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Three killed in helicopter crash in Pune

Pune: Three persons were killed after a helicopter crashed and caught fire in Maharashtra's Pune district on Wednesday morning, police said.

The helicopter, belonging to a Delhi-based private aviation firm, took off from the Oxford Golf Course helipad here and was heading to Juhu in Mumbai, an official said Preliminary information suggested the deceased comprised two pilots and an engineer, as per officials. The incident took place at 6.45 am near a hilly terrain in Bavdhan area, which is close to the Oxford Golf Course, according to police.

Three persons have died in the helicopter crash. Our teams along with fire department vehicles have reached the spot," Pimpri Chinchwad Commissioner of Police Vinaykumar Choubey said. After the crash, the chopper caught fire, police said. The cause of the crash was yet to be ascertained, they said.

Centre committed to tribal development, projects worth Rs83,700 crore to boost growth: PM Modi



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday (October 2, 2024) unveiled development projects worth over ?83,700 crore in Jharkhand, reaffirming his government's commitment to the State's progress.He emphasised the importance of tribal development, stating that Mahatma Gandhi's vision for this demographic is "our asset." Mr. Modi launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, which will be implemented at a cost of ?79,150 crore, aimed at ensuring comprehensive and holistic development for tribal communities across the country.

"Mahatma Gandhi's vision for tribal development is our asset, he [Mahatma Gandhi] believed that India can develop only when tribal communities will develop. BJP

government accords top priority to tribal development and 80.000 crore will be spent on Dharti Aaba Janiativa Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan to develop 65,000 tribal villages," he said.According to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office, the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan will benefit over 5 crore tribals in 549 districts across 30 States and Union Territories. The scheme aims to address critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through 25 interventions carried out by 17 central Ministries and departments.Mr. Modi also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for multiple projects under the PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), valued at over 1,360 crore.

These include the construction of more than 1,380 km of roads, 120 anganwadi centres , 250 multi-purpose centres, and 10 school hostels.Additionally, the Prime Minister announced the electrification of over 75,800 households belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in around 3,000 villages. Other initiatives include the operationalisation of 275 mobile medical units, 500 anganwadi centres, establishment of 250 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras, and the provision of piped water (Nal se Jal) to more than 5,550 PVTG villages."I had come to Jamshedpur from where I had launched several schemes. Beneficiaries got pucca homes," he said. This is Mr. Modi's second visit to Jharkhand in about a fortnight where elections to the 81-member assembly are due with the tenure of the present Vidhan Sabha set to expire on January 5.Notable attendees at the event included Union Ministers Jual Oram, Annapurna Devi, and Sanjay Seth besides Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

KTR criticises Revanth Reddy government's inhumane actions

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao criticised the Revanth Reddy government for acting inhumanely towards the most vulnerable sections of society. He invoked Mahatma Gandhi's teachings to condemn the government's actions, particularly the demolition of homes in the name of HYDRAA and Musi Riverfront Development Project.Commemorating Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri at their birth anniversary celebrations held at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday, Rama Rao condemned the ongoing demolitions, stating that the government was elected to



KTR questions ED silence after raids on Ponguleti

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao raised doubts over the Enforcement Directorate issuing no statement even five days after conducting raids on the residence of Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy. He wondered whether another drama was unfolding between the BJP and the Congress.

"Why is there such deafening silence from the Enforcement Directorate after the raids on a super wealthy Telangana Minister? No statements, not word after five days? Is this drama also a part of the "Ajab Prem Ki Gajab Kahani" of BJP and Congress?" he asked.

On Mahatma Gandhi's 155th birth anniversary, PM takes out cleanliness drive, Rahul pays tributes at Rajghat



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

India Wedesday marked the 155th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the revered leader of the nation's freedom struggle on October 2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and various political leaders paid homage to Gandhi at his memorial in Delhi.In a post on X, Modi expressed his reverence for Gandhi's ideals, stating, "On behalf of all countrymen, salutations to Pujya Bapu on his birth anniversary. His life and ideals based on truth, harmony and equality will always remain an inspiration for the countrymen.'

Congress leader and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi visited Rajghat in the morning to honour the Father of the Nation. He later wrote in his X post. "Bapu has taught me that if you want to live, you have to live without fear - you have to walk on the path of truth, love, compassion and harmony, uniting everyone. Gandhiji is not a person but a way of living and thinking."Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former party chief Sonia Gandhi also paid homage to Gandhi at the Central Hall of the Parliament House.West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in a post on X, reiterated Gandhi's enduring legacy, emphasizing the relevance of his teachings. She wrote, "On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, I pay tribute to the Father of the Nation,



Mahatma Gandhi. His teachings of non-violence, truth, and unity continue to inspire us every day. Let us pledge to build a just and inclusive society, reflecting his vision for India." She further encouraged adherence to Gandhi's principles of non-violence and tolerance. Festive offer Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi, mahatma gandhi, indian express Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paying tribute to Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his birth anniversary in Lucknow on Wednesday. This year also marked the 10th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission, a national cleanliness campaign launched by Prime Minister Modi in 2014. To celebrate the milestone, Modi participated in cleanliness drives alongside schoolchildren, urging citizens to engage in similar activities. "Today, on Gandhi Jayanti, I took part in Swachhata-related activities with my young friends. I urge you all to also take part in some or the other such activity during the day and at the same time, keep strengthening the Swachh Bharat Mission," Modi said.Addressing a programme to mark the milestone, the Prime Minister said, "In this century, Swachh Bharat is the world's biggest and the most successful people's resolution led by people and joined in by people." "Swachh Bharat campaign is not just a cleanliness movement. It is now becoming a new path to prosperity," Modi added.

Congress govts in Karnataka, **Telangana reel under nepotism scams**

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Hyderabad: The Congress governments in both Karnataka and Telangana are facing the heat over scams emerging out of nepotism. Apart from leaders in the State units, the Congress high command is also now in a spot of bother ever since the allegations surfaced against both the Chief Ministers in these States, A Revanth Reddy and Siddaramaiah.After filing an FIR against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife and others, Mysuru Lok Ayukta has commenced its probe into the case linked to the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam. Similarly, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is in the news for signing agreements with companies that were floated by his brothers and relatives apart from allegedly gifting AMRUT 2.0 tenders to a relative's company. In Karnataka, the Mysuru Lok Ayukta on Tuesday launched a probe into the MUDA land allotment scam. Along with a team of surveyors and MUDA officers, the Lok Ayukta officials visited the 3.2 acres of land at Kesare that was allegedly acquired by the Chief Minister's brotherin-law and gifted to his wife Parvathi. After MUDA acquired the land, Parvathi sought compensation and was subsequently allocated 14 plots. These plots were substantially more valuable than the original piece of land, according to reports.After the Enforcement Directorate also on Monday booked the Chief Minister, his wife and others in a money laundering case linked to the MUDA scam, Parvathi wrote to MUDA on surrendering the 14 plots allotted to her. However, the Chief Minister, while addressing media persons in Bengaluru on Tuesday, claimed he had no role in the MUDA scam and insisted that he would not resign.



build and uplift, not to destroy the lives of the marginalized. He urged the State government to reconsider its decision to demolish the houses of the poor.

"Mahatma Gandhi himself said that the greatness of a government is known by how it supports the weakest in society. The Revanth Reddy government needs to be reminded of this," he remarked, urging the Congress leadership in Delhi to take note of the inhumane policies being enacted by the State government and immediately stop the demolitions if they had any respect for Mahatma Gandhi's teachings. The people of Telangana had elected the Congress to construct more houses for them, not to tear down the existing ones.Meanwhile, the BRS working president interacted with the affected families of Musi Riverfront Development project who came to meet him at Telangana Bhavan, and assured that his party



would stand with them in their fight against the government's reckless policies. He announced that the BRS legal team at Telangana Bhavan would assist the victims of the Musi Riverfront project and HYDRAA demolitions, promising both legal and political support to prevent further harm to the poor.

"No house of the poor should be demolished," he declared, calling the government's actions evil and unjust, especially after citizens had received official permissions for their homes. He also reminded them that under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao's tenure, the poor were treated with dignity and compassion, a stark contrast to the current administration's methods. "BRS will fight for the people, both on the streets and in the courts," he reiterated.

As Iran rains missiles on Israel, **Indian Embassy issues advisory**



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

A senior Iranian official said the order to launch missiles at Israel was made by the country's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Khamenei remains in a secure location, the senior official added. The Israeli Army said Israel's airspace was closed following the Iranian attack. Alarms sounded across Israel and explosions could be heard in Jerusalem and the Jordan River valley after Israelis piled into bomb shelters. Reporters on state television lay flat on the ground during live broadcasts.Israeli Army radio said nearly 200 missiles had been launched into Israel from Iran. Earlier, the military had announced that any ballistic missile strike from Iran was expected to be widespread and told the public to shelter in safe rooms in the event of an attack. The firing of missiles came after Israel said its troops had launched ground raids into Lebanon, though it described the forays as limited.)

Earlier in the day, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India is "very much concerned" at the

"possibility of a broadening of the conflict" in the region, including what happens "between Iran and Israel".Speaking at a Carnegie event in Washington DC, Jaishankar, while responding to a question on the ongoing conflict in West Asia, said that India regards October 7 as a "terrorist attack" and understands that Israel had a need to respond."But, we also believe that any response by any country has to take into account international humanitarian law, that it must be careful about any damage or any implications for civilian populations. Given what has happened in Gaza, it is important to have some kind of international humanitarian effort out there," he said."We are very much concerned at the possibility of a broadening of the conflict, not just what happened in Lebanon but also... to the Houthis and the Red Sea and you know to some extent anything that happens between Iran and Israel," he said." If as part of that concern, you can end up doing something about it. Again, don't underestimate the importance of communication in difficult times. If there are things to be said and passed on and passed back, I think those are all contributions that we can make and we do," he said. In its advisory, the Indian embassy in Tel Aviv said: "In view of the prevailing situation in the region, all Indian nationals in Israel are advised to stay vigilant and adhere to the safety protocols as advised by the local authorities." It also asked all Indian nationals to register with the embassy."Please exercise caution, avoid unnecessary travel within the country and stay close to safety shelters. The embassy is closely monitoring the situation and remains in regular touch with the Israeli authorities to ensure the safety of all our nationals," it said.Meanwhile, an Indian naval fleet has berthed at Iran's southern port city of Bandar Abbas for a joint exercise with the Iranian Navy in the Persian Gulf's waters, according to Iranian news outlet Mehr News.

Even as this controversy was rocking the Congress government in Karnataka, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) in Telangana has exposed quite a few irregularities and scams allegedly involving Chief Minister A

Revanth Reddy's brothers and relatives. The BRS had first demanded an explanation from the State government for signing a Rs.1,000 crore MoU with Swachh Bio, just 16 days after the company was floated on July 21. The catch here was that the company was floated with the Chief Minister's brother Jagadeeshwar Reddy Anumula as one of its directors.

BRS leader Manne Krishank said Revanth Reddy had misused the US visit to benefit his brothers from the Rs.1,000 crore Swachh Bio deal. Apart from the Chief Minister's brother Jagadeeswhar Reddy, another director was Vedavalli Sivananda Reddy, who runs a bar in Uttar Pradesh, he had charged. Former Chennur MLA Balka Suman had come out with documents showing that the Chief Minister's brothers had floated four major firms within a span of three months. Anumula Tirupathi Reddy established Urban Prism Infra LLP, Jagadeeshwar Reddy set up Swachh Biogreen and Krishna Reddy floated two companies - R9 constructions and RNine Properties, he said, raising doubts over the timing of establishment of these companies.

Jagga Reddy Condemns False Trolls Against Konda Surekha, Demands Apology from KTR



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Hyderabad: Congress leader Jagga Reddy has strongly condemned the inappropriate trolling targeting BRS leader Konda Surekha, calling out the lack of action by the ruling party leaders. He questioned whether leaders like KCR and KTR would remain silent when women who have supported them are subjected to such disrespect.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SYED AFSAR S/O SYED AMEER (old name) born on 04-06-1976 at Nirmal earlier was Holding Passport No. J3451114 Dt: 24-02-2011 hereby Changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as SYED AFSAR MOHIUDDIN S/O SYED AMEER name) H.No. 7-2-83/54-1 (new Indranagar, Nirmal-504106 Telangana State.

DECLARANT. SYED AFSAR MOHIUDDIN S/O SYED AMEER Place: Nirmal

Date : 01-10-2024

INDIAN CHRONICLE

Indian Chronicle English Daily Curb cyber slavery

THE lethal cocktail of human trafficking and bercrime has taken its toll on tens of thousands of ndians, who are trapped in Southeast Asian countries and are being forced to commit cyber fraud and other legal activities. No less alarming is the fact that these ersons are luring their own compatriots into investing n dubious cryptocurrency schemes. Around 30,000 of he 73,000-odd Indians who travelled to Cambodia Fhailand, Myanmar and Vietnam on a visitor visa from anuary 2022 to May 2024 are yet to return; more than alf of these 'cyber slaves' are in the 20-39 age group, while Punjab tops the statewise list of missing persons, ollowed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. The modus perandi of illegal recruitment agencies is rather simple: ob-seekers from India are offered 'lucrative' posts of ata entry and call centre operators; once they reach heir destination, their passports are taken away and hey have no option but to do under duress what their mployers want. The inter-ministerial panel set up by he Centre to look into the matter has reportedly identiied gaps in the banking, immigration and telecom secors; thus, inter-departmental cooperation is the need of the hour to tackle this menace. At long last, the Union linistry of Telecommunications has decided to disconect around two crore mobile connections that were rocured on the basis of forged documents or are beng misused for cybercrime.Such is the audacity of cyber raudsters that they managed to dupe renowned inustrialist SP Oswal of Rs 7 crore. Crime control is vially important, but it must go hand in hand with a reality heck. The desperation of Indians to take up jobs in ther developing countries runs counter to the country's eputation of being the world's fastest-growing major conomy. The lofty goal of Viksit Bharat will remain a pipe dream if domestic job opportunities fail to meet he needs and aspirations of skilled young people

How Sudarshan Rangamanch pioneered intimate storytelling in Pune

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

As the lights flickered eerily and scary music began to play, the hall screamed in horror. A supernatural being was haunting a group of boys in the play, Anathema, but the audience felt that the horror was among them. If the audience felt the fear personally, it was because a small theatre in the heart of Pune, Sudarshan Rangamanch, is designed for intimate shows.Pune was well-known for large musicals and grand performances, with halls like the 1,000-seater Bal Gandharva Ranga Mandir on JM Road urging artists to think big. Sudarshan Rangamanch does the exact opposite. It exults in minute stories and encourages experiments and offbeat ideas. Today, Pune has a number of intimate spaces, such as the black box theatres - The Box and Shreeram Lagoo Rang-Avakash - but this history was started at Sudarshan Rangamanch.

