

INDIAN CHRONICLE

23 October, 2024 | Wednesday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:217

Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

₹ 3

Elderly woman killed by grandson for paltry sum of Rs 50

Hyderabad: An elderly woman was allegedly murdered for a paltry sum of Rs 50 by her grandson when she refused to give him money. The victim, 76-year-old Susheela, a resident of Gandhinagar, lived along with her grandson Nithin and others, according to the police. On Monday evening, Nithin asked his grandmother to give him Rs. 50 and when the woman refused to give him the amount, he pushed her from the second floor of a building.

The woman died after falling down. On coming to know about the incident, the Gandhinagar police reached the spot and shifted the body to Gandhi Hospital for postmortem. A case is registered.

National art competition for children in Hyderabad on October 27

Hyderabad: The 17th National Competition 'Kolor Champ-24', featuring talented children from major metros including Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Coimbatore, Delhi and Jaipur, will be held in Hyderabad on Sunday, October 27 at SR Classic Convention, Shamshabad.

Being organised by Global Art, the national art competition is aimed to develop artistic and creative potential of children. Participants, aged 5 years to 15 years, will create art on the topic that will be announced on the spot.

BRS leader K T Rama Rao files Rs 100 cr defamation suit against Telangana Minister Surekha



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

In a social media post, Rama Rao said he was confident that the truth would prevail in courts. In a social media post, Rama Rao said he was confident that the truth would prevail in courts. BRS Working President KT Rama Rao on Tuesday said he has filed a Rs 100 crore defamation suit against Telangana Minister Konda Surekha for allegedly making "malicious and cheap" comments against him. In a social media post, Rama Rao said he was confident that the truth would prevail in courts.

"I've taken a firm stand against baseless allegations and cowardly personal attacks on my character. I have filed a Rs 100 crore defamation suit against Minister Konda Surekha garu for her malicious and cheap comments," he said. Rama Rao earlier filed a defamation case against Surekha in a city court over her comments alleging that he was the reason behind the divorce of actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Naga Chaitanya. The BRS leader had sent a legal notice to Surekha, demanding an apology for her comments on October 2, claiming that she made the defamatory statement with a malafide intent to harm his reputation and defame him, a punishable offence under the BNS. He further said for far too long, attacks and attempts to indulge in character assassination through whisper campaigns and social media have gone unchecked, but not anymore. As a public representative, Rama Rao said he always prioritised people's issues over personal vendettas, but it's time to draw a line. "I hope this lawsuit serves as a lesson to those who think they can spread cheap rhetoric in the name of political criticism. I am confident that truth will prevail in the court," he added. Telugu actor Nagarjuna has also filed a defamation case against Surekha for her comments.

Severe depression to turn cyclone tomorrow, rain alert issued to AP

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

As the depression continues to gather strength in the Bay of Bengal, weather experts have reported that the cyclone is currently centered 700 km southeast of Paradip, 750 km south-southeast of Sagar Island, and 730 km southeast of Khepupara. The system is projected to move west-northwestward, intensifying into a cyclonic storm over East Central Bay of Bengal by tomorrow, Wednesday. By the 24th of this month, the cyclone is expected to reach severe Cyclone status and make landfall between Puri and Sagar Island on the night of the 24th or the morning of the 25th. Meteorological reports indicate that wind speeds could reach between 100 to 110 kilometers per hour as the storm approaches the coast, generating strong gales with winds of 45 to 55 kilometers per hour along the shoreline.

In light of these developments, the Meteorological Department has issued a stern warning to fishermen, advising them to refrain from venturing out to sea. Fishermen who are already out at sea are urged to return to shore immediately. Additionally, number one danger warnings have been initiated at all ports across the state. The ongoing storm is expected to bring moderate rainfall to the region over the next three days, with the possibility of heavy rains in certain areas, particularly in north Coastal Andhra. Authorities are urging residents to stay vigilant and prepared as the severe weather event progresses.

Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra Receive a Warm Welcome at Mysore Airport by Karnataka CM

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Mysore: CPP Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were warmly welcomed at the Mysore Airport by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President Shri D.K. Shivakumar, along with other senior Congress leaders.

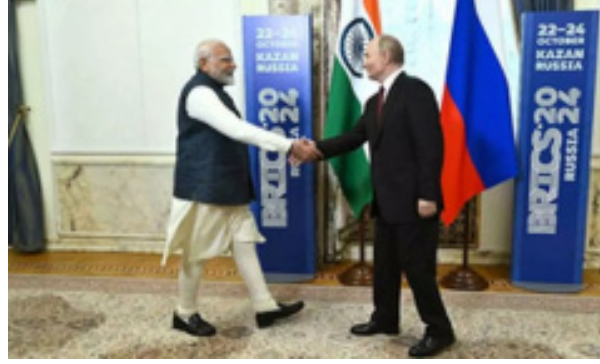
The Congress Party further also shared that tomorrow Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will be filing her nomination for the Wayanad Parliamentary Bye-Election. The following schedule of events is planned for the day:

India-Russia ties so strong that PM Modi would understand me without translation: Putin

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Kazan: Highlighting the time-tested India-Russia partnership and his friendship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday emphasised that the bond between the two countries is so strong that PM Modi would understand him without needing the help of any translator. Putin made the remark as both leaders sat down for bilateral discussions in Kazan on the sidelines of the 16th BRICS Summit. "Our relationship is so tight that you will understand me without any translation," said the Russian President, sparking laughter in the room at the Governor's Palace.

The Russian President then recalled PM Modi's visit to Moscow in July, the "fruitful negotiations" that were held and thanked the Indian Prime Minister for accepting his



invite and coming to Kazan for the BRICS summit. "In Kazan we must make a number of important decisions aimed at further improving the activities of the association and strengthening multifaceted cooperation within its framework. And we greatly value our cooperation in this area, I mean that our states stood at the origins of the association's creation," he highlighted. Putin stated that Russian-Indian relations are characterised by a 'Special Privileged Strategic Partnership' and con-

tinue to develop actively. "Interaction between legislative bodies is strengthening. Our foreign ministers are in constant contact. Trade turnover is in good condition. And the next meeting of the inter-governmental commission is scheduled for November 12 in New Delhi," he added. India has maintained a steady relationship with Russia even during the current geopolitical crisis amid the ongoing conflict in the region - a fact that Putin acknowledged once again during his meeting with PM Modi on

Tuesday. "Major projects are being developed consistently, and we welcome your decision to open the Consulate General of India in Kazan. Expanding India's diplomatic presence in Russia will contribute to the further development of bilateral relations," said the Russian President. In July, during PM Modi's visit to Russia - his first to the country since 2019 and first to Moscow after 2015 - Putin conferred the Indian PM with the Order of St. Andrew the Apostle the First-Called, Russia's highest civilian award. On Monday, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar had hailed the growing ties between the two countries. "If you look at our history with Russia after Independence, Russia has never done anything to impact our interests negatively. Among the major countries, there are not many about whom you can say this," Jaishankar said at the NDTV World Summit.

BRS leaders file complaint against CM Revanth Reddy for inflammatory remarks



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Hyderabad: Senior leaders of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) filed a complaint against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at the Banjara Hills Police Station, accusing him of inciting violence through his inflammatory remarks. The complaint was filed in the wake of Revanth Reddy's controversial remarks, where he allegedly threatened to "trample" BRS leaders KT Rama Rao and T Harish Rao with bulldozers. Expressing apprehensions over safety to the BRS leaders in the wake of the Chief Minister's remarks, the BRS leaders urged the police to register a case and initiate proceedings in this regard.

After filing the complaint, former SC and ST Commission chairman Errolla Srinivas said Revanth Reddy was behaving like a criminal gang leader rather than a Chief Minister. He charged the Chief Minister for using inflammatory language, which he claimed was disturbing the peace and tranquility in the State. "Unable to govern the State, Revanth Reddy is busy making such inflammatory remarks, threatening the opposition leaders. These words are dangerous. He is inciting violence, and his threats are putting our leaders' safety at risk," he said. The BRS leaders also expressed concern over recent attacks on party members, including incidents involving Harish Rao in Khammam, KT Rama Rao at Musheerabad in Hyderabad, and Padi Kaushik Reddy at Kondapur in Hyderabad. They pointed out that the police were registering cases against the BRS leaders for just sharing a post on social media, but were not acting against the inflammatory statements of Revanth Reddy, indirectly encouraging the Congress activists to act aggressively. Errolla Srinivas linked the assaults against BRS leaders to the Chief Minister's rhetoric, warning that Revanth Reddy would be held responsible for the consequences if he did not change his approach. The BRS has demanded immediate legal action against Revanth Reddy for his incendiary remarks.

One killed, 14 injured in building collapse in Babusapalya in Bengaluru



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

One worker died after an under-construction building collapsed in Babusapalya near Hennur in Bengaluru

on Tuesday (October 22, 2024) amidst incessant rains. The police and fire and emergency services team said that 14 people were rescued from the debris of the six-storied building located in Anjanadri Layout in Babusapalya and shifted to different hospitals in the city. There were 20 workers in the building at the time of the incident and rescue operations are on to track down five more people who are said to be trapped. The entire incident was captured on the CCTV cameras installed in the opposite building, which showed the building abruptly falling down like a pack of cards on a rainy Tuesday. All the victims who mostly hailed from Uttar Pradesh were inside the building due to the rain when the building collapsed. Initial probe revealed that poor quality of construction led to the incident and incessant rain may have aggravated it.

IMF maintains India's growth projection at 7% for FY25

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) maintained its June growth rate projects for India in its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) released on Tuesday (October 22, 2024), to kick off the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings in Washington. The multilateral lender expected India to grow at 7% in the current fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 and 6.5% in the next fiscal year (FY2025-26). World output was expected to grow at 3.2% in 2024 as well as 2025. The drop in India's growth from 8.2% in

2023 is "because pent-up demand accumulated during the pandemic has been exhausted, as the economy re-connects with its potential," the report said. The U.S. is projected to grow at 2.8% this year and 2.2% next year, an upward revision from the July WEO update. Globally, inflation has been on the way down. "The global battle against inflation has largely been won, even though price pressures persist in some countries," the IMF said. Inflation, which had touched 9.4% in the third quarter of 2022, is expected to be 3.5% by the end of 2025.

KTR questions Congress gov't inaction, urges to maintain law and order



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised the Congress party for its handling of law and order in Telangana, citing concerns raised by senior Congress leader and MLC T Jeevan Reddy. He said Jeevan Reddy had only echoed what the rest of the State has been saying for the last few months. MLC Jeevan Reddy's close aide and former MPTC Maru Gangareddy aged 58, was brutally murdered at Jabithapur in Jagtial district. Condemning the murder, Jeevan Reddy staged a protest with his supporters near the old bus stand in Jagtial, expressing his outrage over the lack of protection for Congress leaders, and deteriorating law and order condition in the State.

In response to Jeevan Reddy's remarks, Rama Rao pointed out the deteriorating law and order situation in the State under the Congress government. He said the law and order in Telangana has been a major concern for the past a few months. He reminded that without a full-time Home Minister and more importantly with police being kept busy in political affairs, law enforcement is crippled in the State. He hoped that wisdom prevails in political bosses of the Congress government and urged that competent police officers be given the necessary freedom to focus on their core responsibility of ensuring peace, safety and harmony in the State.

Mamata Banerjee appeals Bangladesh gov't to release Bengal fishermen



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, on Tuesday, appealed Bangladesh government to release 84 fishermen from the state who are currently behind bars in the neighbouring country after they were arrested by the Bangladesh Navy for crossing the international coastal border. "First two fishing trawlers from West Bengal entered the coastal areas within the jurisdiction of Bangladesh. At that time 36 fishermen were arrested and are now behind bars. Even after that three other fishing trawlers from West Bengal carrying 48 fishermen crossed the international coastal borders again they were also arrested and are currently behind bars now there," the Chief Minister said.

She also said that recently a fishing trawler from Bangladesh faced calamity within the coastal areas under India's jurisdiction. "All the Bangladeshi fishermen travelling by that trawler were released. They did not even have proper documents. On the other hand, the fishermen who are behind bars in Bangladesh have valid AADHAR cards," the Chief Minister said.

Thereafter she issued an appeal to the Bangladesh government to release these 84 fishermen considering the long amicable relationship between the neighbouring country and West Bengal. "We have a friendly relationship with Bangladesh. There is a long history of cultural exchange. The language spoken in Bangladesh and West Bengal is the same. Politics often take turns. I hope the situation will improve again. It is always desirable that two countries having international borders maintain a mutually amicable relationship," the Chief Minister said. Since the internal crisis in Bangladesh broke out, Mamata Banerjee had always maintained that she would abide by whatever decision the Union government took in the matter. She also issued an appeal to the people of West Bengal to maintain peace and avoid any kind of provocation on this issue, while maintaining that she will act as per instructions of the Union government in the matter.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Ganderbal shocker

THE euphoria over the peaceful conduct of the Assembly elections and the installation of an elected government in Jammu and Kashmir has unfortunately proved to be short-lived. The Ganderbal terror attack, which claimed the lives of a doctor and six labourers at a tunnel construction site, leaves no room for doubt that Pakistan will persist with its nefarious policy of bleeding India — and J&K in particular — with a thousand cuts. It's no less worrisome that this attack took place just days after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had an informal interaction with his Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Islamabad.

New Delhi has repeatedly made it clear that talks cannot be resumed unless Islamabad/Rawalpindi turns off the terror tap. But it is no coincidence that the terror attack has taken place in Ganderbal, the constituency of J&K's new Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Clearly, Pakistan-backed terror groups are sending the unmistakable message — after targeting the Jammu region in recent months — that the remarkably peaceful polls in the UT could not have taken place without the Pakistan military establishment's tacit agreement. The terror groups are now turning the spotlight back on Kashmir. The attempt to disrupt an infrastructure project is aimed not just at stalling development in the Valley and scaring away migrant labourers and tourists who have a crucial role in boosting J&K's economy, it is also to demonstrate that no one in Kashmir is fully safe. That's why Central and UT governments need to work in tandem to restore peace and normalcy.

Clearly, Pakistan's army chief, Gen Asim Munir, has a second message to his own government, in response to former PM Nawaz Sharif telling visiting Indian journalists last week: “

Porbandar ganglord Bhima Dula Odedara booked in fresh cases of assault, possessing illegal liquor



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Gangster Bhima Dula Odedara was arrested following a raid at his farmhouse in Adityana village of Porbandar on Friday with a large cache of weapons, cash and some liquor, said police. This is the first time since January 2017 — when the mafioso was shot allegedly by a rival gang — is back in the public eye, the two fresh offences taking the cases against him to 50. After his arrest, the Porbandar Local Crime Branch (LCB) sought five days remand of the four accused in the case, said inspector RK Kambariya. However, a local court did not deem fit to grant even a single day, sending him to judicial custody, he added. A case of road rage, assault and arrest

The alleged incident, in connection with which the 70-year-old gangster and three other accused were arrested on Friday, took place on September 24. The FIR stated that when a man, identified as Dana Puna Chavda, was travelling to graze his cattle from Boricha village to Bakharla village, three men on a bike stopped near him, swore at him and allegedly thrashed him with blunt weapons, fracturing a bone in his leg. They also threatened to kill him. A complaint was filed at Bagvadar police station in Porbandar under sections 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt), 117(2) (causing grievous hurt), 352 (insults intended to provoke someone into breaking public peace), 351(3) (criminal intimidation), and 54 (abetter present) of the BNS. They were also booked under section 135 (disobedience of official orders) of the Gujarat Police Act. A police statement on Friday said that the Bagvadar team — investigating the matter — found that about three months prior to the incident, Bhima Dula Odedara had an altercation with two people on the streets of Boricha.

