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

Hyderabad: In a span of just 35 days, the Cyberabad police have recovered as many as 800 mobile phones worth Rs 2.40 crore which were either lost or stolen. With the help of the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal, the recovered phones were handed over to their owners on Wednesday.

Of these phones, 135 were recovered by Madhapur CCS, 140 by Balanagar CCS, 101 by Medchal CCS, 133 by Rajendranagar CCS, 72 by Shamshabad CCS, 105 by Medchal Zone, and 101 by the IT Cell.

Tense moments continue at Dr BR Ambedkar statue

Hyderabad: Tense moments were witnessed for the second day at Dr BR Ambedkar statue at Tank Bund with police increasing security in the vicinity on Wednesday.

The Central Zone police have deployed additional forces and police vans as a preventive measure and in anticipation of an law and order issue. Dalit groups continued to gather at the spot and stage their protest, however, for a brief time. Senior police officials were on the ground monitoring the situation.

Group-I aspirants plan campaigns against Congress in view of polls in different States



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Hyderabad: Furious over the Congress government not resolving their issues, some Group - I aspirants are planning to channelize their frustration with the State government into a focused campaign against Congress party in the ensuing elections in the different states. In order to draw attention of the top leadership of the grand old party over their issues, including controversial GO 29, the Group - I aspirants intend to drive a campaign against Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is making electoral debut from Wayanad, Kerala. Stating that the GO 29 violates the rule of reservation in the Group - I Main exam selections, the aspirants plan to take the campaign into people that the grand old party is against the reservations. Candidates also are planning to campaign against the Congress party in upcoming local body elections in the State and also the ensuing Maharashtra assembly elections.

"The idea behind the campaign is to ensure that the issues of the unemployed youth in Telangana reach the Congress top leadership. This is just a plan," said a Group - I aspirant. The issue stemmed from the issuance of GO-29 by the Congress government. Earlier, the previous BRS government issued a GO 55, allowing candidates from the SC, ST and BC categories to compete in both open and reserved quota based on merit secured in the examination. However, the Congress government issued GO 29 restricting the SC, ST and BC candidates to the reserved candidates even if they secured high marks for the open category selection. The new GO disqualified several aspirants who were earlier eligible under the earlier rules. While the issue reached the Supreme Court, the candidates could not get immediate relief. The apex court asked the High Court, where aspirants challenged the GO, to hear the matter expeditiously before the Group - I results were declared, preferably on November 20. The Group - I aspirants have been demanding cancellation of GO 29 besides implementing the rule of reservation. Also, since the TGPSC had stated in the High Court that Telugu Akademi books were not standard, the aspirants have also been demanding the Commission provide them clarity over standardized textbooks for competitive exams preparation.

Suspension of 160 AEOs sparks protests

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Hyderabad: The suspension of 160 Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs) for their non-participation in the Digital Crop Survey has sparked protests at the grassroots level in the agriculture department. The State Committee for AEOs has issued an urgent call to action. All the 2600 AEOs in the department have been urged to show solidarity with their suspended colleagues. The committee has stressed that the issue of the suspended AEOs could become everyone's issue. The State Committee for AEOs appealed to all members to recognize the importance of this struggle, emphasizing the need to safeguard their rights and address their collective concerns. The committee is meeting at the commissioner's office to decide the plan of action. The committee leaders will be meeting the Minister, secretary and Commissioner concerned to apprise them of the concerns of the AEOs who were already being over burdened with the workload they have already been discharging.

YSRCP Leader Vasireddy Padma Resigns from Party

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

In a surprising turn of events following the Andhra Pradesh general elections, senior leader Vasireddy Padma has announced her resignation from the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP). Padma, a prominent figure and former chairperson of the Women Commission, submitted her resignation letter to party leader Jagan Mohan Reddy, marking yet another exit from the party as dissatisfaction among members grows. Padma's departure comes on the heels of several high-profile resignations, including MPs, MLCs, former ministers, and other senior leaders, signaling a wave of unrest within the YSRCP. Since the election results were announced, Padma has largely kept a low profile, refraining from participating in party activities, further fueling speculation about her commitment to the party.

PM Modi to BRICS leaders: No place for double standards on terrorism, terror financing

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Kazan (Russia): Reiterating his call for dialogue and diplomacy, and not war, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday urged firm support of all BRICS members on the issue of terrorism, emphasising that there can be no "double standards" on the serious matter. "We support dialogue and diplomacy, not war. And just as we were able to overcome a challenge like Covid together, we are certainly able to create new opportunities to ensure a secure, strong and prosperous future for future generations," said PM Modi in his remarks at the closed plenary of the 16th BRICS Summit in the Russian city of Kazan.

"In order to counter terrorism and Terror financing, we need the single minded, firm support of all. There is no place for double standards on this serious matter. We need to take



active steps to stop radicalization of youth in our countries. We must work together on the long pending matter in the UN of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism," he added. The restricted format of the summit meeting had in attendance the Russian President Vladimir Putin, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Chinese President Xi Jinping, UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy

Ahmed, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Luis Ecker Vieira. In his remarks, PM Modi stated that the grouping's approach must remain people centric. He insisted that a message should go out that BRICS is not a "divisive" organisation but one that works in the interest of humanity. "Our meeting is taking place at a time when the world is facing several pressing challenges such as wars, economic uncertainty, climate change and terrorism. The world is talking about the North South

divide and the East West divide. Preventing inflation, ensuring food security, energy security, health security, water security, are matters of priority for all countries in the world.

"And, in this era of technology, new challenges have emerged such as cyber deepfake, disinformation. At such a time, there are high expectations of BRICS. I believe that as a diverse and inclusive platform, BRICS can play a positive role in all areas," he maintained. The BRICS alliance, an inter-governmental organisation comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, had added four new members - Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates - on January 1, 2024. Addressing the gathering of leaders, Prime Minister Modi said that BRICS is an organisation which is willing to evolve with time and India is ready to welcome new members into BRICS as 'Partner Countries'."

More than 30 countries willing to join BRICS as process for forming multipolar world underway: Putin

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Kazan (Russia): Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said that more than 30 countries have expressed a desire to join the BRICS alliance, an inter-governmental organisation comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa which had added four new members - Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates - in January, this year. "It would be wrong to ignore the unprecedented interest of the countries of the Global South and East in strengthening contacts with BRICS. In one form or another, more than 30 states have already expressed such a desire. At the same time, it is necessary to maintain a balance and not allow a decrease in the effectiveness of BRICS," said Putin while making his opening statement at the 16th BRICS Summit in the Russian city of Kazan.

Besides Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Chinese President Xi Jinping, UAE President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Luis Ecker Vieira held the day's first engagement - a summit meeting in a restricted format. Also present at the meeting were Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and several other key BRICS officials. Before the start of the meeting, a joint photo session of the heads of delegations of the BRICS countries took place. In his opening remarks, the Russian President highlighted that it was for the first time that the BRICS Summit is also being held in an expanded format as it was the Russian presidency's motto to strengthen multilateralism for equitable global development and security. "We sought to strengthen the authority of BRICS, enhance its role in world affairs, in solving urgent, global and regional problems, and in every way contributed to the deepening of multifaceted cooperation between our states in three main areas: politics and security, economics and finance, cultural and humanitarian contacts. And, naturally, we did everything to ensure the smooth and most complete integration of new member countries into the work of the association," he said. During the narrow



format meeting, the leaders held discussions on more pressing aspects of the global agenda, including cooperation between BRICS states in the international arena and settlement of acute regional conflicts. The Russian President maintained that the leaders will also discuss the implementation of two important decisions of the previous summit in Johannesburg - the deepening of financial cooperation within BRICS and the further expansion of the organisation. "We are all witnesses to the dynamic development of BRICS, the strengthening of its authority and influence in world affairs. The member states of our association possess truly enormous political, economic, scientific, technological and human potential. At the same time, we are united by common values ??and worldview," he said. Putin stated that it would be fair to say that BRICS includes like-minded people - sovereign countries representing different continents, development models, religions, original civilizations and cultures with all member states advocating equality, good neighbourliness and mutual respect. "This is the essence of the strategy of the BRICS course on the global stage, which meets the aspirations of the main part of the international community, the so-called global majority, and it is precisely this course that is especially in demand in the current conditions, when truly fundamental changes are taking place in the world, and the process of forming a multipolar world is underway," he concluded.

KTR sends legal notice to Union Minister Bandi Sanjay over defamatory remarks

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Wednesday issued a legal notice to Union Minister and BJP MP Bandi Sanjay for making baseless and defamatory remarks against the former. He demanded Bandi Sanjay to immediately retract his statements and tender an unconditional public apology within a week, failing which a criminal defamation suit will be initiated. The controversy stems from Bandi Sanjay's recent comments in the media, where he accused Rama Rao of involvement in drug abuse and illegal phone tapping during the previous BRS regime. Sanjay also alleged that Rama Rao had a secret understanding with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to avoid legal consequences.

"These allegations are false and defamatory, and intended to tarnish my reputation and political standing,"

Rama Rao declared in his notice. He also found fault with Sanjay for unnecessarily dragging the name of his father and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao in this regard. Further, the BRS working president asserted that the accusations have caused widespread damage, especially as they were amplified by both media and social media, misleading people and causing misunderstanding. He strongly denied all charges, calling them deliberate charges aimed at discrediting him and his family. Rama Rao challenged Bandi Sanjay to provide evidence to substantiate his claims or get ready to face legal action for making baseless allegations. He stated that with Sanjay in a responsible position as the Union Minister, there is a possibility of people believing in his allegations. He reminded that he served as a five-term MLA and Minister for nine years, and was being targeted to bring disrepute.

Former IPS Officer AR Anuradha Appointed as APPSC Chairman



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

The Andhra Pradesh state government has officially appointed former IPS officer AR Anuradha as the new chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC). The announcement was made on Wednesday, following an order issued with the consent of Governor Abdul Nazir. The Chief Secretary has released Anuradha's bio as part of the process. Anuradha, who has a distinguished career in various roles within the state, is recognized as a pioneer, being the first woman IPS officer to lead the Intelligence Department in Andhra Pradesh. Her extensive experience includes significant positions such as Director General of Vigilance and Enforcement, as well as serving as Superintendent of Police (SP) and Inspector General (IG) across multiple districts. The government's move to appoint Anuradha reflects its commitment to ensuring that the APPSC operates with efficiency and impartiality. Reports indicate that her appointment came after discussions with IT and Education Minister Nara Lokesh, who advocated for her selection. This transition comes in the wake of the resignation of the previous APPSC Chairman Gautam Sawang following the formation of the coalition government in Andhra Pradesh. Anuradha's leadership is anticipated to steer the APPSC towards fulfilling its responsibilities effectively in the coming years.

Congress MLC Jeevan Reddy's remarks on defections triggers verbal war



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Hyderabad: Senior Congress MLC T Jeevan Reddy's open criticism of the handling of defections by the Congress, and his call for disqualifying BRS turncoats, has brought internal differences within the party into the spotlight. Ironically, Congress leaders have made contradictory statements on the defections, with Jagtial MLA Sanjay Kumar denying to have joined the Congress, while TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud admitted to have inducted BRS MLAs as per the party high command's orders. Following the murder of his close aide, Jeevan Reddy expressed his outrage over the erosion of principles in the Congress. He questioned the need for the party leadership to encourage defection of BRS MLAs into the Congress, despite having adequate strength in the Assembly. He asserted that such actions went against Congress policies, and demanded for disqualification of the turncoats. BRS working president KT Rama Rao joined the fray to turn the tables, taunting Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for encouraging defections despite being denounced by his own party leaders. He questioned whether Revanth Reddy would accept responsibility and take action against the defectors, or ignore concerns of a senior leader like Jeevan Reddy who was openly criticising the Congress leadership for poaching opposition MLAs and demanding for their disqualification. Further, the Congress MLC's remarks have put TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud and other Congress leaders in a tight spot, as they made contradictory statements over defections. Mahesh Kumar Goud distanced the party from Jeevan Reddy's remarks terming them as personal opinion and went on to claim that Jeevan Reddy was fully aware of the reasons why the Congress inducted the BRS MLAs. "He is only speaking out of anger. We inducted the BRS MLAs including Jagtial MLA into the Congress as per the high command's directions. The high command also convinced leaders like Jeevan Reddy in this regard," he said. Adding more confusion to the controversy, Jagtial MLA Sanjay Kumar, one of the defectors, defended his actions. He claimed to be still a BRS MLA who was working with the Congress government for his constituency's development. He boasted that his family originally belonged to the Congress, but he shifted to BRS as he was denied opportunity to contest. However, his claim of not officially joining Congress has only added to the confusion.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Wait and watch

IT is no coincidence that India and China have reached an agreement on patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh on the eve of the BRICS summit in Russia, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to hold a bilateral meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The 'major breakthrough' has set the stage for a cordial encounter between the two leaders, who have been reluctant to talk to each other after the Galwan clash of June 2020. They finally have something positive to show to the world amid a four-year-old standoff that has kept armies of the two nations in a state of round-the-clock readiness. What's more, the perception that Modi and Xi can act as mediators in the Ukraine war hinges on their ability to resolve their own differences.

However, it is too early to expect that the situation on the ground will become normal anytime soon. New Delhi knows very well that Beijing has a knack for disregarding border agreements; the latest one could meet a similar fate. Unilateral alteration of the status quo by Chinese troops is at the core of the present dispute. And it is largely due to Chinese intransigence that disengagement from the friction points of Depsang and Demchok got delayed despite a series of military and diplomatic talks. China's massive infrastructure buildup along the LAC is a telltale sign that it wants India to stay busy catching up. The Indian Government and the defence forces would be well advised to keep a close eye on Chinese movements along the border. Attempts to mislead the nation with half-truths and falsehoods must be avoided. The PM set a wrong precedent when he claimed during a post-Galwan all-party meeting that 'neither is anyone inside our territory nor is any of our post captured'. Greater vigil and transparency can help India push China harder to walk the talk.

Mahayuti or MVA? Which alliance will Jarange-Patil's entry affect in Maharashtra elections?

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

After challenging the ruling BJP over the past two years, activist Manoj Jarange-Patil is set to field candidates in the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly polls. Although he will not contest the polls himself, he has outlined a three-pronged strategy: field his own candidates, support select candidates from other parties, and ensure the defeat of certain candidates from rival parties. But the key question is whether Patil will act as a spoiler for the mainstream political parties? Who stands to gain or lose from his strategy? Will it impact the Mahayuti or the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)? From a little-known village activist to a prominent leader with significant support among the Maratha community, Patil had always claimed he was not interested in politics. His primary focus has been to secure reservation for the Maratha community under the Other Backward Classes category, advocating the welfare of poor Marathas.