Most of us are familiar with the proscenium theatre, with its permanent stage and seating areas. A space like Sudarshan Rangamanch empowered artists to let their imaginations fly. Audiences could be seated around the stage or in any other pattern depending on the storytelling. Actors were no longer restricted to the stage but could wander among the people. Thanks to the limited seating of intimate spaces, artists did not worry about costs, audience footfalls, or even political correctness. In Pune, before Sudarshan was started in 2003, artists used school halls and a space called Snehasadan, but these spaces were not meant for theatre primarily.theatre Pune has a number of intimate spaces, such as the black box theatres - The Box and Shreeram Lagoo Rang-Avakash but this history was started at Sudarshan Rangamanch. 'Sudarshan Rangamanch started the experimental theatre movement in the city as it allows us to do different experiments on a smaller scale. The other spaces were, in some way, a little out of reach commercially for experimental theatre. Sudarshan was viable as we had the freedom to experiment and it was affordable. We were able to create a lot of different kinds of plays on different subjects because of the smaller audience capacity. There is a lot at stake if I have to fill an 800-seater auditorium. Theatre makers need flexibility because they are experimenting with subjects or forms and you are not sure what kind of response the play will get. Sudarshan lets us have an audience of 100 and 125 and play around with content and form," said Rupali Bhave, actor and co-creator of The Box.One of her plays, Kajvyancha Gaon, directed by the other co-founder of The Box, Pradeep Vaidyya, was intimate to the point of being immersive, in which the cast was performing in the middle of the audience. "It debuted at Sudarshan. We did around 40-50 shows of this play," said Bhave.In December 2016, actor-director Niranjan Pednekar chose Sudarshan Rangamanch to present The Naked Room, a play that adopted the Meisner technique in which performers work with their organic impulses rather than rehearsed actions. "The setting of the play is important. It takes place in an isolated space from where actors are supposed to find their way out. There will be an anchor who will manipulate the situation staying in the frame of rules given by the writer. Audiences will also be actively involved. The actors have to find the key to unlock the auditorium and may be vulnerable at some point. Music tracks will also be as spontaneous as actors. Spontaneity will play a pivotal role in this experiment," the director had before the show.seating Thanks to the limited seating of intimate spaces, artists did not worry about costs, audience footfalls, or even political correctnessSudarshan Rangamanch has been the lab for many present-day stalwarts, such as Mohit Takalkar, Pednekar, and the Theatron group. It is still the space many of them turn to with their experiments. Satchel-carrying students and die-hard art lovers form the core audience, queuing up to watch stellar works at affordable prices.Sudarshan means sameep (close) in Marathi. "My family owned a building in Shaniwar Peth. Dr Ravindra Damle, Pramod Kale and I, who were members of Maharashtra Culture Centre (MCC), came up with the idea of setting up a theatrical space with all the facilities available such as lights and acoustics. We named this space Sudarshan Rangamanch," said Shubhangi Damle, an eminent performer. The founders were convinced that rentals should be subsidised because experimental performers rarely have deep pockets."The only drawback of Sudarshan Rangamanch was the height of the hall. A well-known Mumbai organisation, Avishkar, promised to perform every month at Sudarshan Rangamanch, to help it get started.

Cameras installed on Mumbai Trans Harbour Link fail to detect traffic violations; transport dept recommends upgrade



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

The Maharashtra transport transport department has recently found that the cameras that are part of the intelligent traffic management system (ITMS) on the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), also known as Atal Sethu or incapable of detecting violations, such as speeding. The department has now requested Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) to upgrade the system to match the standards of ITMS installed on Mumbai-Pune highway so that the regional transport office would be able to penalise offenders.A senior transport official explained that they ran vehicles on the Atal Sethu sea bridge at speeds beyond the permissible limit during the test. Unfortunately, the cameras installed on the bridge were unable to capture the violations.

When asked about any mandate requiring the implementation of ITMS, the official clarified that while there is no such compulsion on MMRDA or other authorities, the system is being promoted as a key safety measure. On MTHL the speed limit is 100kmph and while ascending and descending the flyover, the speed limit is 40 kmph.The official further added that although the current cameras provide real-time monitoring and ensure the safety of commuters, they lack the capability to detect serious traffic violations like speeding, driving without seatbelts, using mobile phones while driving, lane-cutting, and driving on the wrong side of the road. Due to these limitations, the ITMS certification has not been granted, preventing the issuance of traffic challans for violators.A robust ITMS, equipped with artificial intelligence, can detect up to 15 types of traffic offences. The MMRDA will be advised to upgrade the system to detect at least 7 to 8 types of violations.

An official from the agency responsible for operating and maintaining the MTHL confirmed that the cameras could be reconfigured to meet the necessary requirements for detecting violations. While the original ITMS contract with MMRDA included a provision for identifying speeding, further upgrades will likely be made after consultations with the authority accordingly.No penalty has been issued for traffic violations on Atal Setu (MTHL) ever since it was opened to the public in January. Currently, motorists using the bridge only receive alerts for insufficient FASTag balances and prohibited stopping. With ITMS certification, the Regional Transport Office (RTO) would be able to issue challans for traffic violations. The 21.8-km sea bridge, the longest in the country with 16 km stretching over water, has significantly cut travel the time between South Mumbai and Navi Mumbai by up to an hour. According to MMRDA, over 50 lakh vehicles used the bridge between January 13 and August

Junior doctors go on strike at West Bengal hospital, allege attack by deceased patient's kin



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

junior DoctorsMeanwhile, junior doctors at other state-run medical colleges and hospitals in West Bengal held agitations in solidarity with fellow junior doctors of Sagore Dutta Medical College and Hospital. Junior doctors at Sagore Dutta Medical College and Hospital in Kamarhati near Kolkata Saturday started a cease-work protest after health workers at the institute were allegedly attacked by the kin of a deceased patient.

Junior doctors complained that the family members of a patient Friday entered the women's ward and attacked health workers following the death of the patient and the police personnel posted at the newly established police outpost at the hospital took 30 minutes to arrive at the scene. The cease-work has disrupted outpatient and emergency services at the government-run hospital."Around 10-12 relatives of the patient entered the ward at 4:30 pm yesterday (Friday). Most of them were men. They harassed and abused the doctors and health workers on duty," said a junior doctor.A woman can be seen attacking doctors and other health workers with a plate-like object in CCTV footage recorded at the hospital.Four people have been arrested in connection with the attack, but the junior doctors said they will continue their agitation until they get a "safe place to work".

Recalling the movement for justice for the RG Kar rape-murder victim, a junior doctor at the Sagore Dutta Medical College and Hospital said, "We were given various promises by the administration regarding hospital security (to lift the cease-work)."Meanwhile, junior doctors at other state-run medical colleges and hospitals in West Bengal held agitations in solidarity with fellow junior doctors of Sagore Dutta Medical College and Hospital. Sources said a decision on whether to start a ceasework over the issue at all such institutes in West Bengal could be made later.Notably, the junior doctors agitating over the RG Kar incident had partially lifted their ceasework protest only last week.

Basmati growers dump crop in front of Amritsar DC office, allege private firms are paying lesser rates than last year



IIMA student's death: No evidence of abetment to suicide yet, say police

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Days after 24-year-old MBA student Akshith Bhukya was found dead inside his hostel room at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) in a suspected case of suicide, the police have said that prima facie, they have not found anything to suggest that there was abetment to suicide. Akshith's father Hemant Bhukya had, in a written complaint to the Vastrapur police, requested them to look into allegations that the second-year student had been pressured and threatened by a senior female administrative staffer at the prestigious institute, leading to his untimely death. However, The Indian Express has learnt that the police investigation into this complaint has not found any evidence yet that supports the allegations. "This case still remains an accidental death," a police official said. According to the police, Akshith was heading the coordination committee of The Red Brick Summit (TRBS), IIMA's annual management symposium. The committee had brought sponsorship from a thirdparty firm. "The company was going to hold an advance event for the same as part of the deal. However, this company allegedly used an IIMA logo in their promotional material and uploaded it on Instagram and other social media platforms. This rankled senior officials of the premier institute," an investigating officer connected with the case told The Indian Express.

The investigation officer said that one of the senior female employees on the administration side of the IIMA told another member of the coordination committee that the company did not have the authority to use the IIMA



it down from social media and cancel the event."Following this reaction from IIMA, the firm deleted the posts from the promotional material and the event was cancelled. The entire controversy had ended by September 20 by which time the event was cancelled, Later on, this senior female staff texted a member of the coordination committee saying that they should be more careful in the future, especially regarding the use of the IIMA logo by third parties," the police officer said.All the coordination committee members continued to work on the TRBS main event. Police officials said they spoke to students involved in this committee who said that they were all planning the events together till 11.45 pm on September 25. Further, they were also in communication with Akshith till 10.30 am on September 26. Akshith's digital devices like his mobile phone and laptops will be sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) on Monday but the police said logo in its promotional material. They were asked to pull they do not expect the results to come back anytime soon.

Chowpatty's iconic Crystal restaurant expands its glow to Fort; here's what's new



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Located in Windsor Chambers on Cawasji Patel Street, the 54-seater restaurant presents itself in a chic, modern avatar. The décor features a muted colour palette, large glass windows, and well-cushioned ivory chairs against white walls, one of which is painted with icons of Mumbai. Adding a pop of colour are an orange counter with a coffee machine and blue sofas. Connecting the new with the old, vintage diamond-cut glass handi lamps hang from the ceiling, and photos of yesteryear films like Jewel Thief, Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi, and Barsaat accompany the soothing tunes of Mohammad Rafi and Mehboob.Crystal Inside Crystal restaurant in Fort. On the wall above cash counter is a photo of its founder Kamal Khanna and his wife Rita whose recipes continue to be crowd favourites. "We wanted to offer the same environment but in a more chic avatar," said Eshaa Mehra, who joined her mother Poonam and brother Sanket last year to carry forward the family legacy. Eshaa is also the reason behind Crystal's newfound presence on Instagram. "Everything else remains the same-from the quality and taste of our food to the warmth people have associated with Crystal.

On a rainy Friday afternoon, lawyers, bankers, and brokers from the neighbourhood queued patiently outside, eager for Crystal's hearty thalis or a range of a-lacarte options. We ordered the deluxe thali (Rs 315), which featured perfectly cooked dal fry, creamy paneer masala, aloo gobhi that could benefit from a bit less salt, and rice, served with soft, ghee-laden phulkas, roasted papad, and the dessert of the day. The new location also offers a variety of tandoori appetisers and breads, with the Paneer Kalimirchi Tikka (Rs 235) being a must-try.

Kamal Khanna's journey-a man who dedicated his life to Crystal—has been well-documented, but few know that before the restaurant, and its predecessor café, there was a saree shop."It was called Eastern Emporium,"

shared Poonam, who took over the restaurant in 2015 after her father Kamal Khanna's demise. "In the late 1940s, my father and grandfather (Shivlal Khanna) came to Mumbai from Amritsar. They started a saree shop, which doubled as their home at night when they would spread bedding on the floor to sleep, until they found a permanent place to live." The remnants of this past are still visible, with Eastern Emporium still etched on the signboard outside Chowpatty outpost.A few years later, in 1951, Kamal started a café serving tea, coffee, sandwiches, bhelpuri, and samosas. About a decade later, he expanded the offerings and transformed it into a full-fledged restaurant serving quality "ghar ka khana" (homemade food) at affordable prices. Dishes like dal tadka, aloo gobhi, baingan bharta, rajma, and their star dish kheer became staples. The aroma of the kheer, prepared fresh each day, would fill the restaurant around noon. We tried the rich kheer (Rs 120) at the Fort outlet and appreciated its perfect sweetness and the subtle flavour of condensed milk.

"The phulkas at that time were priced at Rs 1, and dal fry at Rs 15," Poonam recalled. Crystal soon became a haven for students who had moved to Mumbai for education and were staying in hostels or as paying guests, as well as young professionals and nurses working in the area who craved homemade food. Kamal's connection with his young patrons was so strong that their families would call the restaurant to check on the well-being of their children. The restaurant's recipes belonged to Kamal's wife, Rita. Both Kamal and Rita can be seen in a photo hanging above the cash counter. "Over the years, he would introduce new dishes that my mother made. If his friends and guests liked them, they'd be added to the menu," Poonam explained.Sanket, Poonam's son, began working at the restaurant a few years before she did. "I wasn't interested in my father's garment business, so nanaji asked me to join Crystal," said the 29-yearold.What started as spending an hour or two at the restaurant turned into a passion project. Today, Sanket handles several roles at Crystal, but he emphasises that quality checks receive his utmost attention. "I taste the food twice a day to ensure consistency, and we work with the same staff and vendors. Our masalas come from Amritsar, and our fresh vegetables come from the same vendor who supplied to my nanaji-now his son serves us."Keeping prices affordable was dear to Kamal Khanna, and the Mehras continue to uphold this principle. "We don't cut corners, but we consciously keep our overhead costs low to follow in his footsteps," the family shared, adding that prices at the Fort outlet are only about 10% higher than Chowpatty due to rent

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Members of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee staged a protest on Saturday by dumping their Basmati crop on the roads and around the Deputy Commissioner's office in Amritsar. Farmer activists alleged that private companies are exploiting Basmati farmers by purchasing crops at prices significantly lower than last year's rates. In response, they dumped the Basmati crops as a symbol of protest against the unfair pricing and raised slogans against the government."We are dumping Basmati because we are not receiving the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for our crops. Farmers are demanding a law that guarantees MSP for all crops. This demand has intensified due to the severe exploitation of Basmati varieties 1509 and 1692 in the markets this season," said Sarwan Singh Pandher, state leader of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee Punjab.

Pandher, along with district leader Mangjeet Singh Sidhwan, criticized the ongoing exploitation of farmers by private players. "The current attempt to mislead farmers by promoting the connection between agriculture and market economy as beneficial has been exposed. Private players are purchasing Basmati at half its price, leaving farmers at a massive loss. Currently, the price of Basmati ranges between Rs 2,000 and Rs 2,400, compared to last year's price of Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,000. This has resulted in a direct loss of Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 per acre for each farmer. While producers are forced to sell at low prices, consumers will still be paying high prices for Basmati rice in the market," Pandher said.He further claimed, "The Punjab government had earlier assured that if the price of Basmati dropped below Rs 3,200, it would compensate for the difference. However, the government has remained silent in the current situation. The central government should stop exploiting the people of Punjab, especially when Basmati is fetching full prices in the international market. Why is Punjab's Basmati being unfairly targeted? The Punjab government must immediately intervene and provide the promised support to farmers.

2 motorcycle-borne men open fire at Delhi sweet shop

GNS News Agency, Oct 2According to the initial reports, the assailants arrived at the shop 'Roshan Halwai', near Sultanpur Mod around 9.30 am and fired several rounds damaging the property, officials at Nangloi police station said.

The police have recovered three empty cartridge cases and two live rounds from the spot. Eyewitnesses have described the assailants as "two men in muffled face"





Ranga Reddy

How a 2-second chat caught on tape saw Mangaluru cops crack horrific murder of a woman in 2019



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

It was the night of May 12, 2019. In the idyllic coastal town of Mangaluru in Karnataka, Police Inspector Mahesh M had returned home after his night shift and decided to take a quick nap. Within minutes, however, he received a phone call from the police station. A fruit vendor had discovered a woman's head in a bag. Over the next few hours, the police would find the woman's body parts strewn across Mangaluru, setting off an investigation into a horrific murder that shocked the city.Now police inspector, intelligence, Mahesh remembers how the events unfolded. Somesh, who ran a roadside fruit shop on National Highway 66 for 20 years, discovered the woman's head. It was placed inside a bag and discarded along the Udupi-Mangaluru road. A helmet covered the head, recalls Mahesh.

"At this point, we did not know where the other body parts were. The person was yet to be identified. All we knew was that it was a woman and she had been decapitated," he says. A few minutes later, the police control room received another call saying that the residents near a Christian cemetery had found the torso of a body. The police rushed to the spot. By then, a few stray dogs had eaten some body parts and the police scoured the area, looking for other missing parts. As the search continued, the control room passed on another message. Some passersby had reported finding legs by the roadside, a few kilometres away from the cemetery. The police collected all the mangled body pieces and shifted them to Wenlock District Hospital. A message was also passed to the control room asking officials to check if any woman had been reported missing. Around this time, Kishore Shetty approached Mangaluru South police station saying his sister Shrimathi Shetty, 39, was missing. "He shared a photo of his sister. When we took him to the mortuary, he identified Shrimati," a police officer said.