In the light of that incident, the statement added, Odedara had allegedly decided to attack Chavda. He allegedly conspired with his three accomplices — Jaymal Odhad Kalavadara, Vanraj Rama Odedara and Mashri Lakhman Odedara — and sent them to assault Chavda. The investigation was then handed over to the Local Crime Branch (LCB). The LCB received information that Jaymal Odhad Kalavadara and Vanraj Rama Odedara would be passing through Boricha village and

the two were apprehended by three teams of police personnel. A total of six teams of police were formed, headed by deputy superintendent of police Surjeet Mahedu, with three inspectors and a sub-inspector. They went to Odedara's house in Adityana village and arrested the third absconding accused, Mashri Lakhman Odedara, as well as Bhima Dula Odedara. They found a large number of weapons and cash and liquor from the house, said officials. Following his arrest as an alleged conspirator in the assault case, Bhima Dula Odedara was then booked under sections of The Gujarat Prohibition Act in an FIR filed at Ranavav Police station by inspector Kambariya of the Porbandar LCB. The FIR was filed after three bottles of liquor were seized during the raid of Odedara's farmhouse. Bhima Dula Odedara is the brother of former three-time Kutiyana BJP MLA Karsan Dula Odedara. The Odedaras are known to have a long standing rivalry with the Jadeja family led by 'Godmother' Santokben Jadeja, who was also MLA of Kutiyana from a Janta Dal ticket and as an independent. Currently, her son Kandhal Jadeja is the three-time MLA from Kutiyana on a Samajwadi Party ticket. Interestingly, Bhima Dula Odedara, has, with the addition of two recent FIRs, now 50 cases to his name, with the first one being filed way back in 1975 in Bagvadar police station, for causing grievous hurt. Odedara has been, between 1975 and 2011, booked for a veritable range of crimes including murder and attempted murder.

However, this is the first time he has been booked for a crime after the year 2011. An official list of the cases against Odedara accessed by The Indian Express shows there isn't a single case against him in the 12 years between 2012 and 2023. Notably, 2011 was also the year in which Santokben Jadeja passed away. In 2013, Gujarat HC sentenced Bhima Dula Odedara to life imprisonment for a 2004 double murder. Notably, in the same year — 2013 — Odedara was acquitted by a Porbandar court, along with 9 others, in the 2005 murder of Congress leader Mulu Modhwadia. Son, daughter-in-law booked under Arms Act. Meanwhile, gangster's son Lakhman Bhima Odedara and daughter-in-law Santok Odedara were both booked under section 30 of The Arms Act. This FIR, filed by Kambariya on behalf of the government, was registered following a raid at their farmhouse. Police found a double barrelled 12 bore gun and 107 live cartridges for this weapon, in the name of Santok Odedara; a 12 bore pumping action SBBL gun with 100 live cartridges in the name of Bhima Odedara's wife Rudi; a 38 bore pistol with 106 cartridges in the name of Lakhman Odedara; a 38 bore revolver with 130 live cartridges in the name of Lakhman Odedara; a total of 69 live cartridges for another rifle which was earlier seized by Bagvadar police. The husband and wife were booked for possessing more live cartridges than allowed under the terms of their gun licenses.

Punjab farmers cry foul over paddy procurement delay, announce national highway blockade



Commission agents said the root cause of the issue is the government's failure to move the previously stored rice from its godowns, resulting in a lack of space for the new crop.

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Jaspal Singh, a farmer at the Jalandhar grain market (mandi), expressed his frustration about selling his crop. He said, "My arhtiya (commission agent) informed me that this year, I have to give him three bags (gatta) for every 100 bags of paddy. Each bag weighs 37.50 kg. The delay in procuring the harvested crop and the slow transportation from the mandis means that the procured paddy won't be picked up by the mandis or rice shellers soon. Due to a lack of space and the hot weather, the weight of the crop will decrease, and the government will hold the Arhtiyas and rice shellers accountable for this loss." Jaspal Singh explained that the demand equates to approximately Rs 2,610 for every 100 bags. However, in some mandis, farmers may face losses that are double this amount, as they are being asked to provide 6-7 extra bags instead of the standard 100. Arhtiyas have warned that farmers will need to either supply three additional bags per hundred or reimburse an amount equivalent to the price of three bags to cover weight loss expenses. This issue is widespread across most grain markets in Punjab as paddy harvesting intensifies.

Farmers in several mandis across Punjab, especially in the Doaba and Majha regions, face significant challenges during the ongoing paddy harvesting season. They are being compelled to sell their paddy crops at prices ranging from Rs 70 to 200 below the minimum support price (MSP), which is set at Rs 2,320 per quintal. Procurement has slowed due to unrest among commission agents, rice shellers, and mandi labourers. Additionally, the government's delays in the procurement process and insufficient storage space for milled rice in godowns are forcing farmers to accept lower rates for their crops or face substantial deductions.

An arhtiya in Phagwara mandi explained the situation, stating, "Weather plays a significant role. The moisture content in the paddy we're purchasing will decrease over time, resulting in a weight loss of 1-2 kg per quintal. With three gattas, which weigh around 112 kg, we can account for that weight loss. Once the crop's weight decreases, the government will require us to compensate for it. Discussions with the government are ongoing, but if no resolution is reached, farmers will be expected to pay." The root cause of the issue, according to arhtiyas, is the government's failure to move the previously stored rice from its godowns, which has resulted in a lack of space for the new crop. "This situation is a direct result of

poor policies. Rice is not being moved out to create storage for the new harvest, and both rice shellers and arhtiyas are suffering as a result," one arhtiya remarked. He added that, in such circumstances, only the farmers can come to their rescue.

Satnam Singh, a farmer from Phagwara, faced similar challenges. He brought the harvest from his 11-acre plot to the market but had to wait an entire day because his crop was not purchased. "They told me I would have to sell it for Rs 200 less than the MSP," he explained. He added that some farmers had already sold their crops at lower rates on paper, receiving full payment but agreeing to return Rs 200 per quintal to their respective Arhtiyas. "I have sold my 25 acres of crops while 35 acres more are still being harvested, and I received the full payment from the government for the crops I sold. However, my arhtiya informed me that I need to return Rs 150 per quintal from the payment I received. I can't oppose him, as he has helped me out several times. This situation highlights the significant failure of both the Punjab and central governments to address these issues and expedite the procurement and transportation of crops," said Narinder Singh, a farmer from the Adampur area of Jalandhar.

The situation has worsened due to ongoing conflicts among arhtiyas, rice shellers, and mandi labourers. Arhtiyas are calling for government intervention to ensure a 2.5 per cent commission on sold paddy. Meanwhile, rice shellers are demanding that the backlog in rice movement from godowns be addressed, allowing them to complete milling by March 2025. Labourers are also seeking wages comparable to those in Haryana. Without a resolution, they warn that the situation could escalate into a glut in the mandis, putting farmers in a more difficult position. In smaller village-level mandis, crop procurement has been slow or non-existent, causing farmers to wait two to three days for their produce to be collected. The lack of sufficient storage space is exacerbating the issue. "Paddy is arriving in large quantities daily, but no collections are taking place. If this continues, we will face a surplus situation, forcing us to sell at lower prices," said a farmer.

The Bharti Kisan Union (Doaba) announced on Saturday that it will block the national highway indefinitely at the Phagwara Sugar Mill Chowk with loaded trolleys of paddy and thousands of farmers on October 21 if their issues are not addressed. They held a press conference in Jalandhar to discuss the situation arising from the lack of procurement and lifting of paddy in Punjab. They expressed concerns about the absence of government procurement arrangements in the state's markets and the ongoing deterioration of the paddy crop in both fields and markets. State president Manjit Singh Rai has warned both the central and Punjab governments that they must address the ongoing issues farmers face. He emphasised the need for immediate action to resolve concerns regarding market exploitation and deception by rice sheller owners, who operate under the guise of associations. If these matters are not addressed, protests will begin on October 21. Rai also noted that inadequate paddy purchasing could severely impact Punjab's economy and marketing system. BKU (Doaba) state secretary Satnam Singh Sahni stated that the central and Punjab governments will be responsible for the upcoming protests, which will start on October 21. Meanwhile, 90 per cent of the procured crop in Punjab mandis is lying in mandis only as no transportation is taking place. In Punjab, the procured crop is transported to the premises of over 5,000 rice shelters, and the rice is delivered to the FCI.

Dagshai event commemorates 75 years of India-Ireland ties



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Ireland "I have been in India for a year and this is my second visit to Dagshai (Solan district), this time to commemorate the anniversary of the mutiny of 1920 and the execution of Private James Daly at Dagshai for taking part in the mutiny," the Ambassador said. Underscoring the ties that bind Ireland and India that mark the intertwined struggle for Independence which the two nations waged against the British colonial rule, the Ambassador of Ireland to India, Kevin Kelly, has said the ties between the two countries would only get stronger in the years ahead. The Irish Ambassador was at the St Patrick's Church in this tiny cantonment town of Himachal Pradesh on Saturday where a function was held to mark the anniversary of the 1920 mutiny by a battalion of the Connaught Rangers stationed in India and 75 years of India-Ireland diplomatic ties. "I have been in India for a year and this is my second visit to Dagshai (Solan district), this time to commemorate the anniversary of the mutiny of 1920 and the execution of Private James Daly at Dagshai for taking part in the mutiny," the Ambassador said, highlighting the great point of confluence in India and Ireland's colonial history.

The Ambassador paid special compliments to the Indian Army and Dr Anand Sethi and his wife Geeta for working hard to keep the Dagshai Prison and the Church in good condition. Dr Anand Sethi is the curator of the Dagshai Military Jail Museum and restorer of several other historical places in the town. "This year we mark 75 years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and India. Exchanges between our countries go further back than that. Education has long connected Ireland and India through Irish missionary schools. Today the trend has been reversed. We have Indians going to Ireland for education. We now have 10,000 Indians going to study in our universities each year and 60,000 visas are issued by our embassy each year," he said, adding that the ties will be expanded and the Irish Embassy will soon have more staff to take care of the increasing trade and relations.

On the occasion, Bishop Ignatius, the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Simla and Chandigarh, said, "We are on hallowed grounds of Church of St Patrick which was constructed in 1852 by Irish Catholic soldiers who contributed Rs 5,030 from their pay. I stand here today with reverence and humility."

On the Indian and Irish connections in Dagshai, Dr Anand Sethi said, "We shall be celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of Private James Daly who was executed in Dagshai and 90th death anniversary of the pastor who gave last service to Daly in Dagshai." He also pointed out that the leaders of Ghadar Movement were hanged at the gallows next to the Church and soon it will be 110 years of the hangings. Ghadar Movement was an international political movement founded by expatriate Indians to overthrow the British rule in India. Several retired Army officers and residents of Dagshai, Kasauli and nearby places attended the event at the church, with the pipes and drums ensemble of 11th Battalion Kumaon Regiment stationed at Dagshai also in attendance. A message of thanks from Patrick Maloney, chairman of Connaught Rangers' Association, was also read on the occasion. A choir of St Stephen's School, Chandigarh, presented hymns and devotional songs to commemorate the event.

'Cleanliness drive should not only be when CM or PM is visiting' Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel in Vadodara

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel urged the Vadodra Municipal Corporation to "have a mindset for cleanliness" instead of just organising "intermittent cleanliness drives during the chief minister and prime minister's visits". Patel, who was in Vadodara on Saturday, made these remarks during an event of the Baroda Management Association on start ups.

The CM's comments came ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will arrive in the city on October 28 along with his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez. Reacting to VMC's cleanliness drives, Patel said, "Vadodara looked spotless today. It should not be so that there is a cleanliness drive only when the CM or PM is visiting... It is a cultural capital so cleanliness should be in our mindset..."

During the event, Patel also commented on the newly-elected Jammu and Kashmir government led by the National Conference. Referring to the abrogation of Article 370, Patel said that it was a "start" for the Valley that for the "first time" the government had been sworn in as per the Constitution. Patel said, "It is a first that a government in Jammu and Kashmir has been sworn in, owing allegiance to the Constitution of India... no matter whose government it is, but it is as per the Constitution".

Patel later inaugurated the Atal Jan Seva public relations office of Vadodra MP Hemang Joshi at the District Collectorate. He also laid the foundation stone for a Rs 412 crore project of the Narmada and Kalpsar department for the construction of a weir on Mahisagar river in Poicha-Kanoda near Savli.

The project aims at increasing the ground water table of 34 villages in Thasra and 15 villages Umreth talukas in Kheda and Anand district, respectively, with the help of recharge wells as well as increasing the availability of drinking and potable water for Savli town and 40 surrounding villages of Vadodara. The weir will help recharge more than 490 wells in the region. During the event, Patel said that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his days as the state CM, who had changed Gujarat's status from a "water deficit state to a water surplus state with his visionary water schemes".

Embezzlement of funds case: 'Bar Council of India orders suffer from 'jurisdictional error'



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

punjab bar council Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana restrained advocates Vikas Malik and S S Tiwana to act as president and secretary of Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association. Noting that the orders passed by the Bar Council of India (BCI) "prima facie suffer from jurisdictional error", the Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed the orders which had stayed orders passed by Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana (BCPH), restraining advocates Vikas Malik and S S Tiwana to act as president and secretary respectively of Punjab and Haryana High Court Bar Association (PHHCBA). In its order, the high court also noted that "the day-to-day affairs of the PHHCBA shall be managed by the vice-president along with the joint secretary of the association". A division bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Anil Kshetarpal has passed the order while hearing the petition filed by Anjali Kukar and others. Malik and Tiwana are facing allegations of embezzlement of public funds.

The petitioners had moved to the high court, against two interlocutory orders — July 30 and September 27 — both passed by the BCI. On July 10, the BCPH had suspended the licence of Malik and debarred him from practice till the final decision on his complaint is not reached. Similarly, the BCPH, on July 26, refrained Tiwana to act as secretary. Later, the BCI held that the interim order dated July 10 of the BCPH is kept "in abeyance till the next date of hearing". While hearing a similar plea, the BCI again stayed the BCPH's order against Tiwana.

Meanwhile, as the present petition came up for hearing before the high court on Saturday, Amit Vaid, member of the BCI and also of the Disciplinary/Revision Committee, and Prateek Sodhi, also appearing on behalf of the BCI, were heard through video conferencing. On a specific query made by the court as to the scope and sweep of Section 48A of Advocates Act, 1961 (the Act) as to whether the BCI can assume revisional jurisdiction in a matter, which is pending before State Bar Council, neither Vaid nor Sodhi were able to answer the query and sought time. Vaid and Sodhi assured the court that the revision plea before the BCI shall be decided as early as possible. The high court thus observed that since there is no assistance from the BCI in respect of scope and spirit of Section 48A of the Act, it is of "the considered prima facie view that the revisional jurisdiction by the BCI can only be assumed... when a matter is disposed of by a State Bar Council or a committee thereof, but not during pendency of proceedings before State Bar Council." The bench further noted that "it appears that the orders challenged herein passed by BCI are prima facie suffer from jurisdictional error... Accordingly, the orders dated September 27, 2024 and July 30, 2024, impugned herein, shall remain stayed till the next date of hearing".

HC to Punjab EC, state govt: Start process of holding civic body polls within 15 days

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

punjab civic body polls The issue raised before the Bench was whether it was permissible to delay the holding of elections to municipalities, municipal councils, municipal corporations, and nagar panchayats on account of pending ward delimitation exercise. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the Punjab Election Commission and the state government to start the process of holding polls in municipalities and municipal corporations within 15 days without conducting a delimitation exercise.

