

INDIAN CHRONICLE

Four urban development authorities created in Adilabad

Adilabad: The jurisdiction of four newly created urban development authorities in erstwhile Adilabad is comparatively larger than that of many existing entities, surprising many. Except for Mandamarri municipality and 21 villages, the remaining 350 villages, Naspur, Bellampalli, Kyathanapalli, Chennur, Luxettipet and Mancheril municipalities are part of Mancheril Urban Development Authority (MUDA) formed by the government on October 25. Similarly, Nirmal, Bhainsa and Khanapur municipalities that contain 420 villages are part of the Nirmal Urban Development Authority.

Woman dies, 50 hospitalized after eating momos

Hyderabad: A woman died and about 50 others were taken ill after eating momos at a roadside food stall in Banjara Hills here. Some of the victims filed a complaint with Banjara Hills Police on Monday. They said they ate momos from a stall on Friday. Police registered a case and took up the investigation. Two persons selling momos were arrested. Reshma Begum (31), her children and several other people of Singadakunta Basti ate momos on Friday. They developed vomits and motions on Saturday and approached different hospitals in Banjara Hills.

RGIA announces commencement of new Air Asia flight services to Bangkok



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Hyderabad: Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Hyderabad on Monday announced the commencement of new flight services from Hyderabad to Don Mueang International Airport (DMK), Bangkok, from October 27 with Thai AirAsia. The flight to DMK, Bangkok FD119, will depart from Hyderabad at 11.25 pm and arrive in Bangkok at 4.30 am local Bangkok time. The return flight FD118 will depart from Bangkok at 08.50 pm local time and arrive in Hyderabad at 10.55 pm. The non-stop flight service will depart every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday adding 4 new weekly flights from RGIA to Bangkok. Pradeep Panicker, CEO GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited said, "This development is a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to enhance international connectivity. The service from Thai AirAsia will offer travelers more affordable and flexible travel options." The CEO of Thai AirAsia, Santisuk Klongchaiya said that AirAsia has long awaited the opportunity to expand its network to the major metro cities of India. "The Thai AirAsia now flies to 12 cities in India, namely, Kolkata, Chennai, Jaipur, Kochi, Bangalore, Gaya, Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Visakhapatnam, Tiruchirappalli, and the newest addition Hyderabad, offering a total of 67 flights per week." For flyers, the new flight services between RGIA and DMK by Thai AirAsia translate to greater convenience and flexibility. With Bangkok's appeal as a major tourist and business hub, the new flight services are poised to drive growth in passenger traffic, benefiting airlines, travel, and hospitality industry, a press release said.

Priyanka Gandhi slams Pinarayi Vijayan over appeasement politics

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Wayanad: Congress General Secretary and Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency candidate Priyanka Gandhi on Monday slammed Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan over appeasement politics, saying he (Vijayan) is now trying to appease the majority community. "During the general elections, Pinarayi Vijayan tried to appease the minorities by discussing the CAA issue. But after the setback from the minority community, he has now started to appease the majority community," Priyanka told media persons while talking about Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's comparison of the RSS and Jamaat-e-Islami. Addressed my sisters and brothers of Meenangadi, Wayanad, today. In the face of BJP's divisive agenda, the unity you all embody stands as a powerful alternative. The strength and spirit of Wayanad fill me with deep pride. Grateful to stand by your side. pic.twitter.com/xecBfkMoPF "For the last 30 years, CPI-M got the support of the Jel.

When Jamaat was with CPI-M, they were secular but after they left the CPI-M, all of a sudden became communal. This is sheer opportunism on part of CPI-M. All communities have started to leave CPI-M one after the other," added Priyanka. She also brushed aside the BJP's allegation about her election affidavit, saying that the BJP is seeking attention. "The objections raised by the BJP have been rejected by the authorities. Their allegations are baseless. They (BJP) only want attention," the Congress General Secretary said. Later arriving at the WMO College in Wayanad and addressing the students, she said that campaigning for her own self is altogether a different feeling. "It's a new feeling for me," said Priyanka where a large number of students were out to listen to hear her.

She then asked the large gathering what is the one thing that they want for Wayanad. "A medical college," came the reply. She responded that Rahul Gandhi did work for a medical college for Wayanad but there were some hiccups and the project could not get a proper shape. "I will fight for the medical college here. We will all fight together for it," said Priyanka amidst thunderous applause. Responding to a question from the media persons that she will not be seen in Wayanad after the elections, Priyanka said that the elections are not over and let us wait for the right time. Priyanka arrived in Wayanad on Monday. She will address meetings in each of the seven Assembly constituencies in Wayanad, which goes to the polls on November 13. The by-election became a necessity after her brother Rahul Gandhi vacated the seat after retaining the Raebareilly Lok Sabha seat in the 2024 general elections.

'Tata-Airbus facility will make India a leading exporter of aircraft, create jobs and boost India's MSMEs': PM Modi

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Stating that the "decisions taken in the last decade" had paved the way for defence manufacturing in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Monday, expressed confidence that India would soon become a leading exporter of aircraft and meet "growing demand" in the civil aviation sector, thanks to the newly inaugurated Tata-Airbus manufacturing facility in Gujarat's Vadodra. PM Modi said that the project was a step to strengthen the "Make in India, Make for the World" mission of the government. Paying tribute to Late Ratan Tata, he said, "The (Tata-Airbus) facility is a reflection of new India's work culture... The construction of this factory started in October 2022 and is ready for production... Had we not taken definite steps 10 years ago, it would have been impossible to scale these heights. At that time... the priority and understanding was of only importing, but we decided to walk new paths and set new goals. The result is in



front of us." Welcoming the Spanish PM, Modi said: "You and your delegation are welcome in India. Last year in Delhi during the G20 Summit, we missed your presence. I am happy that I am welcoming you in India during Diwali. Welcoming the Spanish PM, Modi said: "You and your delegation are welcome in India. Last year in Delhi during the G20 Summit, we missed your presence. I am happy that I am welcoming you in India during Diwali." Indian players have given orders for 1,200 new aircraft to other countries but it is possible that the global manufacturers may not be able to meet India's growing demand. This factory will play a key

role in designing and manufacturing civil airlines," he said. He cited the example of setting up the manufacturing facility of Canadian-German rail manufacturer Bombardier Transportation in Vadodra during his tenure as Chief Minister and said, "It was readied in record time. Today, the metro coaches being manufactured here are being exported to other countries. The facility is expected to benefit MSMEs across the country and make Vadodra the 'centre of transport engineering'. He said, "Skill and job creation is our focus — the Airbus and Tata factory will create thousands of jobs. About 18,000 parts of the aircraft will be indigenously manufactured in various parts of the country. Micro and small industries MSMEs will be making these parts. The new aircraft factory will boost new skills, new industries... We are working on increasing air connectivity in smaller towns and creating Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) hubs... It will create a path for made-in-India civil aviation in the future and create an ecosystem." He added, "Vadodra city will work as a catalyst. It is a strong centre of MSMEs. We have our Gatishakti University, which is creating professionals for many industries. Vadodra is a centre for pharma, engineering, heavy machinery and several sector companies. This entire sector will become a hub of aviation manufacturing. For this, I applaud the Gujarat government and the entire team for their advanced industrial policies..." tating that "key decisions" during his ten-year tenure had helped create the "right plan and partnership to turn possibility into prosperity", PM Modi said,

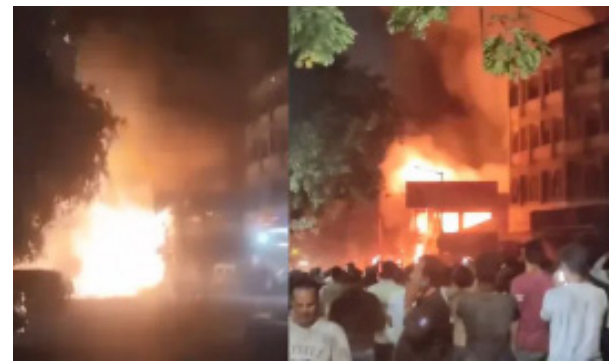
Damodara Rajanarasimha lays foundation for lift irrigation project



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Sangareddy: Health Minister Damodara Rajanarasimha laid a foundation for a lift irrigation project and two field gravity mains on the banks of river Manjeera at Borancha in Manoor mandal on Monday. The project aimed to provide irrigation water to 2,900 acres in Manoor mandal was taken up with an outlay of Rs 4.35 crore. The Minister said that the second field gravity main was taken up with an outlay of Rs 2.59 crore, aimed to provide irrigation water to 500 acres in Regode mandal in Medak district. He said that the project would make eight villages prosperous across these two mandals. Zaheerabad MP Suresh Shetkar, MLA Narayankhed Patlolla Sanjeeva Reddy and others were present.

Case on owners of crackers shop which caught fire



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Hyderabad: The Telangana Fire Department, following the fire incident in a fire cracker shop at Boggulkunta on Sunday night, registered a case against the owner of the establishment 'Paras Corporation' for endangering the life and property of people. The fire department officials stated that a temporary fire cracker license was issued to 'Paras Corporation', Bogulkunta to conduct the business in an open place. But the owners were illegally selling fire crackers from a building. "The department will launch prosecution against the Paras Corporation for violation of the provision of the Telangana Fire Service Act 1999. Also the license is cancelled," said a senior official of the department. Following the fire incident on Sunday night, five fire tenders were rushed to the spot and the fire brought under control. There were no injuries to the public. However, panic spread in the area following the incident, officials added.

Zero tolerance towards corruption, says Majhi

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Bhubaneswar: Coming down on the previous BJD government over alleged corruption, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Monday warned officials against indulging in dishonest practices. Majhi was addressing officials after inaugurating the Vigilance Awareness Week, which will continue till November 3. "Corruption was rampant under the previous BJD government in the name of 5T and all the officials involved in such practices will not be spared by the BJP government," he said.

Majhi pointed out that in the first 140 days of his government, at least six chief engineers, a joint commissioner of Excise department and other senior officials were booked under corruption charges.

KTR slams Revanth Reddy's reign of terror using HYDRAA



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday said the Congress government was creating a "reign of terror" atmosphere among the poor, with the recent demolition drives forcing vulnerable residents to extreme actions, including suicide. He visited the grieving family of Buchamma, a resident of Kukatpally, who allegedly took her life out of fear that her home would be demolished by HYDRAA. "Buchamma's death is no suicide. It is a murder committed by HYDRAA and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy," Rama Rao said, condemning an organised but "illegal" demolitions targeting the poor. He reminded that HYDRAA was carrying out demolitions without prior notice, even depriving children of their homes and education. He pointed out that a young girl, Vedashree, was left crying as her home was razed without even allowing her to get her books.

Speaking to mediapersons after providing financial assistance to Buchamma's family, the BRS working presi-

dent asked if HYDRAA's laws applied only to the poor. He asked why Revanth Reddy served demolition notices to his brother who lives in the Full Tank Level (FTL) of a lake, but not to the poor. He denounced the government for harassing the poor, while safeguarding influential people. "The government gave permissions, collected taxes and now, is coming to demolish them after all these years. People will remember how many promises you break and how many homes you demolish," he said, adding that the Congress regime was keen to destroy the houses of the poor rather than fulfilling promises to build houses and also provide Rs.5 lakh for those owning a plot.

Rama Rao also said the Congress administration was blackmailing builders and alleged that HYDRAA's actions were only an attempt to extort money from them. "Is HYDRAA merely a tool for the Ministers to threaten and extort money from builders by putting the poor at risk?" he questioned, criticising Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka's presentations by naming a few builders and ignoring the plight of ordinary citizens. The BRS working president vowed to stand by the victims, whose lives were affected due to the HYDRAA demolitions. He said the BRS would fight alongside the poor and the needy against the Congress government's high-handedness to hold it accountable for its actions. He urged the people of Hyderabad to rise against the Congress government's anarchy. Rama Rao also visited Vedashree at her residence and handed over her books, a school bag and other stationery apart from providing financial assistance to her family. He consoled them and assured all possible support and legal aid on behalf of the BRS.

AIADMK takes a dig at Vijay, calls TVK's ideology 'old wine in new bottle'

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Chennai: Tamil Nadu's ruling DMK has said that actor-politician Vijay helmed Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam copied its ideology while main opposition AIADMK said TVK's principles are a cocktail of current political standpoints of various parties and Naam Tamizhar Katchi has ruled out chances of joining forces with the new entrant. While Vijay openly targeted the DMK and its first family in his debut public appearance for his party's inaugural event on Sunday, DMK said it has seen many rivals in its long innings and will continue to be strong.

Asked on TVK's ideological points, its hint at opposition to the office of Governor, DMK leader TKS Elangovan said, "these are all our policies, he is copying... whatever he says is what we had already said and which we are following." On the maiden conference of Vijay's party, he said: "This is the first conference and let us see, we have seen many parties."

Outlining his party's strong ideological moorings and work over a long period of time in its 75-year old journey, Elangovan said DMK leaders went to jail fighting for



people's cause and though the party had lost several elections, it continued to be strong. The DMK was built thus, fighting for people's issues, whereas Vijay's party aspires to be in power in 2026, immediately after entering politics. Furthermore, he said the TVK leaders would not fight for people by going to jail like the DMK leaders.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MUMTAZ SULTANA W/O SYED SAFDAR ALI (old name) born on 15-03-1969 at Nirmal earlier was Holding Passport No. C4029363 Dt: 16-10-2024 hereby Changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as MUMTAZ BEGUM W/O SYED SAFDAR ALI (new name), H.No.1-4-310, Massodnagar, Adilabad-504001 Telangana State.

DECLARANT.
MUMTAZ BEGUM
W/O SYED SAFDAR ALI
Place: Adilabad
Date : 28-10-2024

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Tit-for-tat strike

ITCHING to retaliate against the October 1 Iranian attack, Israel struck missile manufacturing facilities and other military targets in Iran on Saturday. Though Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed that the barrage "achieved all its goals", it would be naïve of him to assume that Tehran will not respond militarily sooner or later. The fact that the strike took place more than three weeks after the ballistic missile attack by Tehran indicates that Tel Aviv preferred to wait and watch before taking action. Nevertheless, this is a grave provocation that can push West Asia deeper into the mire.

Israel has dismissed reports that it avoided hitting Iranian gas and oil facilities because of US pressure, but it is apparent that Tel Aviv is reluctant to start a full-blown war against Iran. Already grappling with Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel has intended to send out a strong message to Iran's Supreme Leader and military commanders. However, even the presumably limited scope of the Israeli operations is enough to infuriate Iran. If Israel has the right to self-defence, so does Iran. If this vicious cycle of retaliation and counter-retaliation continues, regional tensions are bound to escalate.

American President Joe Biden is hopeful that the Israeli strike would mark the end of the confrontation. His optimism is clearly misplaced as Iran is keen to keep Israel on tenterhooks, either directly or through its military proxies. Exercising restraint is alien to both nations, but they do need to carefully consider the ramifications of this destructive course not only for West Asia but also the world at large. Warmongers such as Israeli Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir, who called the October 26 strike "a good beginning in order to target Iran's strategic assets, which needs to be the next phase", must not be given free rein by the Netanyahu government.

Increase in post-doc fellows at IIT Bombay enhances institute's research outcome



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

IITWhile a vast infrastructural makeover is underway, the institute also spoke about other steps taken for fostering academic and research excellence as recommended in the review-report. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has seen a considerable jump in post-doctoral fellows on campus — from not being able to fill even 25 seats when it started ten years ago, to a total 400 fellows actively engaged in various research projects at present — indirectly enhancing the institute's research outcome.

