

# INDIAN CHRONICLE

20 October, 2024 | Sunday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:215 Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

₹ 3

## Jilted lover slashes woman's throat in daylight attack

Hyderabad: In a shocking incident, a jilted lover attacked a woman in the broad daylight on the busy SR Nagar road by slashing her throat with a fit of rage on Saturday. The accused, identified as Madhusudan, was reportedly upset over the woman distancing herself from him after they connected through Instagram. Madhusudan, used a blade to attack the young woman, who is now in critical condition.

According to police reports, the attacker was angered by the woman's decision to cut ties with him, which led to the violent confrontation on the street.

## Huge demand for International driver license in Karimnagar

Karimnagar: There is a huge demand for International Driving Permit (IDP) in Karimnagar. People visiting foreign countries for different purposes like education, job or tourism are getting International driving licenses since IDP is essential to drive vehicles in other countries. Though, every year, many people are migrating to foreign countries from other parts of the state, the figure is high from the erstwhile Karimnagar district. Besides education, people are migrating to other nations especially the Gulf countries in the search of employment. Though they have been engaged in different jobs, a majority of them are settling in the driving profession.

## Punjab farmers, arhtiyas to meet CM Mann seeking solutions shortly



GNS News Agency, oct 19, The Samyukt Kisan Morcha-led front of farmers, commission agents and rice millers on Saturday ended their protest over 'tardy' paddy procurement after they got an assurance from Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on meeting their demands. CM Mann had on Friday invited the representatives of various unions and associations for a meeting at 4 pm on Saturday.

Farm leader Balbir Singh Rajewal announced to end the protest after SKM-led front members' meeting with CM Mann. Earlier, representatives of various unions held a two-hour long meeting at Kisan Bhawan here.

Paddy procurement in the state remains tardy, with just 14.30 per cent of the total paddy arrivals being lifted from mandis. This has led to a glut in all mandis of the state, with 18.31 lakh metric tonnes of paddy (LMT) arriving in mandis and only 2.62 LMT being lifted. Earlier in the day, Food and Civil Supply minister Lal Chand Kataruchak said that the state government was doing all within its means for the benefit of farmers, rice millers and commission agents. "Their demands are basically from the Centre. I believe the Centre is biased against Punjab, which is creating problems in paddy procurement this year," he said. Kataruchak said that the state government was in regular touch with FCI officials for the movement of stored foodgrains from godowns in the state, so as to create space for the rice to be milled from this year's paddy. "The movement of grains is higher by 4 LMT as compared to previous years. By the end of this month, 13 LMT will be moved out and 9.50 LMT has already been moved out," he said.

## GO 29 violative of the Constitution: Harish Rao



GNS News Agency, oct 19

Siddipet: Former Minister T Harish Rao said the implementation of GO 29 in the recruitment process of government jobs in the state would do a great injustice to the STs, SCs, BCs and Minority job aspirants because the GO would deny them a good number of jobs for these sections. Speaking to news reporters here on Saturday on the ongoing stir by job aspirants against the GO issued by the Congress government, Rao said number of posts in the reservation category will go down if anyone from that reservation category bagged jobs in the open category according to the GO. "The number of posts will be removed equally to the number of people from the reservation category bagging posts in the open category", he said.

Rao said that the GO was violative of the constitutional provisions since the open category would mean everyone could get the posts based on merit. Saying that the previous BRS government implemented GO 55, Harish Rao said the UPSC was also following a similar pattern that the BRS government implemented. While Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was touring the nation holding the Indian Constitution, he said the same party's government was acting against constitution in Telangana, causing a great injustice to the reservation categories.

Even though Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, a dalit, was at the helm of affairs, Rao said that it was hurting to see such a GO being implemented. He further lashed out at the Congress government on how they dealt with the protesting students. He said the police had lathi-charged students if they were terrorists. Recalling the Congress promises made during the election campaign, Rao said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had failed to keep the promises even after 11 months. He challenged Revanth to visit Ashok Nagar library now to know the issues of job aspirants like he did when he was in the Opposition. Rao questioned the silence of the MLC Kodandaram and other leaders on the issue. He said that Kodandaram, Riyaz, Chitnapandu Naveen, and Akunuri Murali stayed mum because they got the posts.

## INDIA bloc announces seat sharing arrangement in Jharkhand, RJD dissatisfied with 'unilateral decision'

GNS News Agency, oct 19

The INDIA (Indian National Inclusive, Developmental Alliance) bloc on Saturday (October 19, 2024) announced the sharing of seats for the upcoming Jharkhand Assembly election between the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), the Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and the Left parties. Chief Minister Hemant Soren, accompanied by Jharkhand Congress party in-charge Ghulam Ahmad Mir in Ranchi, announced that the JMM and the Congress would contest in 70 seats, and the RJD and Left parties would contest in the remaining 11 seats.

"Every political party is preparing for the Assembly election, and people are keen to know which party will contest on how many seats. We, the INDIA bloc, have taken this election seriously, and every aspect is being scrutinised. In this election, the Left parties are also a part of our alliance. Out of 81 Assembly seats in Jharkhand, the JMM and Congress will contest in 70



seats, whereas the RJD and the Left parties will contest in the remaining 11 seats," Mr. Soren said. In the 2019 Assembly election, the JMM had contested on 43 seats and won 30; the Congress had contested on 31 seats and won 16; and the RJD had contested on seven seats but won only one. With the merger of the Marxist Coordination Committee (MCC) into the Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist (CPI-ML), the Left party, a part of the INDIA bloc in Jharkhand, had demanded more seats. The Bagodar seat is currently represented by the

CPI(ML)'s Vinod Kumar Singh, who supports Mr. Soren's government. Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and RJD MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Assembly Tejashwi Yadav were expected to hold talks with Mr. Soren on seat sharing and candidates in State capital Ranchi on Saturday. Mr. Gandhi is in Ranchi to attend the 'Samvidhan Samam Sammelan'. Maharashtra, Jharkhand election 2024 dates Highlights

"At present, we have

## Group-I aspirants protest: Bandi Sanjay detained during "Chalo Secretariat" rally



GNS News Agency, oct 19

Hyderabad: A day after the police used force and resorted to lathi charge on the Group -1 aspirants, who took out a rally demanding that the government reschedule the mains exams, the aspirants continued their protest on Saturday and held a massive protest at Ashok Nagar cross road.

The Ashok Nagar area, which houses numerous coaching centres and residential premises with aspirants preparing for competitive exams, started swelling with aspirants gathering in large numbers from early morning. Police forces moved in as information trickled in that the students could be taking out rallies. Tensions arose as the policemen began preventing them from leaving their hostels. As arguments ensued and tempers soared, police resorted to cane charges on the job aspirants

at the hostel rooms trying to stop them from joining the protest. However, many managed to sneak past the policemen and reach the main centre, where they joined the rest of the protesters. Many women aspirants complained that police thrashed them indiscriminately and also that they were detained for more than 12 hours. Despite efforts by police to control the crowd, the protest intensified, leading to a standoff. The job aspirants have been staging protests for several days, demanding rescheduling of the Group-1 mains examination and the cancellation of the GO 29. Tension escalated further after the arrival of Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay, who joined the protestors in a sit-in on the road demanding justice. He inquired from the job aspirants about their issues and voiced his solidarity with their cause. He led the protesters towards the secretariat, however, the march to the secretariat was abruptly halted by police at Ambedkar Statue on Tank Bund, leading to an intense confrontation. Sanjay expressed his anger at the police and emphasized that he intended to discuss the job aspirant's grievances directly with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The situation became more volatile as the police, after multiple requests for Sanjay to leave, intervened when he attempted to lead the protesters to the Secretariat. He was detained, preventing further escalation as the protest continued, with demands for justice and the repeal of the contentious order. He told the officer that he was going to the secretariat to meet Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and explain to him about the need to reschedule the Group-I examination. A protesting Sanjay was whisked away in a vehicle and "dropped" at the state BJP office in Nampally.

## Over 30 flights receive bomb threats on October 19

GNS News Agency, oct 19

More than 30 flights of various Indian airlines, including Vistara, Air India and IndiGo, received bomb threats on Saturday, according to sources. Flights of Air India, IndiGo, Akasa Air, Vistara, SpiceJet, Star Air and Alliance Air have received the threats, the sources said.

So far this week, at least 70 flights of Indian carriers have received bomb threats and most of them turned out to be hoaxes. The sources said more than 30 flights, including domestic and international ones, operated by domestic airlines have received bomb threats through social media since Saturday morning. In at least one of the flights, a note was found in the lavatory saying there was a bomb in the flight. On Saturday (October 18, 2024), Vistara said five of its flights on international routes received security threats through social media while IndiGo said at least four of its flights got security-related alerts. The five flights of Vistara are UK106 (Singapore to Mumbai), UK027 (Mumbai to Frankfurt), UK107 (Mumbai to Singapore), UK121 (Delhi to Bangkok) and UK131 (Mumbai to Colombo). "Following the protocol, all relevant authorities were promptly alerted and all security procedures

are being adhered to, as per the guidance from the authorities and security agencies," an airline spokesperson said in a statement. Besides, there was a security concern regarding Vistara flight UK624 from Udaipur to Mumbai, and after landing, the aircraft was taken to an isolation bay for mandatory checks. A note was found in the lavatory of the aircraft saying there is a bomb in the flight, a source in the know said. The airline said it is cognisant of a situation involving flights from Mumbai and Delhi to Istanbul.

Regarding the Jodhpur to Delhi flight, the carrier said the plane landed in the national capital and customers have disembarked the aircraft. About Hyderabad to Chandigarh flight, IndiGo said that upon landing, the aircraft was isolated and all passengers were safely disembarked. Sources said that the plane was being checked at Chandigarh airport thoroughly by the airport authorities at the isolation bay.

On Friday, three international flights of Vistara received bomb threats which turned out to be hoaxes and one of the flights was diverted to Frankfurt as a precautionary measure.

## Rythu Bharosa betrayal by Congress: BRS calls for protests across Telangana



GNS News Agency, oct 19

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) has called for protest demonstrations across all mandal headquarters in the State on Sunday denouncing the Congress government's failure to disburse Rythu Bharosa assistance for the Kharif season. BRS working president KT Rama Rao has urged party members to expose the Congress's betrayal of farmers. He criticized the Congress government for promising Rs 15,000 per acre under the Rythu Bharosa scheme and then failing to deliver. Implement Rs 500 bonus, Rythu Bharosa and crop loan waiver immediately: KTR warns government. "The Congress has deceived the farmers by not providing the promised support. We must expose their lies and betrayal," he said, emphasizing the importance of standing up for farmers and holding the Congress government accountable for its actions. "We will not remain silent while the Congress government continues to betray our farmers. We demand immediate disbursement of Rythu Bharosa funds," he insisted.

## Gold prices in Hyderabad surge to all-time high, crossing Rs 79,000 mark



GNS News Agency, oct 19

Hyderabad: The glitter of gold is brighter than ever in Hyderabad as the city witnesses a historic spike in gold prices, driven by both festive cheer and global uncertainty.

On Saturday, the price of 24-carat gold climbed to an unprecedented Rs 79,420 per 10 grams, and 22-carat gold followed closely at Rs 72,800 per 10 grams. As the city gears up for Diwali, Dhanteras, and the grand wedding season, buyers find themselves in a dilemma—caught between the cultural significance of purchasing gold and the reality of surging prices. The glitter of gold has never felt heavier on the pockets of Hyderabadis.

## ED continues raids at MUDA office, crucial records missing

GNS News Agency, oct 19

Mysuru: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) sleuths continued raids at the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) office on Saturday in connection with the land scam involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Sources said the ED was likely to intensify its search as crucial documents related to ownership, denotification and land conversion were missing. The Central Reserve Protection Force (CRPF) personnel and local police were deputed at the MUDA office.

The CRPF personnel stayed at the MUDA building the entire night. The main entrance was locked and only MUDA officers, security personnel and ED sleuths were allowed. As per the instructions of the ED officers, MUDA Commissioner Raghunandan AN and all senior officers arrived at the office early in the morning. The ED officers conducted searches and inspections in the MUDA till 11 pm on Friday and grilled Commissioner Raghunandan and other senior officers about the original documents relating to the land ownership and allotment to CM Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathy. According to sources, major documents of the ownership of the land allotted to CM Siddaramaiah's wife dating back to 1992 were missing from the MUDA. When asked, Commissioner Raghunandan told the ED that he had taken charge of the MUDA recently and didn't know about it.

# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Yadav's removal

THE removal of Indian official Vikash Yadav, allegedly under US pressure, has ignited fresh concerns about India's international standing and its security operations abroad. Yadav, now charged by the US Department of Justice, is accused of plotting the assassination of Gurbhant Singh Pannun, a US-based Sikh separatist leader tied to the Khalistan movement. This case has escalated diplomatic tensions between India and the US, with the broader Five Eyes alliance watching closely. The US indictment of Yadav underscores Washington's strict stance against interference on its soil. With Pannun designated a terrorist by India, the government's security agencies have considered him a serious threat. However, allegations of an extrajudicial assassination plot targeting Pannun on US soil have sent shockwaves through diplomatic channels. The US decision to publicise these charges suggests mounting pressure on India to ensure that its security measures align with international law. The situation has been further complicated by India's ongoing diplomatic spat with Canada, following its Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's accusations linking Indian agents to the killing of another Khalistan sympathiser, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This allegation has drawn in the Five Eyes intelligence alliance — it comprises the English-speaking countries of the US, the UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In particular, the UK has called for India's cooperation in investigations, signalling that these nations are scrutinising India's handling of separatist movements abroad. Yadav's removal from government service appears to be a direct consequence of US diplomatic pressure, reflecting a broader international concern over India's counterterrorism practices. New Delhi must carefully navigate this situation to avoid deeper strains in its relationships.

## Stung by KMVSTDC scam, Karnataka Government decides to name Raichur varsity, ST residential schools after Valmiki



GNS News Agency, oct 19

Under fire from the Opposition over the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation (KMVSTDC) scam, the state government Thursday decided to name Raichur University and all Scheduled Tribes residential schools after Valmiki. Valmiki was a legendary poet who is largely considered to have authored the epic Ramayana.

The announcement was made by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the Valmiki Jayanthi celebrations

held at Vidhana Soudha. The move is being seen as an attempt to mollify the anger of the Valmiki community — an ST group. The Valmiki community is learnt to be unhappy over the misappropriation of funds at KMVSTDC, which saw the arrest of former minister B Nagendra by the Enforcement Directorate. Siddaramaiah said that there was a demand from the community to name a varsity after Valmiki. "The KMVSTDC chairman has suggested that the university at Raichur should be named after Valmiki," he said. This is to honour Maharshi Valmiki by the state, the CM added.

The KMVSTDC scam, it can be recalled, had come out in June this year following the death by suicide of an employee of the corporation. In his suicide note, he had blamed senior officials of KMVSTDC of illegally transferring funds from its accounts. The state government formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate the case, even as CBI and ED registered complaints over the issue. Former Scheduled Tribes Welfare minister B Nagendra was arrested by ED in connection with the scam in July, and was released on bail earlier this week. SIT, meanwhile, had given a clean chit to the minister in connection with the scam.

## SGPC president Dhama says India, Canada should adopt logical approach over Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder



GNS News Agency, oct 19

Amritsar, October 17: Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Harjinder Singh Dhama Thursday expressed concern over growing differences between India and Canada over the murder of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Harjinder Singh Dhama said both countries should adopt a sincere approach to solve the matter.