"This court has no hesitation in issuing a writ of mandamus directing the State Election Commission, Punjab, and the State of Punjab to forthwith comply with the constitutional mandate and initiate the process of holding elections by notifying election programmes in all the Municipalities and Municipal Corporations in question within 15 days from the date of this order without conducting the fresh exercise of delimitation," said bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Anil Kshetarpal. The bench passed the order while hearing two petitions — filed by Beant Kumar alias Beant Kinger and Parboodh Chander Bali — which pointed out that in 42 municipal councils and five municipal corporations — Amritsar, Phagwara, Patiala, Jalandhar and Ludhiana — elections were pending. The issue raised before the Bench was whether it was permissible to delay the holding of elections to municipalities, municipal councils, municipal corporations, and nagar panchayats on account of pending ward delimitation exercise. During the hearing, Punjab Advocate General Gurinder Singh contended that the department is required to constitute delimitation boards for each municipality for conducting door-to-door surveys, preparation of rough maps and delimitation thereon. It was further stated that the delimitation boards for 44 of 47



municipalities have been constituted and the process of constitution of three municipalities — Municipal Corporation of Jalandhar, Municipal Council of Talwara, and Nagar Panchayat Bhadso — will be issued very soon.

The AG submitted that 16 weeks are required for completing the entire process of delimitation of wards. The AG also added that that previous attempts to carry out delimitation had been quashed by the court and as such, it was necessary to carry out the fresh delimitation. The court said, "The constitutional mandate requires that elections to constitute a municipality shall be held before the expiration of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution as per Article 243U (3)(b). "According to this mandate, elections to the municipalities must be completed before the end of their five-year term. Article 243U(3)(b) provides the maximum time limit for holding elections, stipulating that elections must take place within six months from the date of dissolution of the municipality," it said. During the previous hearing, the court had given 15 days to decide on holding the elections after the Punjab AG assured it that the state government would take "positive steps" towards holding the local bodies elections.

Advised physiotherapy, but accused of getting 'massage' in prison: AAP leader Satyendar Jain on leaked CCTV footage

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Satyendar Jain, leaked CCTV footage, Satyendar Jain advised physiotherapy, delhi excise policy case, Indian express news Former Delhi minister and AAP leader Satyendar Jain with his wife during a morning walk A day after he was granted bail in an alleged money laundering case and walked out of Tihar Jail after an 18-month prison stint, former Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain Saturday addressed the controversy surrounding leaked CCTV footage from 2022 that showed him getting a 'massage' and eating food in his cell.

Explaining that it was a routine physiotherapy session recommended by doctors due to his health issues, he questioned why only his footage had been leaked when there were cameras throughout the prison complex. "Tihar has cameras everywhere, so why doesn't footage of anything else come out? Why is only my footage available? They claimed I was having lavish meals, but all I had was seasonal fruit and vegetables..." He added, "They said I drank bottled water, but I bought it from the canteen, which is available to everyone. Everyone had a TV; I didn't have a separate one." Jain was arrested in 2022 in relation to a Rs 4.8-crore money laundering case lodged by the ED.

Questioning the BJP for releasing the video during the Gujarat elections, he alleged that they didn't want him to receive proper treatment. Jain, the MLA from Shakur Basti, also claimed the BJP aimed to destroy the AAP by jailing its top leaders. "Arvind Kejriwal had told us early on that by trying to change the country's politics, we would inevitably face jail. But at times, we felt this couldn't actually happen... we didn't realise how much bitterness some leaders carry in their hearts... What bothers them is not that Kejriwal entered politics, but he didn't become like them," he alleged. On the charges against him, he said: "The ED has been investigating this so-called money laundering case for seven years, and the CBI since 2017. What are these agencies actually doing?" He also expressed his gratitude to the judiciary for his release, stating, "If not for the judiciary, the BJP would have hanged me." Meanwhile, Jain also offered prayers at Saraswati Vihar Jain temple along with his family and then met former CM Kejriwal. Reacting to Jain's claims, BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said, "Whenever AAP leaders like Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh, or now Satyendar Jain are released on bail, they spin fabricated stories of persecution. If Jain was indeed facing discrimination or denied legal rights, he should have



raised the matter in the relevant court rather than staying silent..."

BRS cadres told to prepare for bypoll in Bhadrachalam

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Kothagudem: BRS district president Rega Kantha Rao called upon the party cadres to be prepared to face an imminent by-election to the Bhadrachalam Assembly seat. This was in the wake of the possibility of sitting MLA Tellam Venkat Rao being disqualified on charges of defection. Addressing the key functionaries of the party at a daylong meeting here on Saturday he said the party leadership would always stand by the cadres and protect them. He told the party workers to expose the failures of the ruling Congress to the public. The Congress government has failed on many counts and unlike any other government has been facing public wrath within a short period of coming to power. Many of the six guarantees promised by Congress party like Rythu Bharosa were yet to be implemented, he said. Three ministers in the district, Tummala Nageswara Rao, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy have miserably failed to address recent Munuru floods that caused devastation and left the affected families to their own fate. The public have openly criticised the Congress government and the district ministers for their failure while recalling how the previous BRS government came to their rescue when similar floods affected them, he said. Former Chief Minister K Chandrababhu Naidu was in the hearts of the public, who were benefitted by the welfare and development programmes implemented in the past, Kantha Rao noted.

In Delhi govt schools, a search for 'gifted' students in classes 6 & 9



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

A Class 6 student sat next to her father in the auditorium of a government school in Kalkaji. The hall was packed with around 60 other parents. A special educator from the Inclusive Education Branch of the Education Department (IEB) explained the purpose of the gathering. "You must have noticed your children are curious, they ask a lot of questions...?" Behind him, a monitor on the stage reads, "Abhishikt ke parinam kya hai (what is the outcome of Abhishikt).... For teachers to answer the doubts raised by the curious minds."

The parents know they were invited to the gathering for a purpose. Their children are among the 172 students shortlisted from a pool of 6,000 who would undergo tests to see if they have an IQ (intelligence quotient) of 120 or above. Across Delhi government schools, a search is on to look for such "gifted" students from classes 6 and 9. Under 'Project on Gifted and Talented Students (Abhishikt)' — a pilot project of the Delhi education department and the State Council of Educational Research and Training — students will undergo psychological tests and IQ assessments to identify and assess gifted students. These children will be provided "accelerated learning" in 15 designated CBSE schools, where trained teachers will teach them a specially designed curriculum. The project, formally announced on March 6, was initiated last December.

A team of special educators, general teachers and

senior administrators from the IEB had visited the Jnana Prabodhini Institute in Pune, which has a unique programme for "gifted children". Stuti Gaur, an IEB official who is the senior project coordinator, said: "Students who are gifted, have special talents or high ability, often go unnoticed and un nurtured since they are only seen as good academic performers." The social and emotional needs of such students remain unfulfilled, she added.

On September 28, 6,000 students from classes 6 and 9 attended the Culture Fair Intelligence Test (CFIT) — the first round. While 172 Class 6 students cleared CFIT, results for Class 9 students are yet to be announced. The 6,000 students were nominated after school principals recommended their names based on a behaviour checklist provided by the IEB that covered five development domains — physical, social, moral, intellectual, and emotional. The next step will be conducting standardised IQ assessment tests. For this, the consent of the parents of shortlisted candidates was required. For this purpose, an orientation programme was held on October 15 and 16. The finalisation of the 15 government schools, which will execute the programme, is still on, said officials. The schools will follow the CBSE curriculum with additional curated content, Gaur said. "The curriculum designed by a pool of subject-wise resource persons will focus more on activities and research-based learning. There will be more references, exposure visits, and reading material..." Gaur said, adding that psychologist counsellors will be roped in to provide support. Isha Kanhare, a senior psychologist who was part of the Jnana Prabodhini team, pointed out that just because such students have higher cognitive abilities, it would not mean they are emotionally or socially compatible. "Parents should not have the misconception that their children are superior in a stereotypical sense... the focus should be to nurture their talent, meeting all needs, including emotional." In an interaction with parents of shortlisted candidates from Class 6, Dr C S Verma, Deputy Director of Education at IEB, also emphasised that awareness among parents is important.

Delhi Gymkhana Club issuing green cards to those over 21 was without legal basis: HC

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

delhi high court, delhi gymkhana club, green cards, articles of association, delhi gymkhana club membership, Indian express news Justice Narula, however, held: "Prima facie, the issuance of green cards is in clear violation of the club's AoA, lacking formal authorisation or recognition within its governing framework." The Delhi High Court held on Friday that the Delhi Gymkhana Club issuing green cards to individuals who had crossed the age of 21 was "without legal basis". The court of Justice Sanjeev Narula was hearing a bunch of petitions filed by dependents of the existing club members who had applied for green card membership after the age of 21 due to various circumstances, including reasons such as their parents being abroad.

Green cards, akin to a licence to use the club facilities, are allotted to dependents of permanent members of the Delhi Gymkhana Club on turning 21. In March 2022, the club had terminated green cards of several individuals, forcing them to move court. The petitioners had contended that Articles of Association (AoA) of the club "does not prescribe a strict deadline for submitting membership applications" and denying them the benefit of green card holder status merely due to timing issues "would be unreasonable." The club had contended that "green card holders don't qualify as members of the club." Justice Narula, however, held: "Prima facie, the issuance of green cards is in clear violation of the club's AoA, lacking formal authorisation or recognition within its governing framework."



"The plaintiffs' reliance on historical practices and informal policies cannot substitute for compliance with the AoA, which unambiguously requires dependents to apply for full membership upon reaching the age of 21. A system that circumvents this process, however longstanding, remains beyond the bounds of the club's constitutional framework," the court said. It added, "The (club) administrator's actions, including the suspension and termination of the plaintiffs' green card privileges... were part of a necessary initiative to address systemic mismanagement and bring the club's operations in line with its foundational documents... The corrective measures were not punitive but remedial... designed to eliminate irregularities, restore institutional integrity, and ensure compliance with the AoA."

As Chandrababu Naidu brings Amaravati out of cold storage, his plans will span rail to river

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Naidu also unveiled plans to develop the port city of Visakhapatnam as the state's financial capital, saying that a high court bench and industries will be set up at Kurnool. Naidu also unveiled plans to develop the port city of Visakhapatnam as the state's financial capital, saying that a high court bench and industries will be set up at Kurnool. A proposed bullet train between Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai and Amaravati, restarting stalled projects, and the interlinking of the Vamsadhara, Godavari, Krishna, and Pennar rivers. These are some of the major projects that Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu announced Saturday as he brought his pet scheme of developing Amaravati as the state capital out of the cold storage, where it had been for the last five years.

Announcing plans to resume the ambitious project, Naidu said that Amaravati would be reconstructed as a "self-financing project" and that the World Bank had "already given its consent to sanction a loan" for the project. The project, which had been announced by Naidu's government during its previous tenure, had been kept on the backburner between 2019 and 2024 under former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy. "The capital city of Amaravati will come to life very soon," Naidu said. "Some vested interests, particularly those who were at the helm of the affairs earlier, had resorted to false propaganda that lakhs of crores of rupees will have to be spent for building Amaravati". Naidu also unveiled plans to develop the port city of Visakhapatnam as the state's financial capital, saying that a high court bench and industries will be set up at Kurnool. In his speech, Naidu said that his government's "Vision-2047" plan is only aimed at developing the state and "the 420s" cannot understand his vision. "At just one call, 29,881 farmers came forward to donate 34,241 acres in the Amaravati region," the CM said. He also accused the previous YSR government of having "wasted five crucial years in the guise that there are no funds", adding that Amaravati will be developed without spending any funds and that it would be a "a mine for generating employment and for implementing more welfare schemes for the poor". Calling Amaravati "the capital for the Gods", Naidu said renowned institutions like VIT, SRM, and Amrita University had already started their operations here, while others such as the



Xavier School of Management will follow suit soon. He also said residential towers for ministers, MLAs and All India Service officials will be completed soon at Amaravati. "I have already made an appeal to the Centre for a bullet train covering Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai and Amaravati. The World Bank has already given its consent to sanction a loan for Amaravati. I want all the works to be completed on time," he further said, adding that the Centre has already come forward to extend Rs 15,000 crore assistance to the state.

Govt's media delegation for Musi study tour to Seoul comes under fire

Hyderabad: The State government's decision to send a team of journalists on a study tour to Seoul in South Korea has kicked up a fresh controversy, with many questioning the government's misplaced priorities. While the visit is aimed to study the Cheonggyecheon Riverfront Development in Seoul, questions are being raised over sending journalists rather than bureaucrats, engineers and experts, for the study tour. The delegation comprises a Parliament member, an MLA, the Information and Public Relations Commissioner, the Director of Media and Communications, and 16 journalists from various media organisations. They will be in Seoul for four days excluding the travel period.

Adivasi body to move High Court against Indiramma committees in agency areas



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Kothagudem: The State government's order to form Indiramma committees at gram panchayat level and municipal ward level is facing opposition from adivasi organisations with regard to Scheduled Areas. The adivasi leaders and organisations have termed the GO 33 released by the government for allocation of funds and formation of Indiramma committees as illegal in the case of Scheduled Areas with a large tribal population that are governed by a special mechanism. The tribal leaders want gram sabhas to be organised under the provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) PESA Act, 1996 for the selection of beneficiaries of Indiramma houses. Adivasi Advocates Association (AAA) state secretary and Adivasi Sena vice president Sode Venkateswarlu has recently submitted petitions to chief

secretary, secretaries of roads and buildings and tribal welfare departments recently in connection with the issue. He said that when a petition was filed in the Telangana High Court in 2023 with regard to selection of Gruha Lakshmi Scheme beneficiaries in agency areas, the court stayed the procedures and had ruled that the selection of beneficiaries should be done by gram sabhas subject to agency laws.

However, the Congress government which canceled Gruha Lakshmi Scheme and told the High Court that they were preparing new guidelines for the selection of beneficiaries for the implementation of the Indiramma Indlu Programme. Speaking to Telangana Today, Venkateswarlu said that the court in its judgment in this March allowed action as per the law in case there are any objections to the new guidelines. The government which told the court that a GO 7 was issued with the guidelines, neither submitted the said GO copy before the court nor it has made it available to the public, he noted. The GO 33 issued on October 11 stated that the Indiramma committees related to the Indiramma Housing Scheme should be established by October 12 during Dasara vacations in a hurried manner within one day in consultation with the district in-charge minister, he noted. Venkateswarlu informed that a petition with regard to the issue would be filed in the High Court on the coming Tuesday. It might be noted that the government has planned to construct 4.50 lakh Indiramma houses in the first phase by providing Rs 5 lakh financial assistance to houseless poor who own a plot.

An animal farm where destitute dogs and cats find a warm and happy home



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

In the quiet and secluded region of Gawadewadi on the outskirts of Pune, in the middle of vast stretches of empty land, lies a home behind locked black gates where one continuously hears the sound of dogs barking. From the main gate, as one walks through the passageway equipped with CCTV cameras and an ambulance and enters the home, a few dogs full of energy huddle, jump and bark for a welcome. It doesn't take long to look beyond that energetic welcome and realise that one of them has violent marks on the body from an acid attack or that another has a bulge on the head indicating a brain tumour. Yet their tails are wagging.

There are 80 such dogs and 18 cats residing, recovering and being rehabilitated back to life at Sunil's Pet Home, a shelter for cats and dogs. Sunil Tirlotkar, 46, looks after the rescued strays and provides them two meals a day and weekly bath at Rs 200 per day, paid by those who choose to sponsor the pet. Tirlotkar says, "Most of them are rescued dogs and cats that animal lovers find in an unsafe situation in their societies and hence drop them here for safety and care". Pointing to the black marks on the body of a dog named Buddy, Tirlotkar says, "Buddy was in Lucknow at the receiving end of an acid attack. Someone who had been there for a work trip saw the troubled dog and sent him here via plane." Some cats also ended up at the shelter during lockdown owing to work-from-home worries of their owners. While Tirlotkar only takes in pets that owners are willing to sponsor, he says, "A lot of times, people bring pets here and assure me that they will pay for the pet every month, but they disappear after the first few payments. In such cases, I rely on some other sponsors to sustain the place." With so many pets and their different ailments, Tirlotkar's job be-

comes challenging to provide everyone with their medicines on time. But to do it well, he has made the premises his home too and carries all the duties with the help of his wife and three employees. "All the dogs deserve special individual care. Some are hesitant to take medicine, so we spend time with them and understand. Some like to take their medicines with dog food and some better take it with meat. We accordingly ensure that they are getting their doses," he said. He says he applies the same strategy with their meals. "Whenever we have a new pet coming in, we give them a lot of time and attention. We sit and spend time with them, to understand their needs better. Just like for humans, it helps to have a safe, clean and supportive space for their speedy recovery," says Tirlotkar.