A Mangaluru resident, 39-year-old Shrimathi Shetty used to run a chit business and an electronics shop, Polali Electricals, in the Kankanady area of the city. Shrimathi was married but was estranged from her husband. Though not legally separated, she had started living with another person named Sudeep, the police found. However, due to disputes, she broke up with him too."Shrimathi's husband and Sudeep were our first suspects. We questioned her husband and he said he had not been in touch with Shrimathi for a long time. Sudeep was lodged in a Mangaluru jail in a theft case. When a police team interrogated him, Sudeep said he had lost contact with Shrimathi long back," says Mahesh.After checking the call details record (CDR) and intelligence inputs, the police were convinced that both men did not have any role in Shrimathi's murder. The police then went to Shrimathi's shop and detained two employees. "They said that Shrimathi did not have any enemies," says Mahesh. The police began checking the list of people who had borrowed money from Shrimathi."We also tried to figure out Shrimathi's daily routine to know what time she went to work and what time she returned home. Shrimathi's body parts were discovered on May 12 but we did not know when she had been murdered," a police officer said. The 2-second CCTV footage that revealed the killerWhile tracing Shrimathi's movements on May 11, 2019, the police found that she had left her home in the morning and reached her shop by 9 am. Her employees Nagaraj Naik and Venkesha confirmed this.As the police began scanning footage from more than 100 CCTV cameras, at around 9.09 am, Shrimati was spotted heading towards Sooterpete on her two-wheeler. As she passed the St Antony Hardware shop, she stopped briefly, turned back and spoke to a man on a two-wheeler, the footage showed.

Both left the area after the less-than-two-second interaction. Shrimathi's movements could not be tracked from this point. The person last seen conversing with Shrimathi thus became a person of interest. The police identified him as Jhonas Samson, a 35-year-old kebab vendor. When the police cross-checked Shrimathi's list of borrowers, they found a name - 'Jonesh'. The police believed they were getting close to cracking the case.Suspects arrested, motive revealedOn May 14, 2019, the police reached Samson's house but as soon as he saw them, he allegedly attempted to die by suicide. The police then entered the house by breaking the roof tiles and admitted Samson to Father Muller Hospital. After prolonged questioning, Samson allegedly confessed.According to a police officer, Samson ran a kebab shop near Mangaluru beach. He had taken a loan of Rs 33,500 from Shrimathi and owed her Rs 16,000. Shrimathi used to ask Samson about the dues in public and once allegedly abused him in front of his friends.On May 11, 2019, Shrimathi was heading towards Samson's residence when she spotted him, the police learnt. "We asked him about the two-second conversation between them. Samson said that Shrimathi was heading to his residence and he told her that he would reach home in two minutes," says Mahesh. According to a police officer, in his statement to the police, Samson said that when Shrimati reached his house and insisted he repay the money, she was abusive in front of his wife Victoria Mathias (47). This did not go well with Samson. In a fit of rage, Samson hit Shrimathi twice with a wooden plank.Samson and Victoria then cut Shrimati's body into several pieces inside their bathroom and scattered the body parts across the city, a police officer said. Later, Samson allegedly kept Shrimati's mobile phone inside her two-wheeler and parked it near a police station. Victoria cleaned the house and left for her sister's house, the officer added.Samson and Victoria were arrested on May 15, 2019. The police found 42 injuries on Shrimathi's body. A chargesheet was filed with 48 witness statements. With the Covid-19 pandemic affecting the court process, the trial in the case began on July 14, 2022. On September 13 this year, the first additional district and sessions court of Dakshina Kannada sentenced the couple to life imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 25,000.

5 of family found dead in Delhi's Vasant Kunj, cops suspect suicide

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Vasant Kunj suicideThe police were alerted by the landlord, Nitin Chauhan, who reported that the tenants in



ED seeks details of Rs 100-cr cyber fraud' case from SIT, Punjab police



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

The alleged cyber fraud case had come to light after Punjab Police Inspector Amanjot Kaur wrote a letter to the Punjab DGP on August 28, alleging that some influential people were involved in the scam and the investigation should be transferred out of Mohali district. The alleged cyber fraud case had come to light after Punjab Police Inspector Amanjot Kaur wrote a letter to the Punjab DGP on August 28, alleging that some influential people were involved in the scam and the investigation should be transferred out of Mohali district. (File)The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has sought the details of the Rs 100 crore alleged cyber fraud case from the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and the district police.

Sources confirmed to The Indian Express that the ED had written a letter to the Punjab Police seeking the record related to the case and details of all the accused in the alleged scam. Seeing the amount of money involved and people involved in the crime from other countries, the case comes under the ED's purview. The record was sought from the police around 10 days ago. "It is not only a matter of financial fraud. It also involves national security. The ED investigates such cases," a source told

The Indian Express. The police are learnt to have sent the record to the central agency. A SIT, headed by Additional Director General of Police V Neerja, is probing the case. Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav had formed the SIT earlier this month.

ADGP Neerja, however, denied any knowledge of the ED's letter. She s that she had not seen the letter and probably the district police of Mohali might have been asked for sending the record. The alleged cyber fraud case had come to light after Punjab Police Inspector Amanjot Kaur wrote a letter to the Punjab DGP on August 28, alleging that some influential people were involved in the scam and the investigation should be transferred out of Mohali district. She demanded the investigation should either be handed over to the State Cyber Cell or the Bureau of Investigation.A SIT formed by the then Senior Superintendent of Police, Mohali, Dr Sandeep Garg, was probing the case but Inspector Amanjot Kaur, who busted the scam in January, and was in-charge of the district police's cyber cell, alleged that some of her senior officers threatened her and asked her to stay away from the case.On January 9, when Inspector Kaur was posted as in-charge of District Cyber Cell, she busted a call centre which was being allegedly operated from a house in Sector 108. An FIR under relevant sections of the Information Technology Act and Indian Penal Code was lodged against the alleged call centre owner Varinder Raj Kapooria, Sanket, Sonu, Rajat Kapoor and Nikhil Kapil.Also, the Mohali district court in April ordered registration of an FIR against Inspector Amanjot Kaur after a petitioner, Palak Dev, filed an application under Section 156(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) alleging that the officer had demanded a bribe of Rs 25 lakh from them. However, the district court's orders were stayed by the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The next date of hearing is October 16.

Punjab to have 37 paddy straw pelletisation units by Nov: PPCB

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Despite resistance from brick kiln owners in Punjab who are hesitant to use paddy straw-based pellets as a subsitute to coal in the brick kiln industry without conducting their own trials, the state is moving ahead with establishing crop residue-based pelletisation plants. Currently, 18 plants are operational, and another 19 are in the pipeline, expected to be completed by November by which time the paddy harvesting would also be completed, according to Pollution Control Board (PPCB) Chairman Adarsh Pal Vig. These plants are expected to play a significant role in reducing stubble burning and fossil fuel consumption.

Collectively, he said, these plants are projected to consume 8.263 lakh tonnes of paddy straw annually, with the existing units already utilising 3.23 lakh tonnes. This process will produce approximately 6.61 lakh tonnes of pellets. These pellets, made from agriculture residue/ paddy straw, can be used not only in thermal power plants but also in brick kilns. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, has issued guidelines for financial assistance to establish paddy straw-based pelletisation and torrefaction plants and is offering a onetime financial subsidy to set up paddy pellet-making/biomass pellet units under a scheme aimed at reducing stubble burning and promoting alternative energy sources.Last year, the Punjab Department of Science, Technology, and Environment had issued a notification instructing brick kilns to replace 20% of their coal usage with paddy straw-based pellets, effective May 1, 2023. However, kiln owners want to conduct trials in four kilns to assess the practical and economic feasibility before making the switch. They have taken the matter to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, citing the need for additional experimentation despite previous trials conducted by the Department of Science and Technology in some brick kilns. Financial and operational aspectsThe estimated cost for a one-tonne-per-hour (TPH) capacity plant is Rs 70 lakh, with Rs 28 lakh provided as a one-time subsidy by the CPCB. The remaining costs, including land, are to be borne by the plant owner. The plants, which can vary in size (spread in 1.5 to 5 acres), include facilities for paddy straw bale storage, grinding, mixing, pelletisation, and cooling. Sukhdev Singh, Environment Enginner, PPCB,-cum-State Nodal Officer of this scheme said that most of the pelletisation units would be operational by November and paddy straw is being collected through



baling in Amritsar area currently where the harvesting of early variety of rice is taking place.Vig also expressed optimism about the scheme, noting strong interest from local entrepreneurs. PPCB Member Secretary Krunesh Garg highlighted the mandate requiring thermal power plants, especially those near Delhi, to replace 5 per cent of traditional fuel with paddy straw pellets. Several thermal plants in Punjab have already adopted this practice. Garg said that the state will be able to utilise over 8 lakh tonnes of paddy straw for pellet production this year. Approximately bales of 5 million tonnes of paddy straw are expected to be processed through the ex-situ method, compared to 3 million tonnes in 2023. Of this, 10 lakh tonnes will be consumed in biomass power plants. 8 lakh tonnes in pelletisation plants, and the remaining 32 lakh tonnes in boilers. He said this creates much less pollution compared to usage of coal.While the government is pushing for it, kiln owners remain hesitant. They argue that before the state mandates a 20% replacement of traditional fuel with paddy straw pellets, experimental trials are needed in their kilns.Punjab has nearly 2,000 operational kilns. Several kilns got shut in the past few years, and if they replace 20% of fuel with paddy straw pellets, then they will consume around 6 lakh tonnes of paddy straw. Ramesh Mohi, President of the Punjab Brick Kiln Owners' Association, raised concerns over the economic viability of paddy straw pellets. He pointed out that the gross calorific value (GCV) of paddy straw pellets is only 3,500 kcal (kilocalorie) per tonne, compared to 7,200 kcal per tonne for coal. As a result, the cost of using paddy straw pellets would be significantly higher - requiring two tonnes of pellets, compared to one tonne of coal.Punjab is expected to generate 19.5 to 20 million tonnes of paddy straw this year. Of this, the state plans to manage 12.70 million tonnes through in-situ methods, incorporating the straw back into the soil.

Flat C-4 had not opened the door for several days.Five members of a family were found dead at their rented apartment in South West Delhi's Rangpuri on Friday. All five are suspected to have died by suicide, the police said.

The police were alerted by the landlord, Nitin Chauhan, who reported that the tenants in Flat C-4 had not opened the door for several days. Chauhan received the information from the building caretaker, Mohan Singh, who noticed a foul smell emanating from the flat during routine cleaning. After several unsuccessful attempts to contact the family, Chauhan made a PCR call to the authorities at 10:18 am on Friday. The door, which was bolted from the inside, was eventually forced open with the assistance of the local fire brigade.Upon entering the two-room apartment, the police found Heeralal Sharma dead in one room, while the bodies of his four daughters were discovered in the other. The initial probe has found no signs of external injuries. The police said that the relatives and neighbours of Heeralal Sharma told them that his wife had passed away from cancer about a year ago. He worked as a carpenter at the Indian Spinal Injury Centre in Vasant Kunj for the last 28 years but had stopped attending work since January. Two of his daughters, Neeru and Nidhi, were differently-abled.

Relatives who arrived at the scene, including Heeralal Sharma's brother Mohan Sharma and sister-inlaw Gudiya Sharma, stated that Heeralal Sharma had become increasingly isolated after his wife's passing, devoting most of his time to caring for his daughters and rarely engaging with others. Neighbours confirmed that the family had last been seen on September 24.Teams from the crime branch, forensic experts from Rohini and Lodhi Road, and senior doctors from Safdarjung Hospital were called to examine the bodies and the scene, said the police. While no definitive cause of death has been established, post-mortem examinations will be conducted by a medical board as part of the ongoing investigation, they added.

Bengaluru cybercrime gang with Chinese links busted, police suspect accused defrauded more than Rs 6 crore

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

The arrests were made after a victim approached the North CEN police and filed a complaint on July 3 that he was cheated of Rs 25.37 lakh between June 20 and July 1. bengaluruThe arrests were made after a victim approached the North CEN police and filed a complaint on July 3 that he was cheated of Rs 25.37 lakh between June 20 and July 1. The Bengaluru police recently busted a city-based cybercrime gang with Chinese links. The police said the gang used to offer 'tasks' to unsuspecting victims, lure them into investing in cryptocurrency, and then siphon off the money. The gang is suspected to have defrauded people of more than Rs 6 crore.On Friday, B Dayananda, Police Commissioner, Bengaluru City, announced that 10 members of the gang have been arrested. The accused have been identified as Sayed Yayha, 33; Mohammed Umar Faruk, 32; Mohammed Maheen, 20; Mohammed Muzammil, 21; Tejas, 28; Chethan, 25; Wasim Akram, 29; Mohammed Syed Zaid, 22; Sahi Abdul Anan, 22; and Om Prakash, 29. All are residents of RT Nagar in Bengaluru.

The police have learnt that Faruk worked briefly with Apple, Zaid with Amazon Retail, and Chetan with Vivo. The police have seized 122 passbooks, 130 debit cards, 89 SIM cards, 72 mobile phones, two laptops, and several other documents from the accused. They also froze Rs 7.34 lakh in bank accounts.Dayananda said when they checked the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP), they discovered that 122 cases in 21 states including nine from Karnataka were pointing to the involvement of this cybercrime gang. The arrests were made after a victim approached the North CEN police and filed a complaint on July 3 that he was cheated of Rs 25.37 lakh between June 20 and July 1. According to a police officer, the victim was contacted by an unknown person on WhatsApp with a job offer to earn money from home by completing certain online tasks. The victim was added to a Telegram group, told to rate hotels, and given around Rs 400 per day for the reviews. Thereafter, he was lured to invest in cryptocurrency on the promise of higher returns. Believing it, the victim invested and got cheated.

The police found that the money was deposited in four bank accounts and withdrawn from several ATMs. The police initially arrested seven people and while questioning them found out that Yayha, Faruk, and Maheen had flown to China on September 3 to meet the kingpin of the gang. The police issued a Look Out Circular (LOC) against the three and arrested them after they landed at the Bengaluru International Airport on September 15.

The investigation has revealed that the accused were contacted on the Telegram app and offered a 2 per cent commission once the defrauded money was converted into cryptocurrency and transferred to the Chinese boss. The defrauded money was often also transferred to mule accounts.

Kerala CPI(M) draws the line, snaps ties with MLA who took on CM Vijayan

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Kerala's ruling CPI(M) Friday said it has snapped all ties with the party-backed independent legislator P V Anvar, who has been regularly targeting the state's Left government and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The action came a day after Anvar mounted a direct attack on Vijayan, saying he would be the last chief minister from the party. Responding to the party's decision, the Nilambur MLA described it as a "sinking ship".CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan Friday told reporters in New Delhi that Anvar was not willing to "correct himself". "He abandoned his status as a member of the CPI(M) parliamentary party. The party has severed its ties with Anvar. He remains an independent legislator," he said. The two-time legislator, once a darling of the CPI(M), had last month unleashed a political storm in the state by raising allegations against Vijayan's political secretary, P Sasi, and the Additional Director General of Police (law and secretary) M R Ajith Kumar on matters related to the Home Department, which is under the chief minister. The issue snowballed as the Congress-led Opposition targeted Vijayan for allegedly "shielding" the senior IPS officer, who had held meetings with national RSS leaders. The CPI(M) as well as the chief minister had rejected Anvar's demand to shunt out Sasi and Ajith Kumar. Anvar told reporters in Nilambur on Friday: "I have always been outside the party. The ship (party) is going to sink. I was trying to convince them about it. From now... I am not afraid of anyone. I will be answerable to the people only."Govindan said: "He has turned into a weapon in the hands of right-wing political parties and media, which are out to damage the party and the government. All those who love the CPI(M) should come

out against this approach of Anvar, who does not have any idea about the party or its organisational set-up."Soon after Govindan's remarks, CPI(M) workers hit the streets in Malappuram district, including Anvar's Nilambur constituency, to protest against the leader. The workers raised slogans and burned Anvar's effigy. Party workers took out similar protests elsewhere in Kerala, too.

