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Apollo Hospitals files complaint over alleged vandalism of its private jet at Hyderabad Airport

Hyderabad: A complaint was lodged by Apollo Hospitals management over an alleged deliberate damage to an aircraft (private jet) owned by the company which was parked at the Hyderabad (Begumpet) airport.

The incident which is suspected to have occurred in April this year came to light after Chief Security Officer of Apollo Hospitals – Jagjeet Singh lodged a formal complaint with the Begumpet police here on Thursday. According to Begumpet police, the aircraft registered as VT-PCR, was parked at Begumpet Airport for a two-week period in April.

One dead in West Bengal from Cyclone Dana, CM Banerjee says after review meeting

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

As West Bengal authorities continue to remain alert in the aftermath of Cyclone Dana, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee confirmed one casualty in the state. 'Severe' Cyclonic storm Dana, which made landfall between Bhitarkanika and Dhamra in Odisha, brought rain and strong winds to many parts of the neighbouring West Bengal, particularly East Midnapore and South 24 Parganas. Addressing reporters Friday, Banerjee said one person had died of electrocution in Patharpratima, South 24 Parganas district. "He was doing some work with networking cables in his residence when he died. The post-mortem will give a clearer picture. We'll help the family if needed," the CM said after holding a meeting to review the situation in cyclone-hit areas. According to the CM, state authorities had evacuated 2.16 lakh people. She also ordered a survey to assess crop loss to farmers and gave district authorities 48 hours to send in their reports. Authorities have also been ordered to distribute mosquito nets to prevent the outbreak of diseases due to



water logging in many parts of the state, including Kolkata. Relief camps will "continue" until weather conditions improve completely, Banerjee said, saying the rescue teams from the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force should be deployed for two more days in the affected districts.

NIA announces Rs 10 lakh reward on Lawrence Bishnoi's brother Anmol, linked to Moosewala murder

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

The NIA is intensifying its search for Anmol due to his involvement in organised crime, and authorities have called on the public to share any information that could help in locating him. NIA reward announcement: The NIA is intensifying its search for Anmol due to his involvement in organised crime, and authorities have called on the public to share any information that could help in locating him.

The National Investigation Agency has announced a reward of Rs 10 lakh for the arrest of Anmol Bishnoi, brother of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. Anmol was charged in two NIA cases registered in 2022 and a probe has revealed that he fled India on a fake passport. In April, Anmol took responsibility on Facebook for the firing outside actor Salman Khan's house. Anmol alias Bhanu had also allegedly provided weapons and logistics support to the accused who killed Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala on May 29, 2022. He has 18 cases registered against him, including those related to extortion. The NIA is intensifying its search for Anmol due to his involvement in organised crime, and authorities have called on the public to share any information that could help in locating him. "The agency is also trying to gather Anmol's voice samples from across the country to match it with some samples they have recovered. After collecting strong technical evidence, further procedures against him will take place," an officer said. He has been on a list of notorious gangsters prepared by the Union Home Ministry last year. In 2023, the NIA had filed a chargesheet against



14 people, including Lawrence and Anmol, charging them with criminal conspiracy to unleash a wave of terror and carry out targeted killings of well-known social and religious leaders, movie stars, singers and businessmen. "Besides having links with conspirators in Pakistan, the accused were also in contact with pro-Khalistan elements based in Canada, Nepal and other countries," the NIA had said in the chargesheet.

Cyclone Dana: Emergency activities to continue in Bengal, says Mamata Banerjee



GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Friday that the emergency administrative activities at the two coastal districts East Midnapore and South 24 Parganas will continue following the landfall of Cyclone Dana which had a minimum impact so far in the state. "The emergency administrative activities will continue in all the vulnerable pockets. But special focus will be given to East Midnapore and South 24 Parganas district," said the Chief Minister.

Earlier, in a meeting with the top administrative officials of the state, the Chief Minister advised immediate distribution of mosquito nets in places prone to mosquito-borne diseases like malaria. "The relief camps will continue to be in operation till the time the crisis is totally over and weather conditions improve. Medical camps will be run at different places in different pockets of the affected districts to prevent flood-related diseases. The teams of National Disaster Relief Force and State Disaster Relief forces will continue to remain deployed in the most affected places in the next two days," the Chief Minister said. She said that so far one electrocution death has been reported since Thursday night. "It was an unfortunate incident. The victim got electrocuted while he was undergoing some cable-related work at his residence," the Chief Minister said. She once again blamed Damodar Valley Corporation and claimed the release of water by the corporation is leading to water-logging in certain pockets of the state. "They always do that. They release water when-

ever there is rainfall in Jharkhand," she said. In September, the Chief Minister announced the decision of the West Bengal government to withdraw its representation in the Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee (DVRRC), as a protest against the alleged "disregard for West Bengalis" concerns and lack of cooperation regarding flood moderation. The Chief Minister had spent the entire Thursday night at the state secretariat Nabanna monitoring the situation from the specially-opened control room. She was accompanied by the Chief Secretary Manoj Pant, state Home Secretary Nandini Chakraborty and other senior bureaucrats of the state government.

Former Jharkhand CM Madhu Koda to sit out polls as SC dismisses plea to suspend coal scam conviction

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

New Delhi: In a setback to former Jharkhand Chief Minister Madhu Koda, the Supreme Court on Friday dismissed his plea seeking suspension of his conviction in the Rs 4,000 crore coal scam to enable him to contest forthcoming Assembly polls. A bench, headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna, refused to interfere with the decision of the Delhi High Court disposing of Koda's plea for suspension of conviction. Koda's special leave petition before the apex court contended that he could not be disqualified from contesting the elections due to the pendency of the criminal appeal and that "denial of suspension would have irreversible consequences which could not be compensated in monetary terms or otherwise". Last week, the Delhi High Court disposed of Koda's plea and agreed with the CBI's contention that Koda's fresh application filed under Sections 389(1) and 482 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) was non-maintainable since a similar plea seeking suspension of conviction was dismissed in 2020.

Hyderabad feels first nip in air as winter nears; BHEL records lowest temp at 16.7 degrees Celsius

Hyderabad: Early hints of the winter have set in the city with the mercury starting to plummet in different parts of the city, particularly the outskirts. The minimum temperatures in some parts of the suburbs have already dropped to 16 degree Celsius and 17 degree Celsius.

The first hints of winter could be from with early-morning temperatures dip and a light haze settles over the city. According to Dr. A. Shrivani, a scientist with the India Meteorological Department in Hyderabad, the onset of winter is anticipated in early November.

India-China disengagement process in Depsang and Demchok to be completed by October 29

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

India and China will undertake coordinated patrolling in Depsang and Demchok in Eastern Ladakh to avoid face offs as patrols are set to resume by month-end. Army sources said the disengagement which commenced on Tuesday (October 22, 2024) is expected to be completed by October 29 to the situation as existed pre-April 2020 and patrols would resume after that. "A general framework agreement was concluded first at the diplomatic level and subsequently a detailed agreement outlining the modalities of disengagement as well as the patrolling was concluded at the Corps Commander level on Monday," Army sources said on Friday. The current agreement pertains to only Depsang and Demchok, the two remaining friction points, and will restore the ground status to pre-April 2020, sources stressed. The agreement, in-principle, means that Indian Army will be able to resume patrols upto the Patrolling Points (PP) 10, 11, 11A, 12, and 13 in the Depsang area which it last managed to access in January 2020. The Chinese People's Liberation Army has been blocking Indian patrols from going beyond the Y-junction in the strategic Depsang plains.

However, the agreement also means that there is no resumption of patrols yet in the other friction points from where disengagement has already been undertaken the buffer zones set up as part of the agreement continue to remain in place. These areas include Galwan, North & South Banks of Pangong Tso, PP15 & PP17A in Gogra Hot Springs area. Adequate measures have been taken to ensure that troops do not come face to face and avoid face offs. "Patrols will be spaced in such a manner that there would be no face offs. Patrols will be coordinated by both sides," sources said stating that there would be regular discussions at various levels on the ground in all sectors to build confidence and avoid any flare up of



tensions. Army sources however denied any 'quid pro quo' in the Arunachal Pradesh in order to achieve disengagement in Depsang. However, there has been some understanding with respect to Yangtse which has been an area of friction and clashes having occurred on occasions. Sources also acknowledged that the de-induction process is a long drawn process and will take time. "Discussions regarding resuming patrols at other friction areas are underway. There are talks going on in all sectors along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)." One of the outcomes of the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping was that the Special Representatives on the India-China boundary question "will meet at an early date to oversee the management of peace & tranquility in border areas and to explore a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question." In 2002, India and China exchanged maps of the LAC in the middle and western sectors. While middle sector happened smoothly, in the Western sector the Chinese said India was expanding its claims in the Depsang bulge area and there has been no further movement.

Govt committed to strengthen India's healthcare system, ensuring access to all: Nadda

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

New Delhi: The Union government is committed to strengthening India's healthcare system, while also ensuring equal access to all, said JP Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare on Friday. He said this while addressing the 53rd Foundation Day and Convocation of the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS), a constituent medical institution of the University of Delhi, at the national capital.

The Union Health Minister said that healthcare professionals make crucial contributions to society. He urged the graduate students to approach their work with compassion, integrity, and dedication, and to shoulder more responsibilities as they embark on their professional careers. "The government is committed to strengthening India's healthcare system and ensuring that medical services are accessible to all," Nadda said. Reaching out to the students, he stated, "Your efforts should be focused on shaping our national vision of 'Viksit Bharat'."

Highlighting the government's commitment to boosting the healthcare sector, he noted that the government spends between 30-35 lakh for every MBBS student. Nadda reiterated the changes made in the National Health Policy by the Union Government in 2017. The reforms, he said, led to a shift in healthcare to a holistic approach from only curative healthcare. The holistic approach also caters to preventive, integrative



care. He also emphasised the recent achievements made in the healthcare sector including the establishment of 22 AIIMS, new medical and nursing colleges, increase in MBBS and MD seats by over 100 per cent, among others. In addition, the Minister said that the government is "going to fulfil" the promise of adding "75,000 medical seats in the next five years". In his address to the nation on Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised to create 75,000 more medical seats in the next five years, from the current over one lakh in the country. The addition will make the healthcare system more effective and help reduce foreign dependence on medical education.

Telangana High Court dismisses petition against Kova Lakshmi's election

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Hyderabad: Justice K. Lakshman of the Telangana High Court has dismissed an election petition filed by Ajmeera Shyam, challenging the election of Kova Lakshmi of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) to the Asifabad Legislative Assembly Constituency (ST). Ajmeera Shyam, who contested on a Congress party ticket in the November 2023 Assembly elections, had lost to Lakshmi. The petition claimed that Lakshmi failed to comply with nomination requirements under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961. Shyam's counsel, Senior Advocate C. Raghu, argued that Lakshmi's nomination was incomplete as she did not submit five years of income tax returns, alleging that this constituted corrupt practice under Section 123(2) of the Act. In her defense, Lakshmi, represented by Senior Counsel J. Ramachandra Rao, contended that the petition was improperly filed and that the allegations were frivolous. She maintained that her nomination was correctly accepted and noted that Shyam did not object during the nomination scrutiny process. Rao further argued that Shyam himself had failed to disclose relevant information regarding existing government contracts. After thorough consideration, Justice Lakshman concluded that the absence of income tax returns in the nomination affidavit did not warrant declaring Lakshmi's election void under Section 100 of the Act. The judge emphasized that the election process must be protected and that any challenges to an election should only arise from substantial and material non-disclosures. Justice Lakshman also

highlighted the importance of free and fair elections, reiterating that the confidence shown by the electorate should not be easily undermined. The judge pointed out that if Lakshmi's non-disclosure of income tax returns was deemed substantial, Shyam's non-disclosure regarding government contracts would similarly warrant scrutiny. The petition was dismissed promptly within the stipulated timeframe of 9 months and 20 days as outlined in Section 86(7) of the Act, reinforcing the legislative intent for timely resolution of election disputes. Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy of the Telangana High Court has taken under consideration a writ petition filed by two law graduates, Pally Vinod Reddy and Nallapu Manideep, who are seeking legal intervention against the Bar Council of Telangana for delaying their enrolment as advocates. The petitioners argue that the Bar Council's refusal to enroll candidates born before 1999 is discriminatory and infringes on their constitutional rights. Their applications are reportedly pending due to a three-year educational gap, which they challenge as an unjustified and unconstitutional practice. They assert that the "first come, first serve" rule is not being effectively implemented. In response, the standing counsel for the Bar Council explained that there is a significant backlog of approximately 3,000 applications, emphasizing that enrolment is being processed as efficiently as possible. The counsel noted that candidates with continuous education are not required to submit additional affidavits, while those with educational gaps are required to submit. The petitioners contended that denying enrolment based on educational gaps violates Article 19 of the Constitution.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Dynasties first

IN a world filled with uncertainty, one thing remains reliable: political dynasties. The Congress has once again graced us with its favourite pastime of fielding family members of prominent politicians, this time for the Punjab byelections. The wives of Amrinder Singh Raja Warring and Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa, fresh from their triumphs in the Lok Sabha polls, have got the opportunity to secure the Assembly seats vacated by them. All is set for another round of 'Warring vs Badal,' this time starring Mrs Warring. The real qualification here? Bloodline. These ladies have been "handling the constituency" for years, which totally counts as political experience in dynastic politics.

The Congress party's message is loud and clear: why bother fielding grassroots workers or fresh faces when you can pass on the baton to the wife? Why take the trouble of grooming new talent? Keeping power within the family tree seems to be the idea of ensuring continuity. In typical Congress fashion, the 'one family, one ticket' rule seems to have been conveniently shelved. While initially touted as a bold step toward internal democracy, it now appears to have been a mere gimmick. Nepotism is alive and kicking.

Sadly, this trend was visible in the recent Haryana Assembly elections, too, where family dominance overshadowed genuine representation. At the village level, the phenomenon of 'sarpanch-patis' also reflects this pattern. While the wives hold the nominal title of leadership, real power remains with their husbands. These women are often mere figureheads, with the men pulling the strings, thus undermining women's political empowerment. It boils down to being a case of democracy in name but patriarchy in practice. The already beleaguered Congress might want to reflect on whether delegating to political dynasties is the way forward.

'Roll back new rules on availing disability certificates': Rights body

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

A day after the Central Government notified the amended Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Rules, 2024, the National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled (NPRD), a cross disability rights organisation, has sought its rollback on grounds that the new rules make the process of availing disability certificates more stringent and cumbersome. A draft of the Rules was issued in July by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DePwD), Ministry of Social Justice, to seek views of stakeholders and the amended Rules were published. The RPwD Rules, 2024, have come in the wake of the IAS probationer Puja Khedkar controversy. The NPRD said that broadly, the new norms put an additional burden of proof on persons with disability rather than fixing accountability within the system. Khedkar was dismissed from service earlier in September due to alleged forgery in her disability and caste certificates.

Broadly, the new norms have brought changes in the process of applications made to obtain Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards and the process of issuance of these cards.

