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L V Prasad Eye Institute, Standard Chartered Bank partner to launch LVPEI@Home – At Home Eye Care Service

Hyderabad: LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI) and Standard Chartered Bank have partnered to launch "LVPEI@Home", at-home eye care service, aimed at delivering comprehensive eye care directly to patients' doorsteps. This initiative is part of the Bank's commitment under the "Seeing is Believing" programme to enhance access to quality eye healthcare, especially for the elderly and those with mobility challenges. LVPEI@Home services can be scheduled via a phone call to the institute.

PM Modi extends greetings on Valmiki Jayanti, says his ideals inspire New India



greetings and shared his thoughts about the sage.

Taking to X, PM Modi shared an animated video in which he narrates: "The great thoughts of Maharshi Valmiki inspire crores of people and empowers them, bringing hope among lakhs and crores of Dalits." In the inspiring narration, he went on to add: "It is the willpower that empowers youth to do anything they set their mind to. Maharshi Valmiki stressed on positive thinking and service motive was paramount for him."

Emphasising the relevance of the ancient sage in this day and age, PM Modi expressed: "His thoughts and ideals serve as inspiration and direction for New India. As the guiding light for the generations to come, he has created a great epic like Ramayan." Valmiki Jayanti, also known as Pargat Diwas, is celebrated annually on the full moon in the month of Ashwin (as per the Hindu lunar calendar) by the Valmiki community to commemorate the birth of the ancient poet and philosopher. Valmiki is said to have lived around 500 BCE. He famously composed the epic Ramayana.

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

New Delhi: On the occasion of Valmiki Jayanti on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his

Indian Govt employee 'indicted' in Pannun case removed : US

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

The US, in a statement, on the progress of 'foiled-attempt' to kill Pro-Khalistan Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, has said the official, 'indicted' by the Department of Justice, has been 'removed' by the Indian Government. This US statement comes a day after an Indian inquiry team - probing links of any Indian entities in targeting the Sikh community in the US - visited the US.

US State Department Spokesperson Mathew Miller answering questions about the Indian inquiry team, said on Wednesday night "they (India) did inform us that the individual who was named in the Department of Justice indictment is no longer an employee of the Indian Government". Through Miller did not clarify who he was referring to, however an Indian Government employee is listed as 'CC-1' in the Department of Justice 'indictment'. He is Indian police officer, who was posted in North America. Miller said the India and US had a meeting on Tuesday. "The US Government broadly - updated members of the Committee of Inquiry (from India) about the investigation that the US has been conducting. We've received an update from them (India) on the investigation that they have been conducting". It was a productive meeting, Miller said adding "We are satisfied with the cooperation. It continues to be an ongoing process. We continue to work with them (India) on that, but we do appreciate the cooperation, and we appreciate them updating us on their investigation as we update them on ours. Separately, the White House National Security Communications Advisor John Kirby, answering questions on the ongoing case to allegedly target Sikhs said the Indian inquiry committee is visiting here in the US today to deal with the case, specifically. Kirby added "We have expressed deep concerns about this to our Indian counterparts. They have expressed to us that they are taking



it seriously."

It is something India absolutely needs to take seriously, Kirby said and when asked about the seriousness of the Indian Government on the issue, he added "the inquiry committee coming here is a sign that they're taking this seriously. Sending over a team here today to talk to the Justice Department to glean and to learn perspectives from us about the U.S. case specifically". Kirby said US and India had interactions at various levels, including at the level of the Leaders, about deep concern over this. He said the US would monitor the progress "we're going to monitor this going forward. We're going to stay in close touch with (India) as they move forward with their own inquiry, and we'll be watching closely".

India-Canada tension precipitated by Trudeau govts baseless allegations: MEA



NS News Agency, Oct 17

India on Thursday rejected Canada's serious allegations against New Delhi saying not a shred of evidence has been shared on any case. It also questioned Canada for sitting over 26 extradition requests and also on 'requests to arrest' criminals by India.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said 26 extradition requests are pending with the Canadian side. Twenty-nine cases of 'request to arrest' are pending. Jaiswal said Gurjit Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Gurjinder Singh, Lakhbir Singh Landa and Arsheep Singh Gill are among those sought by India. "These are gang members of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, or other gangs. We have already shared information and requested them to take action." Jaiswal said no action had been taken by the Canadian side. "It is strange that the same people whom we have sought to be extradited are now being blamed by Canadians for criminal activities in Canada," Jaiswal added. Shifting the blame onto India would not work, he said. Jaiswal said he could not say why the extradition cases were pending. "We have made our posi-

tion very clear. Since September 2023 the Canadian government has not shared a shred of evidence. We reject baseless allegations against our diplomats," he added.

Telangana Govt threatens to terminate outsourced AEOs over digital crop survey

NS News Agency, Oct 17

Siddipet: With regular agriculture extension officers (AEOs) refusing to take the digital crop survey, the State government is focusing on getting the job done by outsourced AEOs, threatening to terminate them unless they took up the survey.

The State government had roped in 300 AEOs, which included more than 200 women, on an outsourcing basis four years ago to carry out extension works at the grassroots level. The outsourced AEOs were paid Rs.20,000 per month as salary while regular AEOs were drawing up to Rs.50,000 depending on their experience.

While the regular AEOs were paid salaries every month, the outsourced AEOs were paid once every four months. As the regular AEOs refused to take up digital surveys of crops, the government is now trying to use outsourced AEOs services for the work. The regular AEOs had presented a memorandum to the district agriculture office in Siddipet expressing their unwillingness to take up the digital crop survey. Speaking to Telangana Today, outsourced AEO Radhika said 200 out of 300 outsourced AEOs working across the State were women.

Group 1 Mains aspirants continue to protest for second consecutive day in Telangana

Hyderabad: Even as Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was scheduled to address the press persons, Group - 1 Mains aspirants continued their protest for the second consecutive day on Thursday. Aspirants stage a protest holding placards at the Gandhi Nagar Park demanding to re-schedule the mains examination to be conducted by the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC) on October 21. It is known that the Telangana High Court had cleared the way for the exam by dismissing a bunch of petitions on Tuesday. They have been protesting against the Government Order (GO) 29 issued by the TGPSC earlier this year, which introduced changes to the selection process for the Group - 1 services.

Revanth Reddy does volte face on Musi project cost, asks who said Rs 1.5 lakh crore!



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Hyderabad: Even when there were multiple videos from multiple sources showing him announcing that he would take up the Musi riverfront development project with Rs.1.5 lakh crore, would be taken up with Rs.1.5 lakh crore in the past, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy did a complete volte face on Thursday, asking who ever quoted such a figure, when the cost of the agreement entered into by the government for the project was only Rs.141 crore. Stating that it was a River Musi rejuvenation project and not beautification project, he said the agreement was signed with a consortium of five companies to prepare a Detailed Project Report for Musi with Rs.141 crore. The consortium, including Meinhardt and Cushman & Wakefield, would submit the DPR in 18 months. In the next five years, it would assist the government in raising funds for the project or executing under a PPP model or toll fee collection model, he said at a press conference here, also exuding confidence of the Centre's support for the project.

Even if there was no support due to political obligations, the State government would take up the project, he

said, questioning why opposition parties were opposing the project. "I appeal to all opposition parties to furnish their fears in questions and the government will give written reply. This apart, an exclusive Assembly session will be conducted on the River Musi project and it is a bigger platform than all-party meeting," Revanth Reddy said, announcing that a cabinet sub-committee would also be constituted to form political consensus.

The State government was open to suggestions from opposition parties over the rehabilitation to be extended to the oustees. The double bedroom beneficiaries had demolished their homes voluntarily and the government did not demolish even a brick, he claimed, also announcing that the project would be taken up only with the consensus of all people. "I am like the captain and if the players do not want to play, it will be stopped," he said, also asking BJP MP Etala Rajender, BRS MLAs KT Rama Rao and T Harish Rao to stay in the riverbed areas for three months. If they felt that the project was not required after that, the agreement would be cancelled and the loss suffered by government would be covered by offering his personal assets, Revanth Reddy claimed. Defending the Indian Navy's Very Low Frequency radar station at Damagundam, the Chief Minister said there were many mobile towers across the city. "Did people suffer from their radiations?" he asked. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy made another faux pas on Thursday at the press conference, when he said Meinhardt had successfully completed the Statue of Unity project in Gujarat and also the Statue of Equality in Hyderabad. Yet, the BRS was levelling allegations against the company, he said, calling the BRS opposition a false campaign. This, however, was when Meinhardt had nothing to do with the Statue of Equality in Hyderabad, a fact that the Chief Minister's team later tried to correct, but only after he went ahead making the non-existent connection of Meinhardt to the Statue of Equality.

Harish Rao demands release of pending DAs for government employees

NS News Agency, Oct 17

Hyderabad: Former Minister T Harish Rao on Thursday demanded immediate release of five pending Dearness Allowances (DAs) for government employees. He urged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to discuss this issue in the upcoming cabinet meeting on October 23 and announce the release as a Diwali gift. Rao reminded the Chief Minister of the promises made in the Congress Abhaya Hasta manifesto, which assured the immediate payment of three pending DAs to government employees and pensioners upon coming to power.

He criticized the government for failing to fulfill these promises, despite repeated assurances during the Parliament elections and meetings with teacher and employee unions. Rao pointed out that it was ten months since the Congress government came to power, and five DAs were still pending. This delay was causing significant financial loss to employees, ranging from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 20,000 per month. He demanded that the cabinet discuss the 17.29% pending DAs and release them immediately as a Diwali gift. The former minister also highlighted the government's failure to implement the new Pay Revision Commission (PRC) recommendations within six months, as promised in the manifesto. He criticized the government's inaction and demanded immediate fulfillment of promises made to teachers, employees, and pensioners.

Rao further demanded the immediate release of pending supplementary bills, including GPF and surrender leave, which have been delayed for months. He urged the government to honor its promise and clear these dues



without further delay. Additionally, Rao called for the cancellation of the current CPS system and the reintroduction of the old pension scheme, as promised in the manifesto. He requested that this issue be discussed and decided upon in the upcoming cabinet meeting. Rao also highlighted the plight of around 5,000 employees and teachers who retired after March 31 this year. They were still awaiting their retirement benefits. He demanded the immediate release of their pending GPF, encashment, gratuity, insurance and commuted dues. He also urged the government to implement the new EHS scheme introduced by the BRS government for the benefit of employees, teachers, and pensioners.

KTR meets Group-I candidates, urges government to consider their demands



NS News Agency, Oct 17

Hyderabad: Assuring Group-I mains candidates that his party would stand with them, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday called on the State government to positively consider their request for rescheduling their exams. He questioned why the government was being stubborn despite the candidates' requests to re-schedule the exams. He condemned the arrest of candidates protesting in Ashok Nagar and demanded their immediate release and the withdrawal of cases registered against them.

Rama Rao met the Group-1 Mains candidates at Telangana Bhavan, following their appeal for support. He assured them that the BRS party would stand with them and provide necessary legal assistance. During the meeting, the candidates brought to his attention the government's rigid stance on the exams and the constitutional issues with GO No.29. They also highlighted the injustices in reservations for SC and ST students.

The candidates informed the BRS working president that there were around 22 cases related to the Group-1 Mains exams pending in court, yet the government was adamant about conducting the exams. They expressed their belief that if they approached the Supreme Court, the exams were likely to be cancelled.

Despite their pleas for the exams to be conducted only after resolving all legal issues, the government remains unresponsive. The Group-1 candidates who hit the streets last night had appealed for Rama Rao's support to mount pressure on the government to consider their pleas. As part of his plan to meet them, the BRS leader was expected to visit Ashok Nagar in the city. However, with Ashok Nagar area witnessing heavy deployment of police, he met them in Telangana

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Omar takes charge

THE first Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, brings with him a wealth of experience, having served as the Chief Minister of the erstwhile state from 2009 to 2014. Even before the National Conference leader took oath, the house disorder was out in the open. The Congress party, the NC's pre-poll alliance partner, has decided to stay out of the government. The numbers are on Omar's side and there is little reason to expect any instability. Whatever the Congress' compulsions, it has set off a buzz of uneasiness within the camp. There are occasions that demand a mature stance. The presence of the Gandhi siblings, the Congress chief and other INDIA bloc members at the swearing-in ceremony fell short in conveying a message of unity and hope. Opinions matter and an urgent course-correction is called for.

Ironically, an affirmation of orderliness has come from unexpected quarters. The Lieutenant Governor has assured the UT's first elected government that there will be no cause for confrontation from his side. The road ahead is uncharted territory, but right words said at the right moment signify a welcome positive start. There's been a paradigm shift in J&K's polity in the last 10 years. Despite the roadblocks, the restoration of democratic processes presents immense possibilities. It is now up to the public representatives to live up to their promises. Statehood is the new all-consuming political goalpost. On the ground, the demands are simpler, yet far more difficult to fulfil. The people of the violence-hit region are yearning for a change that directly impacts their lives — less of politics, more of developmental activity and redress of local grievances. That's where Omar Abdullah needs to invest his energy in. A lot is riding on him.

Pune couple's honeymoon trip ruined by lost and damaged luggage



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Imagine going on an international trip with your family, but your essential belongings, including important documents, are lost during the journey and returned only fifteen days later—despite no fault of your own. A similar ordeal happened to a newly married couple from Pune who went on their honeymoon to Istanbul, only to have their luggage, containing clothes and essential documents, lost by IndiGo Airlines.

Sambhav Oswal and his wife embarked on their honeymoon to Turkey on September 16, staying until September 27. Oswal arrived in Istanbul the same day, and according to Pune IndiGo, he was supposed to receive his luggage at the Istanbul airport, but it never arrived. Oswal said the IndiGo staff in Pune informed him that his luggage was classified as international, meaning he would collect it directly in Istanbul. "But after making me wait for too long, the staff in Istanbul told me they hadn't received my luggage from Delhi. Upon inquiry, Delhi staff responded that the Pune staff had not sent my luggage," he said. Oswal had planned the trip, making all necessary arrangements, including clothing, preserved food, and taxi services booked through a Pune-based travel agency—only to find themselves stranded without essentials in a foreign country. He said they flew from Pune to Delhi on flight 6E2279 (A321) and then from Delhi to Istanbul on flight 6E11. Oswal stated that despite regular follow-ups and complaints, the airline did not assist him, and he and his wife spent the entire trip without their luggage. However, IndiGo finally returned the luggage nearly fifteen days later, on October 2, after the trip had ended and the couple was back home. "I hired a travel agency in Pune to arrange taxis for us throughout Turkey. I also packed long-lasting homemade vegetarian food for the trip. However, we returned on September 27 on flight 6E18 from Istanbul to Mumbai without our luggage," Oswal said.

