

INDIAN CHRONICLE

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BRS leaders instigating people to protect their own interests : CM



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Hyderabad: Stressing the need of the Musi project, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy alleged that the BRS leaders were trying to protect their own illegal constructions within water bodies in the guise of supporting the people. While questioning the seriousness of the Opposition to resolve the issue he said the State government was open for suggestions.

While launching the pilot project of the Family Digital Cards in Secunderabad, CM dared the BRS leaders, K T Rama Rao and T Harish Rao to contribute to the poor Musi dwellers from their party fund. "Your party account has Rs 1500 crore, will you be contributing Rs 500 crore from this, as an alternative solution?" he asked.

Countering the claims of Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender on the Musi project, Revanth Reddy suggested that as a local MP and key BJP leader he should be representing the issue to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "If you are ready, our cabinet is ready to meet the PM to get Rs 25,000 crore as part of finding a solution to this. Let us provide housing to the affected under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana," he said. Chief Minister while emphasising that the Opposition should be providing their suggestions, he invited party leaders of BRS and BJP to Secretariat for discussions. He also suggested that the Congress was ready for conducting an all party meeting over the issue.

SC terms caste-based division of labour in prisons as 'unconstitutional'

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday held, as unconstitutional, the practice of employing "lower caste" jail inmates in cleaning and manual scavenging work in prisons. A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud directed that the "caste" column and any references to caste in 'prisoners' registers inside the prisons will be deleted.

The Bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, asked all states and Union Territories to revise their prison rules providing caste-based division of labour in jails within a period of three months. Further, it also asked the Union government to make changes in the Model Prison Manual 2016 and the Model Prisons and Correctional Services Act 2023 within three months.

The apex court took suo motu cognizance of the discrimination inside prisons on any grounds such



as caste, gender, or disability, and ordered listing the case in "Re: Discrimination Inside Prisons in India" after a period of three months. "On the first date of hearing of the above suo motu petition, all states and the Union government shall file a compliance report on this judgment. The DLSAs and the Board of Visitors formed under the Model Prison Manual 2016 shall jointly conduct regular inspections to identify whether caste-based dis-

crimination or similar discriminatory practices, as highlighted in this judgment, are still taking place inside prisons," it said. Further, the Supreme Court asked the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to prepare a common status report after compiling reports of joint inspections conducted by DLSAs and the Board of Visitors. The writ petition filed before the top court contended that forced employment of "lower caste" prisoners in cleaning and manual scavenging work in the state prison manuals amounts to state-sanctioned untouchability, and such practices need to be removed root and branch from society. It added that the practice of forced employment of the "lower caste" prisoners in conservancy work is in direct violation of "The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013," which prohibits any person or agency from engaging or employing any person in manual scavenging. The petitioner Sukanya Shantha said that "many state prison manuals still discriminate against members of denotified tribes through segregation, classification, and other discriminatory practices within prisons" when the Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court had held that a prisoner enjoys all constitutional rights and protections except those that are impaired naturally and directly as a result of the confinement.

Supreme Court stays Madras High Court orders on Isha Foundation



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Hyderabad: The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the directions issued by the Madras High Court directing a probe into spiritual guru Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation. The foundation had approached the Supreme Court on Thursday against a Madras High Court order directing the Tamil Nadu government to submit details of all criminal cases registered. Following the High Court order about 150 police officers had visited the foundation for investigation. "We stay the directions of the High Court to the police," the apex Court said.

The stay was passed after Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi mentioned the matter before the bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.

"These are issues of religious freedom. This is a very urgent and serious case. This is about Isha Foundation, there is Sadguru who is very revered and has lakhs of followers. High Court cannot start such enquiries on oral assertions," he stated. The order by the High Court was passed in a habeas corpus petition filed by one S Kamaraj, a retired professor from Coimbatore.

Azhar skips ED summons in HCA case; called again on October 8

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Former Indian cricket captain and Congress politician Mohammad Azharuddin on Thursday (October 3, 2024) failed to depose before the ED in a money laundering case linked to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association, official sources said Thursday. The 61-year-old former Member of Parliament was asked to depose before the federal agency at its office here on October 3 and get his statement recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said. However, the former cricketer sought more time from the agency. He has been issued fresh summons for October 8, they said. The probe is related to alleged financial irregularities in the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) in which the ED had conducted searches in November last year. It had then raided the premises of former office



bearers of the HCA, including former HCA vice president and Indian cricketer Shival Yadav, Congress MLA and ex HCA president Gaddam Vinod, former HCA secretary Arshad Ayub apart from the office of a company called S S Consultants Pvt. Ltd. and the residential premise of its managing director (MD), Satyanarayana. Azharuddin's role during his tenure as the HCA president is under the scanner of the agency, the sources said.

There was no immediate response from the former Indian skipper, who unsuccessfully contested the assembly polls held

to escalated costs and budget enhancements and corresponding losses to the HCA. It was found that the office bearers of the HCA, including its then secretary, president and vice-president and others, in collusion with private parties, "arbitrarily" got various tenders and works allotted to preferred vendors/contractors at higher than market rates without following proper tender processes and in many cases even before the receipt of quotations, the agency had alleged. Advance payments were made to many contractors but no work was done by them, it added. The ED had said its raids undertaken last year led to the seizure of digital devices, "incriminating" documents and "unaccounted" cash of ₹10.39 lakh, it said. Azharuddin began his political innings with a win from Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad Lok Sabha seat in 2009. He is also a working president of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC).

Rangareddy District Court grants interim bail to Choreographer Jani Master

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Hyderabad: Rangareddy District Court on Thursday granted interim bail to celebrity choreographer Jani Master who was arrested last month for alleged sexual assault on a junior female colleague. The choreographer had sought bail to attend the National Film Awards function. The court granted him bail from October 6 to October 10. Jani Master alias Sheik Jani Basha is set to receive the National Film Award for his choreography in the song 'Megham Karukkatha' from the film 'Thiruchitrambalam'. Last month, a 21-year-old female choreographer accused Jani Master of sexual assault. Cyberabad police had arrested him in Goa on September 19 and a court in Hyderabad remanded him to judicial custody for two weeks. The court on September 25 sent him to police custody for four days. According to police, the victim alleged that Jani Master sexually assaulted her in 2020 during a work trip to Mumbai and continued sexual harassment and threatened not to disclose to anyone.

The Raidurgam police of Cyberabad on September 15 booked a zero First Information Report (FIR). Subsequently, the case was re-registered at Narsingi Police Station. The accused was booked for rape, criminal intimidation and assault under sections 376 (2) (n), 506 and 323 of the Indian Penal Code. Police said on recording the victim's statement it was disclosed that at the time of the offence, she was a minor. Therefore, section 5 (l) r/w 6 of the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offence (POCSO) Act was invoked. The victim, now 21, alleged that the choreographer sexually assaulted her on multiple occasions in different cities, including Chennai, Mumbai, and Hyderabad. The complainant told police that she came in contact with the choreographer in 2017 and became an assistant to him in 2019.

India becomes affiliate member of International Medical Device Regulators Forum



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

"India has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF), which will open doors to invaluable opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities worldwide," the Union Health Ministry said on Thursday (October 3, 2024). The IMDRF, which was established in 2011, is a group of global medical device regulators whose aim is to speed up the adoption of international medical device regulatory harmonisation and convergence. Its members include national regulatory authorities of the U.S., Australia, Canada, the European Union, Japan, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Russia, China, South Korea, Singapore and the World Health Organization (WHO). "To achieve global alignment in its medical device regulatory system, enhance the competitiveness of the domestic industry and boost transnational prominence, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, applied for Affiliate Membership in the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF) in 2024," the Health Ministry said in a statement. "After review of India's application for affiliate membership and meeting discussions with the IMDRF Management Committee (MC) with the senior officers of CDSCO during the 26th Session of IMDRF held in September 2024 at Seattle, Washington, USA, the CDSCO has received approval from IMDRF as an affiliate member of the forum," it said. "Becoming an affiliate member of the IMDRF will open doors to invaluable opportunities for reliance and collaboration with regulatory authorities worldwide," it said. The membership helps to harmonise regulatory requirements across the globe, which reduces complexities for manufacturers and helps safeguard public health by promoting collaboration, harmonising regulations and promoting convergence. As an affiliate member, India will participate in IMDRF open sessions for information exchange on technical topics with other regulators, to discuss the latest medical device regulatory strategies and trends, provide feedback on its experience and perspectives and use IMDRF documents in part or in whole as the basis for its regulatory framework for medical devices. "This will strengthen the CDSCO's medical device regulatory system, helping meet emerging technical challenges that are increasingly diverse, ensuring the protection of public health and safety, and continuing to maintain the goal of international recognition for its medical device regulation," the statement said."

Google unveils new initiatives for India, from AI to Digital Public Infrastructure

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

New Delhi: Tech giant Google on Thursday announced several key initiatives for the India market, including an open-source 'AI Agent Framework,' more local data storage options, a digital public infrastructure (DPI) model, clean energy partnerships and a new Google Safety Engineering Center (GSEC) in the country next year. Roma Datta Chobey, Managing Director, Google India, said that as India embraces tech more deeply, Google's engagement with the country has deepened over the years. "We're expanding Gemini Live, the Gemini app's mobile conversation experience, and AI Overviews in Google Search to more Indian languages," she said during the event marking the 10th edition of 'Google for India' initiative. With new AI-powered tools, businesses in the country can create captivating visuals and videos to showcase their products, update their online presence for a more immersive experience, and effectively engage customers with instant chat integrated in their Google Search listings.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SANJAY KUMAR S/O PANDHARI-NATH (old name)** born on 28-08-1973 at Adilabad earlier was Holding Passport No. H4559267 DT: 23-07-2009 hereby changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as **BANDEWAR SANJAY KUMAR S/O PANDHARINATH (new name)** H.No.176/3 Teachers Colony, Adilabad -504001, Telangana State.

DECLARANT. BANDEWAR SANJAY KUMAR S/O PANDHARINATH

Place: Adilabad
Date: 04-10-2024

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SWAPNA W/O BANDEWAR SANJAY KUMAR (Old name)** born on 24-05-1983 at Armoor hereby changing my name and henceforth in future I would be known as **BANDEWAR SWAPNA W/O BANDEWAR SANJAY KUMAR (New Name)** R/o H.No. 176/3 Teachers Colony, Adilabad, Adilabad-504001, Telangana.

DECLARANT. BANDEWAR SWAPNA W/O BANDEWAR SANJAY KUMAR

Place: Adilabad
Date: 04-10-2024

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Bidding for power

THE auctioning of the post of sarpanch in Gurdaspur's Hardowal Kalan village is a blatant violation of democratic principles, turning a public election into a financial transaction. A bid of Rs 2 crore for the position undermines the democratic process, where leadership should be determined by merit and the will of the people, not by wealth. This disturbing practice is not isolated. Auctions have also been reported in Muktsar, where bids for the post of sarpanch reached Rs 35.5 lakh, and candidates pledged to fund village development from their pockets. While these pledges may seem noble, they represent a dangerous trend in which governance is bought, reducing public office to a commodity. The auctioning of leadership posts violates the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, which mandates free and fair elections for panchayat representatives, and the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, which explicitly requires voting, not financial bidding. Atma Singh, the highest bidder in Gurdaspur, defended the auction as transparent compared to bribing politicians. This reflects a deeper disillusionment with a system that has failed to deliver development in many rural areas. However, selling public offices is no solution — it only exacerbates the problem by opening the door to corruption and the misuse of power by those seeking to recoup their 'investment'. Such auctions have been condemned across the political spectrum, with leaders like Partap Singh Bajwa and Harpal Singh Cheema calling for a probe, labelling this practice a 'murder of democracy'. Similar calls have been made in Muktsar, where videos of auctions have gone viral, sparking public outrage. These auctions, if left unchecked, will erode the very foundation of democracy. Legal action is urgently needed to uphold the rule of law and to stop such practices from taking root in Punjab's governance system.