One key change among them is that only a medical authority or any other notified competent medical authority can issue disability certificates at the district level. However, NPRD had pointed during the consultation stage that this addition should be dropped and suggested that experts associated with non-profits should also be authorised to carry out checks. The new norms also introduced colour-coded white, yellow and blue UDID cards signifying ascending levels of disability, with blue being the highest, for persons having disability at 80 per cent and above. "The NPRD lodges its strong protest against the amendments made to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, making the process of issuance of disability certificates more stringent and cumbersome. These set of amendments are regressive in nature and will only add to the already existing hurdles for genuine persons with disabilities to get certified, so essential for identification, accessing services and entitlements. NPRD added that the new Rules will in no way be able to address the systemic problems exposed in the wake of the Puja Khedkar case.

"The Khedkar case was a classic example of manipulation at various levels, responsibility for which has still not been fixed. The case is a reflection of the lack of accountability, honesty, transparency and due diligence at multiple levels, including at the highest, none of which these amendments seek to address. Muralidharan, general secretary, NPRD, told The Indian Express that the organisation with lakhs of persons with disabilities as its members, will send a representation to the ministry against the new norms.

Pointing out some of the specific issues, he said the new norms make it mandatory to apply for the disability certificate online. "However, there are several people from the community who either do not have access to the internet, smartphones or are digitally illiterate. During online applications, people are asked to state their specific disability. In many cases, people are not aware of the technical nomenclature used for their specific disability," he explained while urging the government to retain the option of applying in person. "We made several suggestions and expressed many concerns in our representation sent on August 27. However, they have not been taken into consideration," Muralidharan added.

NPRD's statement further stated that the extension of the time limit for issuance of a certificate from one month to three months is totally uncalled for. "The new rule asking a person with disability to reapply if no action has been taken on his application for two long years is unacceptable.

The disabled person should not be blamed and punished for the failure of the system," it mentioned. Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, DePwD said that the government's effort is to be more friendly and streamline the process of obtaining disability certificates. "I understand there are some misconceptions but we have tried to simplify the process. We analysed data on the time taken to issue certificates and it was seen that it usually takes three months. Hence, we have said that the certificates should be issued in three months."

When asked if the norms have been tightened in the wake of the Puja Khedkar controversy, Aggarwal said that the issue was under deliberation before the controversy broke and sought to downplay linking of the amendments to the Khedkar issue.

'Many questions remain...': Congress seeks answers from govt over agreement with China on LAC patrolling



GNS News Agency, Oct 25

LAC, India-China LAC agreement, Narendra Modi Xi Jinping meeting. India and China recently agreed to restore patrolling rights to each other in the Depsang Plains and Demchok region — these are areas where the problems are called legacy issues, predating the 2020 Chinese incursions.

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping's bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan, the Congress on Wednesday raised a set of questions on the agreement reached with China on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The Congress said "the government must take the people of India into confidence" and answer these questions. India and China recently agreed to restore patrolling rights to each other in the Depsang Plains and Demchok region — these are areas where the problems are called legacy issues, predating the 2020 Chinese incursions.

In a statement, Congress MP and communication-in-charge Jairam Ramesh said, "Many questions remain about the Modi government's announcement that an agreement has been reached with China on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). We hope that India's worst foreign policy setback in decades is being honourably resolved. We expect that the disengagement will restore the status quo ante as it existed in

March 2020," said Ramesh. "This sorry saga is a complete indictment of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's gullibility and naiveté regarding China. As CM of Gujarat, Modi was lavishly hosted by China three times. As PM, he made five official trips to China and held 18 meetings with Chinese Premier Xi Jinping, including a friendly jhoola session on the banks of the Sabarmati on his 64th birthday," the Congress leader said. He said India's standing hit its "lowest point" on June 19, 2020, when the PM gave his "infamous clean chit" to China by saying "Na koi hamari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai (Neither was anybody inside India's territory, nor was any Indian post captured)".

"This statement was made only four days after the clash in Galwan in which 20 of our brave soldiers made the supreme sacrifice," said Ramesh. During the past four years, Ramesh said, Parliament was not given any opportunity to engage in a debate and discussion to reflect the collective commitment to addressing the border challenge, as was customary under previous governments. Posing questions to the government, Ramesh asked if Indian troops would be able to patrol up to their claim line in Depsang to five patrolling points past the Bottleneck junction as they were able to earlier. "Will our troops be able to reach the three patrolling points in Demchok that have remained out of bounds for more than four years?" he asked. He also asked if Indian soldiers would continue to be restricted to Finger 3 in Pangong Tso, when earlier they could go as far as Finger 8. "Are our patrols permitted to access the three patrolling points in the Gogra-Hot Springs area that they could earlier go up to?" asked Ramesh. "Will Indian graziers once again be given the right to access traditional grazing grounds in Helmet Top, Mukpa Re, Rezang La, Rinchen La, Table Top and Gurung Hill in Chushul?" asked Ramesh. He also asked, "Buffer zones that our government ceded to the Chinese, which included the site of a memorial in Rezang La to war hero and posthumous Param Vir Chakra awardee Major Shaitan Singh, now a thing of the past?"

With CJJ DY Chandrachud due to retire, SC defers hearing on marital rape pleas



GNS News Agency, Oct 25

SC Marital Rape The Supreme Court Bench also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra had started hearing the matter on October 17 when it sought to know whether it would create a new offence by striking down the penal law provision which prevents wives from prosecuting their husbands for rape. (Express Archives) The Supreme Court Wednesday adjourned the hearing on petitions seeking to criminalise marital rape, saying the matter is unlikely to be decided before the retirement of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud, who is presiding the bench which started hearing the matter, on November 10. Noting that it will not be possible

to decide the matter before the retirement date, the court decided to post it before a fresh bench for hearing.

The bench also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra had started hearing the matter on October 17 when it sought to know whether it would create a new offence by striking down the penal law provision which prevents wives from prosecuting their husbands for rape. The three-judge bench is hearing petitions challenging the exception clause of Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), now the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), a provision which exempts sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife who is 18 or above years of age — often referred to as marital rape — from the definition of rape. Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan representing a petitioner, and who was due to address the court, said that he would need at least a day to make his submissions. Other counsels, including Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appearing for the government, also submitted that they would need time to put across their arguments on the legal issues involved. The bench conveyed to the counsel that with the court closed for the Diwali holidays next week, a final decision before the retirement date will be possible only if the arguments are completed this week. "In view of the time estimate, we are of the view that it would not be possible to complete the hearings in the foreseeable future," said the bench.

SC pulls up Centre for making environmental laws 'toothless', says penalty provision not implemented



GNS News Agency, Oct 25 Environmental laws, supreme court, indian express Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati submitted that an adjudicating officer will be appointed and all necessary actions will be taken to enforce the law effectively.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday pulled up the Centre for making the environment protection law "toothless", and said the provision under the CAQM Act which deals with penalty for stubble burning was not being implemented. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka, Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Augustine George Masih said the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act of 2021 (CAQM Act) was enacted without creating required machinery for implementing the provision to curb air pollution. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said section 15 of the CAQM Act, which deals with penalty for stubble burning, will be implemented effectively as regulations for it will be issued in 10 days.

She submitted that an adjudicating officer will be appointed and all necessary actions will be taken to enforce the law effectively. Bhati pointed out that the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has issued notices to senior administrative officials of Punjab and Haryana besides officials of the state pollution control boards and sought their response as to why action should not be taken against them. The bench asked the CAQM who is taking your notices seriously as the procedure is not provided under the law. "Please tell your chairperson of CAQM not to bail out these officials. We know what is happening on the ground," the bench said. Bhati pointed out that over 1,000 cases of stubble burning have taken

place in several districts of Punjab like Amritsar, Ferozepur, Patiala, Sangrur, Taran Taran. On October 16, the top court had pulled up the Punjab and Haryana governments over the non-prosecution of violators found guilty of stubble burning while summoning the state chief secretaries to appear before it on October 23 for an explanation. The top court has been upset over Punjab and Haryana governments not taking any steps to implement the directions issued by the CAQM in the national capital region (NCR) to stop stubble burning.

Reliance Infra to set up Rs 10,000 crore arms, ammunition project

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, global defense companies, Anil Ambani group, integrated project, manufacturing of explosives, ammunition, small arms in Maharashtra, Indian express news Reliance Infrastructure through its subsidiaries has exported defence equipment worth more than Rs 1,000 crore over a period of time.

Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, part of the Anil Ambani group, on Tuesday announced the setting up of an integrated project for the manufacturing of explosives, ammunition and small arms in Maharashtra. The company will invest over Rs 10,000 crore over the next 10 years, it said.

The company said it has been allotted 1000 acres of land in Watal Industrial Area of Ratnagiri, Maharashtra to develop Dhirubhai Ambani Defence City (DADC). "DADC will be the largest greenfield project in the defence sector in India by any private sector company," the company said. Reliance Infrastructure through its subsidiaries has exported defence equipment worth more than Rs 1,000 crore over a period of time. Its wholly owned subsidiaries Jai Armaments Ltd and Reliance Defence Ltd already have license from the government for manufacturing of arms and ammunition, the company said. The proposed projects envisage potential joint ventures with up to six leading global defence companies.

Days after Bahraich violence, PWD issues demolition notices



GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Four days after communal violence hit Bahraich's Maharajanj village during a Durga idol immersion procession, leaving one dead and several wounded, the Public Works Department (PWD) has issued notices to residents in the area demanding the removal of illegal constructions within three days. The notices, all issued between October 17 and 23, stated that no structures are permitted within 60 feet of the centre of the major district road in rural areas without prior approval. Residents also were instructed to provide documentation proving they had obtained permission for the constructions within three days or to remove the structures themselves.

"If the illegal constructions are not removed within the stipulated period, the PWD, with the assistance of police and local administration, will carry out the removal, and the costs incurred will be charged to the owners," the notices read. Among those served with these notices is 62-year-old jeweller Abdul Hameed, who, along with his three sons and a neighbour, were arrested in connection with the death of 22-year-old Ram Gopal Mishra.

In response to the notices, locals began relocating their belongings to safer places and dismantling tin shades they had set up outside their shops and homes. Heavy police presence remains in the Maharajanj area, where only a few shops have reopened. The confrontation reportedly began on October 13 when members of the minority community requested that the DJ be turned off as the procession passed near their homes and a mosque in the predominantly Muslim town of Maharajanj. This led to a heated argument that escalated into clashes and stone-pelting between the two groups. The situation worsened when shots were allegedly fired, resulting in Mishra's death. A total of 14 FIRs have been lodged in connection with the violence. Many family members of those issued notices have been booked in the violence. The Lucknow Bench of Allahabad High Court, which is hearing the petition challenging the demolition notice, stated in its October 20 order: "Leaving all the aspects of the matter open, what pricks the conscience of this court is the issuance of notices to submit the reply within a short span of three days. As to what number of houses situated on kilometre-38 of the Kundasar-Mahasi-Nanpara-Maharajanj district road have been duly authorised for construction is also not much evident from the notices, which may require clarity." It further gave three days to the chief standing counsel to obtain complete instructions. "We further provide that in case they file their reply to the notice within a period of 15 days from today, the competent authority shall consider and decide the same by passing a speaking and reasoned order," it added.

In a first, more farm fires in UP than Haryana in a month; Punjab still at top

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

FOR THE first time since 2020, when farm fires began to be tracked centrally, Uttar Pradesh has seen more paddy stubble burning incidents than Haryana. According to the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) data, between September 15 and October 21 this year, Uttar Pradesh recorded 723 farm fires as compared to 655 in Haryana. Punjab remained at the top of the list with 1,510 cases. Over the last few years, the focus on implementing guidelines to curb farm fires — including imposing fines, using specialised machinery and incentivising the sale of paddy stubble — has been on Punjab and Haryana due to their high numbers during the paddy harvest season. The area under paddy cultivation, however, is higher in Uttar Pradesh than in Punjab and Haryana together. According to experts, the peak stubble burning season is expected to start by the end of next week, and will coincide with Diwali.

Meanwhile, Delhi's 24-hour average AQI on Tuesday was 327, in the "very poor" category. It is expected to remain very poor in the coming three days as meteorological conditions for dispersal of pollutants are unfavourable. However, according to the Ministry of Earth Sciences' decision support system on air quality management, the contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's AQI is only around 3.2% at present. But a spike is expected, with the forecast stating that by Thursday, the contribution of stubble burning will rise to around 15%. In the past, farm fires have been responsible for up to 40% of the pollutants in Delhi's air. STUBBLE BURNING is a key source of Delhi's air pollution in the October-early December period, typically accounting for 20-25 per cent of the pollution, and at times going up to 40 per cent, as per government data. A senior scientist at IARI explained that UP has two paddy-burning windows. "The first one, mostly for districts in and around western UP, starts in September and coincides with the trends in Punjab and Haryana. The next window is when districts in eastern UP start burning their stubble. The figures for the state at present mostly show numbers from the areas near Delhi and Haryana," the scientist said. Meanwhile, an analysis of paddy stubble burning data by environmental research group Climate Trends showed a clear declining trend in Punjab and Haryana between 2019 and 2023 across the Kharif and Rabi seasons. Data compiled by the research group showed that farm fires decreased from 95,048 in 2020 to 52,722 in 2023 in Punjab, and from 14,122 in 2019 to 7,959 in 2023 in Haryana. arm fires, primarily resulting from agricultural practices such as crop residue burning, introduce significant quantities of particulate matter (PM 2.5 and PM10) in the atmosphere, the study said. "These pollutants, combined with the prevailing wind patterns, travel to Delhi, leading to a sharp increase in AQI. On days without fire incidents, Delhi's AQI averages 175, which falls in the moderate category," the study said.

Supreme Court sets aside NCLAT order stopping insolvency process against Byju's



GNS News Agency, Oct 25

The Supreme Court Wednesday set aside the judgement of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) approving a settlement reached between ed-tech firm Byjus and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). As per the settlement, Byju's had agreed to pay Rs 158 crore to BCCI towards outstanding dues. Approving the deal, NCLAT set aside the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) order initiating the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) in terms of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) against Byjus. NCLAT rejected the objections raised by financial creditor GLAS Trust Company LLC, questioning the source of the funds for the settlement. Deciding the appeal by GLAS Trust Company LLC, the three-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said it finds "considerable force" in its argument that NCLAT erred in invoking its inherent powers under Rule 11 of the NCLAT Rules in the presence of a prescribed procedure dealing with the withdrawal of CIRP. The top court also found several procedural flaws in NCLAT's approach. The court noted that on July 31, 2024, when the parties sought to place the settlement on record before NCLAT, the Committee of Creditors (CoC) had not been constituted, although CIRP had been initiated. Setting aside the NCLAT order, the SC also directed that the Rs 158 crore, along

with accrued interest, if any, be deposited with CoC, which the court said shall maintain the amount in an escrow account until further developments.

The SC bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, said in its judgment, "In such cases, the legal framework mandates that an (i) application for withdrawal be moved; (ii) the application has to be moved through the Interim Resolution Professional; and (iii) it be placed before the NCLT for approval" but "none of these requirements were met in the present case".

