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Telangana man found hanging in Qatar after failed business, mounting debt

Dubai: A Telangana expatriate, who had spent nearly two decades in the Gulf, was found hanging on the outskirts of Doha recently. 56-year-old Ganta Chinnamuthenna, a native of Armoor mandal in Nizamabad district, had worked in Qatar for nearly 20 years and returned home for good where he was caught in a debt trap after suffering losses in his newly launched dairy business. After a year of unsuccessful entrepreneurship in India, he returned to Qatar to work again with a different employer and was depressed, according to sources. He was preparing to return home following some differences with the new employer, however, Chinnamuthenna was found hanging on the outskirts of Doha city two weeks ago.

KT Rama Rao slams Congress government for failing Telangana farmers



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Hyderabad: With farmers struggling to get financial assistance for their Yasangi (Rabi) crop, BRS working president KT Rama Rao expressed outrage over their plight under the Congress rule. He slammed the Congress government for abandoning farmers and turning its back on welfare schemes. Taking to X on Wednesday, Rama Rao said farmers who were once self-reliant and confident, were now battling despair due to lack of assistance from the State government.

He criticised the State government over its failure to provide Rythu Bharosa financial assistance to farmers for two consecutive crop seasons and providing only partial assistance in the previous Yasangi season. He reminded that even the crop loan waiver which was initially pegged at Rs 31,000 crore was restricted to Rs 17,000 crore, benefiting only a limited number of farmers.

"Farmers and tenant farmers are waiting for Rs 15,000, while farm labourers are seeking Rs 12,000 in aid. But all they get is silence from the State government," he remarked. The BRS working president pointed out the Congress government's failure to provide clarity on Rythu Bharosa investment support for the upcoming crop seasons, and power subsidies. "There is no clarity on how many acres will be covered, when assistance will be given, or if it will ever come at all. It is a government of zero Rythu Bharosa, zero loan waiver, and zero Rythu Bima," he said. Rama Rao also blamed the Congress government for heartlessly halting pensions for senior citizens while prioritising vanity projects like the Rs 1.5 lakh crore Musi beautification plan. "Who would have thought the money meant for old age pensions would be mercilessly stopped? Who imagined they would be reduced to begging their children for their medicines once again? Who would have thought that the promised change would deceive them?" he asked.

Why Adani is not in jail when several are arrested on 'tiny' charges, asks Rahul Gandhi



Earlier, Adani's lawyer Mukul Rohtagi said there are no specific charges against the businessman and the accusations of bribery are very general and no specifics on who gave the bribe to whom are not specified

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday (November 27, 2024) said businessman Gautam Adani should be arrested after his indictment in the U.S. and accused the government of protecting him. When Mr. Gandhi was questioned by reporters outside the Parliament today, he asked, "Hundreds of people have been arrested in far tiny charges. why is Adani not in jail?" Asked about the Adani group denying all the charges, he said, "Do you think he is going to accept the charges? Which [world] are you living in brother?" The reiteration by Mr. Gandhi comes hours after the Adani Group said the billionaire and his nephew Sagar Adani have not been charged with any violations of the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) in the indictment filed by U.S. authorities in a court in a bribery case. The duo has been charged with securities fraud that involves levy of monetary penalties. "The point is he has to be arrested. As we have said, hundreds of people are being arrested on tiny charges and the gentleman has been indicted in the United States for thousands of crores. He should be in jail... The government is protecting him," the former Congress chief said. Mr. Gandhi was the first to demand the arrest of Adani after charges of alleged bribery were made out by the U.S. against the businessman. Earlier, Adani's lawyer Mukul Rohtagi said there are no specific charges against the businessman or his associates and the accusations of bribery are very general and no specifics on who gave the bribe to whom are not specified.