He added, "The entire trip turned into a nightmare, with unexpected expenses piling up because we had no access to our belongings. We incurred extra costs amounting to around 1,500 euros, which the airline has refused to reimburse." Oswal said they were initially assured their luggage would arrive in Istanbul, but it never did. "To make matters worse, the second trolley we had taken on the trip, worth around Rs 11,000, was returned damaged. I am still struggling to get reimbursed for it." Despite sending about 50 emails requesting compensation, Oswal has only received offers for travel vouchers from IndiGo—starting at Rs 2,500 and later increasing to Rs 4,500—but the airline continues to deny reimbursement for his actual expenses. Oswal took this issue to X, continuously complaining to resolve the issue and he got a reply from IndiGo stating, "Sir, we tried calling you, however, we were unable to establish a connection. Please share an available contact number along with the suitable via DM so we can connect with you." While speaking to The Indian Express, Oswal claimed that IndiGo rarely contacted them and only reached out to offer a travel voucher, which he is not interested in. The last mail he received from IndiGo states, "Dear Mr. Oswal. Greetings from IndiGo! This is with reference to the email. We sincerely apologize for the inconvenience caused to you... We do regret the delay in the delivery of your bag... We would like to mention that delayed delivery of baggage does not warrant any compensation. However, as we understand the inconvenience caused to you and as a step towards restoring your faith in us, we would like to offer you a travel voucher worth the amount of INR 3000. This is the best we can offer you..." Reached out to the IndiGo spokesperson to follow up on the issue to which they replied that the matter is under investigation and they will soon come back with the reaction.

After communal clashes, Bahraich's Maharajganj and surrounding areas remain tense



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

A day after a man was killed in communal clashes in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich, Maharajganj town and surrounding areas remained tense, with shops and business establishments remaining closed and police conducting flag marches in the area. With prohibitory orders still in place, the town was deserted. Internet services remained suspended, and police barricades prevented outsiders from entering the town.

A few incidents of protests and arson were reported in parts of the district Monday night, but police teams swiftly responded, bringing the situation under control before it escalated. Since then, raids have been underway to track down those responsible for the violence, police said. Sources indicate that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is expected to meet the family of Ram Gopal, who was killed in the violence, in Lucknow later Tuesday. Senior police officials, including Additional Director General (ADG) Law and Order Amitabh Yash, ADG Gorakhpur Zone Kalluri SP Kumar and Home Secretary

Sanjeev Gupta, have arrived in Bahraich and are closely monitoring the situation. Sources said the police are investigating whether the violence was planned and if there were adequate security forces along the Durga idol procession route, when the violence first began Sunday. Additionally, authorities are closely monitoring the Indo-Nepal border, located about 40 km from Bahraich district. Clashes began Sunday evening after a group of people allegedly asked for the music to be turned off when a Durga idol procession was passing through the Muslim-majority Maharajganj. According to the police, a heated argument eventually gave way to stone-pelting and clashes.

Ram Gopal, who was attending the immersion, was wounded during firing that was reported in the area. He was taken to a hospital but eventually died of his wounds. On Monday, a mob that gathered for his last rites staged a massive protest in Maharajganj and nearby areas Monday to demand the suspects in the case be hanged and their houses demolished. The protests turned violence when the mob went on a rampage setting fire to shops, houses, and vehicles, and prompting the police to use force and fire tear gas shells. Thirty people have been detained in connection with both the murder and the communal clashes. While the family of the deceased had refused to cremate the body, it was done after political leaders and government officials urged them to do so. On Monday, police registered a case against 10 people, four of whom are unidentified, based on a complaint by Hari Milan, the brother of Ram Gopal Mishra. According to the complainant, Ram Gopal was allegedly dragged into the home of an accused and shot. The complaint also claimed that Ram Gopal was attacked with swords.

Panchkula to turn fortress for Haryana CM's swearing-in ceremony; BJP leaders assess preparations



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and BJP president J P Nadda, among others, likely to attend the oath-taking ceremony of the new Haryana government on October 17, BJP leaders Tarun Chugh and Satish Poonia on Monday held a meeting with some of the state leaders in Panchkula to take stock of preparations. The leaders also visited the venue Panchkula's Dussehra ground in Sector 5. Nayab Singh Saini was the BJP's chief ministerial face in the recently concluded Haryana Assembly elections. The BJP secured a third term, winning 48 seats against the Congress's 37 in the 90-member Haryana Assembly.

Officials said tight security arrangements were being made at the venue, with 500 VVIPs from across the country, including 14 chief ministers, Union ministers and BJP central leadership, expected to attend the event. According to Panchkula police sources, some leaders are expected to come by charter planes, while others will land at the Panchkula helipad in Sector 5 and the Chandigarh airport. Arrangements are being made to receive them and send them to the venue. Special Protection Group (SPG) officers visited the venue to check security arrangements and briefed the Haryana Police about the same, sources said. A huge stage has been set up at Dussehra ground to accommodate several leaders. A special pathway with paving stones is being constructed to ensure easy walking in the middle of the ground. JCB machines have been working day and night to finish it. By Monday night, tents would also be pitched and arrangements for air conditioning would be made,

sources said. BJP general secretary Chugh said under Prime Minister Modi's guidance, the BJP government would be formed in Haryana for the third time, which would be a historic moment. Apart from Chugh and party's Haryana affairs in-charge Poonia, the meeting was attended by former state Assembly speaker Gian Chand Gupta and former Karnal MP Sanjay Bhatia. Poonia said the BJP government in Haryana in its third term would work to make the state a developed and progressive under the guidance of PM Modi. "BJP is a party that fulfils the aspirations of the people. The BJP delivers what it promises," he said.

Bhatia, the coordinator of the swearing-in ceremony, said, "October 17 will be a historic day for Haryana. The public has put its stamp of approval on the path of progress that Haryana has taken. Winning for the third consecutive time is proof of the public's unwavering faith in our government." On Sunday, the BJP parliamentary board appointed Shah and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav as central observers for the election of the state legislature party leader in Haryana. A meeting is likely before the swearing-in ceremony. Teams for managing décor, food

Hundreds of kilos of flowers has been arranged to welcome guests and decorate the stage, it is learnt. Besides, the BJP has constituted several teams to look after specific arrangements. "We have a hoarding team looking after hoardings being erected in the city, especially along the routes to be taken by VVIPs. They are coordinating with officials concerned to get permission and other requisites," a BJP leader associated with the arrangements said. "We also have a team looking after decor. One team will manage the crowd and look after the arrangements for the crowd. We also have food management and several other teams working on the ground." As the venue is located at the heart of the city, the local administration will order the closure of shops, eateries and petrol pumps till the oath-taking ceremony is over for security reasons and to avoid any security lapse. "All shops by the main road in Sectors 8, 9 and 10 will be closed. An official order will be posted soon," a senior police officer said. Police said sharpshooters would be deployed at all key buildings around the venue. Panchkula police will divert traffic on all routes leading to the venue in Sector 5. The road from Sector 16-17 Chowk to Sector 5 to Sector 8-9 divider.

Built after razing 15th-century monument, ex-Delhi Jal Board CEO's house to be used as training centre, lab

NS News Agency, Oct 17

delhi jal board Officials said that different types of training are held at the DJB, from training given to employees when a new technology or project is implemented to sessions held for new employees by their section heads. A bungalow allegedly constructed by former Delhi Jal Board (DJB) CEO Udit Prakash Rai after demolishing a 15th-century monument in South East Delhi's Jal Vihar near Lajpat Nagar will now be converted into a training centre-cum-laboratory to check water quality, officials revealed.

"The house has been lying vacant for almost a year now. It is a huge property and it is empty...if it is abandoned for a longer period, it will get dilapidated...the land is with the DJB so we are planning to use this house as a training centre for our officers," a senior government official said. "The proposal is ready and higher authorities have accorded approval," the official added. Officials said that different types of training are held at the DJB, from training given to employees when a new technology or project is implemented to sessions held for new employees by their section heads. A controversy had broken out over the bungalow in April last year after the Directorate of Vigilance issued a show-cause notice to Rai for allegedly razing the monument — a "Pathan period" Mahal dating back to 1418 when the Sayyid dynasty ruled Delhi — to construct a house for himself. The vigilance department said there was a "monument" and a "gateway" at this property. After visiting the property in January 2021, the Department of Archaeology asked the DJB to hand it over to them as the monument and the gateway required "immediate attention" and conservation.

However, two years later, the department found only the gateway at the site. The monument had disappeared

and an official bungalow was erected in its place. The structure is also mentioned in the Archaeological Survey of India's "List of Muhammadan and Hindu Monuments, Vol. IV" and is referred to as a "Mahal". Following this, the vigilance department initiated a probe. It then issued a show-cause notice to Rai for allegedly demolishing the monument and building a new government accommodation to move in as the then DJB CEO. The notice also stated that Rai was responsible for the "demolition of part of the entire structure..." and that he was "well aware of the fact that there exists a historical monument". The built-up area of the house is 700 sqm and the dimensions of the entire plot where the house is constructed is about 5,500 sqm. Nearly Rs 4 crore was spent on building the house, the vigilance department said in its notice. The Indian Express reported this matter and found that Rai was posted in Mizoram and his family was staying at the house at the time. On July 31 last year, the Ministry of Home Affairs suspended Rai and asked him to vacate the house. His family vacated the bungalow in September 2023, and the house has been vacant since then. Asked about the past dispute between the DJB and the archaeology department, a senior DJB official said, "The land is with DJB and we are keeping it. If there had been any remains of the monument, we would have handed it over to the archaeology department but there is nothing there to restore it and the property is lying unused. As it is constructed using government money, the department has decided to put it to use instead of abandoning the property..." A Delhi government source also said there was "no harm in using the property for official training purposes". "If it was allotted to the current CEO or any other officer, then it might spark an issue but there is no issue in using it for training purposes," the source added.

Two men take jeweller hostage, fire gunshots, take away jewellery



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Two bike-borne men allegedly took a jeweller hostage in his shop, fired gunshots and took away gold and silver jewellery in Lohgarh area of Zirakpur on Monday afternoon. According to the information available, the incident happened around 2 pm when two men with their faces covered allegedly took Sam Soni, the owner of Divya Jewellers, hostage in his shop and beat him up.

Soni told the police that two men had entered his shop and took him to his rest room where one caught his hands while the other started hitting him with the pistol's butt. While the robbers were beating up Soni, a gunshot was fired from the pistol. Eyewitnesses to the incident said that Soni's shop is located near a primary school and when he was being beaten up, some school students gathered outside his shop and seeing schoolchildren, some locals too gathered outside Soni's shop. While the robbers were fleeing after taking away the jewellery, some locals tried to chase them but the robbers threatened them by pointing a pistol at them and managed to flee on their bike.

2 'Policy Bazaar agents' arrested from Delhi, 10 women executives detained for running fake call centre in Delhi

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

The executives would explain to the car owners about lucrative insurance schemes and provide them with fake Policy Bazaar IDs to build trust, he added. The executives would explain to the car owners about lucrative insurance schemes and provide them with fake Policy Bazaar IDs to build trust, he added. The Delhi Police on Sunday arrested two men who allegedly ran a fake call centre of insurance broker firm Policy Bazaar.com near Dwarka Mor Metro Station and duped people in the name of car insurance agents. They also detained 10 young women executives who were allegedly hired by the accused to run the scam, and confiscated 18 mobile phones, officials said. The accused — Nihal Khan, 27, and Deepu, 22, both residents of Qutub Vihar — used Work India app and other online portal to hire girls, who they would use as call centre employees, said Raja Banthia, Deputy Commissioner of Police, North.

The executives would explain to the car owners about lucrative insurance schemes and provide them with fake Policy Bazaar IDs to build trust, he added. "Once the clients transfer the money, the scammers would immediately discard the SIM," said DCP Banthia. The fake SIM cards were reportedly purchased from vendors in Jharkhand and Bihar at high prices. According to the police, the accused had more than 25 mule bank accounts, where the IDs of random people were used to open the accounts. The police said that the accounts were bought from people who make accounts on fake KYCs. The fraudsters ran the call centre on the fourth floor of a building at Sewak Park.

"They had 1,240 pages of car owner data. They would give the phone numbers to the girls and would ask them to call the owners and ask them if they were in need of insurance. Once they agreed, the girls would tell them that a senior officer of Policy Bazaar would contact them. Then Nihaal and Deepu took over," said a police officer. The scam came to light on October 5 based on a complaint of a person named Shivam who purchased the fake car insurance policy of the accused and transferred Rs 12,000 into the fake bank account allegedly registered in the name of Policy Bazaar. According to the complainant, Shivam contacted an online number on June 27 for a car insurance and got a call back from Nihaal of "Policy Bazaar" who convinced him to buy the fake policy and sent him fake policy documents and the bank account details.

Pune Metro routes expanded, trains to run from Kharadi to Khadakwasla

NS News Agency, Oct 17

The Maharashtra government has approved the second phase of the Pune Metro. The approved routes include Khadakwasla to Kharadi via Swargate and Hadapsar and Nal Stop to Manikbaug.

The first phase of the Pune Metro, with two routes from Vanaz to Ramwadi and from Pimpri Chinchwad to Swargate, has been completed, and operations have started in phases. The work on extending the first phase from Swargate to Katraj and Pimpri Chinchwad to Nigdi also started recently, while the extension from Vanaz to Chandni Chowk and Ramwadi to Wagholi is awaiting the Union government's approval.

"The state government has approved the plan to start the second phase of the Metro route from Khadakwasla to Kharadi via Swargate and Hadapsar route. It has also approved the Nal Stop to Manikbaug via Warje route. This will provide a better public transport system for people," said Union Minister of State for Cooperation and Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol, who is the MP from the city. BJP legislator Madhuri Misal said the flyover work on Sinhadag road is nearing completion, and provision for the Metro route above it has been made. The new routes will connect Sinhadag Road to Solapur Road, Nagar Road on one side, and Karve Road on another side. They will also connect Satara Road and Pimpri-Chinchwad from Swargate.

Bengaluru court rejects bail plea of Kannada film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa in Renukaswamy murder case



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

A local court in Bengaluru on Monday rejected bail pleas of Kannada film actor Darshan Thoogudeepa, his friend Pavithra Gowda, and three others in connection with the murder of Renukaswamy, a fan of Thoogudeepa. In its order, the 57th City Civil and Sessions Court denied bail to Darshan, Pavithra Gowda, Lakshman, Nagaraj, and Ravishankar. However, the court granted bail to Deepak after his counsel argued he was not part of the conspiracy.

Appearing for Darshan, Senior Advocate C V Nagesh argued that there was a delay in recording the witness statement and expressed his doubts over the recoveries. However, Special Public Prosecutor Prasanna Kumar P refuted the claims of Nagesh. Kumar also said that the Call Details Record (CDR) and DNA report have established the presence of Darshan at the

crime scene. He particularly stressed that Renukaswamy was brutally murdered, and the postmortem report spoke about the brutality. Darshan Thoogudeepa was arrested on June 11 with Pavithra Gowda and 15 others in connection with the murder of Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga. The accused have been in judicial custody since then. According to the police investigations, Renukaswamy was allegedly murdered over sending lewd comments to Pavithra Gowda on Instagram. His body was discovered near a stormwater drain close to an apartment complex in Sumanahalli, Bengaluru, on June 9. The Bengaluru police in their 3,991 pages of chargesheet recorded statements of 97 people, including the 27 recorded before the magistrate under Section 164 (recording of confessions and statements) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), three eyewitnesses, 8 FSL and Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) reports, 59 panchas and eight government officials (tehsildars, doctors, RTO officials and engineers).