Leaders from both the Mahayuti and MVA are closely monitoring Patil's plans. On both sides, leaders have held personal discussions to ensure he does not undermine their electoral prospects. In the Lok Sabha 2024 polls, Patil's Maratha agitation significantly affected the BJP, which saw its seats drop from 23 to just nine. In Marathwada, the epicentre of his agitation, the party failed to win any of the eight seats. In a clear departure from his stated position of avoiding politics, Patil addressed a gathering in his Antarwali Sarathi village in Jalna district on Sunday. "I am not interested in contesting elections," he said. "We will draw up a strategy to ensure we have our say on many fronts. We will field candidates in those constituencies where permutations and combinations work in favour of candidates' winnability. We will support SC/ST candidates. In some constituencies, we will lend support to candidates who have stood by our cause and ensure the defeat of all those who are against us."

An analysis of his agitation from August 2023 to October 2024 reveals that Patil has remained focused on one issue: Maratha reservation. However, his proposal on how this reservation should be implemented has evolved. Initially, during his first hunger strike in August 2023, he demanded Kunbi certificates and reservation for Marathas in the Marathwada region. Later, he expanded his demand to include Marathas across Maharashtra. As his movement gained momentum, he proposed the more complex request for reservation for Marathas within the OBC category, adding "sage soyre," which means that Maratha blood relatives should also be eligible for Kunbi certificates to avail of OBC reservation. Patil's six hunger strikes from August 2023 to October 2024 have kept the Eknath Shinde-led government on edge, despite the government's commitment to consider his demands positively. As Patil has presented his electoral challenge, Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar are adopting a wait-and-watch approach. Shinde said, "Mahayuti is committed to Maratha reservation. I have taken the pledge of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj to give Marathas reservation. In February 2024, we passed legislation giving ten per cent to Marathas in education and jobs under SEBC." He added that the matter was currently in court. Patil's sharp criticism of Fadnavis, also the home minister, over the past year has raised questions about whether he is following a hidden agenda from the MVA's political leaders. If not, why is he singling out the senior BJP leader? A senior BJP official said, "In the Lok Sabha polls, Maratha reservation was an issue that worked against us in Marathwada. However, people know it was the BJP-led government from 2014 to 2019 that first provided a 12 and 13 per cent quota for Marathas in jobs and education." He added that targeting an individual leader often leads to public discontent. With Patil rallying Marathas against the BJP, OBC consolidation is beginning to take shape across the state, with many OBC leaders in the right-wing asserting that the benefits will ultimately favour the BJP. The National Commission for Backward Classes' recommendation of seven communities within the OBC list is viewed as a strategy to enhance the BJP-led Mahayuti's reach to micro-segments within the OBCs. The OBCs, comprising 291 castes and subcastes, are dispersed but represent a significant portion of the population, accounting for up to 50 per cent.

Karnataka Police arrest woman, 2 others for her businessman husband's murder in Belagavi



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

karnataka policeThe officer said Uma mixed sleeping pills in Santosh's food on October 9, and after he fell asleep, Uma and Gowda suffocated him to death with a pillow. The police in Karnataka's Belagavi said Monday they have arrested the wife of a real estate businessman and social activist, along with two others, in connection with his murder earlier this month.

Santosh Padmannavar, 47, a resident of Mahantesh Nagar in Belagavi died on October 9 under suspicious circumstances. While it was initially suspected to be a case of heart attack, his death took a turn after his daughter Sanjana approached the police suspecting her mother's role. According to a police officer, they arrested Uma Padmannavar, 41, Shobhit Gowda, 31, and Pawan, 35, from their residences last Friday, and the accused

were sent to 14-day judicial custody.

Sources said Uma was unhappy with her husband's multiple affairs and she was reportedly being tortured by him for several years. They said footage retrieved from 17 CCTV cameras, which Santosh installed inside and outside his house, showed he was having affairs with multiple women. A police officer said Uma befriended Gowda on Telegram and shared her problems. They decided to kill Santosh and when Gowda's friend Pawan came to Belagavi to meet her, they planned the murder, added the officer.

The officer said Uma mixed sleeping pills in Santosh's food on October 9, and after he fell asleep, Uma and Gowda suffocated him to death with a pillow. Pawan helped them kill Santosh, added the officer. Later, Uma pretended that her husband died due to a heart attack and also participated in his last rites. However, Sanjana, who studies in Bengaluru, expressed her suspicion over the killing after she came home following her father's death. When she checked the CCTV camera footage, she found they were deleted by her brother at their mother's behest. She then approached the Malamaruti police and filed a complaint suspecting her mother's role in the death of her father. The police obtained CCTV footage from a neighbouring property and found two unidentified individuals entering the Padmannavar house on October 9. They also exhumed Santosh's body and conducted an autopsy.

Chandigarh Sector 17 readies for Diwali with 120-foot-long light tunnels, mirror plaza



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

With 120-foot-long chip-based light tunnels, Sector 17 in Chandigarh is all decked up to welcome Diwali shoppers. This time, the traders have decorated the plaza in such a way that it's just not the night thing but gives beautiful photography experiences to people during the day as well. A 'Mirror Plaza' of 30x60 feet has also been created to give a double lighting effect at various points. Kamaljeet Singh, the decorator, said, the decorations were completed and the lights switched on. It was done after the traders got formal permission from the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation on Saturday. People have started thronging the plaza on Sunday night itself. Neeraj Bajaj, President, Chandigarh Business Coun-

cil, stated, "We received the formal permission last Saturday... This time, we have used a different concept to attract the crowds."

"Rather than having just one light tunnel at the entrance and exit, we decided to have multiple light tunnels this time since the entrance one was a hit last time. And so that they look attractive during the day also... we have tried to create beautiful daylight experiences as well by installing colourful decorative items and over 5,000 umbrellas," Bagga further said.

The traders have together contributed to bringing back life to the 'deserted' Sector 17 and have also decided to "highlight the trees" with different colour lights. Sector 17 The traders have together contributed to bringing back life to the 'deserted' Sector 17 and have also decided to "highlight the trees" with different colour lights. "We have tried to create selfie points. We have also kept the classic Corbusier hand depicting how Sector 17 was the actual heart of the city," a trader said. "Many are coming here for photo shoots. We thought everyone heads to Elante Mall for festive vibes so why not do something that attracts them to the real charm of Chandigarh - which is the Sector 17 plaza," Bagga said. With a budget of Rs 12 lakh to Rs 15 lakh, over 10,000 lights have been installed at the plaza. Meanwhile, the Chandigarh Beopar Mandal, the apex body for markets in the Union Territory, has decided to reward the market that will have the best lighting and the best-maintained parking lot in the city.

Congress likely to renominate Sanjay Jagtap as NCP, Shiv Sena splits to have direct impact in Purandar



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

With the political situation changing due to the split in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and Shiv Sena, sitting Congress MLA Sanjay Jagtap will have to rely more on the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) in the Purandar constituency in the Maharashtra Assembly elections 2024. The Purandar Assembly constituency, part of the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency, has a small part in the city jurisdiction and is witnessing urbanisation. The proposed international airport in Purandar will likely further push the constituency's urbanisation.

The Congress will likely renominate Jagtap as its candidate, while Chief Minister Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena is all set to field former state minister Vijay Shivtare. Jagtap is confident about his victory, inspired by Supriya Sule's convincing win from the NCP (SP) in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. She secured a victory over Sunetra Pawar, also from the NCP, led by Ajit Pawar, winning by a margin of 158,333 votes. "The strong presence of Congress and followers of NCP (SP) along with the support of Shiv Sena (UBT) will help Jagtap retain the seat," said a Congress leader. "Shivtare made a lot of noise against the Ajit Pawar-led NCP ahead of Lok Sabha elections, so he will not get the support of the alliance partner," the Congress leader said, adding that Jagtap had done a lot of work in the constituency which was recognised at the national level with Swachh awards. Meanwhile, Shivtare is working hard to regain the seat he lost in 2019 after serving as MLA for one term. "I want to ensure planned development of the Purandar constituency. There is a need for a separate municipal corporation for the area alongside Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), and I am going to push for it," he said. Shivtare said the international airport proposed in the constituency would bring further regional development. He is banking on the support of alliance partners—Ajit Pawar-led NCP and the BJP. "I have managed to get development projects for the constituency while the sitting legislator has not contributed anything to the growth of the area," he said. Purandar, named after Purandar Fort, is close to Pune city. It has the major Jyuri temple town in its jurisdiction. Most residents rely on Pune city for employment.

The market for its agricultural produce is mainly the city. However, it is expected to witness a changeover due to the proposed international airport. A separate municipal corporation is likely to be established to ensure the proper planned development of the area. This constituency was once a stronghold of the Janata Dal and later the Congress under Sharad Pawar. The Shiv Sena managed to win the seat in both 2009 and 2014, with Vijay Shivtare serving as the legislator. However, in 2019, Sanjay Jagtap of the Congress won the seat with the support of the NCP, defeating Shivtare.

Place on record action taken on stubble burning, National Green Tribunal tells Punjab Govt

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Monday directed the Punjab Government to submit what action it has taken to control paddy stubble burning in the state. The principal bench, headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava, directed the state to submit an affidavit in this regard by October 25, after the Supreme Court has heard a matter listed this week on the issue.

"The Supreme Court is considering lapses on part of the state of Punjab and Haryana in taking steps to control stubble burning. Accordingly, the Supreme Court has called for an explanation from Punjab and Haryana and directed their chief secretaries to remain present on October 23," the bench said. "In view of the above, counsel for Punjab is directed to place on record an affidavit, indicating the effective action taken at the ground level by Friday," the bench said in its order. During the hearing, the bench pulled up the state government and sought to know why there was no change in air quality in the state and the National Capital Region (NCR) if it had taken action. Paddy stubble burning is considered as one of the key sources of air pollution in the NCR, especially between September-end and mid-November. On Monday, the national capital's air quality is in the "very poor" category and expected to continue to be so for the upcoming days, according to Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. Meteorological conditions are likely to be unfavourable for dispersal of pollutants, as per the forecast. The Punjab Government's counsel, Rahul Mehra, sought to point out that all states affected by air pollution in North India need to put their heads together and also look at common airshed management. An airshed is a defined geographic area where the air quality is influenced by similar meteorological and topographical conditions.

Karnataka High Court dismisses former JD(S) MP Prajwal Revanna's bail pleas in 3 rape cases



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Prajwal RevannaThe former MP had sought bail in three cases of rape where chargesheets have been filed over the past two months by a Special Investigation Team of the police. The Karnataka High Court on Monday dismissed three bail pleas filed by Prajwal Revanna, 33, the rape accused former Janata Dal (Secular) MP for the Hassan constituency.

The former MP had sought bail in three cases of rape where chargesheets have been filed over the past two months by a Special Investigation Team of the police. The high court reserved its orders on the bail pleas on September 19. On Monday, a bench headed by Justice M Nagaprasanna rejected the pleas. In the first of the three cases, in which a chargesheet was filed against Prajwal Revanna on August 23 by the SIT, the former MP is accused of sexually assaulting a cook who worked for his family and allegedly sexually harassing the cook's daughter during video phone calls.

In the second case, in which a chargesheet was filed on September 9, Prajwal Revanna, who is the son of H D Revanna, the JD(S) MLA for Holenarasipura in Hassan, is accused of raping a domestic worker at his farm while "being in a position of control or dominance" over the woman, a charge under Indian Penal Code section 376 (2) (k). The middle-aged victim was rescued on May 5 from a farmhouse near Mysuru where she was allegedly kept in confinement by the MP's family, after being identified in videos of sexual assaults on women recorded by the MP on his mobile phone. A third chargesheet for the offence of rape and sexual harassment was filed on September 13 against the former JD(S) MP for allegedly raping a zilla panchayat member of his constituency repeatedly over a three-year period.

The former MP is also accused of sexually harassing multiple women in a fourth case, which is pending. Prajwal Revanna, against whom charges of rape emerged at the end of April, following the leak of explicit videos and images through pen drives distributed in Hassan ahead of the April 26 Lok Sabha polls, in which he was the NDA candidate, was arrested on May 31, after his return from Germany, where he had travelled the day after the videos emerged.

An SIT was constituted by the Karnataka Government to probe the sexual assault videos that were allegedly accessed from Prajwal Revanna's phone by a car driver and leaked to his political rivals. As many as 2,900 files with videos and images from the former MP's sexual encounters were found on the leaked pen drives. In one of the leaked videos, a middle-aged woman was seen pleading with the then MP not to assault her. Analysis of the videos during the investigation has revealed that they are genuine. Prajwal Revanna has been also charged under section 66E of the Information Technology Act for recording and sharing the attacks on women and for the destruction of evidence. Forensic reports have established the former MP's involvement in the offence, the SIT has stated. Prajwal Revanna has been in prison since May 31. Three cases of rape and one case of sexual harassment have been filed by women allegedly assaulted by the former MP.

Sena UBT-Congress leaders attempt to end seat-sharing deadlock, Raut hopes partners would make sacrifices in national interest

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Allies Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress Monday claimed there were no major differences between them over the sharing of seats for Maharashtra Assembly polls 2024. The two parties said the differences were limited to a handful of seats in Vidarbha and these would be ironed out in a day or two. Notably, the two parties Sunday asked Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) partner and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar to mediate and resolve their differences.

The differences over Vidarbha seats have led to a delay in finalising the MVA's seat-sharing formula. Owing to the deadlock, the Congress's central election and screening committees were abruptly cancelled on Sunday and Congress leaders were asked to stay put in Delhi, while Sena UBT leaders huddled together at the Matoshree residence of Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai.

"The discussion on seat allocation is almost over. Only 15-16 seats are left to be discussed now. The issue was about seven to eight seats which would be resolved soon..." said Congress leader Vijay Wadetiwar. "We will resolve the issues amicably and fight together as a united front. Yesterday (Sunday) we discussed the issues with the high command... We will release our first list tonight or tomorrow morning... We are going to contest as Aghadi... Since three parties are sharing 288 seats, it took a little time... The final decision on all 288 seats for Maha Vikas Aghadi will be made by tomorrow evening..." he added. Sena UBT MP Sanjay Raut said there were differences over one or two seats and added that a few sacrifices have to be made in the national interest. He expressed hope that the way the Sena UBT had shown "large-heartedness" by giving up its three seats - Kolhapur, Amravati, and Ramtek - to Congress during the Lok Sabha polls, the grand old party would reciprocate the gesture in Vidarbha for the Assembly polls. "All of us have been in politics for years and every party feels that its party worker should be fielded in the polls. But in an alliance... especially during seat sharing, everyone has to make a few sacrifices and take a few steps back..." the Sena UBT MP added.

Karnataka HC rejects PIL seeking apology from Rahul Gandhi over alleged remarks on women



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

The Karnataka High Court on Monday rejected a public interest litigation (PIL) petition demanding that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi apologise for allegedly tarnishing the dignity of Indian women. The PIL stemmed from a claim that Gandhi had falsely accused former Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna, who is facing charges of rape and sexual abuse, of "raping 400 women and filming the act," describing it as "mass rape" and not a sex scandal.

A bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice K Aravind dismissed the petition, stating that it was a waste of judicial time. The Court also imposed a

Rs 25,000 fine on the petitioner, the All India Dalit Action Committee, for filing the plea. The petitioner's counsel argued that Gandhi's remarks, made during a public speech, were highly irresponsible and offensive, particularly to the women of Hassan. He pleaded the Court to issue a notice to Gandhi, compelling him to respond to the allegations. "Gandhi is a serial offender," the counsel contended, referencing past statements made by Gandhi, including comments regarding individuals with the surname 'Modi.' The petitioner also cited Gandhi's alleged citizenship issues, which are pending before the Delhi High Court, as further evidence of his misconduct. However, the Karnataka HC found no merit in the petition and dismissed it along with a fine. The petitioner's counsel sought waiver of the fine and argued that he should not be penalized for taking rightful action.

The PIL highlighted that Gandhi's allegations, made without evidence, misled the public and disrespected the modesty of Indian women, particularly in light of the provisions under the new Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita. The plea argued that Gandhi's statement amounted to hate speech and promoted gender-based hatred. It also sought a directive from the court requiring Gandhi to issue a public apology and called for the National Commission for Women to take appropriate action against him.

Sanjauli mosque committee starts demolishing illegal structure after receiving permission from Himachal Waqf Board



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

A fortnight after a Shimla court ordered the demolition of the three unauthorised storeys of the five-floor Sanjauli mosque, its managing committee, known as the Sanjauli Mosque Committee, began the demolition. Mohammed Latif, president of the Sanjauli Mosque Committee, said, "We sought permission from the Himachal Pradesh Waqf Board, as the mosque is located on Waqf Board land. We received the permission. Today, we brought in labourers to begin removing the temporary tin roof and attics of the mosque. We are complying with the court's decision. It will take several days to demolish the entire illegal structure."

Sources said that the state Waqf Board granted permission to demolish the illegal portion of the mosque two days ago. Zaffar Iqbal, chief executive officer of the state Waqf Board, told The Indian Express, "Permission was given to the Sanjauli Mosque Committee to demolish the illegal structure in accordance with the court's order." On October 5, the court of Municipal Commissioner Bhpender Kumar Attri accepted the mosque committee's submission, allowing the demolition of the three-story structure within two months. The next hearing is scheduled for December 21. At least 10 people, including six police personnel and four civilians, were injured on September 11 when protesters demanding the demolition of the mosque clashed with the police at Sanjauli. At least 15 FIRs were registered, and more than 60 suspects, including members of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), Bajrang Dal, Devbhoomi Sangharsh Samiti, and the BJP, were identified for their alleged involvement in the clash. On September 12, the mosque committee submitted a memorandum to the municipal commissioner, urging him to seal the unauthorised portion of the mosque. They also assured that they would demolish the unauthorised portion themselves once the court delivered its verdict on the matter. Last week, Sanjauli Mosque Committee wrote to the CEO of the Himachal Pradesh Waqf Board seeking permission to demolish the mosque's allegedly illegal three-story structure.

Political drama in Chandwad: BJP renominates Rahul Aher despite his public withdrawal, sparks family tensions

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Dr Rahul Aher, a two-time sitting BJP MLA, made a surprising public announcement on Thursday with his cousin Keda Aher, requesting that the BJP high command not grant him a ticket for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections 2024. Instead, he urged the party to nominate Keda as the candidate for the Chandwad Assembly seat. While this gesture appeared to strengthen Keda's claim, the BJP surprised many by choosing to renominate Rahul despite his reluctance to spark a political feud within the family.

Rahul has represented Chandwad, a BJP stronghold in Nashik District, for two terms, with the party winning this seat in five of the last eight elections. He is the son of the late Dr Daulatrao Aher, a former Maharashtra health minister and BJP MLA. Though Rahul was fielded as the candidate for Chandwad in 2014, much of his political work has been managed by Keda, who serves as the director of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (Nafed) India and is a former President of the Nashik district BJP.

Since 2019, Keda has expressed a strong desire to contest the Assembly elections but backed down that year due to directives from the BJP high command. However, he ramped up pressure this time, insisting on a chance in the upcoming 2024 elections. His insistence and pressure on his cousin prompted Rahul to make a public statement on October 17, declaring his disinterest in running for re-election. "I have taken permission from my seniors and informed them that I do not wish to be renominated."



"I have recommended my brother Keda Aher as a nominee instead," Rahul said. However, just 72 hours after this announcement, the BJP leadership released its first list of candidates on Sunday evening, which included the renomination of Rahul. The BJP's first list of 99 candidates for Maharashtra Assembly elections 2024 features 71 sitting MLAs, including Rahul. This decision to field Rahul again has not been well received by Keda, who is currently pushing the BJP to reconsider and has indicated that he will not back down easily. The leadership's failure to appease him could lead to a political feud and potential rebellion within the Aher family, complicating the BJP's position in a constituency that has historically shown strong support for the party. The Maharashtra Assembly elections to elect 288 MLAs will take place in a single phase on November 20. The votes are to be counted on November 23.

Gujarat govt cancels appointment of Saroj Sharma as V-C of IITE, appoints Ramesh Patel instead

GNS News Agency, Oct 23, Prof Patel was formerly a faculty member at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. Prof Patel was formerly a faculty member at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. The Gujarat government cancelled the appointment of Prof Saroj Sharma as Vice-Chancellor of Indian Institute of Teacher Education, Gandhinagar, and instead appointed Prof Ramesh Chaturbhaj Patel for a period of five years. Sharma, who is chairperson of the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), was appointed the V-C of IITE on September 9. She was yet to assume the position.

An order issued by the Gujarat Education department on Friday stated, "In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 12(1) of the Indian Institute of Teacher Education, Gujarat Act, 2010, the Government of Gujarat appointed Dr. Saroj Sharma as Vice Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Teacher Education Gandhinagar... The

appointment... stands cancelled. Now, in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 12(1) of the Indian Institute of Teacher Education, Gujarat Act, 2010, the Government of Gujarat hereby appoints Prof. (Retd.) Ramesh Chaturbhaj Patel to be the Vice Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Teacher Education, Gandhinagar vice Dr. Saroj Sharma, for a term of five years with effect from the date he takes over charge of the Vice Chancellor or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier." Prof Sharma was the first Dean of the University School of Education, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi. She is a member of many educational associations, and is involved in various projects of UNICEF, UNESCO, ICSSR and other social and cultural forums. She was also a member of the consultation committee constituted by NCTE for the formulation of New Education Policy 2016 under the umbrella of the Ministry of Education.

Karnataka's GSDP grew at 10.2% in 2023-24, outpacing national growth rate

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Karnataka registered a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth rate of 10.2 per cent in the 2023-24 fiscal, according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. This was higher than the national GDP growth rate of 8.2 per cent. The data, compiled by the ministry in August, was released by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's office on Monday amid the Opposition BJP's allegation that economic growth has stagnated under Congress rule.

"The state achieved this feat despite severe challenges, including the worst drought in a decade and a slowdown in global IT markets," the statement read. Initially, the National Statistical Estimate had projected a modest four per cent GSDP growth for Karnataka. This was revised to 13.1 per cent by the end of the fiscal, indicating that the state's economic performance was underestimated initially by the agency, according to the chief minister's office.

The 10.2 per cent GSDP growth came in a year when the state's agriculture sector faced negative growth owing to drought and the IT and hardware sectors were vulnerable to global economic downturns caused by several factors such as the Russia-Ukraine war and others. The Indian IT industry's growth slowed from 15.5 per cent in the 2022-23 fiscal to eight per cent in the 2023-24 fiscal, which "reflected global recessionary fears and inflation", the statement said, adding, "However, Karnataka's economy remained resilient, thanks to strategic governance and diversified growth drivers." For the 2024-25 fiscal, the National Statistical Estimate has estimated Karnataka's GSDP growth rate at 9.4 per cent, slightly lower than the national projected average of 10.5 per cent. "However, the ministry of finance projects a more



The state achieved this feat despite severe challenges, including the worst drought in a decade and a slowdown in global IT markets," the statement read. Initially, the National Statistical Estimate had projected a modest four per cent GSDP growth for Karnataka. This was revised to 13.1 per cent by the end of the fiscal, indicating that the state's economic performance was underestimated initially by the agency, according to the chief minister's office.

optimistic 14 per cent growth for the state, supported by strong fiscal indicators," according to the chief minister's office. It noted that the year-on-year increase in GST collections was 10 per cent, while stamp duty revenue had surged 24 per cent "signalling a healthy economic trajectory". One of the reasons for the surge in stamp duty revenue was the upward revision in charges effected by the Government. The state government has accused the Centre of denying its rightful share in taxes devolved. Siddaramaiah recently wrote to other southern states about holding a conference to discuss the share of taxes before the 16th Finance Commission submits its report.

Ex-Congress MLA Shaikh Asif launches party called ISLAM, aims to shake up polls in Malegaon Central

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Former Malegaon Central Congress MLA Shaikh Asif has launched a political party called ISLAM and announced a plan to contest the Maharashtra Assembly polls—a move that may pose a challenge to mainstream parties vying for influence in the Muslim-majority constituency that he had represented. Asif announced the formation of the Indian Secular Largest Assembly of Maharashtra (ISLAM) at Malegaon's Diamond Lawns on Sunday night. This is likely to complicate the electoral landscape for established parties seeking to reclaim their foothold in the constituency with 76 per cent Muslim voters.

"Since the BJP came to power, there has been a constant attack on Islam through various statements. My vision for this new party is to ensure that, once we are in power, we will strive to enact a law that punishes those who insult religion," Asif stated as he also announced his candidacy for the Malegaon Central seat. Asif is the son of the late Shaikh Rasheed, who had represented Malegaon Central twice before passing away earlier this year. Having served as mayor of Malegaon, Asif was elected as an MLA in 2014 on a Congress ticket. However, in 2022, he and his father left the party owing to disagreements with its state leadership. He then joined the unaligned Nationalist Congress Party. After the NCP split, Asif was seen gravitating towards Ajit Pawar's faction but has ultimately chosen to contest Maharashtra Assembly elections 2024 under his own political banner.

Asif's decision to form a new political front will transform the traditionally bipolar Malegaon Central elections into a multipolar contest. The constituency is represented by the All India Majlis-E-Itehadul Muslimeen's (AIMIM) Mufti Ismail, who defeated Asif in the 2019 elections by nearly 40,000 votes. Mufti Ismail, a cleric-turned-politician, gained prominence after the 2006 Malegaon blasts



and has become a significant political force by tapping into local Muslim sentiments by launching a people's front called Kaumi Mahaz. He won the 2009 elections on a Jan Surajya Shakti ticket but later joined the NCP, contesting unsuccessfully in 2014 before winning his seat for the AIMIM in 2019.

The Samajwadi Party is also eyeing Malegaon Central, with party chief Akhilesh Yadav visiting the city last week to announce the nomination of Shan-E-Hind, daughter of the late five-time MLA and socialist leader Nihal Ahmed. However, it remains unclear whether the Congress is prepared to relinquish the seat, as Malegaon Congress president Ejaz Baig is seen as a frontrunner for it. Muslims form 11.56 per cent of Maharashtra's population and play a decisive role in 38 of the 288 Assembly seats. However, as the only seat where a Muslim MLA is guaranteed election, Malegaon Central is unique and the majority of candidates have historically been from the minority community. In a city where the clergy significantly influences cultural values and residents are deeply connected through Islamic traditions, it remains to be seen whether a party named ISLAM can successfully attract voters.

Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar: together in crime but seeking validation from opposite groups

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Lawrence Bishnoi, booked under terror laws, claimed to be a nationalist during an interview with a news channel from jail. But his close associate Goldy Brar sought validation from sympathisers of Sikh militants to recover his image after the murder of singer Sidhu Moosewala, in which both gangsters are accused. In the interview, aired days before Moosewala's first death anniversary in March 2023, Bishnoi claimed to be a nationalist and stated, "I am not anti-national. I am a nationalist. I am against Khalistan. I am against Pakistan."

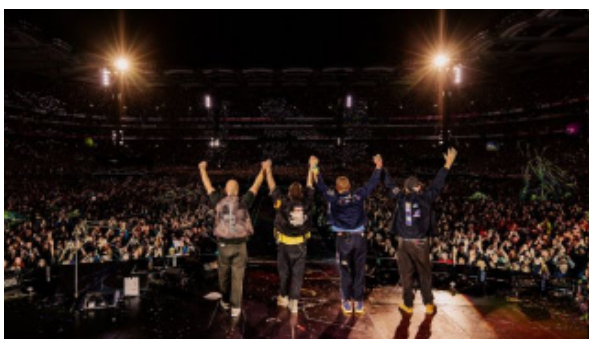
At that time, Bishnoi was also involved in a case related to a conspiracy hatched by terror groups and criminal syndicates to carry out violence in various parts of the country. In the same interview, Bishnoi managed to send a message to a section of the right wing, stating that he would take "revenge" for the alleged killing of a deer by Bollywood actor Salman Khan. A section of social media is also celebrating Bishnoi for "executing Khalistani targets and creating fear among Khalistanis". But Bishnoi's partner in crime, Goldy Brar, believed to be living in the US or Canada, sought validation from a completely opposite group. Brar was unhappy with the immense love and support that Moosewala received after his murder in May 2022. Bishnoi and Brar had claimed responsibility for the murder and both were heavily criticised on Punjabi social media for their actions.

This prompted Goldy Brar to upload a video, months after Moosewala's murder, criticising the singer for joining the Congress and linking him to the Army's Operation Blue Star in the Golden Temple in 1984. In the video, Brar said, "People are saying Sidhu Moosewala had Panthic (Sikh nationalist) views. But his father, Balkaur Singh, is misleading Punjabis. Whatever views Moosewala had, his father shares the same. Ever since Moosewala became a voter, he only voted for the Congress and no other party. Even after the injustice faced by many Sikhs in 1984, his father claims he never voted for anyone but the Congress. If people still want to call them a martyr family, it's their choice, but don't insult the martyrs by doing so." Goldy Brar also said Moosewala had planned a show on June 5, 2022, which coincided with the death anniversary of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. Moosewala was murdered a week before the date. Seeking to justify the murder, Brar stated that he didn't want to allow the show to be held.