Anvar has been representing Nilambur since 2016. The CPI(M) had fielded him as a party-backed independent in the constituency, which had been held by Congress heavyweight Aryadan Muhammed for more than three decades. The experiment with Anvar, a former Congress leader, helped CPI(M) wrest the seat.Govindan said Anvar could not become a member of the party despite his long years of association. "The government has entrusted the state police chief to look into the complaints raised by him. Besides, three politburo members of the party also assured him that his grievances will be looked into. Yet, he went to the media violating the discipline," said Govindan.A month back, Anvar had described the CM's political secretary as a "total failure" and dubbed him as a "confidant who lands the chief minister in trouble". He had also alleged that ADGP (law and order) Ajith Kumar had connived with the RSS to spoil this year's Thrissur Pooram, eventually contributing to the BJP's win in the Lok Sabha election from the Thrissur seat.Vijayan's confidant Sasi is the main link between the party and the government, mainly in matters relating to the Home Department. The CPI(M)'s partner in the ruling LDF alliance, CPI, had also taken up Anvar's allegation that ADGP Ajith Kumar had conspired with the RSS to spoil the Thrissur Pooram.





JPC meet over Waqf Bill amendments held

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Waqf Bill, JPC meet, Waqf Amendment Bill, Joint Parliamentary Committee, JPC meeting boycott, Gujarat government, waqf bill nationwide consultations, Indian express newsMinister Harsh Sanghavi attended the meeting in Ahmedabad. Opposing the Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, and demanding its withdrawal, Mufti Shabbir Ahmed Siddiqui, the Imam of Shahi Jama Masjid Mosque in Ahmedabad, boycotted the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) meeting to protest against "exclusion of his committee members". The panel was in Ahmedabad on Friday to meet representatives of Gujarat government, individuals and other bodies and organisations as part of nationwide consultations on the bill

The Gujarat Coordination Committee for Waqf Amendment Bill, 2024, an umbrella body of 14 associations including Jamiat-Ulema-I-Hind, All India Muslim Majlis-E-Mushawarat, World Bharuchi Vohara Federation, Ahmedabad Sunni Muslim Waqf Committee, Minority Coordination Committee, Anjuman-E-Talimul

Muslimeen, Associations of Muslim Professionals and Surat Ansari Jamat, submitted 172 pages of suggestions opposing the bill."We oppose the bill, which we have submitted with documents on reasons for opposing it. We have also demanded implementation of 1995 Act in entirety after which there will be no issues," Sagirahmed Ansari, co-ordinator of Gujarat Coordination Committee for Waqf Amendment Bill said.

Gujarat Minister of State for Home, Harsh Sanghavi, represented the state government and presented suggestions at the high-level meeting of the 20-member JPC."Our suggestions are keeping the interests of all citizens in mind. Everyone has welcomed the Centre's decision to amend the Act," Sanghavi said. Sources revealed that a heated argument ensued between AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi and Sanghvi over the Mughal Sarai building case in Surat. "Owaisi inquired about the handover of the site to the Surat Municipal Corporation and requested further information," Congress MLA from Jamalpur Khadia, Imran Khedawala said. He said Sanghvi also raised the issue of Waqf land in Kutch on the Indo-Pakistan border areas. Expressing his opposition to the amendments, he said, "As a government representative (he is also a member of Gujarat Waqf Board) and as an MLA, I opposed the bill today ... I have submitted 14 suggestions," Khedawala said.Mufti Siddiqui said, "Two days ago, names of our committee members were removed from the JPC meeting. They are allowing those who are towing their line. So I decided to boycott the meeting." Representatives of Gujarat Bar Council and individuals from Bharuch and Surat also submitted their suggestions

NGO returns charge of cattle pound to Rajkot civic body over allegations of animal deaths

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Around two years after it took over operations and maintenance of cattle pound of Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) in a first-of-its kind experiment in the state, Jeevdaya Ghar Panjrapole (JGP), a non-government organisation (NGO), on Friday requested the civic body to relieve it from duty starting next week. The request comes in the backdrop of accusations by the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) that an unusually high number of cattle were dying in the pound due to alleged negligence of the JGP. The chairman of standing committee of RMC said the civic body will accept the NGO's request. JGP, the Rajkot-based NGO working for jeevadaya (compassion toward all living forms) and welfare of animals, wrote a formal letter to Rajkot municipal commissioner Devang Desai and requested the civic body to relieve it from the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) duties of the cattle pound from October 6. In the letter, JGP underlined that during the two years that it managed the cattle pound, it spent around Rs 2 crore from its own funds to run the operations. "However, we are pained by a malicious campaign by certain people and baseless and slanderous reports by certain media houses, and we will voluntarily give up the management of cattle pound from October 6," JGP said in the letter.

Earlier, the Gujarat High Court had directed the government to tackle the issue of stray cattle on priority basis. JGP had come forward to help the RMC manage and maintain the cattle pound for which it had signed an MoU with the civic body on October 4, 2022. The MoU was valid for five years. The civic body was providing daily grants amounting to Rs 35 for every calf and Rs 50 for every adult cow or buffalo as daily maintenance grant to JGP while the NGO was responsible for arranging fodder, manpower etc. The Congress and the AAP submitted separate memorandums recently, stating that a high number of animals were dying in the cattle pound. Jaimin Thakar, chairman of the standing committee of RMC,



said:"Jeevdava Ghar is a respected NGO. But there were complaints about the manner in which it was managing the RMC cattle pound. Now that it has requested to give up the management voluntarily, we will accept it and manage the cattle pound on our own by recruiting veterinarians and caretakers."Bhavesh Jakasaniya, veterinary officer of RMC, said that over 700 cattle died during the three months of monsoon beginning June 12. "However, that is a normal average number for monsoon months in any year when the cattle pound has an average 1,200 cattle heads since people abandon their weak and unproductive cattle, which end up here. Mortality rate remains high among such cattle during monsoons due to bad weather," Jakasaniya said. He said there were 1,200 cattle heads in the pound, adding the RMC impounds an average of 20 stray cattle from city roads every day.Jakasaniya said that RMC was paying an average Rs 15 lakh to JGP towards cattle-maintenance grant. But Rajendra Shah, trustee of JGP, said that it was not enough. monun, we used to spend around Hs the fund of our organisation to ensure that the cattle were fed properly. However, some (people with) vested interests ran a malicious campaign against us. Therefore, we have requested the RMC to relieve us from the duty of managing the cattle pound," Shah said.



ished... We have been fighting for this since 2015 when the encroachment was being done but the VMC turned a blind eye to the encroachment back then and did not pay heed to our protests," he said. "The demolition carried out now is nothing but a consequence of VMC's own inaction..." he added.Vadodara Municipal Corporation, VMC demolished encroachment, Agora Mall, Mangal Pandey Road, VMC bulldozer action, Indian express news Agora Mall on Mangal Pandey Road in SamaAmin said that not just Agora Mall but the state government should also ensure that all the zone transfers of lands in Restricted Zone to residential zone should be withdrawn and the river plains opened up to rejuvenate the river. Meanwhile, Congress leader Ami Ravat demanded an inquiry into the conduct of the then VMC officials, including arrest of former municipal commissioner HS Patel.

In a memorandum to the district collector Friday, Ravat said, "An inquiry was set up on this project by then Vadodara district collector Avantika Singh and subsequently VMC was instructed to remove these encroachments but till date no action has been taken on the same. We demand immediate removal of embankment constructed in Vishwamitri river, in view of flooding and water logging in future as well as legal action against the developer Manav Infrastructure, and the government officers who have failed to complete compliance of the Environment Protection Act 1986 as well as then municipal commissioner HS Patel, builder and additional city engineer FJ Charpot for connivance in corruption."The VMC's anti-encroachment department also conducted demolitions in Nizampura, located on the Bhukhi canal. The VMC had conducted a drone and physical survey across the 23 kilometer river course of Vishwamitri, handing out notices to 11 "entities" to voluntarily remove encroachments by Thursday.A VMC official said, "We have begun the work of removing the encroachments identified. Over the next couple of days, all the 11 sites where encroachments have been found will be inspected and whatever part has not been pulled down already, will be removed."Reacting to the development, Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee (GPCC) president Shaktisinh Gohil said, "It is too little too late... If the VMC knew that this was an encroachment that was in the way of the flow of the Vishwamitri, then why was it not broken down until now?" What about the illegality of the entire structure? Why was the three-storey structure allowed to be constructed? If it was done earlier, Vadodara would not have suffered the damage," said Gohil.

'Like dabbawalas, police must seek motivation from satisfaction felt by individuals & family'

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

civic body demolished the clubhouse.

The Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) on Fri-

day demolished the alleged encroachments along Agora

Mall on Mangal Pandey Road in Sama. The VMC action

comes following the end of the 72-hour period awarded

to the Agora Mall developer to "voluntarily" remove the

encroachments after a survey of the town planning de-

partment following the devastating floods witnessed by

Vadodara in August. In 2015, the VMC had allegedly "per-

mitted" the developer to construct an embankment wall

by dumping debris into the ravine of Vishwamitri river

and also construct a club house in the 'disputed area'.

On Friday, the encroachment removal department of the

partnership project to rehabilitate the slum dwellers of

Sanjaynagar and has been in dispute for the alleged

encroachments since 2015 with citizen groups having moved the Gujarat High Court in the matter. On Friday, six

hydraulic bulldozers of the VMC razed the three-storeyed

club house, spread over an area of 3000 square

feet.Representatives of Agora Mall said that they had

managed to remove as much furniture and belongings

from the premises as they could, following the notice

served on Tuesday. The structure also included office

spaces that had been sold and leased out.Advocate

Shailesh Amin of the Vishwamitri Bachao Samiti (VBS),

who has been fighting against the alleged encroachment

by Agora Mall and has also moved a PIL in the high court in his personal capacity, on Friday, said that in order to

The Agora Mall is a part of the VMC's public private

Long hours, work on holidays, standing through the wrath of weather and public service - activist and motivational speaker Dr Pawan Agrawal drew the parallels between Mumbai's Dabbawalas and the traffic police.Talking to The Indian Express, Dr Agrawal said that both are thankless jobs. "The motivation would never come from appreciation, as both are taken for granted. The motivation for police should be what it is for the dabbawalas. Public satisfaction, of individuals and family," he said

On Friday, at an event organised by the Delhi Police at the Police Headquarters in Connaught Place, Dr Agrawal talked about how the Dabbawalas have man-



fic personnel also, be it festivals or the harsh Delhi weather, are always on ground," he said. Some personnel, however, pointed out that administrative differences hamper the efficiency of traffic police in a way it doesn't for the dabbawalas. "The reason the dabba system is so good is that it's a system created by the workers who practice it. They understand what's needed. In the police, the administrative orders come from above," a traffic inspector attending the event said.

Minor son seen driving with state govt escort, Rajasthan Dy CM first brazens it out, then pipes down



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa faced an online backlash after his minor son appeared in a reel on social media driving a modified jeep with a government vehicle tailing him.Bairwa, who is also the Minister for Transport and Road Safety, initially defended his son on Friday stating that there was no wrongdoing as he was with his friends from school. The Rajasthan government vehicle with a police beacon on top, was seen tailing and escorting the jeep. The jeep was driven by Bairwa's son, a minor, on Amber Road in Jaipur. As per the Motor Vehicles Act, "no person under the age of 18 years shall drive a motor vehicle in any public place." The reel showed him with three friends, including the son of a Congress leader.

Following backlash on social media, Bairwa said that since becoming the deputy CM, his son has had opportunities to associate with affluent individuals and see luxury cars and there is nothing wrong with it. "My son is friends with other kids from school. I want to thank the honourable Prime Minister for making someone like me the deputy chief minister of Rajasthan. And after this, if wealthy individuals allow my son to sit with them in their

car and give him a chance to see luxury cars then I am thankful," he said. Bairwa said that his son has not yet attained the age of 18 years and that the vehicle accompanying him was for security purposes. "Where were the rules violated? The (police) vehicle was following the jeep for security, not for escort. If people interpret it differently, that's their perspective but I do not blame my child or his friends. They were just together," he said. However, as Bairwa was further panned on social media for his comments, he later said he expresses his regret over the controversy as he doesn't want the party to be maligned because of him. "He is a child, he is young. Yet, I can say he will not do such a thing and I have advised him against it," Bairwa said. "I don't have a vehicle. There is a jeep in my wife's name which is in the village," he said.

Umeed and SVP launch 'Sahyog-train the trainer' to empower Telangana educators

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Hyderabad: Sahyog, a 'train the trainer' program by Umeed, a nonprofit organization in partnership with the Commissionerate of Collegiate Education, and Social Venture Partners, India-Hyderabad Chapter, was launched here on Friday.

Umeed is a women empowerment and career readiness training organisation working in Telangana for the last 10 years. Led by two women leaders, Udita Chadha and Gauri Mahendra, Umeed has successfully delivered multiple training and empowerment programs across the state.

Sahyog, their second partnership with the Education Department, was launched today at RUSA Resource Center Hyderabad, in the presence of Prof. G. Yadgiri, Joint Director, Prof. DSR Rajendra Singh, Joint Director, Prof. P Bala Bhaskar, Academic Guidance Officer (AGO), Chandrasekhar, TSKC Incharge, Gauri Mahendra, Co-Founder &

aged to make error-free deliveries for the last 134 years, with rarely any misplaced or missed deliveries. "In Mumbai, almost all dabbawalas take the local train. Yet, the trains might get late but they don't. They reach stations 30 minutes in advance to make sure that the deliveries are on time. Availability is key," he said. There has never been a single strike by dabbawalas, despite the low pay and long working hours, he highlighted. "They have never skipped work, even if the city is flooded. Traf-

Delhi University Students' Union Polls: Turnout dips, holiday on election day, HC defacement order likely factors

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

The sprawling campus of Delhi University (DU) normally festooned with posters, pamphlets and graffiti ahead of the student union elections, wore a slightly subdued look on Friday - the polling day. Despite the familiar chaos, the turnout for this year's Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) election - 35.2% - was markedly lower than last year's 42%. By 5.45 pm on Friday evening, only 43,451 students had voted, among the 1.45 lakh eligible across 52 colleges. This year's election saw a mere 40% turnout at Ramjas College by midday. At Hindu College, it was around 36% in the first phase, while at Miranda House, the first phase reported a turnout of just 15%. DUSU polls are held in two phases - one in the morning and the other in the evening.At Ramjas College, students like Anshul Drall, an 18-year-old second-year History honors student, expressed disillusionment with the process. "Many didn't come out to vote because no one sees any change anymore... Last year, they promised us a men's common room. We still haven't gotten one."Delhi University Students' Union Polls, delhi university, dusu elections, DUSU polls voter turnout, delhi university student union election, delhi university, ramjas college, hindu college, miranda house, Indian express news DUSU polls are held in two phases - one in the morning and the other in the evening.At Kirori Mal College, the turnout hovered at 33% in the first phase, down from 36% the previous year. "The voting has been very calm," said Principal Dinesh Khattar. "We haven't seen a huge difference in turnout compared to last year, but it is still lower."The mood at Miranda House was also subdued. Palak Sharma, a third-year B A student, criticised the university's decision to declare a holiday on voting day. "Why would a student travel for hours to come to campus just to vote?" she asked.Principal Bijayalaxmi Nanda of Miranda House noted that the university's decision to make voting day a holiday likely contributed to the low turnout. "Since the university declared a holiday today, not many students have shown up," she said. By mid-afternoon, only 15% of students had cast their ballots at the college.