The premier technology institute from the city on Thursday, released its five-year (2018-2022) review conducted by an external agency in two phases over a period of several months of 2023. Noting various observations by the review committee, the IIT Bombay administration also highlighted initiatives already undertaken which align with the recommendations from the report.

While a vast infrastructural makeover is underway, the institute also spoke about other steps taken for fostering academic and research excellence as recommended in the review-report. "While maintaining its overall commitment to academic and research excellence, IIT Bombay should prioritize a few select research directions (like AI, ML, Biotech and the like, as per its own goals) covering both blue sky and applied / translational topics that are poised to drive transformative change on both national and international scales," states the report which further instructs the institute to enhance its post-doctoral programme. It stated, "The Institute must promote a vigorous post-doctoral programme to enhance research output and must plan to arrange accommodation for this class of researchers, who neither qualify as students or faculty, but are well recognized worldwide as a very important segment of an ecosystem that nurtures academic and research excellence." The institute pointed out how the number of post-doctoral fellows on campus is already on the rise. Prof. Neela Natraj, Dean of Faculty Affairs at the IIT Bombay, said, "Currently there are 400 post-doctoral fellows with us. This is a considerable increase from not being able to have even 25, which was the capacity allowed when the post-doctoral programmes commenced at IIT Bombay, ten years ago."

One of the important reasons for this surge according to the institute is also because of inclusion of postdoc experience in eligibility criteria for faculty appointment at various academic institutions. Prof. Milind Atre, Deputy Director (Academic, Research and Translation) at IIT Bombay, explained, "Many new IITs and other educational institutions require their teachers to have postdoc experience before they are appointed. Many of our post doc fellows then head to these IITs as faculty members." This requirement of experience, according to the institute administration, can vary from one to three years, as per different academic institutes but it has led to many taking up the postdoc opportunities at IIT Bombay and leaving after having confirmed jobs in desired institutes. "Thus, these are continuously floating positions as we witness post-doc fellows leaving as soon as they get jobs. We are continuously recruiting new eligible fellows, simultaneously," said Prof. Natraj while adding that strengthening of post-doctoral programs has further enhanced research outcomes. What is post-doc fellow? Post-Doctoral researchers are those who are already PhD holders and wish to continue their research study after the doctorate. These are training positions temporarily acquired by dedicated researchers to gain more experience and acquire new skills to enhance careers, especially in the field of academics.

Evacuated due to cyclone Dana, two pregnant women give birth in West Bengal hospital



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Amid Cyclone Dana's impending landfall, Digha State General Hospital welcomed two new lives. Two pregnant women, safely evacuated from their homes, gave birth to a baby boy and a baby girl each. One of the new fathers, Shibui Das, expressed his relief and gratitude. "My wife, Sushmita, was due on October 22. As the cyclone approached, our anxiety grew. Thankfully, the state administration was prepared. An ASHA worker evacuated her in an ambulance, and she was brought here just in time," he told s. Sushmita delivered a healthy baby girl. Overjoyed, Shibui decided to name her "Brishti," meaning "rain." He explained, "It was raining heavily the night she was born. I wanted to remember that special moment forever." Das is a resident of Padima 2, a flood

and cyclone-prone area of Purba Medinipur district. She was brought to the hospital on October 24, the day of her child's birth. "Her full name will be Priyanka, but we'll call her Brishti. It rhymes with her cousin's name, Misti," Shibui smiled.

Remembering how his area was flooded during 2020's Cyclone Amphan, he praised the district administration for their efforts in ensuring safe deliveries during such a challenging time. While he expressed some "concerns" about the behavior of consulting doctors, he acknowledged the overall care and support provided by the hospital staff. "Seven pregnant women were evacuated and brought to the hospital. Two of them have safely delivered. The rest are admitted at the Digha State General Hospital," said BDO Ramnagar Puja Debnath. Like Sushmita, 36-year-old Rama Bera also gave birth on October 24, hours after she was brought to hospital. "I am happy that I have a healthy baby... I was very much in tension since the day the weather office alerted us about Cyclone Dana," said Bera. Her husband Laltu Bera is yet to decide on his son's name. He recalled how during Amphan he had to send his father, who is paralyzed, to someone else's house after his home was inundated. "We were waiting for a normal delivery... Suddenly, there was a cyclone alert. Thankfully, my wife was safely brought to hospital," said the resident of Vishwanathpur, Ramnagar 1 Block.

'Sexually harassed, forced to discharge accused in murder case': Punjab woman police officer booked in graft case

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Two days after being booked in an alleged bribery case for letting off drug peddlers after accepting bribe of Rs 5 lakh, Punjab Police inspector Arshpreet Kaur Grewal on Friday levelled serious allegations, including sexual harassment, against senior officials in Moga police. Posted as the Station House Officer of Kot Ise Khan police station (under sub-division Dharamkot) in Moga district, inspector Grewal along with two junior police officials, was booked on October 23 under the sections of Prevention of Corruption Act (PCA) for allegedly accepting Rs 5 lakh bribe from two drug peddlers for excluding their names from the First Information Report (FIR) after the recovery of 2 kg opium from them. Grewal had levelled allegation of sexual harassment against DSP (Dharamkot) Ramandeep Singh, a former hockey Olympian. She also alleged that Bal Krishan Singla, Superintendent of Police (investigation) had forced her to discharge the accused in a murder case of a Congress leader.

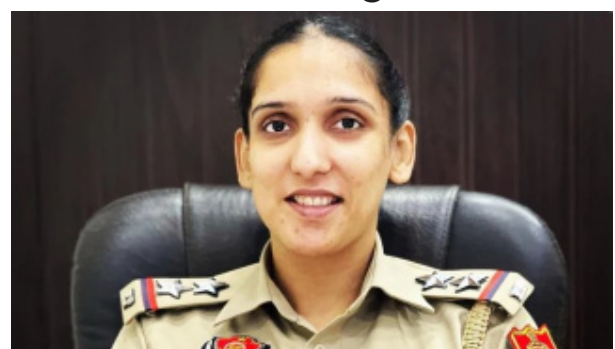
In a detailed purported Facebook post on Friday, Grewal wrote that "false and frivolous case" was registered against her to "save the DSP" who "attempted sexual harassment at workplace." In another allegation, Grewal further claimed that Moga SP (investigation) had forced her to discharge four accused in the murder case of a Congress leader and when she denied, she was threatened with "dire consequences". Grewal wrote that "she was quiet all this time, taking care of the reputation of her family" and also because "she was a part of the Punjab Police family for 10 years." Commenting on the latest corruption case registered against her for accepting bribe to let off drug peddlers, Grewal wrote that she was neither the investigation officer, nor was present on the spot when the raid was conducted and 2 kg opium recovered. She alleged that the main accused in the case was tortured to record a statement against her, allegedly due to the pressure of SP and DSP. Grewal's family member, requesting anonymity, told The Indian Express that the Facebook post was authentic and posted by her. "She has been framed in a false case and has expressed her side of the story on her FB," he said. Meanwhile, Moga SP (headquarters) Gursharanjit Singh, who also heads the internal committee for sexual harassment cases, said, "We never received any complaint, either verbal or written, from Inspector Arshpreet Kaur Grewal. A probe will be conducted if she submits a complaint."

'Pressured to discharge accused in murder case' Grewal's allegations against SP Singla relate to the investigation in the murder case of Congress leader Baljinder Singh Balli who was shot dead at his residence in Dala village of Moga on September 18, 2023. Grewal in her post has alleged that in August 2024, when she was posted as SHO of Mehna police station, Singla called her to SSP's office and asked her to give the discharge application of four accused in "high-profile" Balli murder case. Grewal claimed that after she denied doing so, as the accused were named by the wife of the deceased and the case was already in court, the SP threatened her with dire consequences.

"It was a high profile case. One day the then SSP sir Moga, SP-D Bal Krishan Singla and other officials called me at SSP Sir's office and asked me to give the discharge application of 4 accused who were nominated by name in an FIR by the wife of the deceased... I denied and tried to resist that and conveyed to SSP sir and Bal Krishan Singla Sir that charges have already been framed in the Hon'ble court... but... Singla pressured me and told me that we have ordered you to do this," wrote Grewal in her post. She further wrote that after returning to the police station, she entered a thorough Daily Diary Report (DDR) stating that she was given verbal orders by Singla and then Moga SSP to give the discharge application of four accused stating they are innocent. Grewal said that after senior officials including Singla got to know that such DDR has been registered, "they started harassing me saying "Bakhsha ge nhi tenu" (We will not spare you). She alleged that Singla called her to his office and said, "Tu yaad rkhe gi v DDR entry kive payi di hai." (You will remember how DDR entries are registered).

Grewal alleged that after she put the DDR entry stating the verbal orders she was given to discharge the accused in murder case, she was "mentally harassed by one means or the other." She alleged she was humiliated and scolded in front of her subordinates. Meanwhile, SP Singla told The Indian Express that he was not posted in Moga at the time of the murder, nor was he associated with its investigation. "However, later after my posting here, four accused had applied for bail and they were released on High Court orders. The inspector in question is currently absconding in a corruption case. Any further comments would hamper our investigation. The FIR has been registered against her purely on the basis of a complaint," the officer added.

Sexual harassment allegations against the DSP in the same FB post, Grewal further wrote that in a recent incident some days ago on a Sunday, she had gone to attend a religious programme in civil clothes. She alleged that when she along with another woman police officer



The Station House Officer of Kot Ise Khan police station was booked in an alleged bribery case for letting off drug peddlers after accepting a bribe of Rs 5 lakh.

reached a cafe to have food, Dharamkot DSP Ramandeep Singh was already sitting there. She alleged that after all officers had food together, the DSP asked her to come to his office and meet him before leaving. Grewal claimed that when she reached the DSP's office, no other staff was present there (on a Sunday) except one elderly peon who also left soon. "DSP sir then started speaking nonsense that "mam you are also a sports person. I am Hockey Olympian and so much is common between us and since I joined Moga, your looks and the way you work attracted me... tusi smjh rahe o na what I want to say. (I hope you are understanding what I am trying to say) You are intelligent and mai thodi company both like krda. (I like your company a lot). He came across his table and tried to touch me and I said "No means No. This is not right and I will complain against you and how you are trying to sexually harass me at the workplace". I pushed him back and he went back and sat on his chair and started apologizing that sorry mam I thought you also have the same feelings for me," wrote Grewal in the FB post.

Grewal further wrote that when she tried to explain her situation to SSP Moga, she was told that her senior (DSP) had filed complaints against her which were being verified. "I never knew that SP-D and DSP Dharamkot will go to this extent..." wrote Grewal, alleging that false FIR against her has been registered to "teach a lesson" as she registered the DDR against the SP and accused DSP of sexual harassment. Grewal further wrote that the Punjab DGP had recommended DGP disc for her commendable police service when she had rescued Dharamkot MLA from a mob pelting stones. She added that she worked for 36 hours at stretch during Covid when she was posted in Ludhiana. "I also received a certificate and cash reward for successfully rescuing a child who was kidnapped in Moga," she wrote.

'Accused tortured, forced to record statement against me' Grewal wrote that she was neither the investigation officer (IO) in the bribery case, nor was present on the spot when the opium was recovered. It was alleged that Grewal let off two drug peddlers after one Amarjeet Singh was held with 2 kg opium. FIR states that Grewal let off Amarjeet's brother and son after taking Rs 5 lakh bribe. "Being SHO, I checked the seized parcel of 2kg opium that was duly sealed by ASI Baljit Kaur... have not conducted any investigation in this matter. I never visited the place of occurrence, I never visited the place of the accused. I never met the accused before. No person was spared by me as per the allegations levelled against me," wrote Grewal. She further questioned why an FIR has not been registered against the Investigation Officer (IO) in the case and the police team that seized the contraband. The woman police officer also alleged that SP Singla and DSP Ramandeep Singh are harassing and pressurising IO Baljit Kaur and the entire officials of her police station to give statement against Grewal and avoid getting dismissed from the department. "Also the accused of that case, Amarjeet Singh was brought on production warrant in some other case of Arms Act and was tortured and his statement has been recorded forcefully that he gave me 5 lacs..." alleged Grewal. Despite repeated attempts, Ramandeep Singh, DSP (Dharamkot), did not respond to calls and messages. "I am yet to check and verify the contents of the said social media post purportedly posted by the inspector. She is yet to be arrested in the bribery case," said Moga SSP Ajay Gandhi.

Sanjay Raut granted bail in defamation case; sentence suspended till appeal is heard



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

A special court in Mumbai on Friday continued the suspension of Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut's sentence in the defamation case filed against him by BJP leader Kirit Somaiya's wife Medha Somaiya. The special court also granted him bail in the case. On September 26, a magistrate court had found Raut guilty of defaming Medha and had imposed a 15-day imprisonment sentence on him. Raut then filed an appeal seeking that the sentence be quashed as the order was "bad in law" and "improper on facts". He also sought suspension of the sentence till the appeal is decided. The magistrate court suspended the sentence for a month, giving Raut bail and time to appeal. Raut appeared before the special court on Friday and sought further suspension of the sentence. The case relates to a complaint filed by Medha saying that Raut had made statements accusing the Somaiyas of a "toilet scam" in the Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporation and this was reported in various publications, including Saamana, the Shiv Sena UBT mouthpiece, causing damage to her reputation. Raut in his appeal has said that the magistrate court did not consider various aspects, including that he was not responsible for the article published in Saamana. The magistrate court while convicting Raut has said that since he is an MP, a high degree of responsibility is cast upon him, especially while making statements. The magistrate court while convicting Raut has said that since he is an MP, a high degree of responsibility is cast upon him, especially while making statements.

Nearly 2 months after migrant worker was lynched for 'eating beef' in Haryana, lab report says meat not of cattle

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Malik came to the state to work as a ragpicker and was living with his wife and two-year-old daughter in Hansawas Khurd village. Malik came to the state to work as a ragpicker and was living with his wife and two-year-old daughter in Hansawas Khurd village. Nearly two months after a migrant worker from West Bengal was lynched in Haryana's Charkhi Dadri district over the suspicion that he had consumed beef, the police said on Friday that a lab report showed that the meat was not of cattle. Sabir Malik, 22, was beaten to death in Charkhi Dadri district on August 27. Hours before he was killed, the police had been called to the village by a group of youths, who claimed beef was being cooked and consumed in shanties there. Even as the meat was seized by the police and sent for testing, the accused, the police said, beat Malik to death. "The cooked meat collected from the spot was sent to a molecular lab in Faridabad. It has emerged that the meat was not cattle's," Bharat Bhushan, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Badhra, told The Indian Express. The arrest of six people is pending and they will be arrested soon, he added. Malik's relatives told The Indian Express that the same day, they had been called to the police station and asked if they consumed beef. Pooja Vasisht, Superintendent of Police, Charkhi Dadri, said, "We have arrested 10 people and this report will be submitted in the court along with the challan soon." Malik came to the state to work as a ragpicker and was living with his wife and two-year-old daughter in Hansawas Khurd village. According to investigators, the accused called Malik and his friend Aseeruddin to a shop under the pretence of selling empty plastic bottles and allegedly assaulted them. While Aseeruddin managed to escape, they took Malik on a motorbike to another location and allegedly assaulted him again, which led to his death. His body was later discovered near the shanties where he stayed.

