardonable" non-cooperation by the West Bengal government in providing logistical support to the CISF, tasked with providing security at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, where a trainee doctor was raped and murdered. Terming the alleged non-cooperation of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) government as an example "symptomatic of a systemic malaise", the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has sought a direction to West Bengal authorities to extend full cooperation to the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). On August 20, the apex court had termed the rape and murder of a doctor at the hospital as "horrific" and issued a slew of directions including setting up of a 10-member National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety.

Congress workers attack Harish Rao, BRS workers injured in Khammam

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Khammam: Tension prevailed here on Tuesday as a large group of Congress workers attacked the convoy of former minister T Harish Rao. The incident occurred when Harish Rao along with former ministers P Sabitha Indra Reddy, G Jagadish Reddy, Puvvada Ajay Kumar, MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra, former MP Nama Nageswara Rao and others visited several residential areas to distribute essential commodities to flood-affected families. Some of the Congress workers entered into heated arguments with BRS workers against the visit of BRS leaders at the Manchikanti Nagar area. The clash turned violent as Congress workers started attacking the BRS workers. The Congress supporters also began pelting stones at the car in which Harish Rao and others were travelling. The windshield of the car was damaged while a BRS worker Santhosh Reddy of



Siddipet suffered a fracture on his leg. Another elderly man suffered a head injury.

Ajay Kumar's car was also damaged while his gunman was injured in the stone pelting. Nearly 15 persons took part in the attack and only one Inspector from the Three-Town police station was on security duty, BRS leaders said. Speaking to the media later, Harish Rao condemned the attack and sought to know whether Congress' Praja Palana meant attacking Opposition leaders. BRS leaders would not fear such foolish acts as they had a history of fighting against those

immediate support to flood affected families, he added. Referring to the loss suffered by the public, Harish Rao demanded Rs.25 lakh to the kin of those who lost their lives in the floods. When in opposition, Revanth Reddy and Seethakka had made the same demand, he recalled. Every affected family suffered a loss of Rs.2 lakh to Rs.5 lakh and offering Rs 10,000 as relief was nothing but pittance. The government mechanism and three Ministers in the district - Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and Nageswara Rao - had failed to take measures to shift residents in flood-prone areas to relief centres, he said, also asking the State government to take an all-party delegation to New Delhi seeking the Centre's support to the State. The public in Khammam and Mahabubabad district suffered due to the inefficiency of the State and Central governments, he said.

CM Revanth Reddy Orders New Documents for Flood-Affected Residents in Khammam



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

In response to the severe flooding in Khammam district caused by the Akeru Vagu stream, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to file a single FIR for all affected residents whose documents, including Pattadar passbooks, Aadhaar cards, and other certificates, have been damaged or lost. The government will issue new documents to all those affected by the flood.

The Chief Minister also announced compensation of Rs. 10,000 per acre to farmers who suffered crop losses due to the floods. As part of his ongoing assessment of the flood-hit areas, CM Revanth Reddy visited the damaged regions and nearby hamlets, including Seetharampura Tanda. He met with affected families, offering them support and reassurance of comprehensive aid. He further directed officials to consolidate the three hamlets, including Seetharam Tanda, that suffer repeatedly from flooding, into a single large village. To facilitate this, new houses under the Indiramma scheme will be sanctioned at a single location for the affected residents. Additionally, the CM emphasized the need for scientific assessments of the Akeru Vagu stream's flow and water management. He ordered the construction of a new bridge to better control the flooding. During his visit, CM Revanth Reddy also paid tribute to the victims of the floodwaters, including young scientist Ashwini and her father Moti, who were swept away by the raging stream.

Former principal of RG Kar Medical College Sandip Ghosh sent to 8-day police custody



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Former principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Dr. Sandip Ghosh, was sent to 8-day police custody on Tuesday (September 3, 2024). The next hearing of the case will be on September 10. The Anti-Corruption Branch of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested Dr. Sandip Ghosh, along with three others, over alleged corruption and financial misconduct at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on Monday.

Dr Ghosh, two vendors, Biplav Singha, Suman Hazar, and the additional secretary to Dr Ghosh, Afsar Ali have been arrested by the CBI. Dr Ghosh was under investigation for alleged corruption and financial irregularities at the college and hospital, following a directive from a single bench of the Calcutta High Court, which ordered the CBI to probe the matter. Earlier today, Sandip Ghosh and 3 others were brought to Alipore Judges Court in connection with RG Kar Medical College and Hospital financial irregularities case. Lawyers raised slogans outside Alipore Judges Court in Kolkata and demanded jus-

tice for the deceased doctor and death penalty for RG Kar Medical College and Hospital's former principal Sandip Ghosh. Earlier, doctors from B. R. Singh Hospital, Eastern Railway conducted the medical tests of former principal of RG Kar Medical Hospital and College, Dr Sandip Ghosh and three others arrested. Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI) anti-corruption branch had arrested Dr Ghosh and three others over alleged financial irregularities in the Medical College and Hospital.

Double standards of Congress representatives under scrutiny

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Hyderabad: The double standards of elected public representatives of the Congress, including Ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and others in contributing their salary towards the flood affected families in Kerala in the past and now in the State is being questioned by different sections. This apart, many are raising objections over the Congress government's counter demand of asking opposition leaders to contribute their money. Save for MLC Naveen (Teenmaar Mallanna), no other Congress elected public representative announced contributions to help the flood affected families. The MLC announced that he would donate his one month's salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. It may be recalled that during the Kerala floods in the past, the Congress MPs, MLAs and

others had donated one month's salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. This was after the instructions from party high command. A video of Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy making the announcement in the past is going viral on social media platforms. In the video, Uttam Kumar Reddy is seen saying "Extending our solidarity to the Kerala government, we are contributing a little from our end. As per Rahul Gandhi's instructions, MPs, MLAs and MLCs, are donating their one month's salary for CM Relief Fund..." Sharing the video, former Jagtial MLA K Vidyasagar Rao questioned the commitment of Congress leaders from Telangana towards supporting the people of their own State during tough times. "Telangana Congress leaders have immense love for Rahul Gandhi but not the people in the State."

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

The PMLA paradox

OVER the past decade, India has witnessed a staggering rise in cases registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), with nearly 5,300 cases reported between 2014 and 2024. However, this surge in cases contrasts sharply with the dismal conviction rate — only in 40 cases in 10 years. This troubling disparity calls into question the effectiveness of the enforcement mechanism, raising concerns about the quality of investigations and the use of this powerful legal tool. The 2019 amendment to the PMLA, which significantly expanded the scope of what constitutes a 'proceeds of crime', has been a turning point. While intended to strengthen the fight against money-laundering, the amendment has led to an exponential increase in cases, often involving high-profile political figures. This has sparked allegations that the PMLA is being weaponised for political purposes rather than serving its intended aim of curbing financial crimes. The others charged under the PMLA include business leaders, bureaucrats and even farmers, highlighting the law's expansive reach and controversial application. The Supreme Court has also weighed in, urging the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to focus on quality prosecution and scientific investigation.

The low conviction rate suggests that cases may be pursued without sufficient evidence, leading to prolonged detentions and trials that yield little in terms of justice. The court's recent emphasis on safeguarding the rights of the accused underlines the need for a more balanced approach — one that ensures the guilty are punished, while protecting individuals from unjust persecution. As the ED continues to expand its reach, it must heed these judicial admonitions and prioritise fair and rigorous investigations.

Intimate Ganesh mandals of following norms of not installing PoP idols: High Court to civic bodies



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

The Bombay High Court Friday directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and other civic bodies in Maharashtra to "clearly intimate" the Sarvajani Ganeshotsav mandals to mandatorily follow Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines and abide by a condition that they will not install Ganesh idol made of Plaster of Paris (PoP). The court pulled up the BMC and other civic bodies for failing to effectively implement the guidelines for a long time to stop the use of PoP idols and persuade mandals and idol makers to avoid the use of PoP.

It suggested the state government come up with a statutory mechanism with deterrent measures including imposing fines in case of violation of guidelines. Noting that the permissions to various mandals have been granted by now, the bench said the mandals shall be informed that they shall mandatorily follow guidelines. The court added that in cases where permissions are already granted, an additional condition shall be immediately added to not install PoP idols.

It asked the municipal corporations to convene emergent meetings chaired by their commissioners and attended by senior police officer for re-framing the formats of the application form for permissions to incorporate additional condition. In the pre-lunch session, a bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar had indicated ordering ban on use and sale of PoP citing "extraordinary situation as the guidelines were not being followed in letter and spirit". However, in the post-lunch session, the court referred to the August 28 order of its Nagpur bench led by Justice Nitin W Sambre passed in a suo motu PIL.

The Nagpur bench, while directing authorities to update application forms for permissions in tune with revised guidelines, had noted that a clear understanding be given to the mandals that violation of such guidelines entail not only initiation of prosecution but imposition of penalties as per the Control of the Pollution Act, 1974. "In our opinion sufficient measures have not been taken in the sense that non adherence of guidelines does not entail any deterrence such as imposition of fine etc," Chief Justice Upadhyaya-led bench noted. "Something has to be there so that accountability be fixed and manufacturers be made accountable. It is also a matter related to the livelihood of artisans... Take a policy decision, something needs to be done so that it is deterrent," CJ Upadhyaya orally remarked.

The HC was hearing a PIL by activist Rohit Manohar Joshi and others who argued through advocate Ronita Bhattacharya-Bector against non-implementation of guidelines. The revised guidelines of CPCB of May 12, 2020 prescribed that idols made of natural, biodegradable and eco-friendly raw material be encouraged, allowed and promoted and idols made of the PoP shall be banned. Advocate General Birendra Saraf for state government cited circulars issued by its environment department to heads of civic bodies in the state wherein it has clearly been directed that these bodies shall scrupulously implement revised guidelines for idol immersion. "We expect instructions issued and directions given by the state shall be implemented by all concerned," the bench noted. The association representing idol makers submitted that as they have received orders for idols months ago, any direction putting a complete ban on use of PoP at present juncture would not be in interest of artisans whose livelihoods would be at stake. However, the bench said the authorities and artisans cannot resort to such a plea as the challenge to the guidelines, which were promulgated as far back as in May, 2020, could not succeed before the Supreme Court. It said that while the implementation of guidelines was deferred for a year, "

Cross cases filed in an incident should be probed by one investigating officer: Karnataka High Court



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Karnataka HC cross cases in accidentThe court observed that a Karnataka police circular regarding this had been issued in 2013, and the law had already been laid down in such cases both by the High Court and the Supreme Court. The Karnataka High Court has recently observed that if parties register cases and counter-cases against each other with regard to the same matter, then both cases must be investigated by the same officer. A single judge bench consisting of Justice M Nagaprasanna passed the order on August 21.

The counsel for the petitioners in this case stated that in an incident in January 2023, there were two com-

plaints and material difference in the chargesheets against both parties. It was argued that both ought to be looked into by the same Investigating Officer (IO).

The court observed that a Karnataka police circular regarding this had been issued in 2013, and the law had already been laid down in such cases both by the High Court and the Supreme Court. The court stated, "Unfortunately, the circular has remained only on paper. It appears that it is issued only for the sake of its issuance and not its implementation. Ten years have passed by, this Court is coming across a plethora of cases where a case and a counter case is still being investigated by two different Investigating Officers. The circular cannot be kept in cold storage." The court further directed that either a fresh circular should be issued or amendments made to the Karnataka Police Manual to ensure that different IOs are not appointed. The bench added, "A circular shall ensue depicting that in the event different Investigating Officers investigate into a case and a counter case, those Investigating Officers would become answerable to a Departmental Action against those persons, who venture into appointing two Investigating Officers to investigate a case and a counter case." The matter concluded by obliterating the investigation till date in the case and ordering a fresh investigation to be concluded in three months.

HC seeks Mumbai Police reply on safety measures taken for Matunga(E) college, school girls

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

The bench noted that the affidavit in reply filed by the inspector of Matunga Police station contained general assertions for measures, which are normally taken by any police station for maintaining law and order. The bench noted that the affidavit in reply filed by the inspector of Matunga Police station contained general assertions for measures, which are normally taken by any police station for maintaining law and order. The Bombay High Court on Friday directed Mumbai Police to file an affidavit providing details of security measures in place that ensure safety and security of students of girls college in Matunga (East) and a school. The HC was hearing a plea by two educational institutes, challenging construction of the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) that allegedly created an unsafe environment for girl students due to presence of drug addicts/peddlers, instances of theft and other anti-social activities. The court said that the safety of girl students in the area requires special measures as the concerned area is surrounded by slums and the possibility of mischief that would place them in a dangerous situation cannot be ruled out.

A division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar was hearing plea by Gujarati Kelavani Mandal which runs Amulakh Amichand Bhimji school along with Seva Mandal Education Society that run a girls college near Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg, Matunga (East).

Senior advocate Mihir Desai claimed that an adjacent plot which is claimed by the Railways, and was contested by the petitioner, was suddenly planned to be converted into a landing station of the FOB passing over railway tracks connecting the West and East side of the Kings Circle station. He mentioned the presence of several anti-social elements and drug addicts in the vicinity that likely endangered the security of thousands of girls.



Despite CCTV cameras on the premises and regular complaints made at Matunga Police station, petitioners continue to face the problem, Desai said.

The bench noted that the affidavit in reply filed by the inspector of Matunga Police station contained general assertions for measures, which are normally taken by any police station for maintaining law and order. However, no specific details mentioned safety measures for girl students attending the petitioner institutions. The court thereupon directed the police to file an affidavit within two weeks, personally vetted by the Police Commissioner, that provided details of measures already taken or which the local police intends to put in place to ensure security of the girl students concerned. It said the affidavit should also state measures the local police station has been taking to deal with the threat to the safety of girl students on account of use of the FOB. "The security and safety of all students, girl students particularly in the area, require special measures to be taken for the reason that petitioners in the said writ petition have asserted that the area is surrounded by slums and possibilities of mischiefs posing danger to the security and safety of girl students cannot be denied," the bench noted and posted further hearing to September 13.

Winter nearing, hold meeting to check feasibility of artificial rain in Delhi: Environment Minister Rai to Centre



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Delhi winter, artificial rainArtificial rain emerged as the top recommendation, according to a statement by the Environment Minister's office Thursday. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai Friday called on the central government to convene an urgent meeting to check the feasibility of cloud seeding in the Capital.