The turnout may also be tied to the recent legal developments. The Delhi High Court had stayed the counting of votes scheduled for Friday, in response to concerns over the defacement of public and private property by candidates. "The turnout is low compared to last year. This might be because of the court's order delaying the vote count, which could have demotivated students," Ramjas College Principal Ajay Arora said.Delhi University Students' Union Polls, delhi university, dusu elections, DUSU polls voter turnout, delhi university student union election, delhi university, ramjas college, hindu college, miranda house, Indian express news Polling at Ramjas College

At Hindu College, Principal Anju Srivastava attributed the lower turnout to the relative unfamiliarity of firstyear students with campus politics. "The first years have only been on campus for 20 days. They are not attached to campus politics yet or familiar with the system," she said.Dhruvi Deora (21), a student at Ramlal Anand College, said, "We live far away from the main campus... Also, it seems to be worthless to vote for candidates who did not even come to our campus to campaign."Anant Kumar (22), who studies at a college in South Campus, added, "The candidates had completely ignored South Campus... No candidate from ABVP, NSUI or Left came to campaign. People here do not even know the names of the candidates." Meanwhile, alleging irregularities, NSUI national president Varun Choudhary claimed that voting was delayed at several centres. "Voting began late in several colleges, which raises doubts about the integrity of the election," he said in a statement.Ravi Pandey, chairman of media for the NSUI, went a step further. "The DU administration is under pressure by the ABVP and BJP, which is resulting in such instances across campus." However, the university's Chief Election Officer, Satyapal Singh, dismissed these claims. "Voting began everywhere on time. We are noticing a low turnout





Ranga Reddy

before allowing it to resume service



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Brazil's Supreme Court said that social platform X still needs to pay just over USD 5 million in pending fines before it will be allowed to resume its service.Brazil's Supreme Court said on Friday that social platform X still needs to pay just over USD 5 million in pending fines, including a new one, before it will be allowed to resume its service in the country, according to a court document.

Earlier this week, the Elon Musk-owned US firm told the court it had complied with orders to stop the spread of misinformation and asked it to lift a ban on the platform.But Judge Alexandre de Moraes responded on Friday with a

ruling that X and its legal representative in Brazil must still agree to pay a total of 18.3 million reais (USD 3.4 million) in pending fines that were previously ordered by the court. In his decision, the judge said that the court can use resources already frozen from X and Starlink accounts in Brazil, but to do so the satellite company, also owned by Musk, had to drop its pending appeal against the funds blockage. The judge also demanded a new 10 million reais (USD 1.8 million) fine related to a brief period of time last week when X became available again for some users in Brazil.X, formerly known as Twitter, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. According to a person close to X, the tech firm will likely pay all the fines, but will consider challenging the extra 10 million reais that was imposed by the court after the platform ban.X has been suspended since late August in Brazil, one of its largest and most coveted markets, after Moraes ruled it had failed to comply with orders related to restricting hate speech and naming a local legal representative.Musk, who had denounced the orders as censorship and called Moraes a "dictator," backed down and started to reverse his position last week, when X lawyers said the platform tapped a local representative and would comply with court rulings. In Friday's decision, Moraes said that X had proved it had now blocked accounts as ordered by the court, and also named the reguired legal representative in Brazil.

US man's attempt to cremate his dog ignites wildfire in Colorado

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Wildfire investigators looking for the cause of blaze in western Colorado last month discovered the partially burned remains of a dog - leading to the conclusion that a man's attempted cremation of his pet sparked a fire that damaged private property including a cabin.Law enforcement arrested the man earlier this month and he is now charged with arson and trespassing, court documents show. Authorities say the cremation ceremony started the fire on August 1 that's estimated to have caused about USD 200,000 in damages and burned about 11 square miles (28 square kilometers), the Denver Post reported. The burn is now largely contained.

His dog, named Rocket, had been in a fight with another dog and was euthanised under court in Nucla, a town on Colorado's western border with Utah, according to the arrest affidavit. The suspect lived in a camper near where the fire started, and his pet's cremation got out of control when a spray can he threw into the blaze blew



and lit a tree on fire, according to court records. Minutes after the fire was reported, law enforcement witnessed the man driving an ATV away from the blaze. It was first reported by the Montrose Daily Press.At the site, etched on a large rock above Rocket's remains, was written dates and "Rocket Dog, Rest in Peace Buddy," according to an arrest affidavit. A bone was glued below the epitaph.

US charges three Iranian hackers for targeting Trump's campaign



still a candidate, the indictment said. Charges include wire fraud, identity theft and computer fraud. The US Treasury Department also said it was imposing sanctions on the three men along with several other Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps members. Trump's campaign said in August it had been hacked by Iran but said the perpetrators were not able to get private information. However, several news outlets have said they declined to publish internal campaign documents that were offered to them.Biden campaign officials also did not respond when offered Trump's debate preparation material shortly before the two candidates met for their only debate on June 27, the indictment said. The restraint is a marked contrast to the 2016 election, when hacked communications from Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign received extensive coverage. The Iranian hacking team, known as APT42 or Charming Kitten, is known for placing surveillance software on mobile phones that allows them to record calls, steal texts and silently turn on cameras and microphones, researchers say. The three men are currently in Iran and beyond the reach of US law enforcement, but Garland noted that the Justice Department has successfully apprehended other international suspects long after they were charged."We will follow these people for the rest of their lives," he said. The Justice Department says Iran's efforts are not confined to the digital realm. A Pakistani man with alleged ties to Iran pleaded not guilty earlier this month to terrorism charges stemming from what authorities say was a plot to assassinate a US politician in retaliation for the killing of Iran's Revolutionary Guards top commander in 2020. The defendant named Trump as a potential target, according to a source, but there are not indications he was linked to the two recent attempts on Trump's life. The Justice Department has also targeted Russian attempts to tamper with the election, bringing criminal charges and sanctions against employees of state media outlet RT for allegedly funding pro-Trump social-media influencers in the US.

Brazil's top court imposes fresh fine on X Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah killed in Israeli strikes on Beirut?



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Beirut: The Israeli military said it struck Hezbollah's headquarters in Beirut on Friday in a series of massive explosions that targeted the leader of the militant group and levelled multiple high-rise apartment buildings.At least six people were killed and 91 were wounded, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. It was the biggest blast to hit the Lebanese capital in the past year and appeared likely to push the escalating conflict closer to full-fledged war.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah was the target of the strikes, according to two people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity, including one United States official. The Israeli army declined to comment on who it was targeting. It was not immediately clear if Nasrallah was at the site, and Hezbollah did not comment on the report. The death toll is likely to rise sig-

nificantly as teams comb through the rubble of six buildings. Israel launched a series of strikes on other areas of the southern suburbs following the initial blast. After the strikes, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu abruptly cut short a visit to the United States to return home. Hours earlier, he addressed the United Nations, vowing that Israel's intensified campaign against Hezbollah over the past two weeks would continue - further dimming hopes for an internationally backed cease-fire. News of the blasts came as Netanyahu was briefing reporters after his UN address. A military aide whispered into his ear, and Netanyahu quickly ended the briefing. Israeli army spokesperson Rear Adm Daniel Hagari said the strikes targeted the main Hezbollah headquarters, saying it was located underground beneath residential buildings. The series of blasts at around nightfall reduced six apartment towers to rubble in Haret Hreik, a densely populated, predominantly Shiite district of Beirut's Dahiyeh suburbs according to Lebanon's national news agency. A wall of billowing black and orange smoke rose into the sky as windows were rattled and houses shaken some 30 kilometers (20 miles) north of Beirut. Footage showed rescue workers clambering over large slabs of concrete, surrounded by high piles of twisted metal and wreckage Several craters were visible, one with a car toppled into it. A stream of residents carrying their belongings were seen fleeing along a main road out of the district.Israel provided no immediate comment about the type of bomb or how many it used, but the resulting explosion levelled an area greater than a city block. The Israeli army has in its arsenal 2,000-pound, American-made "Bunker Buster" guided bombs designed specifically for hitting subterranean targets.

Helene hell: Powerful storm pummels southeast US, 49 dead across 5 states

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

After claiming 49 lives across multiple states, levelling communities, and stranding countless others in floodwaters, Helene, now downgraded to a post-tropical cyclone, continued to produce heavy rain. Helene, a oncepowerful Category 4 hurricane, continued to wreak havoc across the southeastern United States, leaving at least 49 people dead and thousands stranded in floodwaters.

With winds reaching 140 mph, the storm first hit Florida's Big Bend region on Thursday night before continuing its destructive path through several states, resulting in widespread power outages, devastating floods, and the displacement of thousands.Storm-related deaths have been reported in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia. Nearly 3.5 million people across five states are without power, and authorities have warned that restoration could take several days. The hurricane, which has since weakened into a post-tropical cyclone, continued to produce heavy rain, sparking lifethreatening floods that could lead to dam failures, threatening to inundate entire towns. In Florida's Pinellas County, Sheriff Bob Gualtieri described the destruction as a "war zone." In southern Georgia, authorities used chainsaws to clear debris and open roads. Atlanta has experienced record-breaking rainfall, with 11.12 inches falling in just 48 hours. In North Carolina, a lake featured in the movie "Dirty Dancing" overtopped a dam, leading to evacuations. The state's Governor, Roy Cooper, described Helene as one of the worst storms in the region's history In Tennessee, rescue teams worked against the clock to save 54 people stranded on the roof of the Unicoi County Hospital after water rapidly flooded the building.



All were safely evacuated by helicopter by late Friday afternoon. At least 54 people were rescued from the rooftop of a Tennessee hospital on Friday after floodwaters due to Hurricane #Helene quickly surrounded the medical center. Video of the rescue operation showed helicopters landing on top of that building and loading people up.â•æ pic.twitter.com/2SMG2Nf0kS - ABC7 News (@abc7newsbayarea) September 27, 202 Rescue efforts were ramped up across multiple states. The Defense Department reported that nearly 4,000 National Guardsmen were deployed in Florida, with additional forces mobilised in North Carolina, Georgia, and Alabama. Vice President Kamala Harris announced that over 1,500 federal personnel had been sent to assist with recovery efforts. Travel and delivery services were severely disrupted by the storm. Amtrak trains were cancelled, and delivery companies suspended operations in several states. Roads were closed due to flooding and landslides, making it difficult for people to move around.

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Washington: The US Justice Department has said that it has charged three Iranian hackers for targeting former President Donald Trump's campaign and were trying to disrupt the November 5 election. The indictment is the latest effort by the Biden administration to counter foreign efforts to interfere in the election between former President Trump, a Republican, and his Democratic rival Vice-President Kamala Harris.Iran said on Thursday that accusations that it had targeted former US officials were baseless. The three men - Masoud Jalili, Seyyed Ali Aghamiri and Yasar Balaghi - were trying to undermine Trump's campaign, Attorney General Merrick Garland told a news conference on Friday."We are seeing increasingly aggressive Iranian cyber activity during this election cycle," he said. The indictment says the three men used fake email accounts to trick several campaign officials into believing they were dealing with a trusted source, and then got them to click on links that allowed the hackers to steal emails and other internal documents, such as debate preparation material and profiles of potential vice presidential candidates.

They then leaked that information to media outlets and the campaign of President Joe Biden while he was

Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah's daughter killed in Beirut airstrike: Report

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

The daughter of Hezbollah secretary general Hassan Nasrallah was killed in the massive Israeli airstrike in Lebanon's Beirut, Channel 12 reported. However, there has been no official confirmation either by Israel or Lebanon of the death of Zainab Nasrallah.Zainab has been vocal in proclaiming her support for Hezbollah and her family's sacrifices. She had spoken publicly about the killing of her brother by Israeli forces in 1997 and pointed out that her family chose to honour his sacrifice rather than mourn."When my brother Hadi was martyred, my parents did not shed a single tear," she said in an interview on Al-Manar TV in 2022. The development comes as Israel continues bombarding Hezbollah strongholds in Beirut's southern suburbs as the war shifts towards the Lebanon border from Gaza.On Friday, Israel attacked Hezbollah headquarters in southern Beirut, killing Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, a key ally of Iran. Ali Karki, the commander of Hezbollah's Southern Front, and additional commanders were also killed. The strike, one of the most powerful by Israel in Lebanon since the start of the war with Hezbollah, flattened several apartments and wiped out localities. Visuals showed fires smouldering in several areas and heavy smoke billowing from neighbourhoods. The attack displaced thousands of



Lebanese, who congregated in parks and sidewalks after the strikes. On Saturday, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said the strikes had killed the commander of Hezbollah's missile unit, Muhammad Ali Ismail, and his deputy, Hossein Ahmed Ismail.Lebanese health authorities confirmed six dead and 91 wounded in Israel's initial attack. However, the death toll is likely to rise as rescue teams dig through rubble. The ferocious strike came shortly after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told the UN General Assembly that Israel's campaign against Hezbollah would continue despite international efforts to secure a three-week ceasefire.

Sh*t storm: China pipe blast shoots poop 33 feet into air, drenches commuters

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Bikers and pedestrians in China's Nanning were literally witness to a "sh*t show" this week. In a bizarre and stomach-churning incident, a fountain of human excreta shot up 33 feet into the air before raining down on unsuspecting commuters following a sewage pipe explosion.Visuals splashed across social media showed a fountain of human excreta shooting into the air before splatting the window shields of cars and trucks on a busy road in southern China. Pedestrians were also splattered from head to toe with human excreta.

A dashcam footage that has gone viral shows one car's windscreen completely covered in poop following a billowing orange fountain of human waste. Motorists and pedestrians were forced to navigate along the stinky avenue in its aftermath. ðŸ"åðŸšèBREAKING: Poop exploded everywhere landing on the road, cars, people, and pets the moment a sewage pipe pressure test in Nanning failed. This scene of horror shows feces falling from the sky after the initial explosion in China. pic.twitter.com/qD56fUTQuA - Dom Lucre | Breaker of Narratives (@dom_lucre) September 27, 2024

The horrifying incident happened when construction workers were conducting a pressure test on a newly installed sewage pipe, a report in The Mirror said. Several vehicles also sustained damage due to a sudden



sewage pipe explosion. However, no one was injured in the incident.A huge clean-up operation was carried out by officials after the blast. The Nanning municipal authorities, however, denied reports that the rupture was due to accidental damage during construction."My car is stained yellow and it smells. I can't continue using it," one driver told local reporters. Another irate driver said, "I am drenched in poo."Social media users had a field day as the incident prompted an avalanche of memes and humourous remarks on X. "Caught in a sh**ty situation," one user said. Another commented, "I can only imagine the chaos and the clean-up that will follow."

Antony Blinken's 'stop firing' message to Israel, Hezbollah amid rising tension

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken appealed again Friday for a ceasefire in Lebanon, saying the diplomatic path remained open, even as Israel ignored calls to stop its strikes targeting Hezbollah."The choices that both parties make in the coming days will determine which path this region is on, with profound consequences for its people, now and possibly for years to come," Blinken told a news conference as he wrapped up a week of talks at the United Nations."The path to diplomacy may seem difficult to see at this moment, but it is there, and in our judgement, it is necessary," Blinken said, vowing that the United States would "continue to work intensely with all parties" to push a ceasefire."The most important thing to do through diplomacy is to try first to stop firing in both directions," he said. If a ceasefire takes hold, all sides can work to "reach a broader diplomatic agreement," Blinken said.