Brar added, "Sidhu was planning a show on a day when there should have been kirtan (religious singing). Why did he choose June 5? Many people opposed this

show, and at that time, Moosewala stated on social media that his show was booked and asked, 'Should I starve to death?' If Sidhu hadn't been killed on May 29, the community would have faced great humiliation on June 5. His song 'SYL', which is related to the martyrs (Sikh militants), was released after his death. He didn't sing that song because, nowadays, voices can be altered using AI. He never even got a tattoo of Sant Jarnail Singh, but still, his fans claimed he had such a tattoo on his hand." Further seeking to justify the murder, Goldy Brar tried to portray Moosewala as someone who was not respectful towards Sikh militants. This, however, did not turn the tide of trolling against him on social media. Goldy Brar became a pawn in the transfer of high-profile sacrilege cases out of Punjab. Pardeep Singh, a Sira-based Dera Sacha Sauda follower and an accused in the 2015 Bargari sacrilege case, was shot dead by six assailants at Kotkapura in Fariidkot on November 10, 2022. Goldy Brar purportedly claimed responsibility for the killing in a social media post. It was believed that he was trying to improve his image among the Sikh community, which had been damaged after Moosewala's murder. The post stated that justice had not been served in the Guru Granth Sahib sacrilege cases, even after seven years and the change of three governments. The post also apologised for the injury to security personnel but shamed the security forces for providing protection to people accused of sacrilege "just for salary". However, this did not help Goldy Brar gain the support and validation he sought. Instead, the accused in the sacrilege cases used Pardeep Singh's murder to have their cases transferred out of the state, which was seen as a setback for those seeking justice. "The murder of Pardeep Singh was used by the accused in the sacrilege cases to get the cases transferred out of Punjab to Chandigarh," said an officer involved in the investigation of the cases. Brar's location remains a mystery. Goldy Brar's location remains a mystery, especially since the Canadian government has accused Lawrence Bishnoi of murders in that country. Security agencies suggested that Brar was in the US right after Moosewala's murder. Some reports also indicated that he could be in Canada. Once, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann also claimed that Brar had been arrested in the US. In September 2022, the Centre and the Punjab Government claimed that local authorities had detained Lawrence Bishnoi's brother, Anmol Bishnoi, in Kenya. However, in April 2023, several videos on social media showed Anmol dancing at a wedding in the US. It was suspected that Brar was sheltering him.

Coldplay concert: Lawyer who filed complaint against BookMyShow moves HC, seeks stringent norms against black marketing of tickets



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

The lawyer who filed a police complaint against BookMyShow and other promoters of the Coldplay concert in Navi Mumbai has approached Bombay High Court with a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) on October 19, seeking its direction to the Centre and Maharashtra government to frame stringent guidelines to prevent black marketing of tickets for major events. Lawyer Amit Vyas was unable to secure tickets for a concert by the renowned British rock band scheduled for January 2025. In his petition he has requested that authorities create regulations to address ticket scalping, touting and black marketing for major events, until specific laws and rules can be established to combat these practices.

Advocate Ankita Singhania, representing Vyas, mentioned the PIL before a bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar on

Monday. The bench posted the matter after the court's Diwali vacation. "There is already an enquiry initiated (by authorities). This PIL can wait," the bench orally remarked. The HC is likely to hear the PIL on November 11. Vyas sought that an expert committee led by a former HC judge, including cyber experts, study and recommend measures required to control and regulate the sale of online tickets for major events, "keeping in mind the principles of parity, right to public entertainment, tax implications", among other factors, in the interest of the public at large which attends such events. Pending a report by an expert panel, the PIL also sought a monitoring committee led by a former HC judge to take measures based on immediate consultation and recommendation of authorities to ensure the effective implementation and maintenance of adequate security measures for the online ticketing system of major events. It also sought the court's direction to booking platforms such as BookMyShow and event promoters Live Nation Entertainment, Big Tree Entertainment, and Viagogo Entertainment, among others, to cooperate with expert and monitoring panels. The PIL urged that such companies provide necessary information, including ticketing rights contracts and customer account details, and also provide access to servers of such information as per the panels' request regarding the sale of Coldplay concert tickets that took place on September 22 this year so that the panels can examine the same. It further sought a report of the monitoring committee if irregularities and illegalities were found during the September 22 sale of the Coldplay concert, and directions for reconvening the online sale of tickets that were illegally acquired.

Delhi riots larger conspiracy case: HC refuses early hearing on Shifa Ur Rehman's bail plea

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

The FIR was registered by the Delhi Crime Branch in March 2020, with the investigation being undertaken by the Special Cell. The FIR was registered by the Delhi Crime Branch in March 2020, with the investigation being undertaken by the Special Cell. The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to allow an application filed by Shifa Ur Rehman, an accused in the Delhi riots larger conspiracy case, seeking an early hearing of his bail plea, citing his 71-year-old mother's health. A bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur, however, scheduled the hearing for 3.30 pm on November 25, the date when the petition was otherwise expected to be taken up.

In his application, Rehman submitted that his mother is a heart patient who had undergone stent surgery and was admitted to a hospital with typhoid on October 9 and discharged on October 14. "It is the humble submission of the applicant that since his mother is in the last leg of her life, and the pending adjudication on the bail hearing... will lead to deprivation of social connect with the family," Rehman's application read. Rehman has been in jail since April 26, 2020, and his bail plea before the Delhi high court has been heard twice—by two division benches. A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and



Rajnish Bhatnagar had reserved its judgment but did not pronounce it.

The bench of Justices Chawla and Kaur is now due to take up the matter on November 25. Rehman and the other accused are facing allegations of a pre-planned conspiracy to incite riots in northeast Delhi between February 23 and 25 in 2020, with charges filed under the Indian Penal Code, the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, the Arms Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The FIR was registered by the Delhi Crime Branch in March 2020, with the investigation being undertaken by the Special Cell.

Salman Khan house firing: special court says accused may commit similar offence if granted bail

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

The police have invoked MCOCA in the case, alleging that the conspiracy was planned by the Bishnoi gang for pecuniary advantage. Gupta had claimed that the Act does not apply to him as he has no criminal antecedents. Salman KhanThe police have invoked MCOCA in the case, alleging that the conspiracy was planned by the Bishnoi gang for pecuniary advantage. Gupta had claimed that the Act does not apply to him as he has no criminal antecedents. A special court dealing with cases under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) while denying an accused bail in the Salman Khan house firing case said since he is a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, the possibility of committing similar crimes cannot be ruled out if he is released.

Last Thursday, the court rejected the bail application of Vicky Gupta who was among the six accused arrested by the Mumbai police following the firing near Bollywood actor Khan's house on April 14. In the detailed order available on Monday, the court also said that the confessional statement of one of the accused and other evidence showed that Lawrence Bishnoi and other members of the gang planned the conspiracy to kill Salman Khan and committed the firing with intent and knowledge. "...considering the nature of the offence the possibility of repeating similar crimes being a member of a gang cannot be ruled out," special judge B D Shelke said. Gupta had sought bail claiming that he was only riding the bike on which the shooter was sitting pillion



and that they had no intention to cause harm to Khan. Gupta had also submitted that he was a 'victim of circumstances' and that his further custody was not required as the trial would take time.

The police have invoked MCOCA in the case, alleging that the conspiracy was planned by the Bishnoi gang for pecuniary advantage. Gupta had claimed that the Act does not apply to him as he has no criminal antecedents. The court referred to previous crimes committed by the gang members and said there was a commonality. It said MCOCA was invoked based on the previous crimes. "Merely, on the ground that there are no criminal antecedents against this accused no (Gupta), he can not escape from the offences punishable under the MCOCA," the court said adding that evidence shows his complicity in the offence.

A month after PM Narendra Modi inaugurates, Pune Mandai Metro Station reports fire

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Firemen doused the flames and brought the situation under control using firefighting equipment and breathing apparatus quickly. (File) Firemen doused the flames and brought the situation under control using firefighting equipment and breathing apparatus quickly. A fire was reported in the basement of the Pune Metro Station at Mandai in the early hours of Monday. No casualties were reported in the incident, the Pune Fire Brigade said.

The fire brigade control room received a call regarding a fire at around 12 am at the Pune Metro Station at Mandai, a key vegetable market in the heart of the city. Soon, fire brigade teams rushed to the spot with five fire tenders and water tankers. The teams found material made of foam had caught fire, causing a huge amount of smoke and flames, in the basement of the Pune Metro station. Firemen doused the flames and brought the situation under control using firefighting equipment and breathing apparatus quickly. While no one was injured in the incident,

35 Kashmiri students suspended by Rajasthan university over protest



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Rajasthan university, Kashmiri students suspended, Kashmiri students protest, mewar university, nursing course approvals, academic future, Indian express newsThe order states that these students will not be allowed to enter the university premises till further orders. They were also instructed to vacate the hostels by 8 pm Sunday. The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association Sunday expressed "deep concern" over the suspension of 35 Kashmiri students from Mewar University, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan. In a statement, the national convener of the association, Nasir Khuehami, said that these students have been protesting for the past three days, "day and night", due to the university's failure to secure the necessary approvals from the Rajasthan Nursing Council (RNC) and Indian Nursing Council (INC) for its BSc Nursing course.

He said that the absence of these crucial approvals jeopardises the academic future of the students. "Instead

of addressing their legitimate concerns and protecting their academic careers, the university opted to suspend the students as a response. This harsh action is unacceptable and a direct attack on the students' rights to raise their voices for justice," he said. According to an order issued by the university Registrar, 35 B.Sc. (Nursing) second year students were suspended on Saturday "for nuisance and deplorable acts." The order states that these students will not be allowed to enter the university premises till further orders. They were also instructed to vacate the hostels by 8 pm Sunday. Talking to The Indian Express, university Registrar Pradeep Dey described the issue related to approval to the course as a "misunderstanding" and that the university has filed a case against the Rajasthan Nursing Council. He also said that the investigation against students is pending. Khuehami said that the association has been monitoring the issue for the past few months, during which the university repeatedly assured the students that the approvals would be obtained soon. Two months ago, the university registrar even gave a written promise, assuring the students that the matter would be resolved shortly. However, despite these commitments, there has been no significant progress, and now the university is asking for yet another month to address the issue. This delay is unacceptable and has left the students with no choice but to protest, he said. Khuehami added that on October 18, a scheduled meeting with the university's proctor, which was intended to address the students' concerns, did not take place as planned, leaving the students frustrated. He said that in response to the protests, the university administration resorted to punitive actions by suspending 35 students instead of taking any concrete steps to resolve the issue or preserve their academic careers.

Karnataka High Court overturns acquittal of 5 Congress workers accused of killing JD(S) member in Mandya

GNS News Agency, Oct 23KarnatakaWhile several of the accused were acquitted by the High Court, Y D Umeha, Atmananda, Shiva, V C Ranjith, and V K Nandeeshha were sentenced to life imprisonment. The Karnataka High Court has sentenced five workers of the Congress party to life imprisonment for the murder of a JD(S) member in 2011 in the state's Mandya and overturned the acquittal order of a lower court. The order was passed on September 30 by a division bench of the High Court of Justices Sreenivas Harish Kumar and Umesh Adiga.

In this case, the High Court stated the trial court ought not to have disbelieved the testimony of the eyewitness to the murder of Chikkaiah in January 2011. "The learned trial Judge did not believe his evidence on the sole ground that he did not inform the said facts immediately either to the police or family members of Chikkaiah. Secondly, it was not possible for him to see the incident during the wee hours, that too when it was dark. Both reasons assigned by the trial court are erroneous. PW4 in his evidence stated the facts of the case in detail. ... Nothing was brought out to disbelieve him," said the High Court. The court also stated that the few hours' delay in lodging the complaint ought to be seen in light of the fact that the death of the complainant's father would have put him in a state of shock. The court also observed the other



evidence in this case, such as murder weapons and bloodstained clothing. While several of the accused were acquitted by the High Court, Y D Umeha, Atmananda, Shiva, V C Ranjith, and V K Nandeeshha were sentenced to life imprisonment.

The court also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 on each accused, and granted their request to surrender before the trial court within a month. The prosecution said Chikkaiah was murdered over a rivalry between the JD(S) and Congress party workers during the local elections held on December 31, 2010. Chikkaiah was allegedly attacked by a group of the accused with various weapons on January 6, 2011, and died on the spot.

Delhi HC refuses to issue direction to MHA in plea by queer icon Tan France over tourist visa delay

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

The Delhi High Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea by British-American queer icon and celebrity fashion designer Tanveer Wasim Safdar, popularly known as Tan France, seeking direction to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to expeditiously process and grant him a tourist visa within a stipulated time. France applied for an Indian tourist visa in San Francisco on September 12 for attending "professional and cultural engagements", intending to "facilitate interactions with prominent figures in the Indian cinema and fashion industries, as well as to participate in significant cultural exchanges with local Indian artistic communities, allowing him to gain a comprehensive understanding of the rich and diverse artistic traditions that define India's cultural landscape," his petition states.

His visa application has been pending for over five weeks. Although France holds dual citizenship in the UK and the USA, he has Pakistani origins, as his parents are of Pakistani descent and later acquired British citizenship. France also argued before the court of Justice Sanjeev Narula that he has repeatedly inquired



through official channels since applying for the visa but has received no response on the reasons for the delay or the estimated time frame within which a decision on the visa may be expected. France has planned a visit to India in the week commencing November 11. He shot to global prominence and was also nominated for an Emmy Award along with others following his role as a fashion expert on Netflix's 'Queer Eye'.

On J&K terror attack, Farooq Abdullah says Kashmir won't become Pakistan; 'Islam deplores such behaviour,' says Mirwaiz

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Condemning the attack that killed seven employees of a construction company in J&K's Ganderbal district, National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said "Kashmir will not become Pakistan". Seven people, most of them from outside J&K, died Sunday when gunmen indiscriminately fired on a camp housing workers of a company that is building the Z-Morh tunnel near Gagangir on the Srinagar-Sonamarg road. Several people were also injured in the attack, and five of them are undergoing treatment at the Sher-e-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences in Srinagar. Speaking to reporters Monday, Abdullah said, "Poor labourers who work hard to earn a living, and one of our doctors, have lost their lives in this attack. What will these terrorists achieve by doing this? Do they think they can create Pakistan here through this?"

Abdullah, the president of the Union Territory's ruling party, said J&K has been witnessing an influx of militancy for many years. "We are making efforts to ensure that this ends so that we can move forward. I want to tell those governing Pakistan, if they are keen on friendly relations with India, they must stop this. Kashmir Pakistan nahin banega (Kashmir will not become Pakistan).

Let us live with dignity and prosperity," he said. "The impact of such attacks affects all of us" and will impede J&K's forward movement, he said, adding, "It is time to end terrorism. How will talks happen after innocents are killed?" All Parties Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also condemned the attack. "Islam, like all religions, deplores such inhuman behaviour," he said Monday. He described the loss of life "in this manner" as extremely painful, and emphasised that this is "another grim reminder of the unending cycle of violence and uncertainty we are suffering for decades. Pray to Allah for the speedy recovery of the injured and grant sabr (patience) to the families of those killed." The families of those killed in the attack will be given Rs 6 lakh from the government under Security Related Expenditure, and Rs 15 lakh from APCO, the construction company they were working for. J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has directed Principal Secretary (Home Department) Chandraker Bharti to immediately provide financial assistance to the families of the victims. Those injured in the attack will get Rs 2 lakh assistance. The L-G said the government and APCO would ensure every possible financial assistance to the next of kin and other necessary support as required.