"A large number of Indians, and especially Punjabis, live in Canada, who are naturally affected by the deteriorating relations between the two countries. In the case of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder, both the nations should adopt a logical approach instead of levelling allegations," said the SGPC president. Dhama said that there should be no politics in this serious issue. "I appeal to the Government of India to conduct an impartial investigation in this matter, so that the situation can become clear," he added.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recently repeated his allegation that agents of the Indian Government were responsible for the murder of Nijjar on Canadian soil last year. The Indian Government has strongly refuted the allegation and blamed Trudeau for engaging in vote-bank politics. India expelled six Canadian diplomats on Monday, October 14, and also recalled Sanjay Kumar Verma, its High Commissioner to Canada, and other senior diplomats.

## 'I kept asking them what was my fault': Kolkata doctor arrested at Durga Puja carnival speaks about his detention



GNS News Agency, oct 19

The on-duty doctor who was allegedly arrested for sporting a T-shirt and badge in solidarity with the RG Kar protests at the West Bengal government's Durga Puja Carnival said that he wasn't told the reason for his arrest.

"For over three hours inside the police station, before I signed the bail bond, I kept asking what my fault was," Tapabrata Roy, who was arrested Tuesday but released four hours later, told The Indian Express. "Officials said they didn't know the reason," he said. Roy, was on emergency duty as part of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation's medical team, was arrested after he was seen sporting a T-Shirt that said, "Spine is not for sale" and a badge with the words 'Pratiki Anashankari' (observer of symbolic hunger strike), both referring to the doctors' protests and hunger strike in the aftermath the rape and murder of a junior doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in August.

Roy's arrest drew protests from fellow doctors, who held a demonstration outside the Maidan police station where he was being held.

## Farmers await procurement of cotton produce in Adilabad

GNS News Agency, oct 19

Adilabad: Farmers in erstwhile Adilabad district are waiting for procurement of cotton produce by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) to begin this year. Officials stated that the cotton crop was raised in 10.15 lakh acres in the region in the Vanakalam season. While Adilabad topped in growing the cash crop by seeing 3.96 lakh acres, Kumram Bheem Asifabad district accounted for 3.30 lakh acres. Both Nirmal and Mancherial districts witnessed raising of the crop by 1.47 lakh and 1.42 lakh acres respectively.

Officials estimated that erstwhile Adilabad district would register a yield of 71.05 lakh quintals this year. The CCI has already fixed Rs.7,521 per quintal as Minimum Support Price, reflecting an increase by Rs.500 when compared to that of 2023. However, farmers are unhappy over the price and expect a higher rate than MSP. "We learnt that CCI was offering MSP of Rs.8,257 per quintal to cotton farmers in Gujarat. We were clueless as to why the same agency did not quote the same price in Adilabad. Public representatives should take steps to ensure justice to the farmers. Else, the growers would register loss at least Rs.700 per quintal," a farmer opined.

## 10 years after man buys 'faulty' laptop, Delhi consumer forum asks Acer to pay Rs 47,000 as compensation

GNS News Agency, oct 19

After an eight-year legal struggle, a District Consumer Court on November 29, 2022 sided with him and directed Acer to compensate him with Rs 22,000. After an eight-year legal struggle, a District Consumer Court on November 29, 2022 sided with him and directed Acer to compensate him with Rs 22,000. The Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission on Monday directed Acer India to pay Rs 47,000 for a "defective" laptop that a complainant had purchased on June 24, 2014.

Abhishek Bansal, a resident of Delhi, had purchased an Acer laptop with pre-installed Microsoft Windows 8.1 operating system. His laptop ran into multiple issues — the applications and programmes were not working, there was no sound, CDs and DVDs were not being read, and documents took forever to get saved to name a few.

Bansal alleged that he called customer care multiple times and followed the directions that were given to him but to no avail. When his laptop didn't start functioning normally, he was forced to visit the service centre multiple times. He even claimed that he had to reinstall the software in his laptop 24 times.

After an eight-year legal struggle, a District Consumer Court on November 29, 2022 sided with him and



directed Acer to compensate him with Rs 22,000. Dissatisfied with this amount, he moved the Delhi Consumer Commission which advanced the compensation amount by Rs 25,000. Bansal's contention was that the District Consumer Court had not taken into account the mental agony faced by him or his legal expenses. "It is clear from the record that the Appellant had fought this case for about eight years before the District Commission and the District Commission failed to compensate adequately with respect to mental and physical agony suffered by the Appellant (Bansal)," the Delhi Consumer Commission noted in its order dated October 14.

## Australia offers one-year work and holiday visa for Indians



GNS News Agency, oct 19

Australia Matt Thistlethwaite, Australian Assistant Minister for Immigration, held a launch event in Blue Tokai at Delhi's Khan Market on Monday to promote the initiative.

Indians between 18 and 30 years of age now have an opportunity to visit Australia for a year under the Working Holiday Maker programme. Under the programme, Australia is offering a one-year work and holiday visa for up to 1,000 eligible Indian citizens. The selected Indians can do short-term work in Australia for three months to help fund their holiday and study for up to four months. They will also become eligible for a second work and holiday visa. Over 40,000 Indians have already applied for the visa. India officially joined the Working Holiday Maker visa programme on September 16, becoming the

50th country to do so. This initiative was a part of the Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement. Matt Thistlethwaite, Australian Assistant Minister for Immigration, held a launch event in Blue Tokai at Delhi's Khan Market on Monday to promote the initiative. "We feel very proud to launch the Working Holiday Maker Visa for young Indians to come to Australia and to experience Australian culture," said Thistlethwaite. "Almost a million Australian citizens claim Indian heritage. The Indian diaspora is the fastest growing in our country. This initiative is another opportunity for Indians to experience our culture. It's a temporary visa but it gives you a taste of what Australia's like," he said, adding that Indians could then come back and apply for a student or work and holiday visa.

"There are no restrictions on the jobs that you can do. You can work in any industry. We find that people generally tend to work in the hospitality sector but there are no restrictions at all..." Thistlethwaite added. From October 1, eligible Indian passport holders interested in applying for the visa started registering in a visa pre-application process. To be eligible to apply, one should have an Indian passport and must be between 18 and 30 years old. The selection will be done through a ballot process. Those registered will be randomly selected. The online registration is open till October 31. From October 14, random selections of the registrations will take place till April 30, 2025. Those randomly selected to apply for the visa will be notified via email.

## Patna doctors ordered to pay Rs 50 lakh to mother whose newborn had its left leg amputated

GNS News Agency, oct 19

The national consumer court in Delhi has ordered two doctors of two private hospitals in Patna to pay Rs 50 lakh to a woman for medical negligence that led to the amputation of the leg of her son, days after his birth in 2007. The child's records at the time of admission to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi revealed that his left foot was "gangrenous", a state of tissue death due to lack of blood supply, which demanded amputation below the knee. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) on October 10 gave relief to Soni Bharti who delivered the baby boy on February 11, 2007 at Manas Nursing Home in Patna. The baby was soon shifted to the Neonatal ICU (NICU) of another nearby hospital, Kids Care Clinic, as it developed chest infection and breathing problems. The consumer court pulled up the doctors of the two hospitals for delay in conducting a doppler test (a test used to detect blood flow) on the newborn. The second hospital conducted the test on the baby only on the sixth day of admission after Bharti noticed blue colouration on the baby's leg. On the 10th day of admission, the child was referred to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi. "By delaying the recording of the fact of Peripheral Cyanosis (bluish discolouration of hands, fingertips and toes) and the conduct of the Doppler Test... the

duty of care was breached (by the doctors)...," held the NCDRC in its order. Bharti had told the National Consumer Commission that due to heavy doses of medication, inappropriate treatment and an inordinate delay in treatment by the doctors, her baby's left leg had to be amputated. "In the instant case, in view of the fact that the patient who suffered damage of amputation of his left leg within days of birth, quantification of the monetary claim on any available criteria such as loss of income is not possible. For a lifetime of existence as a handicapped person, the claim of Rs 50 lakh cannot, however, be considered as exorbitant or for undue gain, as it would entail various costs for treatment including prosthetics, education and subsequent employment for livelihood," held the National Consumer Commission. The doctors had stated that the child was provided "prudently and diligently with due care and caution". They also said that a paediatrician and cardiovascular surgeon were also consulted who endorsed their line of treatment. Earlier, a state consumer court had sided with the doctors holding that Bharti had failed to bring on record any expert medical opinion to establish that the doctors had been negligent in attending to the patient. The NCDRC, on the other hand, also ruled that the contention of the doctors that the patient was diagnosed correctly cannot be accepted. "

## 'Not right to compare Haryana with Maharashtra...will dethrone Mahayuti': Maha Congress MLA Dhiraj Deshmukh



GNS News Agency, oct 19

With just over a month left for the Assembly elections, the Maharashtra Congress is hoping to move on from the party's Haryana debacle and repeat its Lok Sabha magic in the state. Speaking to The Indian Express, Dhiraj Deshmukh, Congress MLA from Latur (Rural), said that every region has its own issues and the party will highlight issues related to soybean prices, unemployment, and agrarian distress in the state's Marathwada region. Deshmukh, the son of the late chief minister Vilasrao Deshmukh, also said that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) was determined to defeat the Mahayuti alliance in the upcoming Assembly election.

Q: Will the Haryana results affect Maharashtra? With just over a month left for the Assembly polls, how prepared is the Congress?

Deshmukh: If we are to analyse the Haryana Assembly results, the Congress party has registered a good increase in its vote share. Yes, seat-wise, we were not able to make it but our footprint and vote share has increased. Each state has its own story and to compare one state with the other would not be the right kind of comparison. What is often lost in the media is that BJP went with its abrogation of Article 370 for the polls in Jammu and Kashmir, yet it lost to the INDIA alliance. In Maharashtra, we are ready to fight as the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). Our main aim is to dethrone the corrupt Mahayuti government and bring back the rule of law.

Q: In the Lok Sabha polls, Congress had the best strike rate in Marathwada where it won all 3 seats it contested. Will this be reflected in the seat-sharing? When will it be made public?

Deshmukh: Seat-sharing is being finalised by the MVA seniors. But yes, Congress's performance was the best in Marathwada. In fact, MVA won eight of the nine seats in the region. As MVA, we have surveyed individual seats and have given our feedback to the party leaders. The seat-sharing arrangement will be made public soon. Our main aim is to fight together and win.

Q: Marathwada has been at the centre of the Maratha reservation agitation led by Manoj Jarange Patil. How will this play out in the elections? What are the main issues Congress will raise here?

Deshmukh: Of course, we support reservation for the Maratha community and Jarange Patil enjoys support across the state. Our leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has talked about the caste census. This will be undertaken to show the economic and social status of all castes. The Mahayuti has done politics to divide people and we will ensure people get justice.

Every region has its own issues which will be different from each other. The issues of Konkan and Mumbai will be different from those in Vidarbha. For Marathwada, the low realisation of soybeans, the lack of employment opportunities, and agrarian distress are important. Farmers have not received help from crop insurance, these are the issues we are highlighting.

Q: Leaders are queuing up to join the NCP (SP) before the Assembly polls. What is the scene in the Congress?

Deshmukh: We have seen the Khatgaonkar family rejoining the Congress in Nanded. People who want to fight elections seriously are in touch with us. In some cases, we are taking a call on asking people to join other constituent parties depending on the strength of the parties in those areas.

## How a hole in the wall saw Thane police solve a sensational murder



GNS News Agency, oct 19

It's often the seemingly insignificant details that lead the police to achieve a breakthrough in their investigation. In 2011, the Thane police cracked a sensational murder case after an alert inspector spotted a hole in the wall of a suspect's house. By chasing this lead, the police caught the accused and a mastermind nobody suspected. On October 4, the Shanti Nagar police station in Thane received information regarding an unclaimed sack lying in a hilly area. A police team visited the spot and, on opening the sack, they were shocked to discover a man's legs. Police Inspector Janardan Babar, who was leading the investigation, formed a search team and instructed them to search the entire area. In the next few hours, the police found more such sacks – with more than half a dozen body parts inside.

The police put together all the body parts, and it seemed to be of a young man. As the news made headlines, the police were under tremendous pressure to solve the murder. The probe team immediately started making enquiries with neighbouring police stations, asking if any youngster had been reported missing. The police learnt that Rajaram Jadhav had reported his son missing at the Shahpur police station on October 1. When Rajaram was taken to the mortuary to check if the body parts belonged to his son, he burst into tears after he spotted a thread on the right hand of the deceased. He confirmed to the police that the body was of his son Shivaji Jadhav, 23.

While obtaining details about Shivaji, the police

learnt that he had no enemies. The police then contacted his close friend Vijay Pawar, with whom Shivaji spent most of his time. But even he was of no help. Later, the police learned from informers that Shivaji was close to a woman, Kamlabai Wagh, who was in her late 40s. When the police obtained details about Wagh, they learnt that she had married twice and had six kids. But her husbands and kids had left her due to her 'close friendship' with youngsters.

The police now shifted their focus to Wagh as her house was also close to the place from where they had found the first sack with Shivaji's dismembered body. The police team inspected her house but failed to find anything suspicious. It was then that Inspector Babar, while carefully observing her house from outside, spotted a hole in a wall. Peeping through the hole, which was at waist height, he realised that one could get a view of Wagh's entire house. Babar had a hunch and decided to follow it. In plainclothes, the police ventured into the village where Wagh resided, and posing as fellow villagers, they started playing with the local kids. Babar's team met an eight-year-old girl who revealed that she stayed in the vicinity of Wagh's house. The police befriended her, cracked jokes, made her laugh, asked her questions and tricked her into talking. The innocent girl responded to their questions and left the police team shocked. The girl said she had watched Shivaji being murdered inside Wagh's house. Peeping through the hole in the wall, she also saw his body being cut into pieces, she said, as per the police. After this, the police arrested four people, including Wagh. Shivaji's father Rajaram was shocked because one of the four arrested accused was none other than Pawar, who was surprisingly also the alleged mastermind behind the murder. Pawar was allegedly having an extramarital affair with Wagh and was not in favour of Shivaji's growing affinity with her. He also suspected Shivaji of having an affair with his wife, the police said. So, he decided to murder Shivaji, the police added. Pawar allegedly convinced Wagh after offering her financial help to build a pucca house. She agreed and, as per their plan, called Shivaji to her place, telling him that she was alone at home, the police said. When Shivaji arrived, two men, Farukh Khan and Lalu Bhaiya, who were hired by Pawar, went inside and allegedly murdered him. To destroy evidence, at Pawar's behest, they allegedly dismembered his body.

## CBI takes over probe of case against Maharashtra cadre IPS officer Bhagyashree Navatake



GNS News Agency, oct 19

Bhagyashree Navatake, Navatake, 36, who served as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Economic Offences Wing and Cyber) for Pune police from 2020 to 2022, led several high-profile investigations during her tenure. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the investigation into the case registered by Pune city police against Maharashtra cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Bhagyashree Navatake. This case relates to the investigation conducted in 2020-21 into offences connected to the Rs 1,200 crore scam involving the Jalgaon-based Bhaichand Hirachand Raisoni (BHR) State Cooperative Credit Society. Navatake, 36, who served as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Economic Offences Wing and Cyber) for Pune police from 2020 to 2022, led several high-profile investigations during her tenure, including probes into government recruitment exam malpractices and a major cryptocurrency scam. She is currently posted as the Superintendent of Police with the State Reserve Police Force. An FIR against Navatake was registered on August 27 at Bundgarden police station based on a complaint filed by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Nikhil Pingle, following directions from the Maharashtra State Home Department.