Cloud seeding is a process to induce artificial rain. With the onset of winter a month away, when air pollution is feared to be the most rampant, talks of artificial rain in the capital have emerged. The step comes a day after Rai

held a round table conference with environmental experts and officials to gather their recommendations to formulate this year's winter action plan. Artificial rain emerged as the top recommendation, according to a statement by the Environment Minister's office Thursday.

Writing to Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav, Rai said: "I request you to convene an immediate meeting to coordinate with all stakeholders, including representatives from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of NCT of Delhi, CPCB, Indian Meteorological Department, environmental experts, and other agencies concerned with an objective to evaluate the potential of cloud seeding as an emergency measure and to obtain necessary permissions from various government agencies to outline a coordinated plan of action." In 2023, following a presentation by IIT-Kanpur, attempts were made by the Delhi government to consider cloud seeding as an emergency measure, said Rai in the letter.

However, this was not possible after they failed to obtain timely clearance from various government agencies. Calling it an "imperative" step considering the feasibility of cloud seeding, he said it is crucial to combat air pollution in the capital.

Delhi Court grants bail to alleged conman Suresh Chandrasekhar in bribery case

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

A Delhi court on Friday granted bail to alleged conman Suresh Chandrasekhar in a bribery case related to the AIADMK's "two leaves" election symbol, noting that he had undergone detention for a period more than the maximum jail term specified for the offence he was accused to have committed. Chandrasekhar has been accused of acting as a middleman for AIADMK leader T T V Dinakaran and trying to bribe an Election Commission of India (ECI) official to secure the party's two leaves symbol for the faction led by V K Sasikala. According to the prosecution, Rs 1.3 crore cash was recovered from the accused which was allegedly intended to be used for exercising undue influence with the ECI for obtaining a favourable election symbol for the Sasikala faction of the AIADMK.

The judge said in his order that Chandrasekhar's detention beyond seven years "entails his mandatory release". "The accused has admittedly suffered detention beyond the maximum period of imprisonment and his release was not constrained by the law," the judge



noted. The judge said that the judicial interpretation of law "must necessarily be bulwark against a police State".

The repeated reiteration of "bail and not jail" as a rule in support of the value of liberty by the apex court ought to be honoured when reading the bail-related provisions of law, the judge said. He said the delay in proceedings was not capable of being ascribed to the accused as he was entitled to exercise his right. "I

Ghatkopar hoarding collapse case: Was made scapegoat due to political pressure amid LS polls, says accused to court



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Bhavesh Bhide Ghatkopar hoarding collapseBhide's plea claims that he had extended the period of the contract for the hoarding from 10 years to 30 years, stating that this shows that he had constructed the hoarding to "remain strong for 30 years".

CLAIMING THAT he was made a scapegoat with the sole motive to control raging public sentiments due to political pressure on account of Lok Sabha elections, Bhavesh Bhide, the main accused in the Ghatkopar hoarding collapse case, has sought bail in the sessions court. Bhide was arrested on May 17 after the hoarding installed by his company, the owner of Ego Media Pvt Ltd, collapsed on May 13 causing the death of 17 persons and injuries to over 80.

In his plea, Bhide claimed that the hoarding was not illegal and that permissions and advertisement rights were obtained from the Commissioner of Police, Railways. He has also claimed that the hoarding had not collapsed due to faulty construction as alleged but due to gusty winds experienced in the city. Bhide's plea claims that he had extended the period of the contract for the hoarding from 10 years to 30 years, stating that this shows that he had constructed the hoarding to "remain strong for 30 years".

"The said incident was not a result of any negligence or mistake on the part of the applicant (Bhide). It was purely due to an unexpected natural disaster and an 'Act of God' which was beyond human control.... The applicant had obtained all necessary permissions from the Railway department for the construction and installation of the hoarding, as the land on which the hoarding was erected is owned by the Railway Department," the plea filed through lawyer Sana Raees Khan said, adding that it did not require the permission of the civic body, BMC, as is alleged in the chargesheet. The Bombay High Court had earlier this month dismissed a plea by Bhide claiming that his arrest was illegal. Bhide has claimed that the two other co-accused, who had a role in the designing and construction of the hoarding, have been granted bail and sought bail on grounds of parity. This is Bhide's first bail plea on merits.

FIR against 'drunk' man for giving false information to police control room



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Pune city police booked a man for allegedly making a phone call to the police control room under the influence of alcohol and giving false information. Police identified the accused as Rakesh Mukesh Chavan (22), resident of 251, Mangalwar Peth. Police said Chavan had called the 100 number of the police control room during the Dahi Handi festival on August 27 saying a group of about 30 to 40 persons armed with swords were in Mangalwar Peth area, causing a threat to his life. The control room then passed on the information to Faraskhona police station. A police team reached Mangalwar Peth, but found nothing. Police then tried to call the person (Chavan) who had given the false information, but he had switched off his mobile phone. Police launched a probe and confirmed that the call was made by Chavan. Police Havaldar Vivek Patil lodged the first information report (FIR) against Chavan on Thursday for allegedly giving false information to the control room. He was booked under section 213 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, a press release issued on Friday stated. Senior police inspector Prashant Bhasme said as the offence is bailable, Chavan was not arrested, but a notice has been issued to him as per the law for further investigation.

Two construction workers die after falling from wooden plank support at Surat textile market

Two construction labourers died Thursday after falling from a wooden plank support on the eighth floor of an under-construction building in Surat's Sarthana. Another labourer survived the fall as he accidentally caught hold of one of the supporting bamboo sticks. He was later rescued. As per Saroli police, elevation work has been ongoing at the Radha Raman Textile market for the past few days. On Thursday evening, the three labourers were working on the outer part of the building when the ropes that tied the wooden plank to the bamboo structure loosened. Santosh Vaidh (45) and Mintu Paswan (24) died on the spot while Mangesh Tandlekar was rescued. The site manager reached the spot while the bodies of Vaidh and Paswan were rushed to SMIMER hospital by Shivam Mishra, a labourer also posted at the site. Both labourers were declared dead on arrival.

Illumina announces global expansion plans in country, Global Capability Center to be setup in Bengaluru



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Illumina Inc, a major biotech firm in DNA sequencing and array-based technologies, on Friday announced the setting up of a Global Capability Center in Bengaluru. The centre would be an investment to expand its technology workforce in support of a global customer base. It is estimated that up to 96 million people in India have a rare disease, and one in nine people in India are likely to develop cancer in their lifetime.

"Expanding access to genomics in India will help unlock opportunities for advancing health care and combating the effects of climate change," key officials at Illumina Inc said today at the Illumina Genomics Summit held at Bengaluru. "Genomics is a critical part of public health, from characterising new and emerging pathogens to revolutionising the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease," said Gretchen Weightman, Illumina's senior vice president of the Asia-Pacific, Middle East & Africa region. "Illumina has been supporting India for over a decade by providing access to genomic sequencing technologies, in particular next-generation sequencing, and building our presence and capability in India makes sense to accelerate this." Bengaluru joins Singapore; Cambridge, England; Eindhoven, the Netherlands; Shanghai; Madison, Wisconsin; Hayward, California; and San Diego as Illumina Global Capability Centers. As part of this, Illumina aims to hire 100 technology professionals in India, including software engineers, IT hardware

and network engineers, and system analysts in 2024 and 200 more by the end of 2025. Last year, Illumina opened a new office and state-of-the-art genomics lab — known as an Illumina Solutions Center in Bengaluru. The facility features a fully equipped laboratory with the latest next-generation sequencing technologies and provides training and education opportunities. "Illumina has had a strong presence in India, working with partner Premas Life Sciences, for the past 17 years, and more recently with the opening of the ISC," Weightman said. "During this time, we have seen the capability of the genomics industry in India grow substantially. Expanding Illumina's presence in India offers us access to a talented workforce and helps Illumina take advantage of efficiencies, driving flexibility and agility to advance our mission further," he said. The Illumina India Genomics Summit in Bengaluru, where the investment announcement was made, is Illumina India's flagship event. It welcomed a variety of genomics experts, clinicians, researchers, and scientists to exchange their experience and knowledge around the latest updates in genomics, encompassing clinical and translational research.

In recent years, Illumina has also supported initiatives to increase access to sequencing capability in India. This includes technology for the Genome India Project and philanthropic funding with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation to support COVID-19 surveillance. In December 2023, Illumina launched the Global Health Access Initiative to better equip countries to perform pathogen sequencing locally. This program addresses key international logistics and supply chain challenges, strengthens health systems, enables better preparedness, and empowers countries to manage their own priority health threats. Illumina's other philanthropic support in India includes the company's early COVIDSeq™ collaboration with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's Institute of Genomics & Integrative Biology in New Delhi; its donation of US \$1 million in sequencing capabilities to Mumbai's Kasturba Hospital for COVID surveillance, and its use of whole-genome sequencing to detect drug resistance in tuberculosis at P. D. Hinduja Hospital.

Acutely short of fertiliser, Punjab sends SOS to Centre

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

K A P Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary, Punjab, met Nadda in Delhi on Friday in this regard and apprised him of the situation. The meeting was a follow-up to a recent letter written by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to Nadda on the issue. Fertiliser K A P Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary, Punjab, met Nadda in Delhi on Friday in this regard and apprised him of the situation. The meeting was a follow-up to a recent letter written by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to Nadda on the issue. The Punjab government has flagged the issue of shortage of diammonium phosphate (DAP), a fertiliser that has to be sprinkled at the time of sowing crops like mustard and wheat, to Union Fertiliser Minister J P Nadda stating that the farmers may fall into a debt trap if the problem is not sorted out. K A P Sinha, Additional Chief Secretary, Punjab, met Nadda in Delhi on Friday in this regard and apprised him of the situation. The meeting was a follow-up to a recent letter written by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to Nadda on the issue.

Sinha, sources said, told Nadda that an area of 35 lakh hectares will be sown under wheat crop during ensuing Rabi season, and 5.50 lakh MT of DAP was required. The state had only received 40,000 MT, which was too little considering the magnitude of sowing of wheat. There is a shortage of DAP in the international market. The state government has been looking at alternatives also recently. Punjab apprehends that with assembly elections around the corner in BJP-led Haryana, the Centre may flush Haryana with DAP — a basic nutrient for Rabi crops — to appease the Jat voters, sources said. CM Mann, in his letter, had written that there was a shortfall of 5.1 lakh MT of DAP. The letter stated, "An area of about 35 lakh hectares will be sown under wheat crop during ensuing Rabi season which requires about 5.50 lakh MT of DAP fertiliser against which the receipts as on July 1, 2024, are close to 40,000 MT only, leaving a shortfall of 5.1 lakh MT. As the remaining DAP quantity is huge, its early pre-positioning is necessary which always helps us in making the supplies available to the farmers of the state at the time of application..." After the meeting, Sinha, in a statement, said that Nadda has assured that there would be no shortage of DAP fertiliser and other phosphatic fertilisers, and that adequate quantities would be supplied to Punjab over the next two months as per demand. "We are confident that this allocation, combined



with the assured supply, will meet our farmers' demands," he said. Meanwhile, Sinha also held a meeting with Rajat Kumar Mishra, Secretary, Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, to ensure the availability of fertilisers in Punjab. The CM's letter also stated that "DAP is first required in potato sowing areas during the second fortnight of September and further for wheat sowing which takes place from mid-October to first fortnight of November. DAP is an essential input for ensuring optimum production of wheat and in order to ensure timely and smooth availability of DAP to farmers and to prevent any kind of panic buying, it is of utmost importance that sufficient quantity of DAP is stored well before the consumption period in the state by the end of October". The letter further stated, "The shortage of DAP can affect the sowing of wheat to a large extent and may have wider economic and social ramifications. This would worsen the financial position of the already debt-ridden farmers of Punjab. Hence, it is our primary responsibility to make arrangements of DAP well in advance so that the farmers may get supplies in time and are saved from undue hardships."

In the letter the CM stated, "I would, therefore, request you to kindly advise the authority concerned to move the allocated stocks during August 2024 and further allocate the remaining quantity of 5.1 lakh MT of DAP during first fortnight of November 2024." In the letter, the CM had also reminded the Centre of Punjab's significant contribution to the country's breadbasket. "As you are aware that Punjab is nation's breadbasket which contributes significantly to the central food pool, providing approximately 21% of paddy and 31% of wheat. This achievement is largely attributed to the consistent supply of fertilisers in required quantities."

Robert Vadra flays Kangana Ranaut on remarks over farmers' protest



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's husband Robert Vadra has slammed BJP MP Kangana Ranaut for her comments on farmers' protests and said she does not deserve to be in Parliament. Addressing reporters here on Friday, he said, "She (Ranaut) is a woman. I respect her. But I feel she does not deserve to be in Parliament. She is not educated. I feel she does not think about people. She thinks only about herself. She should

think about women. My appeal is that the entire country should come together and move forward on the issue of women's safety." Noting that the safety of women is the most important issue, he said all political parties must come together to address it.

Ranaut, the member of Parliament from Mandi in Himachal Pradesh, on Monday posted on X a clip of her interview with Hindi daily "Dainik Bhaskar", in which she suggested that a "Bangladesh-like situation" could have erupted in India during farmers' protests against three now-repealed farm laws but for the country's strong leadership. She then alleged that "bodies were hanging and rapes were taking place" during the farmers' agitation. Ranaut also alleged the involvement of China and the United States in the "conspiracy", drawing flak from opposition parties. Vadra arrived here on Friday to visit places of worship and meet people from different sections of the society, including differently-abled children.

Efforts on to capture man-eater crocodile that strayed out of zoo area amid Vadodara floods



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

As floodwaters begin to recede in Vadodara city, forest department officials and volunteers have been on their toes attending to calls to rescue crocodiles being spotted at various locations. As many as 25 crocodiles have been rescued from various areas of Vadodara city in the past four days while a man-eater crocodile, which was caged inside Sayajibaug Zoo in 2020 after it had killed a 54-year-old woman, was recaptured after it managed to breach its confinement area during the floods. On Friday, local volunteers rescued three crocodiles that had breached the confinement area inside Sayajibaug Zoo. Among them was the 13-foot-long man-eater crocodile that was rescued from Dev river of Mahadevpura village in Waghodia taluka of the district in July 2020 after a tedious 36-hour operation. The reptile had been confined in Sayajibaug as it was considered "dangerous" to let it in the natural habitat of Vishwamitri.