India and China have agreed on disengagement, patrolling arrangements along LAC: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

India China LAC patrolling At present, troops deployed along the LAC continue to be in a state of alert, officials had said, adding that they, however, are avoiding any confrontation which may create a trust deficit and delay redeployment plans. Four-and-half years after the standoff between India and China, New Delhi and Beijing have agreed on the disengagement on the border where 50,000 to 60,000 troops are stationed on both sides, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said

Stating that Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact with each other in a variety of forums, and as a result of these discussions, Misri said, "Agreement has been arrived at on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas, leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020 and we will be taking the next steps on this". Last month, the Chinese Defence Ministry said China and India were able to "reduce differences" and build "some consensus" on disengaging troops from friction points to end the standoff in REastern Ladakh and agreed to maintain dialogue to resolve acceptable

to both sides at an "early date". Li Jinsong, Director-General of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, had met with Indian Ambassador to China Pradeep Kumar Rawat. The Chinese Defence Ministry's statement and the meeting with the Indian envoy came on a day The Indian Express reported on September 26 that India and China are learnt to have made "significant progress" in narrowing their gap on pending issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The Indian Express learnt this included exploring the contours of a possible solution that factors in their respective pre-April 2020 positions while agreeing to address existing issues in Arunachal Pradesh.

Sources had said this might imply that Indian troops, whose access to certain patrolling points along the LAC was blocked either by Chinese troops or due to the implementation of the buffer zones created in the backdrop of disengagement at specific friction points, might be close to accessing them again. At present, troops deployed along the LAC continue to be in a state of alert, officials had said, adding that they, however, are avoiding any confrontation which may create a trust deficit and delay redeployment plans. As a confidence-building measure, local commanders of both sides on the ground have also been meeting to avoid clashes. Friction points such as Galwan Valley, the north and south banks of Pangong Tso, Gogra-Hot Springs area have seen some resolution with buffer zones. Legacy issues of Depsang Plains and Demchok remain, troops at Depsang Plains were blocked from accessing patrol points. On September 12, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said about 75 per cent of the "disengagement problems" with China have been "sorted out" but the "bigger issue" has been the increasing militarisation of the border. Subsequently, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said that the troops have disengaged at four places in Eastern Ladakh, including Galwan Valley and the situation along the borders is stable.

Trump visits storm-hit North Carolina, Kamala Harris focuses on swing states



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Former President Donald Trump campaigned in hurricane-hit North Carolina, sharply criticising the government's disaster response after storm Helene killed over 120 people. While emergency services continue relief efforts, Trump blamed President Joe Biden and Kamala Harris for the slow response.

Donald Trump will hold a campaign rally in the city of Greenville, while his Democratic rival Kamala Harris is set to address supporters in other battleground states Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Former US president Donald Trump hits the campaign trail in hurricane-hit North Carolina on Monday, having heavily criticised the government's disaster response after at least 124 people were killed there by storm Helene. Emergency services are still distributing food and water in the worst-affected parts of the state almost a month after Helene slammed into the southeastern United States, leaving more than 240 dead in its wake, according to an AFP tally. Trump will hold a campaign rally in the city of Greenville, while his Democratic rival Kamala Harris is set to address supporters in other battleground states Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. The two candidates are locked in a neck-and-neck race for the White House with just over two weeks until Election Day. Polls show the contest is too close to call, including in the seven swing states that decide US elections.

In North Carolina, emergency services continue to address the storm's aftermath, with urban search-and-rescue teams still at work in some areas. The White House said the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had "approved more than \$300 million in assistance across the state, including \$118 million in individual assistance to more than 87,600 households." The immediate aftermath of the storm left many without access to power, drinking water or shelter, leading Trump to sharply criticize US President Joe Biden and his vice president, Harris.

Biden and Harris have rejected the allegations, accusing Trump of spreading misinformation about the response for political gain. "There's been a reckless, irresponsible and relentless promotion of disinformation and outright lies," Biden said after Helene and before a second major storm, Milton, slammed into Florida. As of Sunday, power had been restored to most of North Carolina, barring about 5,000 customers in remote western counties, according to poweroutage.us. Schools are due to reopen in some of the hardest hit areas this week, and municipal services say water supply has been restored in many areas -- although some continue to face "boil water" advisories. Shelley Hughes, 64, lives near the city of Asheville, and said as of Friday the water at her residence was "still brownish (in) color." "It still kind of looks like, I guess, for lack of a better word, like a war zone," she said of her town of Swannanoa. Harris and Trump are virtually tied in the battleground states, according to a

New York Times polling average, and North Carolina is no different -- Harris stood at 49 percent in the state, to Trump's 48 percent, on Sunday. Early voting is already underway in several states, including North Carolina, where more than a million people had cast their ballots as of Sunday, according to official data.

DESERVE BETTER Harris on Sunday appeared to acknowledge the closeness of the race, saying she would leave "nothing on the field" in her push to win the election. The 60-year-old -- who celebrated her birthday on Sunday -- also lambasted Trump's increasingly disparaging language on the trail, saying in an interview on MSNBC that Americans "deserve so much better." "Donald Trump should never again stand behind the seal of the President of the United States. He has not earned the right," Harris said. Trump's campaign has painted a dark image of a United States gripped by crime and illegal immigration, describing some undocumented migrants as animals and accusing them of "invading" the country. At campaign events, he has increasingly gone off-script, using bizarre and sometimes expletive-laden language -- often to the delight of his supporters. Harris -- almost 18 years Trump's junior -- has increasingly drawn attention to the former president's age, raising questions about his fitness to serve for a second term. Trump insisted his age was not slowing him down, telling a Pennsylvania town hall that "we've had some of the greatest leaders in world history that are in their 80s."

Telangana's GST collection growth shows sharp decline in September 2024

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Hyderabad: In a worrying trend for Telangana's economy, the State's GST collections for September 2024 registered a meagre 0.78 per cent growth compared to the previous year -- a stark contrast to the 33 per cent growth seen in September 2023 over its previous September 2022. This sharp decline raises concern over a broader slowdown in revenue growth.

Over the last three years, Telangana had enjoyed consistent double-digit growth in GST collections. In 2023, the State saw a 13 per cent increase in April, which surged to 33 per cent in September, showcasing a robust post-pandemic recovery. The trend continued throughout 2023, with overall growth rates maintaining a double-digit. However, 2024 tells a different story. While collections in April and May still showed a healthy 11 per cent increase, the momentum slowed significantly from June onward. By September 2024, the State could barely manage a 0.78 per cent growth.

'Stunning security failures' in Pennsylvania attack on Donald Trump: US House report



GNS News Agency, Oct 23

A bipartisan House panel has criticised the US Secret Service for failing to prevent an assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania. The report highlights severe security lapses and ineffective communication that allowed the gunman to attack. A bipartisan House panel has slammed the US Secret Service for failing to prevent the assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, in July. In a report released Monday, the task force concluded that the attack, in which a bullet grazed past Trump's ear and killed one rallygoer, "should not have happened" due to major security failures.

The report, based on thousands of pages of documents and nearly two dozen transcribed interviews with state and local officials, highlights what it calls "stunning security failures" and specifically points to "fragmented

lines of communication and unclear chains of command" between the Secret Service and Pennsylvania state and local law enforcement. Members of both the House and Senate have repeatedly questioned why the US Secret Service, the agency responsible for protecting the country's top leaders, failed to effectively communicate with local authorities. Despite the building being recognised as a security risk, it was left so poorly protected that the gunman, Thomas Matthew, was able to climb onto the roof and shoot at the former president. While the assassination attempt failed, the gunman was eventually killed by Secret Service agents. "Federal, state, and local law enforcement officers could have engaged Thomas Matthew Crooks at several pivotal moments," the report stated.

Lawmakers added that throughout the afternoon, "as Crooks's behaviour became increasingly suspicious, fragmented lines of communication allowed Crooks to evade law enforcement" and climb onto the unsecured roof, where he would eventually open fire, according to news agency AP. "Put simply, the evidence obtained by the Task Force to date shows the tragic and shocking events of July 13 were preventable and should not have happened," the report continued. The task force -- made up of seven Republicans and six Democrats -- has been investigating the July 13 shooting and the associated security lapses. Additionally, the task force has begun looking into a second assassination attempt on Donald Trump at his golf course in West Palm Beach, where the gunman reportedly waited for 12 hours to target Trump. However, the US Secret Service successfully thwarted the attempt.

Fethullah Gulen, powerful cleric accused of orchestrating Turkish coup, dies

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Fethullah Gulen, who had lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999, denied involvement in the putsch, but his movement was designated as a terrorist group by Turkey. The US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, who built a powerful Islamic movement in Turkey and beyond but spent his later years mired in accusations of orchestrating an attempted coup against Turkish leader Tayyip Erdogan, has died. He was 83. Hercul, a website which publishes Gulen's sermons, said on its X account that Gulen had died on Sunday evening in the U.S. hospital where he was being treated. Gulen was a one-time ally of Erdogan but they fell out spectacularly, and Erdogan held him responsible for the 2016 attempted coup in which rogue soldiers commandeered warplanes, tanks and helicopters. Some 250 people were killed in the bid to seize power. Gulen, who had lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999, denied involvement in the putsch, but his movement was designated as a terrorist group by Turkey. Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan confirmed his death, describing him as the leader of a "dark organisation" and saying that Turkey's fight against the group would continue. "Our nation's determination in the fight against terrorism will continue, and this news of his death will never lead us to complacency," Fidan told a press conference.

According to its followers, Gulen's movement - known as "Hizmet", which means "service" in Turkish - seeks to spread a moderate brand of Islam that promotes Western-style education, free markets and interfaith communication. Since the failed coup, his movement has been systematically dismantled in Turkey and its international influence has declined. Known to his supporters as Hodjaefendi, or respected teacher, Gulen was born in a village in the eastern Turkish province of Erzurum in 1941. The son of an imam, or Islamic preacher, he studied the Koran from infancy.

In 1959, Gulen was appointed as a mosque imam in the northwestern city of Edirne and came to prominence as a preacher in the 1960s in the western province of Izmir, where he set up student dormitories and would go to tea houses to preach. These student houses marked the start of an informal network which would spread in coming decades through education, business, media and state institutions. His influence also spread beyond Turkey's borders to the Turkic republics of Central Asia, the Balkans, Africa and the West through a network of schools. Fidan said he hoped Gulen's death would lift a "spell" over Turkish youth who had taken a path of "betrayal" against their country under the pretence of reli-



gious values. "This is not a good road," he added.

FORMER ERDOGAN ALLY Gulen had been a close ally of Erdogan and his AK Party, but growing tensions in their relationship exploded in December 2013 when corruption investigations targeting ministers and officials close to Erdogan came to light. Prosecutors and police from Gulen's Hizmet movement were widely believed to be behind the investigations and an arrest warrant was issued for Gulen in 2014. His movement was designated as a terrorist group two years later. Soon after the 2016 coup, Erdogan described Gulen's network as traitors and "like a cancer", vowing to root them out wherever they are. Hundreds of schools, companies, media outlets and associations linked to him were shut down and assets seized. Gulen condemned the coup attempt "in the strongest terms". "As someone who suffered under multiple military coups during the past five decades, it is especially insulting to be accused of having any link to such an attempt," he said.

In a post-coup crackdown, which the government said targeted Gulen's followers, at least 77,000 people were arrested and 150,000 state workers including teachers, judges and soldiers suspended under emergency rule. Companies and media outlets regarded as linked to Gulen were seized by the state or closed down. The government said its actions were justified by the gravity of the threat posed to the state by the coup. Gulen was also reviled by Turkey's opposition, which saw his network as having conspired over decades to undermine the secular foundations of the republic. Ankara has long sought to have him extradited from the United States. Speaking in his gated compound in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains, Gulen said in a 2017 Reuters interview he had no plans to flee the United States to avoid extradition. Even then, he appeared frail, keeping his longtime doctor close at hand.

How Khalistani terrorist Pannun found an ally in a Pakistani national in US

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, who leads banned outfit Sikhs for Justice, continues to operate freely in the US, inciting violence against India through social media. Yet, the silence of these nations remains deafening, even though they are fully aware of Pakistan's involvement in Pannun's agenda. Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the Khalistani terrorist whose safety is allegedly guaranteed by the US, has long been backed by Pakistan. Despite engaging in several anti-India activities, countries like the US and Canada have taken little action against him.

Pannun, who leads Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), an outfit banned in India, continues to operate freely, fueling the Khalistani movement and inciting violence against India through social media. Yet, the silence of these nations remains deafening, even though they are fully aware of Pakistan's involvement in Pannun's agenda.

PANNUN'S COLLABORATION WITH PAKISTAN The involvement of Pakistan in Pannun's activities became more evident when it was revealed that Sikhs for Justice, a non-profit organisation registered in the US, was established with the help of a Pakistani national named Mohammad Salman Yunus. Intelligence reports indicate that Pannun, alongside his brother Avtar Singh Pannun and Yunus, founded SFJ under the legal framework of a non-profit organisation, listed with the company number EXTUID_4237096, under the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia. Yunus also collaborated with Pannun in setting up their first business venture -- a law firm. This partnership extended further when both Pannun and Yunus launched the Kashmir Khalistan Referendum Front (KKRF). KKRF operates under the 'K2 desk', a model crafted by Pakistan's ISI in the 1980s with the goal of destabilising India by supporting both the Kashmir and Khalistan separatist movements.

KKRF's activities are closely tied to another key player -- Ghazala Habib, the director of the separatist organisation Friends of Kashmir (FOK). FOK, which also works under the influence of Pakistan's ISI, is actively involved in promoting an anti-India agenda. In August 2020, FOK hosted a webinar attended by US Congress members and Pakistani figures such as Sardar Masood Khan, Abdul Hamid Lone, and Avtar Singh Pannun. This gathering reflected the deepening connections between separatist movements and international platforms. In September 2020, the World Kashmir Forum and Friends of Kashmir came together to further their agenda. Reports suggest that Ghazala Habib and Pannun also collaborated with officials from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) to promote their anti-India propaganda. Despite the transparency of these operations, Western nations like Canada and the US have not taken any significant measures against these separatist groups.

The ongoing support from Pakistan's ISI continues to fuel Khalistani separatist groups. Pannun's activities, including organising the Khalistan referendum, are part of a larger strategy to weaken India's unity. Despite the public exposure of these alliances, Khalistani extremists, particularly in Canada, enjoy impunity. Their movements are unrestricted, and they continue to advance their separatist cause from abroad. Foreign policy experts point out the consistent inaction of the US, the UK, and Canada when it comes to Khalistani terrorism. It's evident that even during the peak of the Khalistan movement in the 1980s, when Punjab was gripped by violence, these countries failed to take decisive action. Despite making vague promises of accountability, no concrete measures have ever been implemented to curb these organisations. These nations, it seems, have allowed such groups to flourish, and their silence has only emboldened them.

Solar imports could soar to \$30 billion annually as India targets 2030 renewable goals: GTRI



Solar imports could soar to \$30 billion annually as India targets 2030 renewable goals: GTRI. While India has introduced initiatives like the PLI scheme to boost local manufacturing, GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava pointed out that these efforts have had limited impact, as they continue to rely heavily on imported inputs. India's ambitious goal of installing 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 may drive the country's annual solar equipment imports to around \$30 billion due to heavy reliance on Chinese goods, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) has said. The think tank has emphasised on the need for India to develop a self-reliant solar manufacturing ecosystem, particularly in key areas such as polysilicon and wafer production, without which India may continue to face high import costs, jeopardising its ability to meet its renewable energy targets.