"First and foremost, there was no formal application instituted to seek the withdrawal of the CIRP. The settlement agreement was taken on record and approved by the NCLAT based on the submissions and assurances of the counsel before it and the affidavits/undertakings filed by the parties. Further, the first respondent (Byju Raveendran and his brother, Riju Raveendran), who is a former director of the Corporate Debtor (Think and Learn Pvt Ltd), did not move the application through the IRP and instead approached the NCLAT directly. Finally, the request to approve the settlement was moved before the NCLAT during appellate proceedings, instead of being placed before the NCLT," said the court. "Despite these grave deviations, NCLAT still proceeded with approving the settlement and setting aside the CIRP by invoking its inherent power under Rule 11 of the NCLAT Rules," the court added. "We are of the view that recourse to Rule 11 of the NCLAT Rules was not warranted in the present circumstances... Inherent powers cannot be used to subvert legal provisions, which exhaustively provide for a procedure." The court added in the impugned judgement, "NCLAT does not provide any reasons for deviating from this procedure or the urgency to approve the settlement without following the procedure". The SC also said the concerns raised by the appellant regarding the source of the Rs 158 crore which Riju Raveendran had agreed to pay, apparently from his "personal funds", to BCCI "were not adequately addressed by NCLAT."

India, Pakistan renew pact for another five years



GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Kartarpur Corridor, Kartarpur Corridor, india pakistan dialogue, India Pakistan meet, India Pakistan relations, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Shehbaz Sharif, S. Jaishankar, Indian express news, current affairs The 4 km-long Kartarpur Corridor provides visa-free access to Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev. Less than a week after External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Islamabad and met Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar, India and Pakistan on Tuesday agreed to renew their pact on the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for another five years. The pact was due to lapse on October 24.

"It has been agreed between India and Pakistan through diplomatic channels to extend the validity of the agreement on Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for a further period of five years... The agreement, signed on October 24, 2019 to facilitate the visit of pilgrims from India to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur, Narowal, Pakistan through the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, was valid for a period of five years," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. It said the "extension of the validity of this agreement will ensure uninterrupted operation of the Corridor for use by the pilgrims from India to visit the holy gurdwara in Pakistan". In view of the continued requests of pilgrims regarding the removal of US\$ 20 service

charge levied by Pakistan per pilgrim per visit, India has once again urged Pakistan to not levy any fee on the pilgrims, it said. The 4 km-long Kartarpur Corridor provides visa-free access to Indian Sikh pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, the final resting place of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev. While the Corridor was opened in November 2019, movement was suspended in March 2020 after the pandemic struck. It was reopened later.

The development comes days after Jaishankar went to Pakistan on October 15-16 to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting of Council of Heads of Government — the first visit by an Indian Foreign Minister after Sushma Swaraj went to Islamabad for the Heart of Asia meeting in December 2015. Jaishankar and Dar, who is also Pakistan's Foreign Minister, spoke twice in less than 24 hours — the first direct conversation between India and Pakistan's Foreign Ministers since 2015 — and there were indications that these talks explored the idea of resuming some form of cricketing ties between the two countries, as reported by .Sources, however, had underlined that these conversations were very preliminary and "need to be thought through" on both sides, given that ties between the two countries have remained frozen for years. But the talks do open a window and a possible first step could be the Champions Trophy being hosted by Pakistan next February. Jaishankar and Dar had met on October 15 evening at the dinner hosted by Prime Minister Sharif at his residence. After exchanging pleasantries and a few words as they shook hands, the two ministers had a conversation over dinner, sources had said. According to sources, the ministers decided to carry forward the conversation over lunch the next day, and were seated next to each other. However, the MEA spokesperson said no meeting took place between the two ministers, and no cricketing ties were discussed. On October 17, underlining that India and Pakistan should "bury the past" and "think of the future", former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had said Jaishankar's visit to Islamabad was a "good beginning" and a "good opening" and the two countries "should move forward from here".

Was not made aware court permission was needed for tree felling during visit to CAPFIMS: Delhi L-G to Supreme Court

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has told the Supreme Court he was not made aware of the requirement to take the court's permission for the felling of trees on the road proposed in the Capital's Ridge area for widening the approach to the under-construction Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences (CAPFIMS) during his visit to the site on February 3. Last week, the Supreme Court sought an affidavit from Saxena, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), on the controversy surrounding the alleged illegal felling of trees for widening the approach road to the under-construction CAPFIMS. In an affidavit filed before the top court Tuesday, L-G Saxena said his visit to the CAPFIMS project site was scheduled to take stock of the progress of the project, keeping in mind its significance and necessity as well as the resources including the finances which have already been invested in it.

"On the date of the visit on 03.02.2024, upon reaching the CAPFIMS Hospital site and pursuant to a visual inspection", he "asked the officers/officials present at the spot to expedite the work towards the completion of the project, being a project related to medical facilities for the Paramilitary Forces serving the nation and resources to the tune of approximately Rs 2200 crore have already stood invested from the public exchequer," L-G Saxena said in the affidavit. The LG said "while coming back from the CAPFIMS Hospital", he "stopped at the site of the road widening." "No one present at the said site on the date of the visit, brought to the notice of the Deponent, the legal requirement of obtaining permission from this Hon'ble Court for felling of trees. Upon enquiring about the progress of work, the Deponent was informed that permission for felling/translocation of trees is awaited from the competent authority, therefore, the work of felling of trees has not been initiated. On this, the Deponent informed that for the trees falling under DPTA (Delhi Preservation of Trees Act), 1994, the Forest Department had already taken approval of the Minister (Environment & Forests) and Hon'ble Chief Minister with my concurring opinion. The Deponent had observed that the concerned officials should expedite the communication of the approval in this regard to the DDA."

The LG said, "in any event" his "direction...by no stretch of imagination, was to bypass the mandate of law." He added he "had also not issued any no instructions to not take any permission, wherever it was required in law. On the other hand, the visit on 03.02.2024, wherein the Deponent asked that the project be completed expeditiously, meant that all necessary actions required to be taken, be expedited, given the seminal nature of the project." The affidavit said the "direction to expedite the project on the bona fide belief that only permission from the Department of Forest and Wildlife, Govt. of NCT of Delhi was required and for which the proposal of the Forest Department of the Govt. of NCT Delhi was approved by him." The LG said that he "was also not aware, nor made aware of the fact that further permission was required from this Hon'ble Court. On the other hand" he "was apprised about the various hindrances in the alignment of the road, which has to be widened. In view of the this", he "directed the concerned departments to club all the court cases related to land acquisition pertaining to widening of Road for the purpose of defending them in a coordinated manner, shift on priority BSES electric poles, overhead cables, underground cables etc PNG gas pipe lines of IGL which causing hindrances in the widening of the road, and remove surplus excavated earth which was stacked in the CAPFIMS hospital for filling low-lying areas in the vicinity. Saxena said he "was first made aware of the fact that" SC's permission for the felling of trees...was required, only on 21.03.2024 when a proposal of DDA was received for constitution of a Committee of Experts in compliance with the directions of the Court "wherein...application...had been filed by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) seeking permission for felling of trees for the said project." "As regards the fact that the actual act of felling of trees had commenced on or about 16.02.2024" was brought to "his "noticed...vide letter of Vice Chairman, DDA dated 10.06.2024 which was issued pursuant to the directions of" the court, he said,



The affidavit also named the officials who it said had given instructions to fell the trees and said they "have been found to have instructed/allowed the tree cutting to take place on their own accord." "Perusal of the sequence of events suggests that the field officials of DDA probably misunderstood the approvals received from the Govt. of NCT of Delhi under the DPT Act, 1994 to be a go-ahead for felling of trees," said Saxon, adding "though a mistake, the work done by them was bona fide in the interest of public good." While hearing a plea on October 16 seeking initiation of contempt of court proceedings against DDA Vice Chairman Subhashish Panda, an SC bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud asked the Saxon to file a personal affidavit making a full disclosure of what transpired during his visit to the CAPFIMS project site. The Delhi L-G's affidavit also said that Panda "during the period 16.02.2024" when the tree felling began "to 26.02.2024, he was under surgery and medical treatment in AIIMS, New Delhi." He added Panda "was also not present at site, under intimation to the undersigned, due to his other official preoccupations on 03.02.2024 when" he "had visited the CAPFIMS site". He also said there is thus "no act of omission or commission on the part of the VC, DDA" and he may be discharged from the contempt proceedings.

Cyberabad police recover 800 mobile phones worth Rs 2.4 crore in just 35 days

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Hyderabad: In a span of just 35 days, the Cyberabad police have recovered as many as 800 mobile phones worth Rs 2.40 crore which were either lost or stolen. With the help of the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal, the recovered phones were handed over to their owners on Wednesday. Of these phones, 135 were recovered by Madhapur CCS, 140 by Balanagar CCS, 101 by Medchal CCS, 133 by Rajendranagar CCS, 72 by Shamshabad CCS, 105 by Medchal Zone, and 101 by the IT Cell.



Cyberabad DCP (Crimes) K Narasimha emphasised the importance of avoiding the purchase or sale of stolen items, as it is a punishable offence. "Protect your property and avoid negligence. Cybercrimes are on the rise, and fraudsters are using tactics like making inappropriate video calls to blackmail individuals." He warned the public about UPI frauds and urged caution when handling mobile devices, especially avoiding suspicious links. The DCP encouraged the public to report lost or stolen mobile phones at their nearest police station or through the CEIR portal, which is available nationwide across all States and Union Territories. He stressed that the use of the CEIR portal can prevent the misuse of stolen phones and ensures quicker recovery.

Govt looks at options as business mounts pressure for China dealings again

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

While there has been a gradual reconciliation in India and China's trade ties since the blockade triggered by 2020 border clashes, pressure from New Delhi's business community for goods and specialised manpower from across the border, and its ambitions of becoming a manufacturing hub have played a big role in the progressive shift. The easing also helps China. With its economy slowing down, domestic consumption throttled, and regions such as the European Union and the United States pushing protectionist tariffs against the country, Beijing's trade relationship with India — which has a big domestic market — becomes all the more important for them. Relations between the two countries are still far from their pre-2020 reality. While there are signs of easing of ties between the two countries, India has indicated it will not back down from some aggressive non-tariff barriers it has put in place to counter the influx of Chinese-made goods in the country. Government officials indicated there may not be any change in that strategy.

Meanwhile, India's exports to China have remained stagnant while imports have soared. Last month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said Indian goods do not have the same market access in China as Chinese products enjoy in India. While Chinese imports surpassed \$100 billion in FY24, India's exports barely crossed \$16 billion in the last financial year and have remained at that level for a long time. A working paper by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) stated that exporters face a range of non-tariff barriers in China, limiting market access for Indian exports, particularly in agricultural and pharmaceutical products. While China is actively seeking to prevent a loss of investment due to its domestic housing crisis, combined with Western multinationals' goal of de-risking their supply chains by seeking alternative destinations under the 'China plus one' policy, economists within the government have also acknowledged that decoupling from China is not easy for India or the rest of the world and India faces a choice between Chinese investment and Chinese imports. A senior government official said there could be a gradual opening up to China, primarily to make it easier for companies from the mainland to invest in New Delhi along with domestic partners. "Joint ventures between Chinese and Indian companies, where the former is a minority shareholder, is something the government would be very open to," the official said.

The Economic Survey 2023-24 had also called for India to encourage investments from China, while discouraging imports of finished goods, where the scope of local value addition is very little. "Where we see China, or any other country, dumping goods in India, causing injury to our domestic industry, then, we raise duties, impose anti-dumping duties, and introduce safeguard duties to protect our industry. But wherever we need their goods, then we facilitate that," another senior government official said, when asked what could change in terms of the two nations' trade ties.

Some of India's recent persuasions have hinted at the middle ground New Delhi would be comfortable in taking in terms of Chinese investments. Earlier this year, Chinese state-owned SAIC Motors, which owned a controlling stake in MG Motors, divested from the company and sold it to an Indian group of investors led by the JSW Group who now collectively own 51 per cent of the automaker. Chinese apparel-maker Shein, which was banned by New Delhi in 2020, is said to make a second entry in the country after licensing its brand to Reliance Retail. Operations of the venture though will be managed by Reliance.

But a big part of the change has been driven by lobbying by businesses in the country, who believe any Chinese alternative in certain sectors is either too expensive, or not of as good quality. This also extends not just to raw materials and equipment, but also human resources. After India imposed strict visa restrictions on Chinese nationals in the wake of the border crisis, there has been a gradual relaxation in its stance in terms of issuing visas for certain sectors. This was because businesses complained that they were struggling to operate or maintain equipment without help from technicians from China. While the electronics sector remains a touchy is-



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For India, where it has ambitions of becoming a major manufacturing hub, there is also acknowledgement that those dreams would be difficult to materialise without materials or manpower from China. And in this space too, there are winds of change. An inter-ministerial panel earlier this year cleared a joint venture between Bhagwati Products (Micromax) and Huaqin Technology in which the Chinese company will own a minority stake. Some of Apple's China-headquartered suppliers have also opened operations in India. And most importantly, India depends on China in a big way for component imports that are needed to assemble finished electronics in the country.

"The near term strategy is to allow Chinese suppliers and companies to set up shop in the country, but in a partnership with an Indian partner. We would like that the Chinese company is not a majority shareholder in the entity, but those decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis," one official said. As such, some sectors, which are considered non-sensitive, could be opened up for Chinese investments first. However, restrictions placed on Chinese investments in the telecom space are not expected to change anytime soon. With India prioritising investments from Beijing that could help its domestic manufacturing ambitions, it is unlikely that some of the decisions of the past — chief among which is the blocking of the popular short video app TikTok — would come up for a review anytime soon, the official said. While in some sectors India can't do without Chinese imports, it has taken an aggressive stance in some other sectors. In a bid to limit imports from China, India has rapidly increased anti-dumping duties on Chinese products and has also ramped up quality control orders, which effectively block the import and sale of items in the country without Bureau of Indian Standards certification. India has stepped up anti-subsidy measures against China, with over 30 anti-dumping investigations in 2024 alone — the highest number against a single country. Products under scrutiny include industrial items such as plastic processing machines, vacuum-insulated flasks, welded stainless steel pipes and tubes, soft ferrite cores, and industrial laser machines, among others. Industries seeking multiple extensions of anti-dumping duties have argued that China is not a market economy and employs predatory methods to eliminate competition, harming Indian businesses. New Delhi is increasing its presence in the Indian Ocean to limit Chinese influence in the region. As part of its strategy, a trade agreement is in the works with the Maldives. A Commerce Ministry official said that geopolitics has increasingly begun to impact India's trade strategy, citing the free trade agreement (FTA) being discussed with the Maldives, which could take precedence over others. "The FTA with the Maldives may not make much economic sense for India, as the Maldives is not a large market, but India will sign a deal due to the geopolitical importance of the Maldives," the official said.

Bombay HC stays state govt decision to take back 116 acres of Kandivali industrial land



GNS News Agency, Oct 25

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday stayed a Government Resolution (GR) dated October 8 issued by the Maharashtra Revenue and Forest Department to take back over 116 acres of prime land parcel in Charkop area in Kandivali (West) allotted for industrial purposes. It passed an ad-interim order on plea by Kandivali Co-op. Industrial Estate Ltd, in whose favour the concerned land with 116 acres and 20 gunthas was allotted.