As many as 56 police officers were also included in the evidence list. Besides Darshan and Pavithra Gowda, the others named in the chargesheet are Pawan K, 29; Raghavendra, 43; Nandish, 28; Jagadish, 36; Anukumar, 25; Ravi Shankar, 32; Dhanraj D, 27; Vinay V, 38; Nagaraju, 41; Laxman, 54; Deepak, 39; Pradosh, 40; Karthik, 27; Keshavamurthy, 27; and Nikhil Nayak, 21. Keshava Murthy in this case was also involved in two criminal cases in the past. The Annapoorneshwari Nagar police also have registered a non-cognisable case for threatening a witness in the case.

Documentary 'Murmurs of the Jungle' gets top prize, Sohil Vaidya now plans first feature film

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

A boy recites a story told to him by his grandmother about the origins of their remote indigenous village in the Western Ghats of Maharashtra. As the mysterious morning slowly unfolds, spirits wander in the forest, and dark secrets buried in time slowly emerge. The trees whisper tales of the Gods and the ancestors. They say that you don't die. Your spirit assimilates into the jungle. And while civilization, its beliefs, and the cycle of life, death, and rebirth continue, the forest stands eternal. A bridge between the old and the new.

Ancestral stories that are passed vocally from one generation to another slowly become mythologies. But what connection does their present hold with the ancient past? For Sohil Vaidya (35), a keen interest in mythology and its transcendence in our modern lives compelled him to investigate this connection. Vaidya, who splits his time between Pune and Los Angeles received the Best Documentary Award at the 70th National Film Awards that were announced in New Delhi recently. Celebrating the best of Indian cinema that was certified in the year 2022, Vaidya's documentary in Marathi 'Murmurs of the Jungle' won the top prize (Rajat Kamal/Silver Lotus). President Droupadi Murmu gave away the awards. The filmmaker who now plans on his first feature film told The Indian Express that this documentary is not about a particular Adivasi tribe. "It is a universal story between humans and nature, adivasi and the jungle," he added. Sumant Shinde also won the Rajat Kamal/Silver Lotus award for Voice Over Artist for the Murmurs of the



Jungle. Premiered at the 52nd International Film Festival of India in the Indian Panorama, this documentary has received several awards. His other films have been officially selected for more than 100 film festivals worldwide like Rotterdam, Melbourne, Chicago, Raindance, Indian Panorama at IFFI, Palm Springs, New York Indian Film Festival and others. Vaidya, who hails from Pune and is the son of noted cardiologist Dr Abhijit Vaidya, graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) Film School. "At USC, I was chosen to co-direct an episode for a Warner Brothers Studios funded project named Samir and financing my education was possible with the help of scholarships such as the James Bridges Directing Scholarship and Edward Thomas Troutner Cinematography Scholarship," he said. In Pune presently, Vaidya also told The Indian Express that he was keen on his first feature film named 'Aadim' (Primordial) a Neo-Noir Psychological Folk Thriller/Horror which was selected for NFDC Film Bazaars Co-Production Market.

This farmer in Punjab's Fazilka is fighting with a message: 'No to stubble burning'

NS News Agency, Oct 17

Malkeet Singh Virk (38) of Badha village in Fazilka district says he is the only one in this village who has not burned fields since 2018 and, as a result, the fertility has improved and has been improving each year. Taking this message forward, Virk — a postgraduate in history and punjabi, a BEd and an MPhil — is in the fray for the post of a sarpanch. Badha village has 1,305 votes. "I am the only farmer in this village who does not burn fields. I want to spread this message among farmers and want them to show my field for its fertility. If I win, I will take forward this message to the farmers and convince them not to burn stubble in their fields," Virk, whose farm spreads over 20 acres, with paddy on 16 acres, said. Virk has a YouTube channel 'Fazilka Farming' where he shares his experience about farming and the benefits of not burning fields. "I have sown PR 126. I follow mulching after harvesting paddy using a combine harvester with the straw management system (SMS). With SMS, the leftover paddy straw in the field is minimal and then the mulcher mixes straws with the soil. A reversible plough is used in fields and a rotavator thereon is used to prepare fields for wheat sowing with the help of a happy seeder. It takes four to five days to prepare an acre, but it's worth waiting," Virk said.

"When I used to burn fields after harvesting, my cost on fertilisers and pesticides would be around Rs 7,000 per acre for the wheat crop, which has now reduced to around Rs 5,000 per acre. For paddy, it used to be around Rs 8000 per acre, which now is around Rs 5000 per acre. The costs of harvesting, ploughing, etc., are almost the same. However, it is a win-win situation as the yield of



the wheat crop has increased from 20 quintals per acre to 26-28 quintals while the paddy yield has increased from 30 quintals an acre to 34-36 quintals," he said. On the four acres, Virk grows citrus fruit 'mitha' (Indian sweet lime) with natural quinine and provides immunity against dengue and malaria fevers. "I got first prize for my fruits at a Kisan Mela organised by PAU last month. Virk got his qualification printed on his posters. He passed out from Panjab University, Chandigarh. "I wanted to get educated to enhance my knowledge, but I was always interested in farming. Farmers should educate themselves to improve farming techniques and thinking processes because farming techniques are very scientific. People often think only illiterate people do farming, but educated people must also do some farming. Talking about his decision to contest the panchayat polls, Virk said, "Sarpanch is the head of the gram panchayat, the first pillar of democracy. If well educated, a sarpanch can understand various government schemes for villages. I will work on harvesting rain-water if I win."

Rau's IAS Study Circle drownings case: CBI files chargesheet against 6

NS News Agency, Oct 17 Rau's IAS study circle flooding, Indian express CBI chargesheeted six people, including the co-owners of the building and the CEO of Rau's IAS Study Circle, in the case of three civil service aspirants who died in the flooded basement of the coaching centre. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) recently filed a chargesheet against six people under sections related to criminal conspiracy and culpable homicide not amounting to murder in the case where three civil service aspirants died in the flooded basement of Rau's IAS Study Circle, a coaching centre in Delhi's old Rajinder Nagar. CBI filed the chargesheet against Parvinder Singh, Harvinder Singh, Sarabjit Singh, Tajinder Singh, the co-owners of the building where Rau's IAS was allegedly running a library in the basement, CEO of the coaching



centre Abhishek Gupta, and the centre coordinator Deshpal Singh.

Hours before Maharashtra Assembly elections announcement, 7 nominated MLCs to be sworn in



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Hours before the announcement of the Assembly elections, Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan, acting on the recommendation of the State Cabinet, late on Monday approved the names of seven Members of Legislative Council (MLCs) for the 12 vacant posts under the Governor's quota. Maharashtra Legislative Council Deputy Speaker Neelam Gorhe will administer the oath to newly appointed MLCs at noon on Tuesday, before the announcement of the Assembly polls by the Election Commission of India at 3.30 pm.

Out of the seven MLC seats, the ruling coalition of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has got three, and the Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) have got two each. The newly appointed MLCs from the BJP are its state women's wing chief Chitra Wagh, state general secretary Vikrant Patil, and spiritual leader of Banjara community Dharmaguru Babusingh Maharaj Rathod. The NCP has nominated former MLA Pankaj Bhujbal and Idris Naikwadi — a minority face from Western Maharashtra. The Shiv Sena has nominated former MLC Manish Kayande and former Lok Sabha MP Hemant

Patil. According to sources within the ruling Mahayuti, five seats have been kept vacant as those are likely to be filled after the elections.

The Maya Vikas Aghadi (MVA) gave its list to the then Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari twice in two-and-a-half years of its functioning, requesting him to approve the proposed names for the 12 vacant MLC seats. However, Koshyari neither rejected nor accepted the nominations. While the MVA approached the Bombay High Court in this regard, the court refused to give any direction to the Governor.

After taking over, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde wrote to Koshyari in 2022, requesting him to withdraw 12 names proposed by his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray to be nominated to the vacant posts of MLCs under the Governor's quota.

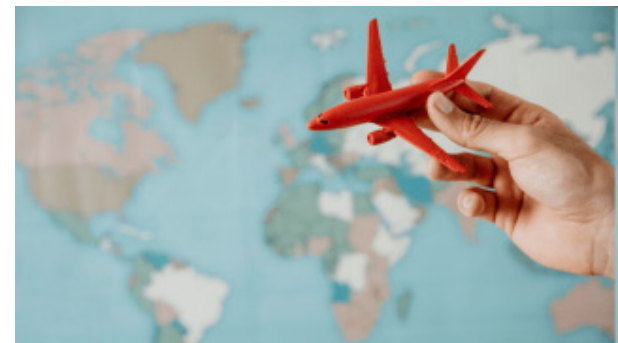
The Bombay High Court bench headed by then Chief Justice Dipankar Datta (now a Supreme Court judge), in its August 13, 2021, order said that it is "desirable" that Koshyari decides on the 12 nominations at the earliest since more than eight months had already passed. The High Court bench added it was the Governor's obligation to accept or return recommendations made by the Cabinet within a reasonable time, and that seats in the Legislative Council "cannot be kept vacant indefinitely". On September 26, 2022, a Supreme Court bench headed by Justice K M Joseph said the "matter needs consideration" and directed the Maharashtra government not to take any steps in connection with the vacant posts, and the same was continued from time to time till July 11. However, on July 11, keeping the question of law open, the apex court allowed intervenor Sunil Modi to institute independent proceedings, after which he approached the High Court.

Travel firm told to refund 1.95 lakh to couple for failing to provide free services

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

travel firm They were further informed that they would get free food for the entire period of holiday at Jim Corbett National Park at the resort of the firm and were assured that accommodation would be available at private resorts, but later on it was disclosed that the stay would be provided only as per availability and that too in specific locations.

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission of Chandigarh has directed a travel-based firm to refund Rs 1.95 lakh for failing to provide promised services to a city-based couple. Rashmi Sabharwal and her husband Vidosh Kumar Sabharwal of Chandigarh alleged that on May 3, 2023, representatives of Tag Vacation India visited their residence for the purpose of handing over free holiday stay voucher of two nights and three days at Tag Vacation Club, and described several types of holiday packages and convinced the complainants to take membership by stating that defence personnel are given special offers and services. Accordingly, the complainants chose a holiday plan of "10 year Gold" having six nights and three days holidays per year for 10 years and paid Rs 1,95,985. In July 2023, the Sabharwals received a welcome letter dated May 3, 2023, which told them that the free holiday coupon was valid for one year whereas as per foot notes, it was valid for six months only. They were further informed that they would get free food for the entire period of holiday at Jim Corbett National Park at the resort of the firm and were assured that accommodation would be available at private resorts, but later on it was disclosed that the stay would be provided only as per availability and that too in specific locations. The complainants also alleged that they were promised complete waiver of AMC to the tune of Rs 10,999 per year on account of being from defence background, but there was no response from Tag Vacation India when queried later. In this manner, complainants claimed that they were "misguided and unnecessarily harassed" by the representatives of the firm. The couple later even sent mails to the firm for discontinuation of the membership and refund of the amount but to no avail.



Since notice sent to Tag Vacation India, was received back with the remarks 'refused' and none put in appearance before the commission on its behalf, the firm was proceeded against ex-parte vide order dated April 26, 2024. The commission on hearing the matter held that the main plea of complainants is that the firm failed to provide the promised/assured services — free holiday coupon valid for one year; free food at Jim Corbett; accommodation at private resorts as and when required, and waiver of AMC charges per year on account of being from defence background. It opined that the failure of the Tag Vacation India to provide the promised/assured services certainly amounts to "deficiency in service and unfair trade practice", especially when the entire evidence led by the complainants is "unrebutted". It would not be out of place to highlight the general conduct of the service providers, like the Tag Vacation India.. with a view to sell their product/goods and allure as many persons as they can, do provide various assurances/promises to the gullible consumers, however, when the time comes to honour such assurances/promises, they simply refuse or try to take shelter behind one or the other technicalities," the commission noted. It added that such conduct is "highly deprecatory" and the complainants cannot be made to suffer for the deficiency in service or unfair trade practice on the part of the company or its representatives. In its judgment, the commission directed Tag Vacation India to refund the deposited amount of Rs 1,95,985 to the complainants.

Baba Siddique murder: Photo taken by accused at Juhu beach became the first clue in police probe

NS News Agency, Oct 17

Police found that Dharmraj Kashyap (19) and Gautam (24) — both hailing from Bahraich in UP, had come to Mumbai from Pune in September first week. Shivkumar Gautam to the extreme left and Gurmail Singh to the extreme right. Soon after the Mumbai Police nabbed the two accused who shot at NCP leader Baba Siddique on Saturday night, police checked their mobile phone and found a photograph of three young men. Police later found that the trio in the photo, which was taken at the Juhu beach in Andheri, were actually Gurmail Singh (23), Dharmraj Kashyap (19) and Shivkumar Gautam (24) — who had fired at Siddique. Gautam managed to flee while the other two were arrested. Thanks to the photograph, police got a face of the third accused and have circled it to track him down. An officer said, "Immediately after the arrest of two, we checked their mobile phones and found a photograph of three persons on Kashyap's phone. When



we asked Kashyap, he told us that the trio who had been in the city for nearly a month had gone to Juhu beach as they had heard a lot about it. They got themselves clicked by a photographer and Kashyap took an image of the photograph on his phone. The photograph was helpful since it immediately gave a face for the third accused who was absconding and also proved the trio had been together." During further probe, police found that Dharmraj Kashyap (19) and Gautam (24) — both hailing from Bahraich in

UP, had come to Mumbai from Pune in September first week. Within days, Gurmail Singh (23) reached Mumbai from Kaithal in Haryana. Prima facie police suspect that they got the delivery of the firearm used in the killing of Siddique at the same room in Kurla West through courier. During their stay at the place, the accused would take an autorickshaw and go to Siddique's office and residence to conduct recce and it went on for nearly a month before they finally executed the plan

Police found the accused had been given a flex poster of Siddique that had been put up on a hoarding in the city, to identify him. "Apart from conducting recce, they visited several tourist places in the city such as the Juhu beach where they got the photograph clicked," an officer said. A person living next door said that he had only seen Gurmail who would come out to smoke cigarettes. "I would take my dog for a walk in the morning and he would be standing there smoking. He also asked me the breed of the dog."

Pannun 'murder plot': Indian enquiry committee visits the US



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

PannunReports said that the US, Canada and other allies shared details about the Nijjar killing and the alleged Pannun assassination plot, sparking concerns "about a possible pattern of behaviour" on Delhi's part. Amid a diplomatic blowback between New Delhi and Ottawa over Canada suggesting the role of Indian diplomats in the Hardeep Singh Nijjar assassination case, the US has announced that the high-level Indian enquiry committee investigating a case related to the "failed plot" to kill another Khalistani separatist, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, is visiting the country on Tuesday.