Delhi High Court refuses to order removal of Singhu blockades, says police may have intelligence input



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

farmers dilli chalo march delhi high court singhu border The Delhi High Court on Monday disposed of a PIL petition seeking removal of blockades at NH 44 along the Singhu border, suggesting that the police action might be based on some intelligence input. The Delhi High Court, on Monday disposed of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition seeking removal of blockades at NH-44 along the Singhu border, the gateway to Punjab and Haryana. The court suggested that the police action might be based on some intelligence input. A bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, however, permitted the petitioners to approach Delhi's commissioner of police within a week with a representation to remove the blockades. The petition, moved by Shankar Mor and two others, stated that the border had had blockades since February 2024 over farmers' ongoing protest and left people stuck in traffic jams for hours while travelling a distance coverable in minutes. "There's not a single farmer at the border since Feb 2024. Filed a petition in April, after which they partially opened (the border). Till date it has not been removed fully, and the public is suffering," the petitioners' counsel submitted before the bench. The petitioners admitted they had moved the high court without making any representation to the police. Chief Justice Manmohan remarked, "Why did you not make a representation? There may be some intelligence input (with the police authorities), some actionable intelligence...we don't know, we can't decide...we don't know what their (police) stance is." While disposing of the plea, the bench also directed the police commissioner to decide on the petitioner's representation "expeditiously", without specifying a timeline for his reply.

Kejriwal's photo to be removed from DTC buses after order on 'political posters'



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

A fortnight after Arvind Kejriwal resigned from his post as Delhi chief minister, the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has directed its depot managers to remove all "political posters" from its buses and premises. A senior ranking official said that accordingly, posters on buses featuring Kejriwal's photo will be removed as he is not the chief minister anymore. "...It is hereby instructed to all depot managers to remove all the political posters from the buses and depot premises of Delhi Transport Corporation with immediate effect.

Maharashtra Cabinet accepts Justice (Retd) Sandeep Shinde committee reports on Kunbi-Maratha certificates, clears 38 proposals to boost infrastructure



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Jarange Patil Maratha activist Manoj Jarange-Patil has been seeking OBC status for the community. Whereas, several OBC leaders from other groups have been opposing the demand. 9File Photo) The Maharashtra cabinet on Monday accepted the second and third reports of the Justice (Retd) Sandeep Shinde committee

on finalising the protocol for issuing Kunbi-Maratha and Maratha-Kunbi certificates based on historical records. Kunbis are classified under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) segment in Maharashtra. The acceptance of the reports means that a greater number of Marathas can avail of reservation benefits. Maratha activist Manoj Jarange-Patil has been seeking OBC status for the community. Whereas, several OBC leaders from other groups have been opposing the demand. Meanwhile, the state cabinet also cleared a total of 38 proposals in Monday's meeting. It accepted a revised proposal of Rs 12,200 crore for the Thane Ring Metro project and cleared a proposal to raise Rs 15,000 crore through loans for the Thane-Borivali tunnel route. The cabinet also approved Rs 1,354 crore as a loan without interest for the construction of a tunnel from Orange Gate to Marine Drive. To boost the Dharavi Redevelopment Project, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved the transfer of 255.9 acres of salt-pan land to build accommodations for Dharavi residents.

SC commences hearing on plea related to rape-murder case of doctor in Kolkata

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Supreme court A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is hearing the matter. The Supreme Court on Monday commenced hearing a suo motu case related to the rape and murder of a postgraduate medic at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra is hearing the matter.

The top court on September 17 had said it was disturbed by the findings given in a status report filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the rape-murder case but refused to divulge the details, saying any disclosure may jeopardise the ongoing investigation. On September 9, the top court had voiced concern over the absence of the "challan", a key document forwarding the body of the junior doctor who was raped and murdered at the hospital in Kolkata for postmortem, from the records presented before it and sought a report from the West Bengal government. On August 22, the apex court had tore into the Kolkata Police over the delay in registering the unnatural death of the woman doctor, who was raped and killed at the hospital, calling it "extremely disturbing", and questioned the sequence of events and the timing of its procedural formalities.

The top court had earlier constituted a 10-member



National Task Force (NTF) to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety and security of doctors and other health care professionals. Terming the incident as "horrific", the apex court had excoriated the state government over the delay in filing the FIR and allowing thousands of people to vandalise the state-run facility. The rape and murder of the junior doctor in a seminar hall of the state-run hospital has sparked nationwide protests. The medic's body with severe injury marks was found on August 9. A civic volunteer was arrested by the Kolkata Police in connection with the case the following day. On August 13, the Calcutta High Court ordered the transfer of the probe from the Kolkata Police to the CBI, which started its investigation on August 14.

How a palm print at crime scene proved rape, murder of software engineer by her colleague



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

In October 2008, a 22-year-old software engineer, working with a prominent IT company in Pune, was found stabbed to death at an apartment in the city where she had been living with a woman friend. A probe by the Pune city police revealed that the engineer was allegedly raped and murdered at the apartment by her colleague, who was then 23 years old. The police said the accused allegedly went to the woman's house at around 8.30 pm on October 20, 2008. They said he allegedly raped and murdered the woman by assaulting her multiple times and slitting her throat with a knife.

When her friends reached her house at around 11.30 pm, they found her lying in a pool of blood. Soon the police were informed. A team from the area police station, then headed by senior police inspector Sheshrao Suryawanshi, launched a probe into the murder case. While the colleague denied his involvement in the crime, a palm print retrieved from the crime scene turned out to be crucial evidence against him. The Pune police said both the victim and the accused hailed from Bhopal

and had known each other since their college days. They were in a relationship but broke up a few months before the murder, after which the accused was allegedly not happy and insisted upon continuing the relationship, said the police. According to a witness who deposed before the court, the woman had lodged a complaint against the man at the IT company where they worked. Enraged by the complaint against him, the accused allegedly warned of taking revenge, the witness said. The accused was also allegedly annoyed because of her friendship with another colleague. The police said the accused allegedly went to Bhopal after the murder, where he "surrendered" before a police station, from where he was arrested on October 22, 2008. 'Guilty mind of the accused'

The man claimed innocence and said he was not present at the crime scene. However, fingerprint experts confirmed that a palm print found on a wall at the crime scene tallied with the palm print slip of the accused. This alone was "sufficient to establish the presence of the accused at the spot" at the time of the murder, argued additional public prosecutor Heera Bari in the court. The accused also denied raping the victim. Though no semen was detected, the court considered the prosecution's arguments regarding blood stains on the clothes of the accused and the postmortem report that suggested the victim was raped. The prosecution examined about 26 witnesses during the trial. After hearing the arguments of prosecution and defence lawyers, additional sessions judge L L Yenkar held the accused guilty of rape and murder of the victim, under sections 376 and 302 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). While observing that if the accused was innocent, the court said, "What was the necessity for him to leave Pune and go to Bhopal to surrender before the police at Bhopal? It is the guilty mind of the accused, which caused him to surrender before the police. There are various incriminating circumstances against the accused to show his involvement in the commission of offences. The most important circumstances are that his clothes were found stained with blood, and his palm print was found on the wall of the spot where the incident had occurred. However, the accused has not explained any of the incriminating circumstances..."

Maharashtra govt declares desi cows 'Rajyamata-Gomata'

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Maharashtra government on Monday declared desi (indigenous) cows as 'Rajyamata-Gomata' considering factors like their significance since Vedic period, an official notification said. The other factors include the importance of indigenous cow milk in human nutrition, ayurvedic and panchagavya treatment and use of cow manure in organic farming, the government resolution, issued by the state Agriculture, Dairy Development, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department said

The decision, which comes ahead of the state assembly elections, underscores the cow's spiritual, scientific, and historical significance in Indian society, an official said. It highlights the integral role that cows have played in India's cultural landscape for centuries, he added. By taking this decision, the state government has underscored the agricultural benefits of cow dung, which



enhances soil fertility and contributes to human nutrition and shows the government's efforts to promote sustainable farming practices, he said.

BEST bus catches fire in Mumbai's Vikhroli; no passengers injured



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

A Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) bus caught fire on Monday on LBS Road, near Gandhi Nagar, in the Vikhroli area of Mumbai. The bus, which belonged to the Dharavi Depot, was plying on route number 303 between Bandra and Mulund at the time of the incident, and was on a short return trip from Gandhi Nagar, said officials. According to preliminary reports, overheating of the bus engine or electrical systems is believed to have triggered the fire. However, further examination of the vehicle will be conducted to confirm the exact cause, said officials. Further details regarding the incident will be shared after the investigation is completed, they said.

The fire started at around 1.30 pm when the bus, with serial number 8009 and vehicle registration number MH 01 DR 9579, was taking a U-turn at the Gandhi Nagar signal after dropping passengers at the Gandhi Nagar bus stop. Bus driver Sanjay Suryawanshi and conductor Ajit Sarate were the only people on the bus. Sarate sustained minor burns on his right hand and Suryawanshi escaped injury but lost his license in the fire. "The bus functioned properly all the way coming from Bandra, but while taking a U-turn at the Gandhi Nagar signal, I noticed fumes coming from the engine. I immediately parked the bus on the side, and we got down. Shortly after, the bus caught fire," said Suryawanshi. After the fire was reported, two fire brigade vehicles were called to the spot to control the blaze. Firefighters, who reached the spot, extinguished the fire by 2.15 pm, preventing further damage or the spread of the flames, said officials. The swift response from the fire department and local authorities helped ensure that the fire was contained without any major injuries, they added.

Arun Shirsat, Accident Officer, Maharashtra Police, also reached the site to assess the situation and oversee rescue efforts. Shirsat said the fire was brought under control and there was no risk to the public after the fire was put off. "We are relieved that there were no passengers on board when the fire broke out, and the driver and conductor only suffered minor injuries. The situation was managed quickly, and we are conducting a thorough investigation into the cause of the fire to prevent similar incidents in the future," said Shirsat. Authorities said traffic in the area was not affected, as the bus was moved from the road once the fire was extinguished. The bus was on lease from Mateshwari Transport, a Mumbai-based company. The vehicle had been in service as part of the city's public transport network before the incident occurred.

Bank manager jumps into sea from Mumbai's Atal Setu; wife cites 'tremendous work pressure'

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Bank manager jumps from Atal Setu The incident occurred around 9.57 am, when Sushant Chakravarty parked his red Maruti Brezza on the southbound stretch of the bridge before jumping off, according to the police. A 40-year-old manager of a public sector bank allegedly jumped from the Atal Setu, part of the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, into the sea on Monday morning. The Sewri police and other agencies are searching the sea to locate him. The incident occurred around 9.57 am, when Sushant Chakravarty parked his red Maruti Brezza on the southbound stretch of the bridge before jumping off, according to the police. Senior Police Inspector Rohit Khot said, "We received information from the traffic department, after which teams were dispatched to the scene to locate the man." Upon searching Chakravarty's vehicle, the police discovered his identity and learned that he lived in Parel with his wife and daughter. "We called them to the police station and during the inquiry, Chakravarty's wife told us that he was under tremendous work pressure," Khot added. The Sewri police are investigating the matter and have examined Chakravarty's mobile phone but have not found any note. "Chakravarty was working as a manager at the bank's Hutatma Chowk office in Fort. Over the weekend, he had even taken his family for a getaway to Lonavala. On Monday, he informed his family he was going to the office but instead went to Atal Setu and jumped off the bridge," Khot said. Search teams have been deployed to locate Chakravarty.

BJP leader bids Rs 2 crore to become sarpanch in Punjab's Gurdaspur district

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

People are apparently bidding up to Rs 2 crore to become the sarpanch of Hardowal Kalan village at Dera Baba Nanak in Punjab's Gurdaspur district.

After the announcement of panchayat elections scheduled for October 15, many videos have emerged online showing that a bidding process is underway to unofficially select village sarpanches. According to this formula, the highest bidder would spend the bid amount on the development of the village after becoming sarpanch. This amount would be separate from the Government's panchayat grant.

In Hardowal Kalan, the highest bid stands at Rs 2 crore, with the competition ongoing.

In Haryana, Rahul and Priyanka bring up Agniveer, Adani & MSP to attack BJP



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

GNS News Agency, Oct 3 Giving a boost to the Congress in Haryana ahead of the state Assembly polls on October 5, Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and party leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra began their 'Vijay Sankalp Yatra' on Monday, slamming the BJP government on the Agniveer scheme, the farmers' issue, and for favouring industrialist Gautam Adani. Before beginning their yatra, Rahul and Priyanka addressed a poll meeting at Naraingarh Assembly constituency in Ambala district. While Rahul took on the BJP government over the Agniveer scheme and unemployment, Priyanka highlighted the problems with the BJP government's flagship family ID scheme, Parivar Pehchan Patra, terming it "Parivar Pareshan Patra".