The zoo officials confirmed that the man-eater crocodile had strayed out of its confinement during the floods

and was recaptured within the zoo premises after much struggle. Volunteer Hemant Vadhvana, who had captured the crocodile from Dev river in 2020, told The Indian Express: "The crocodile had been residing inside the Dev river for over seven years and had fatally attacked seven people — mostly women washing clothes on the riverbank — during the period. It was considered that the crocodile may have turned into a man-eater and taken to attack humans due to the fact that biomedical waste is often found littered in one part of the river, close to a charitable hospital for cancer patients... It had been confined at Sayajibaug as it was not considered safe for it to be let out in the Vishwamitri river." Forest officials said that 25 crocodiles ranging from 8 feet to 14 feet have been rescued from various parts of the city since Tuesday when the Vishwamitri river began flooding the city. Vadodara Range Forest Officer (RFO) Karansinh Rajput, said, "Volunteers have rescued 25 crocodiles from different parts of Vadodara and handed them over to the forest department in the past four days. They have been released back into the Vishwamitri."

Vadhvana, who also rescued six of the 25 crocodiles found in the city, said the adult crocodiles had ventured into the city areas to protect their territory. "As the river swells, adult crocodiles try to move to the shallow areas near their territory with the intention of returning when the water recedes but often they get trapped in the city... We rescued two crocodiles each from the Akota and Sama areas and one each from Jambuva and Harni. In most places, police had to be called in to control the local residents who demanded a chance to sit on the back of the crocodile and click photographs," he said.

Name change, DPR & 14 years later, Vadodara's Vishwamitri river revamp still on paper

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

A number of name changes over a decade and even after the formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to execute the plans, the Vishwamitri river rejuvenation project, which was first proposed in 2010, is yet to see the light of the day. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel's latest announcement of Rs 1,200 crore for the "historic project" to mitigate Vadodara's flood problem is yet another in the series of assurances given by the civic body as well as the state government to the city's residents. A day after the announcement was made late on Thursday after the Chief Minister's visit to the flood-hit city, Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) officials said only a "primary discussion" of the project was held in the presence of Patel. While VMC Commissioner Dilip Rana said that the project discussed in presence of Chief Minister Patel was only "a primary discussion", Chief Whip of the state government and Raopura BJP MLA Balkrishna Shukla told this newspaper that the state government has handed out "strict instructions" for a coordinated effort of the departments concerned to ensure that Vadodara city does not witness floods of the same magnitude again.

The previous announcement — a "mega project" to rejuvenate the Vishwamitri — was made by the Vijay Rupani-led government in December 2019. This was four months after Vadodara city went under water on two occasions — in July and August that year. However, despite being called a "holistic development project" that would work on the river from its origin at Pavagadh in Panchmahal to its amalgamation with the Gulf of Khambhat, the project did not take off even after the National Green Tribunal approved a Detailed Project Report (DPR) submitted by the VMC, officials said. Although conceptualised by VMC in 2008, a Feasibility Report Master Plan of the Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Project (VRDP) was prepared only in December 2014 by an Ahmedabad-based consulting firm, HCP Design, Planning & Management Private Limited. The application for Environment Clearance (EC) for the project was submitted to the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Gujarat State (SEIAA) on November 26, 2015. The same year, VMC resubmitted the proposal after SEIAA flagged some shortcomings in the project.

A year later, Rohit Prajapati of the Paryavaran Suraksha Samiti, a not-for-profit environment protection organisation, were among activists who moved the Western Bench of the National Green Tribunal questioning the activities planned by the civic body as part of the project. They contended that the activities, including demolition, dredging, digging, filling, levelling, construction, announcement of projects, etc, are illegal in nature as these are undertaken before the completion of due processes for Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and EC as per EIA Notification, 2006. Prajapati says, "Understanding the ecology of the Vishwamitri is especially critical since it is a unique habitat for 'Schedule I Species' as listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Vishwamitri project should be intended to increase the flood carrying capacity, clean the river to make it pollution-free, retain and replenish the water, create a safe habitat for crocodiles, integrate with slum redevelopment policy, increase groundwater recharge, cre-



ate public and recreational spaces, strengthen the river edge, improve accessibility and connectivity, generate resources to pay for all of the foregoing and integrate with city development."

The activists sought an interim order to restrain VMC from proceeding with the project on the assertion that it had not obtained EC. VMC filed a withdrawal application stating the project was in an "early stage". NGT then asked the civic body to maintain status quo and not carry out any further construction and development-enabling activities within the area of VRDP until and unless the prior EC is obtained for the said project. In February 2018, after the civic body had spent close to Rs 2 crore for consultation and preparation of the feasibility report for VRDP, the project was rechristened Vishwamitri River Revival Project with a new consultant on board to prepare the conceptual note. Environmentalists questioned the rationale behind spending money on the project and then scrapping it, instead of following the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) approach. "Currently, following several legal notices we have served the VMC, the mapping of the floor plan of the river is going on which will help us identify the exact encroachments, ravines and points of interlinking the river with the ponds," said Prajapati.

A senior official said then VMC Commissioner Vinod Rao had proposed to implement five Town Planning Schemes along the course of the Vishwamitri River in the city to eliminate encroachments on private lands and clear the path for a complete development. However, after rechristening the Special Purpose Vehicle from Vishwamitri Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd to the Vishwamitri River Revival Corporation Ltd, the project failed to take off."

The subject of the Vishwamitri river is related to various state government departments — irrigation department, PWD, revenue and GWSSB and not as much as the corporation because although the river passes through the corporation area, the effect on it happens from outside the city area," MLA Shukla, who had originally conceptualised the Vishwamitri Project as Mayor in 2010, told The Indian Express. "It is an issue of the state and so rightfully, the CM has instructed that the project proposal should be created in coordination of the departments and immediately. It will include widening storm water drains... superimposing a green belt around Vishwamitri to ensure that floods are mitigated but it is not a project that will be completed within a year or two," he says.

'Attempt to cover up delay': Centre vs Mamata on Bengal CM's latest letter to PM Modi on rape cases

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Hours after Mamata Banerjee wrote a second letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the need of a stringent Central law to deal with heinous crimes like rape and murder, the Union Women and Child Development Minister responded to it saying that the data provided by the Bengal CM was "inaccurate" and an "attempt to cover up delays" on the state's end. In the letter dated August 30, Annapurna Devi called on Mamata to expedite the establishment and operationalisation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) dedicated to handling cases of rape and those under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in the state. The Union Minister also highlighted concerns over the state's existing Fast Track Courts (FTCs) and urged the chief minister to ensure that justice is served swiftly and efficiently. Mamata, in her letter on Friday, had written: "You may kindly recall my letter No. 44-CM dated August 22, 2024 (copy enclosed) regarding the need for stringent Central legislation on incidents of rape and meting out exemplary punishment to perpetrators of such crimes. No reply was received from your end on such a sensitive issue. However, a reply has been received from the Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India (vide their No. 1/RESC/HMWC/2024 dated August 25

2024), which barely attends to the gravity of the issue raised in my letter. I am of the thought that the seriousness of the subject and its relevance to the society have not been adequately appreciated while sending out this generic reply. The Chief Minister also wrote that her state's "initiatives" that "appeared to have been overlooked" in the Minister of Women and Child Development's reply. Replying to this, the Union Minister referenced a previous letter sent on August 25 where she had stressed the importance of stringent legislation and exemplary punishment for crimes like rape and murder. Responding to a subsequent communication from the Bengal CM, Devi pointed out that while West Bengal has established 88 FTCs, these are not the same as the FTSCs recommended under the Central Government's scheme. She noted that the FTCs in the state handle a broad spectrum of cases, including civil disputes, rather than being exclusively dedicated to rape and POCSO cases. Devi further emphasised the significant backlog in the state's justice system, with over 81,000 cases pending in the FTCs as of June 30, 2024. She expressed concern that the state has yet to operationalise an additional 11 FTSCs to meet the increasing demand, despite a backlog of 48,600 rape and POCSO cases.

Kashmir-based Chinara Corps to get new commander after Assembly polls

next Director General of Military Operations (DGMO). The change in command will take place two weeks after Assembly elections wrap up in Jammu and Kashmir. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Lt Gen Srivastava has extensive experience in combat operations, particularly in regions with high levels of insurgency, such as Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and the Northeast. The senior Army officer has extensive experience in the Kashmir Valley, having served multiple tenures there. Prior to moving to the Army Headquarters, he was commanding a Rashtriya Rifles Force in the Valley. During this time, he oversaw the planning and execution of numerous operations aimed at combating militant activity. Lt Gen Ghai will continue to be in charge of the Corps' security operations in the Kashmir valley and the Line of Control until the handover. Lt Gen Ghai has been cleared to take over as the new DGMO, succeeding Lt Gen Pratik Sharma. Several officers have already been posted to new positions, including the 3 Corps in Dimapur and the new Army War College Commandant, as part of the recent postings announced on July 22. Jammu and Kashmir is going to the polls after a 10-year gap. The three-phase Assembly election will begin on September 18 and conclude on October 1, with results to be announced on October 4.

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, a veteran of counter-terrorist operations, will succeed Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai as the new commander of the Kashmir valley-based Chinara Corps. Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava was appointed as the new commander of the Kashmir Valley-based Chinara Corps, effective October 15. Lt Gen Srivastava, a veteran of counter-terrorist operations, will succeed Lt Gen Rajiv Ghai, who will move to the Army Headquarters as the

Meet Bihar's new police chief, a classically trained singer who has held many crucial posts

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Alok Raj, Alok Raj profile, Bihar new police chief, Bihar cadre IPS officer, R S Bhatti, Indian express news, current affairs On Friday, after assuming charge as DGP, Raj said: "I first thank the state government for bestowing the honour on me. My top priority is to keep working towards the state government's zero-tolerance policy on crime. Any Bihar resident can meet me or my officers for legal and policing reasons." Alok Raj, 1989-batch Bihar cadre IPS officer, on Friday took over as Bihar's Director General of Police (DGP). Raj replaced R S Bhatti, who was appointed Wednesday as director general of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). In December 2022, Bhatti had been made Bihar DGP even though he was a year junior to Raj.

Raj is currently also DG, Vigilance Investigation Bureau, and will continue to hold the post along with his new role as DGP. He is set for retirement on December 31, 2025. He has previously served as superintendent of police of Sitamarhi and Begusarai, and subsequently as CRPF DIG and IG. The 2025 Assembly election in Bihar will be conducted during Raj's tenure as police chief. He has been known for his role in holding the 2008 panchayat elections in West Bengal's Nandigram in the aftermath of



unrest in the area. On Friday, after assuming charge as DGP, Raj said: "I first thank the state government for bestowing the honour on me. My top priority is to keep working towards the state government's zero-tolerance policy on crime. Any Bihar resident can meet me or my officers for legal and policing reasons." A classically trained singer, Raj has two music albums to his name - one of Kabir Bhajans and another of Dushyant Kumar ghazals. He was also a topper in Geology from Patna Science College. He is the son-in-law of former Chhattisgarh and Tripura Governor D N Sahay.

'She dragged me by the hair, kicked me': Video shows Dalit woman, grandson being assaulted at police station in Madhya Pradesh; 6 cops suspended



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

police brutality, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh Police, Dalit woman assaulted, Government Railway Police, Indian express news, current affairs Later in the day, the six police personnel were suspended. A police inspector and five constables of the Government Railway Police (GRP) in Madhya Pradesh's Katni city have been suspended after a video allegedly showing them assaulting a 55-year-old Dalit woman and her 15-year-old grandson in police custody surfaced on social media. In a complaint filed Tuesday, 55-year-old Kusum Vanshkar said that on October 29 last year, she and her 15-year-old grandson were taken to Katni GRP police station in connection with an inquiry into her older son Deepak (35), a

suspect in a theft case. "On the pretext of questioning, inspector Aruna Vahane shut the door of her room and started pulling my hair and dragged me by my hair and assaulted me with a wooden stick, and kicked me and mercilessly assaulted me between 6 pm to 7 pm," she alleged in the complaint. The complaint also alleged that four police constables "caught hold of my grandson and hit him on his legs several times with a wooden stick". The incident had purportedly been captured on a CCTV camera inside the police station, and the clip went viral on social media recently. The video prompted Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to issue a public statement Thursday evening promising action against the police personnel involved.

"An old video of assault by officers/employees of GRP Katni police station is going viral on social media. When it came to my notice, immediately this morning, instructions were given to send DIG Rail to the spot for investigation. According to preliminary investigation, orders have been given to suspend the then police station in-charge GRP Katni, along with a head constable and four constables with immediate effect. Also, senior police officers have been directed to ensure that such misconduct is not repeated in future," Yadav wrote in a post on X. They were identified as inspector Aruna Vahane, head constable Ajay Shrivastav, and constables Shoab Abbasi, Salman Khan, Omkar Sirsam, and Varsha Dubey.

Delhi University releases schedule for UG courses' admission rounds



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

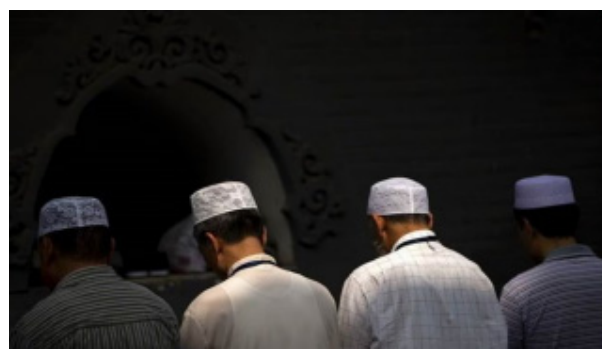
The Delhi University on Friday announced the schedule for upcoming rounds of allocations to its undergraduate programmes against the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS). According to the varsity, admissions for 75,083 students were confirmed in Round II, while 29,344 students have opted for an upgrade and 41,885 chose to freeze their seats. The candidates selected in Round II were given time till 11.59 pm, Friday (August 30) to pay their admission fees to make them eligible to opt for an upgrade in the next round. In its announcement, the varsity stated that admitted candidates of Round I and II can opt for upgradation on higher preferences through Upgrade Window. The window allows the applicants to reorder their programme-college combinations which were higher in preference than the one allocated previously. This window will be open from 5 pm on Satur-

day to 4.59 pm, Sunday; after which, the upgraded allocations will be declared on Tuesday. The candidates can then 'accept' the seat by 4.59 pm Wednesday, September 4. In its official schedule, the university has made a provision called Mid-Entry that allows the candidates, who missed to apply to CSAS in Phase I and Phase II, to apply again, among others. The window for Mid-Entry will be open from 5 pm, on September 7 to 4.59 pm, on September 9. Round-III Allocation Based on the submissions, the results of the third round of allocations will be declared at 5 pm, September 11. The candidates will have time till 4.59 pm, on September 13 to 'accept' the allocated seat.