Hezbollah, backed by Iran's clerical regime, was blamed for the 1983 bombing of the US embassy in Beirut. The United States and France on Wednesday jointly appealed for an initial 21-day ceasefire in Lebanon after Israel began strikes on Hezbollah targets. Israel, which relies on US weapons, brushed aside the call and vowed to crush Hezbollah, on Friday striking the densely populated south Beirut and warning residents to evacuate. The assault came nearly a year after Israel was traumatized by the massive October 7 attack by Hamas, with Israeli officials alleging that Hezbollah was plotting a similar action.Blinken said Israel had a right to self-defense but added that diplomacy was a better solution."The question is not, does Israel have a right to deal with existential threats to its security and enemies across its borders with the avowed intent to destroy Israel? Of course it does."But the question is what is the best way to achieve its objectives," Blinken said.







Ranga Reddy

Gold loan segment to hit Rs 10 lakh crore this fiscal



It said overall, organised gold loan business expanded at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 25 per cent over the period FY2020-FY2024, driven by banks, which expanded these loans at a higher CAGR of 26 per cent, while the NBFCs expanded theirs at 18 per cent during the same period.Banks' gold loan growth was driven by agriculture loans backed by gold jewellery, which grew at a CAGR of 26 per cent during FY2020-FY2024, while their retail gold loans grew by 32 per cent on a lower base. "Consequently, the share of the NBFCs reduced during this period, which were largely focussed on retail GLs for consumption or business purposes," ICRA said.

Public sector banks (PSBs) accounted for about 63 per cent of the overall gold loans in March 2024, up from 54 per cent in March 2019, while the NBFC and private banks' shares moderated by equal measure during this period. NBFCs, however, continue to hold a stable share in the retail gold loans over the last 3-4 years.

ICRA expects NBFC gold loans to expand at 17-19 per cent in FY2025 and projects it to grow at a CAGR of 14-15 per cent during FY2026-FY2027. The moderation in competitive intensity is leading to some expansion in the loan yields of the NBFCs. However, their yields are

expected to be lower by 200-300 bps than the peak levels seen 4-5 years back, it said in a report. Over the recent past, NBFC gold loan growth trends were influenced by the trends demonstrated by other loan products, namely microfinance, unsecured business or personal loans, which are also targeted at similar borrowers. "With intensifying headwinds for unsecured loans, resulting in lower growth vis-a-vis the previous fiscal, and supported by buoyant gold prices, the NBFC GL book growth revived in FY2024 and the trend is expected to continue into FY2025," said A M Karthik, Co-Group Head, Financial Sector Ratings, ICRA.

ICRA said growth in the gold loan book of NBFCs is largely driven by the gold prices as the branch additions and the tonnage of gold jewellery held as collateral grew at the modest pace of 3-4 per cent vis-à-vis the 18 per cent growth in the loan book during FY2020-FY2024 for the larger players. The NBFC gold loan book is quite concentrated, with the top four players accounting for 83 per cent share in March 2024, This, however, declined from 90 per cent two years ago as some of the existing players have diversified to this segment and some newer players have emerged, it said. Yield pressures faced by the NBFCs in FY2022 and FY2023, have abated to some extent in FY2024. However, they continue to remain 200-300 basis points lower than the peaks witnessed in FY2020/ FY2021. Credit costs have remained low, staying well below 0.5 per cent in the last five years."Access to collateral and the liquid nature of the same reduce the lender's credit risk. In case of loan overdues, lenders undertake timely auctions, which have helped in healthy realisations," it said. It said entities are steadily augmenting their online lending and a sustained scale-up should help improve their operating leverage and augment their customer base. The directions restricting cash disbursements (on loans more than Rs 20,000) have not impacted business significantly as entities have been able to adapt to the new requirement, it said.

Clean energy: Hit by China's predatory pricing, India 'exploring ties with West'

India's clean energy manufacturing is feeling the impact of Chinese predatory pricing, which is affecting the country's ability to promote its ambitious domestic manufacturing under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, a government official told "The Chinese have aggressively slashed prices in the clean energy sector such as solar energy, posing a challenge for domestic manufacturing growth. Even anti-dumping duties are insufficient. Solutions such as collaboration with the West are being explored, as several Western countries, including Germany, are facing similar challenges," the official said.

This comes days after the US advised India to "expand and protect" its clean energy manufacturing. India's PLI schemes have invested over \$4.5 billion to catalyse nascent clean energy manufacturing, however, "additional policies are essential" to expand and protect these investments in the face of "global market dynamics "and "thin profit margins", according to an India-US joint statement released Saturday.

This is not the first time concerns have been raised over China's impact on domestic clean energy manufacturing. The Economic Survey 2023-24 had highlighted that China's manufacturing trade surplus has been expanding since 2019 due to weak domestic demand and increasing industrial capacity. The mismatch between domestic supply and demand in China has widened in recent years, prompting Chinese companies to seek additional markets overseas, the survey noted.Indicating coercive actions taken by China to restrict India's access to solar equipment, the survey stated: "...in response to India's anti-dumping probe against Chinese entities, China has been quietly blocking India's access to solar equipment.3 Notably, to safeguard investments in domestic solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing, including those under the PLI scheme, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) reinstated the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) order on April 1. This order bars domestic solar projects from using imported modules, primarily from China, which are sold at significantly lower prices. In June 2024, imported modules were priced at an average of 9.1 cents per watt (CIF basis), while domestic modules averaged 18 cents per watt, according to CRISIL. Earlier this month, the ministry announced plans to extend the ALMM order to solar cells from April 2026. The PLI scheme for high-efficiency PV modules, with a total budgetary outlay of Rs 24,000 crore across two tranches, also incentivises solar cell production.Notably, 3,212 MW of Arizona-based First Solar's module manufacturing capacity in Tamil Nadu is listed in the ALMM, making it one of India's largest module manufacturers.



First Solar is also a beneficiary of the PLI scheme, eligible for Rs 1,177 crore in incentives for establishing 1,700 MW of manufacturing capacity."Let's be clear: imported solar modules and cells are being dumped from China, and this anti-competitive behaviour has distorted market pricing. Chinese solar manufacturers are selling their products at prices below the cost of production due to systemic overcapacity in Chinese crystalline silicon solar supply chains," Sujoy Ghosh, VP & MD of First Solar's India operations,

India has a similar list for wind turbines, the Revised List of Models & Manufacturers (RLMM), but wind turbine manufacturers are not yet eligible for PLI schemes, despite industry appeals.Meanwhile, the Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) PLI scheme, which aims to incentivise 50 gigawatt hours (GWh) of battery manufacturing, has al-

Bhumi Pednekar channels 'warrior princess' energy in a Theyyam-inspired glass armour sari and brass plate



At a recent event, Bhumi Pednekar embodied the essence of a fierce warrior princess, wearing a stunning glass armour sari by Raw Mango. The centerpiece of her reimagined Cinderella-core outfit was the striking brass plate adorning her chest. Styled by Manisha Melwani, the Bhakshak actor kept her hair in loose waves, opted for lots of blush, and nude lips to complete the ethereal look. Custom glass bangles, ear cuffs, and hathphool by Outhouse Jewellery, Aadikara, and Olio, respectively, were her choice of accessories for the night.Raw Mango took to Instagram to explain that the armour is inspired by Theyyam performers of South India, "who wear elaborate costumes and jewellery to channel the voice and spirit of the divine. Traditionally cast in brass, their ornament, named 'Bhuta', is made from glass and coiled with cobras attributed to Lord Shiva.³

Measuring 16.5 x 12 x 6 inches, the limited-edition Bhuta plate is part of a set of only 100 pieces. The intricate design includes two cobra figures resting atop Pednekar's off-white bustier choliblouse.indianexpress.com spoke to Kuchipudi dancer Vaishnavi Rao to figure it out. Rao said the armour holds religious and spiritual significance."Theyyam is an ancient ritual, primarily practiced in northern Kerala, where performers embody divine spirits or deities during the performance. The armour, often made from brass and other materials, serves as a physical representation of the divine energy that the performer channels during the ritual," said Rao.

She shared that the armour is an important part of the transformation process, where the dancer takes on the form of the deity, particularly to convey the voice, spirit, and will of the divine to the people watching. "Theyyam is not merely a performance- it is a spiritual experience where the performer is believed to become a vessel for gods, goddesses, and ancestral spirits. It is true that the dance form invokes the Gods, just like the Bonalu festival celebrated in Telangana," Rao said.According to Rao, the cobra motifs often seen in the armour are linked to Lord Shiva. "Cobras symbolise Lord Shiva, representing protection, power, and eternity," she said. She also explained that brass is commonly used because of its association with sacred rituals and its durability in enduring the intensity of the performances.

Genes triggering kidney cells to produce renin, control blood pressure found in study

These genes are the "switches" doing both, making the smooth muscle cells to stop producing renin and triggering them to resume when neededThese genes are the "switches" doing both, making the smooth muscle cells to stop producing renin and triggering them to resume when needed, the study noted Scientists have uncovered genes which act as "switches" and trigger cells in kidneys to produce renin, an enzyme that helps one control their blood pressure.Normally, 'smooth muscle cells' which line the inside of blood vessels are known to help control blood pressure by contracting and relaxing. However, when blood pressure falls and stays low for a long period, these cells in kidneys' blood vessels help maintain it by producing the enzyme renin.

But it was uncertain as to which genes trigger this "changeover" in the smooth muscle cells of the kidneys, researchers at the University of Virginia, US, said. In this study, published in the journal Hypertension, the team looked at the biological processes involved when renin is produced and identified nine genes playing a key role in three of these processes. These genes are the "switches" doing both, making the smooth muscle cells to stop producing renin and triggering them to resume when needed, the researchers explained. They added that while these cells stop producing renin naturally, they remain "poised" to jump back into action.

"We expected to find the region in your genome where this gene is located to be inaccessible when renin

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is turned off, but it turns out this spot stays generally accessible in cells that are ready to be called into action when more renin is needed," author Jason P. Smith, a senior scientist at the department of pediatrics, University of Virginia, said"Ultimately, since renin is so critical for our own health, a better understanding of how our bodies control its production may prove foundational to how we treat hypertension (high blood pressure) and the long-term effects of common blood pressure medications on kidney function and disease," Smith said. The results help understand how one's body controls blood pressure, said author R. Ariel Gomez, a researcher at the Child Health Research Center, University of Virginia."Knowing how vascular cells change their identity could help develop new medications to treat high blood pressure and vascular diseases," Gomez said.

Is the viral baking soda water from

ready allocated 40 GWh, including 20 GWh to Ola Electric, 15 GWh to Reliance Industries, and 5 GWh to Rajesh Exports. This scheme, with a Rs 18,100 crore budgetary outlay, is technology-agnostic - meaning beneficiaries can set up capacities for electric vehicle (EV) batteries or for batteries used in energy storage systems. To incentivise the production of key battery materials such as graphite, the domestic industry has called for greater collaboration with the US."We're pushing for a critical minerals agreement, similar to the US-Japan agreement, which would make Indian products compliant with the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). It will benefit India because the entire raw material ecosystem - technology, capital, and investments into mines - will follow naturally. It also won't cost the government anything - it's not a subsidy scheme," Vikram Handa, MD of Epsilon Advanced Materials, a Mumbai-based company that manufactures graphite anodes, told The Indian Express in July.On Monday, India also joined the US-led Minerals Security Finance Network, a coalition of 14 countries and the European Union (EU), to secure critical mineral supply chains, including graphite, copper, lithium, and silicon. The initiative recognises that meeting the growing global demand for these minerals requires both public and private sector collaboration across member nations.

Rajiv Jain's GQG Partners settles US SEC charges with \$5 mn penalty

sec, gqg partners, rajiv jain GQG Partners, US SEC penalty, whistleblower protection, civil penalty, employment agreements, adani group, investment adviser, Adani companies, US regulator, Indian express newsThe SEC charges against Florida-based GQG Partners, a registered investment adviser, were for entering into agreements with candidates for employment and a former employee that made it more difficult for them to report potential securities law violations to the SEC. (Image source: Reuters)

GQG Partners LLC, promoted by India-born Rajiv Jain, has agreed to settle charges relating to alleged violation of the whistleblower protection rules of the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) by paying a US \$ 500,000 civil penalty to the US regulator.Floridabased GQG, which made huge investments in Adani companies, has agreed to be censured, to cease and desist from violating the whistleblower protection rule, SEC said in a statement. The SEC charges against Florida-based GQG Partners, a registered investment adviser, were for entering into agreements with candidates for employment and a former employee that made it more difficult for them to report potential securities law violations to the SEC. Jain is the Chairman and Chief Investment Officer of GQG which has assets under management of \$ 155 billion.GQG Partners acquired stakes in various Adani group companies after the report by the US-based short seller Hindenburg Research, released in January 2023, alleged the Adani group was involved in corporate governance issues and misinterpretation of financial acumen, leading to a sharp correction in the stock prices of group companies.GQG's investment in four Adani companies totalled about Rs 15,400 crore as of March 2023. The market value of GQG's investment in Adani companies has multiplied in the last one year.

According to the SEC's order, from November 2020 through September 2023, GQG entered into non-disclosure agreements with 12 candidates for employment that prohibited them from disclosing confidential information about GQG, including to government agencies. "While the agreements permitted the candidates to respond to requests for information from the Commission, it required notification to GQG of any such request and prohibited responding to requests arising from a candidate's voluntary disclosure," SEC said. The SEC's order found that GQG also entered into a settlement agreement with a former employee whose counsel had told GQG that he or she intended to report alleged securities law violations to the Commission. "Specifically, the settlement agreement said that it permitted reporting possible securities law violations to government agencies, including the Commission," it said.

TikTok safe? Expert sheds light

Most bizarre and interesting trends we see on various social media platforms originate on TikTok. The latest one has content creators and health experts raving about the benefits of drinking baking soda water. That's right, the poplar baking ingredient has found its way as a potent anti-inflammatory ingredient. But, are there any health risks associated with it? Indianexpress.com spoke to nutrition experts to understand this. "Baking soda has the ability to neutralise stomach acid, providing relief from heartburn and indigestion. This helps in maintaining kidney health as it limits and reduces the amount of acid accumulating in the blood. This, otherwise, can be dangerous or lethal to someone with a chronic kidney disease," said Veena V, chief clinical dietician, Aster Whitefield Hospital, Bengaluru.

Baking soda water is also consumed by athletes at times to help buffer lactic acid build up before intense events, increasing performance and decreasing muscular fatigue, she said.

Can it come with potential health risks?

While baking soda water can be beneficial, Veena said that its intake should be carefully moderated as it can potentially cause:High blood pressure – Baking soda has a high amount of sodium in it. Including this drink in the diet of someone with fluctuating blood pressure can result in a risk of heart attack and should be absolutely avoided.Alkalosis – Excessive intake of baking soda water can cause alkalosis, a condition where the body's pH becomes too alkaline. This can lead to symptoms like muscle twitching, hand tremors, and nausea.Interactions with medications – Baking soda can react with certain



medications, including those for heart disease. It also absorbs some medications, potentially reducing their effectiveness.Hypertension - Although rarely noticed, changes in the chemical levels of the body caused by baking soda solution can cause hypertension and restlessness I some people. According to the dietitian, careful consumption of baking soda water and in limited amounts, could be very beneficial."Individuals can start by mixing 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon of baking soda into a huge glass of water and drinking the same once or twice a day. It should be consumed two hours apart from other prescriptions and one to two hours after eating," said Veena.Veena said that being mindful of one's overall sodium intake is also helpful as it will avoid causing blood pressure problems and electrolyte imbalance. "If people have pre-existing conditions or are taking any medications, consulting a doctor before taking baking soda as a regular part in your diet is important," Veena said.