It feels true after looking at a cat in the home, whose face bore a perpetual expression of fear. She moved cautiously, occupying as little space as possible, as though to hide from the people around her. Tirlotkar said, "Someone had hit her and she has been scared ever since. When she was new here, she used to be fixated in one corner and wouldn't move from there. However, as time passed, she felt okay to move around a little and to sit on the cooler now". Another dog at the home was brought in with a brain tumour condition. "Doctors had warned me that he wouldn't survive even for three months. But he has been around here for eight months now," says Tirlotkar. Although this facility was started in 2018, Tirlotkar has been working and engaging with animals for their better life since he was 16. He remembers seeing his parents and grandparents looking after stray animals and that influenced him. Tirlotkar dropped out of school after Class 10 and does not have any formal education in veterinary sciences either. But says he has learnt to care for dogs, understand their behaviours and become friends with them through practical experience. He does have visits from vets when needed. Tirlotkar is working to set up special care treatment rooms, a swimming pool for dogs and a guest house for their owners at the facility. There are dogs that have lost their legs in accidents, some that are blind, some that are paralysed, some that are old, and some that are infected with gangrene. "All I try to do is provide them with a comfortable space with love, so their last days in this world are spent well," says Tirlotkar. Though Tirlotkar's aim is to increase the lifespan of all the pets under his care, he has set up a cremation facility for their funeral when it is time to bid farewell to them.

State govt not to dispose of any properties of Chamundeshwari Temple, interfere with customs: Karnataka High Court

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

The Karnataka High Court has taken note of a representation by the state government that no properties of the Chamundeshwari Temple in Mysuru will be disposed of, nor will customs be interfered with, during the pendency of the case challenging the Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority Act. The matter was heard on October 15 by a bench of Justice Hemant Chandangoudar. The court order stated, "Learned Additional Advocate General, appearing for the respondent-State, fairly concedes that, pending the disposal of this writ petition, neither the movable nor the immovable properties belonging to the temple will be disposed of. He also submits that the prevailing customs and traditions of the temple shall not be modified or interfered with during the pendency of the petition." The court also specified that if any such actions or decisions were to be taken, it would only be done with the court's prior consent. It also directed that the Authority constituted under the Act to give notice of any meetings to the petitioner in this case, Pramoda Devi Wadiyar of the erstwhile Mysore royal family. If she does not attend said meetings, they could make decisions under the aforementioned Act. The temple and its environs are among



several properties across the state that have long been a bone of contention and the subject of legal disputes between the state of Karnataka and the erstwhile royals. The prayer in this petition requested the court to declare the Act illegal under numerous provisions of the Constitution, including several fundamental rights, while arguing that the State of Karnataka did not have the legislative competence to pass such a law. Among other assertions, the prayer also states that the Act would be illegal and arbitrary as it would divest the petitioner of her rights. The matter is set to be further heard on November 22.

Disruptions in paddy procurement: Punjab CM Mann reads riot act to millers: 'Won't hesitate to get rice milled outside state'; they say go ahead

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Adopting a tough stance against the constant disruption in paddy procurement, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Saturday warned the stakeholders that his government will not allow any "blackmailing" and if need arises, it will not hesitate in getting the rice milled from outside the state. "We have a plan B ready for getting the milling of rice done to safeguard the interests of food growers. Blackmailing will not be allowed and, if needed, the state government will not hesitate to get the milling of rice done outside the state," Mann said.

Stating that millers were not willing to mill the paddy at the behest of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Mann warned that if they (millers) will not listen to the government, it will take all operations in its own hands. Punjab Rice Millers' Association president Tarsem Saini said that the government was most welcome to get the milling done from outside. "This is not a threat by the CM. It is a proposal. I want to say that the CM is most welcome to get paddy milled from outside the state. We have made it clear that we do not want to mill paddy," said Saini. Meanwhile, the protesting farmers gave an ultimatum to CM, saying they will announce a "big decision" if the state government fails to ensure smooth paddy procurement within four days.

The rice millers have refused to mill the paddy complaining of space crunch for storing the fresh crop. They want the Centre to liquidate the existing wheat and rice stock to create sufficient space for the fresh arrival. Rice millers have also expressed concern over the out-turn ratio (post milling yield) of the PR-126 paddy variety, claiming that it will lead to huge losses to them. They have said the out-turn ratio of PR-126 is less than 67 per cent, the norm fixed by the Centre. They have refused to mill the paddy till their demands were met. The AAP government has been facing flak from farmers and the opposition parties who have been alleging that paddy procurement and lifting process is not up to mark. Out of total 16.37 lakh tonne paddy procured in Punjab, only 2.62 lakh tonne has been lifted, leading to a glut in mandis. Mann, who held a meeting with a delegation of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM), said that the state government is firmly committed to the smooth and hassle free procurement of paddy and it is duty-bound to make every effort to ensure that the government's decision is duly implemented. Mann sought two days time from the farmers to get the paddy lifted. Following this the delegation, led by Balbir Singh Rajewal, said they would lift the ongoing dharna from Kisan Bhawan.

"We have decided to give him four days. But if the situation remains the same even after four days, we will announce a big action," Rajewal said after the meeting. Mann, meanwhile, said he is personally monitoring smooth and hassle-free procurement and lifting of grains and no stone will be left unturned for it. He said the state government has already made elaborate arrangements for purchasing the harvest of farmers as soon as it arrives in mandis.

Sources said the CM told the SKM delegation that the government was ready with tarpaulin sheets and other material for the stacking. He said they would get the paddy procured and lifted, if the arhtiyas refuse to do so. He said that the state government is committed to procure and lift every single grain of the produce of farmers adding that no farmer will celebrate festival of Diwali in Mandis. Mann, in a statement later, said that that some forces inimical to the state are trying to politicise this matter at cost of farmers. He also said that distress sale of the paddy will not be allowed and severest of severe action will be taken against officers found responsible for it. He said that 185 lakh tonne paddy is expected this year in the market for which 2,651 mandis have been set up across the state. He said around 18.31 lakh tonne paddy has arrived in mandis out of which 16.37 lakh tonne has been purchased



and payment worth Rs 3,000 crore made to farmers.

Mann said that last year the milling of paddy had taken place late due to which the current problem of space is arising. He added that after he flagged the issue, Union Minister Parthad Joshi assured to transport out 120 lakh tonne rice by March 2025. The CM added that he has already taken up the issues of millers and arhtiyas with the Centre adding that the Union government has agreed to most of demands. He said that experts of Punjab Agricultural University has repeatedly emphasised that as compared to long duration variety (Pusa 44), PR-126 saves 20-25 per cent water. Likewise, it has lesser straw load (10%), provides 25-40 days more window period for residue management along with saving of about Rs. 5,000 per acre of input costs thereby immensely benefitting the farmers. The CM said that the state government has already enhanced the labour charges adding that if needed he will explore possibility of further increasing it. He said that the state government has already decided not to award the contract of left over material from mandis of Punjab from the year 2023-24. Mann said that this decision has been taken to raise the standard of living of poor tribes/people adding that it is being implemented meticulously. The CM said that the state government is vehemently raising up the issue of smooth supply of DAP fertilisers with the Centre.

Cheetah to soon give birth at Kuno National Park, says MP CM Mohan Yadav

Bhopal: A female cheetah is pregnant and expected to deliver cubs soon at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav shared the information in a post on X late on Saturday night and said this symbolises a big achievement for the 'Cheetah Project'.

On September 17, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released eight cheetahs — five females and three males — brought from Namibia into enclosures at the KNP as part of the world's first intercontinental translocation of the big cats, nearly eight decades after the cheetahs were hunted to extinction. In February 2023, another 12 cheetahs were translocated to the national park in MP from South Africa as part of the Indian government's project to reintroduce cheetahs into the country. Yadav in the post on X said, "Happiness is coming to Kuno. A female cheetah is soon going to give birth to new cubs in the Kuno National Park of Madhya Pradesh, the 'Cheetah State' of the country." "This news is a symbol of a big achievement of the Cheetah Project. This project, started under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, is proving to be a continuous improvement in the ecological balance," he said. According to officials, 12 cheetah cubs have so far been born on the Indian soil over the last two years at KNP.

Three Punjab entrepreneurs build multi-crore jaggery startups with global reach

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Crushed under debts, Amrinder Singh, 34 and an aeronautical engineer from Hoshiarpur in Punjab, was on the verge of giving up all hopes in 2013 and had even purchased poison to end his life. Fast forward to 2024, he now owns a jaggery-based startup with an annual turnover of Rs 12 crore.

Amrinder's success isn't an isolated story in Punjab. Two MBA graduates, Navnoor Kaur (28), and Kaushal Singh (29), joined forces to create their own jaggery venture, which now boasts of an annual turnover of Rs 7 crore. While Navnoor was struggling with family health issues prior to starting the venture, Kaushal, a farmer, was battling unfair pricing for his sugarcane crop. These two jaggery-based startups — Amrinder Singh's 'Jimidar' under Guru Nanak Enterprises, and Navnoor and Kaushal's 'Jaggercane' — have turned the traditional jaggery-making cottage industry into an internationally recognised businesses. They supply their products to the USA, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, and England. Both startups have FSSAI, US FDA, and APEDA licenses that are required to meet international standards. Ludhiana's Navnoor started her journey in 2017 while researching healthy alternatives for her diabetic family. Though she secured a high-paying corporate job after her MBA in 2019, she quit in 2021 to pursue her passion for organic, unadulterated jaggery, a sweetener she hoped could benefit not only her family but millions of others dealing with similar health concerns. However, the market was saturated with adulterated products, and finding clean, nutritious jaggery was a challenge.

At the same time, Kaushal, who holds an MBA degree in agriculture and a sugarcane farmer from Sallopur village in Gurdaspur, was struggling with low sugarcane prices. Despite setting up his own jaggery plant in 2016, he wasn't seeing much success and was determined to upgrade his plant to international standards. The two met at a Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) mela, and their shared vision led them to launch 'Jaggercane' in 2021. Navnoor visited various jaggery-making units and found most of them unhygienic. However, when she visited Kaushal's unit in Sallopur, she found it clean and hygienic.

Navnoor's research revealed that proper seed selection and technical knowledge could significantly improve jaggery quality. Jaggercane produces a variety of products, including Organic Jaggery Cubes, Coconut Jaggery, and Crunchy Jaggery Granola. "Jaggery provides over 30% of the recommended daily iron intake, even in small quantities," said Navnoor, adding that their goal was to modernise jaggery and make it a must-have product for health-conscious consumers. After receiving an overwhelming response, particularly for their Coconut Jaggery Crumbs, Punjabi Shakar, Navnoor quit her job in 2021. Within a year, Jaggercane achieved a turnover of Rs 2 crore. They also make jaggery-based atta cookies, millet cookies, ketch up. The duo have sought

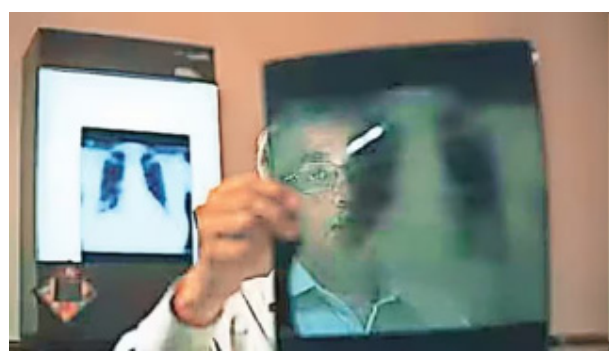


Jaggercane now has over 1,000 touchpoints like well known bakeries and sweet shops across India and export to 16 countries and supplies its products on Amazon and Flipkart.

technical and scientific inputs from PAU to extend jaggery's short shelf life. Jaggercane now has over 1,000 touchpoints like well known bakeries and sweet shops across India and export to 16 countries and supplies its products on Amazon and Flipkart. "We work with over 30 farmers across 200 acres of sugarcane plantations," said Navnoor, adding that their packaging unit in Sallopur employ local women.

Kaushal added that the plant produces one tonne jaggery every month. In Hoshiarpur, Amrinder started his career with a 'chapati' business after completing aeronautical engineering in 2010. "We developed a method to prepare chapatis without using any preservatives, which could be stored at room temperature for up to six months. However, my business partner backed out, leaving me in Rs 37 lakh debt when I was just 24," He said, adding that at that point, he even thought of killing himself but the thought of leaving his mother alone kept him going. He then decided to focus on the food industry and started from scratch. "Drawing on Hoshiarpur's unique sugarcane flavour, I launched my jaggery business in 2018-19 under the 'Jimidar' brand. Today, my firm produces 800 tonne of jaggery annually. We supply jaggery-based cookies, rusk, flavored jaggery, and Gachak to consumers across several countries, including the USA, Canada, Australia, England, and the Netherlands," he said, adding that he is now a registered manufacturer under the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme. "I started from scratch, repaid all my debt, and now the company's turnover is Rs 12 crore. We work with around 300 farmers from Punjab and other states. Apart from jaggery, we also sell over 100 items, including spices and ready-to-eat snacks. In 2023, we launched our first unit in Canada," he said, adding that his wife, Devanshi Sharma, has been a great support in his venture.

12,835 tuberculosis patients identified in HP; Kangra tops the TB table with 2,322 cases



GNS News Agency, Oct 22 At least 12,835 tuberculosis (TB) patients are currently under treatment across Himachal Pradesh, an official of State Tuberculosis Cell (STC) said

Kangra district tops the TB table with 2,322 cases, followed by Mandi (2,055), Solan (1,416) and Shimla with 1,405 active cases of tuberculosis. Lahaul and Spiti district is at the bottom of the heap with 52 TB cases. The data came to the fore at a seminar organised by STC in Shimla on Saturday. The workshop discussed the status of TB and raised awareness about the disease.

According to STC, last year, 723 gram panchayats (GPs) out of 3,615 in the state were declared TB-free. Kangra led with 165 TB-free panchayats out of 814. It was followed by Mandi with 81 out of 559 panchayats declared free of TB. In Lahaul and Spiti, 20 out of 45 GPs were declared TB-free. While in Shimla it was 133 out of 412 GPs, in Una 68 out of 245 GPs were marked TB-free. The state has seen a steady decline in TB cases over the past three years. In 2022, there were 16,072 TB patients, 13,935 of which were successfully cured. In 2023, the number of TB cases dropped to 15,638, with 10,223 patients fully recovered. As of September 2024, the active TB case count in the state stands at 12,835, an STC official said. The state tests 4,799 individuals per 1 lakh population to monitor and manage TB cases. "There are 13,000 to 14,000 TB cases reported annually in government hospitals, alongside approximately 1,500 cases in private hospitals. Additionally, around 300 patients are diagnosed with Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB), a severe form of the disease. Despite these cases, Himachal Pradesh is performing well under the National Health Mission (NHM) to eliminate TB," L R Sharma, IEC officer with the State Tuberculosis Cell, Addressing a media engagement session held here, Priyanka Verma (IAS), Mission Director, National Health Mission, Himachal Pradesh, highlighted the state's innovative efforts in eliminating TB.