Transfer to CBI On August 30, the Maharashtra government recommended transferring the case to the CBI and issued consent for the same. Subsequently, the Special Crime Unit of the CBI in New Delhi took over the investigation on Wednesday and registered a Regular Case with the CBI in Delhi. During her time with Pune City police, Navatake was involved in investigating three cases linked to the BHR scam, which were registered in Pune district in November 2020. These cases were filed at three police stations: Deccan (under Pune City juris-

diction), Alandi (under Pimpri Chinchwad police), and Shikrapur (under Pune Rural Police).

Following complaints by some of the accused in the BHR scam, the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was directed to conduct an inquiry into the registration and subsequent investigation of these offences. The CID submitted its report to the state Director General of Police's office, and subsequently to the Home Department. The government then ordered an investigation into the alleged lapses in the BHR case probe by the police. Consequently, an offence was registered against Navatake at Bundgarden police station, along with unnamed others.

What the Pune police FIR states The FIR filed by Pune police against Navatake states: "The three offences were registered following inadequate preliminary inquiry. The complainants in cases at Deccan and Alandi police station were not present when the cases were registered. Set procedures were not followed in the investigation. In the cases registered with Pune Rural and Pimpri Chinchwad police, unnecessary interference and pressure was put to register offences. In these cases, select persons were named as accused, the extent of the probe was shown out of proportion and a person with conflict of interest was appointed as prosecutor." The offence was registered under various IPC sections, including 120B (Criminal conspiracy), 167 (Public servant knowingly disobeying the law), 177 (Furnishing false information), 193 (Punishment for false evidence), 201 (Causing disappearance of evidence), 203 (Giving false information regarding an offence), 466 (Forgery of record or valuable security), and 474 (Possession of forged documents), among others. In 2021 and 2022, Navatake spearheaded a high-profile investigation into malpractices in Maharashtra government recruitment exams. This probe resulted in five cases and dozens of arrests, including those of senior government officials, a serving IAS officer, middlemen, individuals from private entities contracted for recruitment processes, and coaching class owners.

During the same period, she also led a year-long, meticulous investigation by Pune police's Cyber Crime Cell, which uncovered a shocking case of two cyber experts, including a former IPS officer, allegedly siphoning off large amounts of cryptocurrency from the wallets of accused individuals arrested in a multimillion-dollar bitcoin Ponzi scheme in 2018, a case in which they had assisted Pune police.

## New Congress state president 'seeking feedback from district heads' before renewing alliance with Left

GNS News Agency, oct 19

With by-elections in six assembly seats scheduled to be held on November 13, alliance or seat sharing between the Congress and the Left is yet to be finalised. Subhankar Sarkar, newly appointed Pradesh Congress president, told The Indian Express that input from the party's district presidents has been sought before renewing their alliance with the CPIM. "Opinions have been sought from other leaders too... only after feedback on the ground situation, opinions and discussions, will we be able to take a call on the issue," said Sarkar, speaking over the phone. "I am yet to get a proposal or hear anything from them," he added when asked whether CPIM leaders have contacted him.

Meanwhile, Sujan Chakraborty, CPIM central committee member, said, "Our party's policy is to rally all against BJP in the centre and rally all against the TMC and BJP in West Bengal. There is no change in our stand. It is the right and prerogative of the new state Congress president to seek opinions from his party members and district presidents." On November 13, assembly seats of Sitai (Coochbehar district), Madarihat (Alipurduar district), Talidanga (Bankura district), Natihat (North 24 Parganas district), Haroa (North 24 Parganas district) and Medinipur (Paschim Medinipur district) will go for polls.

In the 2021 Assembly elections, five of these seats were won by the TMC and one by BJP. Neither the Indian National Congress nor the Left Front won a single assembly seat, despite contesting together. "We are in the process of strengthening our organisation. There is an atmosphere of fear. But we will do our best and we still have our organisation in the districts. The law and order situation is bad in the state. We have seen the R G Kar



incident and now the Nadia incident," Sarkar said. The CPIM, Congress, and Trinamool Congress are all partners in the national INDIA alliance, but in the Lok Sabha polls (held from April to June this year), the Congress and Left fought together against the ruling TMC in West Bengal. The then state Congress president Adhir Chowdhury was vociferous against the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress.

While the Left could not make a mark, the Congress won just one Lok Sabha seat (Isha Khan Chowdhury from the Malda Dakshin seat), while Adhir Chowdhury lost from the Baharampur seat. The Congress had won two seats in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. This year, out of West Bengal's 42 seats, TMC won 29, while BJP won 12 and Congress won one. In July this year, the Trinamool Congress swept Assembly by-polls in West Bengal after its candidates won all four seats that went to the polls. In all four seats, the BJP came a distant second while Left-Congress alliance candidates lost their deposits in three of the four seats.

## Over 26,000 RTE seats in Maharashtra schools lying vacant, parents blame delay in starting admissions

GNS News Agency, oct 19

After four rounds of admissions under Right To Education (RTE) in Maharashtra, 26,862 seats are lying vacant, which is over 40 per cent more than the vacancies (18,986) recorded last academic year. Parents blame it on the unprecedented delay in starting the RTE admissions this academic year. The RTE admissions cater to 25 per cent of reserved seats in private unaided schools for children from marginalised backgrounds up to Class 8.

This year, RTE admissions in Maharashtra began on July 23 when schools have completed one month of the academic year due to amendments to the RTE implementation rules and subsequent court cases. When the normal school admissions for an academic year get completed by April-May, the RTE admissions are generally done during May, the RTE admissions generally begin in May. Even as a few parents are demanding for one more special round of admissions, most of the parents are demanding assurance from the school education department that RTE admission for the next academic year will begin in February. According to parents, due to the delay many of them have moved on from the system. "The RTE admissions did not have any clarity until late July when schools have generally completed almost a month of the new academic year. Parents were bound to go ahead with admissions received elsewhere to avoid academic loss for their children," said one of the parents.

According to the government's official website, 1,05,238 seats were available in 9,217 schools for RTE admissions this year in Maharashtra. There were 2,42,516 admission applications. But at the end of four rounds, only 78,376 applicants have confirmed admissions in the allotted schools.

The recent amendment in RTE admissions in Maharashtra stated that private schools with government or aided schools within a one-kilometre radius were not obligated to give RTE admissions. The government be-



After four rounds of admissions under Right To Education (RTE) in Maharashtra, 26,862 seats are lying vacant, which is over 40 per cent more than the vacancies (18,986) recorded last academic year. Parents blame it on the unprecedented delay in starting the RTE admissions this academic year.

gan the process accordingly, but it was soon stayed by the High Court after the amendment was challenged by parents. In July, the High Court ruled in favour of the parents, instructing the Maharashtra government to resume RTE admissions in original format, wherein 25 percent of total seats are reserved in private unaided schools for children from underprivileged sections of society. Parents say that conducting RTE admissions in February would help parents make appropriate choices as it would be around the same time schools conduct admission on their remaining seats. "Over 26,000 students are robbed of their right to free education in schools because of the chaos caused due to unconstitutional decisions taken by the state government which was eventually struck down by the court," parent activist Dilip Singh Vishwakarma, said.

## Pune-based industrialist Yohan Poonawalla's Indian heritage Rolls-Royce '17EX' claims back-to-back 'Best of Show' awards in international concours

GNS News Agency, oct 19

The collector's Indian heritage Maharaja Rolls-Royce was awarded the top prize in the Concours d'Elegance called 'The Grand', which was part of the 'ICONS Mobility Week for Good' held from October 1 to 6 at various locations in Mallorca. An official statement issued recently said his 1928 Rolls-Royce Experimental Sports Phantom 17EX, the only example with coachwork by Jarvis of Wimbledon, impressed judges Lorenzo Ramaciotti, Jurgen Lewandowski, and Rene Renger.

The 17EX bagged multiple trophies including 'Best in Class' in the Rolls-Royce 120 Years class, the 'Best of Show' (Prewar) and the 'Best of Icons' or overall Best of Show. On Saturday, which was the public day called 'Autobiography', 17EX was also awarded 'Port d'Andratx Trophy' in the presence of city Mayor Estefania Gonzalvo who rode in the iconic car as it led the parade on the promenade. 17EX also starred on the official event poster of ICONS MALLORCA, a week-long motoring extravaganza which included rallies, races, track experiences, charity auctions, a concours and a public-day parade. This is the second time this year that the historic car has won a top award, its 'Best of Show' win at Valletta Concours in Malta in June being the first instance.

Reacting to the win, Yohan Poonawalla said in a statement, "I am delighted to see 17EX win the top prize today. It came as a pleasant surprise as there were also some other cars in the concours which were outstanding in design and condition, but I am happy the jury chose 17EX to bestow the Best of Show award. The win tastes even sweeter coming in this milestone anniversary year as Rolls-Royce celebrates 120 years of company formation in 1904. The fact that I was also able to personally race 17EX on the Mallorca Circuit... added to the wonderful experience. This is an extraordinary car which embodies the brand's quest at the time, for excellence and innovation to remain at the forefront." In 2023, the Yohan Poonawalla Collection based in Pune became the first from India to feature in the global ranking of 'Top 100 Classic Car Collectors of the World' published by The Classic Car Trust in Europe, and it also became the first collector from India to win the prestigious 'Classic Car Ambassador of the Year' at the Historic Motoring Awards presented by Octane in the UK.

"Considered as one of the greatest coachbuilt cars and one of the most historically significant Rolls-Royce extant today, 17EX is a car steeped in history, distinct in design, unmatched in character and unrivalled in provenance. The extraordinary car was conceived and developed under the direct supervision of Sir Henry Royce as a prototype. Mindful of Bentley's success at Le Mans, Rolls-Royce felt the need to build a sports car which could clock a top speed of 100 MPH," says Yohan Poonawalla on his website. "Following extensive testing, including by Sir Henry Royce himself, 17EX was delivered new to His Highness Maharaja Hari Singh the Maharaja of Kashmir, in original experimental condition. Jarvis of Wimbledon had a reputation for building sportier bodies, including the record-setting 'Bluebirds' for the king of speed Sir Malcolm Campbell," he adds.

For 17EX, the coachbuilder designed a very sporty streamlined aerodynamic body and techniques from aircraft industry were applied to achieve weight reduction. With its free-floating arched wings and painted in Campbell's favourite colour 'saxe blue' it looks breathtakingly beautiful. Its 6-cylinder one-off enlarged 7.8 litre engine '25EX' was given a thorough redesign with an aluminium cylinder head, modified camshaft and bigger bore for higher compression and greater torque. Striking features of the car include streamlined torpedo coachwork, twin windshields, ducktail, and a polished bonnet top, among others. Following its departure from



India in the 1970s, 17EX spent time in England and Europe. Following the acquisition, the car underwent refurbishment earlier this year at marque experts P&A Wood. It is the subject of a book titled 'Rolls-Royce 17EX - A Fabulous Destiny' by award-winning author Gautam Sen. Introduced in 1925, the New Phantom latterly known as Phantom I, was the successor to the sensational 'Silver Ghost' which earned Rolls-Royce the reputation of being 'the best car in the world'. The 1928 Phantom I resides in the august company of a galaxy of 'Phenomenal Phantoms' in the Yohan Poonawalla Collection such as the 1933 Phantom II of speedster Sir Malcolm Campbell, the 1937 Phantom III of Maharaja of Panchkote, the 1962 Phantom V of the Emir of Qatar which was the star car of the Geneva Motor Show in 1962 and 2023, the 1979 Phantom VI which was used on multiple state visits by the late Queen Elizabeth II and the 2005 Goodwood Phantom VII which was the very first car delivered in India, after Rolls-Royce's return to the country following a 50-year hiatus, and soon to join the collection will be a highly bespoke EWB Phantom VIII, the very last unit to be produced with Privacy Suite. Additionally, also a pair of Phantom Drop head Coupes and a Sapphire edition Phantom, which is one of only 27 made in the world.

## Daughter asks Karnataka Police to probe mother over 'suspicious death' of businessman father

GNS News Agency, oct 19

The recent death of a real estate businessman in Karnataka took a fresh twist after the deceased's daughter Tuesday raised suspicion of murder against her mother. The businessman, Santosh Padmannavar, 47, a resident of Mahantesh Nagar in Belagavi purportedly passed away from a heart attack on October 9. His eyes were donated as per his wish to a private hospital and his funeral was held on October 10.

Sanjana Padmannavar, who is studying in Bengaluru, became suspicious of her father's sudden demise and asked for review footage from 16 CCTV cameras installed at their home. Her mother, Uma Padmannavar, apparently advised her to take a bath first after Sanjana Padmannavar reached their Belagavi home recently. The CCTV footage was later found deleted. Sanjana Padmannavar has claimed that when she questioned her younger brothers, they admitted to deleting the footage at their mother's request.

Thereafter, Sanjana Padmannavar discussed the matter with her uncle and some other relatives and filed an FIR at the Malamuruti police station.

## In 2015, an RTI activist was jailed for refusing to stand. A decade-long legal fight just won him an acquittal



GNS News Agency, oct 19

In the dimly lit corridors of the Saidapet Magistrate Court, 47-year-old Siva Elango, walked out on Tuesday after a ten-year legal battle. The decade saw his brief arrest, 138 court hearings, and several legal setbacks. But, he persevered. It was in 2012 that Elango, a member of the anti-corruption group, Satta Panchayat Iyakkam, filed an RTI seeking details of then Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalithaa's advertisement spending. This was when the state had launched a massive media campaign, with full-page ads featuring Jayalithaa's image in editions across the country. "The campaign was part of her bid for the 2014 Prime Minister race, paralleling Narendra Modi's rise during the period. I demanded details of how taxpayer money was spent for these ads, and criteria for receiving the ads," Elango said while speaking to .The government refused to disclose the information, and he filed two appeals the same year. In January 2015, the State Information Commission (SIC) finally took up his second appeal for hearing. What should have been a routine hearing quickly became a life-altering ordeal for Elango.

He arrived at the SIC's office, ready to present his case. The chief information commissioner, K S Sripathi, a former state chief secretary, and former district judge S F Akbar presided over the hearing. Elango sat in the room, but just before he could speak, a peon approached him, saying he had been asked by Sripathi to stand. Elango refused, since no law required appellants to stand during quasi-judicial hearings. According to Elango, the hearing was abruptly dismissed and he was asked to leave. Not willing to let his fight end there, Elango staged a sit-in protest, declaring that he be heard. The police were called, and he was arrested, charged with obstructing a public servant and criminal intimidation. "I was thrown into Puzhal Central Prison for three days for not standing," Elango said.

Once out on bail, Elango didn't hire a lawyer, but

decided to represent himself. According to court documents, the prosecution's witnesses were people who hadn't been present during the alleged incident, while peons and clerks were listed as under secretaries.

The complaint against Elango had been filed by the SIC's secretary, Ashok Kumar, based on information relayed by his undersecretary, Gnanavel. But when Gnanavel was cross-examined by Elango, he admitted he wasn't in the room when the alleged incident occurred. "They said I threatened to destroy SIC, and that I spoke while putting my legs on the table," Elango said. During the hearing, Sripathi, the former chief secretary of Tamil Nadu, was added as a witness, but the SIC refused to forward him summons claiming that he was retired and they did not know his address. Elango then sought documents from authorities that paid Sripathi his pension. Even after his address was availed and summons issued, the police dragged their feet for another year.