Bengal government effects bureaucratic reshuffle

According to an order issued on Friday night, Additional Chief Secretary Prabhat Kumar Mishra, a 1993-batch IAS officer, has been given the responsibility of the Finance Department with additional charge of the Department of Planning and Statistics. Bengal According to an order issued on Friday night, Additional Chief Secretary Prabhat Kumar Mishra, a 1993-batch IAS officer, has been given the responsibility of the Finance Department with additional charge of the Department of Planning and Statistics. The West Bengal government has effected a bureaucratic reshuffle, giving new responsibilities to three senior IAS officers.

'Time', 'people of other religions...': Why Assam assembly did away with 3-hour break that allowed for Friday prayers



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

assam, assam assembly namaz break, Assam abolishes namaz break, assam namaz break, assam news, assam himanta cm speaking to reporters, Speaker Biswajit Daimary said this was a provision unique to the Assam Legislative Assembly introduced during the premiership of Muhammad Saadullah in pre-Independence Assam. The Assam Legislative Assembly Friday did away with a provision in its Rules of Procedure, under which the House used to be adjourned for three hours between 11 am to 2 pm on Fridays. Though the Rules of Procedure did not explicitly mention that this was to enable Muslim MLAs to offer Friday prayers, the Assam government, while announcing the decision, said that this was the purpose of the rule. Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assam Legislative Assembly stated: "The House shall ordinarily commence from 9:30 am to 2 pm on all weekdays except Fridays and Saturday. On Friday, the House shall sit from 9:30 am to 11:30 am and 3 pm to 5 pm." With the amendment approved by the Assembly on Friday, from next session onwards, the House will sit for the same hours on Friday as the rest of the week. Speaking to reporters, Speaker Biswajit Daimary said this was a provision unique to the Assam Legislative Assembly introduced during the premiership of Muhammad Saadullah in pre-Independence Assam.

"In the Assam legislative assembly, it had become like a tradition from the time of the British during Saadullah

saab's Chief Ministership. At that time, Bangladesh was with Assam and the capital was in Shillong. Maybe then there were many members who were followers of the Islamic religion and they brought this proposal... Since I've become Speaker, I've noticed that on Friday, when there's some important matters to discuss, it becomes very difficult for time. The other thing is that in today's day and age, everybody is very conscious about their rights. People of other religions have also sometimes started saying that we should also get some time for prayers... I took information from all the legislative assemblies and found that no assembly adjourns the house for any religion or prayer. Even in the Parliament, there is no such rule," he said. He said that the proposal to amend this rule was presented before the Rules Committee, which is headed by him, and the committee unanimously agreed. The motion for the amendment had been introduced in the Assembly on August 28 and was passed on Friday.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma posted on social media: "By doing away with the two-hour Juma break, the Assam Assembly has prioritised productivity and shed another vestige of colonial baggage. This practice was introduced by Muslim League's Syed Saadullah in 1937... My gratitude to Hon'ble Speaker Biswajit Daimary dangoriya and our legislators for this historical decision." While the amendment was not protested in the house, Dhing MLA from AIUDF Aminul Islam, who is also a part of the Rules Committee, claimed that the Speaker had told members that he was facing pressure from BJP members. "Apart from Jammu and Kashmir, the highest number of Muslim MLAs is in Assam. So if there's no break and if they all go to do juma namaz during that time, a lot of work of the assembly where their participation is involved, they will be absent. That's why it was given. Friday is for private members' business, so different MLAs' names keep coming up for participation. We had wanted all this to be discussed," he told reporters. CPI(M) leader from West Bengal, Hannan Mollah, called it a "heinous decision". He was quoted by ANI as saying, "This is dangerous to the country and the mindset is anti-national. This mindset is against the unity of the country."

'India can't be silent bystander in Arctic region, should go beyond scientific research': Polar Dialogue

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Marking the launch of a significant new forum to bolster India's engagement in the Arctic region, diplomats and public policy experts gathered at the inaugural Polar Dialogue in Bengaluru on Friday to deliberate on crafting innovative strategies for enhancing collaboration and influence in Arctic affairs. Organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in partnership with the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), the two-day conference is envisioned as an annual Track 1.5 initiative.

It brings together a diverse group of officials, diplomats, and scholars at NIAS for in-depth discussions on the Arctic and Antarctic regions, focusing on the geopolitical, environmental, and scientific challenges and opportunities these polar areas present. Ambassador P S Raghavan, chairman, National Security Advisory Board, during his keynote address stated that India must go beyond scientific exploration and research in the Arctic, especially given China's growing influence in the region and protect its own economic interests. "The Arctic literally that formed the Atlantic Council today are divided into seven NATO countries and one which actually presides over the largest piece of Arctic real-estate. And Russia-based tensions have ensured that the Council, which had so far succeeded in keeping the governance of the region within itself, is now deeply polarized," Raghavan said. He added, "China has inserted itself into this polarization by seeking greater influence through participation in infrastructure, energy and connectivity. So we are looking therefore at a geopolitical tussle with potentially much greater global impact, leading to territorial disputes and militarization of the Arctic. India cannot be a silent bystander to this major developing cloud of the horizon when we have so many interests in the region. We need to protect our economic, ecological, connectivity and transportation interests."

Diplomats and experts were of the opinion that In-



dia can only achieve this through vigorous presence in the Arctic and the Arctic forums and intensify the engagements. Referring to how the United States bought Alaska from Russia and became the Arctic power that it is today and giving the region an entirely different geopolitical complex, Raghavan emphasized that India ought to 'think long ahead' when nurturing ambitions on the world stage.

Further, Dr M Ravichandran, secretary, ministry of Earth Science, underlined the implications of climate change in the Arctic and how it can impact the monsoon in India and lead to distress in agriculture, economy, and water disputes between states. "As the climate continues to warm, the Arctic region is feeling the effects most profoundly. The Arctic is warming three to four times faster than the global average. This rapid warming causes significant changes across the entire ecosystem affecting the ocean, atmosphere and solid ice. For example, in India, the reduction of sea ice in the Arctic is directly influencing the monsoon patterns, particularly in terms of heavy rainfall," said Ravichandran. He explained, "As a result, the rainfall which used to be spread out over a month is now occurring within just a few days. Additionally, rainfall that would normally cover a 100 kilometres area is now being concentrated in just 1 square kilometre."

Plea seeks FIR against Kangana, 2 others; matter to come up on Sep 17

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

A complaint seeking registration of an FIR against actress Kangana Ranaut, Member of Parliament from Mandi, has been filed at the Chandigarh District Court over her next film "Emergency". The matter will come up for hearing on September 17. The complaint has been filed by Ravinder Singh Bassi, a practising advocate at the Chandigarh district court and president of Lawyers for Humanity, an NGO. The complainant has sought registration of FIR under sections 196 (1) 197(1) 302, 299 of BNSS 2023 against Ranaut, Ritesh Shah (screenplay) and Zee Studios. In his complaint filed in the court of Ankit Airi, Judicial Magistrate First Class (JMFC), Bassi has submitted that Ranaut who is the actress, producer and director of the film "Emergency", whose trailer has been released on social media platforms, "is trouble creator and many times, created differences between the communities by uttering provoking statements and speeches against the minorities".

Bassi alleged that in the movie "Emergency" Ranaut and Zee Studios "have tried to malign the image of Sikhs" and targeted the ex-jathedar of "Akal Takth Sahib" by presenting him as a terrorist in the movie. "...Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandak Committee which is the elected body of Sikhs and is a mini-parliament of the Sikh community had clearly passed a resolution and made a rule that nobody can depict, portray and no human can personify Sikh gurus, saints and ex-jathedars...", submitted Bassi in his complaint.

"Ranaut, Shah and Zee Studios with malafide intention and just to gain a popularity had tried to personify the ex-jathedar, Sant Jarnail Singh, as a terrorist and showing him demanding a separate state which is totally false and maligning the image of the general Sikhs which cre-



The complaint has been filed by Ravinder Singh Bassi, a practising advocate at the Chandigarh district court and president of Lawyers for Humanity, an NGO. The complainant has sought registration of FIR under sections 196 (1) 197(1) 302, 299 of BNSS 2023 against Ranaut, Ritesh Shah (screenplay) and Zee Studios.

ates a division between the communities and it hurts the feelings of the Sikh community," alleged Bassi. Bassi alleged that the accused without studying the proper historical facts and figures had portrayed the Sikhs in bad light and also made false allegations against the supreme temporal seat of Sikh community. In the movie trailer, it was shown that the sitting jathedar of "Sri Akal Takth Sahib" was demanding a separate state which is totally false and it was shown just to malign the image of Sikhs and the Akal Takth jathedars, the complainant alleged. Bassi said the act of accused has been circulated on social media and print media. It has hurt the feelings of Sikhs. Being a devoted Sikh himself, the complainant too has been hurt. Thus, the complainant has sought directions to the SSP of Chandigarh Police to register an FIR against the accused.

Indian-origin man arrested in US for 'execution-style' killing of Nepal student



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Bobby Singh Shah, 51, was arrested and charged with the murder of Muna Pandey, a 21-year-old nursing student from Nepal, who was found dead in her Houston apartment earlier this week. Bobby Singh Shah was arrested for the murder of Nepalese student Muna Pandey in Houston, Texas. An Indian-origin man has been arrested and charged with capital murder in connection with the death of a 21-year-old Nepalese college student in Houston, Texas, according to the New York Post. Bobby Singh Shah, 51, was taken into custody on Wednesday night (local time). He is accused of shooting Muna Pandey, a nursing student at Houston Community College, during an attempted robbery on August 24. Pandey's body

was discovered in her apartment on Monday with multiple gunshot wounds. Shah is accused of shooting Pandey in what court records describe as an "execution-style" killing. It is currently unclear if Shah and Pandey knew each other prior to the incident.

According to court records, Shah forced his way into Pandey's apartment at gunpoint. Witnesses told police Pandey had installed a security camera outside her door due to previous harassment by a stalker. The camera captured the incident. The footage shows Shah forcing Pandey into her apartment at gunpoint around 8:40 p.m. on the night of her death. As he directed her to open the door, Pandey asked, "What are you going to do?" An hour later, Shah is seen leaving the apartment with Pandey's purse. The young woman's body was discovered days later after an anonymous caller alerted the apartment complex's management. She had been shot multiple times in the torso and once in the head. Authorities believe Shah may have targeted Pandey through a sugar daddy dating website. A female tipster who met Shah on such a website 12 years ago contacted police after recognising him in the surveillance footage. Police suspect Pandey knew her attacker and said that he stole her mobile phone after the murder. The Nepalese Association of Houston is working with the Nepal Consulate to assist Pandey's family with travel arrangements to come to the United States.

Trump says will vote to uphold Florida's abortion ban after conservative backlash

The Florida ballot measure would legalise abortion until foetal viability, a term used by health care providers to describe whether a pregnancy is expected to continue developing normally or whether a foetus might survive outside the uterus. Former President Donald Trump on Friday said he would vote no on a Florida ballot measure that would repeal the state's six-week abortion ban.

Former President Donald Trump on Friday said he would vote no on a Florida ballot measure that would repeal the state's six-week abortion ban, a day after he seemed to indicate he would vote in favour of the measure. Trump has said he thinks Florida's ban is a mistake and said in an interview with Fox News Channel on Friday, "I think six weeks, you need more time." But then he said, "at the same time, the Democrats are radical," and he repeated false claims he has frequently made about late-term abortions and said that he opposed allowing abortions up until nine months. "So I'll be voting no for that reason," said Trump, who is registered to vote at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida.

The Florida ballot measure would legalise abortion until foetal viability, a term used by health care providers to describe whether a pregnancy is expected to continue developing normally or whether a foetus might survive outside the uterus. It's generally considered to be around 23 or 24 weeks, which is about six months. Trump drew backlash from abortion opponents who support him when he seemed to signal in another interview on Thursday that he would vote in favour of the ballot measure and repeal the six-week ban when he said, "I am going to be



voting that we need more than six weeks." Amid the backlash, his campaign quickly issued a statement saying that Trump had not actually said how he would vote but "simply reiterated that he believes six weeks is too short." Trump has held multiple conflicting positions on abortion over the years. After briefly considering backing a potential 15-week ban on the procedure nationwide, he announced in April that regulating abortion should be left to the states. In the months since, he has repeatedly taken credit for his role in overturning Roe and called it "a beautiful thing to watch" as states set their own restrictions. "Donald Trump just made his position on abortion very clear: He will vote to uphold an abortion ban so extreme it applies before many women even know they are pregnant," Vice President Kamala Harris, his Democratic rival, said in a statement responding to Trump's Friday comments.

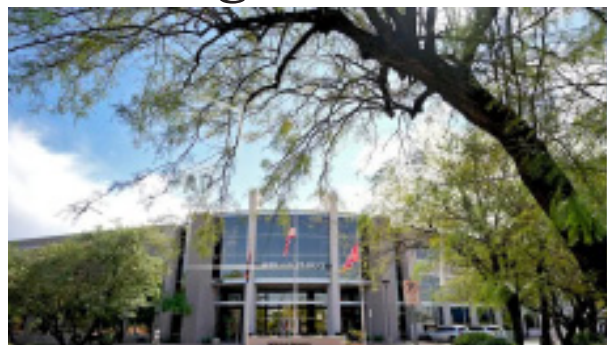
US woman found dead in cubicle 4 days after checking into building for work

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Denise Prudhomme, who worked at a Wells Fargo corporate office, was found dead in a third-floor cubicle on Tuesday, August 20, local police said. The Wells Fargo Corporate offices, where a 60-year-old office worker was found dead, are shown Friday, Aug. 30, 2024, in Tempe, Ariz.