"Our initiatives include the Sunday Active Case Finding (ACF) campaign, in which ASHA workers screen vulnerable population every week. In 2023, over 23 lakh individuals were screened, leading to 219 new TB diagnoses. A multisectoral engagement approach, involving

27 government departments, has enhanced community outreach, resulting in 723 panchayats being declared TB-free. Other initiatives, such as the Chemist Engagement Programme and Indoor Ward Screening at hospitals, have helped detect many presumptive cases," she said. Dr Ravinder Kumar, State Programme Officer of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), emphasised the importance of community involvement in eliminating TB. "Our progress in this direction is due to partnerships with chemist associations, self-help groups (SHGs), youth organisations, medical colleges, and social media influencers. However, challenges remain, particularly in addressing myths, reducing stigma, and building stronger community support," he said, adding that "the media's role in digital campaigns is crucial to spreading awareness and promoting health-seeking behaviour. We invite the media to join us in sharing accurate information to achieve a TB-free Himachal".

The state's testing rate for TB is "four times more than the national rate", a statement quoted Priyanka Verma as saying. Insightful sessions with Tuberculosis (TB) Champions, ASHA workers, chemists and Gram Sabha leaders who shared their on-the-ground experiences in fighting TB marked the event. The media engagement session aimed to discuss the road map to eliminate TB in Himachal Pradesh and equip media professionals with essential resources for impactful reporting on TB and other health challenges, the release said.

The event was organised by the State Tuberculosis Cell, National Health Mission (NHM)-Himachal Pradesh, with support from the Union Against Tuberculosis, it added. The participants highlighted the impact of community-driven initiatives, the challenges they face in remote areas, and the collective efforts needed to raise awareness, ensure early diagnosis, and support treatment adherence in the fight against TB. They also discussed the critical role of strengthening health systems in Himachal Pradesh to realise the goals of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP) by enhancing infrastructure, increasing access to diagnostic tools, training healthcare workers, and building a robust foundation for TB elimination. Verma pointed out that around 13,000 TB patients have been identified in Himachal Pradesh so far.

"As Himachal Pradesh continues to make strides in TB elimination, it is important that we not only showcase our local progress but also compare our achievements to national and global standards," the release quoted Verma as saying. "This broader narrative helps us highlight the innovative approaches taken in the state, such as the multi-sectoral engagement. The media plays a pivotal role in this effort by ensuring responsible reporting and disseminating accurate, impactful information to the public," she said. The state government has also launched an extensive social media campaign, engaging influencers and elected representatives to raise awareness, the release said.

Elon Musk promises \$1 million award each day to anyone who signs his petition

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

US billionaire Elon Musk on Saturday promised to give away \$1 million each day until the US Presidential elections to a person who signed his online petition supporting free speech and the right to bear arms. The petition, launched on America PAC's website, aims to gather 1 million signatures from swing state voters in support of the First and Second Amendments of the US Constitution. "The First and Second Amendments guarantee freedom of speech and the right to bear arms. By signing below, I am pledging my support for the First and Second Amendments," the petition reads. The Tesla owner awarded \$1 million to an attendee at a campaign town hall in Pennsylvania on Saturday, called in support of Republican candidate Donald Trump. The winner, John Dreher, received the \$1 million cheque from Musk. "By the way, John had no idea. So anyway, you're welcome," the Tesla founder said as he handed Dreher the check. In his address, the tech magnate said that his political organisation, America PAC, will be awarding \$1 million every day until the November 5 election. Musk started America PAC in support of Trump's presidential campaign. The group is helping mobilise and register voters



in battleground states. Musk has given at least \$75 million to America PAC, according to federal disclosures, making the group a crucial part of Trump's bid to win the US presidential polls. Earlier, the SpaceX owner also offered \$47 to every registered voter in the US who referred others to sign his petition supporting free speech and the right to bear arms. Gun rights in the United States remain a divisive issue, with some people supporting easy access to guns, while others argue that guns pose a threat to public and personal safety.

US probes illegal release of classified documents on Israel attack plan: Report



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

According to US officials, the documents are attributed to the US Geospatial Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency and note that Israel continues to move military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's blistering ballistic missile attack on October 1. The US is investigating an unauthorised release of classified documents that assess Israel's plans to attack Iran, three US officials told The Associated Press. A fourth US official said the documents appear to be legitimate. The documents are attributed to the US Geospatial Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency and note that Israel continues to move military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's blistering ballistic missile attack on October 1. They were sharable within the "Five Eyes," which are the US, Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The documents, which are marked top secret, were posted online to Telegram and first reported by CNN and Axios. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss the matter publicly.

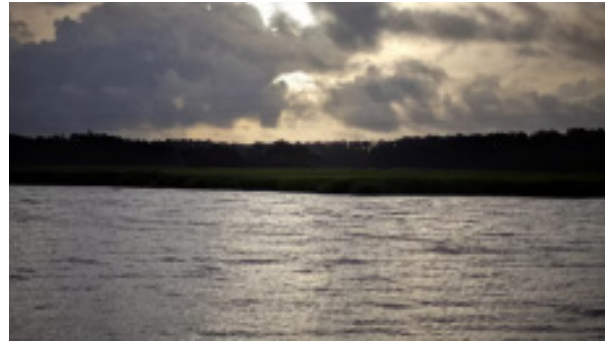
The investigation is also examining how the docu-

ments were obtained -- including whether it was an intentional leak by a member of the intelligence community or obtained by another method, like a hack -- and whether any other intelligence information was compromised, one of the officials said. As part of that investigation, officials are working to determine who had access to the documents before they were posted, the official said. The documents emerged as the US has urged Israel to take advantage of its elimination of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and press for a ceasefire in Gaza, and has likewise urgently cautioned Israel not to further expand military operations in the north of Lebanon and risk a wider regional war. However, Israel's leadership has repeatedly stressed it will not let Iran's missile attack go unanswered.

Delhi-London Vistara flight gets bomb threat, diverted to Frankfurt

New Delhi: A London-bound Vistara flight from Delhi was diverted to Frankfurt after a bomb threat that later turned out to be a hoax, an official said on Saturday. In a statement early this morning, an airline spokesperson said the flight landed safely at the Frankfurt airport. After security checks, the flight was cleared for take off and later landed at London at around 11.40 pm local time on Friday. "Vistara flight UK17 operating from Delhi to London on October 18, 2024 received a security threat on social media. In line with the protocol, all relevant authorities were immediately informed and as a precautionary measure, the pilots decided to divert the flight to Frankfurt," the spokesperson said.

7 killed after ferry dock gangway collapses in US's Georgia



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

At least seven people were killed, and six others were critically injured when a gangway collapsed on Georgia's Sapelo Island, where crowds had gathered for a fall celebration by the island's Gullah-Geechee community. At least seven people were killed, and several others were injured on Saturday when part of a ferry dock collapsed on Georgia's Sapelo Island, where crowds had gathered for a fall celebration by the island's tiny Gullah-Geechee community of Black slave descendants. Eight people were taken to hospitals, at least six of them with critical injuries, and crews from the US Coast Guard, the McIntosh County Fire Department, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and others were searching the water, according to Natural Resources spokesperson Tyler Jones. The agency operates the dock and ferry boats that transport people between the island and the mainland. A gangway at the dock collapsed, sending people plunging into the water, Jones said. A team of engineers and construction specialists planned to be on-site early Sunday to begin investigating why the walkway failed, he said. "There was no collision" with a boat or anything else, Jones said. "The thing just collapsed. We don't know why." Helicopters and boats with side-scanning sonar were used in the search, according to a Department of Natural Resources statement. Among the dead was a chaplain for the state agency, Jones said.

There were at least 20 people on the gangway when it collapsed, he said. The gangway connected an outer dock where people board the ferry to another dock onshore. Georgia Governor Brian Kemp said he and his family were "heartbroken by today's tragedy on Sapelo

Island." "As state and local first responders continue to work this active scene, we ask that all Georgians join us in praying for those lost, for those still in harm's way, and for their families," Kemp said on the social platform X. President Joe Biden said federal officials were ready to provide any assistance needed. "What should have been a joyous celebration of Gullah-Geechee culture and history instead turned into tragedy and devastation," Biden said in a statement. "Jill and I mourn those who lost their lives, and we pray for the injured and anyone still missing. We are also grateful to the first responders at the scene." Sapelo Island is about 60 miles (97 kilometers) south of Savannah, reachable from the mainland by boat. The deadly collapse happened as island residents, family members and tourists gathered for Cultural Day, an annual fall event spotlighting the island's tiny community of Hogg Hummock, home to a few dozen Black residents. The community of dirt roads and modest homes was founded after the Civil War by former slaves from the cotton plantation of Thomas Spalding. Hogg Hummock's slave descendants are extremely close, having been "bonded by family, bonded by history and bonded by struggle," said Roger Lotson, the only Black member of the McIntosh County Board of Commissioners. His district includes Sapelo Island. "Everyone is family, and everyone knows each other," Lotson said. "In any tragedy, especially like this, they are all one. They're all united. They all feel the same pain and the same hurt." Small communities descended from enslaved island populations in the South -- known as Gullah, or Geechee in Georgia -- are scattered along the coast from North Carolina to Florida. Scholars say their separation from the mainland caused residents to retain much of their African heritage, from their unique dialect to skills and crafts such as cast-net fishing and weaving baskets. In 1996, Hogg Hummock, also known as Hog Hammock, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of the United States' treasured historic sites. But the community's population has been shrinking for decades, and some families have sold their land to outsiders who built vacation homes. Tax increases and zoning changes by the local government in McIntosh County have been met by protests and lawsuits by Hogg Hummock residents and landowners. They have been battling for the past year to undo zoning changes approved by county commissioners in September 2023 that doubled the size of homes allowed in Hogg Hummock.

Former Indonesian army general Prabowo Subianto sworn in as President

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto on Sunday took over as president of the world's third-largest democracy after sweeping the country's election with policies like free meals for school children and with the outgoing leader's son as his running mate. Prabowo Subianto officially became Indonesia's eighth president on Sunday morning after he was sworn in during a ceremony at Indonesia's parliament.

Indonesia's Prabowo Subianto on Sunday took over as president of the world's third-largest democracy after sweeping the country's election with policies like free meals for school children and with the outgoing leader's son as his running mate. The 73-year-old former special forces commander won the February 14 contest with nearly 60 per cent of the vote and has spent the past nine months building a formidable parliamentary coalition. Prabowo, wearing a traditional black hat and navy suit with a woven maroon and golden sarong, officially became Indonesia's eighth president on Sunday morning after he was sworn in during a ceremony at Indonesia's parliament. Prabowo, who unsuccessfully ran for the presidency twice before, is expected to give a speech to lawmakers at the parliament's upper house and then head to the presidential palace. He was joined in the swearing-in ceremony by his running mate, Gibran Rakabuming Raka, 37, the eldest son of outgoing President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo. As they make their way to the palace, they will be greeted by thousands of flag-waving supporters already thronging Jakarta streets that are lined with posters of the incoming leader. Flower boards set up outside the palace either congratulated Prabowo and Gibran or thanked Jokowi for his decade as president.

Prabowo and Gibran are expected to stop at seven stages along the way between parliament and the palace, Nusron Wahid, a Prabowo aide, told reporters on Friday. Jokowi supporters are also attending the celebrations to bid farewell to Indonesia's outgoing leader.

Annetta Yuniar, a bystander who had excitedly waved at Jokowi's motorcade as it slowly made its way past supporters before the ceremony, said she would miss Jokowi but that Prabowo was a strong leader. "Prabowo will continue the development that Jokowi started. There's continuity. It's what I want," she said.



Jokowi has left an indelible mark on the nation of 280 million, presiding over a period of strong economic growth and massive infrastructure development. Critics also say, though, his rule has been marked by a rise in old-time patronage and dynastic politics, and they warn about diminished integrity in courts and other state institutions. The Indonesian police and military have put in place strict security measures, deploying at least 100,000 personnel across the city, including snipers and anti-riot units.

Prabowo is expected to meet with foreign dignitaries, including about 20 heads of state, later on Sunday at the presidential palace, said Hasan Nasbi, the head of the presidential communications organisation. China said it is sending Vice President Han Zheng to the inauguration. The delegation from the United States is being led by US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield. During his campaign, Prabowo billed himself to voters and investors alike as the "continuity candidate".

He has set a target to accelerate economic growth to 8 per cent from a current rate of 5 per cent, pledged to make Indonesia self-sufficient in the production of staples, and signalled a more active role on the global stage. Past allegations against Prabowo of involvement in the kidnapping of student activists and human rights abuses in Papua and East Timor, however, have also raised concern about Indonesia's trajectory of democracy, human rights advocates say. Prabowo has always denied the allegations that led to his dismissal from the military in 1998, the same year Indonesia broke free from the decades-long authoritarian rule of former President Suharto.

Trump escalates attacks on Kamala Harris as candidates try courting early voters

GNS News Agency, Oct 22. Republican Donald Trump escalated his verbal attacks on Democrat Kamala Harris on Saturday as the vice president turned to celebrities to generate enthusiasm for her campaign, with both candidates for US president courting early voters. Republican Donald Trump escalated his verbal attacks on Democrat Kamala Harris on Saturday as the vice president turned to celebrities to generate enthusiasm for her campaign, with both candidates for US president courting early voters. Harris and Trump are essentially tied in the most competitive states and many Americans are voting early by mail or in person, with just 17 days until the November 5 election. On Saturday, Harris rallied supporters at a get-out-the-vote event in Detroit, Michigan, for the city's first day of early voting, alongside Detroit-born rapper Lizzo, who said voting was crucial in a state where thin margins can determine elections. In Atlanta later, Harris appeared with pop singer Usher. "This is the swing state of all swing states, so every single last vote here counts," Lizzo said. She rejected the argument by some that America was not ready for a woman president, saying, "It's about damn time," riffing on one of her biggest hits. Votes in a handful of swing states, where candidates from both parties have strong support and electoral results have been close in past cycles, are likely to decide the election. In Latrobe, Pennsylvania, Trump

escalated his personal attacks on Harris, a practice some of his advisers fear could alienate swing voters. Trump said Harris is further to the left than Democratic Senators Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders. "You have to tell Kamala Harris that you've had enough, that you just can't take it anymore. We can't stand you, you're a shit vice president." As the crowd applauded, Trump added: "Kamala, you're fired, get the hell out of here, you're fired." Trump had billed his Latrobe event as the start of his final argument to voters but quickly went off script with a long story about hometown hero Arnold Palmer that included an off-color comment about the genitalia of the late golf legend. "He took showers with the other pros, they came out of there and said 'oh my God, that's unbelievable,'" he said. The Harris campaign quickly seized on the comments. "Trump's Pennsylvania closing argument is literal junk. In a Pennsylvania rally speech his campaign team billed as 'the beginning of his closing argument in the final stretch,' Donald Trump focused on the issue most important to voters in this election: a deceased golfer's anatomy," the campaign said in a statement. In both Detroit and Atlanta, Harris urged her supporters to put in an all-out effort to win. "On Election Day, we don't want to have any regrets about what we could have done these next 17 days," she told about 300 voters who planned to march together to an early-voting site.

India has all growth drivers China had 20 years ago, raising education levels key: Jean-Pierre Landau



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

As overcapacity in China is seen as a major challenge to global manufacturing growth, India stands to benefit the most if it promotes industries that raise the qualifications of its population, increase productivity, and improve education levels, said Jean-Pierre Landau, Associate Professor of Economics at Sciences Po, France, and former IMF and World Bank executive, in an interview with .Landau stated that India possesses all the growth drivers that China had 20 years ago, and that a focus on education would be crucial, as South Korea's experience shows that "education is everything". He also noted that India's service sector is generating a significant number of positive externalities in the economy.

"I think what India has done with the payment system is going to be a model for the rest of the world, or at least the emerging world. Since 1991, India has found the right balance between the private sector and the public sector. However, there are challenges such as poverty and education," he said. Professor Landau added that rising global protectionism poses a major challenge to economic growth for developing countries such as India. Even regions like Europe, which were strong advocates of free trade up until a few years ago, are now prioritising the climate agenda, sometimes in a highly "restrictive" manner. Notably, Indian policymakers have criticised European Union's regulations where climate interferes with trade. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman have called taxes under Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) and EU deforestation law as an unfair unilateral measure that could disrupt trade.