Four judges changed during the 10 years. Then, in March 2024, Sripathi appeared in court. In a twist of fate, this time Sripathi had to appear before the Saidapet judicial magistrate court on March 14 this year and dispose, standing. After a few minutes of submission, the court allowed Sripathi to sit as he complained of leg pain. The former chief secretary claimed he couldn't recall the incident, and denied ever asking Elango to stand. When Elango questioned him further, asking if he had threatened Sripathi as charged, Sripathi again said he couldn't recall. When contacted, Sripathi said he couldn't recall any such incident during his tenure as SIC. When asked about his court appearance, he said: "Oh yes. But I can't recall the details. I don't even remember his (Elango's) face." About his instruction to stand before SIC during the appeal hearing, Sripathi said there is no such rule. "They can sit. Some people wouldn't sit even if we suggested that they do." On why the original RTI petition was not disposed of, he said, "The reasons can't be discussed here. Only thing I can say is that I have nothing personal against him."

Elango said that when he walked out of the courtroom after the acquittal, there was no celebration. "The judge said I am acquitted and that I may leave. But what happened to my original petition? Where is my RTI? I fought another case for 10 years and gained an acquittal, but my original petition remains unanswered," he said. His wife, a schoolteacher, has been the family's only source of income while Elango has thrown himself fully into social activism. Their twins, a boy and a girl, too have grown up watching their father's fight. He said, "My wife and I made an agreement before marriage. That she would take care of the household, and I would fight for society."

## 26 extradition requests for Lawrence Bishnoi gang members pending with Canada: India amid diplomatic row

GNS News Agency, oct 19

In the wake of the murder of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Baba Siddique last week, being the latest in a number of high-profile crimes in recent years linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, the Ministry of External Affairs Thursday said India had shared requests with the Canadian side for the arrest of those from the gangster's gang, but no action has been taken on these concerns by the Justin Trudeau government. Addressing a press briefing, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal informed of Canada's reluctance to extradite members associated with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. He said as many as 26 extradition requests have been shared with the Canadian government over a decade, as well requests for the arrest of some individuals with terror charges, while also raising security-related concerns. "They haven't taken any action on our core concerns. There is a political motive also behind this," he said.

The remarks come a day after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, testifying before the public inquiry into foreign interference in federal electoral processes and democratic institutions, claimed the Indian diplomats were collecting information on Canadians who are in disagreement with the Narendra Modi government and passing it to the highest levels within the Indian government and criminal organisations like the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) had earlier alleged that the Bishnoi gang is connected to the agents of the Indian



government, which is targeting the South Asian community specifically "pro-Khalistani elements" in the country.

From likening his rise in the world of crime to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim to highlighting his links with pro-Khalistani elements, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has portrayed Lawrence Bishnoi as a don helming a 700-member strong criminal enterprise. In its 128-page chargesheet in the UAPA case against Bishnoi and 15 others filed in March 2023, the counter-terrorism law enforcement agency NIA has said there are 84 cases registered against him in Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi. Bishnoi's criminal empire has "700 operatives, 300 among them from his home state Punjab," it said. The agency also characterised his syndicate as one that "formed an alliance with the pro-Khalistan cause, to satisfy its quest for sophisticated weapons and to further invest the proceeds of terrorism generated through their existing extortion rackets".

## Amid 'spitting in food' row, Uttarakhand frames guidelines for eateries — cameras in kitchens, IDs for staff

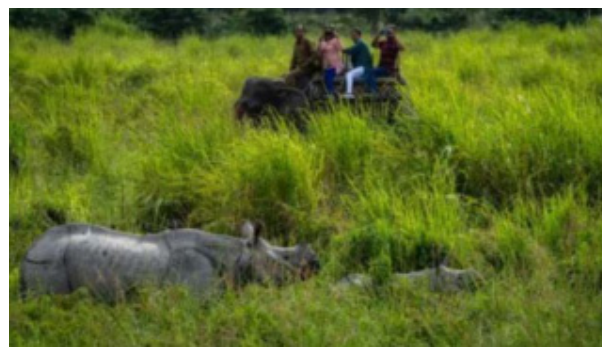
GNS News Agency, oct 19

Compulsory photo IDs and protective gear for food handlers, cameras in commercial kitchens, and boards clearly displaying whether the meat sold is 'halal' or 'jhatka' and hefty fines of up to Rs 1 lakh for transgressions — these are among the Uttarakhand government's new food safety guidelines issued to the hospitality and food industry. Issued by the state's Food Safety and Drug Administration as the festival season rolls in, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), issued on the instructions of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, food handlers must wear photo IDs, places new responsibilities on food vendors — including restaurants, hotels, dhabas, and meat traders. The guidelines come at a time when reports of food tampering and adulteration have caused health concerns. Significantly, the Dehradun Police arrested two people last week for spitting in a teapot in Mussoorie. It also comes weeks after the government of neighbouring Uttar Pradesh made it mandatory for food establishments to "prominently" display to customers the names of "the operator, proprietor, manager, and other relevant personnel". According to the SOP, masks, gloves and headgears to ensure hygiene standards. CCTV cameras are mandatory in kitchen areas to ensure continuous monitoring. Fines for offenders will range from Rs 25,000 to Rs 1 lakh for offenders. Regular raids and sampling are being conducted across the state to help keep food safety standards, it says. "Recent incidents of adulteration involving human waste and other contaminants



in food and drinks have surfaced in different parts of the state. Such practices are in blatant violation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006," the guidelines, signed by Uttarakhand's Health Secretary and FDA Commissioner R Rajesh Kumar, said, stressing the importance of controlling unhygienic habits such as smoking, spitting, or scratching body parts while handling food. The SOP includes several key measures to ensure better hygiene in food establishments across Uttarakhand. A critical requirement is that food establishments must not employ individuals suffering from infectious diseases in food-related activities. According to the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business Operators) Regulations, 2011, operators are mandated to always maintain a list of employees along with their medical certificates.

## Wildlife board defers nod for Vedanta's oil exploration in gibbon habitat, clears road expansion in Rajasthan tiger reserve



GNS News Agency, oct 19

The standing committee of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), the country's apex body on wildlife conservation, has deferred its nod to a Vedanta subsidiary's proposal for oil exploration in Assam's Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary, the habitat of the endangered Hoolock Gibbon. Chaired by Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, the standing committee also appraised and cleared a proposal to electrify a section of an existing 100-year-old broad railway line passing through the sanctuary in Jorhat, subject to the construction of animal passages.

The NBWL also cleared road widening through the buffer zone of the Ramgarh Vishdhar Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan's Bundi, subject to conditions on building animal passages. The Hoolock Gibbon is India's only ape species and the shy, arboreal animals number only between 120-130 in the forests of Hollongapar Gibbon Sanctuary and surrounding Desso reserve. Though Cairn Oil and Gas's oil exploration is proposed in the eco-sensitive zone away from the sanctuary, the NBWL decided to defer the proposal until a site visit is carried out. The site inspection committee will comprise representatives of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Wildlife Institute of India, the Assam forest department and Raman Sukumar, a wildlife scientist and independent member of the board.

Last month, the environment ministry's forest advisory committee, which grants prior approvals for devel-

opment works and industries on forest land, had granted preliminary permissions for oil exploration in the Hoolock Gibbon habitat. The state forest department had recommended the exploration to the Centre citing national interest.

Indian Railway Construction International Limited (IRCON) has proposed 25 KV electrification of a 9-km stretch on the Lumding-Dibrugarh section of the North-east Frontier Railway. A 1.65 km stretch of railway line fragments the Gibbon sanctuary. With regards to this railway electrification project, the NBWL cleared subject to conditions that train speeds should be restricted based on prescriptions of the state forest department and that adequate animal passage plans should be executed. In May 2023, the Wildlife Institute of India had prepared a report on the animal passages that can be built to allow the Hoolock Gibbons to cross 1.65 km of the old railway track passing through the sanctuary. It had recommended the construction of artificial and natural canopy bridges for the safe passage of Gibbons. The NBWL also asked the railway authorities to not energise the electric wires until wildlife passages are in place.

The road widening in Ramgarh Vishdhar Tiger Reserve, submissions to the NBWL show, would require 28.8 hectares of forest land from the buffer zone of the reserve in Bundi district of Rajasthan. The widening proposal was for National Highway-12 between Laxmipura-Dora-Daba-Ranaji ka Guda.

A site inspection committee comprising members of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the Rajasthan forest department and the wildlife division of the environment ministry visited the road project site and recommended the plan with conditions. The wildlife board said in its conditional clearance for the project that the Rajasthan Forest department should provide inputs on locations frequently used by wild animals to cross the roads and construct animal underpasses, apart from those proposed at five locations. The wildlife board said that for every kilometre passing through the forest areas in the buffer zones, an underpass shall be constructed for an overall extent of 50-metre span which shall include underpasses of minimum 30-metre spans, box culverts and pipe culverts.

## On visit to remote polling stations in Uttarakhand, helicopter with Chief Election Commissioner makes emergency landing

GNS News Agency, oct 19

Rajiv Kumar, helicopter emergency landing, indian expressA helicopter with Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on board makes an emergency landing, at Munsyari, in Pithoragarh district, Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024. The chopper was on its way to Milam Glacier but had to land in Ralam village due to cloudy weather and low visibility. While on a scheduled visit to remote polling stations in Uttarakhand on Wednesday, a helicopter carrying Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and two Election Commission officials was forced to make an emergency landing near Ralam village due to bad weather, EC sources said on Thursday.

After spending the night in an empty house in Ralam, Kumar, the EC officers and two pilots were rescued early Thursday morning, an EC source said. Kumar was scheduled to visit polling stations in 14 villages in Pithoragarh to get insight into the challenges faced by polling parties and voters in the high-altitude, remote areas. The helicopter was able to take off after the weather stabilised and the EC team reached Munsyari Tehsil headquarters on Thursday morning, the source said. The team was still in Munsyari and may continue with the scheduled visits, it is learnt.

## In a 4:1 majority ruling, Supreme Court upheld constitutional validity of Section 6A of Citizenship Act

GNS News Agency, oct 19

In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, which granted citizenship to immigrants who entered Assam before January 1, 1966, and called for stricter implementation of laws against illegal immigration and judicial monitoring of the implementation of immigration and citizenship legislations. While Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud and Justices Surya Kant, M M Sundresh, and Manoj Misra upheld the constitutional validity, Justice J B Pardiwala dissented.

The bench ruled, "Immigrants who entered the State of Assam on or after 25.03.1971 are not entitled to the protection conferred vide Section 6A and consequently, they are declared to be illegal immigrants". The provision was introduced in 1985 following the signing of the Assam accord between the Government of India and agitating groups in the state and says that all those who came to Assam on or after January 1, 1966, but before March 25, 1971, from Bangladesh at the time of commencement of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1985, and since then are residents of Assam, can register for citizenship. NRC Official of National Register of Citizens (NRC) check the different documents to keep in systematic way in boxes which are submitted by people for National Register of Citizens (NRC) ahead of the release of the final draft of NRC on 31st August 2019. (Express photo)

"Cut-off date reasonable" Writing for himself, CJI Chandrachud said Section 6A is not violative of Articles 6 and 7 of the Constitution, which prescribe a cut-off date for conferring citizenship for migrants from East and West Pakistan at the "commencement of the Constitution", that is January 26, 1950. "Legislative objective of Section 6A was to balance the humanitarian needs of migrants of Indian origin and the impact of the migration on the economic and cultural needs of Indian States," said CJI Chandrachud. "Though other states share a greater border with Bangladesh, the impact of migration in Assam in terms of numbers and resources is greater. Thus, the yardstick of migration to Assam is reasonable. The cut-off date of March 25, 1971, is reasonable because the Pakistani Army launched Operation Searchlight to curb the



At an EC event in Delhi last week, Kumar told officials he would like to spend time with the polling and security personnel posted in remote areas for election duty. He said he would like to stay in the tents with them. This isn't the first time that Kumar has gone to visit remote polling stations. Soon after assuming office in 2022, the CEC trekked to one of the remote polling stations in Dumak village of Uttarakhand's Chamoli district to experience the difficulties faced by polling parties.

Bangladeshi nationalist movement in East Pakistan on March 26, 1971. Migrants before the operation were considered migrants of the Indian partition; and "both the above yardsticks have a rational nexus with the object of Section 6A". "Undocumented migrants could be registered as citizens under Section 5(1)(a) of the Citizenship Act before it was amended by the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2003 to exclude 'illegal immigrants'. Thus, the claim of the petitioner that Section 6A is unconstitutional because instead of preventing migration to Assam, it incentivizes migrants in other states to come to Assam to secure citizenship through Section 6A is erroneous," said the Supreme Court bench. Justice Surya Kant, writing for himself and Justices M M Sundresh and Manoj Misra, said, "Section 6A falls within the bounds of the Constitution and does not contravene the foundational principles of fraternity, nor does it infringe upon Articles 6 and 7, Article 9, Article 14, Article 21, Article 29, Article 326, or Article 355 of the Constitution of India." "Section 6A does not clash with the IEAA — Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950 — or established principles of international law," said the ruling.

Statutory machinery and TribunalsThe court also acknowledged concerns about illegal immigration and said they need to be addressed. "Although Section 6A conferred citizenship rights exclusively to immigrants arriving before this cut-off date, there seems to still be an ongoing influx of migrants through various border States of India. Due to porous borders and incomplete fencing, this unceasing migration imposes a significant challenge". "While the statutory scheme of Section 6A is constitutionally valid, there is inadequate enforcement of the same — leading to the possibility of widespread injustice. Further, the intention of Section 6A, ie, to restrict illegal immigration post-1971 has also not been given proper effect." The court said the "the directions issued in Sarbananda Sonowal" case (Sarbananda Sonowal vs Union Of India & Another) are required to be given effect to for the purpose of deporting the illegal immigrants...". It added that "the provisions of the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950 shall also be read into Section 6A and shall be effectively employed for the purpose of identification of illegal immigrants".

## Kamala Harris focuses on middle class with new domestic manufacturing plan



GNS News Agency, oct 19

US Vice President Kamala Harris will propose new incentives to boost domestic manufacturing in a speech at the Economic Club of Pittsburgh, aiming to strengthen her appeal to the middle class ahead of the November election. Democratic presidential nominee and US Vice President Kamala Harris departs for Washington at Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S. US Vice President Kamala Harris on Wednesday plans to propose new incentives to boost domestic manufacturing, a day after her Republican election rival Donald Trump said he would seek to "take" factory jobs from other countries if elected.

In an appearance in the battleground state of Penn-

sylvania, the Democratic candidate in the November 5 presidential election will lay out policies meant to build on her platform of homebuyer subsidies, small business tax breaks and a federal ban on grocery price gouging. Harris is also expected to touch on her plan to work with the private sector and entrepreneurs to help grow the middle class in the speech at 3:15 pm ET (1915 GMT) at the Economic Club of Pittsburgh, according to a senior campaign official who spoke on condition of anonymity. The two candidates have increasingly focused their campaign messaging on the economy, which Reuters/Ipsos polling shows is voters' top concern as Election Day approaches. While Trump has proposed across-the-board tariffs on foreign-made goods to accomplish that goal - a proposal backed by a slim majority of voters - Harris is focusing on providing incentives for businesses to keep their operations in the U.S. Harris in recent months has blunted Trump's advantage on the economy, with a Reuters/Ipsos poll published on Tuesday showing the Republican with a marginal 2 percentage point advantage on "the economy, unemployment and jobs," down from a 11 point lead in late July. Harris has tried to paint herself as the best candidate for the American middle class, citing her own upbringing in contrast to Trump's wealth. "For Donald Trump, our economy works best if it works for those who own the big skyscrapers. Not those who build them. Not those who wire them. Not those who mop the floors," she will say on Wednesday, according to the senior campaign official.