The Wells Fargo Corporate offices, where a 60-year-old office worker was found dead on August 30 in Tempe, Arizona. Four days after last scanning in for work, a 60-year-old office worker in Arizona was found dead in a cubicle at her workplace, having never left the building during that time, authorities said. Denise Prudhomme, who worked at a Wells Fargo corporate office, was found dead in a third-floor cubicle on Tuesday, August 20, Tempe police said. She had last scanned into the building on Friday, August 16, at 7 am, police said. There was no indication she scanned out of the building after that.

Prudhomme worked in an underpopulated area of the building. Her cause of death has not been determined, but police said the preliminary investigation found no obvious signs of foul play. The investigation is



continuing. "We are deeply saddened by the loss of our colleague, Denise Prudhomme," Wells Fargo said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with her family and loved ones, and we are in contact to ensure they are well-supported during this difficult time. We are committed to the safety and wellness of our workforce. Counsellors have been made available to support employees, the company said. Police responded after on-site security called about an employee they believed to be dead. Prudhomme was pronounced dead at 4:55 pm on August 20, police said.

Doctor charged in 'Friends' star Matthew Perry's death 'incredibly remorseful'

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Dr Mark Chavez appeared in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles for a brief arraignment on a single felony count of conspiracy to illegally distribute ketamine and was permitted to remain free on \$50,000 bond

One of two doctors amongst those charged in the overdose death of "Friends" star Matthew Perry was barred by a federal judge on Friday from practicing medicine. One of two doctors who are amongst the five people charged in the ketamine overdose death of "Friends" star Matthew Perry was barred by a federal judge on Friday from practicing medicine and through his lawyer afterward expressed remorse. Dr. Mark Chavez appeared in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles for a brief arraignment on a single felony count of conspiracy to illegally distribute ketamine and was permitted to remain free on \$50,000 bond.

Chavez has previously signed an agreement with federal prosecutors to enter a guilty plea, which defence lawyer Matt Binninger told reporters his client would do at a later proceeding to be scheduled within a few weeks. No plea was entered on Friday. As part of the bond conditions set by Magistrate Judge Jean Rosenbluth, Chavez also surrendered his passport and was ordered not to practice medicine. He had agreed to surrender his medical licence at a separate administrative hearing earlier

this week, according to a spokesperson for the U.S. Attorney's Office. "My client is accepting responsibility. He's doing everything in his power to cooperate, to help in this situation, and he's incredibly remorseful," Binninger said outside the courthouse. The lawyer added that Chavez's regret stemmed not from Perry's celebrity but from the fact that "someone who was trying to seek treatment died." The attorney declined to discuss any details of the case. Chavez, with a downcast expression on his face, stood beside his lawyer but made no comment. Another physician charged in the case, Dr. Salvador Plasencia, has pleaded not guilty, as has co-defendant Jasveen Sangha, who authorities said was an illicit supplier of the drug and was known as the "ketamine queen." Perry's live-in personal assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa, who admitted to injecting Perry, and the alleged middle-man who said he obtained ketamine from Sangha, have already pleaded guilty to charges they faced. Authorities said Plasencia purchased ketamine from Chavez, and in text messages to Chavez discussing the amount to charge Perry for the drug wrote: "I wonder how much this moron will pay." Perry died at age 54 in October 2023 from "acute effects" of ketamine and other factors that caused him to lose consciousness and drown in his hot tub, according to a December 2023 autopsy report. The actor had publicly acknowledged decades of substance abuse, including during the years he starred as Chandler Bing on the hit 1990s television sitcom "Friends."

Brazil's Supreme Court judge orders suspension of X amid feud with Elon Musk



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

A Brazilian Supreme Court judge ordered the suspension of Elon Musk's X after the tech billionaire did not comply with a court-mandated deadline to identify a legal representative in the South American country.

Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes ordered the full and immediate suspension of X in the country until all related court orders on X were complied with and the nomination of a legal representative in Brazil. A Brazilian Supreme Court justice ordered on Friday the "immediate suspension" of social media platform X in the country, after a court-imposed deadline expired for the company to identify a legal representative in Brazil. The move is the latest chapter in an ongoing feud between Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes and Elon Musk, which also included the freezing of the satellite internet provider Starlink's financial accounts in Brazil.

In the decision, Moraes ordered the full and immediate suspension of X in the country until all related court orders on X were complied with, including the payment of fines amounting to 18.5 million reais (around Rs 27.66 crore) and the nomination of a legal representative in



Brazil. Moraes ordered telecommunications regulator Anatel to implement the suspension order, and to confirm to the court within 24 hours that it had carried it out. In a bid to avoid the use of virtual private networks (VPNs) to circumvent the blockage, Moraes said that individuals or companies who tried to keep access to the social network that way could be fined up to 50,000 reais (around Rs 7.47 lakh) a day.

X said late on Thursday that it expected Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes to order a shutdown "soon", after a court-imposed deadline expired for the company to identify a legal representative in Brazil. Earlier this year, Moraes ordered X to block certain accounts implicated in probes of so-called digital militias accused of spreading distorted news and hate. Musk, denouncing the order as censorship, responded by closing the platform's offices in Brazil. X, formerly known as Twitter, said at the time that its services would still be available in Brazil. Amid the underlying feud over X, Brazil's Supreme Court also blocked the local bank accounts of the Starlink satellite internet firm, which is 40 per cent owned by Musk, leading the company on Friday to ask the court to suspend that decision.

Report claims caste discrimination on Rutgers campus, but has no supporting data

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

A Rutgers University task force, co-chaired by Professor Audrey Truschke, released a report recommending "caste" be added as a protected category under the university's discrimination policy. The report relies on anecdotal testimony, and admits there is no systematic data to support that caste discrimination exists on campus. The Rutgers University report claims that caste discrimination is widespread on campus. The report is based on five testimonies. A recent report by a task force at Rutgers University recommended adding "caste" as a protected category under the university's discrimination policy. The report titled -- Caste-based discrimination in US higher education and at Rutgers -- was prepared by the task force co-chaired by a professor Audrey Truschke. The report relies on five anecdotal testimonies rather than substantial evidence. Audrey Truschke has also written some books including, Aurangzeb: The Man and the Myth, The Ramayana of Hamida Banu Begum, Queen Mother of Mughal India, Aurangzeb: The Life and Legacy of India's Most Controversial King. Rutgers, the state university of New Jersey, is one of America's leading public research universities. The report claims that "discrimination based on caste" is widespread on campus, affecting students, faculty, and staff. The report cited five personal testimonies, including instances where students experienced discrimination due to their caste. For example, one student mentioned facing bias after revealing his Brahmin identity in class, while another Dalit student recounted being advised by her family not to disclose her caste at the university. "In class discussion, a student stated that they were Brahmin and that their parents would never let them marry a Dalit," according to the report. An undergrad student who "identifies as chamar" was told by her family that "it is better not to tell people what caste I belong to", the report stated. Despite these examples, the task force acknowledged a lack of systematic data supporting widespread caste discrimination on campus.

The report admitted that the Office of Employment Equity (OEE) had reviewed no specific complaints related to caste discrimination. "A review of OEE's records showed no complaints that pertained to caste specifically. This absence of data is inconsistent with the "Testimonies about casteism and caste-based discrimination at Rutgers". This underscores the report's recommendations to enhance Rutgers policies against caste-based discrimination and provide education to all members of



the Rutgers community on the harms of casteism," the report stated. The report's heavy reliance on anecdotal testimonies rather than concrete evidence has drawn significant criticism. Many have questioned the objectivity of the report, particularly due to the involvement of Audrey Truschke, a professor with a history of controversial views on Hinduism. This involvement has raised concerns about the potential ideological bias behind the report. "A university task force (which Professor Truschke co-chaired), has released a report ominously titled "Caste Based Discrimination in US Higher Education at Rutgers". To cut to the chase, like every report of its kind, this one is a breathless denouement of a problem for which there is no evidence," CoHNA (Coalition of Hindus of North America) wrote on X. The Rutgers report follows California's SB403 legislation, which aimed to add caste as a protected category under state law. However, California Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed the bill, saying existing laws already cover discrimination, including caste, under broader categories like race, religion, and national origin. With SB-403's failure, some believe the Rutgers task force is pushing the same narrative at the university, despite a lack of strong evidence. The report's call for policy changes, despite admitting limited data, has raised concerns that the issue of caste discrimination is being overstated for ideological reasons. "We predicted after the SB-403 veto - the "caste" warriors would be back... And, as expected our favourite serial prevaricator, "Prof" Audrey Truschke is at it - pushing out her latest salvo to her echo chamber of devotees. Currently she is pretending that she had nothing to do with this and is tweeting out some "third-party" work, so we thought we'd share this with the real world," CoHNA posted on X.

Indian-origin woman in UK found guilty of killing her 10-year-old daughter

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Jaskirat Kaur, a 33-year-old Indian-origin woman, has been found guilty of killing her 10-year-old daughter, Shay Kang, who was found dead at their home in Rowley Regis, England, in March. Kaur pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the basis of diminished responsibility and will be sentenced on October 25.

Brickhouse Primary School, where Shay Kang studied, described her as a "bright, happy, and fun-loving child". (Photo: X/Sandwell Police) A 33-year-old Indian-origin woman, Jaskirat Kaur, has admitted to killing her 10-year-old daughter, Shay Kang, who was found dead at their home in Rowley Regis, West Midlands, England, in March. Kaur, who is also known as Jasmine Kang, pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the basis of diminished responsibility during a hearing at Wolverhampton Crown Court. "Kaur, 33, denied murdering her daughter but prosecution counsel Sally Howes KC said her guilty plea to manslaughter was acceptable to the Crown," the Shropshire Star reported. Kaur's defence lawyer, Katherine Goddard, stated that there was "no dispute over the facts" of the case, and the Crown Prosecution Service



confirmed that Kaur's guilty plea to manslaughter was acceptable to the prosecution. A postmortem examination revealed that Shay died from stab wounds to the chest. This was confirmed during an inquest at the Black Country coroner's court in March. The death of the young girl prompted an outpouring of grief from the local community.

Gas demand uptick driven by power sector bumps up India's LNG imports in April-July



Growth in domestic demand for natural gas amid reasonable prices and ample availability of liquefied natural gas (LNG), or super-chilled gas, in the international market led to a double-digit growth in India's LNG imports in the first four months of the current financial year (FY25). Notably, the uptick in imports came amid a growth in domestic gas production as well. The consumption growth was primarily driven by the power sector, given that the government's thrust on raising power production to meet high summer demand led to higher-than-usual electricity generation by gas-based units.

The country's LNG imports rose 13.1 per cent year-on-year in April-July to 11,423 million standard cubic metres (mscm), while natural gas consumption was higher by 8.6 per cent at 23,364 mscm, per latest provisional data available with the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the oil ministry. Net domestic natural gas production for the four-month period was 11,941 mscm, up 4.6 per cent year-on-year. The rise in LNG imports pushed up India's reliance on imported gas to 48.9 per cent in April-July from 46.9 per cent on the year-ago period. For the full FY24, India's natural gas import dependency was 47.1 per cent, the PPAC data shows.

LPG Gas demand, power sector, India's LNG imports, LPG gas Growth demand, natural gas prices, liquefied natural gas, LNG availability, international market, Indian express newsFor the April-June quarter (Q1)—the peak summer quarter in most parts of India—power generation by gas-based plants jumped 62.5 per cent year-on-year to 13.49 billion units (1 unit is 1 kilowatt hour), per data from the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The overall plant load factor (PLF)—capacity utilisation of power generation units—for gas-based plants in Q1 was almost 25 per cent, up from 15.3 per cent in the year-ago quarter. PLF for gas-based power plants in June this year was 25.8 per cent, up from 17 per cent in June 2023.

For April-July, the PLF for gas-based power plants

was 22.2 per cent, against 15 per cent a year ago. Power generation from these units in April-July jumped to 16.17 billion units from 10.54 billion units in the corresponding four months of last year. According to ship tracking data from commodity markets analytics firm Kpler, India's LNG imports touched a near four-year high in June as gas-based power plants operated at notably higher run rates than their usually subdued capacity utilisation levels amid a surge in electricity demand due to the severe heatwave. With the monsoon covering most parts of the country in July, the power demand has evidently softened from the supernormal levels during the peak summer months.

To be sure, gas-based power plants use domestic natural gas as well as imported LNG as feedstock. As domestic natural gas production is able to meet just around half of India's total gas consumption, the cheaper local gas is allocated as per a priority list in which city gas distribution and fertiliser sectors have a higher priority than the power sector. As imported LNG is usually costlier than domestic gas, gas-based power plants have been operating at very low capacity use levels mainly due to unfavourable economics.

In anticipation of a severe summer, the Power Ministry had invoked the Section 11 of the Electricity Act, 2003, on April 12, issuing a set of instructions to the power generation companies to ensure that electricity demand is met. As part of the instructions, idling gas-based power plants were asked to operate from May till the end of June. At almost 25 gigawatts, India's gas-based power generation capacity accounts for 5.6 per cent of the country's overall installed generation capacity, per Power Ministry data. In May, S&P Global Commodity Insights had said that with subdued prices of LNG in the spot market and growing demand for the fuel in India, there was a ramp-up in India's spot LNG purchases. The government has been pushing for higher consumption of natural gas in India, with an aim to increase the share of the fuel in the country's primary energy mix to 15 per cent by 2030 from over 6 per cent at present. The push for higher natural gas consumption, even if it leads to higher imports, is not without reason. Natural gas is far less polluting than conventional hydrocarbons like crude oil and coal, and is usually cheaper than oil, for which India depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirement. As the country moves towards green energy and future fuels, natural gas is seen as a key transition fuel in that journey. Various sectors, including the likes of city gas distribution, fertilizer, power generation, and refineries and petrochemicals, are seen as major growth areas for natural gas demand in India.