"I started my career as a trade official 20 years ago. I've never been a fanatic for pure free trade. But now, I think it's moving in the wrong direction. We may be in the process of 'throwing the baby out with the bathwater', and that is very dangerous. Much depends on the US election, but depressingly, the one thing on which both parties seem to agree is the trade agenda," he said. While former president and Republican nominee Donald Trump has targeted India over high tariffs during his election rallies, President Biden has also announced tariffs on electric vehicles and clean energy products. However, these measures have been largely directed towards China. Under Biden, India and the US resolved all seven pending disputes at the World Trade Organization (WTO). "I don't think a Democratic US president five years ago would have gone as far as invoking national security. All of this is done under the national security exception of the WTO. I don't think a Democratic president would have gone that far. Conceptually, there's something worth exploring—what exactly economic security means," he said. On China's shock and stimulus

There were two negative surprises regarding China, compared to expectations 20 years ago when it joined the WTO, the professor said. "We first thought that we could

absorb the China shock. For the US, it was much more concentrated regionally and sectorally than expected, and so the regional implications of the China shock have been enormous. Perhaps that's a source of populism. That was certainly the first surprise. The second surprise is that everybody expected that by bringing China into the WTO and the world economic order, they [China] would have supported it. Instead, they fought against it very strongly, and that was a very bad surprise," Landau added.

Notably, rising imports from China have been a major concern for India, with imports exceeding \$100 billion in FY24, affecting businesses from small artisans to large steel manufacturers. During the ongoing financial year, India's imports from China have already surpassed \$60 billion in the first seven months of 2024—a 10 per cent increase compared to \$55 billion during the same period last year. Landau said that China can grow on its own through size, work, and expertise, but it still needs two things—commodities and technology. "In my view, they have not caught up with the technology frontier where the US is, let alone pushed the frontier beyond the US. And clearly, the US intends to prevent them from doing that. Additionally, the [Chinese] regime, as I see it, is no longer in a position to trigger innovation as much as before," he said.

When asked if the Chinese stimulus would be enough to revive the Chinese economy, Landau said that while a stimulus makes sense, it may not be sufficient. "Whether it will be enough to dissipate the latent crisis of confidence that exists in China since Covid, I'm not sure," he said. The world's second-largest economy is experiencing deflationary pressures due to a sharp decline in the property market and weak consumer confidence. On Saturday, Chinese Finance Minister Lan Fao said the country would issue \$325.5 billion in special bonds over the next three months to boost the economy.

Interest rates and inflation The professor noted that Western countries have managed to reduce inflation in record time, following the substantial stimulus provided during the Covid-19 pandemic. Notably, inflation in the West has impacted Indian exports, particularly in labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and gems and jewellery. Meanwhile, high inflation has also slowed the flow of investments into developing countries like India. "What has been done in the last two years is historically exceptional. Western countries have managed to bring inflation down very close to their target. We are not quite there yet, but we are very close—in the Euro area, we are almost touching the target, but we are also triggering a recession. To the best of my knowledge, this hasn't happened in the last half-century," he said. "If you look at real interest rates, before the cuts and even after, they are very high right now. Real rates are in the order of 2-2.5 per cent, which for advanced economies is certainly above what we call the famous R-star, the natural equilibrium rate. From that perspective, I wouldn't judge the [interest rate] cuts as premature, but everyone is aware that the last mile is more difficult. You don't want to remove accommodation too fast, especially since we are still above target," he said. Landau said that capital is much scarcer today than it has been over the last two to three decades, with global savings rates falling. "We have reached unprecedented levels of indebtedness in advanced economies. We have no idea how this will develop. It may continue as usual, or we may face shocks we cannot yet imagine. Climate finance will be difficult. Part of climate policy is about setting objectives, with the assumption that finance and strategy will adapt. I think we need more than that now," Landau said.

Health cover for senior citizens, term life insurance may get GST waiver

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

The Goods and Services Tax on premiums paid by senior citizens for health insurance and premiums paid by all for term life insurance may be exempted as most members of a ministerial panel set up specifically to study this agreed in favour of extending such relief. Separately, the Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation also discussed Saturday a GST rejig for several items and proposed cutting rates for some items such as packaged water above 20 litres (5 per cent from 18 per cent), bicycles priced less than Rs 10,000 (5 per cent from 12 per cent) and exercise notebooks (5 per cent from 12 per cent).

Shoes above Rs 15,000 and wrist watches above Rs 25,000 are likely to be shifted to the topmost slab of 28 per cent GST from 18 per cent now, a state finance minister said. This rate rejig exercise will help the states and Centre to realise revenue gain of Rs 22,000 crore, which will help cover the revenue loss from reduction in GST rates for insurance premiums and other items, the minister said.

For the insurance sector, GST on term life insurance premiums are likely to be exempted for all persons, including plans that consist of family members. Health insurance premium paid by senior citizens irrespective of coverage would also be exempted. For other citizens, health insurance cover till Rs 5 lakh is likely to be exempted and the existing rate of 18 per cent will be charged for health insurance cover over Rs 5 lakh. "Every GoM member wants to give relief to people. Special focus is on senior citizens. We will submit a report to the Council. Work is being done to reduce the GST rate from 18 per cent, exemption will be given for certain categories (of insurance premium). The final decision will be taken by the GST Council," Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, who is the convener of both the GoMs on insurance and rate rationalisation, said after the two meetings.

In its 54th meeting held on September 9, the GST Council had broadly converged on the need to reduce the tax rate for health and life insurance premiums from 18 per cent but the specific proposal was referred to the GoM on life and health insurance premium for further discussion. The existing six-member GoM on rate rationalisation was expanded to form a 13-member GoM on life and health insurance premium with the mandate to submit their report by October-end. The GST Council will meet in November to take a final decision on the rate recommendations by both the GoMs. "There were discussions held in the meeting. Most states are on board for exempting term life insurance premium from GST. Term life insurance plans which include family members are also going to be exempt. For health insurance, total relief would be given for insurance premiums paid by senior citizens and exemption would be given for health insur-



ance cover up to Rs 5 lakh for others. The existing 18 per cent GST rate will be retained for health insurance cover above Rs 5 lakh," a state finance minister, who is a member of the GoM, said after the meeting on Saturday.

The revenue implication of the exemption proposal for senior citizens for health insurance is expected to be around Rs 2,200 crore and Rs 200 crore for exemption to term cover premiums. The revenue loss is going to be offset by gains of around Rs 22,000 crore from the proposed hike in rates on several high-end items, sources said. Rate rationalisation was discussed in the second meeting of the GoM that included rate changes for several common-use items such as packaged water, bicycles and exercise notebooks. The broad consensus was to provide relief on consumer goods and charge a higher rate for items with premium value. The GoM has proposed a reduction in the GST rate for packaged drinking water bottles above 20 litre to 5 per cent instead of 18 per cent at present. Bicycles costing less than Rs 10,000 are likely to be charged 5 per cent GST as against 12 per cent at present, whereas GST on exercise books may get reduced to 5 per cent from 12 per cent. The GoM on rate rationalisation will continue to discuss proposals for rate rejig including merger of slabs, another state finance minister said. "Rate rationalisation is an ongoing process. Several items of common use have been discussed. More discussions are pending, especially for demerit goods in the 28 per cent slab and for items which were reduced earlier from the 28 per cent slab to 18 per cent or 12 per cent," the minister said. In December 2018, the GST Council had reduced rates for several items in the 28 per cent slab including movie tickets priced above Rs 100, television screens and monitors up to 32 inches, digital cameras, video games consoles and power banks with lithium-ion batteries. Items such as dishwashing machines, pan masala, cigarettes, air conditioners, cars, and aircrafts for personal use continue to be in the 28 per cent slab. The decision to reduce GST on insurance premiums has come after several Opposition leaders raised the issue of high tax on premiums. Opposition leaders including Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee have demanded withdrawal of GST on life and health insurance premiums

Can the shape and size of your banana stem reveal more about its taste?



If you love eating bananas, you might want to listen up! According to digital creator Suman Ranganath, the stem of a banana can share insights into the taste and flavour of the fruit inside the skin! In the caption of her reel, she mentioned that "the shorter stem bananas are naturally more sweet and has more flavour!" Is it really true? Indianexpress.com spoke to experts to verify the statement.

Clinical dietitian Ridhima Gupta shared that there is no evidence that represents any relation between the length of banana stem and its taste. According to her, the factors on which the taste of bananas depends are its color, ripeness, whether it is plump, bruised or split, and the presence or absence of dull gray undertones. "If you want to consume them immediately, choose bright yellow bananas with little to no green around the ends. Some light brown speckling, a sign of ripeness and sweetness, is okay," she said. However, if you want to take your sweet time and eat them in a couple of days, she suggested opting for bright-yellow bananas with more green at the ends. When stored at room temperature, they'll ripen over a couple of days, she added.

"Banana stems helps in the banana ripening pro-

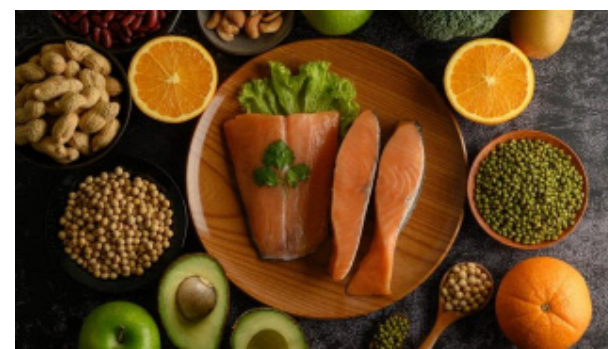
cess as it produces a plant based hormone called ethylene, which helps in converting the plant's starch into sugar and gives it a sweet and a soft texture. This also helps the fruit get its characteristic yellow colour," said Arooshi Aggarwal, nutritionist and wellness consultant, Founder and owner of Arooshi's Nutrylife. According to her, keeping the bunch of the bananas intact and together will ripen the bananas quickly. Therefore, separating the bananas and keeping them individually will stall the process.

Gupta said that the only thing to watch out for is to examine the stem or cap of the banana. "It should be intact and firmly attached. Avoid bananas with a loose or missing stem, as they may ripen too quickly. Also, check the tips of the bananas to ensure they are intact and free from damage," she said.

What are the health benefits associated with bananas?

"Banana fruit is a rich source of important phytonutrients, including vitamins and phenolic compounds. It is also notably enriched with minerals, such as phosphorus, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, copper, zinc and manganese," shared Gupta. According to her, the utilization of banana as an ingredient in different food products as well as incorporation in recipe helps improves the total dietary fibre, resistant starch, total starch and provides some essential minerals (phosphorus, magnesium, potassium and calcium). Aggarwal shared that bananas are rich in vitamin A, C and B6 (pyridoxine), which help with anti ageing, improve skin and a better our sleep cycle. "Bananas contains good amounts of Tryptophan a mood relieving neurotransmitter which produces the happy hormone serotonin," she added.

Can these drinks help overcome your vitamin B12 deficiency?



"Vitamin B12 is mostly found in animal-derived foods", says Kanikka Malhotra, Consultant Dietician & Diabetes Educator. As a result, people who eat a plant-based diet, such as vegans and severe vegetarians, are more likely to be deficient in vitamin B12. While not a primary source of B12, several plant-based milk replacements are fortified with this vital nutrient.

The amount of B12 added to plant-based milk also varies significantly. Relying entirely on plant-based milk for B12 may not be sufficient. A varied plant-based diet including "fortified cereals, nutritional yeast, and other B12 supplements" is frequently suggested. The recommended B12 consumption varies according to age, gender, and overall health. Individuals with a B12 deficiency may require higher quantities than individuals with appropriate levels.

Do these drinks help?

Unfortunately, no, says Kanikka. Solely relying on plant-based drinks cannot help combat your vitamin B12 deficiency. Fruit juices like "orange or pomegranate do not contain significant amounts of vitamin B12". This essential vitamin is primarily found in animal-based foods. While lassi is a refreshing and nutritious drink, it is also not a significant source of vitamin B12. If you're concerned about deficiency, consulting a qualified dietitian is crucial for personalized guidance. Incorporate folate-rich foods like leafy greens (spinach, kale, collard greens), legumes (lentils, chickpeas, black beans), and fruits such as oranges, bananas, and avocados into your diet.

2. Vitamin B6 Sources

Non-citrus fruits like bananas, along with nuts and seeds such as sunflower seeds and pistachios, are also great sources

3. Vitamin C-Rich Foods

To enhance nutrient absorption, especially of non-heme iron, include vitamin C-rich foods like citrus fruits (oranges, grapefruits, lemons), berries (strawberries,

blueberries), and vegetables such as bell peppers and broccoli. Vitamin C's role in boosting iron absorption is particularly important for those who rely on fortified foods for their B12 intake.

4. Calcium-Containing Foods

For overall bone health and to support B12 in nerve transmission, include calcium-rich foods in your diet. Dairy products like milk, cheese, and yogurt are excellent sources, as are fortified plant-based milks, tofu, and orange juice. Leafy greens such as kale and collard greens also provide a healthy dose of calcium.

5. Probiotic Foods

Maintaining a healthy gut microbiome is essential for nutrient absorption, including B12. Incorporate probiotic-rich foods like yogurt with live cultures, kefir, sauerkraut, kimchi, miso, and tempeh into your diet to support gut health.

6. Magnesium-Rich Foods

Magnesium plays a key role in many biochemical reactions, including those involving B12. To ensure adequate magnesium intake, include nuts and seeds like almonds, cashews, and pumpkin seeds, as well as legumes like black beans and lentils. If you're concerned about deficiency, consulting a qualified dietitian is crucial for personalised guidance.

Swap your sunny side ups with water eggs for a healthy breakfast option



Love eggs for breakfast but want to switch to a healthier option? Swap your fried eggs for ones made with water! Dr Michelle Davenport's Instagram post highlights that how we cook our eggs is gradually making us sicker. She suggested opting for water-based cooking methods to lower our risks of chronic diseases and premature ageing.

How can you make water eggs?

Measure the volume of the eggs you are using. Beat the eggs until smooth.

Add double the volume of warm water (2:1 water to eggs ratio). Add a sprinkle of salt. Mix.

Pour mixture through a sieve into a heat-safe, shallow bowl that will fit into your steamer.

Cover the bowl with a heat-safe plate. This recipe will make 2 bowls and you can cook them individually or together depending on the size of your steamer.

Steam for 10-12 minutes on low heat.

Remove and cut

into squares, then add toppings.

Ved Gautam, Executive Chef, For Earth's Sake Cafe, said that water eggs refer to those cooked using steam or water instead of being fried in oil or butter. The process of making water eggs is often compared to poaching or steaming, resulting in eggs that are tender and lower in fat compared to traditionally fried eggs. "These are made in a pan or a steamer where a small amount of water is added to the pan and brought to a boil or simmer, in case of the steamer wa-

ter is heated enough to get the steam rolling. Then eggs are either cracked directly or through a bowl. The pan or steamer is covered and cooked until the egg is set to one's liking," he explained.

Not to be confused with poached eggs, which involves cracking an egg into simmering water and cooking it until the whites are firm but the yolk remains runny, celebrity chef Ananya Banerjee points out that steamed are considered a healthier alternative to regular fried eggs because they are cooked using water or steam, avoiding the added fats that come with frying. Gautam agrees, mentioning that this way of cooking doesn't use any additional fat of any kind such as oil, butter, lard, chicken fat, or bacon fat. This also lowers the overall calorie count of the meal and is better for heart health for the same reasons. "This way of cooking eggs also preserves the nutritional composition better than cooking over direct heat. Chances of overcooking or burning the eggs also reduce considerably," he added.