Getting tanned despite applying sunscreen? Dermatologist shares common mistakes

With time and awareness, a lot of people have given in to using sunscreens. However, some still wonder why their faces show signs of tanning despite regular sunscreen use. Indianexpress.com spoke to dermatologists and found out the common errors in sunscreen application and things to keep in mind.

Incorrect amount"People do not don't apply the right amount of sunscreen. Many use just a pea-sized amount and think it's sufficient. You should use about three fingers' worth of product and apply it generously over your face, neck, and ears," said Dr Akanksha Singh Cornuit, aesthetic physician and founder of Promed Aesthetics."People also leave out certain areas. They cover the flatter surfaces like the forehead and cheeks but conveniently skip over the contours and high points of the face. This neglect can lead to redness and peeling on the nose," she said.According to Cornuit, people have a misconception that SPF 30 is sufficient for Indian climates. When dealing with the harsh sun in our country, nothing below SPF 50 will make the cut. "Always opt for a broad-spectrum sunblock that shields against UVA, UVB rays, and blue light. Even if you're indoors, prolonged exposure to electronic screens can cause significant long-term damage," said Cornuit.

"Sunscreen effectiveness diminishes over time, so using expired products may compromise skin protection. Apply sunscreen on cloudy days to safeguard your skin from potential harm. UV rays can penetrate clouds despite overcast or mild weather," advised Dr Kusumika Kanak, consultant dermatologist at Sahyadri Super Specialty Hospital, Pune.Cornuit warned against diluting sunscreen by mixing it with other creams or moisturisers. This practice reduces the effectiveness of the product, resulting in diminished sunblock benefits.According to Kanak, sun intensity peaks between 10 am and 4 pm.









THURSDAY 3 OCTOBER 2024

'Destroyed Rajesh Khanna's career by creating Amitabh Bachchan; we will do the same to you': When Rishi Kapoor recalled Salim Khan's threat



Late actor Rishi Kapoor made his acting debut at around the same time as when the writers Salim Khan and Javed Akhtar were establishing themselves in the film industry. This put them at odds with each other on more than one occasion. Things escalated initially when Rishi turned down an offer to star in a film written by them, which angered Salim Khan to no end. He drew the ire and envy of Javed Akhtar, on the other hand, when his debut film as a lead, Bobby, emerged as a blockbuster.

In his autobiography, Khullam Khulla, Rishi Kapoor recalled the threat that an irate Salim Khan made to him once, when he refused to do the film Trishul. He wrote that Salim-Javed 'bristled' at his rejection, and the animosity 'bubbled to the surface' when he ran into Salim at a Mumbai hotel. He wrote, "I was playing a game of snooker when Salim sa'ab walked over and asked me, 'How did you have the guts to refuse Salim-Javed?' Not one to be intimidated, I shot back, 'I didn't like the role."

Rishi recalled that Salim Khan proceeded to boast about launching Amitabh Bachchan, and made it seem as if it was done to get back at Rajesh Khanna for rejecting them once. Rajesh Khanna's career took a hit with the arrival of Amitabh, who offered mainstream audience a more rugged hero to root for. Rishi continued, "Salim sa'ab boasted to me, 'Do you know that to this day nobody has said no to us? We can destroy your career.""When Rishi asked Salim Khan what he had in mind, the writer wrote, "He said, 'Who will work with you? You know, we had offered Zanjeer to Rajesh Khanna and he turned us down. We didn't do anything to him but we created an alternative to him, a hero called Amitabh Bachchan, who destroyed Rajesh Khanna. We will do the same to you.""Rishi wrote that the altercation didn't escalate further. Salim-Javed's career was recently honoured in the Prime Video documentary series Angry Young Men. The two writers delivered a record-breaking string of hits in the 1970s, but abruptly split in the 1980s. In a recent appearance at Expresso, Javed Akhtar dismissed the suggestion that he and Salim should receive credit for launching the career of Amitabh Bachchan. "We were sharp enough to realise that Amitabh Bachchan was a great actor, and it was his films that failed him. We backed his talent, and he repaid us with his great performance," he said.

Urvashi Rautela claims she was offered Ishaqzaade, had to let it go to focus on Miss Universe: 'Never spoke to Parineeti Chopra about it'



Raj Films' Ishaqzaade.Urvashi Rautela reveals how she lost out on Yash Raj Films' Ishaqzaade. (Photo: Urvashi that. I never spoke to Parineeti about this, but it is good, could have made her big screen debut with Yash Raj Films' 2012 romantic drama Ishaqzaade had it not been for the beauty pageant dream she was prepping for. Urvashi was crowned Miss Diva- Miss Universe India in 2015 and represented India at Miss Universe the same year.In an interview with Hauterrfly, Urvashi dropped the revelation about Ishagzaade, which marked the screen debut in leading roles of actors Arjun Kapoor and Parineeti Chopra."I had to let go off a Yash Raj Films movie because I wanted to go for Miss Universe. It was Ishaqzaade, which was supposed to be my launch. But this (pageantry) was my focus since childhood and I really wanted to prepare for it. Some people have a differ-

Urvashi Rautela reveals how she lost out on Yash ent way of thinking, that after they win it, Bollywood becomes their main focus. But in my case, it was never like Rautela/Instagram, IMDb)Actor Urvashi Rautela says she everyone has different destinies. I wanted to be a pageant winner more than a heroine, this (Bollywood) followed automatically," she added.

Mahima Chaudhry advised Hina Khan to not go to America for cancer treatment: 'Because the medicine is the same, whether you have it here or there'



Hina Khan has been thankful to one person since the beginning of her cancer journey, and that's none other than Mahima Chaudhry-a cancer survivor herself. In her Instagram posts, Hina mentioned how Mahima was the first one to come in her support after her breast cancer diagnosis, and also gave her a surprise visit at the time of her first chemotherapy. Recently, the veteran actress opened up about her bonding with the Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai actor, and revealed how she advised her to get her treatment done in India

In an interview with India Today, Mahima recalled her meeting with Hina and said, "I met Hina, very casually at a party, and we were in touch." She further revealed, "But, the first person she called after diagnosis was me. She said, 'I have booked myself, and I am going to America and I am doing this and that.' I said, 'That's exactly how I felt. But, you will be on your own (in America). And it's a very very tough treatment." Mahima explained, "Like when you are going through the treatment, it's horrid. I said, 'Do it in Bombay'. Use the same doctors because the medicine is the same whether you swallow it here, or you swallow it in America. The doctor there will also be an Indian. In fact, if you will see some American doctor treating you, you will feel like, 'Can't I have an Indian doctor treating me?' You will not have the trust. But, here you will."

Backing her claims, Mahima said, "During COVID, when people were having paracetamol there (America), we were also having it here. When the treatment is the

same across the world, why not do it in your home country? She couldn't thank me enough." She added, "When you share your sorrow, the bonding hits different. Just like how we gather for celebrations, we should also gather when someone is battling something. It motivates them."Anupam Kher, who was also a part of the interview, added, "When Kirron (Kher) was diagnosed with cancer, she got her treatment done here in Bombay. On the other hand, Rishi Kapoor was in America for almost a year. There you don't have your own home, you don't have your people. At least here, the atmosphere is more homely. Mr Anil Ambani sent his aircraft to pick Kirron and bring her to Kokilaben Hospital."

Previously, in a long note, Hina Khan thanked Mahima and wrote, "She has been there With me, guiding me, motivating me and illuminating my Path before me during this toughest phase of my life. She is a Hero. She is a Super Human Being. She went out of her way to make sure my journey was Easier than hers, she lifted my spirits and comforted me every step of the Way. Her Hardships became my Life Lessons. Her Love and Kindness became my benchmark and her Courage became my Greatest Goal. We became friends and shared our individual experiences but she never once made me feel that I was alone, she made it through and she made sure that I Realise and believe that I would too."On the work front. Mahima Chaudhry and Anupam Kher are awaiting the release of two of their films, Signature and Emergency.

Ronit Roy says working with Vashu Bhagnani for Bade Miyan Chote Miyan was a 'painful experience', got paid after Ali Abbas Zafar's team intervened

Actor Ronit Roy is the latest celebrity to have come out against producer Vashu Bhagnani, who had not cleared his payment of working on Bade Miyan Chote Miyan until director Ali Abbas Zafar's close associate didn't intervene. Ronit joins a host of Bade Miyan Chote Miyan cast and crew, who have come out in support of Ali Abbas Zafar after he was accused by Vashu and Jackky Bhagnani of "criminal conspiracy" and "misappropriation of funds". In an interview with Zoom, Ronit said he was fortunate to have gotten a large part of his acting fees for his role in the film, which was headlined by Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff. "The money was supposed to come from Vashu Bhagnani and it came from Vashu Bhagnani, but that happened only after Himanshu Mehra (who works with Ali Abbas Zafar) intervened. And when it came to the dues of my staff and my security company that guarded the sets in Mumbai, it was all very much delayed and we got that also due to Himanshu," the actor said. Ronit added that his staff was paid their dues from the Dubai subsidy at the "insistence" of Himanshu and added how he, along with Ali Abbas Zafar, are now going "all out to see that maximum payments are done in minimum time." Ronit described his Bade Miyan Chote Miyan experience as "painful" and stated he would never work with the Bhagnanis again.

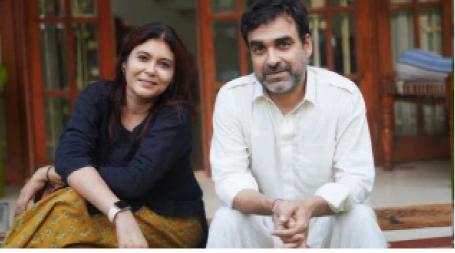


The actor said prepping for beauty pageants is "equivalent to an athlete preparing for Olympics," because one has to control their diet, be excellent with their exercises and "know different kind of walks." Though Urvashi Rautela turned down Ishagzaade, she did make her Bollywood debut with Sunny Deol starrer Singh Saab the Great in 2012. She followed it up with projects like Sanam Re, Hate Story 4, Great Grand Masti. She last starred in the thriller Ghuspaithiya and will be now seen in the multistarred comedy Welcome to the Jungle, headlined by Akshay Kumar.

Pankaj Tripathi was sent to look for a rishta for me, recalls wife Mridula: 'Broke up that alliance, moved to boys' hostel in Delhi'

Pankaj Tripathi, who rose to fame after his performance in Gangs of Wasseypur, struggled for quite some time before making it big. However, he maintains that unlike other actors, he didn't have a struggle story that involved sleeping on footpath or starving for days, thanks to his wife Mridula. In an interview with The Better India, Pankaj shared that his wife took the responsibility of the household when he was trying to find work as an actor. "In fact, I tell everyone that she is the man of the house," he said.

But, not many know that Pankaj had once been a part of Mridula's arranged marriage process where he wasn't the groom. Mridula recalled seeing Pankaj for the first time at her brother's engagement ceremony. She later found out that he was the bride's younger brother. They kept meeting over the years and love blossomed. Manv years later, when Mridula's



parents started looking for a marriage alliance, Pankaj became a part of the search squad. "Pankaj accompanied my brother and sister-in-law to the prospective groom's place. He came and told me that it was a good match for me and I would surely get much of 'bhautik sukh.' I did not know so much Hindi back then and asked what that meant, and he said 'material happiness.'

That's when I felt that I was losing something very precious," she said. When Pankaj left for

National School of Drama, Mridula hatched up a plan to get out of the marriage alliance. She recalled, "Only I know the lengths that I'd gone to break that marriage. And now the most important dilemma was communicating this news to Pankaj." This took months but when she ultimately informed Pankaj, he made arrangements for her to come to Delhi so they could be together.After reaching Delhi, Mridula lived in the same boys' hostel where Pankaj was living. "Those boys still bully me by saying that I was the 'Bhabhi' of Satte pe Satta who came in all of a sudden and made them wear clothes", she said.Finally, the couple tied the knot in 2004 and moved to Mumbai

The Bhagnanis had filed a 17-page police complaint, detailing the production nightmare of Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, and claimed that director Ali Abbas Zafar, along

with his business partners, "entrapped" them in their "crimi nal conspiracy". They had also accused Ali Abbas Zafar of "siphoning the subsidy funds he took from Abu Dhabi authorities" during the shoot of the film and for "hijacking" the film, which released in April this year and was a box office disaster. Ronit refuted the claims that Zafar took over the control of the project and claimed Vashu Bhagnani was on set every day and it is "difficult to believe" how he, as a veteran, did not realise the film was being "hijacked" by the director. The actor said Ali Abbas Zafar not getting paid Rs 7 crore by the Bhagnanis is something he is aware of and said the figure is already common knowledge.Indianexpress.com has previously extensively covered the issue of non-payment of some of the cast and crew, who worked with Pooja Entertainment under various projects and were yet to be paid.

Alia Bhatt shares family photos with husband Ranbir Kapoor, daughter Raha on his birthday: 'Sometimes all you need is a giant hug'

Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor is celebrating his 42nd birthday on Saturday. His wife, actor Alia Bhatt, took to Instagram to share some unseen family photos featuring their daughter Raha to wish Ranbir on his birthday.Alia shared the photos with a caption that read, "Sometimes all you need is a giant hug .. & you make life feel like one ?? happy birthday baby ????." She shared a few pictures from Ranbir's birthday party as well.

Ranbir's friends from the fraternity joined Alia in wishing the Animal actor on his birthday. Filmmaker Vasan Bala, the director of Alia's Jigra, posted a few red heart emoticons in the comments section to show his love for the couple. Film producer Guneet Monga commented, "Happy Happy Birthday ??." Ranbir's fans commented, "Happy birthday my favourite actor ??????." Another person wrote, "Life in a picture ????."Ranbir's mother, actress Neetu Kapoor, also took to Instagram story to wish her son. Sharing a throwback photo with the birthday boy, she wrote, "Happy birthday my joy my pride my purest soul may you always get in abundance whatever you desire for ??????."Neetu Kapoor wishes Ranbir Kapoor on his birthday Screenshot of Neetu Kapoor's Instagram story. Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, Ranbir's sister,



posted a sweet video of throwback pictures with him and their family. Ranbir's aunty, Rishi Kapoor's sister Reema Kapoor also celebrates her birthday today. Riddhima shared a picture of Reema and Ranbir to wish them on their special day. Riddhima also shared a picture from her husband Bharat Sahni's birthday party.On the occasion of his 42nd birthday, Ranbir, on Saturday, launched his lifestyle brand ARKS. On the professional front, Ranbir Kapoor was last seen in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal



All you need to know about Mumbai batter who suffered road accident in UP



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

The 19-year-old was travelling in a car with his father Naushad Khan and two other members from his Azamgarh home towards Lucknow before their vehicle crashed into a divider and overturned on the Purvanchal Expressway. Musheer was due to represent Mumbai in the Irani Cup game at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow from October 1-5.Musheer, who is the younger brother of India batter Sarfaraz Khan, has played some noteworthy knocks already in his career. He churned out 360 runs at an average of 60 in the U-19 World Cup held earlier this year in South Africa where India lost in the final. In March 2024, Musheer won the Ranji Trophy with Mumbai. His ton in the final made him the youngest Mumbai batter (19 years 14 days) to score a ton in a Ranji Trophy final, eclipsing the legendary Sachin Tendulkar.