TasteAtlas has released a list of World's 100 Best Cheeses; find out if your favourites made it



Food enthusiasts worldwide wait with bated breath for TasteAtlas to drop their list of best foods in each category, and understandably so — every item on the list deserves the hype. This time, their spotlight is on cheese and we are pumped. From 1,378 cataloged cheeses and 24,296 valid user ratings, TasteAtlas came out with top 100 cheeses in the world with the best average rating. Here's top 10 from the list that you should definitely check out: Parmigiano Reggiano is made from raw, semi-skimmed cow milk and is known for its hard, gritty texture and flavours that range from nutty to robust and slightly piquant. The cheese gets its name from its origins in the

city-states of Parma and Reggio Emilia, dating back to the 19th century. Mozzarella di Bufala campana Authentic mozzarella is made from 100 per cent domestic water buffalo milk and is produced in Campania or the neighboring regions of Lazio, Apulia, and Molise. It is rich in calcium and protein, with lower cholesterol content, and has a mildly sour taste that pairs well with salads and Italian antipasti dishes. Stracchino di Crescenza Creamy and buttery, with mild, fruity, and sweet flavours, this cheese is a often used as a spread. It was first produced in Lombardy's Po Valley and is best enjoyed with cold cuts, fresh fruits, and a glass of white wine. It is made from a mixture of pasteurised cow, sheep, and about 20 per cent goat milk. This cheese is known for its thin rind and light yellow, compact interior with small holes, and is popular among cheese lovers for its mild taste and aroma. It is best enjoyed as an appetiser, fried as a snack, or grated over pasta. Considered the "father" of all Portuguese cheeses, Queijo Serra da Estrela is a semi-soft cheese made from the milk of Bordaleira Serra da Estrela and Churra Montegueira sheep. It has a creamy, yellowish-white interior with a clean, sweet, and slightly sour flavor. Traditionally paired with appetisers, desserts, and wine, this cheese is deeply rooted in the rich history and culture of Portugal. The other cheeses in the list include Italy's Burrata, Montenegro's Pljevaljski Sir, and France's Reblochon, Saint-André, and Mont d'Or.

Can these 3 drinks help reduce fatty liver? Nutritionists weigh in

Harvard-trained Dr Saurabh Sethi, in a recent Instagram reel, suggested three drinks—green tea, coffee and beetroot juice—to combat fatty liver. To get a broader perspective, indianexpress.com spoke to nutritionists about the potential benefits of these beverages. "Green tea contains catechin, a component that can help improve liver function and reduce fat in the liver. Coffee consumption is associated with lower levels of liver enzymes, indicating better liver health. Beetroot juice contains betaine, which is known to reduce fat accumulation in the liver," said Suman Agarwal, founder and nutritionist at SelfcarebySuman.

How often should one consume these drinks?

"For liver health, consume three to four cups of coffee, two to three cups of green tea, and one cup of beetroot juice daily," said nutritionist Pooja Palriwala. According to her, these amounts are generally safe and can help reduce liver enzyme levels, improve liver function, and support detoxification. However, Palriwala warns that excessive green tea can cause liver toxicity, and beetroot juice is high in natural sugars, making it unsuitable for some, especially diabetics. Pooja Shelat, a registered dietitian, said, "The betaine content in beetroot helps support the liver's ability to process and eliminate fats, preventing their accumulation in the liver. Beetroot also contains nitrates that can improve blood flow and promote better liver function." She recommended eating whole



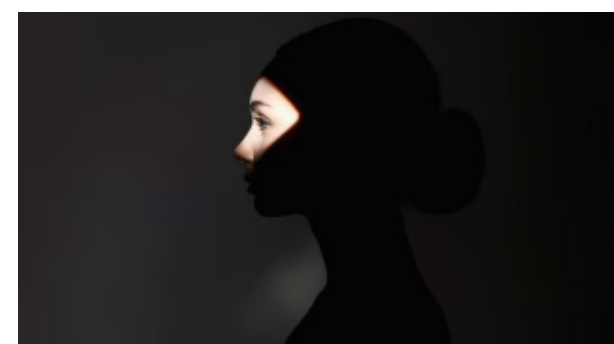
beetroot in salads instead of juice due to its lack of fiber and high sugar content. Both experts suggested consuming green tea and coffee between morning and early afternoon to boost alertness and avoid sleep disturbances and other side effects. Agarwal, too, said beetroot is high in sugars and suggested diabetics avoid it. She also said, "Excess green tea and coffee can cause sleep deprivation, acidity, lower iron absorption, and gut issues hence should not be consumed on an empty stomach. They should be taken with a meal or after a meal." *DISCLAIMER: This article is based on information from the public domain and/or the experts we spoke to. Always consult your health practitioner before starting any routine.*

Australian woman with terminal cancer is auctioning off her final moments to strangers

Imagine auctioning off something as precious as time—your actual, remaining time. That's exactly what Emily Lahey, a 32-year-old Australian woman, is doing. Diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer called NUT carcinoma with a prognosis of typically six to nine months, Emily has turned what could be seen as a devastating situation into an empowering mission to raise awareness and funds for cancer research. In a powerful performance art piece titled "Time to Live" taking place in Sydney this weekend, the 32-year-old is auctioning portions of her remaining time to strangers.

Emily offers visitors a chance to buy three minutes of her time—literally. People come to sit with her, talk, or just share a quiet moment. As each three-minute block ticks away on a large screen, the experience symbolises the fleeting nature of time, especially for someone battling a terminal illness. The experience is designed to be both emotional and thought-provoking. The money raised from each interaction goes directly to cancer research, but for Emily, it's about more than just the funds. It's about sparking conversations on how we value our time, and the reality faced by those living with terminal conditions. Festive offer Health sector, Customs duty cut, Union Budget, Union Budget 2024, Nirmala Sitharaman, Budget, Indian economic growth, Assembly budget session, Indian economy, GDP growth, Inflation, consumer price inflation, Narendra Modi, Indian express news, current affairs Emily has turned what could be seen as a devastating situation into an empowering mission to raise awareness and funds for cancer research. (Pixabay)

Lahey's journey with cancer began unexpectedly. Leading a healthy and active lifestyle before her diagnosis, she never considered cancer a possibility. However, what started with seemingly mundane symptoms like headaches and chronic sinusitis took a devastating turn when she began losing vision in one eye. Doctors dis-



covered a large mass in her sinuses and skull, roughly the size of a cricket ball. "I never thought cancer was a possibility," she shared with 7NEWS.com.au, talking about how she used to run 5-10 kilometres daily before her diagnosis at 27. This rare cancer proved resistant to standard chemotherapy treatments, leaving her medical team facing difficult choices. Genetic testing offered a glimmer of hope with BET inhibitors, an experimental treatment. However, Lahey had to wait until her condition worsened to qualify for a government program providing access to this therapy. "This has given me precious extra time that I never thought I'd have," she shared with the Australian news outlet. "My family and I are incredibly thankful for this opportunity." While the future remains uncertain and doctors cannot predict how much time she has left, Lahey embraces each day with a newfound perspective. "It's like being on a rollercoaster," she describes, "everything comes and goes in waves. There were times when I couldn't imagine getting through the next day. But as I go on, I'm finding some strength to look even towards the end of the year." Lahey's story and her performance art piece offer a powerful reminder to cherish each moment and to support continued research in the battle against cancer.

Health sector reduced to shambles says Harish Rao

Hyderabad: Voicing concern over the state of the health sector in Telangana, BRS leader and former minister T Harish Rao said the Congress government had reduced it to shambles in a matter of eight months.

One out of every two was suffering from viral fever, regardless of whether it was a village or a town. There was a situation where beds were not available in hospitals. In all, 5,246 dengue cases were reported in the last one and a half month. The official figures proved that the incidence of dengue was alarming with 36 per cent more cases reported compared to last year. What were the State government and the Chief Minister doing at a time when viral fevers were taking their toll, he asked.

The State had witnessed revolutionary schemes implemented in the health sector during the BRS rule. The State had emerged as one of the top performers in terms of healthcare during the BRS rule.



For 'frictionless credit', RBI to launch technology platform; to call it Unified Lending Interface: Governor Shaktikanta Das

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday said the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), to enable frictionless credit, will soon be introduced. The pilot project for a public tech platform for frictionless credit was already announced in August last year.

Speaking at the Global Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies, Das highlighted that ULI will play a similar role in transforming the lending space in the country, just as United Payment Interface (UPI) revolutionized the payment ecosystem. "Continuing on the journey of digitalisation of banking services, last year we launched the pilot of a technology platform which enables frictionless credit. From now on, we propose to call it the Unified Lending Interface (ULI)," Das said. While announcing the pilot project for frictionless credit in August last year, the RBI had said that for digital credit delivery, the data required for credit appraisal are available with different entities like Central and State governments, account aggregators, banks, credit information companies and digital identity authorities. However, they are in separate systems, creating hindrance in frictionless and timely delivery of rule-based lending, it has said.

Das noted that ULI facilitates seamless and consent-based flow of digital information, including even land records of various states, from multiple data service providers to lenders thereby cutting down the time taken for credit appraisal, especially for smaller and rural borrowers. The ULI architecture has common and standardised APIs (Application Programming Interface), designed for a 'plug and play' approach to ensure digital access to information from diverse sources, which reduces the complexity of multiple technical integrations. It will also enable borrowers to get the benefit of seamless delivery of credit, quicker turnaround time without requiring extensive documentation, he said. "In sum, by digitising access to customer's financial and non-financial data that otherwise resided in disparate silos, ULI is expected to cater to large unmet demand for credit across various sectors, particularly for agricultural and MSME borrowers," Das explained.

He further said that while the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) can make processes simpler and more efficient, lenders need to be mindful of adopting such new-age technologies in critical decision-making segments such as loan sanctioning. "AI promises to make processes simpler and efficient. It can also emulate decision making to a great extent. However, when it comes to regulated financial institutions, there should be careful adoption of AI in critical decision-making segments, for example, in loan sanctioning," he said. He said since AI is a data-driven science, the authenticity of data being used in training the models, the possibility of biases and concerns about data privacy need to be carefully examined. Going beyond understanding the risks posed by AI, financial institutions should clearly outline the liabilities and ensure a calibrated and responsible adoption. "It is important to be proactive to leverage the capabilities of new technologies, but at the same time it is essential to be abundantly mindful of the associated risks and challenges," he said. The Governor said that the AI technology poses various challenges such as data privacy concerns arising from handling fast volumes of personal information and spreading misinformation, which can potentially cause severe damage and disruption to Digital Public Infrastructure (DPIs), as well as other digital systems. "Ethical AI governance is essential to ensure fairness and prevention of bias. Financial institutions must ensure that AI models are explainable, that is, the ability to explain why certain results are produced," he said. Digital Public Infrastructure refers to basic technol-



ogy systems, created mainly in the public sector, that are openly available to users and other developers. DPIs are scalable, and thus can support systems that operate on a population-wide scale; they are interoperable, and therefore spur innovation by being accessible to innovators; and they are also cost efficient by virtue of their economies of scale.

Shal He noted that there should not be any rush to roll out system-wide CBDC before one acquires a comprehensive understanding of its impact on users, on monetary policy, on the financial system and on the economy. "Such understanding would emerge from generation of user data in pilots. Actual introduction of CBDC can be phased in gradually," he said. On cross-border payments, Das said while much efficiency has been achieved in case of wholesale markets, the retail cross-border space is still fraught with multiple layers that add to the cost and delays in cross-border remittances. Commenting on the development, BankBazaar.com's CEO Adhil Shetty said that the ULI platform not only promises a more streamlined credit ecosystem but also bolsters the capabilities of lenders and fintechs to innovate and expand their offerings effectively. By providing access to a diverse range of data sources, including land records, ULI empowers these entities to craft more precise lending solutions that cater to the unique needs of consumers. "The full potential of ULI will be realised by integrating fintech loan service providers alongside traditional regulated entities within its robust ecosystem," he said.

Markets decline in early deals; trade marginally higher later

Mumbai: Equity benchmark indices declined in early trade on Thursday amid weak trends from global markets but soon turned positive and were trading marginally higher. The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 102.78 points to 81,682.78 in early trade. The NSE Nifty dipped 34.85 points to 25,017.50. However, recovering the early lost ground, the BSE benchmark gauge later traded 64.07 points up at 81,846.33 while the Nifty quoted 17.40 points higher at 25,070.15. Among the 30 Sensex firms, UltraTech Cement, HCL Technologies, Tata Steel, JSW Steel, Axis Bank, Maruti, Bharti Airtel and Power Grid were the biggest laggards. Bajaj Finserv, Hindustan Unilever, HDFC Bank and Tata Motors were among the gainers. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong were trading in the negative territory. The US markets ended lower on Wednesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,347.53 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Kangana Ranaut responds to her viral photos with Chirag Paswan: 'Now, he changes his path after seeing me...spare us in parliament'



Kangana Ranaut and Chirag Paswan have grabbed lot of eyeballs ever since they emerged as winners in the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. Several photos and videos of the Miley Naa Miley Hum co-stars went viral on social media from their meeting at the parliament. Recently, Kangana was asked about her viral photos with Paswan, to which the actress had a hilarious reply.

Kangana, who is currently gearing up for the release of her film Emergency, in an interview with Aajtak responded to the many viral photos of her with Chirag. She said, "Please at least spare us in the parliament." The actress laughed as she added, "I know Chirag from a very long time, he is a good friend. People are behind his life just because he made me laugh a couple of times." Kangana then quipped, "Now, he simply changes his path when he sees me." Kangana Ranaut and Chirag

Paswan collaborated for the 2011 film Miley Naa Miley Hum. The movie, directed by Tanveer Khan, was the first and last film of Chirag, as it tanked at the box office. Talking to ANI about his acting stint, the politician said, "I was the first generation who was trying to venture into it. But very soon I realised that this is a disaster. Even before the country, I realised I am a disaster. I just came to know that I wasn't made for acting."

In the same interview, Chirag Paswan talked about his friendship with Kangana Ranaut. He said, "Only good thing that happened to me after trying my luck in acting is that Kangana and I became really good friends. That's one good thing we carried from that time. And I was really looking forward to meet Kangana in the parliament because the past three years, I was so busy in my own life that I had lost my connection with her."