Bipasha Basu was outraged after Rahul Dholakia tricked her into shooting during curfew in Kashmir; crew was held hostage for 4 hours: 'CRPF jawans ran away'



The 2010 film Lamhaa, featuring Sanjay Dutt and Bipasha Basu in the lead roles, was entirely shot in Kashmir. In a recent interaction, director Rahul Dholakia opened up about the risks he and his crew faced while filming in the Valley during a peak in militant activities. He recounted a harrowing experience of being held hostage by separatists for over four hours, and shared how he tricked Bipasha into filming during a curfew.

In a conversation with casting director Mukesh Chhabra on Mashable India, Dholakia reflected on the hostage situation in Kashmir, stating, "I was very stubborn. I wanted to shoot Lamhaa in Kashmir only. There was no government in place, and terrorists were everywhere. On the first day, we were held hostage, along with 10,000 people, for about 4-4.5 hours. They gathered around us while we were shooting in a mandi, closing all

the doors and demanding, 'Who is the producer?' There was no producer present, and the production staff hid themselves. I stepped forward and asked, 'What is the problem?' They asked me to come with them. The CRPF jawans ran away, as did the Jammu Police. I was locked in a room with 400 others and told, 'You are against Kashmir.'"

He continued, "I was there for 4-4.5 hours. A CRPF officer gave me his number and then left. We eventually got out because someone recognized me as the guy who made Parzania. I said, 'If you have a problem with me, let the women in my crew go.' They responded, 'You are in Kashmir, not Hindustan. We respect our women.'" Dholakia's film Parzania addresses the Gulberg Society massacre, which claimed 69 lives during the communal riots in Gujarat. The filmmaker recalled that after they were held hostage, Bipasha left the shoot but later returned to finish the film. When asked why he cast her as a Kashmiri woman, Dholakia explained, "I wanted to shoot in the Valley, but not many people were willing to do so. Karisma had just had kids and wanted to be a part of the film but refused to shoot in Kashmir. Deepika Padukone gave me the same answer."

Dholakia also revealed how Bipasha was upset with him for tricking her into shooting during a curfew, "I shot in curfew with Bipasha and she got really pissed with me. We didn't tell her there is a curfew. She was so happy. She told me, 'Kashmir is so beautiful. There aren't many people here.' Later, when she got to know there is a curfew, she called me and said, 'How dare you make me shoot during curfew?'" Lamhaa follows the story of an undercover Indian Army officer who takes the daughter of a separatist leader to uncover the culprits behind extremist attacks in Kashmir.

Seema Sajdeh's new partner is the man she was engaged to before eloping with Sohail Khan: 'He knows me like no one else'

The latest season of Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives is now streaming on Netflix, and with it, the series has brought some interesting updates about the OG Bollywood wives Maheep Kapoor, Bhavana Pandey, Neelam Kothari and Seema Sajdeh. While the first and second seasons of the show provided brief insights into Seema's divorce from Sohail Khan, the third season reveals that the fashion designer is now dating the man she was engaged to before eloping with Sohail Khan.

In the final episode of the new season, Seema moves back to Bandra at the insistence of her older son, Nirvaan Khan. As she arranges things around her new home, she is joined by a mystery man. "I am expecting someone really special. He is about to arrive. He knows me like no one else. If anybody knows us in town, they all know the story of Seema and Vikram," she said, adding, "Vikram is the one that I was engaged to before I met Sohail, and here we are. Life comes full circle." Vikram says, "You are really enjoying this," and Seema replies, "I love bullying you and ordering you around."

Speaking to camera, Seema continues, "It feels amazing. I really didn't see this coming. And I can't wait to tell these bunch of girls that I absolutely love. I mean, oh my God! Are they going to fall of their chairs? And yet again, I am entertainment, entertainment, entertainment." In the previous episode, Seema could be seen talking to her son Nirvaan, and taking his approval. She told Nirvaan, "Everyone is talking about me moving out because I have moved on in my life. Do you have a grudge on me for moving on in my life?" Nirvaan replied, "No, absolutely not." He added, "Mumma, at some point, you will move on. At some point, you will need a companion or a partner or something or the other and that's acceptable."

Seema then asks, "Are you approving of my current...?" Nirvaan interrupts her and asks, "Is he older than you?" Seema says, "Yeah, a year older to me." "Yeah, then that's fine," says Nirvaan. Seema prods him further, "But, are you okay with him?" Nirvaan assures her, "I am okay with him. If you are happy, we are happy for you. How long will you be in that stressful environment? It's stressful for me, you, and Yohan. Be happier. But at the same time, I feel like you being in Bandra was across the street. We were a lot more accessible to you. You were a lot more accessible to us. We would be able to see you on a daily basis. Move back to Bandra."



In the show, Seema also discussed running away with Sohail despite being engaged to Vikram. At a party hosted by Gauri Khan, the Bollywood wives discussed Seema and Sohail's love story. Gauri asks Seema, "Do your kids know that you ran away from the mandap? What do they say?" Maheep adds, "It's urban legend." Seema, who has never spoken about this before, shared that her kids are aware of her story. Recalling her eloping with Sohail story, Seema said, "You need a whole season to understand that story! I was engaged to someone I was seeing since I was 13. We were kids. We used to keep fighting, breaking up, fighting, breaking up again. In the meantime, I met Sohail and then in excitement I..."

Bhavana interrupted as she said, "I remember, I was there at her roka. She was very happy and I have got some beautiful pictures from that. After 10 days, Chunky and I are fast asleep, and my mother-in-law walks in and she's banging on the door. She was like, 'Somebody give me alcohol'. We were like, 'What happened to her?' She said, 'Seema has run away and gotten married.' She screamed from outside the door." "It takes guts to do it," said Gauri Khan. Seema Sajdeh further recalled the consequences of her decision, and shared, "I was being a bit naughty those days. There were two families involved, and this is not something to be taken lightly. And I don't like going back to that time because I was really wracked with guilt. I traumatised a lot of people around me." Seema and Sohail Khan eloped to marry in 1988. The couple had two sons—Nirvaan and Yohan. In 2022, they filed for divorce after 24 years of marriage.

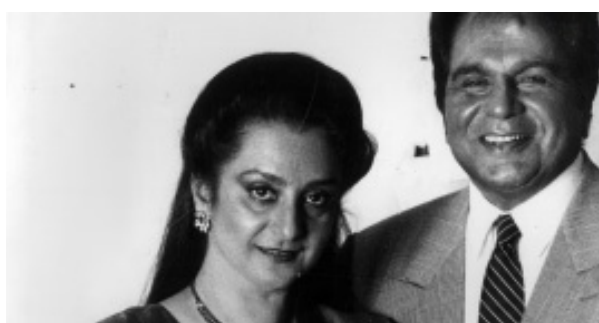


Sonakshi Sinha is Karwa Chauth ready with exquisite mangalsutra

Mumbai: Actress Sonakshi Sinha, who married her longtime boyfriend Zaheer Iqbal on June 23, 2024, is celebrating her first Karwa Chauth on October 20.

Known for her trendsetting style, Sonakshi is taking her fashion game to new heights this year with a stunning mangalsutra that perfectly blends tradition with luxury. According to reports, Sonakshi will make a style statement on her first Karwa Chauth by wearing the Bvlgari Bvlgari Mangalsutra Sautoir Necklace, crafted by the renowned Roman High Jeweller. This piece carries a rich legacy, beautifully fusing cultural heritage with modern elegance, making it an exceptional choice for the contemporary Indian woman. The mangalsutra is crafted in 18 kt rose gold, adding a touch of opulence to the special occasion. Notably, in 2021, Priyanka Chopra Jonas was seen wearing a Bvlgari mangalsutra for a photoshoot. This year, Sonakshi is set to capture everyone's attention with her exquisite choice. Sonakshi and Zaheer tied the knot in a registered marriage and later hosted a star-studded wedding reception with Bollywood's elite in attendance. The couple shared the first photos from their wedding on Instagram, captioning, "On this very day, seven years back (23.06.2017), in each other's eyes, we saw love in its purest form and decided to hold on to it. Today, that love has guided us through all the challenges and triumphs, leading up to this moment, where, with the blessings of both our families and gods, we are now man and wife."

Dilip Kumar and Saira Bano lost a baby boy in eighth month of her pregnancy: 'It was wrongly represented that Saira couldn't bear a child'



Dilip Kumar and Saira Bano got married in 1966, when Dilip was 44 and Saira was just 22. Dilip was known as the 'most eligible bachelor' at the time, and soon after their wedding, magazines and tabloids could not help but speculate about children. When Dilip married Asma Rehman in 1982 for a short while, rumours suggested that he had done so because "Saira could not bear a child," but as per the actor, this was not the case. Dilip said that Saira was pregnant with their child, but couldn't carry the pregnancy to term.

In his memoir, Dilip Kumar The Substance And The Shadow: An Autobiography, Dilip shared that when he got married to Asma Rehman, it was "wrongly represented that Saira could not bear a child." He then proceeded to share that he and Saira were expecting a baby in 1972. "The truth is that Saira had borne a child, a boy (as we

came to know later), in 1972. We lost the baby in the eighth month of pregnancy when Saira developed high blood pressure and the obstetricians attending on her could not perform the surgery in time to save the full-grown foetus, which had been strangulated by the umbilical cord. We took the loss in our stride as the will of God," he wrote.

Dilip shared that he was often asked if he was unhappy about not having children. He said that it "would have been great if we had our own kids. But it is not a shortcoming for us." He said that he had many nephews and nieces and he saw them all as his own children. "They were enough to make us feel like parents. As infants they were brought to me and it was mandatory for the babies to sleep soundly on my large chest as if they were on a foam mattress. As they grew up, they came home to play interesting games with 'Mamu' as all of them addressed me," he said. Dilip said that Saira always "went all out" during family gatherings and said that it was "wonderful to love and be loved by them and be there solidly when they need us and vice versa." He missed his nephews and nieces as they were all grown up and busy with their own lives, and mentioned that if he had his own children, they too, perhaps, would be just as busy. "Perhaps if we had our own sons or daughters, they too would have gone to places far away to pursue their dreams and we would have got to see them once or twice a year," he said.

Gauri Khan's mother suggested Mahira Khan's name for Raees because she enjoyed her work in a Pakistani serial: 'Yeh ladki achi hai'

Shah Rukh Khan's Raees became one of the highest-grossing Hindi films of 2017, although in retrospect, it's seen as an under-performer. Raees opened to mixed reviews, and is now counted among Shah Rukh's string of commercial disappointments during the late 2010s. It also marked the Bollywood debut of Pakistani actor Mahira Khan, and remains the only Hindi film of her career. In a recent interview, the director of Raees, Rahul Dholakia, revealed what prompted him to cast Mahira. "It's rare to find a 30-something heroine in India with good Hindi," shared the director. In a conversation with casting director Mukesh Chhabra for Mashable India, Rahul Dholakia said, "We wanted an actor to play an 1980s Muslim girl. So, our first priority was to have an actress with good Hindi speaking skills, and if she had a little bit of an Urdu twang, even better. We also wanted our heroine to have an innocence. And Shah Rukh was 50, so we wanted a heroine who is at least 30-something."

He added, "Now, there are very few actresses (in India), who are in their 30s with good Hindi and an innocence. There was Deepika, Kareena, and Anushka. We had these three or four heroines who met the criteria. But now, the problem with them was that they are too expensive and the role is too small for them. Then we went through a complete list which included Sonam and Katrina. At the end of the day, we realised this wasn't working for us. They were not really fitting the role. Shah Rukh Khan cannot romance an Alia Bhatt!"

Revealing the story behind how he came across Mahira Khan, Rahul shared, "I think both Gauri (Khan)'s mother and my mother had seen Mahira in some Pakistani television show. They both said: 'Yeh ladki achi hai'. Honey Trehan was casting for us. I called him up and asked if he knew Mahira. He said, 'She is here in



Mumbai for some promotional work.' He then said, 'I will bring her tomorrow, you can audition her for the role.' We then auditioned her at the Excel office. After the audition, I declared, 'I have found my Aasiya.' Speaking at the Faiz International Festival in 2016, Mahira revealed her side of the story. She said, "I went to Mumbai for the promotions of Humsafar. A few phone calls kept coming and I could not pick. Then I got a message, 'big film, pick up.' I thought, 'I will enjoy this call if nothing else.'" She added, "They explained the film to me, but it I could not understand. Then they said it is an Excel production. That rang a bell, they had done some great films such as Dil Chahta Hai. So I said 'okay'. Then I was asked to meet the director the next day. I got up early morning, met them. I was told a bit about the story but Shah Rukh Khan remained a secret. I auditioned for them the next day and later got a call saying 'you have got the part'. I asked them, what part it was and I was told, 'You are the lead opposite Shah Rukh Khan.'"

Rajkumar Hirani's hit mantra: 'We remember Mughal-E-Azam because it was a great film, not for the business it did'



I believe you are the last of the filmmakers in Hindi cinema to make what we call a pan-Indian film. So tell us a little bit about that process. What makes a Rajkumar Hirani film a Rajkumar Hirani film? Rajkumar Hirani: We've never sat down and tried to dissect and say that this is a formula to make a pan-Indian film. You work with your gut feel. A filmmaker chooses a subject that kind of draws them. Somebody will make horror films, somebody thrillers because that subject draws them, and if it draws you, you have a little more knowledge about it. Like if I'm doing a PK (2014), I obviously have a point of view about religion or if I'm doing 3 Idiots, I have a view on how education should be. That's the way you start writing. I don't think you can sit and say that I'm going to write a pan-Indian film. If you say, oh, this person in LA will like this, let me give him a rap there, or in Bihar, let me give him an item song, then you will try and make it like a bhelupuri, which won't work. So you have to go with your gut.

Now people are talking about films that come from the South, where people are making these massive films with massive stars and massive moments. I feel during the pandemic, our viewing patterns have changed. Our whole world changed and everybody still prefers sitting inside their homes to watch movies, even on their phones. Do you believe that we will ever go back to your kind of

films, where there will be the human first, rather than the machine? Hirani: Ten years, 20 years ago, there was nothing available, no OTT, there was not so much content on the phone, so you would be thirsty to come to a theatre every Friday. Now that visual thirst is gone. Before going to sleep, people are spending two hours watching reels. So the immediacy of landing up in a theatre every Friday possibly is going away. But at the same time, I feel, if you have an engaging enough story — it need not be necessarily about scale — then people will go and watch.

We might be failing in giving that. It's not about scale. It's about a connect. In fact, scale, I feel, can get exhausting beyond a point. How bigger can your explosions become? In 2024, there have been only two films which have actually worked. Everything else, especially what we call tent pole — big star, big budget films — have all pretty much crashed and burnt at the box office. Hirani: I think people have more choices now. In a way, a globalisation of cinema has taken place. People are watching cinema from the rest of the world also, so they're being selective. Only when they hear some great things about a film will they go to the theatre. But I think it's only the platform that will change. I don't think cinema viewing will stop. I guess everybody needs stories. Vijay, most of your work in the last few years has all been on OTT. Do you feel sometimes that you want to watch yourself on the big screen? Does it limit you to have a screen which is smaller than the 70mm?

Varma: I think I had a theatrical release before the pandemic but not since. I have two to three or sometimes four releases a year, and they've all been on the streamers. So I've been on the other side of it. The whole box office business and what it does to an actor, to a filmmaker, is something that I can only look from the outside. Having said that, I've found great audience on the streaming platforms. The quality of work has also been improving. But do I want others to watch me on the big screen? Yes. This numbers game, how much of it is real, how much of it is completely made up? How much of that conversation impacts you as a filmmaker? And how much of it is, you think, detrimental to the way movies are being made today? Hirani: Honestly, it's a very sad way of judging cinema

Realistically, what is PV Sindhu's future in badminton?