The court issued notices to the respondent authorities and stayed the effect of the GR and subsequent letters in that regard till further hearing on December 3. Senior advocate Aspi Chinoy for petitioner on October 22 submitted before a bench of Justices Atul S Chandurkar and Rajesh S Patil that the initial allotment was made based on the GR of December 6, 2002, and the same could not have been revoked arbitrarily without granting opportunity to the petitioners to raise their grievances. Chinoy submitted that based on October 8 GR, the Mumbai suburban collector on October 10 took over possession of the said lands even though the mem-

bers of petitioner society have their operational industrial units on the same and same was arbitrary.

The petitioner cooperative society was directed to return the possession of over 116 acres of government land to the Collector within seven days from the date of GR, failing which the Collector was empowered to take unilateral possession of the said land. The impugned GR cancelled the decisions of December 2002 and April 2003, regarding the transfer of Kandivali Industrial Estate (KIE) to the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) and rendered subsequent decisions implementing the transfer as ineffective. The petitioner society argued that the land and the KIE are valuable immovable properties of its members and the government cannot deprive them of the same and ought to have heard them before the impugned actions were taken.

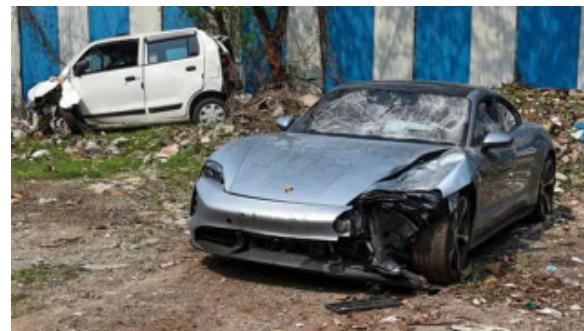
After hearing submissions, the bench noted, "Considering the fact that members of the petitioner no.1-Co-operative Society are operating their industrial units on the said lands and steps for taking back possession have been undertaken without any notice to the members of the Co-operative Society, there shall be ad-interim relief." It stayed till December 3 the effect, execution, implementation and operation of the impugned cabinet decision of October 4, GR of October 8 and subsequent communications to implement the same. The Charkop land was initially reserved for industrial development in 1961 with 150 plots earmarked for industrial use and were leased out for 30 years. In December, 1982, the government decided to give occupancy rights to the members of the petitioner. In 2002, the government handed over the land to its industries department and as the MIDC was unable to deal with regular activities, the land was handed over to KIE.

Bombay HC dismisses anticipatory bail to father of minor driver's friend booked for blood sample swapping

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Porsche car crash, anticipatory bail rejected, pune porsche accident, minor drivers blood sample, swap, accident, Porsche car accident update, pune accident news, pune news, Indian express news Pune city police have booked the accused for allegedly playing a role in swapping the blood samples of his son at the Sassoon Hospital, after the accident. The Bombay High Court on Wednesday dismissed anticipatory bail application of father of the minor driver's friend booked by Pune Police in the Porsche car accident case. The Pune city police had booked the accused for allegedly playing a role in swapping the blood samples of his son at Sassoon Hospital, after the accident. Justice Manish Pitale observed that a 'strong prima facie' case was made out against the applicant and same can certainly be the basis of rejecting his pre-arrest bail plea. The accused had approached HC after a special court in Pune rejected his plea last month.

"There is a strong prima facie case made out against the applicant for offence committed under Section 467 (forgery of document which purports to be valuable security) of the IPC read with Section 464 (making a false document) thereof," the bench noted. It added that the deception was created by labelling a blood sample as that of the minor son of the applicant, while it was of a 52-year-old co-accused and the applicant was part of such a conspiracy. Justice Pitale said that contention raised by senior advocate Aabad Ponda for the applicant that "blood sample is not a 'document,' pales into insignificance." The judge said the question of law raised by the applicant regarding applicability of sections 464 and 467 of IPC



was decided against him. "There is substance in the contention raised by the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Shishir Hiray for Police that the applicant remaining absconding has created an impediment for the investigating authority to fully and effectively investigate into the matter, including the angle of conspiracy and the constituents thereof, hatched by the applicant with the co-accused persons, including the doctors who were bribed for replacing the blood samples," the HC added. "This Court finds that the ingredients of the offences are prima facie made out against the applicant. The said offence under Section 467 of the IPC prescribes punishment with imprisonment for life and therefore, the application deserves to be dismissed," Justice Pitale held. The court clarified that the state was no more bound by its earlier statement of no coercive action against applicant pending decision of his pre-arrest bail plea. "It would be up to the investigating authority to take further steps in the matter, in accordance with law," the bench noted.

Posters with Yogi Adityanath and 'batenge to katenge' slogan come up in Mumbai ahead of polls



GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, posters featuring Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the slogan "batenge to katenge", implying that a division of votes may have a disastrous impact in the polls, have come up in several parts of Mumbai. The posters, which carry messages written in red colour against a saffron and yellow background, also bear the name of Vishwabandhu Rai, who has put them up. He claims to be associated with the BJP and says his motive is to prevent a division of pro-BJP votes in the November 20 election.

"The Opposition is indulging in political manoeuvres and we are responding to it through our campaign. North Indians in the state believe in Yogi Adityanath and his slogan of 'batenge to katenge'. So we have started responding to the Opposition's tactics. We have witnessed how people in Haryana were united to support the BJP. In a similar manner, we are going to apply this in the state," he told reporters. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation has removed the posters from Andheri, Bandra and Western Express Highway (WEH), ahead of Maharashtra Assembly elections 2024. Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar, however, said the ruling party has not put up the posters and that Rai does not hold any post in the party. But he added that a sizeable population feels the society will suffer if there is a division of votes. In August, speaking in Agra, Adityanath asserted the importance of national unity, while referring to the unrest in Bangladesh. "Batenge to katenge... Ek rahenge to nek rahenge (Divided we fall... United we stand)." "Nothing is greater than the nation. Our strength lies in our unity. If we allow ourselves to be divided, we will fall. The situation in Bangladesh serves as a warning — those mistakes must not be repeated here. We must stay united, uphold our noble values, ensure our safety and strive for the pinnacle of prosperity," the BJP chief minister had said.

Animal protection organisations urge citizens to celebrate "Animal-friendly Diwali"

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Hyderabad: As Diwali preparations begin, animal protection organisation, Humane Society International/India, has urged citizens to celebrate a noise-free and animal-friendly festival that prioritizes the well-being of everyone. In a statement issued here, the HSI/India said every year, thousands of animals and birds are left frightened, injured and lost because of an increase in air and noise pollution. Since animals have a far more acute sense of hearing, the noise of firecrackers has a terrifying effect on them and impacts their hearing and causes immense stress. For instance, fireworks can emit sounds of up to 190 decibels, while damage to human hearing begins from 110 decibels. Given that animals especially dogs and birds have a hearing sensitivity significantly greater than humans, the intensity of these sounds can



be overwhelming for them and birds, causing even death. Around Diwali, animal shelters frequently experience a rise in cases of lost and runaway pets.

Investigations show M-Cat seized from Ankleshwar factory issued closure notice for producing 'non-consented' products



GNS News Agency, Oct 25 Investigations into the seizure of the 2.17 kilograms of Mephedrone drug popularly known as M-Cat or meow meow, from the premises of Avsar Enterprise in Ankleshwar, Bharuch district on October 20, has revealed that the Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) had issued a closure notice to the factory on September 30 and also snapped its power and water connections, after it was found manufacturing "non-consented" products. The Surat city police on Wednesday arrested the fifth person in the case, who is a former diamond trader, accused of finding 'customers' for the drug in Mumbai. The consignment of mephedrone worth Rs. 2.17 crores and 427.95 kilograms of semi processed mephedrone was seized by Surat and Bharuch police leading to arrests of four persons.

Giving more details about closure notice, GPCB regional chairman at Ankleshwar V D Rakholiya told The Indian Express, "We gave closure notice to the Avsar Industries, a chemical unit that was into pharma products on September 30, as, during our inspection it was found that the company authorities were manufacturing non consented products. While taking permission from GPCB, the company has to mandatory mention the products they manufacture. The company had given list of 115 pharma products to be manufactured in the premises, but on our visit, we found that the products they manufactured were not in our list of products, they had submitted. The electricity, sewage and water connection were cut off by authorities falling the closure notice." He further added, "The Avsar industries is a firm run by partners and it is owned premises came up in last one year. We have also started drive to make surprise checkings in other companies in Ankleshwar GIDC." Surat and Bharuch Police had arrested four persons with total mephedrone seizure of 2.17 crores (international Market Value) and booked them under different Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substance (NDPS) Act sections. The accused have been identified as identified as Montu Patel (25), Virat Patel (28), Vipul Patel (35) and Vishal Patel (44)., Surat crime branch had arrested one more accused in this racket and he is identi-

fied as Palak Patel (35), resident of Katargam area in Surat.

Surat crime branch police inspector K I Modi said, "Palak was earlier involved in diamond trading activities in Surat and has been into the drug racket for a while. His role in the drug racket is to identify the customers in Mumbai and get the contraband delivered. We are trying to dig out more information from him about the receivers of the drugs. Palak is cousin of Virat Patel." Sources in the Surat police, said that the actual owner of the Avsar company is Anil Amin, who resides in the US and hails from Vadodara. He had given the rights to run the factory to his cousin Vishal Patel, a resident of Vadodara. Surat district Superintendent of police Hitesh Joyser said, "We are trying to dig out more information from the three arrested ones. We are also trying to find out involvement of the Anil Amin, the factory owner presently residing in USA and native of Vadodara in this case. We have come to know that the ready consignment of mephedrone was delivered multiple times to different parties in Mumbai. We are digging out more information from the accused, so that we would reach to the receiver of Mumbai." On October 20, Surat Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gahlaut received information about mephedrone manufactured in Avsar Industries at Ankleshwar GIDC, being transported to Mumbai in a car. Following such tip off, the Surat police team maintained a watch on the road at Velanja in Surat district and caught three persons travelling in a car and seized 2.031 kg of MD worth Rs. 2.03 crores (international Market value). The three arrested were employees of Avsar company, and were identified Montu Patel, (25), Virat Patel (28) and Vipul Patel (35). Police said that Montu works in HR department, while Virat works in the laboratory, and Vipul work as chemist. A complaint in this connection was registered with at Kamrej police station. The investigations into this case was handed over to Olpad police. On Tuesday evening, all the three accused were produced before Surat district court by police which awarded a five day remand to three accused, till October 26. After the arrest of three people Bharuch police carried out raids in Avsar Enterprise at Ankleshwar GIDC on October 20. During surprise checkings police had found 141 grams of MD worth Rs. 14.10 lakhs and semi processed mephedrone weighing 427.95 kilograms. The forensic expert teams also reached to the spot and seized the final product of mephedrone as well as semi processed lot and took samples from the spot for laboratory analysis. Police arrested Vishal Patel (44), resident of Vadodara, a partner in the enterprise, from the spot. Bharuch district police registered a case under different sections of NDPS act against Vishal Patel, at Ankleshwar GIDC police station.

At Delhi High Court, Centre expresses 'hesitation' to declare Jama Masjid a protected monument

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Nearly two decades after the Ministry of Culture (MoC) in the government led by former prime minister Manmohan Singh decided not to declare Jama Masjid a protected monument, the Union government on Wednesday expressed its "hesitation" before the Delhi High Court to declare it a protected monument now. In its latest affidavit, the Union government, through the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), submitted, "...there would be a substantial impact of declaring Jama Masjid as a protected monument. The provision of prohibited area will be applicable to the Jama Masjid, which is a 100-metre zone from a protected monument in which new construction is prohibited. Further, in regulated area (200-metre zone beyond prohibited area), all construction-related activities are regulated and require prior permission from the Competent Authority and National Monuments Authority."

"Thus, there is (a) substantial impact of central protection on a 300 metres zone around the monument. Further, the Jama Masjid is under protection and guardianship of Delhi Waqf Board under the Waqf Act, 1995... In the event of declaring it as a protected monument, the regulations of prohibited and regulated areas would come (into) effect," it added. Going through the affidavit, Justice Prathiba Singh, while presiding over a division bench on Wednesday, orally remarked, "So in effect, Union of India is saying it (should) not be declared as protected...there's a hesitation, that much is clear." Justice Singh further added orally, "One thing is clear...even if it is not protected, revenue cannot go exclusively to any private person," while suggesting that part of the revenue earned can be paid as a fee to Delhi Waqf Board as well as to ASI, even as ASI clarified before the court that it has so far not demanded any fee from the masjid.

Despite not being declared a protected monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the ASI continues to carry out conservation and restoration work of the monument. According to a statement of expenditure submitted by ASI before the Delhi High Court in an affidavit on October 21, the ASI incurred a total expenditure of Rs 61.82 lakh from 2007-2008 to 2019-2020, including for works such as dismantling old decayed cement concrete, providing lime plaster, fixing flooring in red stone, conditional survey/drawing documentation of central dome over



the prayer hall, etc. The ASI, in an affidavit filed through Praveen Singh, who works as superintending archaeologist in the Delhi circle of ASI, submitted that it has been taking up conservation and preservation work of Jama Masjid since 1955 "as and when requested by the authority of representative of the Jama Masjid". The Delhi High Court has been dealing with two petitions from 2014, which raised issues regarding Maulana Syed Ahmed Bukhari's announcement that he would anoint his youngest son as Naib Imam of Jama Masjid at a ceremony on November 22, 2014, after he had proclaimed himself the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid.

The petitions challenged the legality of this appointment, claiming that it was unauthorised, and sought directions to stop the ceremony. The petitioners highlighted the need for the Jama Masjid to be declared a protected monument and the need to prevent the Bukhari family from using it as their residence. Since 2018, the court has been directing the government to produce the original file where the decision was made not to declare it protected. While the file was subsequently produced before the court on August 28 this year, the ASI submitted that the original letter dated October 20, 2004, written by the then PM Manmohan Singh, was "missing." ASI officials had, however, assured the court that they were "taking steps to trace the same." In 2003, the MoC emphasised that "ASI would be able to undertake restoration and conservation work only if Jama Masjid is declared a protected monument". However, Imam Saiyed Ahmad Bukhari disagreed with the proposition, expressing that the central government protection "may open up avenues of interference with the management of the mosque and even compromise its use for public purposes of Namaz, etc."