First single of Nilavukke Enmel Ennadi Kobam out: Dhanush, GV Prakash Kumar and Arivu let Golden Sparrow flutter high

Just a few weeks back, we saw Dhanush unleash a bloody gangster drama, Raayan. With his second directorial venture becoming one of his biggest hits, and finding acclaim after reaching OTT, Dhanush, the director, is back again. However, this time, he has put the blood, gore, and unadulterated violence in the backburner, and has teased a new-age playful and colourful romantic film titled Nilavuku Enmel Ennadi Kobam. Right from the first look, Dhanush's third directorial ticked all the boxes of a fun and romantic drama, a genre that was missing in Tamil cinema for a while. Now, the makers have released the first single from the movie. Quirky titled "Golden Sparrow", the foot-tapping song by GV Prakash Kumar is rising up the trends chart on social media.

Written by Arivu, "Golden Sparrow" features the voices of Sublahshini, GV Prakash, Dhanush, and the rapper himself. Interestingly, along with the refreshing young cast of Nilavuku Enmel Ennadi Kobam, the song also features Priyanka Mohan in a cute cameo. The film, which is expected to be out this year, stars Anikha Surendran, Priya Prakash Varrier, Matthew Thomas, Pavish, Venkatesh Menon, Rabiya Khatoun, and Ramya



Ranganathan in the pivotal roles. It is interesting how Dhanush has opted for different composers for each of his directorial ventures, and for Nilavuku Enmel Ennadi Kobam, he is collaborating with GV Prakash Kumar. As actor and composer, this duo has worked in films like Polladhavan, Aadukalam, Asuran, and Captain Miller. With editing by GK Prasanna and cinematography by Leon Britto, Nilavuku Enmel Ennadi Kobam is backed by Wunderbar Films and RK Productions.

Nagarjuna, Shruti Haasan, Soubin Shahir become Simon, Preethi, and Dayal for Rajinikanth-Lokesh Kanagaraj's Coolie



It has been raining updates from the film, which is already on floors. Even though there were no official updates from the makers about the cast of Coolie, speculations were flying left, right, and centre. To validate these speculations

Star-studded films seem to be the name of the game in today's cinema, especially in Tamil. After the blockbuster successes of Jailer, Rajinikanth's film with Nelson Dilipkumar, and Lokesh Kanagaraj-Kamal Haasan's Vikram, it is becoming increasingly attractive to have a film with a galaxy of stars. Coolie, Lokesh's upcoming film with Rajinikanth, is the next movie to hop on to this

bandwagon.

It has been raining updates from the film, which is already on floors. Even though there were no official updates from the makers about the cast of Coolie, speculations were flying left, right, and centre. To validate these speculations, Sun Pictures, the makers of Coolie, have been announcing the names of the cast members. First of, it was re-

vealed that Soubin Shahir, who recently won the hearts of many with his role in Manjummel Boys, would make his Tamil debut with Coolie. Sharing a cool poster of Soubin, the makers revealed that his name in the film was Dayal. Next up, it was revealed that Coolie would mark another first... the maiden collaboration between Rajinikanth and Nagarjuna. The Telugu star exuded suave-

ness and charm as Simon in the character poster that became the talk of the town for Nagarjuna's inimitable style. The latest to join the cast of Coolie is Shruti Haasan, who will essay the role of Preethi. This is the first time Shruti will be working with her father Kamal Haasan's long-time friend and healthy rival, Rajinikanth. With so many firsts coming into play, the excitement is high for what Lokesh and Co have planned for the coming days. Considering how the names of Sathyaraj, Upendra and Aamir Khan are doing the rounds as the possible additions to the cast of Coolie, it is expected that the next set of updates will either validate or put to rest these rumours. Coolie marks the fourth consecutive collaboration between Lokesh Kanagaraj and music director Anirudh Ravichander after Master, Vikram, and Leo. The filmmaker is reuniting with his Vikram cinematographer Girish Gangadharan for the project, which has editing by Philomin Raj, and stunt choreography by the National Award-winning duo, Anbariv.

After Bade Miyan Chote Miyan failure, Ali Abbas Zafar set to collaborate with YRF: report

Ali Abbas Zafar and Yash Raj Films are set to re-unite for a series of projects, according to reports. Zafar, who has made the first four films of his career (Mere Brother Ki Dulhan, Gunday, Sultan, and Tiger Zinda Hai) under the YRF banner, later made films like Bharat, Amazon Prime Video series Tandav and Netflix drama Jogi under different banners. After his latest film, Bade Miyan Chote Miyan tanked at the box office, the director is reportedly planning to make a comeback with a YRF project. Bade Miyan Chote Miyan was produced by T-Series.

A source told Variety, "Ali Abbas Zafar is a filmmaker who has gone on to make huge hit films at YRF like 'Mere Brother Ki Dulhan,' 'Sultan,' 'Gunday' and 'Tiger Zinda Hai.' So, this is an exciting development because Ali is technically returning to his alma mater." The source added, "We are sure Ali will scale greater heights as he creatively collaborates with Aditya Chopra on multiple big budget tentpole projects for YRF. The two haven't yet locked the projects that Ali will now direct at YRF. But we can confirm that these will be original theatrical projects." Ali Abbas Zafar's first four collaborations with YRF were quite successful at the box office. Mere Brother Ki Dulhan, which was his debut film, was made on a



budget of Rs 28 crore. The film, starring Katrina Kaif and Imran Khan, went on to earn Rs 94.10 crore worldwide, according to Scaenik. Similarly, his next venture with the production banner, Gunday, starring Ranveer Singh, Priyanka Chopra, and Arjun Kapoor, earned Rs 130.90 crore globally. It was made on a budget of Rs 51 crore. The success of the films were followed by Salman Khan's Sultan—Rs 421.25 crore earnings on a budget of Rs 80 crore—and, Tiger Zinda Hai—Rs 558 crore collection on a budget of Rs 210 crore.

Javed Akhtar says Sridevi and Madhuri Dixit didn't get one big role: 'Society wasn't clear about who is a contemporary woman'



It isn't everyday that the man who was instrumental in creating the iconic "Angry Young Man" archetype in Indian cinema goes on record to say, "The Angry Young Man is out of the scene today." But that's exactly what Javed Akhtar said at Expresso, where he was joined by his daughter and filmmaker Zoya Akhtar as they discussed their love for art, literature, cinema, and a lot more.

Talking about what it takes to be a star of a certain pedigree in today's times, the legendary writer placed the onus on today's society. "Who is a star? A star has a certain image. The hero is the combination of contemporary morality and contemporary aspiration. When the society is clear about both, the writing can be great. But today, people are bored and tired with the Angry Young Man. Why? Because Amitabh Bachchan's anger was based on deep hurt. You could see the pain in him. Later, they forgot all about the hurt, and only focused on the anger. It became crude, and that's when the Angry Young Man went out of the scene," said Javed, further adding that the reflection of the society wasn't just relegated to

the male superstars in the eras that followed.

Delving deeper into how actors like Sridevi and Madhuri Dixit were shortchanged by a society that didn't introspect enough, the veteran said, "A Meena Kumari did a Sahib Bibi aur Ghulam. Nargis did Mother India, and Waheeda Rahman did a Guide. Actors like Sridevi and Madhuri Dixit weren't any less talented than any of those big names of the past. But did they get one big role? At that point, the society wasn't clear about who is a contemporary woman. The silent 'Main chup rahungi' woman was out, but who came in? That nobody knows." In fact, Javed Akhtar hit the nail on the head when he said, "Till today, we are groping in the dark to find the representation of the modern woman. Even though Zoya specifically asked me not to praise her, the only contemporary woman I have seen is in her film. Where do you draw the line of selfishness in our character arcs? How close is the contemporary hero with his peers, his family, etc... All this is not clear in the contemporary society. Writers live in this society. There are no great characters, and hence, there are no great stars."

Varun Dhawan says niece Anjini didn't bag Binny and Family because of nepotism, shares why his father David Dhawan didn't launch him: 'We don't have that tradition'

Varun Dhawan says it is difficult to accept that a girl from a film family bagged her debut movie on her own, but that is indeed what happened, the actor insists, with his niece Anjini Dhawan as she gears up for her launch with Binny and Family. Varun was present at the trailer launch of the comedy film, which also stars Pankaj Kapoor, Himani Shivpuri, Rajesh Kumar and Charu Shankar.

During the event, Varun recalled how the trailer of his debut film Student of the Year was launched at the same PVR auditorium. "My appeal to people is that if they can try and give her the same love as you gave the three of us," he said, referring to his co-stars Sidharth Malhotra and Alia Bhatt from the Karan Johar campus drama.

Binny and Family is presented by Ekta Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms and produced by Mahaveer Jain, who, Varun Dhawan said, he didn't even know in a professional capacity and hence there was no reason for the maker to sign Anjini Dhawan. "No matter how much I say that she did this on her own, she has bagged the film on her own, it is difficult to believe when you are related to a film family. I am not related to Mahaveer ji; professionally we haven't worked together. He didn't cast her because of me or daddy. I came to know about the film through two friends, Shashank Khaitea and Varun Gupta.

"They had told me that it is a good film and I was slightly offended, because I wasn't asked if I could see the film! When I saw the film, I was moved. My father never launched me. We don't have that tradition and he doesn't believe in it. So, we have no hand in what she has done, so it will be wrong for me to take any credit for her success. She has genuinely done this by herself," the actor said. The film stars Anjini Dhawan as a rebellious teenager in London, who has a generational gap clash with her conservative grandfather (Pankaj Kapur), from a small town in Bihar, who visits her in the UK. At the launch, Varun Dhawan was asked if he ever went through this phase and how his thought process has changed since becoming a father. Varun and his wife Natasha Dalal welcomed their first child, a baby girl, in June this year.



During the event, Varun recalled how the trailer of his debut film Student of the Year was launched at the same PVR auditorium. "My appeal to people is that if they can try and give her the same love as you gave the three of us," he said, referring to his co-stars Sidharth Malhotra and Alia Bhatt from the Karan Johar campus drama.

"Becoming a father has changed my thinking. It feels weird that mom and dad has just scolded me, then you go to the baby's room and she is also scolding you! Uss waqt aap sochte ho aapka position kya hai ghar pe! But this is called adulthood. I am fortunate that I have an elder brother who also takes some load. What becomes extremely scary for a child at that age is the parents' health. When we are young, they worry for us but later we have to navigate that situation. I derive my strength from my mother, as I am sure she does from her," Varun added.

Directed by Ssanjay Tripathy, Binny and Family is set to release in cinemas on September 20. Varun Dhawan, meanwhile, was recently seen in a special appearance in the blockbuster horror comedy Stree 2 and will be next seen in the actioner Baby John, hitting the big screen this Christmas.

Rahul Dravid's son Samit Dravid included in India U-19 squad



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Samit Dravid, son of former India captain and head coach Rahul Dravid, included in India U-19 squad to face Australia U-19 in 3 one-dayers and two four-day matches. The 50-overs matches will be played in Puducherry, while the four-day games will be held in Chennai. The 18-year-old all-rounder was currently making headlines for hitting a stunning six in the ongoing Maharaja T20 KSCA tournament. Playing for the Mysore Warriors, the youngster has scored 82 runs in seven outings with 33 being his highest total that he scored against Gulbarga Mystics.

Samit Dravid will be in action on Saturday in the second semifinal of the tournament, where his team Mysore Warriors will be locking horns against the Hubli Tigers. Dravid junior, who has suffered a stress fracture last year has had a decent outings in the India's U-19 domestic tournaments Vinoo Mankad and Cooch Behar. In the Vinoo Mankad Trophy, Samit scored 122 runs in four innings with 87 his highest. Meanwhile, he has played a crucial role both with the bat and ball and helped Karnataka win the Cooch Behar Trophy. Samit mustered 362 runs in eight matches with three fifty plus scores and also picked up 16 wickets at an average of 19.31. India U-19 squad for one-day series against Australia U-19: Rudra Patel (VC), Sahil Parakh, Kartikeya KP, Mohd Amaan (C), Kiran Chormale, Abhigyan Kundu (WK), Harvansh Singh Pangalia (WK), Samit Dravid, Yudhajit Guha, Samarth N, Nikhil Kumar, Chetan Sharma, Hardik Raj, Rohit Rajawat, Mohd Enaan. India U-19 squad for four-day series against Australia U-19: Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Nitya Pandya, Vihan Malhotra (VC), Soham Patwardhan (C), Kartikeya K P, Samit Dravid, Abhigyan Kundu (WK), Harvansh Singh Pangalia (WK), Chetan Sharma, Samarth N, Aditya Rawat, Nikhil Kumar, Anmoljeet Singh, Aditya Singh, Mohd Enaan

Jay Shah's era of calm consensus and cricket's missing nay-sayers



GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Cricket's era of unanimity is well and truly upon us. Jay Shah's unchallenged elevation as ICC chief confirms a radical shift in a sport with a history of acrimonious battles between administrators. Be it his appointment as the BCCI secretary or his ascendancy as the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) president, Shah continues to be a consensus candidate. Shah's firm grip on the BCCI and India's intimidating influence over the game has made the cricket's election process redundant. This week, the ICC didn't even need to go to the voting stage to figure out the outgoing chairman Greg Barclay's successor. It was the same at the BCCI and ACC. This was the third time in 5 years a distinguished cricket body had unequivocally thrown its weight behind the 35-year-old Shah. It is learnt 15 of the 16 ICC board members from across the globe nominated Shah to take over the reins. The lone exception was the Pakistan Cricket Board representative. Those in the know say that even Pakistan's opposition was a mere formality. For political and diplomatic reasons, they couldn't be seen backing India at any forum. BCCI secretary Jay Shah and captain Rohit Sharma. BCCI secretary Jay Shah and captain Rohit Sharma.