As per a statement from the US State Department, dated October 14, "The Enquiry Committee will be travelling to Washington DC on October 15, as part of their ongoing investigations to discuss the case, including information they have obtained, and to receive an update from US authorities regarding the US case that is proceeding."The statement, which was put out on Monday and later retracted, has now been restored on the US State Department website.

In November last year, within months of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleging involvement of Indian officials in the Nijjar case, came allegations from the US about a thwarted Indian conspiracy to assassinate Pannun on American soil. Soon after, an unsealed indictment by the US Department of Justice (DoJ) had named Indian national Nikhil Gupta in connection with his involvement in the Pannun case. Gupta was extradited to the US in June. Prosecutors had alleged that Gupta

was working with an Indian government employee and had agreed to pay an assassin \$1,00,000 to kill Pannun in New York City. Pannun, a designated terrorist in India, is the leader of banned Khalistani separatist organisation Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) and holds dual citizenship in the US and Canada.

While New Delhi had rejected Trudeau's claims as "absurd and motivated", on the US indictment, India said it takes such inputs "seriously" and these are "already being examined" by relevant departments. Soon after, the Ministry of External Affairs announced it had constituted a high-level inquiry committee to probe into "all the relevant aspects of the matter". "An Indian Enquiry Committee that was established to investigate activities of certain organized criminals is actively investigating the individual who was identified last year in the Department of Justice's indictment as an Indian government employee who directed a foiled plot to assassinate a US citizen in New York City," it said. The State Department also said that India has informed the US they are continuing their efforts to investigate other linkages of the former government employee and will determine follow-up steps, as necessary. US President Joe Biden had brought up the case with Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was in New Delhi for the G20 summit in September last year. Citing sources in the American government and US intelligence agencies, a Washington Post report in December 2023 named a RAW officer in connection with the alleged plot to assassinate Pannun in the US. The officer was named in the US DoJ indictment as 'CC1'. The indictment suggested a link between the alleged plot targeting Pannun and the killing of Nijjar. Both the US and Canada are part of the Five Eyes Alliance, an intelligence-sharing grouping that also includes the UK, Australia and New Zealand. Reports said that the US, Canada and other allies shared details about the Nijjar killing and the alleged Pannun assassination plot, sparking concerns "about a possible pattern of behaviour" on Delhi's part. Significantly, Canada has not shared any details of the evidence it has indicating that it will do so "in due course". In an interview with Canada's CTV last year, US Ambassador to Canada David Cohen had also said that it was "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners" that helped "lead" Canada to the claims that PM Trudeau made.

Day after being criticised by CPI(M) leader at public function, ADM found dead at his Kerala residence



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

CPI(M) leader and Kannur district panchayat president P P Divya made comments critical of additional district magistrate Naveen Babu at a public function. CPI(M) leader and Kannur district panchayat president P P Divya made comments critical of additional district magistrate Naveen Babu at a public function. A day after CPI(M) leader and Kannur district panchayat president P P Divya made comments critical of additional district magistrate Naveen Babu at a public function, Babu was found dead at his residence on Tuesday. Police said Babu was found dead at his official quarters and an investigation is underway. Babu was scheduled to assume office as the additional district magistrate in Pathanamthitta tomorrow. The alleged incident happened on Monday during Babu's farewell in Kannur. The district panchayat president was not invited for the function, in which district collector Arjun Pandan was the chief guest.

However, Divya turned up at the event. Sitting on

the dais, she said, "I am extending all wishes to the ADM, who is moving to another district. During the tenure of the former ADM, I had several occasions to speak to him. I did not have such occasions with this ADM (Babu). But I had called him once. It was regarding the no-objection certificate for a fuel outlet at Chengalali. I wanted him to visit the site. Later, he told me that he had visited the site of the fuel outlet. The entrepreneur (fuel outlet applicant) had come to me several times saying that no decision has been taken on the issue. When I asked the ADM, he said there was some issue due to the zigzag road and it was difficult to give an NOC. I told the entrepreneur that you need not visit me frequently and I had taken up the matter with the ADM to help him. Now I have come to know that the NOC was granted as the ADM is moving out. I know how that NOC was given. I came to this function to express my gratitude for having given that NOC. We should be honest in life. In the place of his new posting, he should not work in the manner he had done in Kannur. You should help people in a better manner. This is government service and a moment is enough for something to happen." Saying that she should not be present when a gift is given to the ADM, Divya left the venue when Babu and his colleagues, including the district collector, were present on the dais. She said the reason she is leaving the meeting midway will be revealed in two days. The CPI(M) in Kannur has not responded to the issue. Divya is also the state joint secretary of the CPI(M) women's wing, the All India Democratic Women's Association. The Congress demanded that a case for abetting suicide be filed against Divya. Babu's wife Manjusha works as a tehsildar at Konni in Pathanamthitta district.

Who is Sukha Duneke, whose killing has been raised by Canadian officials?

NS News Agency, Oct 17

On September 21 last year, Sukhdool Singh Gill alias Sukha Duneke, an alleged ally of the Bambiha gang, was shot dead in Canada's Winnipeg by unidentified armed assailants. Duneke was wanted in Punjab in cases of extortion, attempt to murder and murder. He was also chargesheeted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), alleging that money he along with associates collected from extortion was ultimately used to fund the cause of Khalistan and plan acts of terror. Now, according to The Washington Post, his killing has been cited by Canadian officials as part of a broader campaign of violence against Indian dissidents allegedly orchestrated by the Indian government.

As per the report, his killing came less than a day after he was featured in a wanted list of gangsters posted on X by the NIA. It also came two days after Canadian PM Justin Trudeau publicly accused India of killing Nijjar. A criminal dossier of Duneke shows that he had fled to Canada in 2017, and had since been running an extortion racket. His name also figured in a list of 43 persons released by the NIA last year for allegedly being involved in terror-related activities.

A chargesheet filed by the NIA against Duneke and other gangsters last year had alleged, "As part of their planning, they have conspired to eliminate predetermined targets for creating terror among the people. It has been established that the conspirators continue to operate from jails and abroad through their outside jail executioners/financiers and arrange weapons locally and through Pak-based conspirators."

The Bambiha gang, which Duneke was allegedly working with, has rivalry with the Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar gangs, NIA officials said. Duneke is also accused in the killing of Kabaddi player Sandeep Naggal Ambian, who was shot dead during a match in March 2022 in Punjab's Mallian village. It was alleged that he had provided the hideout to the killers at a relative's home in Amritsar



Soon after Duneke's murder last year, his rival gangsters, Lawrence Bishnoi and Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, claimed responsibility for the act in separate Facebook posts. First, Bishnoi shared a post saying: "Sukhdool had murdered our brother Gural Brar and was also behind the killing of Vicky Middukhera as well as kabaddi player Sandeep Nagal Ambian." Moments later, Bhagwanpuria too claimed responsibility for the murder. Bhagwanpuria, who was once a close aide of Bishnoi, claimed he too was taking revenge for Ambian's killing.

His criminal dossier also revealed that Duneke (40) hailed from a prosperous farming family of Duneke Kalan village with 15 acres of land. His father, an oil tanker driver, was killed by terrorists while heading from Baghapurana to Moga in the 1990s. Initially, Sukha secured a job under the category reserved for victims of terror, but he did not show up for work regularly and was sacked. "He began his criminal career by illegally grabbing land while working with local criminals in Moga and surrounding areas. Subsequently, he became associated with the Bambiha gang and got involved in activities such as contract killings and extortion," an official said. In 2017, Sukha left the country on a tourist visa sponsored by a family member based in Canada, and never returned. In 2022, an FIR was registered against two Punjab police personnel for allegedly helping Duneke get a passport.

Nitish gets 2, Chirag Paswan in talks as BJP announces seat sharing plan for Jharkhand



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

The BJP on Monday announced the broad contours of a seat-sharing agreement with its allies, and said it is important to fight elections "together" under the NDA banner. Dates for the Jharkhand Assembly elections have not yet been announced, but it is expected to take place later this year.

Jharkhand BJP election in-charge and Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma Monday said that ally All Jharkhand's Student Union Party (AJSUP) will contest on between 9 and 11 seats, while Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United (JDU) will contest two seats, and talks are ongoing with Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas).

"The seat sharing is almost final with the AJSU with one seat becoming a hurdle where either the BJP or the

AJSU will compromise. AJSU will get between 9-11 seats. The JDU seats are final too, i.e. 2, unless some seats are negotiated with the party high command. Chirag Paswan is not in India and he will return on October 16 when the seat sharing will be finalised," he said. Sarma added BJP will announce the first list of candidates shortly after the Election Commission of India (ECI) announces the dates. He said the party will go for one more meeting in the state on election-related matters, after which BJP's parliamentary board will make the final approval.

In the previous election, AJSU and BJP had fought separately. In at least 13 seats, AJSUP and BJP had contested against each other in the last election. Sarma said: "We don't have any problem with seat sharing. More than being stuck, it is important that they fight the elections together. I have not gone into the mathematics of it, but it is important to win the elections and according to the ways of the NDA, we will do election campaigns together." Taking a dig at the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's (JMM's) plan to implement proposed 'JMM Samman Yojna', giving women Rs 2,500 per month as a counter to BJP's proposed 'Gogo Didi Yojna', Himanta said that if the government is capable of giving Rs 2,500, then why were the women 'duped' by giving them only Rs 1,000 per month. "If you (JMM-led government) had the resources and could increase the amount, then why didn't you do it earlier?... Why did you take out the Samman Yatra for Rs 1,000 (DBT)... Until the BJP brought you into action, you did not come on war footing," said Sarma.

Half of Odisha districts prone to migration, state forms task force to plug the flow

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Odisha Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his 2024 Assembly election campaign in Odisha, had attacked the previous Naveen Patnaik-led government over its "failure" to bring adequate industries to the state and to create job opportunities. The BJP government in Odisha Monday constituted a high-level task force to address distress migration, an issue used by the party as a poll plank against the previous Biju Janata Dal (BJD) government. Distress migration due to lack of adequate employment is a major concern in Odisha. As many as 14 of its 30 districts — mostly western, southern and Coastal — have been identified as prone to migration in official records.

Odisha is one of the key source states for labourers who move to states such as Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Telangana where they work in brick kilns, construction sites and power looms, said officials. The task force will be headed by Deputy Chief Minister K V Singh Deo, with other ministers serving as members. It will discuss the problems of migrant workers, recommend measures and decide a course of action. The task force may also induct reputed expert members working in this field. It will also recommend steps to be taken up by government agencies to check distress migration and mitigate sufferings. Along with recommending programmes and schemes required to be taken up by the state government, the task force will suggest institutional frameworks for various levels.

It will meet once every six months to review progress. "The task force will examine the region-wise nature of migration and recommend specific interventions. It will also deliberate upon the regional variation,



seasonality as well as the magnitude of the migration and recommend strategies," said a senior government official. To deal with the complex nature of distress migration, the task force has been told to recommend specific measures in terms of creating infrastructure and opportunities for livelihood within the state through skilling, credit availability and linking the family with anti-poverty programs. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his 2024 Assembly election campaign in Odisha, had attacked the previous Naveen Patnaik-led government over its "failure" to bring adequate industries to the state and to create job opportunities. He stated that no one would have to migrate from the state once the BJP assumes power and brings in new investments. Considering the intensity of the problem, the previous BJD government had identified 20 vulnerable blocks with high rates of distress migration in four western districts. The BJD government had also hiked the wages by around `100 under the MGNREGA in these 20 blocks.

Brother Eric D'Souza, educator who Shah Rukh Khan called his 'guiding light', dies in Goa

NS News Agency, Oct 17 Brother Eric Steve D'Souza, renowned educator and a mentor to many — including Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan — died at an old-age home for retired brothers in Goa after a prolonged illness. He was 74. His mortal remains will be taken to Shillong, where he taught for many years. The funeral is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday. A brother from his congregation who knew D'Souza for over three decades, said requesting anonymity: "Brother D'Souza died at 1.20 pm on Sunday at Shanti Niwas in Regina Mundi, Goa. He had been battling Parkinson's disease and his health had been deteriorating due to some other complications too in the recent months. His body is currently at a morgue in Goa Medical College and Hospital."

D'Souza, affectionately called Dasu, taught Shah Rukh Khan at St Columba's School in Delhi during the actor's formative years. He also spent many years at St Edmund's School in Shillong and schools run by the Christian Brothers' congregation in West Bengal, Delhi, Mangaluru, Assam and Meghalaya. "He was a very creative and intelligent person. He used to create his own plays with the whole song and dance routines, write the stories... he also wrote a book on computers called 'Chip In' which was one of the earliest texts on the subject. He was a great educator," said the brother. Khan recalled D'Souza's influence on his life in the first episode of the 2000s chat show 'Jeena Isi Ka Naam Hai', hosted by the late actor Farooq Shaikh. In it, the actor called his former teacher "the guiding light" of his life and as "the only man whom" he looked up to.

"If there is one man in this whole wide world... I don't have any idols or anyone I look up to, but he is the only man in the world that I really look up to. He taught us how to play football and hockey. I had a lot of energy... all of us, and he channelised it, so we didn't become 'taporis' or 'gundas' or 'badmash'... because it's very easy to get waylaid and misled during youth. And he made sure that he gave us enough work... and with great fun. He used to play the guitar for us, sing songs for us, he genuinely is the guiding light of my life," Khan said. He added: "I speak for all of us in the C-gang and everyone who's educated at St Columba's or elsewhere where he is teaching... if there is anybody else on this earth if I think [of] after my parents and look up to, it's Brother D'Souza". Expressing his condolences, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, who studied at St Columba's School in Delhi, remembered D'Souza as an "exceptional educator renowned for his dedication to education and compassion". In a post on X, Sangma said, "As an esteemed member of the Christian Brothers congregation, Brother D'Souza spent many years serving at St. Edmund's School in Shillong, leaving an indelible legacy. As a devoted Christian Brother, his pioneering spirit



founded Providence School, a beacon of hope for underprivileged children. May Brother D'Souza's inspiring legacy bring comfort to his family, the Christian Brothers congregation, and the countless lives he transformed through education and compassion. May his soul rest in eternal peace."

Activists, political leaders detained hours before VLF foundation ceremony

NS News Agency, Oct 17

Telangana: Activists, political leaders detained hours before VLF foundation ceremony Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will lay the foundation ceremony for the Very Low Frequency (VLF) radar station at Damagundam in Vikarabad. Vikarabad: Hours before the foundation ceremony for the Very Low Frequency (VLF) radar station at Damagundam, police took activists and political party leaders, opposing the project, into preventive custody. Union Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and others would be participating in the foundation ceremony here on Tuesday. Cutting across political parties, leaders have been opposing the VLF station project, citing many reasons, including adverse impact on the flora and fauna in the region. They are also worried about the project's impact on River Musi. Sensing trouble from activists and political leaders, heavy police force has been deployed in the district since Monday. However, the leaders are being taken into custody to avoid any untoward incident.