U.S., India stronger when working together: Blinken

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Mr. Blinken made the remarks in a post on X after meeting India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the G7 meeting in Fiumicino, Italy. "The U.S. and India are stronger when we are working together. Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar and I met today in Italy to discuss the importance of our continued close cooperation to promote global security and prosperity," Mr. Blinken said. The U.S.



and India are stronger when we are working together. Indian External Affairs Minister @DrSJaishankar and I met today in Italy to discuss

the importance of our continued close cooperation to promote global security and prosperity. Mr. Jaishankar also posted about the meet-

ing on X and said he discussed the state of the world and the India-U.S. partnership, which continues to move forward, with Mr. Blinken. After the meeting, State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller said, "The United States desires to continue coordinating closely with India to address global security challenges." During the meeting, Mr. Blinken and Mr. Jaishankar affirmed the U.S. and India's enduring commitment to deepening bilateral ties, Miller said in a readout of the meeting.

Need for strengthening laws governing social media and OTT platforms: Ashwini Vaishnaw

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday (November 27, 2024) emphasised the need to strengthen existing laws governing social media and OTT platforms and build a societal consensus on the issue. "We are living in the era of social media and OTT platforms. However, the democratic institutions and traditional forms of the press that once relied on editorial checks to ensure accountability and correctness of content, have seen these checks diminish over time," the Union Minister said, responding to a question in the Lok Sabha. He said that due to the absence of such editorial oversight, social media had become a platform for freedom of the press, but it has also become a space for uncontrolled expression, which often included vulgar content. Mr. Vaishnaw acknowledged the distinct cultural differences between India and the geographies where the platforms originated. "The cultural sensitivities of India vastly differ from those of the regions where these platforms were created.



This makes it imperative for India to make existing laws stricter," he said, urging everyone to come to a consensus on this matter. The Minister also urged the Parliamentary Standing Committee to take up the issue as a priority. "There should be societal consensus on it, along with stricter laws to address this challenge," Mr. Vaishnaw said.

Hemant Soren to take oath as Jharkhand CM tomorrow, top INDIA bloc leaders to attend



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Ranchi: Newly-elected INDIA bloc leader Hemant Soren is all set to take oath as the next Chief Minister of Jharkhand for the fourth time on Thursday, with the swearing-in ceremony set to serve as a major platform for the opposition bloc to showcase its unity and strength as many of its top leaders are expected to attend the event. The official guest list includes several prominent leaders including Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, NCP President Sharad Pawar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, AAP Convener Arvind Kejriwal, Samajwadi Party President

Akhilesh Yadav, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhinder Singh Sukhu, CPI-ML General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, Shiv Sena-UBT leader Uddhav Thackeray, former J&K CM Mehbooba Mufti, Tamil Nadu Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin, Karnataka Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, Leader of Opposition in Bihar Tejashwi Yadav, former Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, Bihar MP Pappu Yadav, and AAP Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, whose National People's Party is a NDA constituent, is also slated to attend. These names have been officially confirmed by the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. In addition to CM Soren, one minister each from Congress and RJD is likely to be sworn in during the event. The ceremony will take place at Ranchi's Morabadi ground, a venue that previously hosted Soren's oath-taking ceremony on December 29, 2019. Extensive decorations are underway, with an estimated crowd of 50,000 expected to attend from across the state. State Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari, on Wednesday, reviewed the preparations, ensuring seamless coordination. Ranchi Deputy Commissioner Varun Ranjan and SSP Chandan Sinha conducted a detailed briefing for officials and staff handling the event's administrative and security arrangements. They emphasised strict adherence to protocols for guest management and security to ensure the event's smooth execution.

'I am not a hurdle': Eknath Shinde clears way for BJP CM in Maharashtra, says will support top brass's decision

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Amid the deadlock over who will become the next Maharashtra chief minister after the Mahayuti's landslide victory in the state, caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday announced that the Shiv Sena would accept and support the decisions taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the issue and that there would be "no obstacle" from their side. "I spoke to the prime minister and the home minister and said that there will be no obstacle from our side in government formation. Modi ji is the leader of the NDA [National Democratic Alliance] and I said that whatever their decision is and whoever their CM candidate is, the Shiv Sena will fully support him," Shinde said, addressing the media at his residence in Thane.