Gaza faces risk of polio spreading if vaccination continues to delay: UN

United Nations: An immediate ceasefire is needed in the Gaza Strip as the enclave faces the additional threat of polio spreading, if the final phase of a vaccination campaign continues to be delayed, an UN agency warned. The third and final phase of the polio vaccination campaign, which was set to start on Wednesday in Gaza, had to be postponed due to the escalating violence, intense bombardment, mass displacement orders, and lack of assured humanitarian pauses. "It is imperative to stop the polio outbreak in Gaza before more children are paralysed and the virus spreads," said Louise Wateridge, spokesperson for the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). "The vaccination campaign must be facilitated in the north through the implementation of humanitarian pauses." The current conditions, including ongoing attacks on civilian infrastructure, continue to jeopardise people's safety and movement in northern Gaza, making it impossible for families to safely bring their children for vaccination and health workers to operate, Wateridge said. Since the beginning of the second round of the polio vaccination campaign on October 14, 442,855 children under age 10 have been successfully vaccinated in Gaza, representing 94 per cent of the target in these areas, Xinhua news agency reported. To interrupt the transmission, at least 90 per cent of all children in every community and neighbourhood need to receive a second vaccination following the first round, including more than 119,000 children across Gaza.

Sushant Singh Rajput death: SC dismisses appeals challenging Bombay HC order quashing Look Out Circulars against Rhea Chakraborty, others



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Sushant Singh Rajput case Hearing the appeals, Justice B R Gavai presiding over a two-judge bench cautioned the petitioners that the plea was "frivolous" and was being filed "only because one of the accused is a high-profile person". The Supreme Court Friday dismissed appeals challenging the Bombay High Court order quashing the Look Out Circulars against actress Rhea Chakraborty and others in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput death case. The Maharashtra Government, CBI, and the Bureau of Immigration had approached the Supreme Court challenging the February 22, 2024, order of the high court quashing the August 2020 circulars.

Hearing the appeals, Justice B R Gavai presiding over a two-judge bench cautioned the petitioners that the plea was "frivolous" and was being filed "only because one of the accused is a high-profile person". "We are warning you... You are filing such a frivolous petition only because one of the accused is a high-profile person... It will be dismissed with exemplary cost. Both persons have deep roots in society," Justice Gavai remarked orally. Justice K V Viswanathan who was also part of the bench did not hide his surprise either. "You issue LOC for all this," he exclaimed.

The immigration authorities had issued the LOCs against Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik Chakraborty, their father and army veteran Indrajit Chakraborty, and mother Sandhya Chakraborty at the instance of CBI which probed Rajput's death in 2020. An LOC bars an individual from travelling abroad without prior permission of the court. Rajput was found dead in his apartment in suburban Bandra on June 14, 2020. His father, in July 2020, complained to the Bihar Police that Rajput's girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and her family members had abetted his son's suicide. Rhea Chakraborty was arrested in September 2020 in connection with a drug case filed by the CBI and granted bail in October 2020. The Centre did not challenge it further before the Supreme Court. Among the conditions of her bail was seeking permission from the court before travelling out of the country.

In December 2023, the high court suspended the LOC issued against Rhea Chakraborty and allowed her to travel to Dubai for a week (December 27 to January 2) for a pet food company event as a brand ambassador. In September 2023, it suspended the LOC against Showik Chakraborty, permitting him to travel to Australia. The bench held that the submission of special public prosecutor Shreeram Shirsat that the LOCs be kept pending and petitioners can file applications for suspension when they wish to travel abroad, 'cannot be entertained'. The HC noted petitioners were last called in September 2021. The HC observed, "The right to travel is a fundamental right and cannot be curtailed except according to procedure established by law. The LOC cannot be kept pending indefinitely, in this case for more than 3.5 years, though the petitioners have cooperated with the investigation, which fact has not been disputed. There is already a condition imposed on petitioners Showik and Rhea in the NDPS case not to leave the country without the permission of the court."

Tripura launches 'Mukhyamantri Sushtha Shaishab, Sushtha Koishore Abhiyan' to improve physical, mental health of children, adolescents

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Tripura's BJP-led state government on Thursday launched the 'Mukhyamantri Sushtha Shaishab, Sushtha Koishore Abhiyan 7.0' with the target of improving both physical and mental health of children and adolescents of the state. This year, the state has a target to include 1.136 million beneficiaries under the scheme. The campaign, launched by Chief Minister Manik Saha at Ambassa Town Hall on Thursday, aims to provide essential medicines and administer vaccinations to children within the age-group of zero to 19 years old. The National Health Mission organized the event in collaboration with the state's Health and Family Welfare Department.

While emphasizing on the importance of physical and mental health of children for a proper educational development, CM Saha said, "Health is the most priority sector of the state government. Nothing is possible without good physical and mental health. If children grow healthy from their younger age, they will grow up as educated individuals." CM Saha, also Health Minister of the state, stated that the health sector of the state has improved citing super-speciality healthcare services that would be available here by the end of the year, an initia-



tive to reduce the need of patients to go outside the state for treatment. The state has recently received funds of Rs 515 crore from the Ministry of Development of North East Region for five healthcare projects. Meanwhile, the 'Mukhyamantri Sushtha Shaishab, Sushtha Koishore Abhiyan 6.0' was implemented in Unakoti district. Dhala Zilla Parishad Chairperson Sushmita Das, MLA Chitta Ranjan Debbarma, and Health Department Secretary Kiran Gitte and others were present in the event. In the event, children and adolescents were administered vaccines and deworming medicines.

India needs more observational capacity for space debris: Isro Chairperson S Somanath



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

With the increasing numbers of satellites and debris in low earth orbit, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairperson S Somanath recently said India needed to create its own observation capability for situational awareness. Situational awareness is a process of tracking the size, velocity, and movement of objects in orbit in order to prevent the collision of satellites or upper stages of launch vehicles in space. "Unless you have strong observational capability, there is no point in working in space situational awareness... while we have perfected our mathematical prediction capability, we need to improve our observational capability," said Somanath, adding that unless observational capability is in space, a country will need to depend on others for orbital data, which they have to believe is correct and think that their satellites are safe. "This may not be true always," he further said.

Space situational awareness may require several technologies including radars, optical telescopes, radio telescopes, geo-locating sensors, lasers, space weather forecasting sensors, and even sensors onboard other satellites. There are 40,500 objects over the size of 10 cm, 1.1 lakh objects of size 1 cm to 10 cm, and 130 million objects of size 1 mm to 1 cm in orbit. The challenge is that these objects all move with different velocities ranging from 7 km per second to 20 or 25 km per second. They move in different directions. And, even small objects such as paint fragments can be dangerous to satellites due to the high velocity. Somanath said the bigger challenge, however, is with objects between 1 cm and 10 cm in size. They are big enough that they cannot be handled by debris shielding but they are so small that they are not easily tracked.

He spoke about the need to move towards automated collision avoidance manoeuvre. Somanath said that even with just over 50 satellites, India needed to

perform 100 collision avoidance manoeuvre in the last one year. "Now think if it needs to be done for thousands - will it be humanly possible? We have to hand over the task to computers to do it autonomously," he said. He added that the change in direction or velocity of the satellites is currently planned carefully after observing the objects for a couple of days to ensure there is no collision and minimum fuel use. Notably, Somanath said that the orbits of the moon and Mars have also started becoming crowded. He said that Isro had to perform a collision avoidance manoeuvre for Chandrayaan-2 when a Korean satellite came close. Prediction of the orbit of the objects in moon orbit is much more difficult than in earth orbit because of less accuracy due to the distance and also the uneven gravitational field of the moon, meaning the satellites change height with time, Somanath said. With large constellations being launched - and the space getting crowded - Somanath said that it is important that countries work towards reducing their debris.

EC signs agreement on electoral cooperation with Uzbeki poll body

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

EC Both the bodies have a history of mutual cooperation with officials participating as observers in each other's elections. The Election Commission on Friday signed an 'electoral cooperation' agreement with Uzbekistan's central poll body during a visit of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar to Tashkent as international observer for the upcoming elections there. The EC said the MoU will further strengthen and deepen interaction between the two Election Management Bodies (EMBs) for mutual benefit of democracies. Both the bodies have a history of mutual cooperation with officials participating as observers in each other's elections.

During the Lok Sabha elections held earlier this year, a four-member delegation led by Khusanova Mukhtabar, member of CEC-Uzbekistan, also came here as part of international election visitors' programme.

"ECI and CEC Uzbekistan also are actively interacting through global forums like Association of World Election Bodies and Association of Asian Election Authorities," the EC posted on X.

Coal scam: Supreme Court junks ex-Jharkhand CM Madhu Koda's plea for stay on conviction



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar refused to interfere with the October 18 order of the Delhi High Court refusing the stay on his conviction, which happened in 2017. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar refused to interfere with the October 18 order of the Delhi High Court refusing the stay on his conviction, which happened in 2017. The Supreme Court

on Friday dismissed a plea of former Jharkhand chief minister Madhu Koda, seeking a stay on his conviction in a coal scam case, to enable him to contest the upcoming state assembly polls.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar refused to interfere with the October 18 order of the Delhi High Court refusing the stay on his conviction, which happened in 2017. Polling for the 81-member Jharkhand assembly will be held in two phases on November 13 and November 20, respectively, and the counting of votes will take place on November 23. On December 13, 2017, Koda, former coal secretary H C Gupta, former Jharkhand chief secretary A K Basu and Koda's close aide Vijay Chisti were sentenced to three years in prison by a trial court for alleged corrupt practices and criminal conspiracy in the allocation of the Rajhara North Coal Block in the state to Kolkata-based company Vini Iron and Steel Udyog Limited (VISUL). It had imposed fines of Rs 50 lakh, Rs 25 lakh and Rs 1 lakh on VISUL, Koda and Gupta, respectively, in the UPA-era coal scam. Basu was further saddled with a Rs 1 lakh fine.

Rajasthan Public Service Commission cancels 2023 revenue officer exams over paper leak allegations

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

The Executive Officer class IV and Revenue Officer Grade-II examination was conducted on May 14, 2023 for 111 posts. The Executive Officer class IV and Revenue Officer Grade-II examination was conducted on May 14, 2023 for 111 posts. The Rajasthan Public Service Commission has cancelled its 2023 Revenue Officer Grade II and Executive Officer Class IV examination following allegations of paper leak. In a statement issued on Friday, the commission said the question papers of both exams conducted on May 14, 2023 were leaked. A re-examination will be held on March 23, 2025, the commission said.

This is the first exam that has been cancelled since the senior teachers' recruitment test in 2022. The development comes two days after 28 people, including 11 government employees, were arrested in connection with the alleged leak following statewide raids. "On the date of conducting the exam May 14, 2023, multiple FIRs related to cheating were registered in Bikaner. After three primary reports were filed regarding cheating of many candidates using Bluetooth and after their investigation, the crime was found to be proven that the integrity and confidentiality of the Revenue Officer Grade-II and Executive Officer Class-IV Examination, 2022 (Exam Date 14 May 2023) has been violated. That is why the Commission has decided to cancel the exams and re-examination will



be done," said RPSC secretary Ramniwas Mehta. Some 1,96,483 candidates had appeared in the Executive Officer Class IV and Revenue Officer Grade-II examination conducted for 11 posts on May 14, 2023. A total of 311 candidates were shortlisted for eligibility check and document verification. Suspicions were raised after candidates allegedly showed a basic lack of knowledge of the subjects involved during document verification in August, leading the commission to write to the SOG. On October 19, the SOG conducted raids in a total of seven districts - Nagaur, Jodhpur, Churu, Hanumangarh, Sikar, Jaipur, and Bikaner. Of the 28 arrested, 17 were produced before a local court, which remanded them in police custody.

Mission 'zero casualty' a success, declares Odisha CM Majhi after cyclone Dana makes landfall

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday declared the government's "zero-casualty" mission a success after cyclone Dana made landfall in the state between Dhamra and Habalikhathi nature camp in Bhitarkanika early on Friday with wind speed of 100-120 kmph. The landfall process started at midnight and continued into the morning. There were reports of damage to thatched houses and disruption of road transportation in some parts of Odisha's northern districts due to trees being uprooted. Electricity lines have also been damaged in some areas. Cyclone Dana Of the more than 6 lakh people who were evacuated from vulnerable and low-lying areas and accommodated at cyclone shelters, many have started returning to their homes, officials said. "Our mission of zero casualty has been successful because of administrative proactiveness and because of timely action taken by the state government. We have successfully handled the cyclone," CM Majhi said.



due to administrative proactiveness.

Taking stock of the situation after landfall, Majhi said road clearance exercises would be completed by 1 pm Friday and that electricity supply in affected areas would be restored by evening. Flight operations at Bhubaneswar Airport have resumed and train services are expected to be normalised soon. Cyclone Dana IMD sources said the cyclonic storm has moved north-northwestwards at a speed of 10 kmph and now lay centred over north coastal Odisha, about 30 km northeast of Bhadrak and 50 km north-northwest of Dhamra. Crops were also damaged by the cyclone, and the CM said collectors of affected districts have been asked to submit damage assessment reports. The government is likely to announce assistance for people whose crops have been affected and houses damaged. Hailing the state machinery for its successful management of the cyclone, Majhi said this was possible

Cyclone DANA Taking stock of the situation after landfall, Majhi said road clearance exercises would be completed by 1 pm Friday and that electricity supply in affected areas would be restored by evening. Of the more than 6 lakh people who were evacuated from vulnerable and low-lying areas and accommodated at cyclone shelters, many have started returning to their homes, officials said. IMD sources said the cyclonic storm has moved north-northwestwards at a speed of 10 kmph and now lay centred over north coastal Odisha, about 30 km northeast of Bhadrak and 50 km north-northwest of Dhamra. It will gradually weaken into a deep depression, resulting in heavy to very heavy rainfall in northern and interior pockets of the state. Red alerts for rain have been issued in Jajpur, Bhadrak, Puri, Dhenkanal, Khordha, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, and Angul districts.

Congress fields ex-MLA Gulabsinh Rajput from Vav against BJP's Swarupji Thakor

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

AHMEDABAD: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress on Friday announced their candidates for the upcoming Vav assembly by-election in Gujarat, scheduled for November 13. The seat fell vacant after Congress MLA Geniben Thakor's election to Lok Sabha from Banaskantha constituency earlier this year. The Congress has fielded former MLA Gulabsinh Rajput as its candidate, according to an announcement by AICC general secretary K C Venugopal. Rajput, who previously represented the Tharad Assembly seat in Banaskantha district, will contest as the INDIA bloc candidate, with the Aam



Aadmi Party (AAP) deciding against fielding a candidate. The BJP has named Swarupji Thakor, a long-time party member from Banaskantha. Thakor had previously contested against Geniben Thakor in

the 2022 assembly elections from Vav but lost by a margin of 15,601 votes. AAP Gujarat office bearers had earlier hinted that the party may field a candidate for the Vav bypoll but later decided to

support the Congress candidate after a meeting between Congress Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee president Shaktisinh Gohil and AAP Gujarat president Isudan Gadhi.

Social media, online ads making sex trafficking easier, report that studied cases in Goa suggests



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Social media, online ads, sex trafficking, Goa, Goa government, Pramod Sawant, Indian express news, current affairs Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Sawant said the government is strengthening border security with the neighbouring states to dismantle the trafficking networks in coordination with all the agencies. A majority of women forced into sex trafficking in Goa were from the "source states" of Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. At the same time, Nepal and Bangladesh continue to be the major "source countries" for cross-border sex trafficking, and East African countries – Uganda and Kenya – are emerging as major "source regions". These were among the major trends highlighted in a new study on sex trafficking in Goa.