TMC leader arrested for 'smuggling elephant tusks' in Bihar

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

After a joint team of the Bihar police and forest department arrested Trinamool Congress leader Ashok Kumar Ojha and four others for smuggling elephant tusks in the Buxar district, Leader of West Bengal Assembly Opposition and BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari called TMC a "general store of crimes... not even sparing wildlife". Meanwhile, the TMC announced they would expel Ojha, who is president of ward 42 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, from the party. The joint team raided a house belonging to Ojha in Devkuli village under the Brahmpur police station area and recovered two elephant tusks weighing around 23 kg, worth lakhs of rupees, Bihar police sources said. They followed a tip-off on the illegal sale of tusks in the illegal market. Ojha is known to be

close to TMC MLA of Burhabazar Vivek Gupta. When the news broke out, Gupta said, "I heard that they (including Ojha) used to keep elephants at home. Many people in Bihar keep elephants at home. Recently, one of their elephants died. They sold that dead elephant. He left two ivory tusks at home. The party has nothing to do with this incident. He has been expelled from the party and all posts." Taking to X on Wednesday, Adhikari posted, "Prominent TMC leader Ashok Kumar Ojha of Burhabazar, Kolkata arrested from Bihar's Buxar in Ivory smuggling case. Ojha, the figure of the smuggling racket was arrested along with four others for smuggling Elephant Tusks weighing 23 kg... I wonder what's next!!!" The four other accused who were arrested are from Bihar. They have been identified as Ganpat Sah from Begusarai, Manoj Kumar Pandey from Pipra Jagdishpur,

Trump targets hardcore partisans, Harris goes after moderates: Inside the campaign's final sprint



GNS News Agency, Oct 25

In battleground Pennsylvania, Kamala Harris warned that democracy and reproductive rights were at stake as she campaigned alongside a former Republican congresswoman. Going to the same State the day before, Donald Trump served French fries at a closed McDonald's. As the 2024 Presidential contest concludes on November 5, Ms. Harris and Trump are embracing wildly different strategies to energize the coalitions they need to win. Both are making bets that will prove prescient or ill-advised. Trump's team has largely abandoned traditional efforts to broaden his message to target moderate voters, focusing instead on energizing his base of fiery partisans and turning out low-propensity voters — especially young men of all races — with tough talk and events aimed at getting attention online. Harris is leaning into a more traditional all-of-the-above playbook targeting the narrow slice of undecided voters, especially moderates, college-educated suburbanites, and women of all races and education. More than Trump, she is going after Republican women who may have supported rival Nikki Haley in this year's GOP primary and are dissatisfied with the former President. "It's all pieces of a very complex puzzle," Ms. Harris's senior campaign adviser David Plouffe said this week. "This would all be a simpler exercise if you can focus just on one voter cohort. You can't. And you got to make sure you know you're doing well enough with all of them so that when you put all that together it adds up to 50%." Trump's team sees it as a much simpler equation.

His aides insist that efforts to maximize turnout from Trump's hardcore base do not mean he's ignoring swing voters, even if he's not tailoring a different message to reach them. "I just think that there's a misunderstanding on what's motivating those people," Trump political director James Blair said. "I mean, the fact is the economy's motivating those people. Those people overwhelmingly think that they're worse off than they were four years ago... So then the question becomes: Who's better equipped to fix it?" The divergent strategies underscore the stark differences between the candidates themselves, in personality and policy.

Ms. Harris, a former California senator who would be the first female President, has promised to include a Republican in her Cabinet while prioritizing efforts to protect democracy, reproductive rights and the middle class. Trump, a former president, has vowed to fight for the working class as well. He also has promised a campaign of retribution against his political enemies with an administration packed with loyalists. One point on which both camps agree: The election will be decided by voters in just seven swing States, a political map that has not shifted significantly or narrowed as Election Day speeds into view. They are Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and North Carolina. One Ms. Harris adviser, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal strategy, described the situation as "still terrifyingly close in all seven."

Trump is speaking largely to his loyal Republican

base at the expense of moderate voters, especially suburban women. He peppers his rallies with profanity, personal insults against Ms. Harris and ominous talk of "enemies within." He has said repeatedly over the last week that Democrats like former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., represent a more serious threat to the United States than China and Russia do.

Trump has also rejected recent opportunities to speak to more traditional audiences, turning down an interview with CBS' popular "60 Minutes" and refusing to debate Ms. Harris for a second time unless it was moderated by Fox News, home to several of his favorite conservative hosts. Instead, his campaign is scheduling appearances on podcasts and online shows geared towards young men — especially working-class Hispanic and Black men, who typically vote less frequently and tend to favor Democrats. He's attended sporting events including mixed-martial arts fights and football games, putting him in front of audiences who don't typically engage with traditional media outlets. Josh Rouse, a 28-year-old Black man and registered Republican, said he's only recently been drawn to politics. He didn't vote in 2016, but voted for Trump in 2020. "If anything, I think it's important to remember we're all people, regardless of whether you're white or Black," said Rouse, who works in roofing and attended Trump's rally in Greenville, North Carolina, this week. "It doesn't matter who you are. He speaks to all of us." Trump's team has also created viral moments in non-political settings like his trip to McDonald's on Sunday, part of an extended campaign to cast doubt on Harris' work history at the fast-food franchise. Trump also went to Coachella, California, and will host a rally at Madison Square Garden in New York City on Sunday — both in heavily Democratic states but where the related media attention and online content would surely reach swing-state voters.

Trump has kept an aggressive schedule. He is set to visit every battleground State this week save Wisconsin. Backed by an avalanche of campaign cash, Ms. Harris is holding in-person events but also launching a sprawling door-knocking operation, hyper-targeted online ads and a carefully designed media strategy to reach specific voting blocs. Ms. Harris' team believes that roughly 10% of voters in the battleground States are still persuadable, either because they are truly undecided or because their support for Trump is soft. The campaign vows to keep trying to persuade such voters until the final minutes of in-person voting. Her team sees the possibility of significant growth among Republican, college-educated, suburban women alienated by Trump's extreme rhetoric. Even small shifts in swing states could have massive electoral implications.

The Ms. Harris campaign quickly produced digital ads last week highlighting Trump's description of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection as "a day of love." And Harris spent most of Monday campaigning in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin alongside Liz Cheney, a Republican House leader during Trump's presidency who swung sharply against him after Jan. 6. She is scheduled to visit Houston for an event Friday with women who have been affected by the State's ban on all abortions, which took effect after the Supreme Court, including three justices nominated by Trump, overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. She'll be going there after spending time in Georgia, which banned abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. Nicolette Milholin, 45, of Mont Clare, Pennsylvania, said she considered herself a political independent until Trump was elected in 2016. "To me, democracy is at stake," Milholin said at a Harris event this week in Chester County, Pennsylvania. "We have a party that was built for a family and a dynasty. And then we have a party here represented by Kamala Harris, that was built for our country."

Terrified Bangladeshis flee Israeli strikes in Lebanon



GNS News Agency, Oct 25

The first Bangladeshis airlifted home after fleeing Israeli air strikes in Lebanon described the constant fear of living in a city rocked by explosions. Late Monday (October 21, 2024), the first 54 of some 1,800 Bangladeshis wanting to escape the troubled Mediterranean nation flew back to Dhaka on a Government-backed flight. Some gave up long-established lives in Lebanon for a deeply uncertain economic future back home. Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry estimates between 70,000 and 100,000 of its nationals are working in Lebanon, many as labourers or as domestic workers. For 68-year-old Abul Kashem — who lived in Lebanon's seaside capital Beirut for nearly four decades, including during past heavy fighting in the civil war — the barrage of strikes that began last month was unlike anything he had seen before. "I have never seen any war like this," said Kashem, who worked at a gas station, before it was reduced to rubble. "Everything around the fuel pump where I worked has been destroyed," he said, after arriving exhausted on a plane chartered by the United Nation's International Organisation for Migration. Israel drastically escalated its air campaign

against Lebanon's Hezbollah group last month. It has since launched a ground offensive intended to push the group back from its northern border. Hezbollah has been firing thousands of projectiles into Israel over the last year, displacing tens of thousands of Israelis. 'So intense'

The Bangladeshi workers, striving to earn money to send back home to family in South Asia, were trapped in a conflict that erupted around them. "Five buildings near my residence were brought to the ground," said Mohammad Hossain (28), who returned from Beirut with his wife and year-old infant. "The attacks were so intense," he added. "The cars are almost melting." Nearly a month of all-out war has killed at least 1,489 people in Lebanon, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese Health Ministry figures. Bangladesh's Business Standard newspaper has reported at least five Bangladeshi citizens were among those wounded, while thousands have fled border zones with Israel northwards into Lebanon. "I feel very good after returning to my home country," Hossain said, speaking as returnees were embraced by relatives welcoming back, some in tears. "When the plane left the airport in Lebanon, I immediately felt peace in my mind," he added.

Those returning must now find work at home, with Bangladesh undergoing a political transition after a student-led revolution toppled the autocratic ex-leader Sheikh Hasina from power on August 5, 2024. Their income loss will be sorely missed by their families in a nation where more than five percent of GDP comes from personal remittances, according to the World Bank. Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry, which said Dhaka is bearing the cost of the flights, added 65 more citizens would return. Ruma Khatun, 30, said she had first fled to Beirut seeking refuge, but said she did not feel safe there either, so was among the first to sign up to leave. "The situation is very bad," she said. "When we were taking off from Lebanon... we heard the sound of bombing."

Obama raps Eminem's 'Lose Yourself' at Harris rally in Michigan

GNS News Agency, Oct 25 American rapper Eminem and former President Barack Obama shared the stage at a rally for Kamala Harris in Detroit, Michigan, just two weeks before the November 5 presidential election. Eminem introduced Obama, who quoted the rapper's hit song "Lose Yourself" during his speech, thrilling the crowd. American rapper Eminem and former Democratic president Barack Obama shared the stage at Kamala Harris's rally in Detroit, Michigan, just two weeks before the US presidential election set for November 5. Eminem, a supporter of the Democratic Party, previously endorsed Barack Obama and the Biden-Harris ticket in the 2020 election. The 52-year-old Grammy-winning rapper introduced Obama, 63, at the rally, where the 44th US president kicked off his speech by quoting Eminem's 2002 hit song "Lose Yourself." The crowd erupted in excitement. "I have done a lot of rallies, so I don't usually get nervous. But I was feeling some kind of way following Eminem," Obama said. "I noticed my palms are sweaty, knees weak, arms are heavy, vomit on my sweater already, Mom's spaghetti." As the crowd cheered, Obama continued rapping the hit song, which won a Grammy for Best Rap Song and Best Male Rap Solo Performance in 2004.



"I'm nervous, but on the surface I look calm and ready to drop bombs, but I keep on forgetting," Obama said, ending with, "I love me some Eminem." Eminem, who hails from Detroit, expressed his support for Harris and emphasised the importance of Michigan in the upcoming election. "I'm here tonight for a couple of important reasons," said the "Houdini" rapper. "As most of you know, the city of Detroit and the whole state of Michigan mean a lot to me, and going into this election, the spotlight is on us more than ever. I think it's important to use your voice, so I'm encouraging everybody to get out and vote, please." Eminem has been a vocal critic of Harris's rival, Donald Trump, the 78-year-old Republican presidential candidate. In October 2017, he performed a nearly five-minute freestyle rap at the BET Awards, where he criticised the 45th president, who was finishing his first year in office at the time.

Elon Musk post with misleading Donald Trump article fact-checked by X tool

GNS News Agency, Oct 25 An Elon Musk post sharing a satirical screenshot misrepresenting an article from The Atlantic was flagged by the Community Notes tool on his X social media platform. Elon Musk attracted a comment from his own social media platform's Community Notes system this week after sharing a screenshot that misrepresented an article published by the American magazine The Atlantic. Musk, who bought Twitter in 2022 and rebranded it X, re-shared a post containing a screenshot of an article supposedly titled, "TRUMP IS LITERALLY HITLER."



"They are literally foaming at the mouth," Musk commented, referencing a post by a user called 'Indian_Bronson'. The post quickly gained attention on X, with many using Community Notes -- a tool Musk introduced to decentralise fact-checking on the platform -- to highlight that The Atlantic had never published such an article. The screenshot, it turned out, was doctored by 'Indian_Bronson' as satire. The Community Notes appended to Musk's post explained: "This is not a real article. No such headline exists in The Atlantic," linking to a follow-up post by 'Indian_Bronson' admitting, "It's me satirising them." Another note linked to an actual The Atlantic article written by the author whose name appeared

in the doctored screenshot. That article is titled, "TRUMP: I NEED THE KIND OF GENERALS THAT HITLER HAD." The world's richest man, Elon Musk has been in the limelight this US presidential election cycle thanks to his enthusiastic support for Republican candidate Donald Trump over Democratic nominee Kamala Harris. Elon Musk, a mega donor to the Republican Party, has been actively campaigning for Trump -- online as well as offline -- and has also organised a campaign rally in the Pennsylvania suburbs to urge American voters to support him.

Tension grips Bangladesh as protesters demand removal of President over comments on Hasina's resignation

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Several hundred protesters on Tuesday (October 22, 2024) tried to storm the presidential palace, demanding President Mohammed Shahabuddin's resignation for his recent comment on deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. In an interview with Bangla daily Manab Zamin last week, Mr. Shahabuddin said he did not have any documentary evidence of Ms. Hasina resigning as Prime Minister before she fled the country on August 5, 2024, amidst student-led mass protests. Witnesses and TV footage showed protesters under different banners scuffling with police as they barred the demonstrators from entering the Bangabhaban.



ernment would need to think about whether he was still qualified to hold his office.

The police eventually fired sound grenades, prompting army troops to later intervene and then send policemen inside the palace. The situation eased a little as the military using loudspeakers requested agitators to leave the Bangabhaban gate. The Business Standard, a Bangladeshi daily, quoted hospital sources as saying that two people sustained gunshot injuries when security forces fired shots to contain protesters from breaking the barricades of the presidential palace. It said a third person was wounded by a sound grenade used to create a sound explosion to disperse violent mobs. The Anti-discrimination Student Movement, which spearheaded the campaign that led to the ouster of Ms. Hasina, rallied in front of the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka, demanding Mr. Shahabuddin's resignation. It set a seven-day deadline for Mr. Shahabuddin's removal as they laid a five-point demand, including the scrapping of Bangladesh's 1972 Constitution. "Our first point (of the five-point demand) is immediate scrapping of the 'pro-Mujib (Bangladesh's founding leader) 1972 Constitution', which kept Chuppu (the president's nickname) in office," said Hasnat Abdullah, one of the coordinators of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement. Abdullah, who spoke as the concluding speaker of a massive rally at Central Shaheed Minar here, said: "The (1972) Constitution will have to be replaced by writing a new one against the backdrop of 2024 mass upheaval." He said the protesters would "return to the streets with full force" if the government failed to meet the demands by this week. Several other groups under different banners joined Tuesday's (October 22, 2024) protests alongside the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement at the premier Dhaka University campus, Shaheed Minar, and Bangabhaban. Law affairs adviser, equivalent to Minister, of Professor Muhammad Yunus's interim government Asif Nazrul, earlier accused Mr. Shahabuddin of "falsehood", saying his remarks were "tantamount to a violation of his oath of office". He added that if he remained firm on his comments, the interim gov-

In a televised address on August 5 night, Mr. Shahabuddin said: "You know Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has tendered her resignation letter to the President and I have received it." He made the remarks as army chief General Waker uz Zaman, along with navy and air chiefs, stood beside him. Mr. Nazrul on Tuesday (October 22, 2024) said after his nationwide speech that if he declined to receive the resignation letter, one of his two statements would be false and he could face the charge of falsehood. The law affairs adviser, along with Information Ministry adviser Nahid Islam, also a leader of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement, later held a nearly 40-minute close-door meeting with Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed amid media speculation that it could have centred on the modus operandi of removing the president. Constitution expert Shahdhin Malik said Bangladesh's Parliament has the authority to impeach the president but the "interim government may take any action (against the president) as many things are now happening beyond the law". Malik also said an "unnecessary debate is going on over the documentary evidence of Hasina's resignation letter amid the existing reality". "After the toppling of Sheikh Hasina's government, the interim government has been formed based on the Supreme Court's opinion... no debate is required about it," he said. Bangabhaban, meanwhile, in a statement said the president urged the people not to reignite controversy over a "settled issue". "This is a clear statement from the president that answers regarding the resignation and departure of the former prime Minister (Hasina) in the face of the student-people mass revolution, the dissolution of the Parliament, and all the questions raised in the public mind about the Constitutional validity of the incumbent Interim government are reflected in the order of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in Special Reference No-01/2024, dated August 8, 2024," the statement said.