Earlier this month, The Indian Express had reported that India's clean energy manufacturing is experiencing a detrimental impact from Chinese predatory pricing, which is undermining the country's efforts to promote domestic manufacturing under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. The report said that the US had advised India to "expand and protect" its clean energy manufacturing sector, with the Indian government already investing over \$4.5 billion through the PLI scheme to support this nascent industry.

India has added 15 GW of solar capacity in 2023-24, bringing the total to 90.8 GW by September, a significant increase from just 2.8 GW in 2014. However, GTRI estimates that to achieve the 500 GW target by 2030, the country must increase installations to 65-70 GW annually, with solar power expected to account for over 80 per cent of this capacity. "This target appears highly ambitious, especially considering India's dependence on imports, which could push solar imports to \$30 billion annually," the report stated.

The Economic Survey 2023-24 had highlighted that China's manufacturing trade surplus has been expanding since 2019 due to weak domestic demand and in-

creasing industrial capacity. The mismatch between domestic supply and demand in China has widened in recent years, prompting Chinese companies to seek additional markets overseas, the survey noted. In 2023-24, India imported solar equipment worth \$7 billion, with China supplying 62.6 per cent. China's dominance in global solar manufacturing—controlling 97 per cent of polysilicon production and 80 per cent of solar modules—makes it challenging for other countries to compete. While India has introduced initiatives like the PLI scheme to boost local manufacturing, GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava pointed out that these efforts have had limited impact, as they continue to rely heavily on imported inputs. The report noted that India's solar manufacturing sector is still in its infancy, with most projects dependent on imported, ready-to-use solar modules. In the last fiscal year, India imported \$4.4 billion worth of these modules, along with solar cells and other key components such as inverters and cables.

"Nearly 90 per cent of India's solar manufacturing involves assembling modules from imported cells, with only 15 per cent local value addition," the report said. It added that only a few Indian companies manufacture solar cells at a commercial scale, and none produce solar cells from scratch using domestic materials. To reduce imports, Srivastava emphasised that India needs to invest in the production of solar cells starting from silica refining, which involves costly and energy-intensive processes such as polysilicon production. Srivastava also highlighted the importance of domestic production of key materials like aluminium frames and glass, which will require strong research and development efforts and significant government support. The report stated that China remains India's largest supplier of solar equipment, followed by Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand. To reduce dependency on China, India has imposed customs duties of 40 per cent on solar modules and 25 per cent on solar cells. However, imports from ASEAN countries are exempt from these duties under the India-ASEAN free trade agreement. GTRI recommended several steps to boost domestic manufacturing, including investments in upstream solar production, expanding the scope of the PLI scheme, and creating a skilled workforce. Srivastava also suggested that India should collaborate with countries like the US, the EU, and Japan to establish large-scale solar manufacturing facilities. The global shift towards renewable energy, led by the US, EU, Japan, and India, heavily relies on solar power, which constitutes a significant portion of the renewable energy mix in most countries. With control over 80 per cent of global solar production, China remains a dominant player, exporting \$39.5 billion worth of solar modules in 2023 alone.

Allocating satellite spectrum: Jio vs Starlink spat and why most countries avoid auctions



Their essential argument is that administrative allocation may not be able to bring about a level playing field between satellite and terrestrial services.

With India snubbing Reliance Jio's proposal to auction airwaves for satellite communication and favouring administrative allocation instead, the move is being seen as a big win for some of the company's biggest rivals, particularly billionaire Elon Musk's Starlink. Though the division is being framed as a battle of billionaires, the reality is that it is infeasible for any single country to auction satellite spectrum, given its very nature. Unlike terrestrial spectrum which is used for mobile communications, satellite spectrum has no national territorial limits and is international in character. It is therefore coordinated and managed by the UN agency, International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The Telecommunications Act, 2023, has added spectrum for satellite communication in the list of administrative allocation. The Department of Telecommunication (DoT) had later asked the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to come up with a methodology to assign the spectrum.

With TRAI exploring pricing models for the service, Jio wrote to the regulator making a case for auction of satellite spectrum. Their essential argument is that administrative allocation may not be able to bring about a level playing

field between satellite and terrestrial services. Musk, however, responded to the submissions, saying: "That would be unprecedented, as this spectrum was long designated by the ITU as a shared spectrum for satellites". With Telecom Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia saying India will follow the global norm by allocating satellite spectrum, here's a low down on what the service is and how countries have tried auctioning the airwaves to no avail: Satellite communication services rely on an array of satellites in orbit to offer connectivity to homes and businesses on the ground. They are an alternative to ground based communication, called terrestrial networks, such as cable, fibre, or digital subscriber line (DSL), and they don't require wires to transmit data.

For end-users, satellite-based communication and broadband services offer benefits on two key points: wider coverage, and a more resilient network. Even though the latency of satcom services can at times be higher than terrestrial broadband networks, they can cover vast swathes of areas with very little physical equipment needing to be installed. Satellites that orbit in space are vital for communication networks to reach the farthest corners

terrestrial networks and satellite communication, and why the distinction between allocation and auctioning arises in the first place. For terrestrial mobile services, the spectrum is exclusive and is managed only by a single mobile operator in a given geographic area; therefore, this cannot be shared between or amongst operators. While in the case of satellites, the same spectrum is non-exclusive in nature and it can be used by multiple satellite operators to serve the same geographic area.

A few countries, such as the United States of America, Brazil and Saudi Arabia, have conducted auctions for frequency spectrum in the past. The US and Brazil conducted an auction of satellite spectrum along with orbital slots. However, both the countries have since reverted to administrative assignment after finding the process infeasible. The US last conducted an auction for satellite spectrum in 2004 for three domestic orbital slots for broadcasting services. Since then, it has abandoned satellite auctions. In the US, an annual regulatory fee for VSAT and equivalent C-Band antennas operating in the 12 and 14 GHz is \$595 per licence or authorisation. In 2020, Brazil amended its regulatory framework to replace satellite auctions with administrative licensing. Though satellite landing rights are assigned through bidding in the country, the spectrum to be used for satellite services is not auctioned separately. Saudi Arabia recently conducted an auction of spectrum in the S-band, which ranges from 2 GHz to 4 GHz and is used for mobile satellite services (MSS) as well as weather and air traffic control applications. However, since the technical characteristics of the S-band are such that it is assigned on an exclusive basis for MSS, auction can be conducted in a manner similar to the spectrum auction for terrestrial mobile services.

How do countries around the world assign satellite spectrum to operators?

It is first important to understand the key difference between spectrum for

How our minds trick us into remembering experiences more positively



Ever noticed how some experiences stick in your mind as great, even if parts of them weren't so fun? There's a fascinating reason for that, and it's called the peak-end rule. This little trick of the mind can actually help you enjoy life more, once you know how it works. Sandeep Karode, a content creator, speaks about this at length. In a reel posted on Instagram, he shares, "The peak end rule is a psychological heuristic that determines how we remember an experience. So the experience could be longer and more uncomfortable. But if the peak of that experience was a good one and the experience ended on a good note, even though the unpleasant experience was longer, you will not remember it like that." Imagine if you could make your days, weeks, or even years feel better overall, just by focusing on certain moments. Sounds too good to be true, right? Well, that's exactly what the peak-end rule is all about.

The psychological mechanisms behind the peak-end rule Neha Cadabam, senior psychologist and executive director at Cadabam Hospitals, says, "The peak-end rule is a cognitive bias where we judge an experience based primarily on how we felt at its peak (the most intense point) and its end, rather than the overall sum or

average of every moment." This is due to two key psychological mechanisms: "Duration Neglect: Our brains tend to discount the duration of an experience when forming memories. We might remember a short but intensely pleasurable moment more vividly than a longer, less intense period." "Retrospective Evaluation: When recalling an experience, we tend to summarise it by focusing on the most salient moments, which often include the peak and end. This cognitive shortcut simplifies our memories and helps us make quick judgments. By understanding the peak-end rule, Cadabam says, we can intentionally create more positive experiences: Create Peak Moments: Actively seek out and savour peak experiences in your daily life. This could be anything from a delicious meal to a beautiful sunset to a meaningful conversation. End on a High Note: End your day or activities with a positive ritual. This could be reading a few pages of a book, listening to your favorite song, or spending a few minutes reflecting on something you're grateful for.

Break Up Monotonous Tasks: If you have a long, boring task, break it into smaller chunks and add enjoyable elements throughout or reward yourself with a small treat at the end. Focus on Positive Memories: When reminiscing about past experiences, try to focus on the positive peaks and endings to enhance your overall recollection. The peak-end rule is a powerful heuristic, but it's not without limitations. Cadabam informs, "Not everyone is equally susceptible to the peak-end rule. People with a higher tendency towards nostalgia or those who are more present-focused might be less influenced by it." Some cultures place more emphasis on the overall experience rather than specific peak or end moments, she adds. "Intentionally manipulating experiences to create positive peaks and endings could be seen as deceptive or manipulative." The peak-end rule might not apply to all types of experiences. For example, events with a strong narrative structure, like a movie or a concert, might be evaluated differently.

Sonam Kapoor sports the moon phase tattoo with her Karwa Chauth look — here's what it signifies

Sonam Kapoor celebrates Karwa Chauth with lots of fun, food, and style. This year, the Veere Di Wedding actor opted for a mint green salwar suit from Punit Balana that featured bell sleeves with intricate embroidery in golden and pink. She paired the pastel outfit with matching bangles, a potli bag, and brown sandals.

Taking to Instagram, she shared that even though she was not keeping a fast this year, she loved indulging in the food and applying mehendi. A glimpse at her hands showed the names of her husband Anand and son Vayu scribbled on her wrists in henna. Styled by her sister Rhea Kapoor, Sonam tied her hair back ensuring to spotlight her stunning earrings and the highlight of her look — her temporary tattoo. Adorning the column of her throat sat a line of moon-shaped stickers, in accordance with the sequential lunar phases. According to astrologer Saloni Chaudhary, moon phase tattoos are powerful representations that signify the unique personality traits and qualities associated with each zodiac sign. They represent the importance of accepting personal development and growth, and act as a reminder to trust one's senses even



when they depart from the accepted path. "The moon's everlasting beauty has fascinated cultures throughout history, and a moon phase tattoo reflects this fascination. It represents progress, enlightenment, and the letting go of old habits to make way for new ones," she said. According to her, it also serves as a reminder of our own and the universe's inherent cycles, encouraging reflection and personal growth.

Mahima Chaudhry reveals how parents got to know about her cancer diagnosis: 'I had not disclosed'



Bollywood actor Mahima Chaudhry, best known for her roles in films like Pardes and Dhadkan, has emerged as a beacon of strength and inspiration ever since her breast cancer diagnosis became public in June 2022. While her battle against the illness has touched countless lives, the revelation of her diagnosis came unexpectedly — through an emotional video shared by co-actor Anupam Kher on Instagram. What made this moment more poignant was that Mahima's parents learned about her condition through this very video. In a recent interview with Brut India, Mahima opened up about how her parents found out about her cancer diagnosis, adding that she had not shared the news with them personally yet. While working on a publicity shoot for a film, Mahima had a casual conversation with Anupam Kher, during which she discussed her cancer journey. Unbeknownst to her, The Kashmir Files actor recorded parts of their conversation.

What followed was a candid moment captured on camera. Kher, moved by the raw honesty in her words, showed the video to Mahima's sister. Encouraged by her sister's positive response, he decided to upload the video to his Instagram page. The video quickly gained attention, and it was through this post that even Mahima's father discovered her diagnosis.

Recalling the moment, Mahima shared, "I didn't know but Anupam sir tried to take pictures/shots from different angles and then he started questioning. I was so spontaneous that I started to reply. And then he found it so good that he showed it to my sister, saying 'Kya fatak si light main shoot kiya, yeh bolti chali gaye aur fir cut hogaya', and my sister was like 'fantastic, upload kardo'. I had not disclosed to my parents about battling with cancer, inhone daal diya." The video's wide circulation left Mahima in shock. Her daughter later called her to inform her that her grandfather had read about the news online, something Mahima had not anticipated. According to Arouba Kabir, an emotional and mental health professional, many people can take not being told news like

this in a negative way. "Every individual's response in these events is deeply personal to them. There's no blanket rule. You must remember you don't know the person, or what the challenges they might be facing are. We don't know the households they come from. If they are an adult who have a support system and can take of yourself, the decision to not tell your ailing parents, like in Mahima's case, is obviously coming from a place of care."

Study warns AI chatbots, search engines may provide unsafe drug information

New Delhi: Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered search engines and chatbots may not always provide accurate and safe information on drugs, and patients shouldn't rely on these, warned a study on Friday. Researchers from Belgium and Germany conducted the study after finding many answers were wrong or potentially harmful. In the paper, published in the journal BMJ Quality and Safety, they said that the complexity of the answers provided by the AI chatbot may be difficult to understand and might require degree-level education.

With the introduction of AI-powered chatbots search engines in 2023 underwent a significant shift thanks. The renewed versions offered enhanced search results, comprehensive answers, and a new type of interactive experience. While the chatbots — trained on extensive datasets from the entire internet — can answer any healthcare-related queries, they are also capable of generating disinformation and nonsensical or harmful content, said the team from the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in Germany. "In this cross-sectional study, we observed that search engines with an AI-powered chatbot produced overall complete and accurate answers to patient questions," they write. "However, chatbot answers were largely difficult to read and answers repeatedly lacked information or showed inaccuracies, possibly threatening patient and medication safety," they add. For the study, the researchers explored the readability, completeness, and accuracy of chatbot answers for queries on the top 50 most frequently prescribed drugs in the US in 2020. They used Bing copilot, a search engine with AI-powered features.

Lucky Baskhar trailer: In pursuit of money, Dulquer Salmaan realises there's nothing wrong with taking risks for family



Lucky Baskhar trailer: The promo video offers a glimpse into the world Baskhar was born into, the world he forged for himself and the world destiny is taking him towards. Lucky Baskhar trailer: The promotional video opens with a few retro shots, showing Dulquer Salmaan's Baskhar Kumar introducing himself. (Image: Sithara Entertainments) Lucky Baskhar trailer: "Money is more intoxicating than cigarettes, alcohol and drugs," Baskhar (Dulquer Salmaan) declares, setting the tone for the upcoming Telugu crime thriller Lucky Baskhar. On Monday, the makers of the movie unveiled a 153-second trailer, offering a glimpse into the world Baskhar was born into,

the world he forged for himself and the world destiny is taking him towards.

The trailer opens with a few retro shots, showing Baskhar Kumar introducing himself. "I get a salary of Rs 6,000 a month from my bank. Despite living on the borderline of poverty, Sumathi (Meenakshi Chaudhary), paying no heed to her parents' opposition, left her home and came with me, and now she's my wife... my strength," he says as we see the couple enjoying a romantic dance in front of the historic Charminar. We also get a glimpse of the two with their son, navigating life with what little they have.