## Norway starts probe into company's reported links to exploding pagers in Lebanon

GNS News Agency, oct 19

Bulgarian authorities said last week they were investigating Sofia-based company Norta Global Ltd, which was founded by a Norwegian citizen in 2022, after a Hungarian media report that it was involved in facilitating the sale of the pagers. Norway's security police (PST) have begun a preliminary investigation into reports that a Norwegian-owned company was linked to the sale of pagers to Lebanese militant group Hezbollah that exploded last week, a police lawyer

Over a two-day period last week, thousands of pagers, as well as walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah operatives, blew up in Lebanon, killing at least 39 people and wounding thousands. The attacks were widely believed to have been carried out by Israel, which has neither confirmed nor denied its involvement. It is not clear how and when the pagers were weaponised so they could be remotely detonated. Taiwan, Hungary and Bulgaria are already investigating possible links in the supply chain. "PST has initiated a preliminary investigation to determine whether there are reasons for starting a (full) investigation on the basis of allegations in the media that a Norwegian-owned company may have been involved in the dissemination of pagers to Hezbollah," PST lawyer Hrenovica said in a text message to Reuters. Earlier he told Norwegian news agency NTB that the police had no specific suspicions at this time. Bulgarian authorities said last week they were investigating Sofia-based company Norta Global Ltd after a Hungarian media report that it was involved in facilitating the sale of the pagers. The



company was founded in 2022 by Norwegian citizen, Rinson Jose, 39, according to Bulgaria's corporate registry. He signed the company's articles of association at the Bulgarian consulate in Oslo, the documents reviewed by Reuters showed. Jose declined to comment on the pagers when reached by phone last Wednesday and hung up when asked about the Bulgarian business. He did not return repeated calls and text messages. When Reuters tried to call him on Tuesday this week, the call was directed to an answering service. Jose's LinkedIn profile shows he has been employed by DN Media Group since February 2020. DN Media Group said he worked in the sales department and that he left for a conference in Boston on Sept. 17. He last contacted his colleagues by email on Sept. 18, according to Norwegian media. His employer told Reuters it had not been able to reach him since.

## Big threats to my life from Iran, attacker's death wish is to target me: Trump

GNS News Agency, oct 19

Former US President Donald Trump has claimed "big threats" to his life from Iran and that the death wish of the attacker was to attack him. Former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump alleged "big threats" to his life from Iran and that an attack on him was a "death wish" for the attacker. Trump made the claim after he survived two assassination attempts in two months. The 78-year-old Republican was also briefed by US intelligence agencies on the "real and specific" threat to his life allegedly from Iran in a bid to "sow chaos" in the country, according to his campaign. "Big threats to my life from Iran. The entire US military is watching and waiting. Moves were already made by Iran that didn't work out, but they will try again. Not a good situation for anyone. I am surrounded by more men, guns and weapons than I have ever seen before," he tweeted on Tuesday (local time).

"Thank you to Congress for unanimously approving far more money to Secret Service - Zero 'No' Votes, strictly bipartisan. Nice to see Republicans and Democrats get together on something. An attack on a former President is a death wish for the attacker!" he said. Steven Cheung, Trump's Campaign communications director said on late Tuesday night, "President Trump was briefed earlier today by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence regarding real and specific threats from Iran to assassinate him in an effort to destabilise and sow chaos in the US." "Intelligence officials have identified these 'continued and coordinated' attacks heightened in the past few months, and law enforcement officials across all agen-



cies are working to ensure Trump is protected and the November election is free from interference," Cheung said. On July 13, Trump narrowly survived a shooting when a bullet grazed his ear during a campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania. The second failed assassination attempt took place on September 15 when the former president was at the Trump International Golf Club in West Palm Beach, Florida. Ryan Wesley Routh (58), who was spotted outside the golf course with a gun, was charged on Tuesday for attempting to assassinate a major presidential candidate. The US presidential election will be held on November 5. Last week, US government agencies claimed that Iranian hackers sent e-mails containing stolen material from Trump's campaign to people involved in US President Joe Biden's then re-election campaign. They alleged it was a part of a broader effort to meddle in the US election. In August, the US accused Iran of launching cyber operations against the campaign of Trump and Harris. Tehran had denied the allegations.

## Israel 'carefully plans coming days', to intensify strikes against Hezbollah

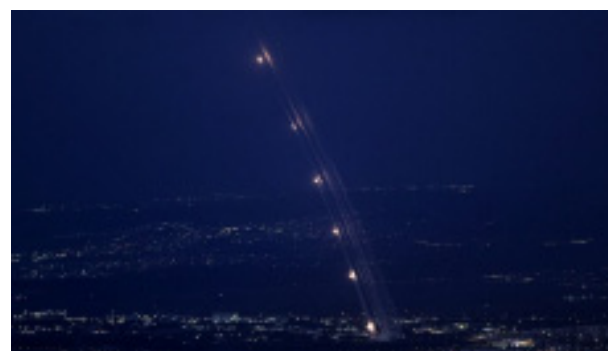
GNS News Agency, oct 19

Jerusalem: Israeli forces "are carefully planning the coming days" and their attacks against Hezbollah will intensify, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) chief Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi said. Israeli forces have killed over 600 militants, "including dozens of Hezbollah's top military leaders," since the onset of the Gaza conflict last year, and have struck "hundreds" of targets in Lebanon recently, weakening Hezbollah's launch and combat capabilities, Halevi said on Sunday in a televised speech from the Tel Nof Airbase, a principal airbase of the Israeli Air Force.

"The price Hezbollah is paying is increasing, and our strikes will intensify," Halevi was quoted by Xinhua news agency as saying. "We have many more capabilities yet to deploy, and we are in a very high state of readiness, both offensively and defensively," he said. Meanwhile, Halevi claimed that the Israeli airstrike on a building in Beirut's southern suburb on Friday has

"eliminated" Hezbollah's chain of command. The building was bombed by Israeli warplanes when Hezbollah commanders were planning in it an attack on northern Israel aimed at killing civilians and kidnapping soldiers, he claimed. "We will ensure the safety of those (displaced Israelis) returning (to their home along the border), and if Hezbollah hasn't understood this yet, they will continue to face blow after blow until they do," he said. Tension along the Israel-Lebanon border has escalated sharply following communication device explosions across Lebanon on Tuesday and Wednesday that killed 37 people and injured 2,931, as well as an Israeli airstrike on Friday targeting a building in the Jamous area in the southern suburbs of Beirut that killed 45 and injured dozens more. The Israeli army and Hezbollah, which has deep ties to Hamas in the Gaza Strip, have been exchanging fire across the Israel-Lebanon border since Oct. 8, 2023, raising fears that the nearly one-year-long confrontations could escalate into a full-scale war.

## What's Iron Dome's success rate, cost of shooting down missile? 7 FAQs answered



GNS News Agency, oct 19

Videos of Israel's Iron Dome shooting down rockets fired by Hezbollah and lighting up the night sky went viral. Though the Iron Dome is well known, there are some frequently asked questions (FAQs) like what is its success rate, how much does it cost to shoot down a missile, and how it feels on the ground? Here are answers to some of the FAQs. Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system operates for interceptions as rockets are launched from Lebanon towards Israel, amid cross-border hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel, as seen from Haifa, Israel, September 23, 2024. Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system in action as rockets are launched by Hezbollah from Lebanon on September 23. Sirens could be heard in Haifa and nearby areas in northern Israel on September 23 as Hezbollah fired multiple rockets into Israeli airspace. Videos of those rockets being shot down by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) went viral on social media. Though they seemed like fireworks in the night sky, it was a matter of life and death. One miss by the Israeli anti-missile system Iron Dome and there could be dozens of deaths. The rockets were fired by Hezbollah in retaliation for the IDF's bombing of terror-group the terror group's hideouts in Lebanon. Israel's offensive has killed over 550 people in Lebanon. The Iron Dome intercepted a majority of the rockets fired by Hezbollah, and it was videos of those that went viral. In the last 11 months, Hezbollah has fired over 8,000 rockets into Israel. The Iron Dome is a part of the multi-layered air defence system of Israel, and it is coordinated by central control nodes and consists of three main components, Yehoshua Kalisky from the Institute for National Security Studies told Reuters.

The outer layers include the Arrow-2 and Arrow-3 systems, designed to intercept ballistic missiles from thousands of kilometres away, with Arrow-2 targeting threats in the atmosphere and Arrow-3 capable of engaging them in space. Both aim to prevent debris from damage. David's Sling serves as the middle layer, designed to counter shorter-range ballistic missiles from 100 to 200 km (62 to 124 miles), while also capable of intercepting aircraft, drones, and cruise missiles. The innermost layer is the well-known Iron Dome. It is the final "ring of protection" and is the most widely used. The Iron Dome has shielded Israel from thousands of rockets and missiles fired by Hamas and Hezbollah. It also helped in fending off the hundreds of drones Iran used in its attack on Israel in April. Here are answers to five frequently asked questions (FAQs) about Israel's Iron Dome.

1. WHAT IS IRON DOME AND HOW MANY MISSILES CAN IT FIRE?

Iron Dome or Kippat Barzel is part of Israel's air defence system and was made to intercept short-range weapons, and it works in all weather conditions. It has three parts -- A radar tracking station, a control centre, and a missile battery system. The first is a radar that tracks incoming rockets and relays information on them to the control centre. At the control centre, it is analysed if the rockets are headed for inhabited areas. If the centre finds a rocket is headed for an unpopulated area, then it will not be intercepted, reports The BBC. The Iron Dome's third part neutralises the incoming projectiles, and has up to three anti-missile batteries. The Iron Dome has a detection and tracking radar developed by Elta, an Israeli defence company and subsidiary of Israel Aerospace Industries, in collaboration with the IDF. Its battle management and weapon control (BMC) centre is provided by mPrest Systems, an Israeli software firm for Rafael. The missile firing unit launches the Tamir interceptor missile, which has electro-optic sensors and multiple steering fins for enhanced manoeuvrability. Each Iron Dome battery comprises three to four launchers, with each launcher able to fire 20 missiles in 10 seconds. This makes Iron Dome ideal for a scenario where too many missiles are fired at Israel, Rubin, a senior researcher at the Jerusa-

lem Institute for Strategy and Security, told Reuters. "Its radar and battle management systems are designed to handle a huge number of targets simultaneously," Rubin said. "Each launcher can fire its full load of 20 interceptors within 10 seconds or so."

2. WHEN WAS IRON DOME BUILT, AND WHEN WAS IT FIRST USED?

The Iron Dome was made after Israel's 2006 conflict with Hezbollah. Iran-backed Hezbollah had launched thousands of rockets into Israel, killing many and causing havoc. Israel then decided it would need a new defence weapon. This led to the building of an Iron Dome, with the support of the US. In July 2008, the Tamir interceptor missile underwent successful testing, leading to further tests in March 2009 where the missile defence system was verified, though no actual interceptions occurred. Iron Dome first came into use in 2011. It fought a missile fired from Gaza by Palestinian terror group Hamas.

3. WHAT IS THE SUCCESS RATE OF IRON DOME?

Hamas members infiltrated Israel on October 7 and killed hundreds and took dozens hostage. The Palestinian-terror group attacked Israel with several thousand rockets, and the Iron Dome's reported interception rate was 90%. The rockets which evaded the Iron Dome caused several deaths and injuries. "The number of Israelis killed and wounded would be far higher if it had not been for the Iron Dome system, which has been a lifesaver as it always is," Israeli military spokesman Lt Col Jonathan Conricus told the BBC. An all-out conflict can strain the supply of any defence system. Here, the Iron Domes can play a vital role. "It's a problem with any type of ammunition," he said. "You have to prepare in advance. You have to prepare for that kind of attack." It has several layers of defence, and it is made specifically with Israel in mind. "Israel I think has the most effective missile defence solution for the threats it faces as a country," said Ankit Panda of the US-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "It's been pretty well established that Iron Dome has a concept of operation that is incredibly effective." With a 90% interception success rate, the Iron Dome is a pretty solid defence system. It has to be kept in mind that swarms of projectiles are fired at Israel, and the Iron Dome tackles those.

4. WHAT DOES IT COST ISRAEL TO SHOOT DOWN MISSILES?

Several cheap and low-cost threats have to be dealt with and this means Iron Dome's interceptors must also be of a reasonable price. Each Tamir missile costs about \$50,000. Generally, two missiles are shot at each incoming target. This is low in comparison to the multimillion-dollar price of other missiles. To add to it, the price of not stopping the attacks also needs to be factored in, said Ankit Panda. "It's not that Iron Dome is a 100% effective capability, but you have to consider the alternative," of much more damage from enemy rockets, he said. Though the Tamir missiles used in the Iron Dome are cheaper, intercepting thousands of incoming rockets adds up in times of war.

5. HOW MANY IRON DOME SYSTEMS DOES ISRAEL HAVE?

Iron Dome was initially built to give a city-size coverage against rockets with ranges of 4 to 70 kilometres, but the range has been expanded. A protective shield is created over Israeli towns and any threats can be spotted. There are 10 Iron Dome batteries in Israel, each has three to four launchers, according to Raytheon and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, reports CNN. The Iron Dome system is easily transportable and needs just a few hours to set up.

6. DOES ISRAEL EXPORT THE IRON DOME SYSTEM?

Rafael stated it had delivered two Iron Dome batteries to the US in 2020. Ukraine also asked for Iron Dome to protect itself in its war with Russia. The US has said it will reinforce Israel's anti-rocket defence by giving over two of the Iron Dome batteries that it operates in Israel. A battery of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missiles and batteries of Patriot missiles would also be provided.

7. HOW DOES IT FEEL ON THE GROUND?

Though videos have gone viral of Tamir missiles from Iron Dome systems shooting down Hezbollah rockets, but how does it feel to be on the ground when enemy projectiles are being intercepted? The Iron Dome intercepts unguided rockets at low altitudes. So, those on the ground,

## Harini Amarasuriya, alumnus of Delhi University, is Sri Lanka's 3rd woman PM



Harini Amarasuriya, Sri Lanka's newly appointed Prime Minister, studied at Delhi University's Hindu College in the early 1990s

GNS News Agency, oct 19

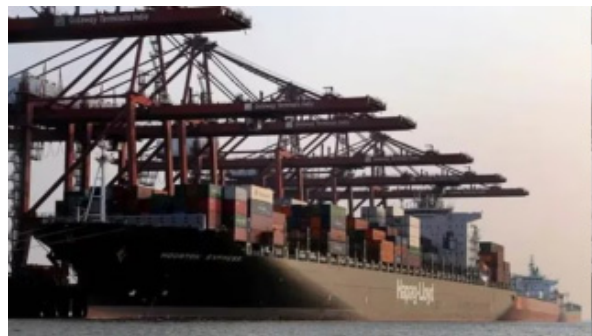
Harini Amarasuriya, Sri Lanka's newly appointed Prime Minister, studied at Delhi University's Hindu College in the early 1990s. Her new role marks a significant milestone, as she becomes the first woman in over two decades to hold the position. Harini Amarasuriya, Sri Lanka's newly appointed prime minister, shares a unique connection with India, having spent her college years at

Delhi University.