How India has demoted Canada to naya Pakistan



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Imran Khan, as the Prime Minister of Pakistan, promised to create a "naya Pakistan" (new Pakistan). From his jail cell, he can have the cold comfort that a new Pakistan has emerged, albeit on the American continent. Harboured wanted terrorists, resorting to unwarranted blame games, and playing vote-bank politics detrimental to its own country's security, Canada under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has shown all the hallmarks of Pakistan. And with Monday's recalling of the Indian envoy, and expulsion of Canadian envoys, New Delhi has officially put Canada in the same bracket as Pakistan. "Canada has become the new Pakistan for India," Sushant Sareen, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, observed during a panel discussion on India Today TV. Sareen was referring to the tit-for-tat expulsions of diplomatic staff by India and Pakistan and the harbouring of terrorists by the Islamic country. That Canada under Justin Trudeau has emerged as the new Pakistan has been echoed by several commentators, including Michael Kugelman, Abhijit Iyer-Mitra and Amish Tripathi.

CANADA BLAME GAME WITHOUT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE

India-Canada ties nosedived last September when the Trudeau government accused that the Indian government had to play a role in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Khalistani terrorist. Nijjar was shot dead in the parking lot of a gurdwara in Canada's Surrey in June 2023. It has been a year, but Canada has only heaped accusation upon accusation on India in the Nijjar case without providing any material evidence. India has time and again requested concrete evidence. On October 14, Canada made matters worse by naming Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma as a 'person of interest' in its probe into Nijjar's killing. India's note recalling the envoy and expelling six diplomats was rare in its sharp tone. "Today's external affairs ministry statement is absolutely blistering. It conveys the full force of New Delhi's anger with Canada on the Khalistan issue," Michael Kugelman, South Asia Institute Director of The Wilson Centre think tank, wrote on X. "One can argue that at this moment, India has worse diplomatic relations with Canada than it does with Pakistan," Kugelman noted.

JUSTIN TRUDEAU'S CANADA HARBOURING WANTED CRIMINALS

However, much before the Nijjar case, India was calling out the Justin Trudeau government for pandering to the Khalistanis in the name of "freedom of speech". Those Khalistanis have taken out processions with floats depicting the assassination of former PM Indira Gandhi, and have issued death threats to Indians and people of Indian-origin. Like Pakistan became a haven for terrorists wanted by India, in the same way, anti-India elements have found a safe space in Trudeau's Canada. At least nine Khalistani terror groups have bases in Canada and despite multiple deportation requests, Ottawa has taken no action against even those involved in heinous crimes, news agency PTI reported in September last year, quoting officials in New Delhi. Those criminals include Goldy Brar, an associate of Lawrence Bishnoi, involved in the killing of popular Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala. Khalistani outfits like the World Sikh Organisation (WSO), Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) and Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) were operating freely from Canadian soil. Eight individu-

als involved in terror activities and as many gangsters, who have been working with Pakistan's notorious spy agency ISI, have been sheltered by Canada, the officials told PTI. "Some individuals who have entered Canada illegally have been fast-tracked for citizenship. Multiple extradition requests from the Government of India in respect of terrorists and organised crime leaders living in Canada have been disregarded," India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in its statement on October 14. "The language being used for Canada is similar to what is used by the Indian MEA for Pakistan... Canadians should know, that your government is importing terrorists and extremists, while India wants them extradited to face justice," author-commentator Amish Tripathi wrote on X.

INDIA CALLS OUT TRUDEAU'S VOTE-BANK POLITICS

Pakistan has been using Kashmir as a political issue to sway its voters. It kept stoking the separatist fire in Jammu and Kashmir in a bid to appease Pakistanis, while its economy crashed, and it lagged in most socio-economic parameters. It is a similar compulsion that has made Trudeau go soft on the anti-India Khalistani elements. He is eyeing the votes of the Sikhs, a politically influential community, as Canada readies to hold its general election in 2025. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said multiple times that Justin Trudeau's "vote bank politics" was behind Canada giving a free run to the Khalistani elements. On Tuesday, India again blamed the Trudeau government for "smeared" India as part of its vote bank politics. Trudeau was running his coalition government with the help of the New Democratic Party (NDP), which is led by Jagmeet Singh, a known Khalistani. "That his government was dependent on a political party, whose leader openly espouses a separatist ideology vis-a-vis India, only aggravated matters," MEA said, referring to Jagmeet Singh and his NDP. Sikhs are over 2% of Canada's population, and the north American country is home to the largest number of Sikhs outside of India. The MEA also pointed out that the Trudeau Cabinet had individuals who "openly associated with an extremist and separatist agenda regarding India".

INDIA'S TIES WITH CANADA WORSE THAN WITH PAKISTAN?

The last country that India engaged in a diplomatic spat with and resorted to recalling-expelling diplomats was Pakistan. After the 2019 Pulwama attacks, India downgraded its diplomatic relationship with Pakistan. By recalling its envoy and expelling six Canadian diplomats, India has given the same status to Canada. The MEA note too pointed to how ties with Canada had degenerated. "Extraordinarily harsh response to Canada by the MEA. I've literally never seen language like this used for anyone - not even Pakistan. Congrats Justin Trudeau, you're literally in a category lower than corrupt third world tinpot dictators," posted Abhijit Iyer-Mitra on X. It was during the prime ministership of Pierre Trudeau, Justin Trudeau's father, that Canada ignored extradition requests and intel from India and witnessed the Air India Kanishka bombing.

On June 23, 1985, a bomb in two suitcases was set off on Air India Flight 182 (Kanishka), flying from Toronto to the UK's London, killing all the 329 passengers on board. Most of those killed were Canadians and the Kanishka bombing remains the worst terrorist attack in Canada's history. Like Pakistan is harvesting violence in its country after providing a safe haven for terrorists, Canada too has an example right in its history. "What the then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said to Pakistan, applies to Canada as well: 'You can't keep snakes in your backyard and expect them only to bite your neighbours.' These snakes will bite you too, Canada. Get your government to stop," author-commentator Amish Tripathi said. Though Imran Khan might be happy with Canada emerging as "naya Pakistan", but for a world gripped by wars and terrorism, one Pakistan is more than it can handle. However, Justin Trudeau is moving with his ambitious plan of turning Canada, a first-world country, into terror-plagued and loan-dependent Pakistan.

India, Canada discussed Bishnoi gang at secret meet, claims US report

GNS News Agency, Oct 17 In the meeting, Ajit Doval acknowledged that Lawrence Bishnoi was capable of orchestrating violence from wherever he was incarcerated, according to a report in The Washington Post. Amid the diplomatic standoff between India and Canada over the alleged targeting of pro-Khalistan separatist figures, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval held a secret meeting with his Canadian counterpart in Singapore last week, according to a report in The Washington Post. In the meeting, the Canadian officials outlined alleged evidence showing that India had enlisted networks of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang to carry out the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar and attacks on Sikh separatists.



wherever he is incarcerated" and "was known to be up to no good from his jail cell", the report claimed. Interestingly, in June 2022, the Indian High Commission alerted Canada about gangsters operating from its soil being involved in violent crimes in Punjab after the killing of singer Sidhu Moosewala. The Lawrence Bishnoi gang had taken responsibility for the killing of Moosewala. The Bishnoi gang has a presence in Canada through its associates.

The meeting, which lasted five hours, was sought by Canada to persuade the Indian government to end an "escalating

campaign of violence" in the country. Apart from Canadian security adviser Nathalie Drouin, the meeting was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister David Morrison and a senior member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Canadian officials also told Doval that details on alleged Indian involvement in attacks on Sikh separatists were likely to become public as the trial of four suspects in Nijjar's killing was scheduled next month. Nijjar was gunned down in Surrey, British Columbia, in June last year.

The report cited Doval as saying that India would "deny any link to the Nijjar

murder and any link to any other violence in Canada, no matter what the evidence was". The report also claimed that the six Indian diplomats, including High Commissioner Sanjay Verma, who were asked to leave Canada were directly involved in gathering intelligence on Sikh separatists who were then killed, attacked or threatened by India's proxies. India strongly denied the allegations, calling them "preposterous imputations" and ascribed them to the "political agenda" of Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. In a tit-for-tat move, India has also expelled six Canadian diplomats, including Canada's top diplomat in New Delhi.

How Canada turned a blind eye to India's Khalistan concerns



INS News Agency, Oct 17

The India-Canada diplomatic standoff saw a major escalation on Monday when New Delhi downgraded its ties with Ottawa after the Justin Trudeau government described the Indian High Commissioner and other diplomats as "persons of interest" in an investigation into the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. India has long chastised Canada for its inaction to clamp down on Sikh separatism and terrorism emanating from its soil. On Canada's charge against Indian envoy Sanjay Verma, New Delhi called Ottawa's move "preposterous". It also said it was all being done to suit the Trudeau government's political agenda of "smeared" India as part of its vote bank politics. India said it now reserved the right to take further steps in response. And hours later, it recalled its High Commissioner from Ottawa and expelled six diplomats. It also summoned the Canadian Charge d'Affaires, who was told that "current atmosphere of extremism and violence" poses a serious threat to the safety of Indian diplomats in Canada and hence, it had downgraded ties with the North American country.

DIPLOMATIC WRANGLE

The diplomatic row began in September 2023 when Trudeau claimed that Canadian security agencies had credible allegations linking Indian government agents to Nijjar's killing, setting off a storm of reprobation in India, which called the claims "absurd and motivated". New Delhi had long called Nijjar a terrorist, linking him to various violent activities, including a 2007 movie theatre bombing in Punjab and the 2009 murder of Sikh politician Rulda Singh. Despite these concerns, Canada refused to take meaningful action against him, instead giving him a slap on the wrist with a one-year flying ban. It also failed to curtail other pro-Khalistan elements, who have continued to spew venom against India by organising so-called Khalistan referendums. Canada's failure to extradite Nijjar and other Sikh extremists, despite multiple requests from India, has contributed to the perception that it is a safe haven for such individuals. The bilateral extradition agreement between Canada and India, which allows for the refusal of extradition if the offence is deemed political, has been a point of contention. India sees this as a loophole that allows Canada to avoid taking action against Sikh separatists, and that too, in the garb of freedom.

CROSSING RED LINES

In July last year, a pro-Khalistan poster emerged in Canada which had pictures and names of High Commissioner Sanjay Verma and Consul General of India to Toronto, Apoorva Srivastava, claiming that India was responsible for Nijjar's killing, and branding the diplomats as 'killers in Toronto'. External Affairs Minister Jaishankar had warned Canada that ties would be hit if space was given to Khalistani elements. Much to India's dismay, the Canadian Parliament last year observed a minute of silence to commemorate the one-year anniversary of Nijjar's killing. The Indian Consulate General in Vancouver responded by announcing a memorial service to pay tribute to the 329 victims of the 1985 bombing of Air India flight 182 Kanishka carried out by Khalistani terrorists.

Talwinder Singh Parmar, the founder of Babbar Khalsa International and mastermind behind the Air India bombing, had his extradition request denied by Canada in the 1980s. Just recently, posters depicting the assassination of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

Why Ukrainian military is raiding weddings, nightclubs

Amid the war with Russia, Ukrainian defence personnel are raiding weddings, concerts, nightclubs and bars to nab men who are dodging military service. This comes after Ukraine brought down the conscription age from 27 to 25, and passed a law making it mandatory for all those eligible for service to register online.

Amid the Russia-Ukraine war, the government of Vladimir Zelenskyy has decreased the age of conscription to maximize recruitment. It is true that all is fair in love and war. Both Ukrainian conscription officials and its civilian population know this. Amid the war with Russia, Ukrainian officials are raiding weddings, bars, nightclubs, concerts and markets to check if all eligible men in Ukraine are dodging military service. In love, Ukrainian people are trying to skip military service to get married and stay with their loved ones. But in this love and war, there is also a constant dread. Many men in Ukraine are living in a constant state of dread, since Ukraine decreased the eligible age for military recruitment from 27 to 25 and removed any exemptions for military recruitment in April. It has also asked anyone eligible for conscription to get registered online.

This need for conscription comes against the backdrop of an ongoing Russia-Ukraine war which started in 2022. The ongoing war has led to the loss of life of 10,582 Ukrainian civilians with many more wounded. With a decrease in the number of people, Ukraine is making an all-out effort to recruit men. While many of the conscription raids conducted were in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, the wedding celebration was in the Ukrainian town of Lviv. These raids should be seen in the context of a law passed in April wherein Ukrainian men aged 25-60 can apply for conscription and men aged 18-60 are not allowed to leave Ukraine, reported The Associated Press. This is due to the new law where anyone eligible for military service must input their information online. It was uploaded to Instagram by one of the guests, Kasyanchuk Sergiy, who said conscription officials rushed into the celebration to check the military registration of men. Faces covered, mostly silent until then. These officials asked people if they had been registered. They ended up hitting a person, arguing with a woman. Chaos ensued. Now, the video has landed on social media. The video also shows how the crowd pushed the officers away from the people. The people of Ukraine chanted, "shame on you". Finally, the guests asked the officers if they had been officially authorised to conduct these raids. The video shows the

were reportedly put up by Khalistan supporters in Vancouver, a move that angered India. Although Trudeau's minister Dominic A LeBlanc condemned the incident and said promotion of violence was never acceptable, it did little to assuage India's concerns.

THE GANG CONNECTION On Monday, the Canadian Police attempted to put India on the mat when it claimed that Indian agents present on Canadian soil are working with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang to target pro-Khalistan elements. Incidentally, the allegations come at a time when Lawrence Bishnoi is making headlines in India for his alleged involvement in the murder of NCP leader Baba Siddique. The Bishnoi gang link is not surprising given the fact that Punjabi singer AP Dhillon had a close shave on September 1 when gunshots were fired outside his home in Vancouver. The Bishnoi gang and Rohit Godara gang claimed responsibility for the shootings and warned him to "stay within his limits, or he will meet a 'dog's death'". Interestingly, the firing outside AP Dhillon's home happened days after he appeared in a music video titled 'Old Money' with actor Salman Khan. The actor is on the radar of the Bishnoi gang after his name cropped up in a 1998 case related to poaching of blackbuck, an animal which the Bishnoi community reveres. Ties between Sikh gangs and Khalistan movements in Canada have further complicated an already knotty issue. Figures like Sidhu Moosewala, a Punjabi rapper who was shot dead in India, and Sukha Duneke, a gangster and pro-Khalistan supporter killed in Winnipeg, have highlighted the blurred lines between organised crime and separatist activities.