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

As her newest coach, maintaining optimism about PV Sindhu's future is part of Anup Sridhar's job. But India's Beijing 2008 Olympian who hit the high notes of his career scalping Taufik Hidayat at the 2007 World Championships, is acutely acquainted with the down times – when nothing quite is going your way, expectations remain sky-high and the friendly suggestion to move over, make way for fresh, young talent and gently retire, is on the tip of all tongues. He even double checked, if beyond this noise, Sindhu herself still had the hunger to continue. Because the other option to hang up her boots – she really has many laurels to smugly sit on – is deservedly inviting. But Sindhu insisted she will give it another crack. So Indian badminton finds itself capgily viewing a former champion, who's filling in a few blanks that are personally important to her, though posers on her ability to pull off title-winning runs will stay persistent. It's Sindhu's career, and nobody else can frankly decide on what she must do with it. The question to ponder might be, can she win big titles at 29? Her ranking slipped a further two places to No 18 last week. She exited the Arctic Open early, but scalped a familiar Chinese opponent Han Yue at Odense, Denmark making quarters. There aren't major injuries she's battling, though at 29, even niggles irritate. But Sindhu's recovery-game has always been her strong suit. Where then can Anup Sridhar and Lee Hyun-il, the Korean with a cult following among Indians, chip in to resurrect this career? It's seen as a bonus by the kinder estimations, and scoffed at as a washed-out pop-star's Asia Tour-gig by the muttering mean-spirited ones. But what really drives her back to training?

Intanon Ratchanok, the 2013 World Champion when she was 17, is still kicking backsides on the circuit, at the same age. Carolina Marin, at 31, hasn't announced her retirement, and the Spaniard is never gone till she's gone – be it in a match, or her career. Denied a second Olympic final and medal by injury in the Paris semis, one never knows how she will retaliate in 2025 to having had enough of Enough itself. Nozomi Okuhara, also 29, hasn't stopped trying her luck, though Japan moved on from her, long ago. It's a wickedly dangerous quartet of try-ers, taking Dylan Thomas' commandment to rage and rave rather seriously around the 30-year-mark. So when Anup Sridhar stresses on every word in "she's only 29", Sindhu's future choices don't seem as straightforward. These are former World Champions we are talking about here. In

recent years, American Beiwen Zhang, now 34, and Michelle Li, now 32, have brought in the sweet smiling matriarch's menace by keeping much younger opponents on their toes. Young Anupama Upadhyaya thought she had Li Michelle under the pump at Canada Open – the Indian, barely 20, didn't know what hit her in the decider. They make up for speed with experience, and in Sindhu's case, the central issue has always been pin-point court strategy and tactics, not massive physical diminishing of powers. A good coach could always set it right, and Pullela Gopichand would've been perfect. But Anup and Hyun-il can certainly prop up the skills and court-craft if she can push endurance metrics in the third set. The goal-setting is fairly obvious. Sindhu is yet to beat current Olympic champion, An Se-young, and these matchups are scores worth settling. She can also do with avenging her loss to Tomoka Miyazaki, if we are being blunt about the age-game. She's never won Indonesia and Malaysia Opens – for stringing together 5 solid days against the best has seemed difficult. She will be 31 at the next Asiad, and there's no gold from there, however impossible it sounds given how she's combusted last few years.

The real missing one though would be the All England, though even uttering it puts pressure on Indians. Satwik-Chirag, when fit, are more in that contending orbit, than Sindhu is. And there is no indication that a revival is imminent. But it's precisely the lead-up she would like – under the radar, written off, and not fiercely hungry, instead a casual, "Why not?" no pressure, low-stakes aim-taking at the dart board. Inspiration is to be found in the shuttler Sindhu most resembles: Tine Baun, née Rasmussen, of Denmark. Both 5'11", similarly rangy, not over-flowing with deceptive talent, but with an ability to play within her limitations. Tine won the first of her 3 All England in 2008 at age 29. She made 4 finals in all, also winning in 2010 and 2013 – on either side of her wedding, and the tall Dane made finals in 2009, losing to Yihan Wang.

Tine found no luck prior to winning All England at the Olympics, and was a certified late-bloomer. But what she did with her physiotherapist-partner was late 20s, tall-agility – to contend for her favourite title in Europe. While Sindhu has battled a wide variety of opponents from different countries, and insane playing styles, Tine's challenges were different but no less debilitating. In the 10 years before she won at Birmingham in 2008, the Chinese had won All England 9 times. The Chinese stranglehold on titles back then used to be multi-pronged and relentless. But the Dane found herself a sturdy, reliable defense, and put her tall frame to great use to attack with unbridled power. Sindhu, far more accomplished and chiseled in her strokeplay, can do the same if she regains her attacking groove and confidence. At a very practical level, every loss on the circuit now will fetch her the same old, 7-word, adverb-deficient and grammatically poor scoffing insults of trolls. Words like 'old', 'retire', 'money waste' and 'didi' will be assembled in different disrespectful patterns, and regurgitated ad nauseum. Sindhu can allow herself 5 minutes to feel bad about them daily, and move on to training for the titles she hasn't won. There's not too many badminton world champions in India anyway, who can step into her shoes, and crave for that missing All England.

Rishabh Pant beats MS Dhoni's record, achieves this remarkable feat



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Bengaluru: Rishabh Pant etched his name into the record books on Day 4 of the first Test against New Zealand, becoming the fastest Indian wicketkeeper to score 2,500 Test runs at M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

Pant achieved the milestone in just 62 innings, surpassing the previous record held by former captain MS Dhoni, who reached the landmark in 69 innings. Farokh Engineer, another legendary figure in Indian cricket, had previously held the record with 82 innings. Pant's remarkable achievement came as India mounted a spirited

fightback, reaching 344/3 as rain enforced early lunch. India are just 12 runs behind New Zealand's first-innings total of 469. Pant's aggressive innings of 53 off 56 balls played a crucial role in India's resurgence, alongside Sarfaraz Khan, who scored his maiden Test century.

India resumed Day 4 at 231/3 with Pant and Sarfaraz tasked with steering India closer to the target. Despite suffering a knee injury while keeping on Day 3, Pant showed no signs of discomfort as he took charge with his trademark aggressive style. After a cautious start, he launched a counter-attack, smashing two sixes off left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel in quick succession and following up with a series of elegant drives and sweeps.

Pant brought up his 12th Test fifty in 55 balls, with a stunning cover drive off Glenn Phillips that showcased his controlled aggression. His partnership with Sarfaraz, worth 113 runs in 22 overs, was instrumental in guiding India out of an early wobble and putting them on course for a potential lead. Sarfaraz, in only his fifth Test, stole the spotlight with a sublime century, but Pant's contribution was equally vital in stabilising the innings. The 26-year-old wicketkeeper-batter has become a cornerstone of India's Test lineup since his debut in 2018, with several match-winning knocks in overseas conditions, including memorable performances in Australia and England.

Washington Sundar scores a ton at No 3, considers himself 'a top-order batter'

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Ranji Trophy, Delhi vs Tamil Nadu: Washington Sundar scores century Against Delhi, Sundar scored his first first-class hundred since 2017, where he reached the milestone against Tripura as an opening batter. Former India opener WV Raman was elated when Washington Sundar walked out to bat after the fall of the opening wicket against Delhi at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium. Batting at No. 3, Sundar slammed a class century, his second after a gap of seven years, and Raman, who is doing commentary for the match, called it "flawless." It indeed was a knock of high quality from Sundar.

Throughout his 269 balls stay at the crease Sundar played only two false shots. First helped him get to his century, an outside edge through the slip cordon and second cost him his wicket as Sanat Sangwan completed a juggle at gully. "In the longer format, he should be seen as a batting all-rounder," said Raman.

"He must play in the top order. He is a waste down the order in a red ball. He is not someone who will take five wickets and score 30 runs. In the white-ball, it is understandable that your top order is loaded and the role is different. But in the longer format, especially overseas, he has got that perfect technique to bat in the top five and can give you 10-12 overs a day. He should be looked at as a batting all-rounder in Test cricket," he said. Centuries from Washington Sundar (152) and Pradosh Ranjan Paul (117) helped Tamil Nadu pile up 674 for 6 in their first innings against Delhi. In reply, Delhi were 43 without losing any wickets.

"I consider myself to be a top-order batter. I'm very happy with the kind of opportunity I got to be batting at No 3 and I am looking forward to bat at this position for Tamil Nadu in the future as well," he told reporters after the day's play. The 25-year-old, who was unbeaten on 96 overnight, completed his century in the third over of the day. Tamil Nadu lost two quick wickets in the first session as overnight double-centurion B Sai Sudharsan (213) was strangled down the legs by Navdeep Saini. Baba Indrajith (12) after playing a couple of delightful shots, prodded one away from his body and was played on off Himanshu Chauhan's bowling. But Sundar kept the scoreboard ticking. It was Sundar's first first-class hundred since 2017, where he reached the milestone against Tripura as an opening batter. In his brief Test career, the all-rounder remained stranded on 85 and 96 against England at Chennai and Ahmedabad, respectively in 2021.



"A hundred is a hundred. There are no two ways about it. I have been feeling very confident about how I have been batting in the last few years especially. I have just been trying to focus on what the team demands me to do. Batting at the top of the order is a lot of fun," he said. The all-rounder missed the first round of Ranji Trophy match as he was part of India's T20I squad against Bangladesh. Recently, he has been juggling from one format to another and he explained why it is "exciting" and the adjustments he has made before playing the Ranji Trophy. "Before a red ball game, you get 3-4 days. So I will practise those things on the net. It is all about getting into the right rhythm and making sure you are sticking to your strengths. Playing different formats, you don't take a lot of time to switch," he said. Sundar has not played Test cricket in the past three years and has recently been considered a white-ball specialist, but the youngster is eager to make a comeback. "Test cricket is the ultimate format. Everybody values it a lot. For me, red-ball cricket means a lot. Hopefully, I can play a lot of games and keep performing really well," he said.

Happy return for Pradosh Pradosh Ranjan Paul had a welcome return to the venue, where he slammed his maiden first-class century against the same opponent, two years ago. Paul was the third centurion for Tamil Nadu after Sai Sudharsan and Washington Sundar. For Delhi, the seamers Navdeep Saini and Himanshu Chauhan bowled their hearts out on a placid track and picked up two wickets each. Delhi had already lost Pranshu Vijayan, their third seamer due to ankle injury on the first morning and now they have suffered another setback as debutant Dhruv Kaushik had a split webbing while fielding. In his absence, Harsh Tyagi, a lower-order batter was sent to open with Sanat Sangwan, who is playing only his second match.

Max Verstappen secures Sprint pole at US Grand Prix, edging George Russell by 0.012s

GNS News Agency, Oct 22, Austin: Max Verstappen clinched pole position for the Sprint at the United States Grand Prix, the Dutchman having beaten Mercedes' George Russell in Sprint Qualifying by just 0.012s.

After Russell set the benchmark by going out early on track in SQ3, the likes of Lando Norris and the Ferrari pair of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz – who had been looking strong earlier on Friday – tried to better this. All were unable to do so, but Verstappen left it late to put his Red Bull into P1. Russell will join Verstappen on the front row, with Leclerc and Norris behind in third and fourth ahead of Sainz and the Haas of Nico Hulkenberg in fifth and sixth places.

Lewis Hamilton lines up in seventh for Mercedes, alongside Haas's Kevin Magnussen in a solid eighth, while RB's Yuki



Tsunoda and the Williams of Franco Colapinto round out the top 10. Sergio Perez found himself eliminated in SQ2 after his sole effort proved not to be enough to see him through, putting the Red Bull in P11. Joining him on the sixth row will be the Alpine of Pierre Gasly.

Aston Martin had a disappointing day, with Lance Stroll and Fernando

Alonso ending the session in 13th and 14th respectively. Behind them was Liam Lawson in 15th for RB as the New Zealander makes his return to the grid in place of Daniel Ricciardo. There was drama in SQ1 when Oscar Piastri had his final lap time deleted due to exceeding track limits at Turn 19, dropping the McLaren driver down to P16 and putting

him out of the session. Alex Albon, meanwhile, had a spin in the Williams as he approached the line, leaving him unable to improve in P18. Also exiting in the first segment of Sprint Qualifying were Alpine's Esteban Ocon in 17th, Valtteri Bottas in 19th and the Finn's Kick Sauber teammate Zhou Guanyu in 20th place.

Messi's 11-minute hat-trick powers Inter Miami to MLS points record, becomes club's top scorer



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Lionel Messi scored his second consecutive hat-trick across club and country appearances as Inter Miami routed New England Revolution 6-2 Saturday at Chase Stadium in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Coming off a hat-trick in Argentina's FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifier win over Bolivia, Messi smashed three goals in only 11 minutes as Miami broke the record for most points by a team in an MLS season. Miami finished the MLS regular season with 74 points and a 22-4-8 (W-L-D) record, edging past the Revolution's 2021 tally of 73 points.

Starting from the 78th minute, Messi smashed in three goals and also became the club's highest goalscorer with 33 goals. The 37-year-old is now the highest

scorer at three different teams, with Miami joining the Argentinian national side and FC Barcelona among Messi's most favoured hunting grounds.

"Our captain has led us, the players have led us in times where it was difficult," Inter Miami co-owner David Beckham said. "But now, tonight, we celebrate. Tomorrow, we prepare for Friday and the playoffs."

"As my partner and friend Jorge Mas said, this was always about creating history for Miami. This was always about family, la familia, our people in this stadium. Tonight, it's about you guys because you supported us through the tough times and you're supporting us through the good times." Messi to play in 2025 Club World Cup. Messi and Inter Miami were awarded a spot in next year's 2025 FIFA Club World Cup on Saturday and will host the opening game of the 32-team tournament featuring top clubs from around the world. Miami, who won their first MLS Supporters' Shield, are the penultimate team added to the June 15-July 13 tournament being held around the United States. "Congratulations on your wonderful 2024 Supporters' Shield success. You have shown that in the United States, you are consistently the best club on the field of play," FIFA President Gianni Infantino said in a news release. "Therefore, I am proud to announce that as one of the best clubs in the world, you are deserved participants in the new FIFA Club World Cup 2025 as the host club representing the United States."

Telugu Titans lose to Tamil Thalaivas

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Hyderabad: The Tamil Thalaivas commenced their PKL Season 11 campaign with a fantastic performance, as they swatted away the challenge of the Telugu Titans with relative ease at the GVCB Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad on Saturday. The Tamil Thalaivas rode the brilliance of Narender Kandola and Sachin, winning the contest by a scoreline of 44-29. Pawan Sehrawat kicked off proceedings for the Telugu Titans with a Super Raid in the very first minute. Shortly after, the Telugu Titans captain picked up three more raid points to give his side a healthy lead. However, a little later, Tamil Thalaivas' Sachin inflicted an all-out as they surged ahead and took the lead on the Telugu Titans.

Midway through the first half, the Tamil Thalaivas had established a 4-point lead but the Telugu Titans had Ajit Pawar and Vijay Malik chipping away at their lead. Pawan Sehrawat did his best to help his team out in the situation, but the Tamil Thalaivas' defence kept things tight. At the half-time break, the Tamil Thalaivas led 20-17. The Tamil Thalaivas continued to keep the opposition at arm's length in the early exchanges of the second half. Midway through the second half, Sagar Rathe helped inflict an all-out on the Telugu Titans, which gave the



Tamil Thalaivas a 9-point lead with 10 minutes to go. At this point, the Tamil Thalaivas led 31-22.

The Tamil Thalaivas were not giving Pawan Sehrawat and co any breathing space. Narender Kandola and Sachin were leading the charge for the Tamil Thalaivas, who eventually walked away with the win. For the Tamil Thalaivas, both Narender Kandola and Sachin registered Super 10s, while Telugu Titans captain Pawan Sehrawat also finished the evening with a Super 10, his second in as many days, and Vijay Malik scored 9 points.