The 54-year-old academic-turned-politician, who was sworn in as Sri Lanka's 16th Prime Minister on Tuesday, studied at the renowned Hindu College in the early 1990s. Amarasuriya, the first woman to hold the position since Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 2000, earned her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Delhi University between 1991 and 1994. Hindu College Principal Anju Srivastava expressed pride in the achievements of their distinguished alumna. "It's an honour to know that a former student of Hindu College has become the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka. Harini studied Sociology from 1991 to 1994, and we are extremely proud of her success. I hope her time at Hindu helped shape her path to leadership," Srivastava told PTI. She also highlighted the college's strong tradition of student governance, adding, "At Hindu College, we elect a prime minister and a leader of opposition every year. Harini's achievement adds another milestone to our college's rich history."

Nalin Rajan Singh, a Bollywood director and former batchmate of Amarasuriya, shared his memories of their time together at college. "I vaguely remember her, but I recall her active participation in college festivals and debates. It was the 90s, and many of us—people like Imitiaz Ali and Arnab Goswami—were beginning to make our mark. Seeing her rise to prime minister is truly amazing," Singh, who served as the president of the Hindu College student hostel during their time there, believes that Amarasuriya's new role could further strengthen the ties between India and Sri Lanka. He added that the college's alumni circle, known for its close connections, would be eager to invite her to a future alumni gathering. Amarasuriya was sworn in by President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, who also appointed a four-member cabinet, including himself. In addition to her role as Prime Minister, Amarasuriya has been entrusted with the portfolios of Justice, Education, Labour, Industries, Science and Technology, Health, and Investment.

## US alerts Indian companies on export of defence tech to Russia



US government officials are sensitising Indian companies and exporters to deter them from supplying Russia with items and technology that could end up being used in Russian missiles and other defence equipment, which would attract Western sanctions, a government official said on condition of anonymity. This follows reports of sanctions on Bengaluru-based Si2 Microsystems in November last year for its alleged role in supplying dual-use technology to Russia. Electronic components, machine tools, drones, and software for drones are some of the dual-use items that can be used for both civil and military applications and are included in the sanctions list imposed by the West in the backdrop of the Ukraine war. "They (US government officials) are leading consultation and sensitisation meetings with the industry to make Indian companies more aware of the importance of not exporting specific types of products, such as chemicals, aeronautic parts, and components that can be used in missile systems and other defence equipment," the official said.

Moreover, a US Treasury official had also warned India's banks that financial institutions that do business with Russia's military industrial base risk losing access to the US financial system, Reuters had reported in July this year. "We know that the Russian military relies on importing sensitive goods, like machine tools and microelectronics, and it looks to foreign financial institutions to facilitate these transactions," Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo said in the letter to the Indian Banks' Association, as per the Reuters report. Also, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in June this year had expressed concerns over Chinese exports of dual-use

goods. By placing over 300 companies on an export blacklist, the US said that China is the top supplier of machine tools, microelectronics, and nitrocellulose, which are critical for manufacturing munitions and rocket propellants, as well as other dual-use items that Russia is using to bolster its defence capabilities.

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry in January 2024 had said that the government is working to liberalise export norms for certain products with dual-use applications. However, the official clarified that the items identified by the US are not Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies (SCOMET) items, which require licensing for trade. Dual-use goods are categorised under the SCOMET list in India. "There are many items that the US is scrutinising. They are not SCOMET items, but the US believes they are entering the (Russian) defence manufacturing system. The two or three firms identified by the US do not export SCOMET items," the official clarified. India's exports of machines, auto parts, steel and aluminium products, internal combustion (IC) engines, pumps, and other items to Russia are on the rise. Official data from the ministry showed that India's total exports to Russia in 2023 surged by 40 per cent to exceed \$4 billion, largely driven by engineering goods, which nearly doubled to \$1.32 billion in 2023 from \$680 million in 2022. Significant gains were also seen in the drugs and pharmaceutical category, as well as in organic and inorganic chemicals. This increase in exports comes as Russia has ramped up its defence investments. In July, the World Bank reported that economic activity in Russia was influenced by a significant increase in military-related activity in 2023. Russia's military spending grew by 24 per cent in 2023 to an estimated \$109 billion, as per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) states. "After the initial recessionary impact of sanctions in 2022, the (Russian) economy returned to growth in 2023, supported by fiscal stimulus, including military spending and credit expansion, and by successfully mitigating the impact of the sanctions. Restrictions on trade and financing from the G7 countries and the EU resulted in trade diversion to China, India, Türkiye, Central Asia, and the South Caucasus, as well as investment in new infrastructure and logistics," the World Bank noted. A query emailed to the Ministry of External Affairs on Monday evening remained unanswered till press time.

## Cautious monetary policy needed if food price pressures continue: RBI

Reserve Bank of India, RBI Monetary policy report, food price, RBI monetary policy, RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra, economy news, RBI news, Indian express news. The report said persistence in food inflation has increased due to repeated climatic shocks of rising intensity. A cautious monetary policy approach is warranted if food price pressures persist and continue to spill over, a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report said on Monday. "Monetary policy is the only active disinflationary agent in the economy. The conventional treatment of food price perturbations as transitory in the setting of monetary policy is increasingly becoming untenable," the report authored by RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra and others said.

"A large part of this increase in persistence is driven by the secular upward drift in food inflation expectations. Past high food inflation episodes — intrinsic persistence — have a bearing in shaping these expectations," the report said. The inelasticity of the demand for food to price shocks makes food inflation persistence all the more worrying, it cautioned. The report, titled 'Are food prices spilling over', said the conventional treatment of food price perturbations as transitory in the setting of monetary policy is increasingly becoming untenable. "A large part of this increase in persistence is driven by the secular upward drift in food inflation expectations," it said.

Headline inflation moderated from its spike in June to 3.5 per cent in July, but this was primarily due to the downward statistical pull of base effects. "If high food inflation persists, however, a more cautious monetary policy approach is warranted to squelch the propagation of food inflation pressures into a more generalised inflation," it said. The Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI had kept the Repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent in its review earlier this month. "Past high food inflation episodes — intrinsic persistence — have a bearing in shaping these expectations. The inelasticity of the demand for food to



price shocks makes food inflation persistence all the more worrying," the report said. With spillovers to costs, service charges and output prices, the danger of food inflation surfacing as a more generalised phenomenon has increased, it said. Under these circumstances, the sources of food price shocks may lie outside the realm of monetary policy but when they result in food inflation acquiring persistence and spilling over into other components of inflation and into consumer behaviour, monetary policy must be disinflationary to quell these price pressures in order to achieve its mandate of price stability and thereby retain credibility, the report said. It said failing to act against persistent food inflation risks expectations getting unanchored, generalisation of price pressures and loss of control over inflation, undermining of consumer and business confidence, and erosion of external sector sustainability and competitiveness. The report said persistence in food inflation has increased due to repeated climatic shocks of rising intensity. "The increase in food inflation persistence is driven by the secular upward drift in its time varying trend, signifying rising expectations of higher food prices due to overlapping supply shocks. Empirical evidence points to spillovers to non-food components, which is being offset by disinflationary monetary policy," it said.

## Pronounced income gaps evident in case of stigmatised-caste business owners: new study

Business owners from stigmatised groups such as Dalits experience a business income gap of around 16 per cent compared with others, including those business owners who are from communities that are disadvantaged but are not similarly stigmatised, a new study has revealed. This gap increases at higher levels of social capital, reflecting the social processes of stigmatisation that limit the benefits that Dalits can reap from social capital, a research article titled "It's not who you know, but who you are: Explaining income gaps of stigmatized-caste business owners in India" has stated.

The research report published in PLOS ONE journal on August 7 this year is authored by Prateek Raj, Assistant Professor in Strategy at Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) along with Thomas J Roulet, Professor of Organisational Sociology and Leadership at Cambridge Judge Business School and Co-Director of the King's Entrepreneurship Lab at King's College; and Hari Bapuji, Professor in the Department of Management and Marketing, Faculty of Business and Economics, The University of Melbourne, Australia. The report, which states human capital and social capital as two potential tools to facilitate economic mobility and to reduce inequalities, has attempted to find out whether these tools work equally well for stigmatised groups, particularly in societies with systemic inequalities.

There is a high income gap for stigmatized groups and instead of getting reduced, this gap increases at higher levels of social capital. However, Dalits can reap similar income benefits as others from human capital, the report said, adding that human capital helps stigmatized groups mitigate the implications of stigma, but social capital does not. Community business, income

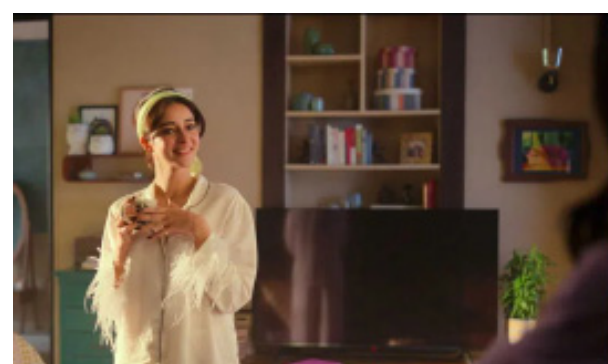
gaps, stigmatized-caste business, news business study, Dalits business, income gap, PLOS ONE journal, Indian express news. "That social capital fails to improve the incomes of Dalits as much as they do for others. We know from past research that social capital benefits people in business. So, it is commonly assumed that they will benefit everyone equally. Our study shows that that is not the case. We were surprised to find that other groups, including groups that are disadvantaged due to caste (e.g., OBCs, STs) and religion (e.g., Muslims) benefit from having social capital and improve their incomes. But, for Dalits (SCs), the social capital does not help as much. We argue that this is because Dalits face a stigma that is attached to them as persons and is perpetuated in social interactions," the research paper's author Prateek Raj told The To address income disadvantages faced by the marginalised groups, that is, OBCs, adivasis/STs and Muslims, it is adequate to provide them opportunities, for example, in the form of business leads, credit facilities, collaterals for large orders, Hari Bapuji, the co-author of the study, said. While noting that the government has developed several initiatives for the mobility of Dalits and other disadvantaged communities, the study states that the stigmatized groups (Dalits) and other historically disadvantaged—but not similarly stigmatized groups) face different social processes, which need to be considered in designing initiatives to reduce inequalities. There is a need to rethink development strategies involving human capital and social capital, the study said. "Since Dalits/SCs not only face marginalisation but also experience institutional stigma, it is necessary to counter the social processes that stigmatise them. For example, the destigmatisation strategies can include education (e.g., curriculum that discusses the historical injustices and educates on the ways inclusion is achieved globally),

## Ananya Panday's 'Call Me Bae' show promises to slay; to stream on Prime

Mumbai: After much anticipation, the trailer of the upcoming streaming show "Call Me Bae" is finally here, and it won't be wrong to say that Bae is here to slay. The trailer, unveiled at a 5 star property in the Bandra area of Mumbai on Tuesday, shows actress Ananya Panday's titular character of Bae wrapping her head around the realities and curveballs that life throws at her. Bae belongs to an affluent family from Delhi and has grown up in a very protected environment but has to move to Bombay for reasons that the viewers will get to see in the show.

The trailer is funny, glossy, a little over the top and self-referential, cue in the last dialogue exchange between Ananya and a watchman which is directly taken from what her "Gehraaiyaan" co-actor Siddhant Chaturvedi told her about "struggle", years ago during a roundtable conversation. The series also stars Vir Das, Gurfateh Pirzada, Varun Sood, Vihaan Samat, Muskaan Jaferi, Niharika Lyra Dutt, Lisa Mishra, and Mini Mathur in pivotal roles. The series offers a peek into the life of Bae as she hustles with all her muscle in the maximum city of Mumbai.

Talking about the series, Ananya said, "From the get go, I knew 'Call Me Bae' was a project I wanted to be a part of. Even without having heard the script I knew this was going to be something special. As an actor, it is always exciting and rewarding to play a multi-layered character like Bae. There's more to Bae than what meets the eye and that is what makes her journey from heiress to hustler, compelling and intriguing. Despite the challenges she faces, she remains true to herself, retaining her innocence and zest for life." She shared that the authenticity of the narrative drew her to the role. This is her first long format original series. The actress further mentioned, "I am thrilled to be collaborating with Prime Video and Dharmatic Entertainment for the series and I am looking forward to introducing Bae to audiences worldwide." The series has been directed by Collin D'Cunha and created by Ishita Moitra, who has also written the series along with Samina Motlekar, and Rohit Nair.



Bollywood royalty Karan Johar, who has bankrolled the series, said, "While there have been many stories that follow the rags-to-riches trope, 'Call Me Bae' offers a fresh twist by turning the genre on its head. It centers on a young woman from a privileged background, where extravagance was a birthright, who, due to unforeseen circumstances, must now navigate life on her own and hustle and reinvent herself in the bustling city of Mumbai". He added, "Through this transformative journey, she discovers her true passions and learns to stand on her own. This series presents a modern coming-of-age story with a playful, comedic edge that I am confident will captivate audiences across India and globally, resonating with viewers from all walks of life. This is our third original collaboration with Prime Video, and it is a partnership that has just gone from strength to strength and now with 'Call Me Bae', and with Ananya wholeheartedly embracing everything Bae stands for, we're hoping to introduce audiences to a character that is as iconic as she is relatable." "Call Me Bae" is Dharmatic Entertainment production with Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, and Somen Mishra serving as executive producers. Collin D'Cunha called the show an incredibly rewarding journey as a director. He said, "The idea of taking a fish out of water and watching them evolve is both fresh and engaging, making it a standout coming-of-age story."

## After Paris Olympics loss, PV Sindhu says 'my body and mind' need a 'break'; tips to identify if you need one too

The Paris Olympics proved to be a bittersweet experience for India's badminton star, PV Sindhu. The two-time Olympic medalist experienced a heart-wrenching defeat, bowing out in the Round of 16. In a heartfelt social media post, Sindhu acknowledged the difficulty of accepting the defeat, and shared how "this loss is possibly one of the hardest of my long career." The ace shuttler added, "it will take time to accept, but as life moves forward, I know I will come to terms with it."

Sindhu's journey to the French capital was fraught with challenges. Injuries and extended breaks from the sport tested her resilience and determination. Her candid social media post revealed the emotional toll of the defeat, a stark contrast to the typically upbeat image of a champion. "Regarding my future, I want to be clear: I will continue, albeit after a small break. My body, and more importantly, my mind need it. However, I plan to carefully evaluate the journey ahead, finding more joy in playing the sport I love so very much," Sindhu wrote in the end. It is important to take breaks to avoid a breakdown. According to Dr Neerja Agarwal, psychologist and co-founder, Emoneeds, here are 7 tips to recognise if you need a break too: 1. Increased Stress Levels: Notice if you're feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or consistently stressed. Persistent high stress can be a sign you need to pause and recharge.