In early September, Musheer showed his temperament during his Duleep Trophy debut in Bengaluru. On an overcast morning that also carried a green texture to the M.Chinnaswamy surface, Musheer's India B side was jolted by early wickets. The teenager then bailed his side out of trouble with his solid defence and crisp shot-making on Day 1 against a quality India A attack. Musheer whipped up a century in his maiden Duleep Trophy innings before falling 19 runs short of a double hundred. Musheer's handling of both spinners and seamers was indicative of his sound technique. While he could only add six more runs in four subsequent innings in the tournament, the youngster's skill has been appreciated as a sign of things to come."My brother (Sarfaraz Khan) and I have the same game. I try to follow whatever he does. In the middle, he only asked me to follow my technique. Usne bola agar tere ko lagta aage bad sakta hai, to aage bad kar khel (If you feel like moving forward, go ahead and do it)," Musheer once said in the past."Musheer is an opener. He has got a very calm head on his shoulders. He has got the best of both games. He can change gears as per situation and conditions," said Naushad once speaking to .Musheer, who made his First-Class debut in 2022, has compiled over 700 runs in nine FC matches, averaging over 50 while registering three hundreds and

Jannik Sinner doping: WADA appeals to Court Of Arbitration and seeks ban

GNS News Agency, Oct 2

Tennis player Jannik Sinner earlier in the year tested positive for doping but the player at the time claimed that it was a contamination and avoided the ban. However, on Saturday World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and sought a ban on the player. The tribunal's finding of "no fault or negligence" was not correct under the applicable rules, WADA said in a statement. WADA said it would seek "a period of ineligibility of between one and two years" for Italy's Sinner, who won the Australian Open and the U.S. Open this year. Earlier an in-competition test at the Masters 1000 tournament in Indian Wells conducted by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) on March 10, 2024 found an 'adverse analytical finding' (AAF) for Clostebol, a banned anabolic steroid. A second test, that took place out of competition on March 18 also detected the substance.

The first test recorded at 76pg (picograms) per millilitre of the sample collected while the second was recorded at 86pg per millilitre. Since one picogram is equal to one trillionth of a gram, roughly less than a billionth of a gram of the substance was found in his bloodstream. In tennis, testing positive for non-specified substances on the WADA list, like Clostebol, carries a mandatory provisional suspension. The benchmark sanction, per the International Tennis Integrity Agency's (ITIA) decision, is a four-year suspension. Nevertheless as Per



ITIA rules, athletes are allowed to immediately appeal the provisional suspensions after being notified of the violation, and the suspension can be removed if the player is able to prove that the violation took place due to a contaminated productThe Italian was suspended from April 4 to April 5, days after winning the Miami Masters, and also between April 17 and April 20, shortly after he was knocked out of the semifinal of the Monte Carlo Masters and a week before he played his next tournament in Madrid. Both times, his suspensions were revoked after his appeals were successful.His argument was that his fitness trainer, Umberto Ferrara purchased Trofodermin, an over-the-counter spray that contains Clostebol used to heal cuts after his physiotherapist, Giacomo Naldi, cut his finger on a scalpel on March 3.

How India came to dominate the chessboard

The Great Indian Sports Administration Mess: Suspended email IDs, missing videos, misuse of funds



GNS News Agency, Oct 2

* Earlier this month, top Indian Olympic Association (IOA) members, including president PT Usha, lost access to their official email IDs. The reason? Non-payment of dues to the service provider.* In July, Arjuna Award winner rider Rakesh Pattu alleged that the Equestrian Federation of India spent close to Rs 50 lakh on videography. None of those videos, he wrote in a letter to equestrian and government officials, could be found anywhere.

* Weightlifting officials accused of not returning a loan amount of Rs 1.75 crore to the IOA; football administrators of using official credit cards to buy products for personal use; hockey officials accused of misuse of public funds — all charges that each federation has denied.India's Olympic sports federations have never been a model for good governance. Yet, even by their standards, the last few months and years have seen them hit new lows. So much so that the courts have had to constantly step in, keeping a close eye on the elections and placing ad-hoc committees to oversee day-to-day activities.Six federations in the docks and countingIn the coming few days, at least six federations will appear in front of the Delhi High Court due to governance-related issues. The latest federation to find itself in the docks is the All India Tennis Association. Their case will be heard around the same time as wrestling, kabaddi, gymnastics, equestrian, and volleyball.Accused of violating the National Sports Code, these cases come on the back of the recent judicial interventions in the running of the football, hockey, and table tennis federations. And in November, the Delhi High Court is likely to continue its hearing into the status of the Sports Code compliance by all federations."There's a complete immunity given by the Government of India to every defaulting federation. I don't know why they are doing this but that's a pattern. In the court, they buy time, don't respond in time... and the federations keep violating the Sports Code," Senior Counsel and sports activist Rahul Mehra said.

The Olympic ambition and IOA messThe court interventions and organisational instability come at a time when India is harbouring hopes of hosting the 2036 Olympics. However, that bid seems to be stalled at the moment due to the infighting within the IOA.Legendary athlete and IOA chief PT Usha, who claims to have the backing of the highest offices of the government, has seen her authority challenged by a rival faction that has many rebelling faces, including All India Football Federation president Kalyan Chaubey. The key point of contention has been the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer. Last January, the IOA's nomination committee comprising Usha, boxing legend Mary Kom and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) member from India, Nita Ambani, had recommended to the Executive Board the appointment of Raghuram Iyer as the organisation's firstever CEO.lyer, who has served as the chief executive of IPL teams Rajasthan Royals, Lucknow Super Giants and wrote an email to IOC's head of institutional relations and governance, Jerome Poivey, who was present virtually, apologising to him. "It is very disappointing that you had to endure today's meeting which resulted in no outcome," she wrote.Unpaid officials, pending paymentsThe tussle over lyer's appointment — which Usha told the IOC has been under 'unnecessary scrutiny' — has led to a series of administrative crises.

Allegations and counter-allegations have flown thick and fast, so much so that if each was to be taken at face value then the majority of the elected members could be in violation of the Sports Code in one way or the other. The tussle has led to outstanding dues that run into crores, according to an official. For instance, when a hotel had to be booked for India's golfers for the Paris Olympics - to ensure they stayed closer to the venue, which was far from the Village - the payment wasn't immediately cleared. Instead, a third party chipped in with the advance and a full payment was made after repeated reminders, very close to the Olympics.For the World Championship selection trials, the Wrestling Federation of India president Sanjay Singh banned those wrestlers who took part in the National Championship earlier this year which was supported by the government. (PTI) For the World Championship selection trials, the Wrestling Federation of India president Sanjay Singh banned those wrestlers who took part in the National Championship earlier this year which was supported by the government. (PTI)

Earlier this month, a service provider discontinued the official email IDs - including that of Usha's - since their fees were not paid. The CEO, too, has not been paid his dues since he joined in January and according to those in the know, some of the IOA's canteen staff too haven't received their dues."All expenses have to be ratified by the executive council before payments are made. Since that has not happened — given that most meetings have ended in logiams over the CEO's appointment the payments got delayed or are pending," an official admitted.Wrestling: Trials at local akharaLuckily for Indian sport, the IOA is effectively a post office that sends entries for multi-discipline Games. Their in-fighting hasn't directly impacted athletes but that isn't the case elsewhere. In his social media post, former tennis player Somdev Devvarman lamented a 'broken system' that was 'corrupt, insensitive and incompetent.' He was speaking for tennis, but it could be true for many sports. Take for example wrestling. For the World Championship selection trials, the Wrestling Federation of India president Sanjay Singh banned those wrestlers who took part in the National Championship earlier this year which was supported by the government.Since Sanjay, a close aide of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh who got elected as the WFI president, the organisation has not received support and recognition from the government.

In this mess, the wrestlers are now bearing the brunt. Moreover, the selection trials will be held at a private akhara on the outskirts of Delhi that lacks basic amenities, according to coaches. This, the coach added, was because the WFI --- which gets crores in private sponsorship and international federation grants - said it could not 'afford' to pay a few lakhs for the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, where the trials are usually held.Instead, according to a September 24 circular, the trials will be held at an akhara in Narela, New Delhi, on October 6 and 7.Horsing aroundOne of the federations neck-deep in trouble is the one governing equestrian, a sport where India won a surprise gold medal at the last Asian Games.Pattu, a three-time Asiad medallist, has accused the office-bearers of arbitrarily running the organisation. In an email to the government and the IOA dated August 31, he alleged that the funds meant for National Federation are being 'misused by individuals in power'. According to an email dated July 12, Pattu said the federation spent 'Rs 1,43,77,152 on legal and professional expenses in 2022-23 and 2023-24'. For the current financial year, a further Rs 97 lakh has been proposed as budget for legal and professional expense', Pattu wrote. He added that the EFI spent Rs 48,91,833 over the last two years on videos but did not find any such videos on the federation's social media channels. The Delhi High Court court has instructed that an ad-hoc committee take charge of the EFI until fresh elections take place.

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At the felicitation function for the Indian chess contingent, back from the Budapest Olympiad with four individual golds and the team golds, grandmaster Abhijit Kunte had an anecdote to share from his first Olympiad. The year was 1998, and the scene was set in Elista, a city in Russia's Kalmykia republic."Garry Kasparov was playing in the Elista Olympiad. We used to go before the games started to take his autograph. Kasparov would give autographs only on chess books written by him," recounts Kunte. "This time, when I went to the Olympiad in Budapest, I saw children running for autographs of our Indian players. We are no more seeking autographs, we are giving them," said Kunte, captain of the women's team.At this year's Chess Olympiad in the Hungarian capital, the Indian chess contingent swept the three team gold medals on offer - the 'Hamilton-Russell Cup' for the open section, the 'Vera Menchik Cup' for the women's section and the 'Nona Gaprindashvili Trophy' for the overall title. To add to those three team golds, there were also four individual golds won by Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal. The Indian team poses on the podium at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest. (PHOTO: FIDE/ Michal Walusza) The Indian team poses on the podium at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest. (PHOTO: FIDE/ Michal Walusza)

The Indian team in the open section of the Olympiad — a biennial team event where over 180 nations participated — was so dominant that it finished four points ahead of five other teams who ended second, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, China, Serbia and Armenia. At the last Olympiad in Chennai in 2022, the Indian chess contingent came close to winning two gold medals, but stumbled at the final hurdle. But this time, there was no stopping the Indians.

"If this success had come in the Chennai Olympiad two years ago, it would have had the sense of a slight accident. A pleasant surprise. At the Budapest Olympiad, very quickly, by the fourth round itself, I had the feeling, 'which team is going to stop them?' And we know the answer. They won by a four-point gap," five-time world championViswanathan Anand said at an event in Mumbai.

On the live world rankings, which are updated in real-time, there are currently three Indians in the top 10 — Gukesh, Arjun and Anand — with Praggnanandhaa just outside. Three Indian men and two women also qualified for the Candidates tournament in April. Held in Toronto this year, the tournament – which accommodates only eight players in each category and is held to find a challenger to the world champion — saw 17-year-old Gukesh becoming the youngest player to qualify for the World Championship.India's men's chess team after winning the 2024 Chess Olympiad. India's men's chess team af-



ter winning the 2024 Chess Olympiad. (Michal Walusza | FIDE)After Gukesh won the Candidates, the legendary Garry Kasparov had remarked: "The Indian earthquake in Toronto is the culmination of the shifting tectonic plates in the chess world... The children of Vishy Anand are on the loose.""You can have a lot of trophies but the Olympiad gold is special. It establishes your dominance as a team and as a country," Indian team captain Srinath Narayanan told .With Budapest under its belt, India had cemented its place as a bona fide chess superpower.

Grandmasters showed the wayIndia's chess story has an arc that begins with Viswanathan Anand, the country's first GM, and leapfrogs to the present generation of prodigies. But between Anand and the current generation is a lesser-told story: of an in-between generation of grandmasters — R B Ramesh, Srinath Narayanan, Vishnu Prasanna, Abhijit Kunte, Surya Shekhar Ganguly and Sandipan Chandan, to name a few — who turned to coaching early on in their careers and sculpted this young bunch of Indian world-beaters. They did that by catching them early and giving them a blueprint to aim for the top.Vishnu Prasanna became a GM in 2013, the same year as Vidit Gujrathi, but just four vears later, went on to become one of Gukesh's earliest coaches. Srinath Narayanan became a GM four years after Vishnu and Vidit, but was one of the strongest influences in shaping the careers of Arjun and Nihal Sarin. Among the many players R B Ramesh has worked on in their early days are Pragg and Vaishali. Indian open team's captain Srinath Narayanan has coaches players like Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin in their younger days, moulding them into world-beaters. (PHOTO: FIDE/ Michal Walusza) Indian open team's captain Srinath Narayanan has coaches players like Arjun Erigaisi and Nihal Sarin in their younger days, moulding them into world-beaters. ("Some of the things I taught these players was what I learnt through trial and error after several years. We were able to save many years for the next generation of players... For instance, one of the old dogmas was that you shouldn't play too much blitz (the fastest format of the sport) because it's harmful for your chess.

Rising Pune Supergiant, and ISL club Mohun Bagan, was handed an annual package of approximately Rs 3 crore.The CEO was to be the Olympic body's first step towards professionalism — the IOA does not have a finance officer, a HR head, or a legal head. However, the executive committee members opposed the move because of the high costs involved.On Thursday, with a senior IOC official attending the meeting online, the two warring factions once again collided on this issue, with Usha's opponents making Chaubey the Acting CEO and deciding to start the process afresh. Usha, it is learnt, stormed out of the meeting.An embarrassed Usha later

Uncapped Igor Jesus and Abner Santos named in Brazil's squad for WC qualifiers

Center-forward Igor earned a call-up for his consistent performances with Brazilian Serie A leaders Botafogo, while left-back Abner has impressed this season with French Ligue 1 side Lyon. Manager Dorival Junior also recalled Barcelona winger Raphinha, Arsenal forward Gabriel Martinelli, Juventus center-back Bremer, and Monaco full-back Vanderson. Rio de Janeiro: Uncapped pair Igor Jesus and Abner Santos were named in Brazil's squad on Friday for the FIFA World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Peru.Center-forward Igor was rewarded for his consistent form with Brazilian Serie A leaders Botafogo while left-back Abner has impressed this season for French Ligue 1 outfit Lyon.Manager Dorival Junior also recalled Barcelona winger Raphinha, Arsenal forward Gabriel Martinelli, Juventus center-back Bremer and Monaco full-back Vanderson, reports Xinhua.As expected, the 23-man squad comprises Real Madrid forwards Vinicius Junior, Rodrygo and Endrick while Manchester City's Savinho was also included.But there was no place for veteran forward Neymar, who continues to recover from a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament injury.

Brazil will meet Chile in Santiago on October 10 and Peru in Brasilia five days later. The five-time world champions are currently fifth in the South American qualifying group with just three wins from eight games, with Chile and Peru ninth and 10th, respectively.Goalkeepers: Alisson (Liverpool), Bento (Al-Nassr), Ederson (Manchester City).Defenders: Danilo (Juventus), Vanderson (Monaco), Abner (Lyon), Guilherme Arana (Atletico Mineiro), Bremer (Juventus), Eder Militao (Real Madrid), Gabriel Magalhaes (Arsenal), Marquinhos (PSG).Midfielders: Andre (Wolverhampton), Bruno Guimaraes (Newcastle), Gerson (Flamengo), Lucas Paqueta (West Ham), Rodrygo (Real Madrid).Forwards: Endrick (Real Madrid), Igor Jesus (Botafogo), Gabriel Martinelli (Arsenal), Luiz



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Henrique (Botafogo), Raphinha (Barcelona), Savinho (Manchester City), Vinicius Junior (Real Madrid).

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