INDIANS IN CANADA CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE The support of some Sikh gang members by the Sikhs for Justice led by another wanted Khalistani terrorist, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, has further obfuscated these distinctions. Pannun appears in numerous videos often ranting about India with its so-called Khalistan referendums and had also threatened the Indo-Canadian community to leave Canada soon. The Indo-Canadian community is particularly worried about the current situation in Canada over the fanning of Khalistani sentiments by Sikh separatists, a sentiment voiced by an Indian-origin MP Chandra Arya. Their fears were justified following the recent release of Arundeeep Thind, 39, an Indian-origin gangster who was arrested for making extortion calls to South Asian businesses. Not only that, Khalistani elements are also taking advantage of the helplessness faced by Indian students studying in Canada as the Trudeau government is cutting down on the number of foreign students and workers due to a housing crisis and other pressing economic issues. As new immigration policies take effect, students are finding it increasingly challenging to secure work opportunities or permanent residency, forcing some to engage in unlawful activities out of desperation. This dynamic is being exploited by the Khalistani elements.

TRUDEAU IN CATCH-22 No wonder India blasted Canada for harbouring Sikh separatists, terrorists and gangsters in the North American country, calling it a safe haven for such elements. Former MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said Ottawa needed to "worry about its international reputation" amid its claims about Nijjar's killing. "If you're talking about reputational issues and reputational damage, if there's any country that needs to look at this, I think it's Canada and its growing reputation as a place, as a safe haven for terrorists, for extremists, and for organised crime," he said. With the Canadian federal election set to be held next year, Trudeau is attempting to woo Sikh voters, an influential vote bank, with his actions against India and harbouring Khalistani elements to score brownie points. But, in the process, his Liberal government lost the support of the New Democratic Party led by Jagmeet Singh, a known Khalistani sympathiser, saying Trudeau's promises were unfulfilled. Under the pretext of providing freedom and platform to Khalistani elements, Trudeau lost his government ally, a key partner in the form of the world's largest democracy, and is staring down the barrel over a possible defeat in next year's election.



officers walking out of the room then. "This is real lawlessness that cannot be tolerated any longer," said a guest. "People were so much against it they were ready to fight, to chase [the officers] away. That is the reality in Lviv," he added. But these officials raided venues across Ukraine. The Kyiv's Palace of Sports venue was raided by conscription officers during a concert by Ukrainian rock band Okean Elzy. Reports show officers right outside the hall as they stop men and speak to them. As a 27-year-old man left the concert after the last song, he found out about officials questioning people. Then, he saw the soldiers and the police. He also said that his university waiver was taken away after Ukraine passed laws in April which lowered the age of recruitment for men from 27 to 25 and did away with some draft exemptions. Although he did not see the officials act aggressively, he discussed with the Associated Press how men feared being recruited into the military all the time. "That inner state of always being in danger, it's back again," he told The Associated Press. Anyone who was eligible for conscription and unregistered was detained.

MARKETPLACE, COMEDY SHOW RAIDED AFTER CONCERT The conscription officials did not stop at the wedding and the concert. They also raided a shopping centre called Goodwine and Avalon. These raids come up as Ukraine looses its soldiers and men in a two-year war with Russia. This new law and the ongoing war have caused fear of being "called up" for military service anytime, reports The Associated Press. Men were dragged out of nightclubs and restaurants by army recruiters during targeted raids. Daily Mail of the UK reported. The raids were also conducted in nightclubs, bars and restaurants across Ukraine, including Kharkiv and Dnipro.

Will deteriorating India-Canada diplomatic ties dent commercial relations?



In one of the most significant escalations of tensions between India and Canada, New Delhi ordered the expulsion of six Canadian diplomats on Monday and announced the withdrawal of its High Commissioner to Canada, along with other "targeted diplomats." Diplomatic relations between India and Canada had started deteriorating in September 2023, when Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged that "agents" of the Indian government might be responsible for the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen, on its soil. This escalation comes as India has been engaging with multiple countries to expand trade ties by signing free trade agreements (FTAs). However, diplomatic tensions with Canada have already stalled talks for an FTA, and this latest development suggests the deal may no longer be on the table. Notably, Canadian pension funds, asset management companies, and financial services firms have invested in key sectors of India's economy, making investors keenly observe these diplomatic shifts. Canada is also among the top sources of remittances to India.

Canadian investments in India According to the National Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency (Invest India), Canada ranks as the 18th-largest foreign investor in India, with cumulative investments totalling \$3.31 billion from 2020-21 to 2022-23. Canadian investments

account for 0.5 per cent of India's total foreign direct investment (FDI), with services and infrastructure comprising 41 per cent of these inflows. Meanwhile, major Indian corporations such as Tata Consultancy Services, Aditya Birla Group, Wipro, and Infosys have a significant presence in Canada. The Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), for instance, holds substantial stakes in Indian firms across sectors, including Kotak Mahindra Bank, Paytm, and Zomato. By 2023, CPPIB's investments in India reached \$14.8 billion. Another major investor, Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ), had invested around \$6 billion in India by the end of 2022. Canada also plays a crucial role in remittances to India. In 2023, India received an estimated \$125 billion in remittances globally, with Canada ranking among the top 10 sources, as per World Bank. The Indian diaspora in Canada, consisting largely of professionals and skilled workers, regularly sends money to India, ensuring a stable flow of remittances.

Indian students represent nearly 40 per cent of all international students in Canada, with about 427,000 currently studying there. Additionally, the number of Indians immigrating to Canada saw a 326 per cent increase from 32,828 in 2013 to 139,715 in 2023, according to data from the National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP). Trade ties with Canada Despite political frictions, a report by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) indicates that the on-ground impact on trade has been minimal. Bilateral merchandise trade between India and Canada increased slightly, from \$8.3 billion in FY2023 to \$8.4 billion in FY2024. India's imports from Canada grew to \$4.6 billion, while exports dipped slightly to \$3.8 billion. GTRI said that while diplomatic tensions are damaging, they do not necessarily spell disaster for economic ties—though prolonged conflict could have economic consequences.

PLI scheme needed to plug transmission supply chain gaps, says Power Secretary

India should consider a Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme or a similar incentive to develop the domestic supply chain of transmission equipment, the Ministry of Power secretary Pankaj Agarwal said Monday. In his address at an event hosted by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Agarwal said the cost to develop transmission infrastructure over the next five years will grow at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 14.5 per cent and called on stakeholders to "optimise the cost of the entire value chain".

"Worldwide, transmission is a major issue. The IEA (International Energy Agency) outlook report says that 1,650 GW of renewable energy capacity is waiting to be connected to the transmission system across the world," Agarwal said. "We need to think about whether we require a PLI scheme or some other policy driver to develop domestic supply chains (for equipment)," he added. The power secretary also cited an internal estimate on the rising costs of transmission infrastructure, which he said will grow at a CAGR of 14.5 per cent for the next five years.

"We need to appreciate the cost of the electricity supplied to the industry and the consumers at large, and to optimise that cost, I think we have to optimise the cost of the entire value chain," Agarwal said.

In its latest Renewables 2024 report, the Paris-based IEA said investment in grid infrastructure is lagging globally as more advanced projects wait to be connected to the grid. "At least 1,650 GW of renewable capacity is currently in advanced stages of development and waiting for a grid connection, 150 GW higher than at this point last year... Queues to integrate energy storage are also significant as deployment rises," it said.

Earlier, The Indian Express reported that booming demand for high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission equipment—used to efficiently evacuate green power over long distances—is causing supply chain constraints across the world, including in India. As a result, renewable energy projects are facing delays in getting a con-



nection to the grid. According to energy analytics firm Wood Mackenzie, transformer lead times have been on the rise in the last few years, from around 50 weeks in 2021 to 120 weeks on average in 2024. "Based on conversations with developers and suppliers, we predict that as much as 25% of global renewable projects could be at risk of project delays due to high transformer lead times," it noted in an April report.

Multiple players in the power sector have flagged supply chain constraints. "It's very well known in the industry that we still don't have a very resilient supply chain. I think the wait time of inverters and transformers is very high, and there's a huge opportunity to make investments in that space and solve for it," Adani Green Energy Ltd CEO Amit Singh had said at the BNEF Summit in New Delhi last month. RK Tyagi, CMD of government-owned Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd, called the supply of gas insulated switchgears (GIS), transformers, and reactors a "big challenge" in an earnings call on August 2. At the event commemorating CEA's golden jubilee celebrations, the power secretary Agarwal also flagged the issue of the financial viability of distributing companies (DISCOMs). "They are the source of cash in our energy economy," he said. At the same time, the accumulated loss of DISCOMs across states is Rs 6.5 lakh crore and the accumulated debt is Rs 6.75 lakh crore, Agarwal said.

Blinkit scraps 'zero notice' policy amid talent war in quick commerce: Report

The change in policy comes in response to growing competition in the quick commerce industry as Blinkit faces stiff competition from other players like Zepto, Flipkart, and Swiggy. Blinkit has increased the notice period for several top-level staff from zero to two months. Quick commerce company Blinkit has recently made a significant change to its employment contracts, especially for key employees, by scrapping its 'zero notice' policy. The company has increased the notice period for several top-level staff from zero to two months, reported Moneycontrol.

This change comes in response to growing competition in the quick commerce industry, which is valued at \$5.5 billion in India. Blinkit is facing stiff competition from other players like Zepto, Flipkart, and Swiggy, all of whom are in a race to attract and retain the best talent in this rapidly growing sector. The move to introduce longer notice periods at Blinkit is seen as a proactive step to prevent its employees from being poached by rivals.

"This is a preventive measure. Companies like Zepto, which is well-funded, or Flipkart, can offer lucrative deals to Blinkit employees, making it easy for them to jump ship. Blinkit is trying to safeguard its workforce by making such changes," said a person quoted in the report. The quick commerce sector has seen huge investment and expansion in recent months, which has intensified the competition.

Zepto recently raised \$340 million, further solidifying its position in the market. Walmart's Flipkart has also expanded its rapid delivery service, Flipkart Minutes, which has grown from its initial launch in Bengaluru to multiple cities across India. Meanwhile, Swiggy, another major player in the sector, has received approval for its Initial Public Offering (IPO), marking one of the largest IPOs by a new-age company in recent years. In cases where Blinkit suspects that an employee might be joining a direct competitor, the company has also started placing such employees on "garden leave" for two months. This practice is intended to prevent the sharing of sensitive company information with competitors. In some instances, employees are immediately relieved of their duties to



Quick commerce company Blinkit has recently made a significant change to its employment contracts, especially for key employees, by scrapping its 'zero notice' policy. The company has increased the notice period for several top-level staff from zero to two months, reported Moneycontrol.

avoid any risk of data leakage. Though Blinkit is the first major quick commerce company to make such changes to employment contracts so soon after introducing the zero notice policy in July, poaching talent in the sector is common. The quick commerce industry is still relatively new and growing rapidly, making it a fertile ground for talent acquisition from rivals.

Why you must stop throwing the strings in a banana



Fruits—packed with nutrients—are an essential part of a healthy diet. But are you eating them mindfully? Let's find out. So, tell us: When having bananas, which are rich in potassium, do you have the whole fruit, including the fibrous strands that run along it? We ask because many people discard the 'phloem' without a second thought. However, these seemingly insignificant strings are essential in nutrition and sustainability. "The phloem is rich in dietary fibre, and vital for digestive health. Fibre helps maintain bowel regularity, supports gut health, and can assist in managing a healthy weight by promoting a feeling of fullness. By eating the entire banana, including the strings, you enhance your daily fibre intake without additional supplements or foods," said Dr Ekta Singhwal, dietician, Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals.

Though subtle, the strings also contribute to the banana's overall texture and flavour. "When blended into smoothies or baked into goods, these fibres provide a

unique mouthfeel and slightly enhance the taste, offering a more wholesome eating experience," added Dr Singhwal. From an environmental perspective, minimising food waste is more important than ever. "Using the entire fruit, including the strings, helps reduce waste and make the most out of every banana you purchase. It's a small but meaningful step towards a more sustainable lifestyle," said Dr Singhwal.

Finally, the strings are an integral part of the banana's natural structure. Embracing them encourages a more mindful, holistic approach to eating, continued Dr Singhwal. "Rather than discarding these beneficial fibres, we can enjoy the full nutritional value that the banana offers," said Dr Singhwal. So, next time you peel a banana, keep those strings in mind. "Not only do they improve health and enhance your culinary options, but they also help you contribute to a more sustainable world," said Dr Singhwal.

'I just soaked in whatever he had to offer': When Rekha reflected on her relationship with Amitabh Bachchan, showing how significant connections shape our sense of self

In a 2006 interview, Rekha reflected on her relationship with Amitabh Bachchan, highlighting how deeply significant bonds — whether romantic or professional — can influence personal growth and self-identity.

The actor who shared a sizzling on-screen chemistry with Bachchan and was rumoured to be dating him, mentioned that he left a lasting impression on her from the moment she saw his performance in Parwana alongside Yogeeta Bali, who apparently introduced them at Madras airport. She told Filmfare, "Whatever I am as an actor, I owe 100 per cent to him. I just soaked in whatever he had to offer just observing him." "The irony is that he was totally oblivious to the impact he had on mine or anybody else's life. Just his presence and spirit contributed to my métier as an actor and as a human being. He's like my inner conscience which guides me through life and my performances," she added.

She spoke about the loss she felt for not being part of his journey, as they never shared the screen after Silsila (1981), highlighting how these connections often shape not only our emotional world but also how we perceive our place in the broader narrative of life. "My loss is that I didn't get a chance to share the phenomenal growth of Amiti as an actor. So would you blame me for being thrilled when his producers requested me to dub for Neetu Singh in Yaaraana, Sridevi in Aakhri Raasta, Jayasudha and the late Soundarya in Sooryavansham?" The impact of relationships extends beyond romantic entanglements. Gurleen Baruah, organisational psychologist and executive coach at That Culture Thing, tells indianexpress.com, "Significant personal and professional relationships have a profound impact on shaping an individual's identity and self-perception, often through subtle yet powerful influences."

Sonal Khangarot, licensed rehabilitation counselor and psychotherapist, The Answer Room, adds, "The deeper the emotional or intellectual connection, the more impact it has on shaping our identity. Professional relationships, such as mentorship or collaboration, push us toward skill-building, enhancing our existing abilities, and exploring new ideas. Over time, our self-perception is influenced by what these relationships mean to us and how they impact our lives."