Conducted by Anyay Rahit Zindagi (Arz) — an NGO which works with Goa police to combat sex trafficking in the state — the study, titled 'Report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Goa – Situation and Intervention (2019-2024)' was released Wednesday at an international consultation event in the presence of Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant in Panaji. It analysed data of 75 rescue operations conducted by the Goa Police between June 2019 and July 2024. A "source state", according to the

authors, is the state from where the victim of sex trafficking was trafficked to Goa and does not necessarily mean the place to which she originally belongs. The study says that a total of 172 women and minor girls were rescued from human and sex trafficking rings between June 2019 and July 2024. Of these, 138 were of Indian origin from over 20 states while 34 hailed from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Nepal, Uganda and Uzbekistan. Of the rescued, 157 were within the 18 to 35 age group, while only four were minors. The report says that the modus operandi and patterns of trafficking have become more "organised" and the advancement of social media sites and online platforms for soliciting and communication has made it easier for the traffickers to maintain secrecy.

A significant number of women were trafficked to Goa "under the pretence of jobs in clubs, bars, hotels, and casinos, where they were promised roles as waitresses, dancers, or companions to clients, especially tourists" and then coerced into commercial sex activities, it says. "The major source areas – Maharashtra, West Bengal, Delhi, Nepal and Bangladesh – remain unchanged. The newly emerging areas are Uttar Pradesh for internal trafficking and Kenya and Uganda for cross-border trafficking. Goa is becoming a destination for sex trafficking also because the demand is high and the payment and working conditions are good," the report says. It argues that the victims, in most cases, were the primary breadwinners for their families, managing their households on modest incomes, who lost their jobs during the pandemic and were forced to take loans to survive. According to the study, online advertisements for commercial sexual activities in Goa have contributed to the rise in sex trafficking because they "enable" traffickers and buyers to remain anonymous. Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Sawant said the government is strengthening border security with the neighbouring states to dismantle the trafficking networks in coordination with all the agencies.

Rahul Gandhi targets Centre over terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Friday criticised the central government over the recent terror attack on army vehicles in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district, claiming that the Centre has "completely failed" to establish security and peace in the Union Territory. "I pay my tribute to the martyrs and express my deepest condolences to all the bereaved families... Contrary to their claims, the reality is that the state is living under a shadow of danger due to continuous terrorist activities, attacks on our soldiers and targeted killings of civilians," Gandhi, who is also the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, said in a post on X (formerly Twitter). He urged the government to take accountability and immediately restore peace in the Valley. On Thursday, two soldiers and two civilians were killed after terrorists ambushed army vehicles in Baramulla's Botapathri, roughly 6km from the tourist hub of Gulmarg. The UT has witnessed several terror strikes since the conclusion of the assembly elections.

Chief minister Omar Abdullah called the attack "unfortunate" and expressed concern over the increase in such incidents. "Very unfortunate news about the attack on army vehicles in the Boota Pathri area of North Kashmir which has resulted in some casualties and injuries.

This recent spate of attacks in Kashmir is a matter of serious concern. I condemn this attack as the strongest possible terms & send my condolences to the loved ones of the people who lost their lives. I also pray that the injured make a complete and swift recovery," he wrote on X. Nasir Aslam, advisor to the J&K chief minister, emphasised the importance of statehood to the UT, and said, "Jammu and Kashmir cannot be run under dual control – that the security management is under the Lieutenant Governor's control and the rest is with the CM. We hope the statehood is restored and a unified command can fight against the (security) challenges." J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha condemned the acts of terrorism, said the sacrifice of soldiers "will not go in vain." Spoke to top army officials on heinous terror attack in Butapathri Sector. Directed for swift & befitting reply to neutralise terrorists. Operation in progress. Sacrifice of our martyrs will not go in vain. Condolences to their families. Praying for speedy recovery of injured," Sinha said. National Conference chief and former J&K CM Farooq Abdullah said Kashmir will not become a part of Pakistan and asked the neighbouring country to 'end the promotion of terrorism in the Valley'. "Innocent people are being killed, and we will never become a part of Pakistan. So why are they doing this? Is it to ruin our future?" he asked, adding, "They ought to focus on problems facing their nation. I urge them to end this and find a way to be friends... otherwise, it will be very difficult for them." J&K's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) chief Ravinder Raina said, "Pakistan's terrorists attacked an Indian Army vehicle which was passing from Baramulla's Gulmarg. They do not have the courage to face the soldiers of Indian Army, and that is why, they attacked them from the shadows. These terrorists will not be spared. India will find each one of them and punish them." Former J&K CM and People's Democratic Party chief Mehbooba Mufti wrote, "Shocked & deeply saddened by the militant attack on an army convoy in Baramulla in which a civilian porter has been killed. Condemn it unequivocally and pray for the swift recovery of the injured soldiers."

Who is Milind Deora, Shiv Sena leader up against Aaditya Thackeray from Worli seat

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

The Shiv Sena, led by Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde, has decided to field Rajya Sabha MP Milind Deora against Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray from the Worli assembly constituency in the November 20 Maharashtra assembly polls. Shiv Sena's announcement comes a day after Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and former chief minister Uddhav Thackeray's son Aaditya Thackeray filed his nomination for the same constituency. Who is Milind Deora: Contender against Aaditya Thackeray in Maharashtra Assembly polls. Milind Deora is currently Shiv Sena's Rajya Sabha member and a three-time MP from South Mumbai. During the Lok Sabha elections, Deora was given the task of handling the high-profile Worli constituency for the party. Born in Rajasthan, Milind Deora is a seasoned politician who held several key positions in the government, notably as the Minister of State for Communications & Information and Technology and Shipping in the second Manmohan Singh administration. Milind Deora: An early entrant in Indian politics. Deora is recognised for his early entry into Indian politics and became one of the youngest members of parliament at the age of 27. He served as a member of the 14th and 15th Lok Sabha, representing the prestigious Mumbai South constituency. Milind Deora played a significant role in advocating for urban infrastructure projects and championed causes such as pub-



lic sanitation, healthcare, and beautification initiatives in Mumbai. Deora's father, Murli Deora, was a prominent Congress leader. In Mumbai, he was the longest-serving president of the Mumbai Regional Congress Committee. His impressive career included roles as the Mayor of Mumbai, a Member of Parliament in both Houses, and a Minister of Cabinet rank, showcasing his dedication to public service and leadership within the community. Despite being Aaditya's constituency, the Worli assembly saw a mere 6500 vote lead for UBT. Deora and Aaditya Thackeray will also have to reckon with Sandeep Deshpande of the MNS who has also been given a ticket from the constituency.

NIA has not found any sabotage in recent train derailments: Officials

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

In past two months, several cases have come to the fore wherein obstructions in the form of gas cylinders, boulders, or broken rails have been placed on tracks. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has so far not found any angle of sabotage in the recent accidents on railway tracks, people familiar with the development said on Friday. The federal agency is probing at least four accidents as part of a preliminary enquiry (PE), they said, adding that the probe is still on.

An official who asked not to be named said on Friday, "We have so far not found any sabotage in the train derailment incidents but the probe is continuing. We are looking into four such accidents as part of a PE." In the past two months, several cases have come to the fore wherein obstructions in the form of gas cylinders, boulders, or broken rails have been placed on railway tracks with the intent to cause damage to trains or harm passengers. Union railways minister Ashwini Vaishnav had said last month that the Indian Railways has sought the help of NIA to probe the accidents. "The railway administration has taken the matter very seriously. We are



in constant touch with the state governments and their director generals of police, home secretaries. NIA has also been involved," Vaishnav said on September 24. On September 22, the driver of a goods train from Kanpur to Prayagraj spotted a gas cylinder on the track and managed to stop the train. On September 15, a damaged cylinder and a Molotov cocktail was found on a track that the Kalindi Express was to pass on.

'He's promoting Khalistanis...': Capt Amarinder Singh's big charge at Canada PM Justin Trudeau

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Former Punjab chief minister Captain Amarinder Singh on Friday alleged that Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau is responsible for India-Canada's rocky relationship and alleged that he was promoting the Khalistani propaganda. The BJP leader told ANI, "Canadian PM Trudeau has ruined the relationship between India and Canada. Trudeau is interested in only one thing and that is getting the Sikh votes for his own election. He doesn't care what happens, he has done this earlier also. He is promoting Khalistanis at the moment." Alleging that Trudeau is supporting Khalistanis, Singh said that the Canadian PM is only interested in attracting Sikh votes in Canada given the fact that elections are approaching. "This is something that is not acceptable. When I was in government, the Canadian defense minister was in India visit, I refused to meet him," said Captain Singh on the India-Canada diplomatic row. The ties between India and Canada soured after Trudeau alleged in the Canadian Parliament last year that he has "credible allegations" of Indian government agents' involvement in

the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

India has denied all the allegations, calling them "absurd" and "motivated" and has accused Canada of giving space to extremist and anti-India elements in their country. The recent diplomatic row erupted between the two countries when Canada labelled India's High Commissioner and other diplomats as "persons of interest" in the investigation of Nijjar's death. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau faces calls for resignation as Liberal leader as Liberal MPs convened on Parliament Hill, according to a report by CBC News. During the closed-door meeting, dissenting MPs conveyed their grievances to Trudeau, reflecting growing discontent within the party. Dissident Liberal MPs also presented a document during the meeting giving Trudeau an ultimatum to decide his future by October 28, however, it didn't specify any consequences if he fails to meet the deadline. Will lead party in next elections: Trudeau amid calls for resignation Amid rising dissent against him, Justin Trudeau said that he will lead his Liberal Party into the next election, dismissing a request by some party members to not run for a fourth term.

3 years after abolition, 149-year-old Darbar Move seems set for return to J&K



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Three years after the 149-year-old Darbar Move tradition was formally abolished in J&K, the practice has "by and large" been reinstated, The Indian Express has learnt. According to official sources, administrative secretaries and heads of departments have been asked to "ensure their availability" at the civil secretariat in Jammu from November 11. The Darbar Move is the bi-annual shift of the state secretariat and other government offices from the summer capital Srinagar to the winter capital Jammu. A tradition started during the rule of Maharaja Ranbir Singh in 1872, it continued until 2021, when the UT administration said state secretariats would be maintained in both Jammu and Srinagar.

In an order dated October 23, Commissioner/Secretary General Administration Department Sanjeev Verma said that for effective and efficient conduct of official busi-

ness at civil secretariat, "it is hereby ordered that the Administrative Secretaries and the Union Territory Level Heads of Departments shall ensure their availability at civil secretariat, Jammu, with effect from November 11". But the order also said that these officials will attend the civil secretariat in Srinagar "as per functional requirement", i.e. when needed. It also asks the estates department to provide accommodation to government officers/officials "upon requisition by their administrative departments". According to a senior government functionary, this was not new and was a usual "public friendly" and "good administrative arrangement" that the UT administration has been doing post June 2021 to "ensure availability of administration at the doorsteps of the people at both Jammu and in Srinagar simultaneously". He was referring to the 2021 government order abolishing the Darbar Move and establishing secretariats at both places. However, sources pointed out that even in April 2024, the government had ordered only the administrative secretaries to move from Jammu to Srinagar effective May 1, although requiring them to attend the civil secretariat at Jammu "as per the functional requirement". Both the ruling NC and its alliance partner Congress had promised to reinstate the move. However, what will not be moving are the physical office files and the employees maintaining them. According to sources, this would not impact the government functioning given that official records have already been digitised. The Darbar Move was first suspended in 2020, when the UT administration cited the pandemic. In June 20, 2021, J&K L-G Manoj Sinha announced that the administration had transitioned to e-office, thus abolishing the bi-annual secretariat move.

1.5 degrees Celsius target will be 'gone' in a few years: UN report

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

1.5 degrees Celsius target will be 'gone' in a few years: UN report said the global emissions in 2023 was 1.3 per cent higher than the previous year. Greenhouse gas emissions of China and India, two of the top three emitters, grew by 5.2 per cent and 6.1 per cent respectively in the year 2023, a new UN report revealed on Thursday. It said the global emissions in 2023 was 1.3 per cent higher than the previous year.

The Emissions Gap Report, an annual publication of the UN Environment Programme, warned that the Paris Agreement objective of keeping global rise in temperatures to within 1.5 degree Celsius would be "gone within a few years" and even the 2 degree Celsius threshold would be in danger of being breached, unless countries dramatically scale up their climate actions to reduce global emissions in two years. The report, which is released just ahead of climate change conference every year, said current climate actions, even in the most optimistic scenario, could reduce global greenhouse gas emissions by only 10 per cent by 2030 on 2019 levels, when the bare minimum required to keep the 1.5 degree target in sight was 42 per cent reduction. The reductions must

increase to 57 per cent by 2035. As such, the updated climate action plans which every country has to submit by next year, must be significantly stronger than the current ones, the report said. However, global emissions are still on the rise. The report said a sharp turnaround, with at least a 7.5 per cent reduction every year till 2035, was essential to keep the 1.5 degree target alive. The report called for a massive increase in investment in emissions reductions. It said the emissions gap for 2030 and 2035 could still be bridged at the cost of US\$ 200 per ton of CO2 equivalent. At this cost, about 31 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent could potentially be reduced from annual emissions by 2030, more than the nearly 28 billion CO2 equivalent that is required for 1.5 degree goal. In three weeks, countries are scheduled to assemble for the annual climate conference in Baku where delegates will discuss a major scale-up of financial resources for climate action. Every fraction of fossil fuel emissions is pushing us closer to catastrophe. The findings of Emissions Gap Report are alarming yet again, while political inaction threatens to lock in irreversible damage," said Harjeet Singh, Climate Activist and Global Engagement Director for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative.

Rajasthan mother drowns infant son after 8 years of longing for a child: Report

A woman was arrested in a Rajasthan village after she allegedly drowned her 20-day-old son in a water tank, News18 reported citing police on Thursday. The family was heartbroken upon learning of the child's death, as he was born after the couple had waited for eight years. The report said that preliminary investigations indicated the mother was dealing with mental distress, which led her to take her own son's life. (Representational image) The report said that preliminary investigations indicated the mother was dealing with mental distress, which led her to take her own son's life. Girdhari Lal Sharma, Additional Superintendent of Police for Neem Ka Thana, was quoted as saying that the infant's body was found in a water tank at their home in Jeelo village, under the jurisdiction of Dabra police station, two days ago. The child's father, Krishna Kumar, works in the Fire Brigade

Department in Ratangarh, Rajasthan. He mentioned that the deceased was their first child, born after eight years of consulting doctors and praying at various temples. According to police reports quoted by News18, after arriving at the scene of the incident, the family claimed that an unknown individual had thrown the child into the water tank. However, following discussions with the family and a detailed examination of the area, the police revealed that the child's mother, Suman Saini alias Saroj Devi, was responsible for the infant's death. In an attempt to mislead her family, she pretended to cry and faint. With the evidence pointing to her guilt, the police arrested the mother for her son's murder. The report further said that preliminary investigations indicated the mother was dealing with mental distress, which led her to take her own son's life. She had experienced anxiety about his upbringing and future since his birth.

What's at stake in Georgia's election



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

A member of an electoral commission checks a ballot box at a polling station in Tbilisi. A member of an electoral commission checks a ballot box at a polling station on the eve of the parliamentary elections in Tbilisi, Georgia. /Irakli Gedenidze Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab

TBILISI, Oct 25 (Reuters) - The South Caucasus country of Georgia holds a parliamentary election on Saturday that pits a government seen as leaning increasingly towards Russia against an opposition that champions integration with the West. A mountainous country of around 3 million people between Russia and Turkey, Georgia gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991 and has followed broadly pro-Western policies ever since. Many Georgians dislike Russia, which ruled the country for around 200 years and backs two rebel regions, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, that broke away from Tbilisi's control in the 1990s. Russia defeated Georgia in a five-day war in 2008. **RUSSIA VS WEST**

Georgian Dream has in the last two years shifted towards pro-Russian rhetoric, accusing Western countries of seeking to drag Georgia into war with Russia. It has also deepened ties with China. The party is dominated by Bidzina Ivanishvili, a billionaire ex-prime minister who is Georgia's richest man and is generally regarded as its most powerful person. Opinion polls show that Georgians are broadly supportive of joining the EU and NATO, but are also keen to avoid conflict with Russia, and deeply conservative on issues such as LGBT rights. Georgian Dream has campaigned on keeping Georgia out of the war in Ukraine. The election comes days after Moldovans narrowly approved EU accession, in a vote Moldovan authorities said was marred by Russia-backed meddling.