Rahul also made former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Congress veteran Kumari Selja, who had distanced herself from the party's poll campaign over ticket distribution issues, join

hands. Attacking the BJP government over the Agniveer scheme, Rahul said, "This is not the Agniveer scheme. Don't be mistaken. This is a way to steal the pension of jawans. Normal jawans get a life-long pension. Those who have been named (Agniveer) will not be given pension. Meaning, the money has been snatched from the Agniveer. Where has (the money) gone? Into the pockets of Adani ji," Rahul said. "Go to their website, Adani Defence... these are companies of Israel and America. Adani has nothing to do with it. An Israel company makes weapons and labels them as Adani. Cartridges and drones are made, labelled as Adani, and the Indian Army purchases from Adani. Adani gets a margin and half of it goes to the political party and for the marketing of Modi ji," he added.

Continuing his attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for allegedly favouring industrialists, Rahul said: "The money they gave to Adani-Ambani, I am going to put that much money into the pocket of farmers, labourers, the poor and Dalits. We will find out some way for MSP (minimum support price for crops) and loan waivers. I am telling you, the money Narendra Modi gave them (industrialists), that much money we (Congress) are going to give the poor." Taking on the BJP government in Haryana on farmers' protests and the lathi-charge on them during their agitation against the three contentious farm laws, Priyanka said, "You (farmers) launched an agitation when three black laws were introduced. You kept standing, what did you get? Teargas and sticks. You were not heard. You were told that MSP would be given." On the state BJP government's announcement to give MSP for 24 crops, she said that 10 of those crops were not even grown in Haryana.

Delhi consumer court holds Etihad Airways liable for misplacing passenger's check-in baggage

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Holding Etihad Airways liable for deficiency in service, the Delhi Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission recently directed it to pay Rs. 75,000 for misplacing a passenger's check-in baggage and returning it after several days. Asha Devi, the complainant in this case, had also alleged that valuable items including Rs. 30 lakh (24 lakh Swedish Kroner) and 30 grams of gold had also been misplaced. However, the Commission found no merit in this aspect and stated that Devi had failed to declare the high-value items, including money and jewellery at the airport.

Devi had purchased an Etihad Airways ticket to travel from Sweden to Delhi, with layovers in Berlin and Abu Dhabi. During her stop at the Berlin airport, her flight was upgraded to business class. On boarding from the airport, her bag was relocated to a different area due to "a lack of space in the overhead compartment". When she reached Delhi, Devi was unable to find her bag. Following multiple attempts, she submitted a 'Lost Cabin Baggage' application and was given a carbon copy of the form. Several days later, her bag wrapped in plastic was



returned to her. When she unwrapped the bag, her money, a gold chain and locket, a wristwatch, and a Sony mobile phone among other items were allegedly missing. Etihad personnel were contacted to resolve the issue. However, no action was taken. Etihad, on the other hand, argued that Devi's allegations were based on fabricated facts. The airline also argued that Devi should have approached 'Air Berlin' whose crew had allegedly relocated her bag.

20 people booked for 'attacking' govt animal husbandry officials over accusations of 'cow slaughter' in Gujarat



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Banaskantha police have registered a criminal case against around 20 people in the district for allegedly attacking state animal husbandry officials while accusing them of "cow slaughter" at a goat breeding centre in Mota Jampura village. Police registered the case following a complaint lodged by the assistant director of the goat breeding centre, Vajabhai Patel. Out of the roughly 20 accused persons, three have been identified so far as Mansing Chaudhary, Raju Panchal and Babar Panchal. Deputy Superintendent of Police C L Solanki said, "The accused are so-called Gaurakshaks. There is

no question of any issue of gauraksha (at the centre). We are in the process of taking strict action." In his complaint, Patel stated that the alleged incident happened on September 26 when he was present at the goat breeding centre with his staff members. At around 2 pm, he alleged, around 20 people entered their office and accused them of running a "cow slaughter centre" and "selling cow bones". The accused allegedly also demanded the names and castes of the government officials at the centre.

Patel further stated in the FIR that the accused showed them a video, to which he purportedly said that the place in the video was one kilometre away from the goat breeding centre. However, they "did not listen" to anything and allegedly started abusing, slapping and beating the government officials. The complaint further states that one of the accused also "used casteist slurs" against a staff member who belongs to a Scheduled Caste, and that the accused forcibly recorded videos of the staff on mobile phones and "made them viral on social media". Patel also alleged that the accused threatened them to vacate the place as they wanted to set up a "Gausshala" there. Police have registered a criminal case under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) and Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Days after protests, demolition of illegal portions of Dharavi mosque begins

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

The demolition of the illegal portions of a mosque in Mumbai's Dharavi began on Monday morning with its trustees taking over the task under the guidance of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials. On September 21, the BMC had to call off its demolition drive after it met with protests from local community members, following which the deadline was extended to September 26. While trustees of the mosque refrained from making any comment, civic officials maintained that it was the trustees who agreed to carry out the demolition drive by themselves.



"Of the illegal portions, a 30-foot dome will be demolished, following which other illegal portions like makeshift shops and utility units will be removed. The drive is being conducted under strict police

supervision," an official said. Currently, the dome is being covered by a green curtain for smooth completion of the process. Earlier during the weekend, a group of civic officials had visited the mosque to in-

spect the structure. Earlier, the Dharavi police had registered a case against 5,000-odd people for protesting against the civic authorities and blocking traffic, following which three people were arrested.

'From living on narrow lane of Kolkata to this': Mithun Chakraborty reacts to Dadasaheb Phalke award win, PM Modi congratulates



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

After it was announced that he would receive the Dadasaheb Phalke Award — India's highest award in cinema — Bollywood actor and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty dedicated it to his family and fans, noting that he "came from a narrow lane of Kolkata". Minister for Information & Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on X that Chakraborty would be conferred with the award at the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on October 8, 2024. "I became speechless after getting such a prestigious award... I don't know how to express this. I can't cry, I can't smile either. I am dedicating this award to my family and fans across the world," the veteran actor and producer said.

Delighted that Shri Mithun Chakraborty Ji has been conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, recognizing his unparalleled contributions to Indian cinema. He is a cultural icon, admired across generations for his versatile performances. Congratulations and best wishes to him. Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to X to congratulate Chakraborty: "Delighted that Shri Mithun Chakraborty Ji has been conferred the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, recognizing his unparalleled

contributions to Indian cinema. He is a cultural icon, admired across generations for his versatile performances. Congratulations and best wishes to him."

BJP state president Sukanta Majumder took to X on Monday to say, "Congratulations, Mithun Da, on your extraordinary cinematic journey! From the impactful Mrigayaa to the iconic Disco Dancer, your unparalleled contribution to Indian cinema has left an indelible mark." He also expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for "recognising (his) brilliance". Leader of state Assembly Opposition Suwendu Adhikari also said on X, "Heartiest Congratulations to Legendary Actor; Shri Mithun Chakraborty for being conferred with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award. This is an appropriate recognition of your five-decade long journey in Indian Cinema and a sensational range of versatile performances which have not only entertained Indian audiences but amazed people from the world over." Leaders of the ruling TMC also congratulated Chakraborty. TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said, "Congratulations to Dadasaheb Phalke Mithun Chakraborty. Just (a) request, don't forget Pranab Mukhopadhyay's letter for your "Padma Shri" and that Mamata Banerjee sent you to the Rajya Sabha." Earlier, Chakraborty won the National Film Award for Best Actor thrice. He was involved in hundreds of films in Hindi and Bengali. West Bengal has a long list of film personalities who have received the award including names like Birendranath Sircar, Bengali film producer and founder of the New Theatres Calcutta, who won it in 1970. Pankaj Mullick, who was an actor, music composer, and singer in the Bengali film industry, received it in 1972, followed by Dhirendranath Ganguly, actor and director of Bengali films in 1975. Later, director Satyajit Ray won the award in 1984, while Mrinal Sen won it in 2003. Manna De, a singer, received it in 2007, while actor Soumitra Chattopadhyay received the award in 2012.

'Emergency' release: Kangana Ranaut's firm has agreed to most changes sought by panel, CBFC tells Bombay HC

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Emergency is directed and co-produced by BJP MP Kangana Ranaut who also plays the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the film. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) on Monday told the Bombay High Court that Kangana Ranaut's Manikarnika Films had agreed to most of the changes its revising committee had sought for the release of her film Emergency. A division bench of Justices B P Colabawalla and Firdosh P Pooniwalla was hearing a plea by co-producer Zee Entertainment which alleged that CBFC was "illegally" and "arbitrarily" withholding certification for the film. Emergency is directed and co-produced by BJP MP Kangana Ranaut who also plays the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the film.

The petitioner had contended a "political angle" that the Haryana polls scheduled on October 5 were the reason for the delay in the release of the certification. Senior advocate Sharan Jagtiani for Zee Entertainment informed the bench that Ranaut's Manikarnika Films, co-producer of the film, had a meeting with the CBFC and the petitioner was informed that they had agreed with the changes and cuts to the film. "This is to be discussed between the Manikarnika Films and CBFC and the manner in which the changes are to be done," Jagtiani submitted and added that it was required to be decided as to how the cuts are to be made. Advocate Abhinav Chandrachud for the CBFC submitted that the producers were agreeable to most of the suggestions and said that the cuts would hardly affect even a minute of the film. The court asked



Jagtiani to share a copy of the communication between Manikarnika Films and CBFC with Chandrachud and asked parties to take proper instructions from their clients on the same and posted further hearing to Thursday, October 3. The CBFC's revising committee examined representations from Sikh groups raising concerns over the portrayal of the community in the movie trailer. Of the 13 changes, the committee recommended six insertions, four excisions, including removal of words 'Sant' and 'Bhindranwale' from a certain dialogue between two top political leaders, deletion of phrase praising Bhindranwale and removal of certain visuals and dialogues involving the targeting of non-Sikhs. It also asked the producers to delete a dialogue referring to Khalistan and tone down certain scenes depicting Sikhs. The Board has also asked the producers to make three modifications in scenes and dialogues.

Maharashtra economy is in trouble, but Mahayuti Govt keeps splurging: Supriya Sule

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Expressing concern for the "deteriorating economic situation" of Maharashtra, NCP (SP) working president Supriya Sule said on Monday the Mahayuti government has been approving large expenditures, disregarding warnings from the finance department. Sule said the state's fiscal deficit has soared to ₹1,99,125.87 crore, with the revenue deficit surpassing the 3 per cent mark.

"Maharashtra's economy is in serious trouble... Even those in the government like Nitin Gadkari are saying so. Mahayuti's backers like Raj Thackeray and various economists and experts are highlighting the worsening economic condition of Maharashtra through newspapers and television channels. If those within the government are sounding alarm bells, it is clear that we have a crisis on our hands," Sule told reporters in Pune. The Nationalist Congress Party — Sharadchandra Pawar leader also pointed out that the finance department recently issued negative remarks on the sports ministry's proposal for ₹1,781.06 crore to construct sports complexes. "However, the state government proceeded with the approvals. The sports ministry is led by NCP Minister Sanjay Bansode," she said. "For months, Jayant Patil has been warning about the economic crisis. During the last State legislature session, he raised these issues, but no one paid attention. The finance ministry keeps raising objections, but the government refuses to listen," Sule said.

Highlighting the state's strong economic track record under previous NCP governments, Sule said, "When Jayant Patil was the finance minister, Maharashtra was in fiscal surplus. From Yashwantrao Chavan to now, Maharashtra has enjoyed decades of economic excellence. Today, under the 'triple engine khoke sarkar,' we're facing an economic crisis." Sule also criticised the selective allocation of state funds, calling out the government's biased financial practices. "In cities like Mumbai, Pune, and Nagpur, and sugar mills, they distribute funds based on political support. If you support them, then 'saat khoun maaf'. But if you oppose them, even ideologically, you get nothing, no matter how strong your public backing is," she said as she pointed to the neglect of Baramati and Shirur in recent financial disbursements.



Supriya Sule said Maharashtra's fiscal deficit has soared to ₹1,99,125.87 crore, with the revenue deficit surpassing the 3 per cent mark.

On the court order to file a First Information Report (FIR) against Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in connection with the Electoral Bonds case, Sule said, "When Parliament session begins in November, our first demand will be for a transparent inquiry. I never thought I would see such allegations against Nirmala Sitharaman, whom I know as an educated, cultured lady." Sule also criticised the protest led by Maharashtra Assembly Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal, a member of Ajit Pawar's NCP faction, against the government's likely move to grant Scheduled Tribe status to Dhangars. "If a sitting MLA from the ruling alliance has to protest on the streets, you can only imagine what the situation of the state is." Recalling promises made by Bharatiya Janata Party leaders, Sule said, "Ten years ago, Devendra Fadnis stood outside our house in Baramati, promising Dhangar reservation in the first cabinet meeting after coming to power. The BJP has misled the people on every reservation issue, whether it's Dhangar, Maratha, Muslim, Lingayat, or NT-DNT." Sule clarified the NCP (SP)'s position on the reservation issue. "Our stand is clear: those in power must introduce a bill that provides reservation for all communities. We are ready to discuss and support any government — be it NDA or UPA — that can ensure justice. We will not politicize this issue."