Kuwait bans 'Call of Duty: Black Ops 6' game featuring Saddam Hussein in 1990s

The tiny Mideast nation of Kuwait has banned the release of the video game "Call of Duty: Black Ops 6," which features the late Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and is set in part in the 1990s Gulf War. Kuwait has not publicly acknowledged banning the game, which is a tentpole product for the Microsoft-owned developer Activision and is set to be released on Friday worldwide. However, it comes as Kuwait still wrestles with the aftermath of the invasion and as video game makers more broadly deal with addressing historical and cultural issues in their work. The video game, a first-person shooter, follows CIA operators fighting at times in the United States and also in the Middle East. Game-play trailers for the game show burning oilfields, a painful reminder for Kuwaitis who saw Iraqis set fire to the fields, causing vast ecological and economic damage. Iraqi troops damaged or set fire to over 700 wells. There also are images of Saddam and Iraq's old three-star flag in the footage released by developers ahead of the game's launch. The game's multiplayer section, a popular feature of the series, includes what appears to be a desert shootout in Kuwait called Scud after the Soviet missiles Saddam fired



in the war. Another is called Babylon, after the ancient city in Iraq. Activision acknowledged in a statement that the game "has not been approved for release in Kuwait," but did not elaborate. "All pre-orders in Kuwait will be cancelled and refunded to the original point of purchase," the company said. "We remain hopeful that local authorities will reconsider, and allow players in Kuwait to enjoy this all-new experience in the Black Ops series." Kuwait's Media Ministry did not respond to requests for comment from

It's all glitter and shine: Should investors buy gold and silver?



Co-founder & CEO, Commtrendz Research. In September, the US Fed reduced its interest rate by 50 basis points. There is an expectation of 25 bps cuts in November and December. Central banks are accumulating gold as part of the de-dollarization process, leading to a jump in the price of the yellow metal. The strategy is to diversify their portfolios, said Anindya Banerjee, Senior Vice President and Head of Commodity, Currency and Interest Rate, Kotak Securities. De-dollarisation refers to reducing reliance on the US dollar or reduction in the usage of the US currency in global trade and financial transactions. The process started after sanctions imposed by the US on Russia due to the latter's invasion of Ukraine. "Gold, currently at a fresh record high, continues to remain bid on the uncertainty about the US presidential election, further fiscal deterioration in the world's largest economy, expectations from the ongoing BRICS summit and geopolitical factors," said Praveen Singh - Associate VP, Fundamental Currencies and Commodities, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. The spurt in silver prices is because of higher demand from industries, especially the electric vehicle segment, Banerjee said. "Silver is an industrial metal so the demand is high. After China announced its stimulus measures, the price of silver took off," Thiagarajan said. Over the next one-year timeframe, analysts expect the gold price to touch a high of Rs 85,000 per 10 gram, or \$3,000 per ounce over the next one year. The price of silver may rise to \$37 per ounce or Rs 106,000 per kg, said Praveen Singh of Sharekhan. Investment in gold provides safety against inflation and any economic uncertainty. It can help investors in wealth creation. Since gold price is expected to further rise, market experts suggest investors to consider investing in the yellow metal as part of the diversification strategy. Investors can invest in gold in different forms - physical (bars, coins and jewellery), stocks of companies dealing in gold jewellery, gold exchange-traded funds (ETF) and in gold futures. Market analysts said though prices of gold and silver are expected to rise in the long term, some corrections may also be witnessed over the short to medium term. "Investors should buy in a staggered manner rather than buying at one shot. They should take the opportunity to buy at dips," said Kotak Securities' Banerjee.

Prices of gold and silver have been hovering at record highs. On Wednesday, the price of gold (24 carat) touched an all-time high of Rs 78,703 per 10 gram, and silver was trading around Rs 99,151 per kg. While the surge in gold price is driven by safe-haven appeal amid geo-political concerns, heavy buying from central banks across the globe and expectations of future rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve, the spurt in the price of silver is mainly contributed by an increase in demand from industries and also due to speculative buying. Market experts suggest that investors could look to buy both precious metals, but in a staggered manner. The surge in gold and silver prices. The price of gold (24 carat) hit a fresh record high of Rs 78,703 per 10 gram on Wednesday. In the futures market, the price of the yellow metal was trading at Rs 78,800 per 10 gram for the December contract. Silver, also referred to as the white metal, touched a high of Rs 99,151 per kilogram in the spot market. The price of silver for the November contract in the futures market was Rs 99,619 per kg. The major factors behind the recent rally in gold prices are uncertainty around slower growth in major economies and rising conflict in the Middle East. This has led to investors buying gold, which provides a hedge against any volatility.

"Gold price has been on the rise for the last few months. The current surge in the price is because of the safe-haven appeal due to tensions in the Middle East. Prior to this, prices rose because of heavy buying from central banks and on expectations of interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve," said Gnanasekar Thiagarajan,

Air India, Singapore Airlines expand codeshare partnership by adding 11 Indian, 40 global destinations

Air India and Singapore Airlines (SIA) have expanded their codeshare agreement by adding 11 Indian cities and 40 international destinations, marking the first extensive expansion of codeshare arrangements between the two carriers since 2010. The expanded codeshare network will be rolled out from October 27, and both airlines plan to progressively include more destinations under the arrangement. The announcement comes ahead of Vistara's merger with Air India, which will result in SIA holding a minority stake in the enlarged Air India. Currently, SIA holds 49 per cent stake in Vistara with the Tata group holding 51 per cent. After the merger, SIA will own 25.1 per cent stake in Air India. There merger and the consequent shareholding of SIA in Air India is expected to lead to more synergies between the airlines and the codeshare expansion may be seen as a step in that direction.

Under a codeshare agreement, an airline can market tickets on flights operated by a partner airline, thus giving the option of a wider and more enhanced network and more connections to its flyers, apart from streamlined ticketing, check-in, and baggage services. "From 27 October 2024, Air India and SIA will codeshare on each other's flights, between Singapore and the Indian cities of Bengaluru and Chennai, increasing their total weekly scheduled codeshare services between the countries to 56 from 14," Air India and SIA said in a joint release. SIA will codeshare on Air India's domestic flights between Delhi and Amritsar, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Lucknow, and Varanasi, between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Goa, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Thiruvananthapuram, as well as between Kolkata and Guwahati.

Air India customers will be able to access 29 destinations across SIA's network. These are Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney in Australia, Bandar Seri Begawan in Brunei, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in Cambodia, Denpasar, Jakarta, Medan, and Surabaya in Indonesia, Fukuoka, Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo-Haneda, and Tokyo-Narita in Japan, Busan and Seoul in South Korea, Kuala Lumpur and Penang in Malaysia, Auckland in New Zealand, Cebu and Manila in



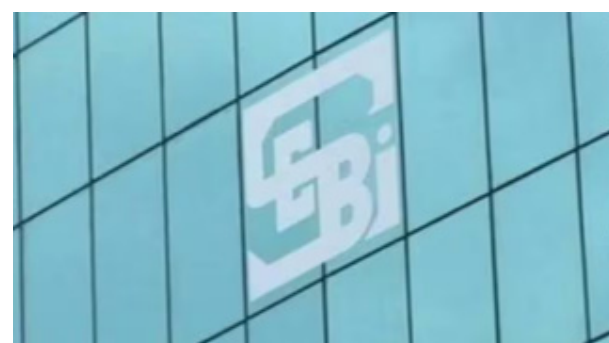
the Philippines, as well as Danang, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam. SIA customers will be able to connect to Air India's international services from Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai to 12 destinations across Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. These are Copenhagen, Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, and Milan in Europe, Nairobi in Kenya, Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia, Colombo in Sri Lanka, and Birmingham, London-Gatwick, and London-Heathrow in the United Kingdom. Subject to regulatory approvals, the codeshare flights will be progressively made available for sale through Air India and SIA's respective booking channels. "This is a continuation of our effort to offer our guests more choice and an extended global network. Air India and Singapore Airlines have been longtime partners, and with this expanded scope of our codeshare agreement, we are excited to offer our guests greater connectivity to destinations across South East Asia, the Far East, and Australasia," said Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial Officer, Air India. Lee Lik Hsin, Chief Commercial Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "It (expansion of codeshare network) demonstrates our commitment to meeting the high demand for air travel between India and Singapore and beyond, and contributing to the growth of both aviation markets. Adding Air India's domestic network to our codeshare arrangements will also offer our customers enhanced connectivity and convenience in India, which is a key market for the SIA Group."

Increased retail presence in derivatives a matter of concern: Sebi official

Sebi Wholtime Member Ashwani Bhatia on Tuesday warned against the increased retail participation in the derivative segment (futures & options) and other risky products. "While it is encouraging to see increase of retail investors in securities market, increased retail participation in derivative segment and other risky products is a matter of concern," Bhatia said. Close to 93 per cent, or 9 out of 10 individual traders, in the equity F&O segment incurred losses, with aggregate loss exceeding Rs 1.8 lakh crore between FY2022 and FY2024, Sebi data shows.

India accounts for largest volume of F&O globally, more than 50% of F&O volumes globally are done in India. "This crown is worn by India, and this is a crown we do not wish to wear," Bhatia said while speaking at the Morningstar Investment Conference. "F&O cannot be a national pastime, we need to do serious investing and investors should participate in wealth that is being created in the country through pooled vehicles like mutual funds or directly," he said. Sebi had recently released a set of six measures to strengthen the equity index derivatives, also known as equity futures & options (F&O), framework. The norms include raising the entry barrier by increasing the contract size and upfront collection of option premium.

Bhatia said Sebi is planning to come out with a discussion paper in a bid to tighten the regulatory framework for IPOs of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The Sebi move follows huge subscription and listing gains by SME IPOs in the last few months. "What we have seen



is pretty disturbing," he said. "There's concern regarding the IPO participation, particularly in SME IPO by Indian investors, which has raised concerns for us. SME listings are closely monitored by exchanges and SEBI to ensure they don't engage in irrational exuberance price manipulation or fraudulent trade practices," he said. "We don't feel very comfortable about what's going on - especially the number of times IPO issues are oversubscribed and the way market making happens the way underwriting happens," Bhatia said. According to G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant, with structural reforms, India has become far more efficient economy, without leakages, and with a strong digital infrastructure which no other country in the world has. "India has pursued a very different model versus other Western nations. In India we have created a digital layer on top of which we have allowed the private sector to compete, everyone is competing in the marketplace and huge innovation is taking place," Kant said.

70 insurance players not enough for 1.4 billion population; more companies needed: IRDAI Chairman



Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) Chairman Debasish Panda on Tuesday said there is a need for more insurance companies in the country, as the existing players are not enough to cater to the 1.4 billion population. Highlighting the importance of public listing, Panda said the regulator will engage with some insurers to go public as it brings in value for investors and policyholders. "What we are currently looking at is how do we have more number of players. Possibly, 70 players are not enough for a size (population) of 1.4 billion," Panda said while addressing the CII Insurance and Pension summit. The regulator is also making efforts to bring in more capital to the sector because insurance is a capital-intensive segment. He said there was a need for more capital to come from domestic resources and foreign direct investment into the insurance sector. The insurance regulator has removed entry barriers for floating an insurance company. Now, private equity players, institutional investors, venture capitalists and family offices can become investors or promoters of an insurance company, and can also exit easily, he said.

The regulator is focussing on speedy approvals of applications for floating an insurance company. "We have kept an internal benchmark that between two board meetings, we want the proposals to be cleared, which would be a time gap of 90 days. Even if somebody submits a proposal well before that, we would be willing to take a call," Panda said. He said already new players have en-

tered into the insurance sector, and there were a few more in the pipeline. During recent roadshows held in Japan, Europe and America, the regulator has witnessed keen interest from many global insurance companies and investors to enter the domestic insurance market, he said. On listing, Panda said a large number of insurance players should strive to become public. "Companies after a particular age should get listed. We have been softly nudging them that after reaching a particular level and growth, they should go for listing. It will bring in more disclosure and transparency, and will bring value for policyholders and investors," he said. The Chairman said a few insurance companies are already in the process of approaching the markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to seek permission for listing of their shares. He said the regulator has made the process very seamless, in terms of providing a no objection certificate, for an insurance player to approach the markets regulator for listing. "We are now going to engage with a few of them (insurance companies) who we feel are ready to go for listing," he said. Panda emphasised that an attempt is needed to involve every stakeholder to make inclusive insurance a reality. This, he said, would require a more collaborative approach amongst the government, the regulator, insurers and tech companies.

"In this direction, a state-level insurance plan has been formulated wherein each insurer has been entrusted with the responsibility of increasing insurance inclusion in the assigned state or the union territory," he said. To maximise this initiative, insurers should consider establishing more physical presence while also enhancing the number of digital touch points. He also asked insurers to focus on designing products as per the specific requirements of the assigned states, as it would ensure that relevant products were available and accessible to all regardless of the location. Panda said the implementation of the Bima Trinity was in the advanced stages. The Bima Trinity includes Bima Sugam, the digital platform, Bima Vistaar, a comprehensive cover for the rural population, on benefit based / parametric structure and Bima Vahak, a women-centric distribution channel which would focus on reaching untapped/rural areas.

The 5-4-3-2-1 method to pack will ensure you never have extra luggage

Are you going on a holiday but are confused about what to pack? Welcome to the club! Packing for a holiday can be a daunting task, but the 5-4-3-2-1 method offers a simple and efficient way to streamline the process. No one knows for sure who came up with the 5-4-3-2-1 packing method. But a blogger named Geneva Vanderzeil was one of the first people to share it online, according to the Glamour Magazine. She posted about it a few years ago, and now it's super popular. You can find tons of tips and advice about it all over the internet. This packing technique helps you bring only the essentials without overloading your suitcase, making your trip more enjoyable and stress-free. Here's how to use the 5-4-3-2-1 method effectively:

1. Five Pieces of Clothing

Limit yourself to five essential clothing items. These should be versatile and suitable for different occasions, such as a combination of casual wear, one or two dressier outfits, and weather-appropriate layers. For example, you can pack a pair of jeans, two tops, a sweater, and a dress. By choosing pieces that can be mixed and matched, you create multiple outfits without overpacking.