AUTHORITARIANISM AND PROTESTS Georgian Dream has passed a series of hotly contested bills, including a law requiring groups that receive funds from abroad to register as "foreign agents". Opponents staged mass demonstrations, describing the legislation as authoritarian and inspired by similar laws used to curb dissent in Russia. The bill caused a crisis in relations with the West, with the U.S. sanctioning several Georgians for human rights abuses and threatening to end aid to Tbilisi. Other legislation has clamped down on gay rights. Opponents say this also borrows from repressive laws in Russia.

SOURING ON THE WEST

The European Union, which gave Georgia membership candidate status last December, has said Tbilisi's application is now frozen, and threatened to suspend visa-free travel for Georgians if this election is not free and fair. Georgian Dream's Ivanishvili has made overtures to Moscow, including considering an apology for Georgia's role in the brief 2008 war against Russia, even as his bloc says it still wants to join the EU and NATO. There is little reliable opinion polling. Surveys by pro-opposition media outlets show Georgian Dream losing its majority, while data from pro-government pollsters predicts the ruling bloc's strongest ever performance. Georgia's opposition parties are deeply divided, and have been unable to come to an agreement to contest the election together but hope to deprive Georgian Dream of a majority and form a coalition administration in its place.

Israeli strike kills journalists in Lebanon, Blinken sees urgent need for resolution

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

BEIRUT/JERUSALEM/LONDON, An Israeli strike killed three journalists in south Lebanon on Friday, Lebanon's health ministry said, and the UN refugee agency warned that Israeli airstrikes on a border crossing with Syria were hindering refugees trying to flee the war. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there was an urgent need to get a diplomatic resolution to the conflict, a day after he said Washington did not want to see a protracted campaign in Lebanon by its ally Israel. Israel launched its major offensive in Lebanon a month ago, saying it was targeting the heavily armed, Iran-backed Hezbollah group to secure the return home of tens of thousands of Israelis evacuated from the north due to cross-border rocket attacks.



The conflict was sparked by the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023 attack on Israel which triggered Israel's offensive in Gaza, where Palestinian officials said Israeli strikes had killed at least 72 people since Thursday night. Beirut authorities say Israel's Lebanon offensive has killed more than 2,500 people and displaced more than 1.2 million, sparking a humanitarian crisis. The journalists killed in south Lebanon were Ghassan Najjar and Mohamed Reda of the pro-Iranian news outlet Al-Mayadeen and Wissam Qassem, who worked for Hezbollah's Al-Manar, the outlets said in separate statements. Several others were wounded. They had been staying at guesthouses in Hasbaya, a town not previously targeted, when it was hit around 3 a.m. (midnight GMT). Five journalists have been killed in previous Israeli strikes while reporting on the conflict, including Reuters visual journalist Issam Abdallah on Oct. 13, 2023. "This is a war crime," Lebanese Information Minister Ziad Makary said. At least 18 journalists from six media outlets, including Sky News and Al-Jazeera were using the guesthouses.

"We heard the airplane flying very low - that's what woke us up - and then we heard the two missiles," Muhammad Farhat, a reporter with Lebanese broadcaster Al-Jadeed, said. His footage showed overturned and damaged cars, some marked "Press". There was no immediate comment from Israel, which in general denies deliberately attacking journalists. The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Lebanon said on Friday Israeli forces fired at their troops in an observation post in southern Dhayra on Tuesday, leading them to leave the post though they remained at the base. Israel has denied deliberately targeting the force but its previous strikes on UNIFIL posts have drawn international condemnation.

BORDER CROSSING STRUCK Israel has used airstrikes to pound southern Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley and Beirut's southern suburbs, and has also sent ground forces into southern Lebanon against Hezbollah. Item 1 of 9 A view shows a damaged Press vehicle at the site of an Israeli strike that killed few media staff staying at a guesthouse where several other reporters were staying, Lebanese media said, in Hasbaya, Lebanon October 28

[1/9] A view shows a damaged Press vehicle at the site of an Israeli strike that killed few media staff staying at a guesthouse where several other reporters were staying, Lebanese media said, in Hasbaya, Lebanon October 28

Gaza faces risk of polio spreading if vaccination continues to delay: UN

United Nations: An immediate ceasefire is needed in the Gaza Strip as the enclave faces the additional threat of polio spreading, if the final phase of a vaccination campaign continues to be delayed, a UN agency warned on Thursday. The third and final phase of the polio vaccination campaign, which was set to start on Wednesday in Gaza, had to be postponed due to the escalating violence, intense bombardment, mass displacement orders, and lack of assured humanitarian pauses. "It is imperative to stop the polio outbreak in Gaza before more children are paralysed and the virus spreads," said Louise Wateridge, spokesperson for the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). "The vaccination campaign must be facilitated in the north through the implementation of humanitarian pauses."

The current conditions, including ongoing attacks on civilian infrastructure, continue to jeopardise people's safety and movement in northern Gaza, making it impossible for families to safely bring their children for vaccination and health workers to operate, Wateridge said. Since the beginning of the second round of the polio vaccination campaign on October 14, 442,855 children under age 10 have been successfully vaccinated in Gaza, representing 94 per cent of the target in these areas, Xinhua news agency reported. To interrupt the transmission, at least 90 per cent of all children in every community and neighbourhood need to receive a second vaccination following the first round, including more than 119,000 children across Gaza. The spokesperson said people in North Gaza are experiencing extreme suffering with "harrowing levels of death, injury and destruction."

US news media endorsements for 2024 presidential race: New York Post backs Trump, NYT calls Harris 'the only choice'



With Election Day nearing, US media houses are revealing their candidate picks for the 2024 presidential election. Compared to past elections, this year's race has seen fewer news media endorsements, with just 80 outlets backing Kamala Harris and less than 10 supporting Donald Trump, reported Fox News. The latest American tabloid to announce its candidate pick is New York Post, calling the GOP nominee the "right choice."

Out of the 80 endorsements for the Democratic nominee, a few of the notable ones include Winston-Salem Chronicle, New York Times, Boston Globe, The New Yorker, Denver Post, The Las Vegas Sun, Los Angeles Sentinel, Seattle Times, The Star-Ledger, Tennessee

Tribune, Scientific American, and San Antonio Express. Meanwhile, media endorsements for Trump include New York Post, The Washington Times, and Las Vegas Review-Journal. Post's endorsement for Trump comes just weeks after New York Times declared its support for the vice president, calling her "the only patriotic choice for president." "This unequivocal, dispiriting truth — Donald Trump is not fit to be president — should be enough for any voter who cares about the health of our country and the stability of our democracy to deny him re-election," the outlet's board said.

Meanwhile, the New York Post editorial board noted, "Trump exhibits the same strength and vigor as he did in 2016, despite the unprecedented and disgraceful weaponization of the justice system against him, two assassination attempts and the all-too-familiar constant barrage of hysterical media attacks on him." This year's media endorsements are far fewer than the 2020 election, with 14 newspapers supporting Trump and 120 endorsing Joe Biden. Recently, the Los Angeles Times stirred controversy with its decision not to endorse either candidate in the November election. The outlet refrained from picking sides despite backing Barack Obama in 2008, Hillary Clinton in 2016 and Biden in 2020. Mariel Garza, the chief of the LA Times editorial board, resigned on Wednesday after the owner blocked an endorsement for Harris.

North Korea claims 'troop deployment to Russia' conforms to international law

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

North Korea said Friday that any troop deployment to Russia would be in line with international law, state media reported, but stopped short of confirming it had sent soldiers. "If there is such a thing that the world media is talking about, I think it will be an act conforming with the regulations of international law," said Kim Jong Gyu, vice foreign minister in charge of Russian Affairs, according to the official Korean Central News Agency. Seoul and Washington have accused the nuclear-armed North of sending thousands of troops to Russia, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky saying they could be sent into battle as early as Sunday. Seoul, which has long accused the North of sending vast shipments of weapons to Russia, has pointed to videos circulating online which appear to show North Korean soldiers in Russian uniforms at military bases in the Far East. North Korea's representatives at the United Nations have dismissed the claims. In the first mention of the issue in North Korean state media, vice foreign minister Kim Jong Gyu said he had "heeded the rumour of the dispatch of Korean People's Army troops to Russia". North Korea's Foreign Ministry "does not directly engage in the things of the Ministry of National Defence, and does not feel the need to confirm it separately," he said. Were it to exist, "it will be an act conforming with the regulations of international



law," he said. "There will evidently exist forces which want to describe it as illegal one," Kim added.

South Korea has slammed the deployment of troops, calling on Russia to stop "illegal cooperation" with Pyongyang, and warned it would review its stance on providing weapons directly to Ukraine in its war with Russia. Domestic policy bars Seoul from selling weaponry into active conflict zones, but the country -- a top arms exporter -- has already sold billions of dollars of tanks, howitzers, attack aircraft and rocket launchers to Poland, a key ally of Kyiv. Secure your car with trusted Royal Sundaram Auto Insurance. [Click Here](#)

Trump says China's leader will bully Harris "like a baby" as his allies try to infantilise her

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Donald Trump said Thursday (October 24, 2024) that China's leader would handle Vice President Kamala Harris "like a baby" if she's elected to the White House, as the former President and his top allies increasingly have moved to infantilise the Democratic nominee. "If somehow Kamala wins, she'd have to deal with Xi Jinping," conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt said of the Chinese President. "How would he handle her?"

"He'd take all the candy away very quickly," Mr. Trump continued. "She wouldn't have any idea what happened. It would be like a grand chess master playing a beginner." Mr. Trump has built his political career around name-calling, inventing jeers for his opponents going back to his first run for President in 2016, when he slammed Republican primary rivals like "Low Energy" Jeb Bush, the former governor of Florida, and "Little" Marco Rubio, the Florida senator. The former President also has a long history of belittling women.

But Mr. Trump has unleashed a special array of personal — often condescending — attacks against Ms. Harris, from calling her "lazy" — a word long used to demean Black people in racist terms — to insisting she's a "stupid person" and asking whether she is "on drugs." He's also called Ms. Harris, the first woman of colour to lead a major-party ticket, "slow" and has accused her of having a "low IQ." The latest line of attack, combining sexism and deeply personal jeers with referring to Ms. Harris as a child, comes with Election Day now barely a week off. His campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the remarks. The former President, who has escalated his already dark and inflammatory rhetoric in the race's final stretch, spoke at a rally later Thursday in Tempe, Arizona, where he criticised Ms. Harris' handling of immigration. He accused Ms. Harris of perpetrating "a wicked betrayal of America" and having "orchestrated the most egregious betrayal that any leader in American history has ever inflicted upon our people," even though crime is down. During an evening event in Las Vegas, Mr. Trump compared Ms. Harris to "a vulture" in the way he characterised her approach to tax increases. "Even after Kamala wrecked your economy with inflation, she came after you with tip income, like sort of like a vulture would do," Mr. Trump said. "If she gets four more years, Kamala Harris will pick your pockets." Mr. Harris has offered her own share of insults against Mr. Trump, calling him "increasingly unhinged and unstable." During a CNN town hall Wednesday she also called Mr. Trump a "fascist." She was set to join a rally Thursday night in the Atlanta suburbs with former President Barack Obama and musician Bruce Springsteen. In his Thursday morning interview with Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Trump said he watched Ms. Harris' town hall on CNN and described her as coming off "like a child, almost." "She's an empty vessel," Mr. Trump said. "But she's beautifully pushed around by a very smart, very powerful, very liberal, viciously liberal but very, very smart, powerful party called the Democrats." Some of Mr. Trump's allies have used similar attack lines. On Wednesday, former Fox News Channel host Tucker Carlson was warming up the crowd at a Trump rally in Georgia when he



suggested that Mr. Trump was ready to punish the Vice President. "Dad is pissed," Mr. Carlson told the crowd. "And when dad gets home, you know what he says? You've been a bad girl. You've been a bad little girl, and you're getting a vigorous spanking right now."

Israel's Mossad chief to head to Doha for hostage deal talks

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Jerusalem: David Barnea, Chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, will head to Qatar's Doha on Sunday to discuss the release of hostages in Gaza, the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

Barnea will meet with US Central Intelligence Agency Director William Burns and Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, discussing with them the possibilities of restarting negotiations for the release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza, against the background of the latest developments, the office said in a statement. Meanwhile, Israel's state-owned Kan TV News reported that Hassan Mahmoud Rashad, the new head of Egypt's General Intelligence Service, is also expected to participate in the talks. According to the channel, after Israel assassinated Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, Barnea recently said Israel must act flexibly to move forward with the hostage release deal. An Israeli official familiar with the talks told the channel that there are question marks regarding Hamas, which insists on its demands for the release of Palestinian prisoners jailed in Israel, withdrawal of the Israeli military from the Gaza Strip, and an end to the ongoing war. Earlier on Thursday, Al Thani, also Qatar's Foreign Minister, said "a negotiating team from the US will visit Doha alongside the negotiating team from the Israeli side to discuss means by which a breakthrough can be achieved," without specifying the timetable. He said the US, Qatar and Egypt are continuing their efforts to broker a ceasefire in Gaza and that the mediators have "re-engaged" with Hamas following the killing of Sinwar.

Google's antitrust hearing promises far-reaching repercussions for Big Tech



Google antitrust case Google legal team members wait outside the courthouse as opening arguments in Google's second antitrust case, where the US Justice Department accuses it of monopolising online advertising technology, in Alexandria, Virginia, US. The widely anticipated hearings in the antitrust case against tech giant Google in the United States began Monday, with the judge in the case likely to deliver a punishment for Google's internet search monopoly by August 2025.

The landmark case promises to strike at the heart of online empires that have conjured up a significant part of the public Internet, and could potentially alter the way digital businesses behave. During the first hearing in the case on Monday, prosecutors made a myriad of allegations against Google — ranging from its dominance in the online advertising market, to eliminating competitors through acquisitions.

Last month, Judge Amit P Mehta of the US District Court of the District of Columbia, held that Google is a "monopolist," saying that the company acted illegally to maintain a monopoly in online search. It took the United States four years to bring a case against Google which eventually culminated in the landmark ruling against the company. The ruling could direct as severe a punishment as Google having to break up some of its businesses, restrict the company from signing exclusive deals with other companies to push its products, and it could also set a precedent for similar antitrust cases involving big tech companies like Apple, Amazon and Microsoft. The judgement and the country's subsequent action to address Google's violation of competition laws — which includes proposals to break up the company's various business units, as per media reports — could have a bearing

on the regulatory discourse in India as well. Here, Google has been found to be at odds with start-up founders over its billing policy, for the commission it charges from developers listed on its app store, and for allegedly stifling competition in the online advertising market — the major source of Google's revenues globally. In India, where the legislative ecosystem is slowly evolving to challenge big technology companies in an increasingly online world, competition is pegged to become an important regulatory tool for lawmakers. And the country has proposed a major overhaul of its antitrust landscape to rein in digital empires. Taking a leaf out of the European regulatory handbook, India has proposed a new digital competition law that could stop tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Amazon from self-preferencing their own services, or using data gathered from one company to benefit another group company.