2. Emotional Exhaustion: If you're experiencing persistent feelings of sadness, irritability, or emotional numbness, it may indicate a need for a break. 3. Difficulty Con-



centrating: Struggling with focus or memory issues can be a sign of mental fatigue, suggesting that a break could help restore clarity. 4. Physical Symptoms: Headaches, fatigue, or changes in sleep and appetite often reflect mental strain. If these symptoms are frequent, consider taking time off. 5. Decreased Motivation: A noticeable drop in enthusiasm for work or activities you once enjoyed may signal the need for a mental health break. 6. Burn-out Signs: If you feel disconnected from your work or responsibilities and find it hard to find joy in your achievements, it's a signal to take a step back. 7. Strained Relationships: Increased irritability or conflict with friends, family, or colleagues may indicate that you're overextended and in need of a break. Listening to these signs and prioritising self-care can help maintain mental well-being and prevent burnout.

## The many benefits and risks of consuming water soaked with coriander seeds

Acid reflux is a common digestive issue that affects millions of people worldwide, prompting many to seek natural remedies for relief. Among the various home treatments circulating on social media, one particular suggestion by content creator Kirti Tewani has gained attention — drinking water infused with coriander seeds each morning. In a reel posted on Instagram, she says, "Never go to bed without soaking one tablespoon of coriander seeds if you are someone who suffers from acid reflux or any sort of indigestion." This simple concoction can potentially prevent chronic acid reflux, but is there any merit to this remedy? Kanikka Malhotra, consultant dietician and certified diabetes educator says, "Coriander seed water holds some promise for digestive health. Studies suggest it might stimulate digestive enzymes, potentially aiding digestion and reducing bloating and indigestion. However, its effectiveness for chronic acid reflux is less clear. For some, it might even worsen symptoms by increasing stomach acid production." Vedika Premani, clinical dietician, Sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital, Mumbai, adds, "Coriander seeds have multiple health benefits and can be consumed anytime of the day." Potential benefits and risks of consuming water soaked with coriander seeds Coriander seed water has potential benefits and risks regarding digestive health and acid reflux, says Malhotra. Benefits

\*Aiding Digestion: Some studies suggest coriander seeds might help digestion by stimulating the production of digestive enzymes, potentially leading to better food breakdown and reducing the need for excess stomach acid. \*Soothing Discomfort: There's some anecdotal evidence that coriander seed water eases bloating and indigestion. \*Worsening Reflux: For some, coriander seeds might worsen acid reflux. This is because they may stimulate the production of stomach acid, which can back up into the oesophagus and cause heartburn.

Specific considerations or contraindications for individuals with chronic acid reflux According to Malhotra, here are some specific considerations or contraindications for individuals with chronic acid reflux when incorporating coriander seed water into their daily routine. Dosage \*Start Low: Begin with a small amount of coriander seeds (around ½ teaspoon) steeped overnight in water. This allows for a gradual introduction and helps assess your tolerance. \*Monitor Response: Pay close at-



tention to how your body reacts. If symptoms worsen, discontinue use. Preparation \*Soaking vs. Boiling: Soaking the seeds overnight is a gentler method compared to boiling, which might extract more potent compounds that could irritate the digestive tract. Contraindications and interactions \*Medications: Coriander can interact with certain medications, so consult your doctor if you take any prescriptions, especially blood thinners or medications metabolised by the liver. \*Pre-existing Conditions: If you have any underlying health conditions, especially liver or kidney disease, discuss incorporating coriander seed water with your healthcare provider first. Other natural remedies and conventional treatments for managing chronic acid reflux Malhotra says, "If you're looking for natural remedies to manage chronic acid reflux, there are several excellent Indian herbal options. Tulsi leaves, with their stomach-soothing properties, are believed to reduce inflammation and irritation in the digestive tract." Mint tea, a popular coolant in Ayurveda, offers carminative properties that help expel gas and relieve bloating. Fennel seeds, with their antispasmodic properties, might relax the oesophageal sphincter, potentially preventing acid reflux. Cumin seeds, another carminative spice, can aid digestion and reduce gas, while also possibly stimulating digestive enzyme production and reducing the need for excess stomach acid.

## Keerthy Suresh expertly handles guns and groceries in this dark comedy



innocent people in a market, snatching the handbag of an unassuming Keerthy Suresh, who is there to buy vegetables. They find a revolver, a blood-stained knife, and a grenade inside the handbag. Walking into their hideout with a lot of swagger, Keerthy retrieves all her belongings, and lets the criminals know that she isn't an undercover cop or a RAW agent or a Don. Who is she then?

Well, we have to wait for the film's release as Keerthy's character is asked to return home immediately by her mother, played by Radikaa Sarathkumar, who is waiting for tomatoes. Written and directed by JK Chandru, Revolver Rita hits all the right notes of a quirky dark comedy with interesting action sequences and a motley group of characters to dial up the entertainment factor. The movie also stars Sunil, Ajay Ghosh, and Redin Kingsley. Backed by Passion Studios' Sudhan Sundaram and The Route's Jagadish Palanisamy, Revolver Rita is set to have music by Sean Roldan, who was part of Keerthy's recent release, Raghu Thatha.

In the past three years, National Award winner Keerthy Suresh has been headlining films that allow her to explore various genres, and showcase her versatility. On the occasion of her birthday, the makers of her next, Revolver Rita, shared a title teaser of the movie, which seems to be a distinct outing for the talented actor. The rather quirky teaser features a group of criminals, eyeing

## 'I had a concussion and nobody took me to the hospital': Samantha Ruth Prabhu recalls shoot of Citadel: Honey Bunny.



people didn't want her to do the role."

Varun further revealed, "Yes, we had reached that point. I remember this discussion. It was almost a breakdown because we had decided to go to the production and ask to push ahead, and nobody knows till when. And because Sam was so locked in everyone's vision, especially the directors because they have worked with her and Sita, because she has written for her, I also couldn't think of anyone because everyone was failing in her comparison." Samantha Ruth Prabhu revealed what gave her the strength to not quit, claiming her bad times motivated her to do well. She shared, "The funny thing about strength is that you realise it when you hit rock bottom and when you have nothing to lose. People who taste a lot of struggles are actually people who are very lucky because they get to... at least I believe I have learnt more from my bad times than my success. I am who I am today because of what I have learnt from the bad times." In the conversation, Samantha also acknowledged and appreciated the people who stood by her side through her tough time. She said, "I appreciate and recognise it. The reason why I am sitting here today is because this group of people didn't give up on me. It is their love and their faith in me that made me come out of this. I would have taken much longer. I would have succumbed to my situation. I wouldn't have had anything to fight for to come back up. I am very aware and appreciative of support and love and I can recognise it when I see it."

Samantha Ruth Prabhu went through quite a tough time after her diagnosis with myositis in 2022. After the diagnosis, the actress worked on Amazon Prime Video's original series Citadel: Honey Bunny and Kushi. Ahead of the premiere of the series, the team in a recent interview talked about the time when Samantha was extremely unwell.

Recalling one such time, Samantha jokingly said in an interview with Galatta India, "I had a concussion and I forgot the names after that." She laughed as she continued, "I completely blanked out. That was quite something. Now that I think of it, nobody took me to the hospital. Nobody asked me." Writer Sita Menon quickly added, "We were on a call with a doctor." To which, Samantha responded, "Which doctor?" Sita replied, "You don't remember because you were concussed."

Samantha humorously recalled, "I remember, during my concussion, hearing that we have the set only for less than a day, we need to finish the shoot. So in my concussion, I was like, 'I am coming people, I am coming.' Then I remember the stunt guy was in front of me, and then I was like, 'What am I doing?' and they were like, 'Okay, cut, not happening.'" While the team shared a light moment recalling the concussion time, Samantha Ruth Prabhu recalled the time when she felt too sick to be going ahead with the project. She recalled, "I actually begged them to move on because I really didn't think that I could do it. I was very sure that I couldn't do it. I was even sharing options with them. I was like, 'Look at this heroine, she is so amazing.' I sent like four options and said, 'She will kill it, please let me be, I can't do it'. I was really not well." The actress, however, was thankful that the team decide to stick with her. She said, "Now that I think of it and now that I am watching this, I am just so glad they didn't replace me. I am so glad I found the strength to think 'I can do this.'"

Raj added, "We have to give credit to Varun and everyone else for this because we had crafted a character. We knew her skill set from Family Man 2. And we knew it was the right balance for Samantha to do but she wasn't well and needed more time." Varun quickly added, "I will tell you this, because I don't keep secrets. A lot of

## 'Won't review Kannada movies': YouTube film reviewers air concern after getting threats for 'Martin' negative feedback



reportedly received threat messages for reviewing Martin.

He shared on X, "I know very few care but.. Never reviewing a Kannada film other than the films featuring the Shetty trio (Raj, Rishab & Rakshit) who have always been forthcoming of praise & criticism." Suraj Kumar, another reviewer, said that just because of one bad movie, the entire industry (Kannada film industry) should not be put in bad light. "But after getting these messages, I have finally decided I will hardly review any Kannada movie. The disappointment is that I am facing problems from such a film industry which I had supported in the past to an extent of going to Bengaluru to watch movies." Sudhakar Gowda, a budding actor and social media influencer, said that he started receiving threat calls after he posted an "honest review" on Martin. "I spoke about what I did not like about the movie but for the next three days, I was getting threatening calls. In fact, I went to the police station to complain and they did not even understand the problem at first. They asked me to call 112 (police helpline). It was only after a day they received my complaint."

Meanwhile, rumours spread that Gowda was arrested for the alleged negative review. "I had a case in 2017 and I was an accused in the case. Madanayakanahalli police questioned me about it and I got bail. But what surprised me was that even when I was in the police station, there was a social media campaign against me claiming that I was arrested for posting negative remarks about Martin," he added. Meanwhile, derogatory and abusive remarks poured in in the comments section of the reviewers. On the other hand, there were some of them who appreciated the movie making. An audience member speaking to the media said that the movie has taken the Kannada film industry to another level. A source in the industry said that the fan wars on social media have gone to an extent that the Kannada Film Chamber of Commerce is not in a position to tackle the problems. "The fans association is engaged in promoting their stars and also negatively portraying the other stars. It is no new to the industry. Now, PR teams are being hired for these works and whenever there is a review being criticised, these unknown accounts target the reviewer," the source added.

Days after Dhruva Sarja-starrer Martin was released, YouTube reviewers have said they are getting threat messages for posting 'negative' feedback, with many of them declaring that they would abstain from reviewing Kannada movies in the future. The Kannada action thriller that hit the theatres on October 11 has been dubbed into many Indian languages. However, the movie directed by A P Arjun received a mixed response from the audience and reviewers. Anmol Jamwal, a film critic and digital content creator, said that he would no longer review any Kannada movies apart from those of the Shetty trios. He

## Prithviraj Sukumaran's next with Vipin Das titled Santhosh Trophy



Director Vipin Das' Guruvayoorambala Nadayil, headlined by Prithviraj Sukumaran, Basil Joseph, Nikhila Vimal and Anaswara Rajan, is clearly one of the bonafide successes of Malayalam cinema in 2024. The filmmaker, who also backed another superhit, Vaazha, is set to reunite with Prithviraj for his next directorial venture. On the occasion of the actor's birthday, the makers revealed the title of the project to be Santhosh Trophy. Although the movie is named after the legendary National football tournament, there has been no official confirmation if the film is in the sports genre, or it is just a play on the iconic name.

It is expected that Prithviraj might play the titular character of Santhosh as the caption of the social media post announcing the film read, "Get ready to meet Santhosh

as he chases his dream trophy on his next birthday!" Does this mean that Santhosh Trophy will hit the screens on October 16, 2025? Or is it just a random caption?

Backed by long-time collaborators Listin Stephen's Magic Frames in association with Supriya Menon for Prithviraj Productions, Santhosh Trophy marks their fifth project together after Driving License (2019), Jana Gana Mana (2022), Kaduva (2022), and Gold (2022). Apart from Santhosh Trophy, Vilayath Buddha, Tyson and the ambitious Salaar 2, Prithviraj would also be working with Rorschach director Nissam Basheer and Meppadiyan director Vishnu Mohan in their upcoming films. Makers of two other films — Kaaliyan and Khalifa — shared a celebratory poster on the occasion of Prithviraj's birthday.

## KBC 16: Amitabh Bachchan recalls how he recommended Vidya Balan's name to Karan Johar: 'Iss ladki ko jaldi se sign karo'



In an upcoming episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati 16 (KBC 16), Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 actors Vidya Balan and Kartik Aaryan will be seen on the hot seat opposite Amitabh Bachchan. During their conversation, Amitabh will be seen praising Vidya Balan and telling her how he recommended the actress to industry stalwarts after she made her debut with Parineeta in 2005. Amitabh said, "The first time I saw you was during the screening of Parineeta, and I was sitting with some bigwigs and Karan Johar was one of them. I told him, 'Iss ladki ko jaldi se sign karo, yeh bahaut badi kalakar ban ne waali hai.'" Big B also revealed that he was so impressed by Vidya's performance that he asked Vidhu Vinod Chopra where he found her." Vidya thanked Big B and recalled how grateful she felt working with the megastar in Eklavya in 2007.

As per the promos released by Sony TV, Kartik

Aaryan will be seen revealing how he told his parents about becoming an actor after he bagged a role in Pyaar Ka Panchanama. He also shared that the first time his mother saw his audition, he was performing a romantic scene. Another fun highlight of the evening was when the actors discussed their fondness for food. Kartik Aaryan also went on to share how a street food stall in Juhu, Mumbai named a dish after him. That's when Amitabh Bachchan shared a story on how his grandson Agastya Nanda got free food in New York in his name for two years. Amitabh said, "While studying in New York, Agastya often visited a nearby Indian restaurant and he noticed a dish named 'Amitabh Bachchan'. Being quite astute, Agastya asked the staff about the dish. After eating it, he mentioned to them that I was his grandfather. Initially, they didn't believe him, so he showed them a photo on his phone, and as a result, he started receiving free meals from there for two years!"

## Kangana Ranaut's Emergency gets CBFC certification; release date announcement to come soon

Kangana Ranaut's upcoming film Emergency has had a rocky start. Originally slated for release on September 7, the film encountered multiple delays and struggled to obtain clearance from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), which raised objections to certain scenes. On Thursday, Kangana took to social media to announce that the film has finally received its CBFC certification. Kangana shared the update on X (formerly known as Twitter), writing, "We are glad to announce we have received the censor certificate for our movie Emergency, we will be announcing the release date soon. Thank you for your patience and support (Indian tricolour emoji)." We are glad to announce we have received the censor certificate for our movie Emergency, we will be announcing the release date soon. Thank you for your patience and support ????

In Emergency, Kangana Ranaut portrays former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, and the film centers on the 21-month emergency period imposed by Indira from 1975 to 1977. Reports indicate that Kangana, who also serves as the film's producer and director, accepted some cuts suggested by the censor board. Previously, the actor-politician had alleged that the film's clearance was "stopped" due to threats made against CBFC mem-

bers.

She wrote on X, "There are rumours doing the rounds that our film, Emergency, has been granted Censor certificate. This is not true. In fact, our film had been cleared but certification has been stopped because many threats were coming in. Death threats. The Censor Board members are getting threats. We are under pressure not to show the assassination of Indira Gandhi, not to show Bhindranwale, not to show the Punjab riots. I don't know what will be left to show then... This is unbelievable for me and I am very sorry for the state of things in this country."

Emergency has stirred controversy, particularly regarding its portrayal of Sikhs. The trailer provoked strong reactions from Sikh organizations, including the Akal Takht and the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), who raised concerns over the content. Also starring Anupam Kher, Shreyas Talpade, Milind Soman and late actor Satish Kaushik, Emergency was initially scheduled for a November 2023 release. It was later postponed to June 2024 and then to September 6. Now that the film has received CBFC clearance, Kangana has promised to announce the new release date soon.