Rawat or a Muslim: The several factors at play at quaint Hathin



"Ek baar Rawat Pal ban gayi, ek baar Dagar Pal ban gayi, number toh waise Sehraat ka tha, (Candidates are chosen turn by turn from this caste, so this time, it had to be from Sehraat). The last two elections, the BJP went with Dagar and Rawat, but this time, they didn't give a ticket to Sehraat," he said, adding that this could hurt the BJP's chances in Hathin. However, for most others, the reins of the seat are with the Muslim voters, who form a sizeable chunk in the constituency's population. Some say that Muslim vote in the constituency is divided. This fact is also backed by the results of the 2019 elections when two Muslim candidates - Israil and Tayub - secured the second and third spots.

Congress' Israil's home in Kot tehsil, Hathin, reverberates of his popularity. "100% Israil will win" Mohammed Sohail, 22, who runs a chicken shop said. A group of 4-5 people at a common services centre also expressed confidence in Israil's "ek tarfa" victory. "Pichli baar usse bemaani se harwa diya. Aaj ki date main koi nahi hai uski takkar ka (Last time, they cheated. There is no candidate who can challenge him)," Mohammed Aadil said.

Even though Israil lost the 2019 election by a narrow margin of around 3000 votes, Congress stuck with him as his late father and former MLA from Jaleb Khan, had contested as Congress candidate in 2014. Nazim, Israil's son, breaks down the vote share. "We are getting 70-80 per cent of Muslim votes. There are about 50 villages where Muslims are a majority. In around 8 villages, the Roparia Gotra dominate and the INLD candidate belongs to this gotra. Even in these villages, our survey suggests that we have a 50-50 chance," he claims, adding, in 40 other villages, about 80 per cent are supporting Congress, apart from a majority of 35,000-odd Dalit votes. "My grandfather carried out several development projects for Hathin. He built the area's first women's college, got roads constructed, upgraded the local hospital, built a secretariat and judicial complex," he says, adding that his father's priority will be to connect a minor canal to a distributary in Gurugram, which will help irrigate around 8-10 villages. The mood of the area also swings towards Tayub. "Kaante ki takkar hai Israil aur Tayub ki (It is a neck and neck fight between Tayub and Israil)," says Jatin Singla, 34, a shopkeeper. His neighbour Ram Prasad adds, "Tayub nikaal lega chunav." Further into the market area, a mandlii was comfortably settled under a make-shift wooden shade. Of a dozen people, support between INLD and Congress was more or less equally divided. When Raees, 35, was asked why he is supporting the Congress, he responded "Israil is a good leader". But he was immediately interrupted by another person, "Tayub badhiya aadmi hai. Pichli do baar se BSP ka ticket tha isliye Tayub nahi jeet paaya, (He fought from the BSP so Tayub couldn't win)."

Supreme Court orders IIT Dhanbad to admit student who lost seat after failing to pay fee on time



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

The Supreme Court on Monday directed that a student who lost out on his seat at Indian Institute of Technology Dhanbad after failing by a few minutes to meet the deadline to pay the requisite fee of Rs 17,500 be granted admission. "We are of the view that a talented student should not be left in the lurch. We direct that admission be granted to him in IIT Dhanbad," a bench of Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra ordered.

The bench directed that the student, Atul Kumar, belonging to the Scheduled Caste category, should be admitted in the same batch. It said that a supernumerary seat should be created for him and that no existing student should be disturbed in the process. The court also said he would be entitled to all consequential benefits including hostel allotment. "All the best! Achha kariye," the CJ told the candidate as his lawyer informed the bench that senior advocates had decided to pay his fee. Kumar had approached the court saying his father was a daily-wage labourer and that by the time he ar-

ranged the fee amount of Rs 17,500 for the electrical engineering course at IIT Dhanbad which was allotted to him, the server of the portal had stopped responding. He initially approached the Madras High Court since IIT Madras was the JEE Advanced exam authority for the year. After the high court said the relief sought by Kumar was not under its jurisdiction, he approached the Supreme Court. While hearing it on September 25, the apex court issued a notice to the joint seat allocation authority (IIT admissions) at IIT Madras.

On Monday, the counsel appearing for the IIT authority said his login details indicated that he had been logged in at 3 pm, meaning he did not log in at the last minute. "From 3.12 pm he was just viewing his result, without making any attempt to pay, the counsel said. He added that Kumar was informed about the requisite payment on the date of the mock interview itself. Justice Pardiwala told the counsel, "Why are you opposing so much? You should see if something could be done." Kumar's counsel told the bench that this was his last chance to secure admission, as only two attempts are permissible. The judge said he was asking so "because you have said that the seat allotment intimation slip instructed for the payment of Rs 17,500?". "So everything was in order. If he had deposited the Rs 17,500 before the scheduled time, you would have proceeded to admit him or not?," he said. The authority's counsel said the slip was not on record but added, "Even if he (Kumar) had pushed one button, we would have given him one day more..." The CJ said, "He is such a bright student. Look at his log sheets. It is no way he would not press the button... The only thing which stopped him was the inability to pop up Rs 17,500. And as judges of the SC, we should ensure that no child loses admission because they don't have Rs 17,500."

2.5 lakh new US visa slots for Indians, will help thousands of applicants take timely interviews

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

The United States has opened an additional 2,50,000 visa appointments for Indian travellers, including tourists, skilled workers, and students, said the US Embassy in India in a statement on Monday. The new slots will help hundreds of thousands of Indian applicants take timely interviews, facilitating the travel which is the backbone of the people-to-people ties that underpin the US-India relationship, the Embassy statement said, adding that they have already crossed one million non-immigrant visa applications for the second consecutive year in 2024.

"During our student visa season this summer, we continued to process record numbers, and all first-time student applicants were able to obtain an appointment at one of our five consular sections around India," the statement said. "We are now focused on bringing families together, connecting businesses, and facilitating tourism," it noted. More than 1.2 million Indians have travelled to the US till now in 2024, registering a 35 per cent increase over the same period in 2023, as per records shared by the mission. At least six million Indians already have a non-immigrant visa to visit the US. Eric Garcetti, US Ambassador to India, had recently stated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Joe Biden have set an ambitious goal to improve and expedite the visa process. "Our consular teams at the embassy and four consulates



work tirelessly to ensure that we meet the surging demand," he said.

Indian students have already become the largest group of international graduate students in the US and make up more than a quarter of the over one million foreign students studying in the US. The US retains its place among the top four destinations preferred by Indian students, besides Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia. In 2023, the US issued over 1.4 lakh student visas to Indians, which is more than in any other country in the world, also setting a record for the third year in a row, according to the figures released by the US Embassy and Consulates in India earlier this year.

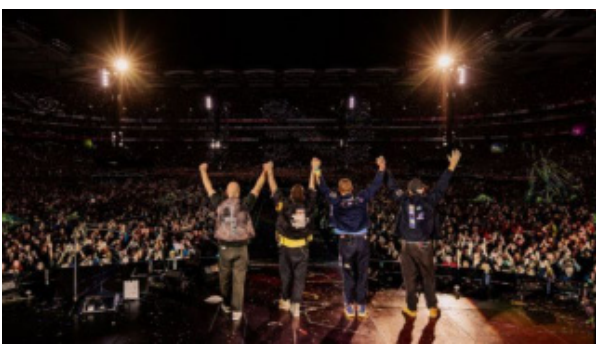
Coldplay concert tickets black marketing: EOW issues second summons to CEO of Book My Show parent company

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

The Mumbai police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has issued a second summons to Ashish Hemrajani, CEO of Big Tree Entertainment Private Limited, along with the company's technical head, after they failed to appear before the probe agency on Saturday in a complaint regarding black marketing of concert tickets of British band Coldplay. A senior EOW officer confirmed the development. The second summons was issued on Sunday asking them to remain present before EOW for questioning on Monday for inquiry. The questioning would be part of the preliminary inquiry (PE) opened in the matter by the agency, and EOW will also record their statements, said officials.

Sources said the two are likely to visit the EOW office in Mumbai police headquarters near Crawford market on Monday. The police have begun a probe into the matter after an advocate Amit Vyas on September 23 filed a complaint with EOW regarding the alleged black marketing of tickets for the concert, scheduled in January 2025. Vyas was among lakhs of Coldplay fans who did not get the tickets to the concert.

In his complaint, Vyas made allegations against 23 individuals and entities, including Big Tree Entertainment Private Limited and Hemrajani. The company owns



BookMyShow, where the tickets were sold. He sought a First Information Report (FIR) against the accused for conspiring with each other with a premeditated intent to wrongly black market the Coldplay tickets. The complainant claims the alleged fraudulent act cheated and defrauded him and the general public at large, who are fans of Coldplay. Coldplay will perform at D Y Patil Sports Stadium in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, on January 18, 19, and 21, 2025. The ticket frenzy for concert tickets caused a stir on social media as several fans failed to secure tickets after waiting in a long virtual queue on BookMyShow.

FIR against RTI activist who took Siddaramaiah to court in MUDA case

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Karnataka Right To Information (RTI) activist Snehamay Krishna, who recently obtained a court order for an FIR against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in connection with the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA) site allotment case, now faces criminal charges for allegedly harassing a woman. Krishna denied the allegations, saying it was a "conspiracy" to silence his activism. The woman had lodged her complaint at a Nanjangud police station on August 21, 2024, and an FIR was registered on the same day. The allegations, however, only became public on Saturday evening.

Siddaramaiah and three others were booked by the Lokayukta police on charges of corruption, cheating and forgery in connection with the allotment of 14 MUDA housing sites to Siddaramaiah's wife in 2021. The grounds for the Lokayukta police probe were set as private complainants Krishna, T J Abraham and Pradeep Kumar had obtained the governor's approval, which, in turn, was backed by the high court. In the FIR, the woman accused Krishna and others of attacking her, pulling her clothes, verbally abusing her, and issuing death threats while she was returning from court on July 18, 2024. Her complaint also states that Krishna, along with her father-in-law, mother-in-law, and brother-in-law, has been harassing her over a property dispute. This dispute currently under litigation reportedly involves claims over the death benefits of the woman's late husband, who passed away in 2020, and her jewellery. Krishna is listed as the fourth accused in the case and has been accused of assaulting her and making threatening remarks towards her and her mother.

The police have filed the case under sections 85 (Husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty), 126(2) (wrongful restraint), 74 (assault or criminal force to woman with intent to outrage her mod-



esty), 352 (individual intentionally insults another person), 351(2) (criminal intimidation), 79 (insult the modesty of a woman through words, gestures, sounds, or any object meant to be heard or seen by the woman), and 3(5) (joint criminal liability when two or more individuals act with a common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

"This is an attempt to suppress my fight against corruption. Even if I am jailed, my battle will continue," Krishna told reporters. He added that he has written to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to investigate corruption within MUDA, alleging over Rs 5,000 crore has been misappropriated. He also said that he plans to file a formal complaint with the ED and has already petitioned the court for a CBI investigation into MUDA's site-allotment irregularities since 2015.

First case filed on basis of Hema panel report: Malayalam film makeup artist booked for 'sexual harassment'

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Mahila Congress activists stage a protest demanding a case against the perpetrators named in the Hema Committee report, Thiruvananthapuram, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2024. (PTI Photo) Mahila Congress activists stage a protest demanding a case against the perpetrators named in the Hema Committee report, Thiruvananthapuram, Wednesday. After the Kerala High Court directed authorities to "go through the entire Hema Committee report and take action if any offences are made out in it", police registered a case against a noted makeup artist, whose alleged sexual misconduct was mentioned in the testimonies given to the committee by women working in the Malayalam film industry. It was the first case to be registered on the basis of the Justice Hema Committee report, which was released last month and detailed problems faced by women in the Malayalam film industry.

Police at Ponkunnam in Kottayam district registered the sexual harassment case based on the statements of a woman from Kollam. The case was then handed over to the Special Investigation Team formed to look into cases of sexual misconduct in the aftermath of the report's release. According to police, the FIR was registered under sections 506 (criminal intimidation), 354A (physical contact or advances that are unwelcome and explicitly sexual, demanding or requesting sexual favours) and 354D (stalking) of the IPC. "The incident allegedly took place at a lodge in Ponkunnam in 2014 during the shooting of a film. After the Hema Committee report referred to the incident, police got in touch with the survivor, who



was ready to proceed with legal action. Hence, we recorded her statement and the case will be probed by the SIT," an officer said. Earlier this month, the High Court had come down heavily on the state government's four-year-long inaction on the Hema Committee report. The court directed the government to hand over an unredacted copy of the report and all related documents to the SIT. "Let the SIT go through its threadbare and see whether any offences are made out, cognizable or otherwise and take action..."