The draft law, called the Digital Competition Bill, 2024, also has provisions to set presumptive norms to curb anti-competitive practices before they actually take place, and promises to impose heavy penalties — which could amount to billions of dollars — for violations. If this were to go in force, it could require big tech companies to make fundamental changes to their various platforms. The proposal is similar to the EU's Digital Markets Act (DMA), which went into complete effect earlier this year, and requires large tech firms like Alphabet, Amazon and Apple to open their services, and not favour their own at the expense of rivals. The law came in on the back of a long history of anti-competitive practices by these companies. Big tech's stronghold over the innovation economy there is concern within official quarters that in the last decade or so, a majority of the innovation has been confined to within the stables of a handful of big tech companies, mostly from the US. Officials believe that a big reason for this are the high market barriers for new entrants in the sector — in the online market, once a company gets a significant portion of the market, their product becomes the default way to access that particular service, with rivals finding it increasingly difficult to challenge their dominance. Government officials believe that the big tech companies have shown a history of engaging in anti-competitive practices, and a presumptive framework would work better to address this. Last year, Google was fined Rs 1,337 crore by the CCI for its anti-competitive conduct in the Android ecosystem.

Air India Express to phase out business class cabin on its 'white-tail' aircraft starting next year

So far, Air India Express has inducted 33 white-tail Boeing 737 MAX planes, which were originally meant for other airlines, mainly Chinese carriers. (File Photo) So far, Air India Express has inducted 33 white-tail Boeing 737 MAX planes, which were originally meant for other airlines, mainly Chinese carriers.

Air India group's low-cost airline Air India Express has decided to phase out business class seats, which are available on a number of its "white-tail" Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, and plans to refit all such planes to an all-economy configuration starting next year, according to a senior airline official. Although the airline, like numerous budget carriers globally, has traditionally operated all-economy cabins, it has around 20 aircraft (of total 84) that came with two cabin classes—economy and business. The business class product is available only on these aircraft. These planes were ordered by and configured for some other airlines but the manufacturer—Boeing in this case—offered them to Air India Express as the original orders were cancelled.

Such planes—that remain unsold to the intended customer—are referred to as white-tail aircraft in industry parlance. Often, other airlines are quick to buy such aircraft as they are readily available off the shelf with the manufacturer, while planes manufactured based on their order can take years to be delivered. So far, Air India Express has inducted 33 white-tail Boeing 737 MAX planes, which were originally meant for other airlines, mainly Chinese carriers. Another 17 such aircraft are likely to join the fleet by the end of this year. Of these 33, around 20 planes came with a two-class cabin. Some of the remaining 17 white-tail planes might also have a dual-class cabin configuration. "Having a business class on a part of our fleet really does not fit well with our business model. We have been offering a premium product on these white-tails mainly because the planes already came with business class seats and we wanted to press them into operations at the earliest, instead of spending too much



time on reconfiguring the cabin," said the official, who did not wish to be identified. With the airline's fleet continuously growing at a steady pace, it should have some headroom in a few months' time to start converting such aircraft to all-economy seating. Cabin reconfiguration can be a time-consuming process and keep the aircraft out of operation for some time. Therefore, the refit schedule needs to be planned carefully so that it does not affect the airline's operations.

These white-tail Boeing 737 MAX planes are part of the mammoth 470-aircraft order the Air India group placed with Boeing and Airbus last year. The order included 190 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft—50 white-tails and 140 that will be manufactured based on the order. Deliveries of the remaining 140 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft to start from sometime next year, and AIX Connect (formerly AirAsia India), which is in the process of being merged into the former, currently have a combined fleet of 84 aircraft, mostly Boeing 737s and a few Airbus A320s. With another 17 white-tail planes expected to join the fleet before the end of the year, the operational fleet of the merged Air India Express is expected at 100 aircraft by December-end, said the airline official. By 2028, Air India Express aims to have a fleet of 180 aircraft.

GST Council 'aligned' on the need to cut insurance premiums, specific proposal referred to GoM

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council in its 54th meeting held Monday broadly converged on the need to reduce the tax rate for health and life insurance premiums from 18 per cent but the specific proposal has now been referred to the Group of Ministers (GoM) for further discussion, sources said. The GoM on rate rationalisation along with ministers from some states will discuss the issue in further detail, sources said.

The GoM on rate rationalisation will meet in Goa on September 23 and the next GST Council meeting will be held in November. "There was broad consensus for GST on health and life insurance premiums to be reduced, but modalities will be decided in the next Council meeting," a source said.

The existing GoM on rate rationalisation along with some more states will discuss the issue of health and life insurance premiums in detail, the source added. The fitment committee, which includes officials from states and Centre, presented detailed numbers on the proposal to reduce GST on health and life insurance premiums in the Council meeting. The GST Council meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, is still ongoing. In August, the reconstituted GoM on rate rationalisation under the GST regime had met for the first time and broadly agreed to not make any changes with the existing slabs in the indirect tax regime. State finance ministers, who participated in the meeting, had also said that the issue of reduction of GST rate in health and life insurance premiums was raised in the meeting of the GoM but was being reviewed by the fitment committee. On August 27, Sitharaman had said both rationalisation of



rates and tweaking of slabs under GST are on the discussion table, adding that the discussions will go item-by-item and make a comparison of the current rates with the revenue neutral rate. In 2023-24, the Centre and states had collected Rs 8,262.94 crore through GST on health insurance premiums, while Rs 1,484.36 crore was collected on account of GST on health reinsurance premiums. Opposition leaders including Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee have demanded withdrawal of GST on life and health insurance premiums. Banerjee had also written a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for rollback of GST on life insurance and health insurance premiums. Earlier on July 28, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari wrote to Finance Minister Sitharaman, saying GST on life and medical insurance premiums amounted to taxing the "uncertainties of life". Sitharaman had last month said that tax was levied on insurance premiums even before the imposition of GST and that GST revenues are shared between states and the Centre.

As copper mining stalls and imports surge, players eye overseas assets



Copper demand, a key barometer of economic growth, is poised to surge over the next decade across geographies. For India, though, amid stagnant domestic production, copper concentrate imports have doubled to Rs 26,000 crore in FY24 from around Rs 13,000 crore in FY19, and Indian smelters and refiners are now increasingly looking to secure copper assets overseas, bolstered by some government support. Now designated a critical mineral, copper's role in clean energy technologies—like wind turbines and EV batteries—has put India's growing import reliance in the spotlight. From developing new import sources in copper-rich countries like Mongolia to buying equity in Zambian and Chilean mines, major players such as Hindalco's Birla Copper Ltd, Adani's Kutch Copper Ltd, and Vedanta's Sterlite Copper Ltd are collaborating with the Ministry of Mines in securing India's copper supply chain.

Increasing reliance on imports In FY19, copper ore production stood at 4.13 million tonnes (Mt), dropping to a low of 3.27 Mt in FY21, which then partially recovered to 3.78 Mt in FY24, according to data with the mines ministry. Similarly, copper concentrate production dropped by 13 per cent in FY24 compared to FY19.

In the copper value chain, copper concentrate is smelted into copper anode, which is then refined into copper cathode—or refined copper—essential for producing rods, sheets, wires, and other input goods. While domestic production of refined copper grew by 12 per cent between FY19 and FY24—from 454 kilotonnes (kt) to 509 kt—much of the growth was supported by surging concentrate and anode imports. Despite stagnant production in recent years, government-owned Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL), the only company in India that mines copper ore, ambitiously plans to triple output to 12.2 Mt by FY29 through the expansion of its existing mines. Even then, with the entry of greenfield refining capacities, like Kutch Copper's maiden plant operationalised this year, and the expansion of existing capacities, demand for copper concentrate and anode imports is set to grow in the absence of adequate domestic mining.

In India, copper ore reserves stand at an estimated 208 Mt, most of which are of low grade. Copper resources, however, total 1.51 billion tonnes, requiring extensive exploration to convert resources into reserves that are viable for mining. The National Mineral Exploration Trust

(NMET), under the mines ministry, oversees mineral block exploration in India. In FY24 and FY23, NMET approved only two copper exploration projects. Experts argue that insufficient exploration and a lack of private sector participation over the last decade have hindered the development of new mines. Last year, the mines ministry modified rules to encourage private exploration agencies to explore critical minerals like copper. These changes come amidst a global slowdown in copper exploration, as new resources are believed to be deep-seated and expensive to explore. Since FY16, only four copper blocks have been auctioned—two each in FY20 and FY24. The blocks in the last fiscal were awarded under a composite licence (CL), which requires licence holders to conduct further exploration before commencing mining operations. Globally, it can take up to 17 years on average to operationalise a copper mine.

While the government put two copper blocks on auction as part of its critical mineral auctions over the past year, they were annulled due to insufficient investor interest. Though the quality of reserves was not in question, potential investors were deterred by the blocks' small size, only 1 square kilometre. The Indian Express has learnt. Since copper is a deep-seated mineral, block sizes must be large for mining operations to be commercially viable. Experts believe India's copper potential is vastly underutilised. Greater allocation of funds to private explorers and the privatisation of HCL—as suggested by Gouranga Sen, top policy executive at Vedanta, in a LinkedIn post in July—could propel copper mining in India. However, in the near future, India may have no option but to strategically engage with copper-rich countries like Zambia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Chile, where equity in copper assets is available for offtake. Previously reported that the mines ministry was gauging interest among domestic players in securing overseas mineral resources, including copper assets in Zambia. The ministry also proposed sending an Indian delegation to Zambia, which participated in a joint working group (JWG) meeting held in Lusaka this June. Notably, Vedanta owns a major copper mine and smelter in Zambia, which was seized by local authorities in 2019 before Vedanta regained control last September. The Zambian government holds a 20 per cent stake in the project, which has 250 Mt of copper ore reserves.

To protect overseas mining assets amidst growing resource nationalism, the Indian government is exploring bilateral investment treaties with mineral-rich countries to de-risk investments. The Indian Express has learnt. Securing such assets through a bilateral mechanism is crucial for promoting outward investments, as a copper mine abroad can require an upfront capex of at least \$10 billion. Copper assets in Chile and DCR are also under the industry's radar. In June, an Indian delegation led by the mines ministry visited Lubumbashi, DRC, to participate in a mining conference. In addition to acquiring copper assets overseas, the mines ministry is also assisting domestic smelters and refiners in developing new import sources, such as Mongolia.

Sadhguru says going to bed 'with a full stomach' may cause backache; an expert weighs in

If you wake up with a backache, it could be because you went to bed right after eating, according to Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. "One of the reasons why you may be having backache when you get up is you are going to bed with a full stomach. Your stomach bag is full, and you go and lie down. The pressure falls on the spine. And it also doesn't allow many organs to function," said Sadhguru. Praising the traditional practice of eating before sunset in an Instagram video, he said, "There are also other reasons for it (backache) but at least there are three to four hours before you hit the bed. That way, there will be no backache."

There could be various factors causing back pain such as lifting something heavy, falling on the back causing trauma, lack of exercise, poor posture, and slouching. "There's not enough scientific research or evidence to back up the correlation between backache and going to bed with a full stomach. If your backache sustains for more than a week or two then consulting experts can help manage the situation. It is crucial to understand the root cause of your back pain to create an effective treatment plan," said Dr Priti Jain, gastroenterologist, Apollo Spectra Delhi. However, Dr Jain added that one shouldn't neglect the fact that immediately falling asleep after dinner can be an unhealthy habit that needs to be paused for the sake of your health. "Sleeping immediately after



eating can negatively impact health. It can lead to reflux of food present in the stomach into the esophagus resulting in problems like heartburn, indigestion, constipation, and gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)," said Dr Jain, adding that one can also experience sudden weight gain. Persistently following this habit can affect your sleep, too. "This can lead to sleep disorders like insomnia, parasomnia, sleep apnea, and sleepwalking," said Dr Jain. Try eating 2 to 3 hours before bedtime to aid digestion. "Engaging in healthy habits like going on a long walk after a meal can ensure mobility and potentially reduce the possibility of experiencing problems like bloating, and gas which can be good for your health," said Dr Jain.

Is sandesh a healthy mithai? We find out

We (all) wish to enjoy sweets minus the calories and guilt. However, while most mithais are delicious, they do not qualify as 'healthy food.' "But with sandesh, it is a different story. It is more than just a mithai! Glad this humble sweet treat is finally getting the credit it deserves," Komal Patel, a dietitian, told indianexpress.com when asked about the healthiest mithai available.

Made with chhena (Indian cottage cheese), sandesh contains the goodness of calcium and protein. "It also boasts of friendly gut bacteria. It is one of the best companions one can have on their journey to fitness — satisfying, energising and delicious," added Patel. The chhena is basically 'casein,' one of the proteins in milk, and the strained water is whey protein. "Casein is a first-class protein that is superior-quality. Also, chhena is a concentrated source of protein, about 100g would typically give about 20g protein considering it is made from buffalo milk. It also has a moderate amount of fats and relatively lower carbohydrates," said Pooja Shah Bhavne, consultant clinical dietician and diabetes educator, Mumbai. "Sandesh is one of the healthiest sweets. It is non-fried, has no refined flour, and is high in carbs, unlike malpua or ghujjia," said Bhavne.

Moreover, it is not typically put into sugar syrup like gulab jamun or rasgulla. So, one can add lesser sugar as per their taste, Bhavne continued. However, in the commercial environment, with sugar taking center stage, sandesh's health aspect takes a back seat. "Adding cream, artificial flavours, and preservatives might enhance flavours, but they diminish its nutritional value," noted Patel. For the ultimate sandesh experience, Patel suggested making it at home. "Free from preservatives and

refined sugars, homemade sandesh offers better control over what goes into it. Adding the natural sweetness of a fruit or dry fruit filling can elevate sandesh to new heights, allowing you to skip sugar altogether," said Patel. Finally, the art of enjoying food lies in balance. Indulging in a mithai occasionally is unlikely to disrupt your overall health, especially when you eat healthy otherwise. Remember, the key to a food's impact on your well-being lies not just in its inherent qualities but also in the quantity you consume and when you eat," said Patel. To help you prepare sandesh at home, here's a recipe from chef Neha Deepak Shah. Ingredients

- 1.5l – Milk
- 1 tbsp – Vinegar or Lemon Juice with water
- 2 tbsp – Coconut milk powder
- 1 ½ tsp – Sugar/Jaggery

For filling, use mangoes or lychees. Any pulpy fruit is good, even peaches, said Shah. Some desiccated coconut for coating. Method: Separate the chhena and wash it with water. Drain excess water. Mash the chhena well. Add rose water and coconut milk powder. Add sugar. Mix well. Take a little mixture. Add mango or choose a fruit pulp of your choice. Coat with desiccated coconut. Garnish with rose petals and pistachios. Enjoy! You can add cardamom powder for flavour. "Some rose petals and pistachios for garnish." Make sure chhena is squeezed well to remove all the excess water. Don't make it too dry. Bhavne shared another tip. "Don't throw away the strained water while making chhena. It is a precious whey protein. Use the water to make dough for chapati or incorporate it into the dal or curry," said Bhavne.