We form emotional bonds with people, and when those bonds are disrupted, it can create an emotional void. We form emotional bonds with people, and when those bonds are disrupted, it can create an emotional void. Psychological effects of not being able to share key life moments with someone who has played an essential role in our lives



The psychological effects of not being able to share key life moments with someone who has played a significant role in your life can depend on the circumstances surrounding that absence, says Baruah. "If the reason is due to the person's death, the feelings might be centred around grief, loss, and longing. There could be a sense of deep sorrow for not being able to experience important milestones together, often leading to feelings of regret, missing their presence, or even guilt for not having spent more time with them." On the other hand, she continues, if the relationship has strained or you've simply grown apart, the emotions may shift. Instead of just grief, there could be a mix of unresolved feelings — regret over how things ended, a sense of nostalgia, or ruminating on how the relationship could have been different. This could lead to an emotional tug-of-war, where one might feel both sadness and frustration for not having this person around during crucial life moments. Baruah explains, "Psychologically, this ties into attachment theory. We form emotional bonds with people, and when those bonds are disrupted, it can create an emotional void. People may find themselves contemplating, replaying memories, or experiencing a longing for the connection they once had. These feelings, while difficult, are part of how the brain processes the loss of important connections. "Strategies to maintain a strong sense of self when a pivotal relationship comes to an end The end of a relationship, be it personal or professional, can feel like a big loss. However, Khangarot advises that one can start by focusing on what they gained out of the relationship in all the time that they invested in it. "Additionally, they can use these lessons for self-reflection and to move forward. The end of a relationship doesn't necessarily mean there are no valuable memories or lessons to take from it; by shifting their perspective, they can understand how it has shaped their life," she concludes.

ICMR, Zydus tie up for phase 2 trials of Desidustat in sickle cell disease

New Delhi: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Monday announced a partnership with domestic pharma giant Zydus Lifesciences to initiate Phase 2 clinical trials of the drug Desidustat in patients with sickle cell disease. ICMR formalised a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Zydus for a Phase IIa, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Desidustat oral tablet against sickle cell disease — a genetic blood disorder characterised by the presence of abnormal haemoglobin (Hb). This comes after drug regulator DCGI recently granted permission to conduct a Phase IIa trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Desidustat. Desidustat is a hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF)-prolyl hydroxylase inhibitor (PHI) that stimulates the production of erythropoietin (EPO), a hormone that boosts red blood cell production when oxygen levels are low in the blood. "This collaboration reflects our commitment to advancing clinical research in India through strategic public-private partnerships. Desidustat was invented in India, and patients with sickle cell disease need therapies in addition to the currently

available drug, hydroxyurea," said Dr. Rajiv Bahl, Secretary, the Department of Health Research and Director General, ICMR. "Our vision is to ensure that India continues to lead in the development of innovative and affordable healthcare solutions," he added. The proportion of patients with Hb response (defined as more than 1 g/dL increase in Hb from baseline) compared to placebo will be measured at week 4 and week 8 as the primary endpoint. The trial will also evaluate key secondary endpoints including mean change in Hb, the proportion of patients requiring blood transfusions, the proportion of patients experiencing a vaso-occlusive crisis, and mean change in percentage of HbSS. HbSS is a severe form, affecting 65 per cent of people who have sickle cell. "Public-private partnerships in the healthcare sector are essential to deliver novel drugs to achieve the goals of the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission. The initiation of this study reaffirms hope for the 20 million Sickle Cell affected patients in the country for a high potential novel treatment," said Pankaj Patel, Chairman of Zydus.

Kartik Aaryan collaborates with Pitbull and Diljit Dosanjh for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 track: 'Rooh Baba goes global'



The Bhool Bhulaiyaa title track achieved iconic status immediately upon its release, with the first film of the franchise in 2007, starring Akshay Kumar. Composed by Pritam and sung by Neeraj Shridhar, the song was later recreated for Kartik Aaryan's Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 by Tanishk Bagchi, with assistance from Pritam. Now, with the highly anticipated release of Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, the makers have announced that the beloved track is going global. They've collaborated with American rapper Pitbull and Punjabi sensation Diljit Dosanjh for the title track, while, as in the previous versions, Neeraj Shridhar's voice remains the primary vocal. Kartik Aaryan took to X (formerly known as Twitter) to share a teaser of the new song. The teaser shows him grooving to the track as Pitbull says his iconic line, "Mr worldwide" in the background. Kartik can also be seen performing the track's signature dance moves, taking it up a notch as he coordinates his steps on a staircase. He captioned the post,

"Rooh Baba goes Global with the Coolest Collab DILJIT x PITBULL ?? N the OG NEERAJ Get Ready for the #SpookySlide ????" Once again, the soundtrack is composed by Tanishk Bagchi and will release on Wednesday.

Earlier, the makers unveiled the trailer for Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, in which Kartik Aaryan reprises his role as Rooh Baba from the hit Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2. The third film in the franchise also marks the return of Vidya Balan, who played the iconic role of Manjulika in the original 2007 film. This time, the trailer reveals a twist: Madhuri Dixit joins Vidya Balan, both portraying Manjulika in their battle against Rooh Baba. Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 also stars Vijay Raaz and Triptii Dimri in significant roles. Rajpal Yadav, who was a fan favourite in the original film, returns to tickle the audience's funny bones once again. The film is set to release on November 1, on the occasion of Diwali, and will clash with Ajay Devgn's Singham Again.

Kartik Aaryan says he knows if a film will flop on the first day of shoot: 'Yeh toh gaye'

Actor Kartik Aaryan said that he has developed an uncanny ability to gauge audience reactions to his films, even before they hit the screens, as he has his finger on the pulse. In a recent conversation, Kartik revealed his thought process and how he trusts his instincts and understands which film will do well and which wouldn't, even before she starts shooting for them.

"I initially used to figure it out in the starting itself, 'yeh toh gaye!' Because when I had just started, I was not getting offered movies... How do I comment on it?" Kartik said in an interview with Pinkvilla, as he reflected on his early days in the industry. However, with experience, he has honed his skills to anticipate audience reactions. "Now, I come to know pehle se hi (beforehand) what the reaction is going to be like," Kartik confessed. Despite having reservations, he remains committed to the project, striving to make it better without openly expressing doubts to the makers. "Once I am on a film, I am totally into it with full honesty," Kartik emphasised. He also acknowledged the importance of considering the makers' perspectives, admitting, "Maybe their thought process is better than mine."

Kartik's self-proclaimed success rate is impressive, with him being correct "90% of the time" in predicting



audience reactions. He attributes this to his own experiences as a film enthusiast. "I am also an audience, I watch films too. I decide whether I want to watch a film or not based on the trailer. That's how I choose," Kartik shared. Kartik is now gearing up for his next release, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, the much anticipated third installment of Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 which earned Rs 266.88 crore worldwide and become one of the highest-grossing Hindi film of 2022. Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 is slated to be released in cinemas on November 1, on the occasion of Diwali this year.

Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video box office collection day 4: Rajkumar Rao-Triptii Dimri's raunchy comedy sees a significant dip, passes Rs 20 cr

Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video, the raunchy comedy film starring Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri, is performing poorly at the box office compared to Rajkumar's last release, Stree 2. Despite this, the film has managed to consistently earn in single digits, indicating a steady, albeit slow, revenue stream. Industry tracking website Sacnilk reports that Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video maintained a steady daily earnings trajectory, generating Rs 5.5 crore on its opening day, followed by Rs 6.9 crore on day two, and Rs 6.4 crore on day three. However, the film experienced a notable dip on day four, earning Rs 2.25 crore nett in India, which brings its total collection to Rs 21.05 crore.

The overall Hindi occupancy on Monday stood at 10.96%, with most people opting to watch the night shows of the raunchy comedy, directed by filmmaker Raaj Shaandilyaa. The number of shows for the film has been dropping slowly in several cities. In Mumbai, where the film opened with 587 shows, it now has 516 shows and the occupancy observed was 14.25%. In Delhi and NCR the occupancy stood at 10% for 899 shows (There were 993 shows on the day the film debuted in the national capital). Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video may have edged out Alia Bhatt's Jigra at the box office, but its performance pales in comparison to Rajkumar Rao's previous blockbuster, Stree 2, which raked in an impressive Rs 55.9 crore on day four. Additionally, Triptii Dimri's last outing, Bad Newz, also outperformed Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video on its fourth day, earning Rs 3.5 crore. Furthermore, director Raaj Shaandilyaa's latest film falls short of his own previous success with Ayushmann Khurrana's Dream Girl 2, which collected Rs 5.42 crore on day four, indicating a relatively lackluster response to Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video. In comparison, Jigra has earned Rs 18.10 crore so far, with a fourth-day collection of Rs 1.50



crore. Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video has surpassed Jigra's collection, despite receiving mixed reviews. However, it is essential to consider the disparity in their release strategies. The Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri-starrer enjoyed a wider release, with over 3500 shows, whereas Alia Bhatt's Jigra had approximately 2800 shows, giving VVKWV a significant advantage in terms of screen count on its first day in cinemas.

The film tells the story of Vicky and Vidya, a newlywed couple, who embark on a hilarious journey to recover their missing "suhagraat CD" in Rishikesh. The film features an ensemble cast, including Vijay Raaz, Mallika Sherawat, Mast Ali, Archana Puran Singh, Mukesh Tiwari, Saharsh Kumar Shukla, Archana Patel, Rakesh Bedi, Tiku Talsania and Ashwini Kalsekar. Produced by T-Series Films, Balaji Motion Pictures, Wakao Films, and Kathavachak Films, Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video has managed to entertain audiences with its slapstick comedy, but most film critics have called it a crash course in crassness.

Sunny Deol reacts to wife Pooja making rare appearance on son Karan Deol's Instagram.

Despite being married to one of Bollywood's biggest stars, Sunny Deol, Pooja Deol has consistently chosen to stay away from the limelight. Sunny has also rarely spoken about her in interviews, respecting her privacy. It wasn't until their son Karan Deol's wedding in 2023 that many fans saw Pooja for the first time. Recently, Karan once again delighted fans by sharing a glimpse of a sweet moment with his mother.

The Pal Pal Dil Ke Paas actor posted a photo with his mom, expressing how much he cherishes their time together. In the caption, he wrote, "Best time is time spent with your mom." Sunny Deol commented on the post with heart emojis.

Much like Sunny, his father and veteran star Dharmendra, also kept his first wife — Sunny and Bobby Deol's mother, Prakash Kaur — away from public attention. In a previous interview, Sunny explained that staying out of the public eye was a choice both his mother and wife made for themselves. Praising Pooja as 'her own person who makes her own decisions,' Sunny told Deccan Chronicle, "Neither my mother nor my wife was forced to stay away from the limelight. My wife is her own person. She has always had the liberty to make her own decisions. To not make public appearances is her own call. Like I said, neither my father nor I have forced the women in our family to follow our rules."

Sunny and Pooja have been married for 40 years,



having tied the knot in 1984, just a year after his debut film Betaab was released. Their marriage was kept secret until their wedding photos were leaked in a magazine. During Karan Deol's wedding, he shared rare family photos, featuring his grandmother Prakash Kaur and his mother, alongside other family members. He captioned the photos, "Grateful for the abundant blessings and the support of our cherished family, with hearts overflowing, we express gratitude and gratefulness." On the professional front, Sunny Deol made a massive comeback last year with the hugely successful Gadar 2. The actor is currently busy shooting for Lahore 1947, a film bankrolled by Aamir Khan and also starring Preity Zinta. Sunny will also be seen in Border 2.

Diddy faces new sexual assault lawsuits, including claims involving a minor

Sexual Misconduct Diddy In this courtroom sketch, Sean "Diddy" Combs' defense attorney Marc Agnifilo, left, addresses the judge while Combs, seated second from right, in prison uniform, watches during a hearing in federal court in New York, Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024. Combs' new defense attorney, Anthony Ricco is seated far right. (AP) Sean "Diddy" Combs is facing a new series of lawsuits accusing him of sexual assault, including one involving a 16-year-old boy.

These lawsuits, filed anonymously to protect the identities of the accusers, include allegations from two women and four men. This is the first time Combs has been sued over claims involving a minor. The lawsuits, filed in federal court in Manhattan, describe incidents dating back to the mid-1990s. They allege that Combs used his fame and power to lure victims to lavish parties and drug-fueled gatherings, where he then assaulted them. Some claim they were drugged, beaten, or threat-



The allegations include incidents at Diddy's famous white parties, a Brooklyn event celebrating his collaborator Biggie Smalls, and even in a storeroom at Macy's in Manhattan. The lawsuits are part of a growing number of claims against Combs, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by several individuals in recent months. His legal team denies the allegations.

Suhana Khan takes fans inside her workout routine as she prepares for 'raw action' in King with father Shah Rukh Khan.

Suhana Khan, who made her acting debut with The Archies, is now gearing up for her big-screen debut alongside her father, Shah Rukh Khan, in the highly anticipated film King. As the shoot is set to commence, Suhana has been intensifying her fitness regimen, giving fans major inspiration. On Monday, Suhana took to Instagram to share a glimpse of her grueling gym session. The video showcased her tackling pull-ups, weightlifting, and other exercises with ease, clad in athletic wear. Her caption was simple yet effective, as she posted, "?????????" (pink heart, a woman lifting weights, and red ribbon) emojis. See here:

Fans flooded the comments section with admiration, with one user asking, "How have u done this pull up!! ???" Suhana humorously replied, "was a struggle ???" Another fan exclaimed, "Woooo you are glowing. And that pull up is insaneeeee." Yet another person commented, "Nice one?????" The outpouring of love and support continued, with many using red hearts and fire emojis.

According to reports, Suhana has been training rigorously with international action teams to master various



stunts for King. A source revealed to Pinkvilla, "Trainers of international repute are coming together to train Suhana and SRK, as King will explore a slightly raw form of action." Directed by Sujoy Ghosh and produced by Gauri Khan and Siddharth Anand, King boasts an impressive cast, including Abhishek Bachchan and Abhay Verma. The film is slated for an Eid 2026 release, with the first schedule commencing in Mumbai in January, followed by a marathon schedule in Europe.

Amitabh Bachchan's father slipped into deep depression after his first wife's death, Big B reveals how he found love again with mother Teji



Besides performing his duties as a host on the quiz show Kaun Banega Crorepati, Amitabh Bachchan often shares personal anecdotes from his life. In a recent episode, he reminisced about his father, the late poet Harivanshrai Bachchan, and shared the story of how his parents first met. On the show, Big B recalled how his father fell into a deep depression after his first wife passed away. The megastar explained that during this difficult period, Harivanshrai Bachchan's poetry reflected his sorrow. He said, "My father's first wife passed away. Uske baad wo gambhir shitti mein chale gaye, bahut depressed state mein aur jitni bhi kavita unhone likhi, uss zamaane mein, bahut dark thi. Bahut dukh ke saath bhari hui thi. Kuch varsho ke baad, wo kavi samelan karte the thaaki kuch paise mil jaate the (He slipped into a serious, depressive state of mind after his first wife passed away. He wrote many poems that were sad and dark in



nature. After a few years, he began participating in poetry gatherings." During this time, Amitabh shared, his father met his mother, Teji, at a friend's house, and it was love at first sight. "He had a friend in Bareilly and got an invite to meet him. My father went to meet him. During the dinner, he was requested to narrate a poem. But before my father could begin, his friend asked his wife to call in Teji."

Big B recalled how his father described Teji as a beautiful woman and remembered the clothes she wore that day. He said, "My mother quietly listened to his poem as he read, 'Kya Karu Samvedna Lekar Tumhari.' She was in tears on hearing it and this friend left them alone in the room. A while later, this friend came out with a garland and asked him to place it on her." Big B shared that this was the moment his father decided Teji would be his life partner. They married in 1941 and later welcomed two sons, Amitabh and Ajitabh Bachchan.