The actions taken are to be reported to the court in two weeks," the court had said. The SIT has so far been dealing with allegations and complaints that came in the aftermath of the Hema Committee report's release, but were not directly taken from the contents of the report. The High Court directive brought the entire report under the purview of the SIT, and Monday's case marks the first FIR to be filed as a result of this.

Mahabubnagar Woman declared brain dead; Organs Donated to Jeevandan

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Hyderabad: Relatives of a 41-year-old housewife, Chakali Jayamma, a resident of Shivaji Nagar, Makthal, Mahabubnagar, who was declared as brain dead by the attending team of doctors, have donated her organs to needy patients under State-run Jeevandan organ donation initiative. The team of surgeons retrieved liver and 2 kidneys (in all 3 organs) and two corneas and skin (3 tissue).

On September 24, Chakali Jayamma received severe injuries when she slipped and fell from a running

bus at her village. Immediately, the family members took her to Government Hospital, Mahabubnagar and alter to Osmania General Hospital (OGH). The OGH doctors provided ICU care for 5-day but there was no improvement in the health condition of Chakali Jayamma, forcing the attending team of doctors to declare her as brain dead at around 5pm on Sunday, September 29.

The Jeevandan coordinators at OGH then held grief counselling sessions and the victim's husband of Chakali Lakshman gave the consent to donate her organs. In all, liver, 2 kidneys, 2 corneas and skin was donated under the State-run Jeevandan initiative.

Donald Trump slams Joe Biden, Kamala Harris over Hurricane Helene response ahead of election



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Former President Donald Trump has criticised the Biden administration's response to Hurricane Helene, which has left nearly 100 dead and millions without power in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. Trump accused President Biden and Vice President Harris of neglecting the disaster, while Harris and Biden have approved disaster declarations to aid recovery.

Former President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is using Hurricane Helene's devastation to criticise the Biden administration's response, just weeks before the November election. Nearly 100 people have died, and many remain without power after the storm ravaged Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. Trump accused President Joe Biden of "sleeping" at his beach house in Delaware and Vice President

Kamala Harris, 59, of prioritising fundraising events over addressing hurricane relief efforts, reported Politico. Trump, who is running for the White House against Kamala Harris, plans to visit storm-ravaged Georgia on Monday to receive a briefing, distribute relief supplies, and speak with reporters. During a rally in Erie, Pennsylvania, Trump said Harris "ought to be down in the area" affected by the storm.

Meanwhile, at a rally in Las Vegas, Harris addressed the situation, saying, "I know everyone here sends their thoughts and prayers for the folks devastated by that hurricane... in Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, and other impacted states." Biden, who bowed down from the presidential race on July 21, and Harris have approved disaster declarations for several states, ensuring federal support for recovery efforts. In a statement, Biden emphasised that "the road to recovery will be long" but promised, "we will be with you every step of the way." Harris also expressed her condolences and acknowledged the devastation during her Sunday rally in Las Vegas. Trump on his social media platform, Truth Social, questioned why Harris was in California "when big parts of our country are devastated and under water." During his rally, he called both Biden and Harris "mentally impaired". Harris' running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, expressed his concern for the victims, posting on social media that his "heart breaks to see the devastation" in North Carolina and other affected states. Florida Senator Rick Scott similarly criticised Harris for not being present in the storm-hit areas, a point echoed by Trump's campaign.

Kamala Harris cuts campaign trip short for Hurricane Helene response briefings



GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Vice President Kamala Harris is cutting short her campaign trip to return to Washington for briefings on the federal response to Hurricane Helene. The storm has caused at least 90 deaths and widespread damage across several southeastern states. Debris lies where homes were destroyed after Hurricane Helene passed through the Florida panhandle, severely impacting the community in Keaton Beach, Florida, US. (Photo: Reuters)

Vice President Kamala Harris will take part on Monday in briefings on the federal response to Hurricane Helene, cutting short a campaign trip as she plans a visit to the storm-ravaged southeastern United States. Harris is flying back to Washington earlier than planned from Las Vegas, Nevada, where she was on a presidential campaign trip, to take part in briefings at the headquarters of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The change in plans comes after Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was critical of the Democrat for not being more involved in the disaster re-

sponse and is making his own visit to the region. Winds, rain and storm surge from the storm killed at least 90 people in North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee and Virginia, while millions more faced power outages and destroyed roads. Harris was briefed on Sunday on the federal storm response as she traveled aboard Air Force Two to campaign stops in the Western United States, where she was raising money in California and rallying voters in the competitive November 5 election state of Nevada.

She also spoke with North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper and reached out to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and Georgia Governor Brian Kemp to discuss their needs, according to the official who declined to be identified. Harris had initially planned campaign stops in the Las Vegas area but changed those plans to return earlier to Washington.

The Democratic presidential candidate also plans to travel to the storm-hit region "as soon as it is possible without disrupting emergency response operations," the official said. It was not immediately planned when or where she would go. North Carolina and Georgia are both among the more hotly contested states in the 2024 race between Harris and Trump. Trump is visiting Valdosta, Georgia, on Monday to receive a briefing on storm damage and "facilitate the distribution of relief supplies," his campaign said. Harris' campaign has announced campaign stops in the Pennsylvania and Michigan on Wednesday and Friday, respectively. Vice presidential candidates Tim Walz and JD Vance will debate on Tuesday. More than 3,300 federal personnel are deployed as part of the hurricane response, including search and rescue efforts and restoring power, Biden administration officials have said.

Undecided Republican voters may decide Arizona Senate race in favour of Democrat

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Ruben Gallego, Arizona's Democratic Senate candidate, aims to secure a fourth consecutive Democratic victory in the state by targeting undecided Republicans and Donald Trump supporters who may be reluctant to vote for GOP candidate Kari Lake. If Ruben Gallego is going to give Democrats their fourth straight US Senate victory in Arizona, he's probably going to need support from an unlikely group: Donald Trump voters.

Gallego and his GOP rival, former television news anchor Kari Lake, are both targeting undecided Republicans in a contest that will test the strength of Trump's coattails. Ticket-splitting voters are increasingly rare in an era when partisan loyalty reigns, but they could be central in determining which party controls the Senate. For Gallego, that means winning over voters like Winfield Morris, a 62-year-old Republican farmer and rancher who plans to vote for Trump for president but can't get behind his loyal ally in the Senate race.

"I don't like Kari Lake and I'm not going to vote for her," said Morris, who lives in southern Arizona and has businesses across the state. "I don't think she has what it takes." Morris supported former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley over Trump and Pinal County Sheriff Mark Lamb over Lake in the GOP primaries. He said he was furious to see Lake attack the late Arizona Republican Senator John McCain in her failed 2022 campaign for governor. Trump also has attacked McCain, but Morris said he doesn't see Democrat Kamala Harris as a viable alternative. Morris said he likes that Gallego was a Marine and may vote for him but wants to learn more about him. He's also considering writing in a Republican he respects, such as Lamb, who got 40% of the vote in the Senate primary despite being vastly outspent and overshadowed by Lake. Democrats have a difficult path to keep the Senate Democrats' difficult path to retaining control of the Senate relies on winning over Republicans in states so red, neither presidential candidate is putting much effort into winning them. But some of those races involve established incumbents who already have a record to run on.

An ad supporting Montana Senator Jon Tester — one of the most endangered Democrats in the Senate, who has declined to endorse Harris — showcases Republicans crossing party lines. "Jon got over 20 bills signed into law by President Trump," one man says in the ad. Trump is well positioned in Ohio, but the race between incumbent Democratic Senator Sherrod Brown and Republican challenger Bernie Moreno could be more competitive. The effort to win over ticket-splitters is harder for less established candidates, but some are trying. In North Dakota, longshot Democratic Senate candidate Katrina Christiansen released an ad this week narrated by a rancher who says he's voting for Trump but not for Republican Senator Kevin Cramer. In swing-state North Carolina, where Republican Mark Robinson's campaign for governor is struggling following a CNN report linking him to disturbing posts on an online porn site, the Trump campaign is counting on ticket-splitting in the opposite direction, hoping GOP voters who bail on Robinson will stick with the former president in a state he badly needs to win. In Arizona, meanwhile, Gallego is hoping to replicate the model that has propelled Democrats to narrow statewide victories since Trump's first victory, including Sens. Kyrsten Sinema and Mark Kelly and Governor Katie Hobbs, who defeated Lake in 2022. He's getting plenty of help. Democrats so far have outspent Republicans on advertising by a wide margin on the race, according to AdImpact, which tracks campaign ad spending. As of Thursday, Democrats had spent \$60.7 million on the race, compared to \$16.4 million spent by Republicans. Democrats also have \$35.7 million in spots reserved between now and Election Day, compared to \$11.7 million reserved by GOP-affiliated groups.

Gallego's strategy relies on Democrats keeping their own supporters united, getting a majority of independents and picking up a small but decisive share of Republicans by appealing to conservatives who dislike Trump. "Especially in modern times, to have ticket splitters that big is extraordinary. But I think it's entirely accurate," said Mike Madrid, a California-based Republican strategist who has worked to defeat Trump. "They're sticking more to Trump because he's the top-of-the-ticket nominee, and losing the presidency is a lot different than losing a Senate seat." Republicans have had a hard time replicating Trump's coalition. Celebrity candidates who are close to Trump but lack strong ties to the GOP establishment have had a hard time replicating Trump's coalition, Madrid said. Television doctor Mehmet Oz and football legend Herschel Walker both lost Senate races two years ago. As a well-known local news personality, Lake fits the mold. Both Lake's and Gallego's messaging reflect the importance of undecided Republicans to the outcome of the race. Both are running ads focused on border security, almost exclusively so in Lake's case. Gallego even



gently rebukes the Biden-Harris administration in one ad playing in heavy rotation, saying, "Arizonans know — on the border, there is no plan." He did not appear with Harris when she visited the Arizona-Mexico border on Friday.

And both Gallego and Lake are showcasing support from Republicans. For Gallego, it's a businessman who says in ads he's a Republican and calls the congressman a "man of principles." For Lake, it's Trump himself, as she reminds his supporters that he's backing her. She's been one of his most steadfast allies, embracing his lie that the 2020 election was stolen from him due to widespread fraud. The cross-currents of divided loyalties among traditionally Republican groups often surface at campaign events. For example, the Arizona Police Association, which represents thousands of officers in the state, endorsed Gallego, citing his background as a Marine combat veteran. Just three days earlier, Trump called the group's president, Justin Harris, to the stage to bestow an endorsement on the former president at a rally outside Phoenix. Gallego hopes there's more where that came from, and there's some history to suggest that's possible. In 2020, Republican Senate candidate Martha McSally privately fretted that she was running behind with Trump voters, which turned out to be the case. While Trump lost Arizona by 10,457 votes — .03 percentage points — McSally lost by 78,806 to Kelly, indicating tens of thousands of voters split their tickets. Some observers say Gallego fits the profile of the kind of candidate who could replicate the path forged by Kelly, a tough-talking former astronaut. "Ruben is a legitimate tough guy," said Stacy Pearson, a Phoenix-based Democratic strategist, who ran the successful 2016 campaign to oust Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, which relied on voters who backed Trump at the top of the ticket. "He's an Iraq War vet. He is a person who sincerely pulled himself up by his bootstraps, and that resonates very much with this Western state."

Hyderabad Police issues advisory for Dasara festival

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Hyderabad: With families leaving for their native places for short vacations in view of the Dasara festival, the police issued an advisory asking the citizens to take all precautions to prevent theft and burglaries. The police asked people not to keep valuables including cash and gold at home. Officials said adding that it would be a safe step to keep valuables in the bank locker or any other safer place.

"Those going on a long vacation, please inform the local police station. This will help in increasing patrols in the area. We request citizens to share information about suspicious persons in colonies," the advisory stated, adding that installing a central locking system will help to a great extent because the conventional locks are exposed to everyone and easily indicate the family is not at home.

"Inform local relatives/friends/well-wishers to keep a watch on the house in your absence. Install surveillance cameras and keep the DVR at a safe place and monitor from your phone the activity in and around your house," it added. The police have also advised the public to temporarily stop the supply of newspapers and milk as unattended newspapers, mail and milk packets getting piled up in front of a house give a hint about the absence of the occupants.