Sai Pallavi's support for Pakistan sparks controversy ahead of 'Ramayana' role

Mumbai: Actress Sai Pallavi, who is set to portray Sita in Nitesh Tiwari's 'Ramayana', has come under fire after an old video of her resurfaced online. In the clip, she remarks that the Indian army is viewed as a "terrorist group" in Pakistan, highlighting a contentious perception that exists between the two nations. In a video that has gone viral, Pallavi can be heard saying, "People in Pakistan think our army is a terrorist group. But for us, it is them. So, the perspective changes. I don't understand violence." The viral clip originates from an interview conducted in January 2022. As the video reemerged, netizens reacted with anger towards her remarks and condemned the actress for her comments. One angry user wrote, "Historian Sai Pallavi is back! Comparing Kashmiri Hindu genocide to cattle smuggling—brilliant insight, right? And now, she's cast as Mata Sita? Bollywood's casting is on fire... but not in a good way! At this rate, they'll be left with an audience of one: their PR team!" Another said, "So sad this Communist Sai Pallavi is playing the role of Sita Ma in Ramayana." Meanwhile, in 'Ramayana', Sai Pallavi is set to share the screen with Ranbir Kapoor. The project marks both actors' first onscreen collaboration. 'KGF' star Yash plays Ravana in the film, which is touted to be one of the biggest films. Sunny Deol will reportedly play Lord Hanuman. 'Ramayana' marks Sai Pallavi's highly awaited Bollywood debut. The actress is also gearing up for the release of her Tamil film 'Amaran', directed by Rajkumar Periasamy. The film, which is an adaptation of India's Most Fearless: True Stories of Modern Military by Shiv Aroor and Rahul Singh, is produced by Kamal Haasan.



Boman Irani wants to shoot a film with Amitabh Bachchan in Jalsa, Farah Khan says Jaya Bachchan will chase him out.



Director-choreographer Farah Khan and actor Boman Irani are set to appear on Amitabh Bachchan's popular quiz show, Kaun Banega Crorepati Season 16. The show's makers have released several promos teasing the fun in the upcoming episode. In one promo, Farah, known for her humor, and Boman, who recently worked

with Bachchan in Uunchai, share lighthearted moments with the legendary actor. They even joke about Jaya Bachchan chasing them out of Jalsa as they insist Amitabh sign a movie contract with them. In one clip, Farah playfully asks Amitabh, "Sir, we want you in our movie; we have brought something for you." When he asks what it is, she replies, "A contract! We've titled the film Jab Tak Bachchan."

Amitabh humorously lists the contract's terms and conditions, stating, "The first item is food. For dessert, I want Banaras wala paan. Next on the list is timing: 'As and when you are free.'" He adds, "The shoot location is supposedly my choice," to which Boman interjects, "We don't mind shooting in Jalsa." Farah chimes in, "Just be prepared for Jaya Bachchan; she'll chase you out." Amitabh agrees, laughing. When Amitabh Bachchan inquires about his fees, Farah Khan jokingly replies, "We'll win a lot of money here at KBC and give you 10%." A stunned Amitabh responds, "Just 10%?" To which Farah playfully threatens, "Will you sign the contract or not?" Amitabh, feigning shock, retorts, "You're extremely dangerous, Farah." He concludes with a joke, "Fine, I'll do the film, but only if I get 99% of whatever you win here at KBC." In another promo, Boman Irani can be seen playing a guitar and singing, "Saarein episodes par, keh keh ke thak gaye, ek movie apne sath karne do karne do."

Alia Bhatt denies claims of botched Botox procedure in strong response

Mumbai: Bollywood star Alia Bhatt on Friday strongly hit back at claims circulating in online videos and clickbait articles that she had a botched Botox procedure. The "Jigra" actor posted a lengthy statement on her Instagram Stories and said the rumours about her undergoing a cosmetic surgery are "beyond ridiculous" and "damaging".



"Absolutely NO JUDGEMENT towards anyone who chooses cosmetic corrections or surgery—your body, your choice. But wow, this is beyond ridiculous! To the random video floating around literally claiming I've had Botox gone wrong (and to the numerous clickbait articles) – I have a 'crooked smile' and a 'weird way of speaking' according to YOU," she said. "This is your hypercritical, microscopic judgment of a human face. And now you're confidently tossing around 'scientific' explanations, claiming I'm paralysed on one side? Are you kidding me?" she added.

Bhatt, 31, criticised that "serious claims" about her are being "casually thrown out there with zero proof, no confirmation, and absolutely nothing to back it up." "What's worse, you're influencing young, impressionable minds who might actually believe this garbage. Why are you saying this? For clickbait? Attention? Because none of it makes sense," she added. The actor said women are often judged through an "absurd lens" and are objectified on the internet for "our faces, bodies, personal lives, even our bumps." "We should be celebrating individuality, not

tearing it apart under a microscope. These types of judgments perpetuate unrealistic standards, making people feel like they're never 'enough' It's damaging, and it's exhausting," she added. What is even more saddening is that such kinds of judgement is perpetuated by women, Bhatt said. "Whatever happened to 'live and let live'? To 'everyone has the right to their own choices'? Instead, we've become so accustomed to picking each other apart that it's almost normalised. "Meanwhile just another day of even thorougher entertainment with scripts made up by the Internet," she concluded the statement. Bhatt was most recently seen in filmmaker Vasan Bala's "Jigra", which released in theatres earlier this month. She will be next seen in action movie "Alpha" with Sharvari.

CID actor Aditya Srivastava says cast 'pumped' to return with iconic show, reveals series will start airing from December

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

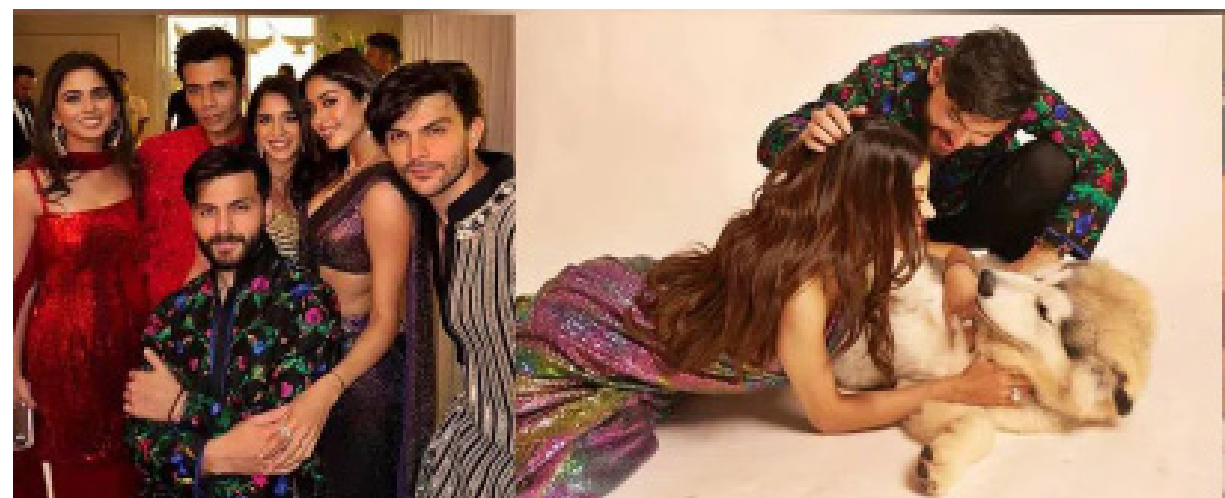
One of the most loved crime shows on Indian TV, CID, is set to return with its latest season and actor Aditya Srivastava, best known for playing Abhijeet on the thriller, says the cast and crew are "pumped" to be back again. Makers of the iconic show CID have decided to revive the show and announced the news with a brief teaser on Thursday, which featured the show's beloved stars Shivaji Satam (ACP Pradyuman), Dayanand Shetty (Daya) and Aditya Srivastava.



In an interview with Times of India, Aditya Srivastava said the cast is excited to shoot for the show, which aims to go on air in December. The actor said as of now, the cast has only shot for a promo—which will be unveiled on October 26—with the full-fledged shoot of the Sony TV show beginning soon. The actor hoped that the audience showers the same love on CID, which returns to the small screen after a hiatus of six years. Srivastava said there were talks in the past as well to bring back the show but nothing worked out until recently. "This time around the channel wanted it back on TV as it has been one of the most watched and loved shows. Things worked out and Shivaji Satam, Dayanand Shetty and I came on board. We are emotionally connected with this show," he added. The actor said even though he has been a part of more than 20 films, the audience still recognises him as

Abhijeet from CID, making him feel special and validating the fact that he could leave an impact on the viewers with his role, even after it went off air. CID began airing in 1998 and its last episode aired in 2018. Earlier, in an interaction with Friday Talkies, Shivaji Satam suggested that CID went off air after a successful 20-year run, possibly due to a rift between the show's producer and the channel.

Janhvi Kapoor beams with joy as Shikhar affectionately places his hand on her head



Mumbai: Janhvi Kapoor recently took to social media to share a heartfelt image with her rumoured beau Shikhar Pahariya, in which he is seen lovingly placing his hand on her head. On Friday, the actress posted a series of photos and videos on Instagram, captioning it, "Mems that haven't made it to the gram." One standout photo shows Janhvi playing with her pet dog while her rumoured boyfriend, Shikhar Pahariya, affectionately places his hand on her head.

Another image captures a group photo where Janhvi and Shikhar are seen posing alongside Karan Johar, Isha Ambani, Radhika Merchant, and others. In this group shot, Janhvi is seen holding Shikhar's hand. Other candid photos and videos showcase Janhvi's everyday experiences, filled with laughter, love, and cherished memories. The post features Janhvi's joyful selfies with friends and heartwarming moments from family gatherings.

Although Janhvi and Shikhar have not made their

relationship official, the two are often seen together. Recently, they arrived together at Manish Malhotra's grand Diwali party in Mumbai. The 'Bawaal' actress also posted stunning photos of herself in a shimmering saree on her Instagram.

During the promotions for her film 'Mr. and Mrs. Mahi', Janhvi spoke about the support systems in her life, mentioning Shikhar. She said, "He's been a part of my life since I was around 15 or 16. Our dreams have always aligned; his aspirations are my aspirations and vice versa. We've been incredibly close and have supported each other, almost like we've raised one another." Janhvi first hinted at her romance with Shikhar on 'Koffee with Karan' when she appeared with Sara Ali Khan. Later, during an episode with her sister Khushi Kapoor, she casually mentioned Shikhar's name, fuelling further speculation. Janhvi has even been spotted wearing a necklace with Shikhar's name at several events.

Dilip Kumar felt Saira Bano lacked 'seductive appeal', refused to work with her: 'Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned'

Dilip Kumar was one of the most acclaimed actors of his time and actors would look forward to the opportunity of sharing screen space with him. But, since he was a star, he was significantly involved in the decision making process of casting the heroine in his films. So when he was doing the comedy film Ram Aur Shyam, producers suggested that he should be paired opposite Saira Bano. At the time, Dilip and Saira were not romantically involved with each other, and Dilip, who thought that Saira looked too "delicate" for a character with a "seductive appeal", rejected the idea. In his memoir, 'The Substance And The Shadow: An Autobiography', Dilip recalled that initially, Vyjayanthimala was cast in the film but was fired because of a "tantrum that was uncalled for." Ram Aur Shyam had Dilip in a double role and there were two female leads in the film. Vyjayanthimala was soon replaced by Waheeda Rehman but the search for the second leading lady was still on. At this point, producer Nagi Reddy suggested Saira's name to Dilip. "Nagi Reddy was all admiration for Saira and her recent performances and was certain that her pairing with me in the comedy situations would be a huge draw since she possessed a wonderful flair for spirited comedy. Since it was my practice to take an active interest in the making of my film, I voiced my opinion that I did not agree with Nagi Reddy on this issue because I felt she was too delicate and innocent in appearance for a character that had to have loads of seductive appeal and a bold, buxom appearance," he wrote.



telling her, "Have you seen this grey hair? I am so much elder to you, and I eat like a pig!" To this, Saira said, "I think grey hair looks very distinguished on you! Very handsome."

Actor Mehmood, however, was of the opinion that Mumtaz should be cast in this role and while Dilip had never worked with either Saira or Mumtaz, he went with Mehmood's suggestion. "He (Mehmood) was so sincere in his recommendation of her that he even carried tins of film reels depicting Mumtaz to exhibit how talented she was. Mumtaz eventually bagged that role," he wrote. However, Saira was quite offended by this. "My refusal to work in Ram Aur Shyam with her was the proverbial last straw on the camel's back! Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned! Sure enough, I received more than my fair share of brickbats from Saira in various ways," he shared. But, as luck would have it, Dilip and Saira soon met at her birthday party where he fell in love with her. Even before they could wrap the shoot of Ram Aur Shyam, Dilip and Saira announced their engagement. For him, the film became "very special" as it was during the production of this film that they got married. Dilip explained that he had a few reservations with regard to working with Saira. He knew her parents through family friends and was aware that she was studying in London. When he learnt that she was interested in being an actor, he "voiced an emphatic 'NO'" to the said family friend. When in the 1960s, when he met her at a filmy party, and was told that she was keen to work with him. Dilip recalled

National Indian Film Festival of Australia to commence from February 13, 2025

New Delhi: The Australian Centre for Indian Cinema on Friday announced an initiative to celebrate Indian cinema in Australasia with Australia's first and only National Indian Film Festival of Australia (NIFFA).

The festival will commence from February 13, 2025 and will conclude on February 16. The NIFFA will see a weekend of celebrations and screenings around Australia in Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, the Gold Coast, Darwin and Hobart. One yet-to-be-decided city will host the opening night party, workshops, closing night film and panels on investments, coproduction, development and collaboration. The festival will also offer development grants for Australian screen content related to India and awards, to be announced in November. The plans will see the festival held across seven cities in Australia in February 2025, with Australia cinema chain Dendy Cinemas, major Indian news media company NDTV and cinema advertising company Val Morgan, coming on board as stakeholders, read a statement. NDTV Director and Editor-in-Chief, Sanjay Pugalia said: "As NDTV expands globally and the Indian diaspora flourishes across Australasia, partnering with this premier celebration of Indian cinema felt like a perfect fit."

Google celebrates playback singer KK with special Doodle on his Hindi cinema debut anniversary

New Delhi: Google on Friday celebrated iconic playback singer Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, on the anniversary of his debut in Hindi cinema with a special Doodle dedicated to the beloved musician. The tribute, featured on the search engine's homepage, visually represents KK's musical journey and enduring connection with audiences.

According to Google, the Doodle marks his debut as a playback singer in 1996 with the song "Chhod Aaye Hum", which was featured in the Gulzar-directed film "Maachis". Born on August 23, 1968, in Delhi, KK rose to prominence with songs like "Pal" and "Yaaron", which

became anthems of love and friendship. KK, regarded as one of the top singers, had not taken a formal training in music but emerged as one of the most popular singers of the late 90s and 2000s right after his debut. Over the course of his career, KK's distinct voice became synonymous with many emotion-filled tracks such as "Yaaron", "Tu Hi Meri Shab Hai", "Tadap Tadap Ke Is Dil Se", "Awarapan Banjarapan", "Aankhon Mein Teri Ajab Si", "Khuda Jaane", "Zindagi Do Pal Ki" and "Tu Jo Mila". The singer died at the age of 53 in 2022 after a performance at a concert in Kolkata, which left the industry and his fans in a state of shock.

'It is so cool to play with my mom and win': Winning mother-daughter team claims top spot at National Badminton tournament



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

As a child, Noopur Sahasrabudhe admired her mother Manjusha's dedication to badminton, and visiting the court quickly became her favourite part of the day. Little did she know that, years later, the mother-daughter duo would make history by winning a state championship and other tournaments. Post Covid-19 and despite facing surgeries, the Pune based winning mother-daughter team is back and recently claimed the top spot at the national badminton tournament organised by the Uttarakhand Badminton Association. Noopur says she has a natural flair for badminton and would train with her mother, a seasoned player who has represented India multiple times in prestigious Senior World Badminton Championships. She recalled how motivated she would get when she would see her mother play. "She is so senior and so active. I am totally inspired by her. Also, it is so cool to play with my mom and win," Noopur added.