2. Four Pairs of Shoes

Shoes take up space, so choose wisely. Stick to four pairs that meet the needs of your activities. This could include a pair of comfortable walking shoes, dress shoes, sandals, and sneakers. Make sure to pack shoes that are durable and appropriate for the climate and activities you'll be doing on your trip.

3. Three Accessories

Accessories can elevate your outfits and help you adapt to different situations, but they don't need to take up much room. Choose three versatile accessories, like a scarf, a belt, or a hat. You can also include practical accessories like a crossbody bag or sunglasses to com-



plete your packing.

4. Two Bathing or Specialty Items

Depending on your destination, you might need to pack items like swimsuits, sports gear, or workout clothes. Keep these to a minimum, with just two specialty items. For a beach vacation, you might pack a swimsuit and a cover-up. For a hiking trip, it could be a workout set and a jacket.

5. One Extra or "Wildcard" Item This could be anything that you think will be especially useful for your trip but doesn't fit into the other categories. It might be a book for downtime, a special outfit for an event, or something specific to your destination. This wildcard item is your personal touch to your packing list.

Here are some final tips: Layering: Choose clothes that can be layered for warmth if needed. Neutral Colors: Stick to a neutral color palette so that you can easily mix and match. Travel Size Toiletries: Pack travel-sized toiletries or buy them at your destination to save space. Roll Your Clothes: Rolling clothes can save space and prevent wrinkles.

'I'm so proud of my sister', says Rhea Kapoor as Sonam Kapoor becomes first South Asian global ambassador for Dior

Sonam Kapoor has been named the first South Asian global ambassador for Dior's collections, designed by Maria Grazia Chiuri, the creative director of the French fashion house. A statement by Dior described Sonam Kapoor as a multi-talented personality, an actress, producer and fashion icon who embodies the "audacity, grace and elegance of Dior style, a femininity constantly re-invented." WWD reported that the statement included mentions of this unique alliance, which "celebrates the powerful cultural ties that have united Dior and India since the very beginning of the House." The Bollywood actor, famous for her roles in films such as Neerja, Khoobsurat, Prem Ratan Dhan Payo, shared that she is honoured to be a part of Dior's story as they continue to push the boundaries and redefine creativity and elegance in the



world of fashion. "Each of their collections presents a truly unique vision with intricate craftsmanship, celebrating heritage in a way that deeply resonates with my own sense of style. This partnership is another step in the beautiful cultural synergy that has connected Dior and India over the years, and I'm excited to see where we take it next," Kapoor said in a statement,

reported Taking to Instagram, sister and fashion designer Rhea Kapoor shared a post with the caption, "The first South Asian Global Ambassador, I'm so proud of my sister and her immense impact on taking Indian fashion global with her love for fashion, passion for people who work in fashion and her respect for each and every aspect of the industry. Fashion is supposed to be fun and a tool to express yourself while encouraging others to do the same and no one embodies that with as much brave joie de vivre as @sonamkapoor ?? From Mumbai to Paris ??" Sonam Kapoor attended the Dior show at Paris Fashion Week a month ago in an all-black ensemble from their Cruise 2025 collection. Styled by Rhea,

'I had the hugest crush on Sanjay Kapoor, I called him uncle', reveals Riddhima Sahni as Maheep Kapoor threatens to beat her up



The third season of Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives had new additions from Delhi including Ranbir Kapoor's sister Riddhima Sahni. While viewers were given a sneak peek into the lives of wives from Mumbai, the latest season gave a sneak peek into the lives of the new entries, highlighting certain interesting aspects of their lives. One of the things revealed about Riddhima Sahni was her crush on actor and Maheep Kapoor's husband Sanjay Kapoor.

In one of the episodes, Riddhima told Maheep, "Maheep, you know growing up, I had the hugest crush on Sanjay." "What are you saying," asked Neelam Kothari. "I am telling you, My first crush! I was this high and I used to call him uncle back then. What do I call him now?," said Riddhima. Maheep quickly said, "Don't you dare call me

uncle. I will beat the sh*t out of you." Talking to camera, Maheep added, "It's cute and sweet. Riddhima has a great taste in men." In another episode, Maheep revealed this to Chunky Pandey. She said, "Riddhima had a crush on Sanjay, when she was a baby". He quickly asked Riddhima about it and added, "I had a crush on your mom, you know that? I was crazy about your mother." Speaking to the camera, Riddhima explained her crush for Sanjay, "I was this high! I was chotu when I used to crush on him. Come on! It was then, this is now! A bit... It was, 'Hello! How are you?'"

Chunky Pandey then said, "But, Sanjay, when you were young, you looked like Patrick Swayze." "And now?," asked Riddhima. "He is whatever he is now", said Riddhima talking to the camera. ALSO READ | Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja buy Mumbai's iconic Rhythm House for Rs 47.8 cr weeks after buying Rs 231.47 cr property in Notting Hill Sanjay then disclosed, "Actually, I never told you, but Neetu had told me. Whispered." Riddhima's husband Bharat Sahani entered the conversation and said, "I didn't know about this." Riddhima shared, "I used to run and hide behind the sofa and blush! I was like this..." Riddhima's husband added, "Luckily, as she grows older, her taste keeps getting better and better." Riddhima then told to the camera, "Uncle ji has aged well."

Speaking to the camera, Sanjay revealed, "So only Neetu knew about it. I don't think Chintu (Rishi Kapoor) must be hearing it and everything. Chintu must be wanting to kill me! But, it was a crush from... one-sided crush. Only from her side."

Suriya calls Bobby Deol 'brother from another mother', latter says: 'I said yes to Kanguva for Suriya'



Suriya and Bobby Deol will be seen locking horns in the upcoming Tamil period drama, Kanguva. While the two seem to be at each other's throats on-screen, their equation off-screen is quite lovable. At the press conference, both Suriya and Bobby praised each other. Talking about working in a new industry, Bobby said, "I don't find any difference between our industry and their industry; it's the same."

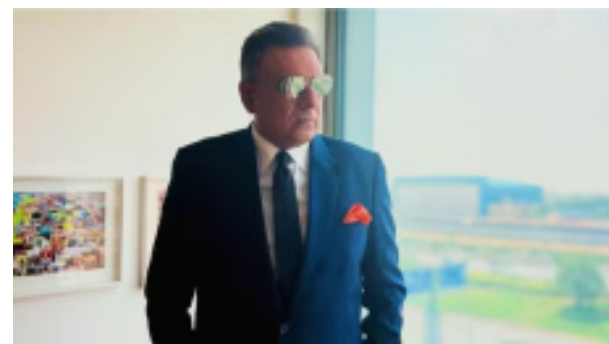
He added, "When I was approached for Kanguva for the first time, and the minute they mentioned Suriya, I

got so excited because his films always have an impact. However, things didn't materialize at that time; later, I approached them and said I wanted to do the film since I loved the story. I manifested this film."

Suriya went on to praise Bobby and said, "After meeting him, I learned what brother from another mother actually meant. Bobby has sacrificed spending festivals with family; he didn't see the money, and even before Animal was released, he had the conviction that this film would also work wonders. He made this an Indian film. For the first two-three hours, I felt like these are stars from a galaxy far away, but when they come down, they give so much warmth and love. He has made the film larger." Bobby also added, "I said yes to the film for Suriya, when we met on set, it felt like I knew him for years. Despite being a big star he is so humble, we kept talking about our families with each other." Talking about working on another big film post Animal, the actor said, "I am just very blessed, it feels like I am dreaming that I bagged yet another film after Animal. Every actor dreams of getting good projects, I am very lucky to have gotten this." Kanguva will show Bobby in an antagonist avatar once again. Directed by Siva, the period actioner will be released on 14th November.

Boman Irani wins Best Actor award at IFFSA Toronto film festival for The Mehta Boys

Veteran actor Boman Irani bagged the Best Actor Male award at IFFSA Toronto Film Festival for The Mehta Boys. The film also marked his directorial debut. Bollywood actor Boman Irani has been awarded the Best Actor Male in the feature film category at the International Film Festival of South Asia (IFFSA) Toronto Film Festival for his outstanding work in his latest film The Mehta Boys. After being honoured with the South Asian Film Association (SAFA) award at the Chicago South Asian Film Festival on September 20, now Irani has added another accolade to his name for The Mehta Boys. In The Mehta Boys, Boman Irani delivers a compelling performance, capturing the complex emotional dynamics of a father-son relationship with humour and depth. His powerful portrayal has resonated with audiences, earning him well-deserved recognition at various film festivals. Boman shared a post on Instagram after having won the prestigious award. The caption read, "Best Actor Male Feature Film – Boman Irani for The Mehta Boys. Boman Irani brings to life a complex character with a deft blend of humour and depth, engaging audiences from the very first scene (sic)."



Boman Irani not only directed but also wrote and produced the Prime Video Original film. He co-wrote it with Oscar-winning writer Alexander Dinelaris Jr, known for his work on the 2014 Oscar-winning film Birdman. The Mehta Boys, starring Irani and Avinash Tiwary, is based on a father and son at odds with each other, who find themselves compelled to spend 48 hours together. It is set to release on Prime Video soon.

Actor Anjini Dhawan on Salman Khan's Sikandar, working with 'bhaiya' Varun

Actor Anjini Dhawan, who also happens to be Bollywood star Varun Dhawan's niece, spoke to India Today Digital about her debut film, working with Salman Khan and more in an exclusive chat. Actor Anjini Dhawan made her big screen debut with Binny And Family. The actor received praise for her acting in the film, also starring Pankaj Kapur and Himani Shivpuri. Even before she made her showbiz debut, Anjini was signed on to feature in Salman Khan's Sikandar. In an exclusive chat with India Today Digital, Anjini reacted to reports of her being in Sikandar, her family's reaction to Binny and Family and her desire to work with brother Varun Dhawan.

When asked about reports of her signing Sikandar, the actor told us, "Is it? Do it?", before she broke out laughing and mentioned she had come all prepped [to dodge such questions]. When asked about her family's reaction to her debut performance, Anjini shared that everyone was emotional. Anjini's cousin and Bollywood star Varun Dhawan accompanied Anjini during the trailer launch of the film. Anjini described that to be an "emotional" moment for her. She said, "I needed him that day. I was so scared. That was the day I was most nervous. First time facing the media, I was all over the place that



day." Elaborating on his and family members' reaction to her performance, the junior Dhawan added, "I think everyone in the family was very emotional watching the movie. They all came out crying." Lastly, when asked about her bucket list of actors to work with, Anjini said that she wants to work with everyone. However, when prodded to give names, she said, "I want to work with Ranbir Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, Vikrant Massey. I, of course, want to work with Varun bhaiya. I think we would have so much fun in a film together. I think someone should make that film."

I Want To Talk: Abhishek Bachchan 'lives to talk' in Shoojit Sircar's upcoming film

Acclaimed director Shoojit Sircar has released a teaser for his upcoming film, I Want To Talk, featuring Abhishek Bachchan. The teaser hints at a character full of optimism and zest for conversation. Acclaimed filmmaker Shoojit Sircar has just dropped an exciting teaser for his upcoming project, I Want To Talk, featuring Abhishek Bachchan in a new and vibrant role. The teaser, shared on Shoojit's social media, offers a glimpse of Bachchan's character as someone who "lives to talk," embodying optimism in every conversation.

In the post, Shoojit captioned the teaser with, "We all know that one person who -loves- lives to talk. Here's the story of a man who always looks at the brighter side of life, no matter what life throws at him! Tag that person you know who lives to talk! (sic)" The short clip features a bobblehead toy of Abhishek Bachchan, that has been placed in a car, while in the background



voiceover he says, "I don't just love to talk, I live to talk. Zinda hone mein aur marne mein mujhe bas yehi ek basic difference dikhta hai. Zinda log bol pate hai, mare hue, bol nahi pate. (The only basic difference I see between being alive and being dead is this: the living can speak, the dead cannot)." Directed by

Shoojit Sircar and produced by Rising Sun Films and Kino Works, I Want To Talk is set to release in theatres worldwide on November 22, 2024.

Payal Kapadia reacts to Anurag Kashyap's comments on lack of support for independent films in India: 'Need structural changes in the industry'

Anurag Kashyap once pointed out that while the Indian government is quick to take credit for successes such as All We Imagine As Light's Grand Prix win at Cannes, it does not support films like Payal Kapadia's. Anurag Kashyap had once slammed the attempts to frame Payal Kapadia and team's Cannes victory as a collective national achievement. (Images: Anurag, Atalante/Instagram)

Payal Kapadia has cemented her place in Indian cinema history by becoming the first filmmaker from the country to win the Grand Prix award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. Payal was once a firebrand student at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune, who was at the forefront of the students' protest in 2015 against the contentious appointment of actor Gajendra Chauhan as the governing council chairman of FTII, and the victory of her film All We Imagine As Light serves as a reminder of the need for the country to look beyond mainstream cinema. While many industry bigwigs came forward lauding Payal and actors Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha and Chhaya Kadam for the win and dubbing it as a proud moment for the country, renowned filmmaker Anurag Kashyap slammed the attempts to frame Payal and team's Cannes victory as a collective national achievement. He pointed out that while the government is quick to take credit for such successes, it does not support films like Payal's. The All We Imagine As Light helmer has now responded to Kashyap's comments about the lack of support for independent filmmakers in India. "To be honest, I don't know what can bring about change. We need structural changes in the industry, opportunities for independent filmmakers, grants that they can apply for or some kind of support system," Payal told News18. "The bigger question is, how do you distribute a film like that? That's why I'm very happy that Spirit Media is distributing my film. It's a great thing for me that an independent film like All We Imagine As Light will get distributed and be shown in so many cities." When asked if her victory might lead to change, Payal told News18, "It's still too early to say anything because independent filmmaking takes a lot of time. You would want to raise funds to tell the kind of stories you want and have a certain kind of creative freedom and that involves a lot of steps. Having said that, I'm okay with the time this entire process takes. Also, it would also be great if those in mainstream also take some time out to support independent films. At the end of the day, we co-exist in the same industry."



Anand Ekarshi, the director of the National Award-winning film Aattam, had also once shared that while finding a producer is less challenging these days, securing a distributor remains the real hurdle. "For a smaller film, the biggest challenge is to find a distributor. You will get a producer and actors and eventually complete your film. However, getting it into theatres is the toughest part. We experienced this with Aattam. While it was doing well, a big film arrived and Aattam's screenings dropped from seven shows a day to one," he said during one of panel discussions organised by The Indian Express. Anurag told PTI during an interview soon after Cannes 2024, "I get very upset when it's said 'India@Cannes'. This is a boost... a shot in the arm for a lot of independent filmmakers but their victory is their own. India didn't have any moment at Cannes, not a single of those films are Indian. We need to address it the way it should be addressed. India has stopped supporting such cinema, the kind of cinema that was at Cannes." The Cannes film festival this time also saw actor Anasuya Sengupta being awarded Best Actress in the Un Certain Regard strand for The Shameless and FTII student Chidananda S Naik bagging the Best Short Film Award in the La Cinef section for Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know. "India just likes to take credit for a lot of things, they do not support these films, and they don't even support these films to have a release in cinema. Stop taking credit for it. Let's stop this fake celebration... Even if the film is released, no one will go to watch it in the theatre," Kashyap said.