Before leaving, make sure to lock all doors, windows, terrace doors, and kitchen doors and check the quality of latches. Ladders and other tools which could come in handy in helping the burglars should be removed. Police have also advised people not to share on social media any information that they will be out of the city. In view of the festival, the officials have taken measures to prevent offences and increased visible policing in residential areas during the night.

A visual guide to 'bunker buster' bomb that killed Nasrallah

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Last year, the United States supplied Israel with at least 100 BLU-109 bombs as per media reports. Months later, a video released by the IDF showed eight fighter jets, each carrying at least six American-made BLU-109 bombs reportedly weighing 2,000 pounds, allegedly used to target Hezbollah's leader, analysed the IDF footage on its Telegram channel, identifying at least 48 such BLU-109 bombs, known as bunker busters for their ability to penetrate underground targets before detonation. The warheads are designed to penetrate up to six or 1.8 m feet of reinforced concrete. Snapshot from video posted Saturday on the Israeli military's official Telegram channel, titled "Israeli Air Force Fighter Jets Involved in the Elimination of Hassan Nasrallah and Hezbollah's Central Headquarters in Lebanon," depicts at least eight jets in formation, each reportedly armed with 2,000-pound bombs. The BLU-109 bombs are identifiable during the takeoff, with one jet carrying at least six of them. The video concludes with a jet returning to the Israeli air base at dusk, devoid of its payload.

Bunker buster bombs are designed to penetrate through a target underground instead of conventional carpet bombing on the surface. To ensure maximum penetration into the ground, the warhead with BLU-109 usually consists of a high-density projectile which means it is equipped with a fuse that delays its explosion until after the bomb has penetrated its target. The supply of these bombs were reportedly aimed at destroying the underground network of tunnels by Hamas in Gaza.

However, the Geneva Conventions spell out that heavy duty bombs like bunker busters could only be used in "extreme circumstances of self-defence," and dropping them in civilian neighbourhoods is strictly prohibited and perceived as "inhumane." Israel dropped over 80 tonnes of bunker-buster explosives on several buildings in the Haret Hreik neighbourhood on September 27 (Source: Planet Labs PBC). In addition to these ground-penetrating munitions, Washington also provided Israel with over 5,000 unguided Mk82 bombs, 5,400 Mk84 bombs, around 1,000 GBU-39 small-diameter bombs, and approximately 3,000 JDAMs.

The recent escalation with Lebanon saw the Israeli Air Force (IAF) deploy air-to-surface missiles like Popeye, EXTRA (Extended Range Artillery), and Gabriel missiles. Much of Israel's military capabilities consist of such short-range tactical systems with ranges of up to 300 kilometres, including advanced, semi-autonomous loitering weapons. Among its medium and intermediate range surface-to-surface missiles are Jericho 2 and Jericho 3 ballistic missiles with ranges of 1,500-3,500km and 4,800-6,500km respectively, that could hit targets anywhere in



Iran, Pakistan and even Afghanistan.

Despite not officially acknowledging any nuclear program, it is widely believed that Israel does possess nuclear weapons. Israel is not a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, nor a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). It has, however, stated a unilateral commitment to abide by MTCR's restrictions on missile exports. In addition to strike systems, Israel also deploys a sophisticated, layered missile defence shield, developed jointly with the United States. The collaboration between Israel's missile and the space industries, moreover, has facilitated the domestic production of satellite launch vehicles. Israel's combat capabilities is not limited to its rockets and missiles. It boasts an advanced, US-backed air force equipped with hundreds of multipurpose jet fighters, including F-15s, F-16s, and F-35s. Aerial refuelling tankers further enhance its air strike range and capabilities.

How Strong Are Hezbollah's Forces? Hezbollah, one of the world's most heavily armed non-state military groups, operates with significant backing from Iran and boasts a large missile arsenal in southern Lebanon. But with the militant Islamist group's chain of command destroyed, it is unclear who will fill those roles. Estimates suggest Hezbollah has between 20,000 and 50,000 fighters, many of whom are well-trained and have combat experience from the Syrian civil war. But the loss of men in leadership has left Hezbollah in total disarray, stripped of capable operators who possessed deep military and international experience. The group is estimated to possess 120,000 to 200,000 rockets and missiles, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Most of its arsenal consists of small, unguided surface-to-surface rockets, but it is also believed to have anti-aircraft and anti-ship missiles, along with guided missiles capable of striking deep within Israel. Hezbollah's weapons is significantly more advanced than that of Hamas in Gaza.

Hamas commander killed in Israeli airstrike on Lebanon

GNS News Agency, Oct 3

Beirut: Palestinian militant group Hamas said one of its commanders has been killed in an Israeli airstrike in Lebanon. Fatah Sharif was killed early on Monday in an airstrike on the Al-Buss refugee camp in the southern port city of Tyre, the group said in a statement. Sharif was a commander in Lebanon and a member of Hamas' command outside the Palestinian territories, Hamas said. Since the Israel-Hamas war began on Oct. 7, Israeli airstrikes have killed several Hamas officials



in Lebanon. Meanwhile, an apparent Israeli airstrike on central Beirut has levelled an apartment building. It came after Israel hit targets across Lebanon and killed dozens of people, as Hezbollah sustained heavy blows to its command structure, including the killing of its leader, Hassan Nasrallah. The early Monday airstrike — the first to hit central Beirut in nearly a year of conflict — hit a multi-storey residential building, according to an Associated Press journalist at the scene. Videos showed ambulances and a crowd gathered near the building in a mainly Sunni district with a busy thoroughfare lined

with shops. In the past week, Israel has frequently targeted Beirut's southern suburbs, where Hezbollah has a strong presence — including a major strike on Friday that killed Nasrallah — but had not hit locations near the city centre.

The Lebanese Health Ministry said at least 105 people were killed around the country in airstrikes on Sunday. Two strikes near the southern city of Sidon,

about 45 km south of Beirut, killed at least 32 people, the Ministry said. Separately, Israeli strikes in the northern province of Baalbek Hermel killed 21 people and wounded at least 47. Lebanese media reported dozens of strikes in the central, eastern and western Bekaa and in the south, besides strikes on Beirut. Israel says it targets militants, but the strikes have hit buildings.

Current account deficit widens to \$9.7 billion in April-June quarter: RBI



a year-on-year basis to \$39.7 billion in April-June 2024 quarter from \$35.1 billion in the year-ago period. Services exports have risen on a year-on-year basis across major categories such as computer services, business services, travel services and transportation services.

Private transfer receipts, mainly representing remittances by Indians employed overseas, increased to \$29.5 billion in Q1 FY2025 from \$27.1 billion in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The data showed that in the financial account, net foreign direct investment inflows increased to \$6.3 billion in the April-June 2024 quarter from \$4.7 billion a year-ago. The net inflows under foreign portfolio investment moderated to \$0.9 billion from \$15.7 billion in the same quarter of last year. "FDI flows were higher this quarter though FPI was lower. The latter will turnaround given the debt flows expected due to the inclusion of bonds in the JP Morgan index," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda. Net inflows under external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to India amounted to \$1.8 billion in Q1 FY25, lower than \$5.6 billion in the corresponding period a year ago. Non-resident deposits (NRI deposits) recorded net inflows of \$4 billion, higher than \$2.2 billion a year ago, the data showed. In the reporting quarter, there was an accretion of \$5.2 billion to the foreign exchange reserves on a Balance of Payment (BoP) basis as compared with \$24.4 billion in Q1 FY2024.

The country's current account widened marginally to \$9.7 billion, or 1.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the April-June 2024 quarter led by rise in merchandise trade deficit, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed. In Q1 FY2024 quarter, the current account deficit stood at \$8.9 billion, 1 per cent of GDP. There was a current account surplus of \$4.6 billion, or 0.5 per cent of GDP, in the quarter ended March 2024.

The current account deficit is the difference between exports and imports of goods and services. It is a key indicator of the country's external sector. "The widening of CAD (in Q1 on a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis was primarily due to a rise in merchandise trade deficit to \$65.1 billion in Q1 2024-25 from \$56.7 billion in Q1 2023-24," the RBI data showed. Net services receipts increased on

BharatPe settles with Ashneer Grover, ex co-foundernot to be associated with firm in any capacity

Fintech firm BharatPe has reached a settlement to end a long-standing dispute with its embattled former co-founder Ashneer Grover, marking a stop to a long drawn legal battle and public spats. As part of the settlement, Grover will not be associated with BharatPe in any capacity, and will not be part of the shareholding of the company. "Certain shares of Mr. Grover shall be transferred to the Resilient Growth Trust for the benefit of the Company and his remaining shares will be managed by his family trust," BharatPe said in a statement. Both parties have decided not to pursue their legal claims against each other.

The settlement comes after a close family member of Grover and his wife Madhuri Grover was recently arrested by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police in the case of alleged misappropriation of the fintech unicorn's funds. It is unclear whether the settlement would stop the EOW's investigation, however. "I have reached a decisive settlement with BharatPe. I repose my faith in the management and board, who are doing great work in taking BharatPe forward in the right direction. I continue to remain aligned with the company's growth and success..." Ashneer Grover said in a post on X.

The tussle between the two came to light last January shortly after an audio clip surfaced, in which Ashneer was purportedly heard using expletives against a Kotak Bank staffer. While he claimed that the audio clip was fake, the bank said it would take legal action over it. Two weeks later, Ashneer went on voluntary leave of absence



until March-end. This happened after an e-mail thread between Ashneer and Sequoia, BharatPe's largest shareholder, highlighting differences between the two parties came to light. Meanwhile, Ashneer's wife Madhuri Grover Jain was also sent on leave of absence.

Then, BharatPe called in independent auditors to look into the company's practices under Grover. A preliminary report by A&M in February accused Madhuri of financial fraud. In February 2023, BharatPe sacked Madhuri on the charges of misappropriation of funds. BharatPe lodged a criminal complaint against Grover and his family in December 2022, alleging fraud and seeking over Rs 88.67 crore in damages. Almost five months after BharatPe submitted a criminal complaint, the Delhi Police EOW filed a first information report (FIR) against Grover, his wife Madhuri Jain, and other family members.

key regulations on the table and why the markets are spooked



The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)'s board will hold its meeting today. The board will likely take up a host of measures, including tighter norms for Futures & Options (F&O) trading, the introduction of 'New Asset Class' and mutual fund lite regulations. Ahead of the SEBI's board meeting, the benchmark indices, the Sensex and the Nifty, have fallen by over 1 per cent each in anticipation to some of these measures. The SEBI board is expected to clear the proposals to introduce 'New Asset Class', mutual fund lite regulations and launch of a product which would be a combination of rights issue and preferential allotment of shares.

In July, the SEBI proposed to introduce a 'New Asset Class' which would offer investment products between mutual funds and portfolio management services (PMS). The new category of products, to be introduced under the mutual fund structure, will have a minimum investment limit of Rs 10 lakh. The markets regulator had also floated a consultation paper to introduce Mutual Fund (MF) Lite regulations for passively managed mutual fund schemes. This relaxed regulatory framework for passive MF schemes is aimed at reducing compliance requirements, increasing penetration, facilitating investment diversification and fostering innovation. One of the crucial reforms which the board may announce is tighter regulations for Futures & Options (F&O) trading, which has been a concern area for the government and other regulators. In order to curb speculative trading in the Futures & Options (F&O) segment, the SEBI, in July this year, proposed a series of short-term measures, including restricting multiple option contract expiries, raising the size of options contracts and intraday monitoring of position limits.

The markets regulator has already received nearly 6,000 responses on the consultation paper on measures to strengthen the index derivatives framework, the SEBI Chairperson said last month. Other crucial areas to be taken up by SEBI board today's SEBI board meeting assumes importance as it is the first board meeting since the Hindenburg Research and Congress' recent allegations of 'conflict of interest' against its chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch. The board will also take cognizance of these issues. In Au-

gust, US-based Hindenburg Research alleged that the SEBI Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband had stakes in obscure offshore funds used in "the Adani money siphoning scandal". The short-seller claimed that the couple invested in Global Dynamic Opportunities Fund (GDOF), in which Vinod Adani, brother of Gautam Adani, had invested.