## Rohit Sharma says he is 'hurting' after India collapse for 46 against New Zealand in 1st Test



GNS News Agency, oct 19

India skipper Rohit Sharma took onus for his team's horror innings against New Zealand on Thursday, saying that as a captain, it was his call to bat first under the overcast conditions in Bengaluru. "I am hurting to see this score of 46 as a captain as it was my call to bat first. But one or two bad calls in a year is quite alright," Rohit said

at the day-end press conference. "We thought the pitch would be flatter. It was a misjudgment on my part," he added.

Talking about Rishabh Pant, who had to leave the ground after getting hit on his knee cap by a Ravindra Jadeja delivery, Rohit said that the keeper has swelling on his operated knee but hoped the wicketkeeper batter can return to the field on Friday. "Unfortunately, the ball hit straight on his knee cap, the same leg which he has done a surgery. So, he has got a little bit of swelling on it and the muscles are quite tender at this point of time," Rohit told in the post-day press meet. But Rohit allayed any major concerns surrounding the fitness of Pant, and said the 27-year-old returned to the dressing room as a "precautionary measure." "It is a precautionary measure. We do not want to take a risk. Rishabh does not want to take a risk because he has gone through a massive surgery on that particular leg," he said. "So, that was the reason for him to go inside. Hopefully, tonight he can recover and we will see him back on the field tomorrow," added Rohit.

## Pride and injudiciousness: Indian batsmen's minds wilted, techniques caved in as they are shot out for 46

GNS News Agency, oct 19

India Batting Collapse New Zealand 46The battered crowd were content cheering India staving off dubious records, like when they crossed 37 and then 42, or when the last-wicket pair of Mohammed Siraj and Kuldeep Yadav resisted for five overs. When the sun finally broke through the clouds after days in hiding and shone brightly, the lights were already out of India's dressing room. Under glowering forenoon skies of Bangalore, the moving and leaping wreck-ball, surgically directed by New Zealand's pace trio, reduced them to a pile of unflattering records. The 46 they mustered on Day Two in Bangalore was their lowest in the country, the third worst overall and the least a team had ever managed in the continent.

For 31.2 overs and 132 minutes, a nightmare within a nightmare unfolded here. Much of it was self-inflicted. India chose to bat knowing fully that the ball would zip and zap; they were aware that this was New Zealand's strongest suit, (and their own kryptonite). Yet, in the heady over-estimation of their batting prowess or undermining of the conditions, they decide to bat. Perhaps, to challenge their mind and technique against the moving ball released from a trio of bowlers born and raised in similar conditions, who are capable of squeezing every ounce of favourable conditions. Or to show the world that they could conquer arduous climes, or that they are fully equipped to deal with the might of Australia in a month's time, or as preparation for that tour. Whatever be, this was a day India wished had not existed. Tactics mockingly backfired, be it the decision to bat first under cloud cover and accumulated moisture, or the ploy to install Virat Kohli at one drop, or Sarfraz Khan at four, or sacrificing an in-form seamer for a third spinner. But none would pain them as much as their shocking batting—a total surrender of mind and technique.

The conditions, undoubtedly, were harrowing and the three seamers furnished diverse challenges. Tim Southee swung the ball away and wobble-seamed it inwardly to the right-handers; Matt Henry combined slippery pace with seam movement either ways; the six feet four inches William O'Rourke released from heavens, shuffled his lengths adroitly and produced disconcerting bounce off hard and good lengths. Rather than getting carried away by the conditions, they stuck to their fundamentals, probed tight lines, pounded difficult lengths and barely gifted a release ball. The siege they laid could not be breached.

As relentless and conditions-primed New Zealand's bowlers were, various aspects of India's batting were exposed in varying degrees. India's batsmen failed the technique test. Angled and crooked bats, pokes and prods met the moving ball, some that challenged the principles of geometry. A sturdy defensive shot was rarer than the falcons that usually hover over the arena. Barring Yashasvi Jaiswal, none showed a concerted application. He was India's best batsman of the day, even though he was prone to the odd short of indiscretion. But he stood out the crease, sometimes charged forward to block and left admirably. Southee and Henry beat him multiple times,



he showed the resoluteness to fight back. However, just when he seemed bedded-in, he cut airily to point, triggering a collapse towards the end of the morning session.

His partner Rohit Sharma summoned his white-ball approach to bail out of travails. He survived a Henry dream ball, which swung in, shaped away and hit his back pad, saved narrowly by the umpire's judgement that the ball had hit him high. His response to the lbw near-save was buffeting down the track to Southee, whose wobble-seamer cut back lavishly to fox him and blast the stumps. Whatever happened to the Rohit of the 2021 vintage in England, when he batted like an old-fashioned graft and grind opener. Later, Sarfraz Khan too perished attempting an expansive stroke—which on the day sounded like a euphemism for poor defensive technique. Half defensive pushes—feet tied on the crease and hands pushing at the ball—were a recurring feature of India's latest tryst with batting ignominy. The perfect case studies were Rishabh Pant and Ravichandran Ashwin, both departing when defending from inside the line. The batsmen's lack of trust in their defensive technique was ironic in the land that had produced the finest technician of the modern era, Rahul Dravid, whose exploits are pasted all around the stadium. Elegiacally, his inheritance has been misplaced in the team. To gloss over the vulnerability, they tried to counterattack. Eight balls into his torturous stay, Pant attempted reverse-sweeping Henry. He succeeded in just edging onto his own forearm, when the score was merely 13 for 3.

Before the technique had caved in, their mind had wilted. India failed to read through New Zealand's plans. There was a leg gully for Virat Kohli but he couldn't prepare his reflexes to keep the jumping ball down. The inward moving ball smacked his glove to the plunging claws of Glenn Phillips, one of the finest fielders around. O'Rourke's leg-side defeated KL Rahul too, even though it was not as fiendish as the Kohli one. It was a tame indecisive poke. Similarly Jadeja swiped across the line off Henry, to end the first session at 34 for 6. Soon, they were 34 for 7, invoking fears of Adelaide. The battered crowd were content cheering India staving off dubious records, like when they crossed 37 and then 42, or when the last-wicket pair of Mohammed Siraj and Kuldeep Yadav resisted for five overs. Then the sun burst through the clouds, though the lights were already out of the Indian dressing room.

## PV Sindhu makes impressive comeback to defeat Han Yue at Denmark Open super 750

GNS News Agency, oct 19

Odense: Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu staged a remarkable comeback to defeat China's Han Yue in the round of 16 of the Denmark Open Super 750 tournament on Thursday. Sindhu overcame a first-game deficit to outlast the fourth seed and World No. 7, winning 18-21, 21-12, 21-16 in a gruelling match that lasted over an hour. The Indian shuttler, ranked World No. 18, entered the contest with a strong 6-1 head-to-head record against Han Yue, but the match didn't start in her favour. In the first game, Han's precision and power saw her take an 11-9 lead at the mid-game interval, and she extended that advantage to 18-13 as Sindhu struggled to find her rhythm. Despite saving four game points, Sindhu couldn't stop Han from clinching the opener with a blistering cross-court smash.

Refusing to back down, Sindhu made a strong start in the second game, reeling off three quick points. Han's unforced errors began to mount, and Sindhu capitalised, leading 11-6 at the interval. With renewed confidence, she dominated the rest of the set, closing it out 21-12 to force a decider. The third game saw Han once again take the upper hand, leading 11-7 at the break. However, Sindhu launched a spirited fightback, winning four consecutive points, including a thrilling 29-shot rally that clinched the match and secure her place in the quarterfinals. Earlier in the tournament, Sindhu had an easier outing in the first round, where she led 21-8, 13-7 against Chinese Taipei's Pai Yu Po before her opponent retired from the match. This victory marks an important



In the first game, Han showcased her precision and power, leading 11-9 at the mid-game interval and extending her advantage to 18-13 as Sindhu struggled to find her rhythm. Although Sindhu saved four game points, she was unable to prevent Han from winning the opener with a powerful cross-court smash.

turnaround for Sindhu, who had faced disappointment in her previous outing at the Arctic Open in Finland, where she was eliminated in the first round. Now back in winning form, Sindhu will face a tough challenge in the quarterfinals on Friday, where she will meet either Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung, the Paris Olympics bronze medallist, or Denmark's local favourite, Mia Blichfeldt.

## Delhi Capitals appoint Hemang Badani as head coach, Venugopal Rao as director of cricket



GNS News Agency, oct 19

Delhi Capitals on Thursday announced Hemang Badani and Venugopal Rao as their new head coach and director of cricket for the Indian Premier League (IPL) respectively. Meanwhile, on the same day, JSW Sports, the co-owners of the franchise appointed Sourav Ganguly as the director of cricket with his role covering all its cricketing properties including the Delhi team in the IPL and the WPL along with the Pretoria Capitals franchise in

SA20. Ganguly joined Delhi Capitals in 2019 as an advisor, where he worked alongside coach Ricky Ponting, and later returned to the franchise as Director of Cricket after his stint as BCCI president. Meanwhile, Badani represented India in 4 Tests and 40 ODIs and has worked with Sunrisers Hyderabad from 2021-23 as a fielding coach and a batting coach in successive seasons. He has also coached the Jaffna Kings franchise to two consecutive Lankan Premier League titles. He was also the batting coach for the title-winning Sunrisers Eastern Cape side in the inaugural edition of the SA20. The 47-year-old was also Head Coach of the Dubai Capitals side that reached this year's ILT20 final.

"It's my absolute honour to be joining Delhi Capitals, and I'm deeply grateful to our owners for trusting me with the job. With the mega auction around the corner, my job, in collaboration with the rest of our coaching staff, is cut out. I can't wait to get started." Badani said after his appointment. Rao, meanwhile, played 16 ODIs for India and was a part of the 2009 IPL winning squad with Deccan Chargers as well as playing 3 seasons of the IPL with Delhi Daredevils (2011-13).

## SAFF Championship 2024: Indian women's football team hammer Pakistan 5-2 in opener

GNS News Agency, oct 19

The Indian women's football team kicked off their SAFF Women's Championship 2024 campaign with an impressive 5-2 win over Pakistan. Standout performances included Grace Dangmei's two goals and Bala Devi's milestone 50th international goal. The Indian women's senior football team kicked off their SAFF Women's Championship 2024 campaign in style, defeating arch-rivals Pakistan 5-2 in a commanding performance at the Dasarath Stadium. The victory marked an emphatic start for the Santosh Kashyap-led side as they aim to retain the regional title. India took the lead in the fifth minute when Grace Dangmei opened the scoring with a powerful right-footed shot from the edge of the box. The Blue Tigresses doubled their advantage in the 17th minute as Manisha Kalyan finished neatly, capitalizing on a through ball delivered by the experienced Ngangom Bala Devi.

The match also saw several landmark moments for India. Captain Loitongbam Ashalata Devi



earned her 100th cap, an incredible milestone for the stalwart defender. Additionally, Bala Devi netted her 50th international goal, becoming the first Indian woman footballer to achieve this feat. Grace Dangmei, who was later named the Player of the Match, scored twice, demonstrating her clinical finishing ability and relentless energy on the flanks. Her first goal, a well-placed shot following a cross from Ranjana Chanu, set the tone for the encounter. She then scored her second with a precise half-volley from a tight angle in the 38th minute. Bala Devi, a con-

stant threat throughout the match, not only assisted Manisha's goal but also added her own in the 35th minute. Displaying her trademark composure, she fired a powerful shot from an indirect free-kick, leaving the Pakistan goalkeeper helpless.

Despite India's dominance, Pakistan managed to pull a goal back just before halftime when Suha Hirani converted a penalty in the second minute of added time. In the early minutes of the second half, Kayla Marie Siddiqi capitalized on a defensive lapse to score Pakistan's second,

reducing the deficit to 3-2. India responded swiftly, with substitute Jyoti Chauhan sealing the match in the 68th minute. She rose high to meet a Dalima Chhibber corner, heading the ball past the Pakistani goalkeeper to make it 5-2. The victory extends India's perfect record against Pakistan in international fixtures, making it four wins in four matches. With a crowd eagerly watching the clash between the regional rivals, the Indian team showed their prowess and tactical discipline, setting the tone for the rest of the tournament.

## Haddin, Joshi to be part of Ponting's Punjab Kings; Hopes likely as bowling coach

GNS News Agency, oct 19

Punjab Kings are set to retain the majority of their support staff after the arrival of new head coach Ricky Ponting, with fast bowling coach James Hopes likely to be the sole addition for IPL 2025. Punjab Kings have decided to retain the majority of their support staff after the arrival of new head coach Ricky Ponting with fast bowling coach James Hopes likely to be the sole addition for IPL 2025. Ponting, who was appointed head coach last month, had used the services of fellow Aussie James Hopes when he was head coach at Delhi Capitals. Spin bowling coach Sunil Joshi, batting and fielding coach Brad Haddin and Trevor Gonsalves, who were all part of Trevor Bayliss' team, have been retained for the upcoming season. Bayliss was the head coach last year and Sanjay Bangar the head of cricket development, with both now out of the coaching setup.

"Brad Haddin and Sunil have been retained. James Hopes is likely to be the fast bowling coach," an IPL source told Ponting has been appointed on a four-year contract in the hope of changing the team's fortunes. Punjab have never won the IPL and their sole final appearance came way back in 2014. They have failed to finish even in the top five in the last seven editions and ended ninth out of



10 teams earlier this year. Ponting yet to decide on player retention. The player retention deadline is October 31 but the Australian great is yet to decide on the number of players to retain ahead of the mega auction. The franchise is expected to retain lead pacer Arshdeep Singh who has been with them for six seasons. In the uncapped category, they could retain Shashank Singh who provided the silver lining to their otherwise ordinary campaign last year. "Ricky and his team will decide on the player retention soon," added the source. Punjab, who were led by Shikhar Dhawan for the past two seasons, will be aiming to find their new captain probably at the auction table.

## Munaf Patel, Venugopal Rao may join DC coaching staff

New Delhi: Former India cricketers Hemang Badani, Munaf Patel and Venugopal Rao are likely to join the Delhi Capitals' coaching staff for the Indian Premier League (IPL). The franchise had parted ways with Ricky Ponting in July this year after being at the helm since 2018. Under him, the Delhi Capitals secured a runners-up finish in IPL 2020, while reaching playoffs in 2019 and 2021 seasons.

Ponting has now moved on to be head coach of Punjab Kings. Various sources said that the Delhi Capitals are moving towards appointing an all-Indian coaching staff for the IPL. Badani is likely to become the team's new chief coach, while Venugopal could be appointed as the side's director of cricket and Munaf may take charge

as the bowling coach. At the same time, there has been no word yet on future of other support staff members, including Sourav Ganguly, who has been the franchise's director of cricket since 2022. Venugopal played 16 ODIs for India and represented three sides in the IPL, including Delhi Capitals. On the other hand, Badani featured for India in four Tests and 40 ODIs. Badani has an impressive coaching resume coaching Chepauk Super Gillies to winning the Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL) four times, emerging triumphant as a coaching staff member of the Jaffna-based franchise in the Lanka Premier League (LPL) and winning the inaugural SA20 title with Sunrisers Eastern Cape as a batting coach. Badani also served as the fielding coach and scout for Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL from 2021 to 2023.