Kajol declares she coached Ajay Devgn for Singham: 'Puri training maine di hai unko'.



Kajol, who will next be seen playing a cop's role in Netflix's Do Patti, will appear on Kapil Sharma's comedy show to promote her film. In a promo released by Netflix, Kajol is accompanied by Kriti Sanon and Shaheer Sheikh as they take the stage. In the clip, Kapil asked Kajol if she asked her husband, actor Ajay Devgn, for some tips for playing a cop, and Kajol had a great comeback to this. Ajay Devgn is known for playing a cop in his Singham films and he will soon be seen leading the next cop universe film Singham Again. When Kapil asked Kajol is she asked Ajay for some tips, she said, "Bilkul nahi pucha. Kyunki puri training maine di hai unko Singham ke liye. Bhoole gaye? (Absolutely did not ask him. Because I was the one who trained him for Singham. Have you forgotten?)"

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Kapil also seemed to be having a lot of fun as he invited Kajol and Kriti on stage. He announced, "Ek voh hai jinko main college time se pasand karta hu. Aur dusri voh hai jo apne college time se mujhe pasand karti hai (One is the person who I like since my college days, and the other is someone who has liked me since her college days)." This is the fifth episode of the second season of The Great Indian Kapil Show. This season started with Alia Bhatt and Karan Johar taking the stage to promote their film Jigra. Jr NTR, Janhvi Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan were seen on the second episode, followed by Rohit Sharma and other cricketers on the next episode. Kareena and Karisma Kapoor, and the cast of Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives were also seen on the show. The Great Indian Kapil show started streaming in March and this is the show's second season. The first season had 13 episodes and ended its run in June.

Mourinho takes FFP dig at Manchester City, refreshes love-affair with United



GNS News Agency, Oct 25 Ahead of Fenerbahçe's Europa League clash with Manchester United, José Mourinho praised his former club and took a jab at Manchester City's Financial Fair Play investigation, while discussing both teams' struggles in the competition. Ahead of Fenerbahçe's UEFA Europa League clash against Manchester United on October 26, manager José Mourinho expressed admiration for his former club while taking a jab at Manchester City's ongoing Financial Fair Play (FFP) investigation. During his pre-match press conference, Mourinho recalled his time at United fondly, stating he has good feelings for the club. His comments garnered attention, particularly amongst United fans, as he humorously hinted at City's possible sanctions, backing United's chances in the Premier League if City is found guilty of breaching FFP rules.

The ongoing hearing into Manchester City's 115 al-

leged breaches of Premier League financial regulations began in September. Dubbed the "sports trial of the century" by British media, the case will be reviewed by an independent commission over a 10-week period, with a verdict expected by the end of the current football season. "I think we still have a chance to win that league. Maybe they [the Premier League] punish City with points, and we win that league. They have to pay me the bonus and give me the medal," Mourinho said.

Mourinho, who managed Manchester United from 2016 to 2018, led the club to their Europa League triumph in 2017. After his tenure at United, he took charge of Tottenham Hotspur and AS Roma before joining Fenerbahçe in 2024. His time at United, though mixed, included winning the Europa League, and many United fans still hold him in high regard. "Now they keep faith in the coach, giving him stability and trust. That was different for me," Mourinho added. The upcoming clash between Fenerbahçe and Manchester United is crucial for both teams. United, currently in a difficult run of form, are without a win in the Europa League and are enduring a 10-game win-less streak overall. Fenerbahçe, despite having one win and one loss in the competition so far, are also struggling and remain far from securing a top-six spot in their group. With both teams desperate for a win, the anticipation for the encounter is high. Mourinho's return to face United adds an extra layer of intrigue, making this matchup a must-watch for football fans.

Sikandar Raza's 33-ball 100 helps Zimbabwe post highest T20I score of 344 vs Gambia

GNS News Agency, Oct 25

Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza helped his team post the highest T20I score ever as he scored a breathtaking 33-ball hundred helping Zimbabwe post 344/4 in 20 overs vs Gambia. Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza went berserk during the Group B fixture of the ICC Mens T20 World Cup Sub Regional Africa Qualifier as he helped his team post the highest score of 344 on Wednesday, October 23 at Ruaraka Sports Club Ground, Nairobi. Raza brought up his maiden T20I hundred which was also the joint second-fastest ever in the format as he reached the landmark in just 33 balls.

The 38-year-old was seen at his belligerent best as he smashed seven fours and 15 monumental sixes during his innings of 133* (43) leaving the spectators gasping. Raza's tally of 15 sixes is also the joint third-highest in a T20I innings along with Hungary's Zeeshan Kukikhel who achieved the feat against Austria on 5th June 2022. Courtesy of Raza's breathtaking batting display, Zimbabwe posted a



gigantic score of 344/4 in their allotted 20 overs breaking Nepal's record of 314/3 which they achieved against Mongolia in Asian Games 2023. The platform was set for Raza as openers Brian Bennett and Tadiwanashe Marumani got their team off to a blistering start adding 98 runs off just 34 balls. Marumani brought up his half-century off just 13 balls registering the joint third-fastest fifty in the format. He was finally dismissed for 62 (19) as he smashed nine fours and four sixes in his innings. Bennett brought up his fifty off 25 balls with the help of seven fours and one six.

Dion Myers departed cheaply for 12 (5) but Raza and Ryan Burl (25 off 11) added 60 runs for the fourth wicket off just 24 balls.

Zimbabwe register most sixes and fours in a T20I innings. Burl fell prey to Abubaccr Kuyateh leaving Zimbabwe on 203/4 after 13.2 overs which brought Clive Madande to the crease. Raza brought up his half-century off 20 balls and pressed on the accelerator in the 17th over smashing Musa Jobarteh for 35 runs which included four sixes and two boundaries. He brought up his century in the very next over smashing Ismaila

Tamba for a maximum. Clive Madande also brought up his maiden T20I fifty on the last ball of the innings as he whacked Musa Jobarteh for consecutive sixes. The duo added 141 runs for the fifth wicket off just 40 balls. Zimbabwe also registered most sixes ever in a T20I innings as their batters launched the ball over the fence a whopping 27 times surpassing Nepal's record of 26 sixes. They also levelled Sri Lanka's record for most fours in a T20I innings scoring 30 fours during their innings. Sri Lanka achieved the feat against Kenya during 2007 T20 World Cup.

'I'm getting splinters in my a**e': Jason Gillespie reveals he's no longer a selector for Pakistan team



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Pakistan's Test team coach Jason Gillespie, left, chats with Test team's skipper Shan Masood during a practice session, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024. (AP Photo) Pakistan's Test team coach Jason Gillespie, left, chats with Test team's skipper Shan Masood during a practice session, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Pakistan cricket team head coach Jason Gillespie has revealed that he's "no longer a selector" with the Pakistan men's side after the Pakistan Cricket Board announced a new selection committee in the middle of the team's series against England.

Gillespie added that his role with the Pakistan cricket team was now just as a "coach for match-day strategy". The Australian has reportedly been excluded along with captain Shan Masood from having any say in selection matters. The new selection committee announced by the PCB — which includes former umpire Aleem Dar be-

sides Aaqib Javed — named an unchanged playing XI for the third Test after their win over England in Multan. "The PCB came out and made some changes after that (first) Test. It was decided that a new selection panel would come in and that they would be making the decisions. I am now the coach for match-day strategy. I keep out of things now and focus on getting the players ready for cricket," Gillespie said at the press conference ahead of the third Test.

When asked a pointed question about how his role with the team had changed, Gillespie quipped that he is getting "splinters in his arse for sitting on the fence." "It's not something for me to talk about now. I'm not a selector, I'm a match-day strategist as head coach. My focus is on the players. I'll let the selectors do their job. I'm getting splinters in my arse from sitting on the fence here," he added.

Pakistan vs England third Test update The third Pakistan vs England Test is likely to see another dry wicket that is likely to favour slower bowlers. The Associated Press reported that the groundsman at the venue have been trying to dry out the track for the last four days, with the help of industrial-sized fans and outdoor heaters, to fulfil the wish of Pakistan skipper Shan Masood to nullify England's aggressive batters. England had won the series opening Test match with an innings after the visitors posted a record-breaking total of 823-7, thanks to Harry Brook scoring a triple century and Joe Root making a career-best 262. But Pakistan had bounced back in the second test, with left-arm spinner Noman Ali and off-spinner Sajid Khan claiming all 20 England wickets in Multan to level the series at 1-1.

LeBron James makes history with son Bronny by becoming NBA's first father-son duo to play together

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Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) and guard Bronny James (9) stand on the court during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo) Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James (23) and guard Bronny James (9) stand on the court during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Minnesota Timberwolves, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, in Los Angeles. LeBron James has made plenty of history in his long career, but even by those lofty standards, he crafted a first that was special to him: on Wednesday, he and his son Bronny became the first father and son to play in the NBA together. The 39-year-old LeBron and his 20-year-old son Bronny took the court for the Los Angeles Lakers' season opener against the Minnesota Timberwolves. Besides being the top scorer in NBA league history, LeBron is also a four-time NBA champion and a 20-time All-Star. The Lakers picked up Bronny as a second-round pick last summer (the 55th overall pick). In the game, LeBron played 13 minutes for the Lakers before the Lakers gave the fans and the father-son duo they moment that everyone wanted to see: both LeBron and Bronny stepped onto the court together against Minnesota with four minutes left for half-time. That evoked a uproarious ovation from a home crowd. "That moment, us being at the scorer's table together and checking in together, it's a moment I'm never going to forget," LeBron



was quoted as saying later by the Associated Press. "No matter how old I get, no matter how my memory may fade as I get older or whatever, I will never forget that moment." "Y'all ready? You see the intensity, right? Just play carefree, though. Don't worry about mistakes. Just go out and play hard," LeBron told his son on the bench before they both checked in. The pep talk was caught by TNT cameras and microphones. The senior James finished the night with 16 points as the Lakers won 110-103. "(I) tried not to focus on everything that's going on around me, and tried to focus on going in as a rookie and not trying to mess up," Bronny admitted later. "But yeah, I totally did feel the energy, and I appreciate Laker Nation for showing the support for me and my dad."

'Complete package to replace Shami': Brett Lee suggests India pick T20 pacer in Border-Gavaskar Trophy squad

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Former Australia pacer Brett Lee has offered India an interesting solution for their persisting pace issues ahead of next month's Border-Gavaskar Trophy. While Rohit Sharma's side is currently taking on New Zealand in a three-match Test series at home, frontline Australia players have begun their 2024-25 summer season with red-ball practice in the domestic Sheffield Shield competition. India are fretting over their pace stocks, with senior pacer Mohammad Shami unlikely to be match-fit in time for India's first Test at Perth, starting November 22. While Shami recently confirmed that he is pain-free and likely to feature at some point in the series Down Under, Lee has suggested a backup option for India to explore. Lee has advised India to rope in young pace sensation Mayank Yadav for India's first five-match Test series in Australia since 1990. Coming off a five-month injury layoff since setting the IPL ablaze with his fiery pace, Mayank made his T20I debut for India last month against Bangladesh.

The speedster was fast-tracked straightaway upon his recovery from the stress fracture he suffered with the Lucknow Super



Giants in the IPL. The 22-year-old Delhi quick has since been with the Indian Test squad as a travelling reserve for the New Zealand series. Though Mayank has only featured in a single First-Class game in his career, he is in the radar to make India's extended entourage for Australia. No one wants to face 150kph Speaking to Fox Cricket, Lee said that the India team management's uniqueness in fast-tracking certain players stood out. "I get to work on the IPL and see a lot of good young Indian cricketers. Mayank Yadav, to watch his first IPL game recently, to hit a 157 kmph first up in his first game. Unfortunately, his franchise probably brought him a little early and he did his side again," Lee told Fox

Cricket. Festive offer Mayank Yadav made his T20I debut against Bangladesh in Gwalior. (BCCI) Mayank Yadav made his T20I debut against Bangladesh in Gwalior. (BCCI) "The great thing about India is that they are not worried about how much cricket someone has played or hasn't played, if he is ready to go, get him in there. I actually love that theory. I can tell you that batters are okay when you bowl that 135-140 kmph speed, but when you bowl high 150s, I don't care who it is, no one wants to face that. He looks like someone who is complete package, if Mohammed Shami is not ready, atleast get him in the squad. I think he would do pretty well on these Australian wickets," Lee remarked. Lee, however, also said that India will

need Shami fit and raring to go to stand a chance to clinch the series for a third successive time in Australia. "Ashwin is approaching 600 wickets, he has got that beautiful shape when he bowls spin. He can bowl with the new ball as well but I think India have to win there, then Shami can definitely hold the key. Jasprit Bumrah, we all know how good he is, he can bowl both ways, he is a great exponent of reverse swing. Mohammed Siraj knows how to make the new ball talk. "On wickets like Perth, Adelaide, for me it's the combination, these three fast bowlers with Ashwin as the spinner. Then they have got options with guys like who are part-time spinners. But you need to have those three quicks firing if India wants to win," Lee added.

Brett Lee warns Australia of 'powerhouse' India: They don't want to bow down

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Former Australia fast bowler Brett Lee has warned Australia of India ahead of the highly anticipated Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25 saying that they know to win from every situation. Former Australia fast bowler lavished praise on India ahead of the five-match Test series beginning from November 22 for the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25. India have been one of most dominant teams in the Test cricket in recent times having reached the final of the World Test Championship on the previous two occasions. India also boast of an incredible record at home having won an unprecedented 18 consecutive series since 2013. Commenting on India's dominance in recent times, Lee said that they are well aware of the fact that they can beat Australia, New Zealand or any other team on their given day. "This day and age, India is a powerhouse that don't want to bow down. They know how



This day and age, India is a powerhouse that don't want to bow down. They know how to win, and they know they can beat Australia; they know they can beat the Kiwis. They know they can beat anyone on any given day," Lee told 'Fox Cricket'.

to win, and they know they can beat Australia; they know they can beat the Kiwis. They know they can beat anyone on any given day," Lee told 'Fox Cricket'.

India won't be proud of the way they played: Brett Lee India were recently bowled out for their lowest score at home of 46 during the first Test against New Zealand at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in

Bengaluru. Commenting on their performance, Lee said that they played some loose shots and won't be proud of the way they played. "India just didn't go into their shell. Maybe it's Bazball brushing off on other cricketers around the world. I know that India won't be proud of the way they played. They played some pretty loose shots," he added. Meanwhile, after losing the first Test against

New Zealand by eight wickets, India will be eager to bounce back in the second Test at Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Pune set to begin on Thursday, October 24. After losing the first Test, India find themselves in a precarious situation of losing a Test series at home after over 11 years and hence will be willing to give their all in the second game to prevent that from happening.