Last month, the main opposition party the Congress also levelled a series of allegations of conflict of interest against the SEBI Chairperson. The Congress had alleged that SEBI Chairperson continued to draw salary from ICICI since 2017, when she joined SEBI as a whole-time member (WTM), and then took over at the helm of the market regulator. The Congress also claimed that between 2018-2024 Madhabi Puri Buch, as a whole time member and later as the chairperson of SEBI, received rental income amounting to Rs 2.16 crore from Carol Info Services Ltd, a firm affiliated to Wockhardt Ltd. The SEBI Chairperson had dubbed the various allegations of the Congress party levelled against her as "false, incorrect, malicious and motivated". An important area that the SEBI Board is likely to take up is the recent concerns raised by the regulators' officers on issues around unprofessional work culture and house rent allowance (HRA). In August this year, nearly 500 Grade A SEBI officials complained to the government about a "hostile work environment" at the regulator. On September 5, SEBI issued a press release denying allegations of toxic work culture and said that its junior officers were being misguided by 'external elements'. However, after pressure from its officials, SEBI later withdrew the contentious press release. The regulator said that all the issues of employees would be resolved amicably.

How much have Sensex and Nifty fallen?

Ahead of the crucial SEBI board, markets barometer, the Sensex and the Nifty, have plunged to more than 1 per cent each in the early morning trades. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell 1,007.69 points, or 1.2 per cent, to touch a low of 84,547.73 in the intraday trades. The Nifty 50 plunged 283 points, or 1.08 per cent, to an intraday low of 25,895.4. The 50-share index opened at 26,061.30, compared to the previous close of 26,178.95. Analysts said the fall in benchmark indices is due to the expectation that the SEBI, in its board meeting today, will tighten the F&O trading regulations. "Market is likely to move into a consolidation phase in the near-term. One significant factor that is influencing foreign portfolios is the outperformance of the Chinese stocks which is reflected in the massive surge in the Hang Seng index by around 18 per cent in September," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. This surge has been triggered by hopes of revival in the Chinese economy in response to the monetary and fiscal stimulus announced by the Chinese authorities. The cheap valuations of Chinese stocks are keeping the momentum intact."

'How to not be stinky in 2024': Dermatologist shares personal hygiene hack she swears by



In many people, sweat equals terrible body odour, especially after a workout. While the most commonly advised solution would be 'take a bath,' dermatologist Dr Neera Nathan swears by hypochlorous acid to keep body odour at bay. "How to not be stinky in 2024. Here's a personal hygiene hack I swear by as a dermatologist. If you start to stink during the day or smell bad post-workout, spray hypochlorous acid on your body, armpits, or feet to help neutralise odour. It may also help reduce breakouts on your face or body on the go or after sweating," Dr Nathan claimed.

What is hypochlorous acid?

Hypochlorous acid (HOCl) is a weak acid naturally produced by the body's white blood cells as part of the immune system. "It acts as a powerful antimicrobial agent, killing bacteria, viruses, and fungi. Its effectiveness against bacteria makes it useful for various applications, including personal hygiene," said Dr Karuna Malhotra, aesthetic physician and cosmetologist, Cosmetic Skin and Homeo Clinic Rajouri Garden New Delhi. According to Dr Malhotra, hypochlorous acid can be used in sprays or topical solutions to control body odour after a workout or during the day. It is a "strong antibacterial agent" that is also used in hand sanitisers and disinfectants. Products with HOCl are often marketed as skin-friendly and suit-

able for sensitive skin. They can be used after workouts to freshen up and reduce body odour without the need for heavy fragrances or chemicals. "Since body odour is largely caused by bacteria breaking down sweat, HOCl helps by reducing bacterial growth. It is considered safe for skin and can neutralise odour without the harshness or irritation sometimes caused by deodorants or antiperspirants that contain alcohol or synthetic chemicals," said Dr Malhotra.

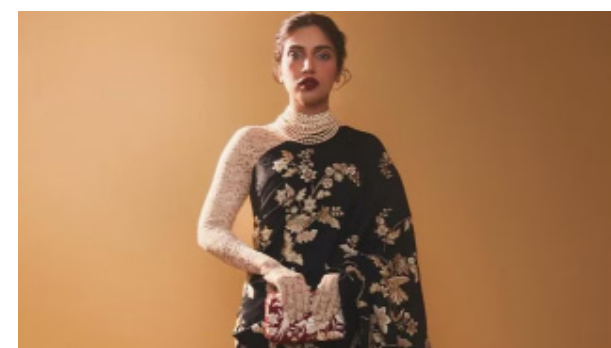
What are other hygiene hacks you must follow?

Dr Shareefa Chause, dermatologist and cosmetologist, Shareefa's Skin Care Clinic shared the following: "One can opt for expert-recommended roll-ons. Wear natural fabrics such as cotton in the gym. Maintain good personal hygiene which includes taking a shower immediately after the workout session. One can also use an antibacterial soap and products recommended by the doctor. Give equal importance to your underarms and take utmost care of them just like you take care of your face and other parts of the body," said Dr Chause. **DISCLAIMER:** This article is based on information from the public domain and/or the experts we spoke to. Always consult your health practitioner before starting any routine.

Bhumi Pednekar wears sari with Parsi Gara embroidery; know all about it

Known for her versatile fashion choices, Bhumi Pednekar has recently been on a sari-wearing spree. Her Instagram feed is filled with stunning images of her in various elegant nine-yard drapes. One of her latest looks is particularly noteworthy. For a recent event, Pednekar opted for a black sari from the label Ashdeen, adorned with intricate Parsi Gara embroidery. To complete the ensemble, she paired it with a sheer, full-sleeved white lace blouse and added a layered pearl necklace.

Fashion critic Diet Sabya slammed the look, calling the blouse 'tacky'. "Looking back this Parsi Ashdeen sari did not warrant the lace blouse which is downright tacky. Should've been a solid black full sleeve blouse and pearls and it would've been a 10/10. The potential was right there." (sic) Diet Sabya also questioned the constant need to innovate, saying, "Maybe the wheel need not always be reinvented? Stylists — would love for y'all to research outside of Pinterest or pick up a costume book and apply some level of critical thinking? no shade or shade." For those who don't know, Parsi Gara embroidery is a traditional embroidery technique that originated in the Parsi community of India. This exquisite craft is characterised by intricate floral and geometric patterns, often featuring motifs inspired by Persian and Indian designs. The embroidery is typically done on silk or cotton fabric using silk, zari (metallic thread), and beads. The stitches are fine and delicate, creating a rich and luxurious texture. Parsi Gara embroidery is known for its vibrant colours and intricate detailing. This beautiful art form has been



passed down through generations of Parsi families and continues to be practiced today, preserving a unique cultural heritage.

While Parsi Gara embroidery has a long and rich history, its practice has faced challenges in recent decades due to urbanisation, globalisation, and changing lifestyles. However, efforts are being made to revive and preserve Parsi Gara embroidery. Many organisations and individuals are working to promote the craft, teach it to younger generations, and encourage its use in contemporary fashion. Workshops, exhibitions, and fashion shows featuring Parsi Gara designs are being held to raise awareness and appreciation for this beautiful art form.

The Internet wants to know if women have periods while in a coma

The internet sometimes surprises us with intriguing questions. So, when we came across a thread on whether periods happen to a comatose woman, we thought you might share our curiosity and would want to know the answer. So let's find out: "Do females in a coma still get their periods, or does it stop until they wake up?"

What is a coma?

Going into a coma means a state of semi-consciousness wherein the person is unresponsive and cannot be woken up. "The person may just lie on the bed without any activity. They will not understand what is going around and not respond in any manner. The causes of coma are encephalitis and meningitis that are known to cause brain inflammation and swelling," said Dr Rajashri Tayshete Bhasale, consultant gynaecologist and laparoscopic surgeon, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mira Road. Cardiac arrest, diabetes, liver or kidney failure, hypothermia, drugs and alcohol overuse, and electrocution and toxins exposure, stroke, brain tumour, traumatic brain injury (TBI) may "also cause a person to enter a comatose state as the brain doesn't respond," added Dr Bhasale.

So, do women in coma get their period?

Dr Bhasale shared that if the reproductive system is functioning without any injury, menstruation tends to happen. In such a case, the body will continue with its routine function. The menses will be every month like they would get before going into a coma. However, for some women, the blood flow may be low due to improper nutrition or other ailments like PCOS. "Period is a natural phenomenon, and one will get it even in a coma unless there are other health issues," said Dr Bhasale.

Concurred consultant neurologist Dr Sudhir Kumar,



Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, and shared that women in reproductive age groups can have periods while in a coma. "In a comatose person, it is the brain that is affected and not the reproductive organs. So, women (after menarche and before menopause) can have their monthly periods, even when unconscious. Other bodily functions such as urination and defecation too continue to occur in a coma," said Dr Kumar.

But wait... isn't the brain responsible for all the cues and controlling all bodily functions?

The brain is responsible for controlling functions such as motor movements, sensations, speech, vision, hearing, etc. So, a comatose person can not move arms and legs, feel sensations, or see or hear. However, Dr Kumar noted that certain functions, such as menstrual cycles, are not controlled by the brain. A conscious person can control urine and defecation for a certain amount of time. However, in an unconscious person, once the bladder is full, urine will be released (in some cases, urine could be retained in the bladder, for which a urinary catheter is placed). Urine and feces formation continues in a comatose person," explained Dr Kumar.

Mithun Chakraborty's Kolkata neighbour 'Kaalo Mashi' shares joy over his Dadasaheb Phalke Award win: 'We all feel great'



living on narrow lane of Kolkata to this': Mithun Chakraborty reacts to Dadasaheb Phalke award win, PM Modi congratulates

In an exclusive interview with The Indian Express Bangla (IE Bangla), Mithun Chakraborty's neighbour Lakshmi Das, whom he affectionately calls "Kaalo Mashi," expressed her joy over his recognition and her hopes for even greater achievements. Having known him since childhood, Lakshmi took a trip down memory lane and reminisced about those days. "There used to be a lane in this neighborhood and the police would chase people away with sticks — but not Mithun. The house was always filled to the brim with people. The lane used to lead to house Number 10, where an aunt and uncle used to live. Now they don't live here any more."

Reflecting on their affectionate relationship, she shared, "Earlier, when living in the flat in Charu market, he used to call me 'dida' (grandmother) and offered me to stay there with him. But I refused. I became a widow at a very young age and have been living by myself since. Now he calls me 'Kaalo Maashi' (dark-skinned aunt)." Though Mithun and his family sold their house in the neighborhood long ago, the residents, including Lakshmi, take pride in his accomplishments. "We all feel great. But it's not their house anymore. It has been sold off because it was in a dilapidated state. The current residents also wish him well and hope he grows further. When Mithun threw a party in a hotel, he took us all there in a car." She added that his last visit to the neighborhood was for his daughter Dishani Chakraborty's annaprashan (rice ceremony). Recalling a recent visit from Mithun's son Namashi Chakraborty ahead of his film *Bad Boy* (2023), she said, "He came, paid his respects to me and took my blessings. Although I initially refused to come out because there were many people outside, I eventually did at his insistence. He told me that one of his films was releasing the next day and asked for my blessings. He even hugged me."

Born in Calcutta (now known as Kolkata), Mithun Chakraborty maintains a strong connection with his hometown and its residents. Mithun Chakraborty's Kolkata neighbour Lakshmi Das, whom he affectionately calls "Kaalo Mashi," expressed her joy over the actor winning the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Three-time National Award-winning actor Mithun Chakraborty has been honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in the field of cinema, for his contributions to the visual arts. He will be presented with this award at the upcoming National Film Awards ceremony. With a remarkable career spanning over 350 films in various Indian languages, Mithun was also awarded the Padma Bhushan earlier this year. He made his acting debut in the period action drama *Mrigayaa* (1976), helmed by Mrinal Sen, and won the National Film Award for Best Actor for that film itself.

Born in Calcutta (now known as Kolkata), West Bengal, Mithun maintains a strong connection with his hometown and its residents, besides having appeared in several Bengali films. Despite turning 74 earlier this year, his neighbours still harbour fond memories of his childhood and speak highly of the legendary actor. Must read | "From

Game Changer song Raa Macha Macha: Ram Charan, Shankar boost the hype with Thaman's high-energy track

Game Changer song Raa Macha Macha: The track is filled with vibrant beats and high energy, designed to maintain excitement for the film until the promotional activities kick off. In the track, a stylish and well-groomed Ram Charan can be seen dancing alongside scores of background dancers. (Image: Saregama Telugu/YT)

Game Changer song Raa Macha Macha: One of the most anticipated Telugu films right now, the political action drama *Game Changer*, has been generating significant buzz ever since its announcement, as it marks the first collaboration between director S Shankar and actor Ram Charan. Now, months after releasing the first track from the film, "Jaragandi," the makers have unveiled the lyrical video of the second song, which is yet another dance number.