Don't want to take undercooked Shami to Australia: Rohit Sharma



Rohit Sharma Mohammed Shami Rohit said the team management wants Shami to regain full fitness before returning to top-flight cricket. India skipper Rohit Sharma has virtually ruled out Mohammed Shami from the upcoming Test tour of Australia, saying that the pacer's recovery from an ankle surgery has been hampered by swelling in knees and it would not be right to take an "undercooked" version of him for the marquee showdown.

Shami last played for India during the ODI World Cup final last year and has been recuperating from an ankle surgery after that. "To be honest, right now, it's pretty difficult for us to make a call on him, whether he'll be fit for this series or Australia series. He recently had swelling on his knee, which was quite unusual," Rohit told reporters here on the eve of the first Test against New Zealand. "He was in the process of getting fit, getting close to 100 per cent, he had swelling in his knee, that put him back a little bit in his recovery. So, he had to start again. Right now, he's at NCA, he's working with the physios

and the doctors at NCA," he added. Rohit said the team management wants Shami to regain full fitness before returning to top-flight cricket.

"We are keeping our fingers crossed, we want him to be 100 per cent fit. We don't want to bring an undercooked Shami to Australia, that is not going to be the right decision for us. "It is quite tough for a fast bowler, having missed so much of cricket, and then suddenly to come out and be at his best, it is not ideal," he noted. Rohit said the National Cricket Academy staff will continue to assess Shami's fitness and he might play a couple of internal matches in that process. "We want to give him enough time to recover and be 100 per cent fit. The physios, the trainers, the doctors have set a roadmap for him. "He is supposed to play a couple of (practice) games before he plays international cricket," he added. Shami has played 64 Tests for India, taking 229 wickets at an impressive average of 27.71. India will play five Tests in Australia starting November 22.

Rohit Sharma on Mayank Yadav and Nitish Kumar Reddy: 'If someone gets injured, we want them to step in'

GNS News Agency, Oct 17 IND vs BAN 1st T20: Mayank Yadav and Nitish Kumar Reddy handed debuts Mayank Yadav and Nitish Kumar Reddy pose after receiving their maiden India caps ahead of the first T20I against Bangladesh in Gwalior. (BCCI on X) India captain Rohit Sharma on Tuesday has hinted on the prospects of pace sensation Mayank Yadav and all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy in the Test side.

Speaking ahead of the first Test against New Zealand in Bengaluru, Rohit said, "I understand they have not played that much. We want to create bench strength. If we want to fast track someone, we want to fast track them. "If someone gets injured we want them to step in. Nice to have them around, have a chat and see how they see test cricket. It's important to try and build them gradually. Trying to monitor them and what they can offer," he added. Both Mayank and Nitish were part of India's T20I squad in the recently concluded three-match series against Bangladesh. While Nitish impressed with 74 runs off 34 deliveries in the second T20I, Mayank was also impressive with the ball and struck four times in three games at an economy of just under seven. The duo have



been added among the travelling reserves for the upcoming three-match Test series alongside Prasad Krishna and Harshit Rana. It was in this year's IPL that Nitish and Mayank made the headlines as two of the household names. Despite making only four appearances in the recent season, Mayank grabbed the attention of the cricketing fraternity with his raw pace. His seven wickets included smarting the likes of Jonny Bairstow and Glenn Maxwell.

Read what Asian Games gold medallist Sift Kaur Samra says went wrong at Paris Olympics



NS News Agency, Oct 17

Up until the Paris Olympics, Indian Women's 50m 3P shooter Sift Kaur Samra always had a get-out-of-jail card in her pocket. She knew that if her prone and kneeling positions weren't right up there with the best in the world, she could always just rev up the Ferrari that is her standing position scores. Be it her fifth-placed finish at the World Championships, or the World Record breaking effort at the Hangzhou Asian Games, Samra's standing blitzkrieg would always soar her over some of the best Olympic shooters in the continent and then the World.

But come Chateauroux, the poor prone and kneeling was followed by an even worse standing performance. Qualification came to a close and one of India's favourites for a medal (she had won bronze at the Munich World Cup just a month removed) at the Paris Olympics finished a shocking 31st out of 32 shooters. Samra immediately came back to India and went to a range to put up a score. She needed to know whether it was the rifle that messed up that day or her. "That was not a score that I really shoot," said the Faridkot native. Shooting a 10m rifle score back in India, Samra immediately hit a 628.

"I think it was a social media thing. Because before the Asian Games and other competitions people didn't know much about the sport. It's usually after we win a medal that people would talk about us. But this time the talk was before the event and that was a really different thing for me. I was not used to that," said Samra. Asian

Games Shooting India's Sift Kaur Samra competes during the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Team at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Center during 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023. (AP/PTI) "Knowing that everyone had their eyes on me had me concerned that I had to win and that was a mistake."

The 23-year-old was part of a group of Indian shooters who had risen up the ranks in the 50m 3P position and put the country's shooters as a legitimate force in the event. Samra, Anjum Moudgil and Ashi Chouksey on the women's side, and Swapnil Kusale, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Akhil Sheoran were all putting up world class scores in the year leading up to the Olympics. While Kusale took a deserved medal, India's best 3P shooter was left wondering what happened. When the standing position shots didn't land dead centre, Samra tried to switch things up. She slowed down the pace of her shots, she left her position and then came back after a rethink, then went through her rifle to see if some adjustments were off, and finally went through her kit to see what was wrong. But no answer appeared and the qualification ended with a promising hope of a medal dashed.

"Even when the prone position went bad, I felt that my standing could have pulled me out of the situation. But then in standing I was just out of the zone." Immediately after that disastrous qualification, Samra's mother was by her side and took no time to deliver a roast to her daughter. "At least you came second from the bottom" was the crunching tackle, albeit in jest. "Punjabi moms", explained a resigned Samra. Later the family whisked her off to Paris from Chateauroux for a day to distract her from what happened. After the high of the Asian Games last year, the 50m 3P shooter had been struggling to replicate similar scores at the start of the year. But then the Munich World Cup results, in a stacked field at that, indicated that she was coming back into form. "That was about the kit. My kit was changing and it took time for me to adapt to it, which finally happened when I took part in Munich. Our kits usually get less stiff as they're used, so new kits solve that issue," said Samra. Once back in India after the Olympics, she had to attend the trials to make it to the World University Games team.

Who got most money at Hockey India League auction? Full squad details with highlights from the event

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

India's captain Harmanpreet Singh (C) celebrates a goal with others during the Hockey Men's Quarterfinal match between India and Great Britain at the 2024 Summer Olympics, at Yves-du-Manoir Stadium, in Colombes, France. India's captain Harmanpreet Singh (C) celebrates a goal with others during the Hockey Men's Quarterfinal match between India and Great Britain at the 2024 Summer Olympics, at Yves-du-Manoir Stadium, in Colombes, France. After the Harmanpreet Singh-led squad of Paris Olympics bronze medallists dominated proceedings on day 1, the theme on day 2 of the Hockey India League auction for the men's teams was franchises looking for value overseas additions, and young Indians with a high ceiling.

As expected, no one got close to the Rs 70 lakh mark that three Indians breached on Day 1 (Harmanpreet, Abhishek and Hardik Singh) but there were still quite a few noteworthy recruits as the eight men's franchises for HIL 2024-'25 completed their squads. Purely in terms of value, Moriangthem Rabichandra (Rs 32 lakh to Kalinga Lancers) was the only Indian in the top 10 for the day. But three other Indians managed to get in an impressive Rs 26 lakh bid with Maninder Singh going to Soorma Hockey Club, Angad Bir Singh going to Kalinga Lancers and Mohd. Raheel Mouseem moving to Tamil Nadu Dragons. With a hefty purse at the start of the day, Kalinga Landers made some shrewd overseas purchases, picking up Olympic gold medal winning captain of Netherlands Thierry Brinkman for a steal at Rs 38 lakh and also Belgium legend Arthur Van Doren for Rs 32 lakh. And then they added the brilliant Belgian drag flicker Alexander Hendrickx for just Rs 23 lakh, as the shrinking purses of various franchises saw overseas superstars go for evidently lower than one would expect. However, Belgium's



Victor Wegnez was the most expensive recruit on day 2, fetching Rs 40 lakh from Soorma Hockey Club. Young players with a base price of 2 lakh also made merry at the auction, Rajinder to Hyderabad Toofans for 23 lakh, the same price that India forward Uttam Singh got for his move to Tamil Nadu dragons.

Interestingly, no overseas player across the 8 teams was from an Asian nation. Overall, Harmanpreet Singh was, as expected, the most expensive buy at the men's HIL Player Auction at Rs 78 lakh. Abhishek became the second-most expensive buy, acquired by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for Rs 72 lakh, while India vice-captain Hardik Singh went to UP Rudras for 70 lakh.

Among the overseas players, former Argentina star and Germany's current World Cup winning squad member Gonzalo Peillat was the most sought after, finishing with a bid of Rs 68 lakh from Hyderabad Toofans. It would be worth keeping an eye on Tamil Nadu Dragons as an attacking force too, as they first brought in Netherlands' Jip Janssen for Rs 54 lakh on the first day, then added the firepower of Aussie star Blake Govers for a cut-price value of Rs 27 lakh.

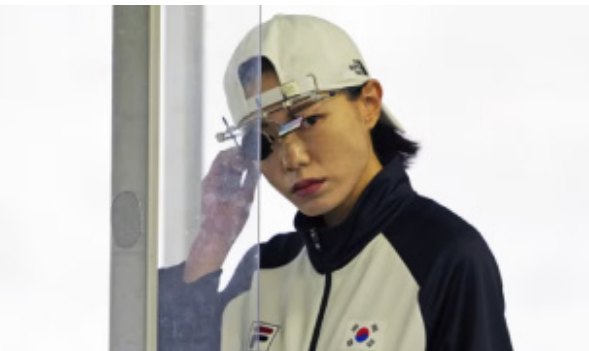
No joy, no sadness, no tension: How did Olympics gold medallist shooter Ji-in-Yang prepare to battle nervousness in matches?

It doesn't have the national devotion dedicated to Tottenham Hotspur forward Hueng Min-Son or the increasing following of baseball. Even though the world for one August fell in love with soon-to-be movie star/assassin Kim Yeji, the sport hasn't really picked up even though Korean shooters remain consistent in their medal-winning exploits. When former 25m pistol shooting world record holder Ji-in Yang landed back in Seoul after winning the gold at the Paris Olympics – an event in which Manu Bhaker finished narrowly out of medal positions – she was surprised to see the number of people who were able to recognise her. That surprise increased when she returned to her village of Haju to see a giant poster of her, and a group of people lining up to take pictures with her.

"When I reached home, there were so many flags and banners made by people in my village. When I went to my university, the same thing happened. Initially I felt a little embarrassed because I'm not used to these kinds of celebrations, especially when my name and face were on the banners. But I'm now getting better at it," Yang said. At the opening ceremony of the World Cup in New Delhi, her father collected the ISSF award for the 'Best Female shooter of the year'. A delay in visa meant she couldn't be there to pick up the award herself.

At just 21, Yang is another crack Korean aimbot – from a country that consistently churns out some of the best in the world. She was part of a shooting club in middle school when her talents were first noticed. She started taking part in national competitions soon enough. The Korean calendar usually has 4-5 domestic competitions that carry all the weight of selection for the national team. Such is their level of competition that shooters usually put up winning scores that are at par internationally. Yang was one of the young prodigies pushed into the national team because of her impressive scores and calm demeanour. Her parents, though, were unsure of a career as a shooter. Yang had to drop her studies to continue in the sport, a decision met with some opposition at home.

"When I first told them that I wanted to do shooting, there was sort of a 'negative reaction' from my parents. But then they came for one of my national competitions and the results over there were not that bad. They wanted



me to continue my studies but after they saw that match, they felt I was good enough at this to continue," said Yang. At the Hangzhou Asian Games, Yang was expected to enjoy her first win at a senior multi-sport event, but was instead reduced to tears after not winning the gold. She later said that she was worried about it being her debut Asian Games, which led to many tears and eventually her feelings started to overwhelm her. But after the Asiad, Yang doubled down on her training and focused on exercises to keep calm during her match.

"Before the Olympics, I trained specifically for when I would get nervous during a match. When I reached Paris, I was never in a state of too much happiness, or any other emotion. I remained calm throughout," she said. After the Paris Games, most of India's Olympic squad chose to take a break and gave the year-end World Cup in New Delhi a miss. Those included Bhaker, who is slowly coming back from injuries, and Sift Kaur Samra, who was injured but is back in training for the World University Games. For Korean athletes though, the year-long schedule hasn't allowed a break. Recently Kim Yeji, another Korean Olympic shooter who went viral during the Paris Games for her style of shooting, fainted at a press conference, later citing stress and lack of rest. "I also wanted to have some time to rest, but there were lots of important national competitions going on right after the Olympics," says Yang. "I also didn't get much time to take my Olympic gold medal victory in. But this kind of participation makes our quality as shooters better."

How NRAI is plotting to transition the next batch of shooting prodigies at the senior level

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The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) wants to restart its junior shooting programme, that has found talents like Manu Bhaker and Divyansh Singh Panwar. NRAI president Kalikesh Singh Deo stressed on the need for a framework that facilitates the transition of talented juniors into the senior set-up. "A majority of our shooters have emerged from the junior programme. Several have come through Khelo India, which the government runs. We've proposed that the NRAI work with an ecosystem to support junior shooters transitioning to the senior team," Deo said on Monday. "This ensures junior shooters are exposed to our high-performance team, foreign and national coaches, and national shooters." The NRAI believes that allowing the juniors to compete with seniors would increase competition faced by established shooters and in a playing field where technique is largely level, the best in-form shooters would consistently compete against each other.

"Combining the junior and senior teams creates a unified approach. We appoint coaches for development and ensure juniors compete well with seniors. Previously, the junior programme helped juniors push senior team members out of the national team, which is healthy competition. Today, our bench strength is strong, and competition is about who performs best on the day. That's a philosophy and policy we emulate in training and selection," the NRAI chief said ahead of the three-day ISSF World Cup beginning in New Delhi on Tuesday with the Men's and Women's 10m Air Pistol and rifle events taking place. Deo, who has recently been elected to the top



post of the NRAI after being acting president over the past year, wants to improve relations with shooters' personal coaches that have often been cool in recent years.

Each of India's three medallists at the Paris Olympics attributed their success to their personal coaches, with two of the three coaches being part of the NRAI set-up one point. "When I took over as acting president, the first thing I did was try to create a platform where we recognise personal coaches in the system. It's a fact that 60 to 70 percent of the time, shooters train with their personal coaches. National coaches come into the picture during national camps, or for competitions. "We know in the real world, things don't always go smoothly. There are clashes of egos and philosophies, but the NRAI has to create a successful working relationship, where personal coaches are recognised by the system and work seamlessly with national coaches.