Watch Lucky Baskhar trailer here: However, as the trailer progresses, the mood shifts dramatically as money becomes a major problem in Baskhar's life, leaving him with no option but to pursue wealth. "There is nothing wrong with taking as many risks as needed for your family," he declares, and soon we see him amassing wealth. Though the trailer doesn't reveal how he is making money, it teases that his methods aren't lawful. This leads to a change in his character and attitude. "Why do you sound so arrogant?" Sumathi asks, to which Baskhar replies, "It's not arrogance; it's courage." When she points out that he has become a bad person, he states, "I am not bad; I am just rich," underscoring how wealth can change a person for better or worse. Written and directed by Venky Atluri, Lucky Baskhar is produced by S. Naga Vamsi and Sai Soujanya under the banner of Sithara Entertainments. The film boasts cinematography by Nimish Ravi, editing by Naveen Nooli and music by GV Prakash Kumar. Lucky Baskhar will hit the screens on October 31.

Suriya, Disha Patani groove to a high-energy banger

Kanguva song YOLO: The new track embraces a modern, urban vibe, resembling the kind of music one would hear at parties. Kanguva song YOLO: In the video, Suriya and Disha Patani can be seen in chill settings, hinting that the song would focus on the bond between them.

Kanguva song YOLO: With less than a month remaining before the worldwide release of director Siva's highly anticipated fantasy actioner Kanguva, starring Suriya, Bobby Deol and Disha Patani in the lead roles, the makers are pulling out all the stops to keep the buzz for this big-budget Tamil film at an all-time high. Recently, the movie's team released a new track from Kanguva, the aesthetics and tone of which stand in stark contrast to the song "Fire" that was released two months ago. Titled "YOLO" (an acronym for "You Only Live Once"), the latest track is a high-energy banger with heavy beats, crafted as a dance number complete with catchy hook steps. While the "Fire" song had a folk-inspired tone with traditional instruments, "YOLO" embraces a modern, urban vibe, resembling the kind of music one would hear at parties. Although the video is primarily lyrical, it includes snippets from the actual song sequence in the movie, showing the characters played by Suriya and Disha in chill settings, hinting that the track would focus on the bond between them. Meanwhile, even as the "Fire" song



presented Suriya in his Kanguva avatar, surrounded by his clan, "YOLO" introduces the second character played by the actor, which is more sleek and contemporary. The contrast between the two tracks, each set in different time periods, has certainly piqued the audience's curiosity.

Composed by Devi Sri Prasad, the song is sung by the music director himself, along with Lavita Lobo, with lyrics penned by Viveka. Produced by Studio Green and UV Creations, Kanguva boasts cinematography by Vetri Palanisamy and editing by Nishadh Yusuf. The film is set to hit screens on November 14.

'Salman Khan calls me mariyal and sukhandi', reveals Bhabiji Ghar Par Hain actor Aasif Sheikh: 'He is the most genuine'



Bhabhi Ji Ghar Pe Hain star Aasif Sheikh shares quite a close bond with Bollywood star Salman Khan, often appearing in several of his films in interesting roles. Recently, the actor opened up about his friendship with the superstar and shared some fun moments they experienced together on various film sets. He revealed, his bonding is such with the star that he calls him names like 'mariyal' and 'sukhandi'.

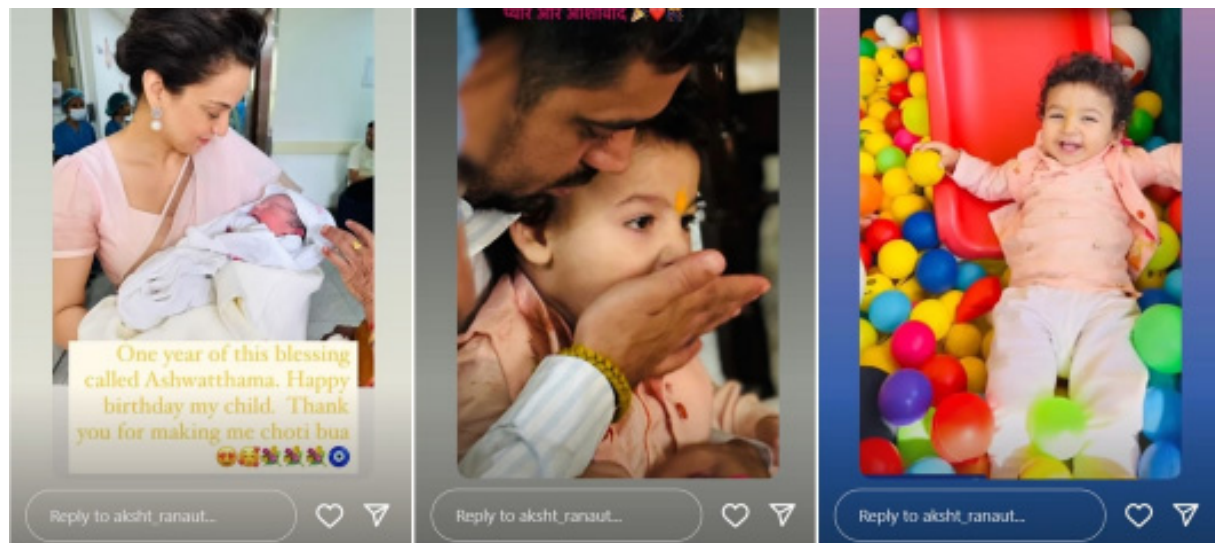
In a recent interview with Lallantop, Aasif Sheikh revealed the reason behind Salman Khan calling him names. He said, "Everybody in his family are bodybuilders. And look at me, how thin I am. So whenever he has to give reference of someone thin, 'mariyal', he be like he is like Aasif Sheikh. That's how he says: Aasif ki tarah mariyal. I am the symbol of a skinny man. This is why he calls me sukhandi." Having worked on multiple films with the star, Aasif has made several memories with him. Sharing Salman Khan's fun side, Aasif recalled the one time they were shooting in Hyderabad for their 1997 film Auzaar.

He said, "I had a friend there, and he had bought a new car, he had come to show it to me when Salman told him, 'give it to me, let me test drive'. The way he drove, my friend freaked out. He almost killed me, because of course he couldn't say a word to Salman Khan." Aasif added, Salman did it on purpose. "Later, he asked my friend, 'So,

how was it?' It was quite funny experience."

He recalled another such incident when the traffic police failed to recognise the Maine Pyaar Kiya actor. "Another time, we were shooting for Bandhan. At that time, he had an Esteem. He made me sit, and again started driving rashly on footpath, here and there. I was like, 'Salman, we will get caught', he said, 'So, what? I am Salman Khan, don't you worry'." He added, "Soon, we were caught by the traffic police. So he pulled down the window and said, 'Arey, bhai'. But, the police officer genuinely didn't recognise him. Salman was shocked. I was like, 'Maybe, remove your shirt, he might recognise you then'." Calling working with Salman Khan equal to a party, Aasif claimed, "I don't know what most of the people think about him, but Salman is the most happy-go-lucky person. He is very chilled. He meets everybody, talks to everybody. He's a different league altogether. You cannot compare Salman to anyone. He is extremely genuine man. He abuses people on their face, but if you do something nice, he hugs and appreciates you." Aasif even revealed that after he signed Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain, Salman Khan personally called him to congratulate him. "He called and said, 'I am very happy for you. It's a good show and I am liking it. I watched a couple of episodes and it was quite entertaining.' I never go to him asking for roles, he's the one who always offers me roles in his films."

Kangana Ranaut enjoys precious moments with nephew



Actor-turned-politician Kangana Ranaut shares a close bond with her family, especially her siblings Rangoli Chandel and Akshat Ranaut, and never misses an opportunity to celebrate them and the happiest moments in their lives. Recently, the Ranaut family grew as Akshat and his wife Ritu Ranaut welcomed a baby boy.

On Sunday, the proud parents hosted a warm gathering with their loved ones to celebrate their son Ashwatthama's first birthday, with Kangana also in attendance. The National Award-winning actor took to Instagram to share moments from the celebration, captioning her post, "Aaj mere chote se Ashwatthama ka pehla janmadin hai, aap sab ise bahut aashirwad dein (Today is my little Ashwatthama's first birthday, please bless him a lot) ??????"

Kangana Ranaut, Kangana Ranaut family, Kangana Ranaut son, kangana ranaut nephew, Kangana Ranaut brother, Ashwatthama, Ashwatthama Ranaut, Akshat Ranaut, Ritu Ranaut, kangana ranaut instagram Akshat

Ranaut also shared on social media his sister Rangoli's Instagram post, where she wished Ashwatthama a happy birthday.

While a couple of photos show Kangana enjoying precious moments with Ashwatthama, one also captures her posing with Akshat and Ritu as they stand with the birthday boy. In one image, Ritu helps the child cut the cake as their family cheers them on. Another photo shows Kangana savouring a large muffin, clearly enjoying the celebrations. Akshat also shared on social media his sister Rangoli's Instagram post, where she wished Ashwatthama a happy birthday. A Member of Parliament from the Mandi Lok Sabha constituency in Himachal Pradesh, Kangana's film career has been facing challenges in recent years, with several of her films bombing at the box office — the latest being the action thriller Tejas (2023). She is now gearing up for the release of Emergency, a biographical political drama that marks her debut as an independent director. Kangana plays late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the film.

Amitabh Bachchan called me and asked for work, shot till 2 in the night so Rakhee could watch KBC, says Suneel Darshan: 'Don't turn her down'

Ek Rishtaa: The Bond of Love (2001), opened to mixed reviews upon its release, yet was the seventh highest-grossing Hindi film of the year. The film had an ensemble cast that included Amitabh Bachchan, Akshay Kumar, Karisma Kapoor, Raakhee, and Juhi Chawla, among others. In a recent interview, Suneel Darshan, the director and producer of the film, recalled how the megastar happened to join the cast. While the film was the second collaboration between Akshay Kumar and Suneel at a time when the former was dealing with series of flops, it was a coincidence that Amitabh Bachchan came into the picture. Narrating the story, Suneel Darshan told Radio Nasha Official, "I was once driving to my office in Andheri. During this, I got a call. When I picked it up, the voice I heard, gave me shivers. The person on the other side of the call said, 'Hello Sunil, this is Amitabh here.'"

He added, "As soon as I heard that, I said, 'Sir, one minute'. I quickly parked my car to speak to him. He then said, 'I heard you're making a film and I would like to be in it. If there's a role for me, please let me know.' I was



stunned that someone like Amitabh Bachchan is asking for a role. This whole episode was quite encouraging for me. I went and narrated the story to him. He then asked me to give a copy of the script to him. He started the prep for the movie and that's how we started Ek Rishtaa."

By this time, Akshay, Amitabh, Karisma and Juhi were finalised for the several roles in the film. The only missing piece in the puzzle was an actress to fill the mother's shoes in the movie. While Suneel's first option was Hema Malini, it didn't work out. The next option was veteran star Raakhee. Suneel shared, "I approached Raakhee ji to play the role of the mother in the film. She agreed to do the role, but then placed a condition before me. She

said, I won't work from 8:45 pm to 10:15 pm. I won't be available for this 1.5 hours, so make your schedule accordingly. I was like, what is this new thing. I asked her, 'What's the problem but?' She said, 'Because I want to watch Kaun Banega Crorepati'."

"I went and told this to Amit ji. He was like, don't turn her down. Bring her to sets. I will change my schedule. I work for Karan from 9am-6pm. I will come to you at 7 and shoot until 2. To adjust Rakhi ji's schedule, Amit Ji said, just put a TV and cable in her van there. Don't let her move out of the set. She can happily watch and then shoot", added Suneel.

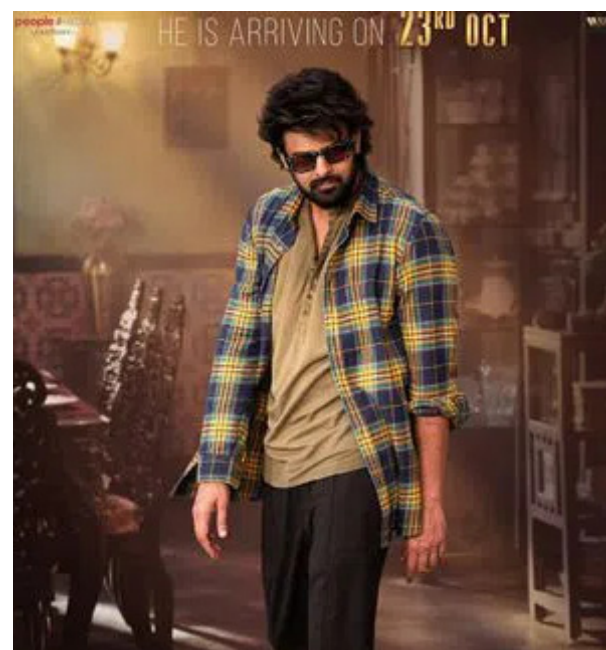
With the unique setup, the team managed to complete the film in just four

months. "Everyone wondered, 'How did they make such a big film in just four months?'," said the producer-director. Recalling his work experience with the Don star, Suneel said, "After we completed shooting for Rishtaa, he told me, that if ever you get a chance, do make a film for me. I told him, 'Whenever you need me, I am always around.'" Suneel Darshan and Amitabh Bachchan haven't collaborated for the second time yet. However, in 2002, he made a film with Amitabh Bachchan's son Abhishek Bachchan, Haan Maine Bhi Pyaar Kiya, also starring Akshay Kumar and Karisma Kapoor. Suneel was the producer of the film. However, it didn't do well at the box office.

Prabhas's birthday celebrated early with special poster of 'The Raja Saab'

Mumbai: Actor Prabhas will turn a year older on October 23. Ahead of his birthday, the makers of his next film, 'The Raja Saab', have released a special advance birthday poster featuring the actor.

The poster has sent fans into a frenzy, sparking celebrations across social media and igniting excitement throughout the internet. Sharing the poster, the makers also hinted that the teaser of the film will be revealed on the actor's birthday, October 23. In their post, they wrote, "Cool composure with a presence that dominates. The King of Swag is here to bring you a MASSIVE treat with his UNMATCHED AURA. Stay tuned to welcome him in a KING-SIZED way on 23rd Oct." The latest poster shows Prabhas in a stylish urban outfit and black sunglasses. He strikes a pose that radiates confidence and charisma. Interestingly, as Prabhas approaches his 45th birthday, the actor received wishes from his Japanese fans in Tokyo. A video that is doing the rounds on social media features a fan from Tokyo sending best wishes to him ahead of his birthday celebration on October 23. After his portrayal of Bhairava in 'Kalki 2898 AD', Prabhas is set to showcase his versatility by stepping into a completely new genre with 'The Raja Saab', a horror-comedy.



Bajrang, Vinesh accepting exemption from trials hit image of protest: Sakshi Malik



The new Parliament Building was halted by the Police on May 28, 2023. Both Vinesh and Bajrang joined the Congress party before the Haryana assembly elections earlier this month. The former contested and won from the Julana constituency, while the latter was made head of the party's national farmers' unit. Before the political plunge, Vinesh endured a heartbreaking sporting low when she was disqualified from the 50kg category Olympic finals in Paris for being 100gm overweight.