Titled "Raa Macha Macha," the song is filled with vibrant beats and high energy, designed to maintain excitement for the film until the promotional activities kick off. The lyrical video also provides glimpses of the actual song sequence, showcasing a stylish and well-groomed Ram Charan dancing alongside scores of background dancers. The 4-minute-42-second clip also includes behind-the-scenes footage from the filming of the track. The song has been composed and programmed by Thaman S, known for his work in films such as *Race Gurram* (2014), *Aagadu* (2014), *Bruce Lee* (2015), *Sarainodu* (2016), *Tholi Prema* (2018), *Aravinda Sametha Veera Raghava* (2018), *Ala Vaikunthapuramuloo* (2020), *Krack* (2021), *Vakeel Saab* (2021), *Akhanda* (2021), *Bheemla Nayak* (2022), *Varisu* (2023), *Bhagavanth Kesari* (2023) and *Guntur Kaaram* (2024). The lyrics for "Raa Macha Macha"



have been penned by Anantha Sriram, and Nakash Aziz has lent his vocals to this energetic number. Bankrolled by Raju and Shirish under the banner of Sri Venkateswara Creations, *Game Changer* has been in the making since 2021. While its storyline was penned by Karthik Subbaraj, the movie's script was written by Farhad Samji and Vivek, with dialogues by Sai Madhav Burra. S. Thirunavukkarasu has served as the director of photography, and Shameer Muhammed as the editor. *Game Changer* will be released in Tamil and Hindi as well, in addition to its original Telugu version, though the release date remains uncertain. *Game Changer* is a crucial movie for both Shankar and Ram Charan following the massive debacles of their last ventures, *Indian 2* (2024) and *Acharya* (2022), respectively. Despite arriving amidst much anticipation and hype, both films bombed at the box office, receiving negative reviews from all quarters.

Om Puri's wife Nandita on writing about actor's sexual encounter at the age 14, dismisses it led to rift between them: 'He was ok with it'

Om Puri was regarded as one of the finest actors in world cinema. However, his personal life was filled with controversies. The biggest of them was when his ex-wife Nandita Puri, also the author of his biography—*Unlikely Hero: Om Puri*—disclosed his alleged sexual encounters with his house helps Shanti and Laxmi when he was a teenager, allegedly without the actor's consent. The shocking revelation was all over the news in 2009 upon the book's release, reportedly becoming the reason of their separation.

Now, after almost 15 years, his ex-wife Nandita addressed the controversy and contrary to reports, claimed, her husband was not upset. In an interview with Siddharth Kannan, Nandita said, "No, he was not upset." She explained, "When I was interviewing him, my son was very small, I said, 'You are talking so openly about the maid episode, it wouldn't be nice.' He said, 'why? Why are you being such a hypocrite? I

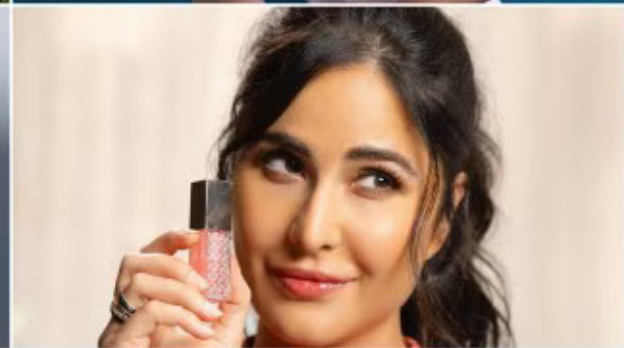
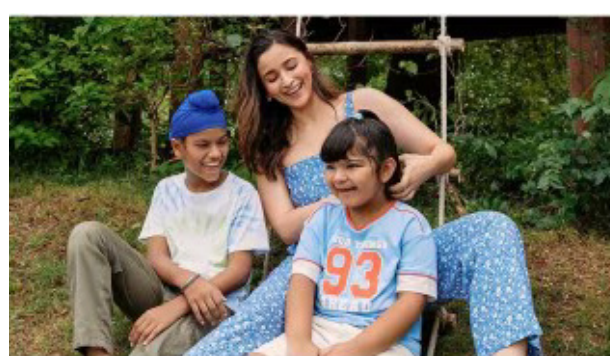


was not married, I was not in a relationship, why can't I mention that I did have a little affair with the working class person.' I said, 'Yeah, but I also have a son' and he said, 'No, he has to know the truth.' She then claimed that her husband was upset with how the media treated the news. She said, "What he was upset with was the way it was pulled out. He said, 'That is not the highlight of my life. The highlight of my

life is my career, my childhood, my struggle, but this, I wanted mentioned." She further claimed, she didn't put this information out without his permission. However, previously, in an interview with Times Entertainment, Om Puri, who was in Chandigarh at that time, claimed he didn't read even a single page of the manuscript. He said, "I don't care if she is my wife, I won't let her get away with it." He fur-

ther shared he was shocked by her revelations and called it "cheap." The actor accused his wife of reducing a very important and sacred part of his life to cheap and lurid gossip, claiming he had shared these dark secrets with her as all husbands do. "How was I to know she would use the incident from my life to sell her book?" The actor expressed his disappointment in the way his relationship was being shown.

Katrina Kaif, Hrithik Roshan, Alia Bhatt's brands post increase in revenue; other celebrity-led brands suffer



Successful celebrity brands are characterised by authenticity and product quality, while struggling ones often lack these elements and rely too heavily on celebrity presence. While Salman Khan's *Being Human* and Deepika Padukone's 82°E are struggling, Katrina Kaif's *Kay Beauty*, Hrithik Roshan's *HRX* and Alia Bhatt's *Ed-a-Mamma* are making strides. It appears that the lack of originality, authenticity and overall quality has started to affect Bollywood stars' entrepreneurial ventures, much like their movies. This worrying trend poses significant challenges for many celebrities who invested big bucks in their ambitious business endeavours, as many of these brands are witnessing a decline, with revenues dipping exponentially and their existence becoming uncertain.

According to a report by Storyboard18, the over-reliance on their celebrity associates has contributed to the downfall of several business ventures, including those led by icons like Salman Khan, Deepika Padukone, Shahid Kapoor, Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma, Yuvraj Singh and Sonam Kapoor. Meanwhile, some celebrity brands have experienced substantial growth, thanks to impressive strategies, highlighting the need for these companies to think beyond their star power.

Pointing out that Virat Kohli's youth fashion brand *WROGN* recently disclosed that its revenue from operations dropped to Rs 243.75 crore during FY24 in contrast to Rs 344.3 crore in FY23, it also noted that Deepika's skincare brand 82°E, despite reporting a revenue of Rs 22.82 crore from operations in the first nine months of FY24 — a significant increase from Rs 11 crore in FY23 — recorded a loss of Rs 25.1 crore at the EBITDA level. Salman Khan's *Being Human* too has been struggling

due to market oversaturation, despite the initial buzz. In contrast, brands like Katrina Kaif's *Kay Beauty* and Alia Bhatt's kidsweat brand *Ed-a-Mamma* (which had a majority stake recently acquired by Reliance Retail), along with Hrithik Roshan's co-owned fitness brand *HRX*, have been making strides in the market. While Katrina's makeup brand, in partnership with Nykaa, reportedly has over 1.5 million consumers, *Ed-a-Mamma's* revenues increased fourfold in FY22 and *HRX* recently surpassed the Rs 1,000 crore revenue mark.

Storyboard18, citing industry observers, stated that successful celebrity brands are characterised by long-term brand building, authenticity and product quality. In contrast, struggling brands often lack these elements and rely too heavily on celebrity presence rather than fostering a genuine connection with their products, which leads to their decline. Experts further told the publication that a brand should feel like an authentic extension of the celebrity's identity, rather than just a business venture. Quality should always take precedence, they said, with a focus on delivering products or services that genuinely meet consumer needs. Another important criticism that many celebrity products have faced is their overpricing, with the most recent example being those from Deepika's 82°E. "Consumers are becoming more discerning and can sense when a brand lacks authenticity or substance. If a celebrity's involvement feels superficial, the brand risks being perceived as a mere cash grab," Storyboard18 quoted Yasin Hamidani of Media Care Brand Solutions as saying. The report also noted that the overwhelming number of celebrity brands also contribute to their decline.

'Manoj Bajpayee and I would have atta only for two rotis, would eat one each': Anubhav Sinha on their struggle, friendship

There is no doubt that filmmaker Anubhav Sinha is one of the very rare Indian voices from cinema that doesn't shy away from calling a spade a spade. Anubhav's impressive body of work reflects his ability to question the status quo, and not bow down to pressures of doing the same. His recent work, the Netflix series, *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack*, is a prime example. The initial wave of positivity that came their way was soon hijacked by voices demanding changes in the series, and jeopardised the creative freedom of the filmmaker. But Anubhav didn't back down, and went on to label the controversy as just 'gobar' and simply shrugged away from it by saying the universe is both constructive and critical. This candidness came to the fore in an interview for *Mashable India* with casting director Mukesh Chhabra, where he also spoke about the acting aspirants and what they need to do to break into the world of cinema. He cited the example of actors such as Manoj Bajpayee, Kumud Mishra and Manoj Pahwa who have honed their craft to the level that filmmakers have no choice but to cast them.

"Actors are in need of that one opportunity to showcase their talent. But are you preparing yourself for it?" asked Anubhav, who went on to explain that an actor can never truly become a good one if they don't have the ability to think rationally. "If you haven't read poems or know your history or understand the politics around you, then you can't call yourself a good actor. You have to be educated."

Going on to point out this education doesn't mean the bookish ones or degree certificates, Anubhav said that it is important to be educated in the school of life. "You have to understand the country, life, society. Then there is the necessity of honing your craft. Actors spend 85-90 percent of their time in search of the opportunity. Make that 15-20 percent, and instead, spend the rest to understand your craft, and improve it. This would prepare you for the moment you get the opportunity. Any good actor worth their salt is very intelligent and aware," asserted Anubhav, who spoke about how he can't now do a film without the likes of Manoj Pahwa and Kumud Mishra. "I feel a sense of insecurity if they are not there in my film." Another name that he considers to be an important part of his life but unfortunately hasn't yet worked with is Manoj Bajpayee. Reminiscing about the 35-year journey with the ace actor, Anubhav said, "I have known him since 1989, from the time when we had *atta* just for 2 rotis, and we used to share one each. Recently, he called me after watching *IC 814*, and spoke about it with so much happiness. He was so proud of me that he called once in the night, expressed his joy, called me back the next morning, and shared his happiness all over again."

Expressing a mutual admiration, Anubhav shared that he was not just a friend but a fan of Manoj too. "When I see any good work he does, I feel very proud that I know him. He is the kind of an actor you'd want to work with in every film," said Anubhav, who went on to share that they've never worked together despite the long-standing friendship. "He doesn't do my films. I know his logic, and



I appreciate it too. I offered him films, and in fact, I asked him for *Bheed*, but it just didn't happen."

Tovino Thomas' fantasy action movie 'ARM' grosses Rs 100 crore worldwide

Chennai: Tovino Thomas, who became a favourite among audiences through the movie 'Minnal Murali', has brought out another major hit flick *Ajayante Randam Moshanam* ('*ARM*'), a Fantasy-Action-Adventure-Romantic-Sci-Fi movie directed by Jithin Lal. The 3D movie released on September 12, is written by Sujith Nambiar.

The film received a blockbuster response in every language and has further elevated Tovino Thomas's stardom. The film became the *Onam* winner, bringing glory back to the Mollywood box office and highlighting the power of content. This entertainer impressed all walks of life and continues to run successfully with good occupancy. The film slowly reached the Rs 100 crore mark, proving Tovino Thomas's star power at the Mollywood box office and beyond.

In '*ARM*', Tovino impressively portrays three distinct characters — Kunjikkellu, Maniyan and Ajayan — showcasing his remarkable versatility. With a talented cast including Krithi Shetty, Surabhi Lakshmi and Aishwarya Rajesh, and music by Dhibu Ninan Thomas, '*ARM*' offers a thrilling cinematic experience.

Rooted deeply in the fantasy and folklore of Kerala, this visual spectacle has received positive word of mouth, which is driving it to a successful run. Given the overwhelming trend, '*ARM*' is sure to generate even more love at the ticket window. Besides its phenomenal domestic performance, the film is also doing exceptionally well in other languages. The film also stars Basil Joseph, Jagadeesh, Harish Uthaman, Harish Peradi, Kabir Singh, Pramod Shetty, and Rohini in significant roles. Jomon T. John, who started in Malayalam cinema and has now reached Bollywood, handles the cinematography for '*ARM*'.