The achievement is noteworthy as this was the sole

mother-daughter pair from Maharashtra to win at the national Doon Smashers Masters badminton tournament held at Dehradun (September 20-22). Women's Doubles 80+ requires the combined age of both participants to exceed 80 years. "In our case, my mother is 62 and I am 36, while most of our opponents were around 40 years old each," Noopur recalled. At the event, Manjusha won a triple crown each across the Women's Singles 60+, Combined Age Group Women's Doubles 80+ (with her daughter Noopur), and Mixed Doubles 120+ (with Harjit Singh, Delhi). Noopur won the Women's Singles 35+, Women's Doubles 80+ (with her mother), and Mixed Doubles 80+.

For the young woman, though an Achilles Tendon repair may have been a setback sometime in 2015, but inheriting her mother's determination and will power made her bounce back to not only compete in badminton tournaments but take on the triathlon challenge, qualify, and finish the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii in October last year. Manjusha, a Badminton World Federation Asia Accredited Referee and a coach with the Poona District Metropolitan Badminton Association (PDMBA), also suffered shoulder and knee injuries that required surgery in 2019-20. "It was a challenging time but post-surgery, I underwent rehabilitation that included physiotherapy and strength training at the gym," Manjusha said. With Manjusha set to travel as a referee at the Korea Junior International Challenge in November this year and Noopur's work as an HR specialist at a Pune firm, the mother-daughter ensure that they practice at least three to four times a week. Not surprisingly this deep bond creates a powerful connection on the court as this winning team is now gearing up to compete in a major national event next year.

Jemimah Rodrigues' dad Ivan issues clarification after Khar Gymkhana cancels membership

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Ivan Rodrigues, the father of Indian women's team star Jemimah Rodrigues, has addressed reports that Khar Gymkhana had cancelled her membership because of him using the club premises for "religious activities". Khar Gymkhana had made the decision to cancel Jemimah's membership at Sunday's annual general body meeting. The Indian Express had quoted Khar Gymkhana officials as saying that the action was taken when some members objected to Ivan using the club premises for "religious activities" and alleging that events had been organised to "convert" the "vulnerable". Ivan admitted that he had used Khar Gymkhana facilities for prayer meetings on multiple occasions since April 2023. But he argued that no rules were violated. "In light of the recent and erroneous reports doing the rounds in the media, we would like to put on record a few facts. We had availed of the facilities at the Khar Gymkhana for the purpose of prayer meetings on multiple occasions, over a period of a year since April 2023. However, this was done in complete accordance with the procedures that Khar Gymkhana have in place, and in full knowledge of the office bearers. The prayer meetings were open to all and were in no way 'conversion meetings' as is wrongly labelled in articles in the media," Ivan posted in a note on his social media account. Ivan went on to add: "When we were told to stop conducting the prayer meetings, we respected the stance of the Gymkhana and did so with immediate effect. When informed about the difference in rates for members and guests, we readily cleared the arrears. We are honest,



law-abiding people who are grateful that we can practise our faith without it being a cause of inconvenience to anyone else. To then be the subject of false claims and misinformation is disheartening. We have and continue to wish only the best for everyone."

Khar Gymkhana managing committee member Shiv Malhotra had earlier told The Indian Express: "We came to know that Jemimah Rodrigues's father was attached to an organisation called Brother Manuel Ministries. They booked the presidential hall for almost a year and a half and held 35 events. We all know what was happening there... We hear about conversions all over the country, but it's happening right under our nose. There was dancing, expensive music equipment, big screens. As per Khar Gymkhana's bye-laws Rule 4A of the constitution, Khar Gymkhana does not permit any religious activity."

'Worst shot of his life': Sanjay Manjrekar on Virat Kohli's dismissal vs New Zealand in 2nd Test



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Virat Kohli is bowled during day two of the second cricket Test between India and New Zealand at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Friday. (AP Photo) Virat Kohli is bowled during day two of the second cricket Test between India and New Zealand at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune on Friday.

Virat Kohli was dismissed for one run in the second Test against New Zealand in Pune on Friday in very unconventional fashion. Trying to slap a full toss from Mitchell Santner across the line, Kohli missed the ball's trajectory completely and it slammed into the stumps. Kohli's stint in the middle had lasted just nine balls. The dismissal, while absurd for the prolific India batter, also highlighted his struggles against spin on Asian conditions.

Kohli has been dismissed 21 times in 26 innings against spinners in Asia in the past three years, with an average of 28. Of these, 10 dismissals have been to left-arm orthodox bowlers, against whom he averages 27.10. Understandably, Kohli walked off the ground seething after his soft dismissal. "Virat will know himself that he has just played the worst shot of his career to get out," tweeted former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar. "Got to feel for him (Kohli)... cause as always, he came out with solid and honest intent."

Former India coach Anil Kumble opined in an interview on JioCinema that maybe Kohli could have considered playing domestic cricket in the lead up to the New Zealand series. The Indian team find themselves staring down the barrel after two days in the second Test against New Zealand in Pune. Rohit Sharma's men are facing

the realistic threat of their first series defeat at home in 12 years. After New Zealand batted first in the Pune Test, they posted a first innings total of 259. In reply, India were bundled out for 156. The visitors came back on the second day to pile on India's misery: going into the third day of the second Test, the visitors' overall lead stands at 301 with five wickets intact, thanks to Tom Latham's 86 and Mitchell Santner's seven-wicket haul.

Haryana Steelers beat Jaipur Pink Panthers, register first win of the season

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Hyderabad: The Haryana Steelers registered their first win of Season 11 of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) and put in a fantastic performance, as they swatted away the challenge from the Jaipur Pink Panthers on Thursday. With Vinay Naveen and Shivam Patare playing starring roles, the Haryana Steelers won the contest 37-25 at the GMCB Indoor Stadium, in Gachibowli here.

The Haryana Steelers were out of the blocks at a rapid pace and picked up a three-point lead within the first few minutes of the game. Naveen and Vinay were causing the Jaipur Pink Panthers plenty of problems in the initial phases. The Haryana Steelers were doing well to keep the opponents at bay in the early phase.

As the contest reached the halfway stage of the first half, the Haryana Steelers had established a 3-point lead and were looking to consolidate further. Naveen was leading the charge for the Haryana Steelers, who were beginning to dominate proceedings on the mat. With the clock ticking away, it was Haryana Steeler's Vinay who was having the biggest impact on the game. Vinay's tally of 9 points in the first half proved crucial as the Haryana Steelers went into the break with the score at 20-11 in their favour. The second half started with the Jaipur Pink Panthers picking up the first points, in what was a cautious and watchful start. The Haryana Steelers had a substantial lead and were looking to build on it, while the Jaipur Pink Panthers were looking at the likes of Abhijeet Malik to lead the charge in attack.

'Don't need a fan like you': Glenn Maxwell opens up on soured relationship with Virender Sehwag at Kings XI Punjab



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

In 2014, when Kings XI Punjab (now Punjab Kings) reached its only IPL final to this day, Glenn Maxwell and Virender Sehwag were crucial pillars to their success. Maxwell — 25 then — was the player of the tournament and finished with 552 runs under his belt. Sehwag on the other hand had scored a big hundred in the 2nd Qualifier to help Punjab inch past Chennai for a place in the final.

While Sehwag played his last IPL game the following season, calling it quits from professional cricket, his paths with Maxwell crossed again when he became Punjab's mentor. It wasn't the reunion the Australian had hoped for. In his new book, Glenn Maxwell The Showman, the Australian looks back at his time with Punjab and how his relationship with the former Indian opener soured. To the point where Maxwell texted Sehwag that he had lost a fan, to which the latter responded, "Don't need fan like you." Going into the 2017 season, Maxwell was appointed as the captain of the franchise, a message that was conveyed to him from Sehwag during Australia's tour of India the same year. "We discussed how the team would operate, and I thought we were all on the same page. How wrong I was," Maxwell writes in his book. "Our coach, J Arunkumar, was coming in for his first season, and it became clear to him that he was coach in name only, with Sehwag pulling the strings." He adds, "When it came to selection, I thought it might be a good idea to bring the coaches into a WhatsApp group to make our decisions. Everyone agreed to this and shared their

teams, with the exception of Sehwag. At the end of the process, he made it clear that he would pick the starting XI, end of story."

The Australian goes on to add how this affected the franchise in a season where they finished fifth in the eight-team points table — narrowly missing out on the playoffs. "Take poor old Ishant Sharma. At one point he was told not to bother coming to our game that day in Mumbai, having not been picked in a while. We had several other local bowlers, plus the Kiwi quick Matt Henry had just come into the side. Doing the right thing, Ishant did a gym session and came along anyway, bowling at full pace in the warm-up. Then Eoin Morgan was told that he would be a new inclusion that day, taking the last overseas player spot from Matt. Morgs protested that it wasn't fair to drop Matt after only playing one game, so they rejigged again, left out Morgs, and both Henry and Ishant played." The tensions between the captain and the mentor reached a boiling point at the end of the season, when Maxwell volunteered to do the press conference after Punjab were rolled over by Rising Pune Supergiant for 73 in their last game. Instead, Sehwag took to the presser and unloaded on the captain as the 'big disappointment' of the season.

"I texted him to say how much it hurt to read those comments and added that he had lost a fan in me for the way he had conducted himself. Sehwag's response was simple: "Don't need fan like you." We never spoke again," Maxwell says. "I knew my time was at an end and told the owners as much: if Sehwag was going to stick around, they were making a mistake and not to bother with me. He only lasted one more season." Maxwell, who joined Delhi Capitals for the subsequent season before returning back to Punjab, played his last game for the 2014 finalists in 2020 before being signed by RCB in 2021. His final season with Punjab saw Maxwell amass a mere 108 runs in 13 matches — a lackluster display which led to Sehwag quoting him as a '10-crore cheerleader' in a video on his Facebook page. "He has had a bad record of scoring runs over the past few seasons. But this campaign, he went to new extremes. This is what you call a highly-paid vacation," Sehwag would say.

Ranji Trophy: With 46 top players representing India, India A and Emerging side, depleted teams gear up for Round 3

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Tamil Nadu has had a fabulous start to their 2024-25 Ranji Trophy campaign. They defeated Saurashtra by an innings and 70 runs in the season opener and they could have won against Delhi as well, if not for the bad light and time wasting theatrics from the hosts at Kotla. In their third round match, they will lock horns against Chhattisgarh in Coimbatore, but with a depleted side. Against Delhi last week, they were already without their regular captain R Sai Kishore who is playing the Emerging Asia Cup in Oman. With India in knockouts, he will miss the clash against Chhattisgarh as well. Add to that, Tamil Nadu — which is leading Group D — will also be missing the services of B Sai Sudharsan, Baba Indrajith and Washington Sundar. Sudharsan, who scored a double century against Delhi along with Indrajith in the 15-member India A squad, led by Rituraj Gaikwad that is in Australia. Whereas, all-rounder Washington is currently playing in the second Test in Pune. Washington received an India call-up following his player-of-the-match performance against Delhi, where he scored a century and picked up six wickets with the ball. Tamil Nadu stand-in skipper Narayan Jagadeesan is not worried about the "forced changes" as he sees this as an opportunity for others to step in.

"We can't do much about it because you want your teammates to climb up as well. So there will be changes and one has to get used to it. It is not something that has happened when we are least prepared. We knew about it and it is an opportunity for others to step in and fit into the culture," Jagadeesan told The Indian Express. The unprecedented situation has arisen as three Indian teams are playing at the same time. Senior India team is involved in a three-match Test series against New Zealand. India A white-ball squad is playing in the Emerging Asia Cup in Oman, while a red-ball squad of India A is in Australia. A total of 46 Indian cricketers are not available for the third round of the Ranji Trophy. Punjab Ranji Trophy coach Wasim Jaffer calls the situation "challenging." Punjab, who will take on Uttar Pradesh at IS Bindra Stadium in Mohali are missing Abhishek Sharma, Prabhsimran Singh, Nehal Wadhwa and Ramandeep Singh — all of them are playing in the Emerging Asia Cup. "It is challenging. We had prepared for the season keeping these players in mind and have selected the squad accordingly. It did surprise me but you got to be ready as we are not the only team who are affected," Jaffer said. "Again at the same time, it gives opportunity to the other players as well. It is obviously something you don't want to happen but also you are happy with the fact that your players are playing in the Emerging. It's a win-win situation for the players but for the coaches, it is a headache. In the crucial games you don't have your best playing XI that can affect your season," added Jaffer.

Bengal coach Laxmi Ratan Shukla, whose side will miss four key players — Akash Deep (Test team), captain Abhimanyu Easwaran, seamer Mukesh Kumar and wicketkeeper-batter Abhishek Porel (India A tour of Australia) for their fixture against Kerala has urged the youngsters to step up. "Look, this is an age-old system. When you play good cricket, you will miss key players on national duty and India A tours. As a team, you become weak once your main players are gone. But again at the same time, it is an opportunity for the youngsters, who are doing well at the U-23 and U-19 level to get the taste of Ranji Trophy and cement their place," said Shukla.

Delhi's coach Sarandeep Singh echoes the sentiments of Laxmi Ratan Shukla. He said: "We are without Ayush Badoni, Anuj Rawat, Hrithik Shokeen and Navdeep Saini. I guess the players who replaced them are equally good. The likes of Sanat Sangwan and Pranav Rajvanshi



showed immense maturity against Tamil Nadu." "What I feel is that these things are not in my hands and I ponder much on these issues. It is good for Delhi that four of our players are selected for the Emerging tournament. It means they are on the selector's radar." Delhi has received a major boost ahead of their tie against Assam as Harshit Rana, who was travelling with the Indian Test team as a reserve has been released to play the Ranji Trophy. In recent years, as NCA head VVS Laxman said recently, the BCCI has been careful about India A programmes don't coincide with the domestic season. But the shadow A tours to South Africa and Australia have been inevitable because of scheduling reasons.

Lando Norris reflects on intense US GP battle with Verstappen

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Mexico City: Just days after his intense on-track battle with Max Verstappen at the United States Grand Prix, Lando Norris has been reflecting on the experience, acknowledging areas he aims to learn from.

The McLaren driver engaged in a fierce wheel-to-wheel contest with Verstappen, starting from Turn 1 on the opening lap. While Norris initially held the advantage, Verstappen soon fought back with a different tyre strategy, resulting in a hard-fought clash for the final podium spot. Although Norris provisionally secured third, he was handed a five-second penalty for overtaking Verstappen while off-track, allowing the reigning world champion to keep his position. Verstappen also went over the track's white lines while defending, prompting Norris to question the ruling. Reflecting on the battle ahead of the Mexico City Grand Prix, Norris explained, "I'd probably approach things in a pretty similar way. Slight tweaks here and there. Of course, I didn't come out on top in the whole battle... Max is probably the best in the world in this style of defense and attacking. I'm going up against the best, and therefore I've got to be at his level," Norris was quoted by F1 as saying.

Acknowledging that he still has progress to make, Norris sees the experience as an opportunity to improve. He added, "At the minute, I would say I'm not quite at the level I need to be. It's a shame to say, but it's probably the truth... I want to be the one that comes out on top. I believe I rightfully was, but obviously, the penalty changed things." The young driver also raised concerns over the current rulings on wheel-to-wheel racing, suggesting there should be clarity for similar scenarios in the future. "I don't believe (the penalty) was correct," Norris shared.