Was harassed as a child? The 32-year-old from Haryana said she was molested in her childhood too by a tuition teacher but she kept quiet. "I could not tell my family about it because I thought it was my fault. My tuition teacher from my school days used to harass me. He would call me over to his place for classes at odd times and sometimes tried to touch me. I was scared to go for my tuition classes but I could never tell my mom." Talking about her struggles at the start of her career, Sakshi said she hated confrontations and would think of running away from her bouts at the beginning of her career. "It's a fear that I've carried to the end of my career. I've never enjoyed the actual act of confrontation. ... I was an exceptionally slow starter in wrestling. I won my first bout only after nearly two years of my first stepping on a wrestling mat. It wasn't that I didn't have any physical skills.

"I was always one of the fastest and strongest girls at my coaching centre for my age. But I never developed the fearlessness you needed for a fight. I would always get very nervous before my bouts." But she was a picture of defiance during the protest against Sharan Singh and said the political class disappointed her. She also alleged that former wrestler Babita Phogat, who is now a BJP politician, had selfish motives even though she portrayed herself as a well-wisher for the protesting trio. "In hindsight, while I know that ending Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh's reign was the primary goal for Vinesh and Bajrang, I made the mistake of thinking that that was Babita's sole intention too." "...She didn't just want to just get rid of Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh - she wanted to replace him." Babita could not be reached immediately for a comment on this assertion. In the book, Sakshi also claimed that her parents took away most of her award money. She also alleged that her family was against her match with fellow wrestler Satyawart Kadian but she took a stand for their relationship.

Olympic bronze medal-winning former wrestler Sakshi Malik has said that Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia's decision to accept exemption from the Asian Games trials last year hit the image of their protest against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh as it made their movement seem "selfish". Sakshi, who was one of the three prominent faces of the prolonged protest, made this statement in her recently-released book 'Witness'. She said their protest developed cracks when "people close to" Bajrang and Vinesh began to fill their minds with "greed".

The three had alleged that Sharan Singh, the former head of the Wrestling Federation of India, sexually harassed women wrestlers during his tenure. The case is still being heard in a Delhi court. The ad-hoc committee, that took over the administration of wrestling after WFI's suspension, exempted Bajrang and Vinesh from the 2023 Asian Games trials but Sakshi decided not to seek the favour as suggested by her colleagues. Eventually, Sakshi did not compete while Vinesh suffered an injury before the Games and Bajrang failed to win a medal in Hangzhou. "The old way of thinking selfishly was taking over once again. The people close to Bajrang and Vinesh had started filling their minds with greed. Now they were talking about this exemption from trials for the Games," Sakshi wrote in the book co-authored with journalist Jonathan Selvaraj but did not give names of those who influenced the duo. "...Nothing good came of Bajrang and Vinesh's decision to take the exemption...their decision badly hurt the image of our protest. It put us in a situation where many supporters started to think that we were actually in the protest for selfish reasons," the 32-year-old said. The protest ended after the wrestlers' march towards

Magnus Carlsen to play in Kolkata next month; Tata Steel Chess India to also see Arjun Erigaisi, Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi

World No 1 Magnus Carlsen will be in action in Kolkata in November at the 6th edition of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament where the Norwegian will take on some of the brightest Indian minds, including Arjun Erigaisi, R Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi, Nihal Sarin and SL Narayanan. The only notable miss from India's burgeoning chess contingent will be 18-year-old Gukesh, who will be busy sharpening his knives for the world chess championship battle against Ding Liren. This is the second time that the five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen will be in action at the Kolkata tournament after winning the event in 2019. Besides Carlsen and the five Indians, the other players in the 10-player field are Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Wesley So, Vincent Keymer and Daniil Dubov.

Magnus Carlsen best chess player in 100 years Magnus Carlsen gives his acceptance speech at the FIDE 100 Gala with Arkady Dvorkovich, former Deputy Prime Minister of Russia and current president of FIDE, standing in the background. The Tata Steel Chess India tournament will be held from November 13 to 17 at the Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium in Kolkata's Alipore. Top Indian women's players in action like previous editions of the tournament, this year will also see both Open and Women's categories being held side by side in rapid and blitz formats. There will be equal prize money for both categories. Five-time world champion Viswanathan



Anand will also play a role as the tournament ambassador. The open and women's fields at Tata Steel Chess India 2024. The women's field will see almost all of India's entire Budapest Chess Olympiad team - Harika Dronavalli, Vaishali R, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal - besides India's top ranked women's player Koneru Humpy in action in the 10-women field. "I'm looking forward to being back at Tata Steel Chess India. It has become the marquee event in India. This year brings the best of the world headed by Magnus Carlsen. I am particularly excited that the women's event will have the best of Indian chess. This year has been a celebration of Indian chess and this event will be a fitting tribute," said Anand.

Sehwag on Babar Azam: 'Decreasing expectations seem to have mentally impacted him'



the pressure has mounted on Babar who led the team across formats until last year's ODI World Cup. Though he was sacked from the post, Babar was reinstated as the T20I captain, after Shaheen held the role for a solitary series. Pakistan's dismal showing at the T20 World Cup earlier this year prompted Babar to eventually relinquish captaincy earlier this month. "With expectations from Babar decreasing and his resignation from captaincy, it seems he has been more impacted mentally than in terms of technique. He needs to stay mentally strong. He's a talented player, and players like him tend to bounce back quickly," Sehwag said.

Aryna Sabalenka reclaims no. 1 spot in WTA rankings

New Delhi: Aryna Sabalenka surpassed Iga Swiatek to climb back to the No. 1 spot in the latest WTA rankings released on Monday. Neither player was in action last week, but with continuing year-end adjustments for falling short of certain tournament quotas, Sabalenka dropped fewer points than Swiatek. Sabalenka has 9,706 points compared to second-placed Swiatek's 9,665, taking a narrow 41-point lead. American Coco Gauff is third with 5,963 points followed by compatriot Jessica Pegula (5,785) in fourth and Elena Rybakina in fifth with 5,471 points. "N1.... Let's see for how long this time," Sabalenka posted on X after becoming the world No. 1 player. Sabalenka spent eight weeks at the summit last year before Swiatek overtook her with a victory at the season-ending WTA Finals and the Belarusian hopes for a longer stay at No. 1 in WTA rankings. Heading into the Cincinnati Open, Sabalenka was ranked No. 3 behind American Gauff and Swiatek was up 3,289 points.

GNS News Agency, Oct 23 Babar Azam's batting slump and exclusion from Pakistan's Test set-up have stemmed from decreasing expectations after losing captaincy, remarked former India opener Virender Sehwag. Babar's dwindling red-ball returns coincided with him being 'rested' alongside senior pacers Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah. Though the trio were considered central to Pakistan's plans to stall a string of Test defeats, Pakistan opted for a complete overhaul after their heavy defeat to England in the first Test in Multan. After shoring up the squad with spinners Sajid Khan and Noman Ali besides uncapped batter Kamran Ghulam replacing Babar, Pakistan made a remarkable turnaround in the second Test, securing a 152-run win to level the series.

Sehwag who recorded over 8000 runs in both Tests and ODIs for India, said that Babar will have to reinvent himself by returning to the domestic grind. "Babar Azam should play domestic cricket now. He should work on his fitness, spend some time with family, then come back to international cricket as a physically fitter and mentally stronger player," Sehwag said on former Pakistan speedster Shoaib Akhtar's Youtube channel.

With Ghulam also hitting a century on debut at No. 4,

Mumbai collect six points from Ranji Trophy win over Maharashtra after stumbling against Baroda



Ranji Trophy: The hosts would have wished to get the maximum points, but opener Ayush Mhatre getting out on 15 meant Mumbai had to be satisfied with six points. (PTI) Ranji Trophy: The hosts would have wished to get the maximum points, but opener Ayush Mhatre getting out on 15 meant Mumbai had to be satisfied with six points. After a disappointing start to the Ranji Trophy title defense where they had lost their first game to Baroda last week, Mumbai came back stronger to register their first win in the championship. The 9-wicket-win on Monday has given Mumbai much needed confidence going ahead, after they beat Maharashtra by nine wickets in their second round at MCA-BKC, their home ground on Monday.

When they resumed, Mumbai needed 61 runs more to win and it took them a mere 12.1 overs to achieve the target. Prithvi Shaw scored an unbeaten 39 while Hardik Tamore remained unbeaten on 21 as Mumbai packed up early winning with ease after reaching the target of 74. The hosts would have wished to get the maximum

points possible with a bonus, but opener Ayush Mhatre getting out on 15 meant Mumbai had to be satisfied with six points. Maharashtra never recovered after their first innings debacle, shot out for 126, as Mumbai posted a mammoth score of 441 to ensure they were in the driver's position. The conditions weren't ideal for bowlers but they managed to restrict Maharashtra in the second innings too. "We got much needed points on the board, which is very important. Last season, we had started well, but this time, it (Baroda defeat) was a good eye-opener. We played hard but lost that match. And coming over here, we got the six points, so happy with that," Mumbai's left-arm spinner Shams Mulani said after the game. The hosts were glad to get the visitors all out for 126 and it proved to be a turning point in the game, he added. Asked whether the team was hurt by missing out on the bonus points, he replied, "It hurts, it's cricket. Sometimes you miss that one point, last game we scored a zero, this game we scored six, we will take that."

No Tanush and SKY for next game Mumbai will be missing out on their star batsman Suryakumar Yadav for the next Ranji Trophy game against Tripura due to personal reasons. Also not travelling to Agartala for the Ranji Round 3 match from October 26-29 will be all-rounder Tanush Kotian, who will fly out to Australia to be part of the India A team. Mumbai could count many gains from the game especially after finding 17-year-old Ayush Mhatre, who scored 176 in first innings. Mulani says the new kid resembles the style of team opener Prithvi Shaw. "This is his fourth or fifth game, he bats like Shaw, he expresses himself and doesn't play in any fear. I think that will take him a long way," Mulani added. For Maharashtra's skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, his hundred in the second innings will certainly hold him in good stead Down Under.

'I will still play KL Rahul over Sarfaraz Khan,' says former India wicket-keeper

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

Sarfaraz Khan's glowing maiden Test match hundred against New Zealand and KL Rahul's no-show in the first Test are unlikely to flip the pecking order, feels former India wicket-keeper Parthiv Patel. While the 32-year-old Rahul failed in both innings (0 and 12) at his home ground at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, Sarfaraz smashed 150 on the back of a first-innings duck in India's batting debacle. Replacing regular No. 3 Shubman Gill in the XI, India played Sarfaraz at 4 while Rahul continued at No. 6.

However, with Gill slated to return for the second Test in Pune after India's eight-wicket defeat, Patel feels India will continue to back Rahul in the lower-middle order. Rahul has had a poor stretch in Tests at home, having last scored a hundred back in 2016. Rahul's Test average has dipped below 34 with his home aggregate showing only 264 runs in his last matches at a 29.33 average. "The question will be whether Sarfaraz Khan will get to play or they will go with KL Rahul. I will still play KL Rahul, the way the team has shown faith in him. I am thinking like that based on how the team's thinking has been," Patel said while speaking on Colors Cineplex. Patel highlighted that despite Gill's absence at 3 due to a neck stiffness, India held Rahul back at No. 6, indicating a



change in role. Patel also insisted the situation is similar to that of seamers Mohammed Siraj and Akash Deep, with the former being backed despite low returns at home. "If you wanted, you could have made Rahul bat at No. 3 in this Test match but you said that you didn't want to change his position. Nothing to take from Sarfaraz's knock, he made 150 runs for sure, but it's the same situation as Mohammed Siraj or Akash Deep. There will definitely be pressure on KL Rahul but I would still play him," Patel said. India will take on the Kiwis in the second Test in Pune from Friday and have added all-rounder Washington Sundar to their initial squad.

15 sixes, two tons: Abdul Samad becomes first J&K batter to hit multiple Ranji Trophy hundreds in a match



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Ranji Trophy: Abdul Samad struck 15 sixes in the match for J&K vs Odisha. Ranji Trophy: Abdul Samad struck 15 sixes in the match for J&K vs Odisha. Hard-hitting Abdul Samad on Monday became the first J&K player to hit two hundreds in a Ranji Trophy match. Taking on Odisha at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Samad's explosive 117-ball 127 was laced with six fours and nine sixes in the first innings. Thought J&K missed out on the first-innings lead after Odisha made 272 in reply to their 270, Samad return with another quickfire knock to sail over his team's top-order collapse.

The 22-year-old crafted his second century of the match in only 105 balls with five fours and six sixes. No other J&K batter had achieved the feat of scoring two tons in a First Class match before. Samad's 15 maximums in the match has only been bettered twice before by Indians in First Class cricket. Samad finished unbeaten on 108 off 108 balls as J&K set a 269-run target with a little more than two sessions to play on Day 4. Samad has aggregated over 1400 runs in 25 First Class matches with six centuries. Samad's hard-hitting skills was spotted by SunRisers Hyderabad who roped him into the franchise in 2020. Samad made 50 appearance for SRH across five seasons between 2020-2024, scoring over 550 runs, including 36 sixes. Samad has often credited his early success to Irfan Pathan, the former India all-rounder, who as J&K's mentor had spotted him in 2018 during the trials at Jammu's Science College Ground. Even back then, the teenager had all the shots and the confidence to back his burgeoning talents. Pathan was instantly impressed and decided to draft him in the squad.

"I first saw him two years ago during trials organised to spot upcoming talent. I was immediately impressed by his stroke-play and his ability to hit shots on the up. There were about 400 guys and he was one of the five whom I had picked," Pathan told the Indian Express in 2020.

Sunil Gavaskar praises Sarfaraz Khan's remarkable 150 against New Zealand

GNS News Agency, Oct 23

New Delhi: Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar lauded Sarfaraz Khan for his attacking 150 in the recent first Test against New Zealand, adding that his batting returns were even more remarkable than his waistline.

After bagging a duck in the first innings, where India were bowled out for 46, Sarfaraz was at the forefront of India's second innings total of 462 through an attacking 150 - his maiden Test hundred - laced with 18 fours and three sixes. He wowed cricket fans at M Chinnaswamy Stadium through his cheeky and unorthodox shots, especially through the square region in the off-side. "Sarfaraz Khan has been denied a place in the Indian team for some years now, despite scoring runs by the hundreds in domestic cricket." This was largely because those in a position to make decisions believed he didn't have the slim waist they deemed necessary for international cricket. Sarfaraz's returns on the field with the bat were even more prodigious than his waistline. Sadly, Indian cricket has had too many decision-makers with ideas that are hard to fathom," wrote Gavaskar in his column for Sportstar on Monday. He also cited the example of wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant performing exceedingly well in Tests - like hitting a fine 99 in Bengaluru and sharing a crucial 177-run stand with Sarfaraz in the second innings - despite not boasting of a super slim waistline. "Rishabh Pant is another player who doesn't possess the slim waist that these fitness purists seem to want, but what an impact player he is.