Periodically, PCB does make noise when BCCI refuses to travel to Pakistan but eventually takes a silent U-turn and shifts India's game to a neutral venue. That's what happened for the 2023 Asia Cup they hosted and a similar sequence of events are expected to unfold for the Champions Trophy in Pakistan next year. Pakistan, a nation at its lowest ebb, doesn't have the strength or the voice to put up a real fight against India. England and Australia – the erstwhile super powers – are just a shade better. They have made peace with playing second fiddle to the deep-pockets from India. Within the BCCI, an organisation overwhelmingly dominated by the ruling BJP, Shah's writ runs large. The once powerful regional satraps – the powerful businessmen, legal luminaries, state-level political heavyweights – have gone into a shell. They don't waste their time by holding secret meetings to plan coups. It's futile. Of late, Indian cricket is a one-man show run from the world's largest cricket stadium at Ahmedabad. Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Delhi, Nagpur – they had their time and say, but that's history. These days the once mighty centres dutifully toe the line – rather fall over each other to cozy up to Ahmedabad. India's Head Coach Rahul Dravid with BCCI Secretary Jay Shah during celebration after India defeated South Africa in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final cricket match, at Kensington Oval, in Bridgetown, Barbados India's Head Coach Rahul Dravid with BCCI Secretary Jay Shah during celebration after India defeated South Africa in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final cricket match, at Kensington Oval, in Bridgetown, Barbados. (PTI)

What about the non-BJP political bigwigs with inter-

est in cricket? There is the senior Congress leader and BCCI old hand Rajeev Shukla but he is anything but a rebel or an alternate power centre. The boardroom rivalries are over. These days a BCCI AGM comes across as a get-together for cricket officials to catch up over tea and cookies. This saccharine sweet bonhomie among Indian cricket officials is in contrast to the bitter dogfights of the past. Reporters on the BCCI beat talk about the by-gone years of factional fights, king-makers, deal-breakers, turn-coats, back-stabbers and horse-traders, almost with a sense of longing and nostalgia. They miss the intrigue, the tattle-tales and the news breaks. Back in the day, BCCI elections used to be an event. There would be an air of anticipation with the candidates dreading the unseen and unexpected. A twist in the tale could never be ruled out. No candidate was safe.

The only election that the Grandmaster politician and the 'almost PM' Sharad Pawar has lost in his life has been the one he fought to be the BCCI president the first time. This was September of 2004. Pawar had the backing of formidable cricket officials – N Srinivasan, Shashank Manohar and Lalit Modi – who in years to come would shape cricket's future. Srinivasan and Manohar went on to be ICC chiefs and Modi disrupted cricket for good by thinking of T20 franchise cricket. However, their combined might couldn't defeat the Jagmohan Dalmiya backed presidential candidate, Ranbir Singh Mahendra, son of Haryana heavyweight Bansi Lal. Hurricane Beryl delays Team India's departure from Barbados India's Head Coach Rahul Dravid and team captain Rohit Sharma with players Axar Patel, Jasprit Bumrah, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja and BCCI Secretary Jay Shah during celebration after India defeated South Africa in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup final cricket match, at Kensington Oval, in Bridgetown, Barbados. (AP)

The voting list from the election that could have been easily confused for some parliamentary panel quorum. It had Arun Jaitley, Rajiv Shukla, Dr Farooq Abdullah and Lalu Prasad Yadav. There were others too with ambitions. Inderjit Singh Bindra, AC Muthiah and Raj Singh Dungarpur – all former BCCI presidents. There were litigations and last minute attempts to stay in the polls or challenge a candidature. Rivals would try to shout down each other to make their point. Even at ICC, the decibel levels at meetings were not too different. India and Pakistan would join hands and the Asian block would fight tooth and nail to end the Anglo-Australian duopoly. The proceedings would even get ugly. Dalmiya at one of the meetings would deliver a famous quotable quote – "In the past England used to rule the waves, now they waive the rules." The claps and hurrahs from the sub-continent officials would bring the roof down. It's these small triumphs that finally led the BCCI to win the ICC war. Election day at both ICC and BCCI has now been replaced by a slow synchronised chorus of "ayes". The end of hostilities and common consent is conducive for good governance. Shah has the house on his side as everyone is a loyalist now. Going purely by options, everyone seems to be on the same page. At a time when cricket gets ready to take the Olympic vehicle to travel to uncharted areas, the end of in-fighting is a positive sign. But this serene atmosphere of harmony comes with a rider and possible collateral damage. Cricket's all-encompassing congeniality has ended up killing dissent. The nay-sayers, said to be the moderators of extreme beliefs, are no longer seen on the cricket circuit. That noisy bunch acted as the rail guards and kept those in power under check. The rebellion has ended. RIP the rebel, thanks for the services and memories.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic is shocked at the US Open, one night after Carlos Alcaraz lost

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Defending champion Novak Djokovic was shocked at the US Open one night after Carlos Alcaraz was, bowing out in the third round with a 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4 loss to 28th-seeded Alexei Popyrin of Australia on Friday night. The No. 2-seeded Djokovic was trying to become the first player in tennis history with 25 Grand Slam singles titles. Instead, after knee surgery in June, he finishes a year without claiming at least one major championship for the first time since 2017. Before that, it hadn't happened since 2010. Also of note: 2024 now becomes the first season since 2002 in which none of the Big Three of men's tennis – Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer – earned a Slam trophy. The third-round exit equals Djokovic's worst showing at Flushing Meadows; the only other occasions he was beaten that early at the U.S. Open came in 2005 and 2006. The man who defeated Djokovic 18 years ago, International Tennis Hall of Fame member Lleyton Hewitt, is now Australia's Davis Cup captain and was sitting in Popyrin's guest box in Arthur Ashe Stadium. Djokovic, who is 37, has reached the final in Ashe 10 times, leaving with the title in 2011, 2015, 2018 and 2023.

On Friday, though, he double-faulted 14 times and looked physically sluggish and emotionally flat, perhaps residual fatigue after collecting his first Olympic gold medal for Serbia by beating Alcaraz in the final at the Paris Games earlier in August. The No. 3-seeded Alcaraz entered the U.S. Open as the tournament favorite having won the French Open and Wimbledon, and acknowledged his energy was lower than he realized after getting eliminated in New York by 74th-ranked Botic van de Zandschulp 6-1, 7-5, 6-4 on Thursday night. Djokovic then replaced Alcaraz as the money-line pick to take the men's title, according to BetMGM Sportsbook, but that status didn't last long at all. For the 25-year-old Popyrin, this represented a real breakthrough: He had been 0-3 against Djokovic and 0-6 in third-round matches at majors. But



the strong-serving Popyrin is playing as well as ever, coming off the biggest title of his career less than three weeks ago at a hard-court tournament in Montreal, where he picked up five wins against opponents ranked in the top 20. Everything was working against Djokovic, who was not up to his usual high standards. Popyrin was terrific at the net, going 10 for 10 on serve-and-volley approaches and 25 for 36 overall on points when he pushed forward. Djokovic, in contrast, only won the point on 19 of his 40 trips to the net, in part because Popyrin kept flipping passing shots by him. Popyrin took big cuts with his powerful forehand, accumulating 22 of his 50 total winners with that shot. And he broke Djokovic five times, including for a lead of 3-2 in the fourth. That game felt titanic, lasting more than 10 minutes and including four break chances for Popyrin, who converted the last with an inside-out forehand to close a 22-stroke exchange, then rocked back on his heels, clenched both fists and let out a roar. He took Djokovic's next service game, too, to make it 5-2. The first time Popyrin served for the match, he faltered, allowing Djokovic to break. The second time, Popyrin finished the deal, holding at love when Djokovic sent a forehand long. Now Popyrin will try to reach his first Grand Slam quarterfinal by getting past No. 20 Frances Tiafoe, who advanced Friday with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3 win over No. 13 Ben Shelton in a matchup between two Americans.

Lesson for Carlos Alcaraz after shock US Open defeat: How to win on a bad day

GNS News Agency, Sept 3

Carlos Alcaraz out of US Open 2024 Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, gestures to fans after losing to Botic van de Zandschulp, of the Netherlands, in a second round match of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, in New York. About an hour into his second round contest at the US Open, Carlos Alcaraz finally came alive. Against a spirited challenge from Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp, a solid baseliner but a player ranked 71 spots below the Spaniard, he had been thoroughly outplayed in the first set, before finding the break to go 2-1 up in the second. The New York crowd roared; the inevitable comeback seemed on cards.

It never came. Van de Zandschulp broke back immediately, and Alcaraz slumped to a kind of defeat he has never suffered since breaking through to the top level of this sport, losing 1-6, 5-7, 4-6 to end his Grand Slam season. This is his earliest exit from a Major since his French Open debut in 2021. While van de Zandschulp put in the greatest performance of his hardly notable career, he did not do so with swashbuckling groundstrokes and unplayable serves, but through baseline precision and resolute defence. It was Alcaraz, instead, who was poor from start to finish. His critical appraisal of the defeat reflects his performance. "I think my level stayed at the same point all the match, and it wasn't enough to win the match or to give myself the chance to get into the match," he said, per Reuters, after the match. "He didn't make a lot of mistakes that I thought he was going to do so I was confused a little bit... I didn't know how to manage that."

It was during the attritional moments of the second set, with the match still in the balance, when it became painfully transparent that Alcaraz was having an off day. Groundstrokes were not finding zip, errors were being sprayed, serves were being easily returned. Alcaraz may suggest that the lesson here is to never allow his level to slip so low, but the greater takeaway may be how to develop the kind of weapons and consistency to allow him to escape with a win over a peaking opponent on a bad day.

Alcaraz's successes have outpaced expectations to the degree that it may be easy to forget that, at 21, he is still slightly inexperienced. Four Majors, and big wins in finals against the greatest player of this sport, have elevated his reputation from prodigy to best player in the world destined to take the reins from Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic. But the huge disparity between Alcaraz's best and worst tennis is the gap the Spaniard still has to bridge to emulate the fabled 'Big Three'. Countless times during Grand Slams, the greats of the game would use small tweaks and street smarts, to



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edge past an opponent who had hit 'the zone'.

Djokovic has now developed a class-leading serve that allows him to win free points, and in the worst of circumstances, drag sets into tiebreakers where he would make his opponents blink first. Initially rigid to new technology, Federer began to use a larger racquet so he could introduce more variation and flatter speed to his one-handed backhand that had become a perceived weakness. In response to those targeting his poor second serve, Nadal (and, to an extent, Andy Murray as well) took the riskier route of introducing greater speeds to disrupt opponents. These changes did not necessarily raise the ceilings of these players, but instead, lifted their floor level. Wobbles have come and gone for Alcaraz even during his dream summer. En route to lifting the French Open and Wimbledon, he lost sets when his level fell. In the Paris final, he let a lead slip twice after spraying errors and losing focus. He has survived close scares – the tight four-set second round win against Jesper De Jong at the French Open and the five set escape against Frances Tiafoe at Wimbledon. Over the years, the champions have used their strong serves to stay in the match and the set into tie-breakers where experience counts. But Alcaraz's serve is not at maximum potential. It is not enough of a tool for him to ride tough moments. On Friday, he won a measly 60% of points behind his first serve. After a taxing summer, Alcaraz's wavering focus may be excusable; he is still in the first few years of his career playing a full calendar. But he has been served a crucial lesson. If his phenomenal rise is anything to go by, he should be able to learn it quickly too.

Manish Narwal's silver is for his brother Manjeet who died in a road accident two years ago, says his father

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Manish Narwal silver medal at Paralympics 2024 Paris 2024 Paralympics - Shooting - Men's 10M Air Pistol SH1 Final - Chateauroux Shooting Centre, Deols, France - August 30, 2024 Manish Narwal of India poses with his silver medal during the medal ceremony. In 2022, shooter Manish Narwal lost his elder brother Manjeet Singh in a road accident. Manish was practicing at the shooting range when Manjeet's car and a water tanker collided. The two brothers were close and Manish mourned for days.

"From November 1, 2022, to today, Manish has remembered his brother every single day for these 668 days. It took Manish six months to pick up the gun again. Manish's Paralympics medal is for Manjeet. Manjeet would be cheering from the heavens," said father Dilbagh Singh while speaking to The Indian Express after his son won a silver medal in the men's 10m air pistol (SH-1) final at the Chateauroux Shooting Range. Manish is from a family of shooters. Younger brother Shiva is a Hangzhou Asian Games mixed team gold medallist, while sister Shikha has also followed in their footsteps. Manish grew up in Ballabgarh in Faridabad. A medical-treatment error by doctors at the time of his birth resulted in nerve damage of right shoulder and it hampered movement of his right arm. But Manish's father, who runs a fabrication factory, persuaded him to take up shooting eventually.

"Minutes after his birth, a mistake by doctors resulted in the nerve damage. He was very young to understand what happened to him. But he was a very happy child. He would play with other children and also observe closely whatever sports they played. We never discussed that he is a person with a disability and that's the attitude he has grown up with," Dilbagh said.

In 2015, Manish started shooting at the 10X academy in Ballabgarh where coach Rakesh Singh took him under his wings. He started shooting with a right-hand grip pistol using his left hand. He would also compete in para nationals the same year he started shooting. "When he came to train under me in 2015, we did not have a left-hand grip pistol. So for more than a year, he would shoot with his left hand using the right-hand grip pistol. It was tough but then he adjusted to that and would shoot good scores," Narwal's former coach Rakesh Singh said.

Within three years of taking up shooting, the Haryana youngster became the 10m air pistol (SH-1) gold medal winner at the Jakarta Para Asian Games apart from a silver medal in 50m Pistol (SH-1) event. Prior to winning the gold in Tokyo Paralympics, the Haryana shooter also became the 10m air pistol champion in 2018 Para Shooting World Cup in France, apart from a bronze medal in 50m Pistol event. Narwal Paris 2024 Paralympics – Shooting – Men's 10M Air Pistol SH1 Qualification –



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Chateauroux Shooting Centre, Deols, France – August 30, 2024 Manish Narwal of India looks on during the qualification round REUTERS/Eng Chin An

He would add three more World Cup medals in 2019, including a silver medal in Para World Cup in Croatia and bronze each in 10m air pistol and 50m pistol in Para World Cup in Sydney. "The key for him was finding the right balance and posture. Once he won medals and got his own pistol, dry/shadow shooting helped us to find the balance for his body. He developed his upper-body strength. It helped him maintain a right posture for hours with dry shooting. This also helped him develop accuracy with almost perfect balanced posture of the left hand. In 2018, he also made it to the NRAI national squad in normal category and it helped him gain confidence too," Dilbagh said. Post Tokyo Paralympics, Narwal has won four World Cup medals apart from winning the 10m air pistol (SH-1) title in the World Para Shooting Championships in Peru in September last year. He also won the bronze in 10m air pistol (SH-1) in last year's Para Asian Games in Hangzhou. "He would be at the range soon after his return from Paris and would want to start the training for the 50m pistol event as soon as he can. This medal will also give him confidence to aim for multiple medals at the next Paralympics too," Dilbagh said.