Shinde said that Devendra Fadnis, Ajit Pawar and he would attend a meeting with Shah in Delhi on Thursday where a discussion would be held on this issue. "I am an open-minded person. For me, ladla (dear) brother post is bigger than any other position. I am not someone who is withholding the process of government formation. I called PM (Modi) yesterday and reassured him that I am not a hurdle to government formation. I told him that whatever your decision as the supreme leader of NDA and Mahayuti would be acceptable to us. I told him that he should not



think Eknath Shinde is a hurdle. We wholeheartedly support the decision that will be taken by the PM," Shinde said.

Indicating that he was willing to step down as chief minister, Shinde said his party would also support the BJP's decision on the post. "The Shiv Sena will support the BJP and PM Modi's decision. I spoke to Union minister Amit Shah as well as PM Modi about it and conveyed the decision of supporting their decision on the CM post," Shinde reiterated. Shinde thanked the people of the state for Mahayuti's "landslide" victory in the Assembly polls and said that he never considered himself as chief minister but believed that he worked like a common man. i

Hyderabad cybercrime police help victims recover funds

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad cybercrime police helped two victims recover funds they had transferred to cyber fraudsters who had duped them with promises of huge profits.

In the first case, a woman had transferred Rs. 4, 22,560 to fraudsters who had assured to arrange a work visa for her in United Kingdom. The woman later realized that she was cheated and approached the police who registered a case and took up the issue with the banks to which the amounts were transferred. The transferred amount was frozen and later reverted to the victim's bank account.

Pawan Kalyan Meets PM Modi Discusses on Jaljeewan Mission Funds



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

In a significant political engagement, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Prime Minister's Office in the Parliament Building. This marks Kalyan's first official meeting with Modi and several Union ministers since assuming his role as Deputy Chief Minister.

During the meeting, Kalyan focused on discussions surrounding the funds allocated for the implementation of the Jaljeewan Mission in Andhra Pradesh, as well as the possibility of extending the scheme's deadline. The Jaljeewan Mission aims to provide safe and adequate drinking water to the rural population, and timely funding is crucial for its success. Prior to his meeting with the Prime Minister, Kalyan also met with Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav, further emphasizing his commitment to securing necessary support for the state. His visit to Delhi included interactions with influential political figures, including BJP Andhra Pradesh President Purandeswari and MPs Lavu Srikrishna Devaraya and Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy. This series of meetings underscores Kalyan's proactive approach in addressing the needs of Andhra Pradesh and fosters collaboration between state and central governments.

Kakinada man's organs save five lives through Jeevandan initiative

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Hyderabad: Family members of a 54-year-old private employee Koriella Murali Venkataramana, a resident of Anjaneya Nagar, Ramanayyapeta, Kakinada rural, Kakinada (Urban), East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, who was declared as brain dead by the team of attending doctors in Hyderabad, have decided to donate the organs of the deceased for needy patients under State-run Jeevandan initiative.

On November 18, Murali met with a road accident when he was hit by a two-wheeler and was declared brain dead in Hyderabad on November 26, 2024. Wife of the brain dead victim, Koriella Swathi give the consent to donate the organs of the brain dead victim. The surgeons retrieved liver, two kidneys and two corneas (in all 5 organs) and allocated them to five needy patients under State-run Jeevandan organ donation initiative. Jeevandan Telangana has extended its gratitude to Koriella Murali Venkataramana's family, whose noble decision has saved lives. With this, the Jeevandan Programme of Telangana has reached a significant milestone with 166 brain-dead donations recorded in this year.

Protest against ethanol factory: Villages block traffic on NH 61 in Nirmal



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Nirmal: Tension prevailed when residents of four villages staged a sit-in on the National Highway 61 at Dilawarpur mandal centres protesting against establishment of an ethanol factory, by threatening to kill themselves and carrying bottles of pesticides if the government did not take steps to shift the factory to some other place on Wednesday. The villagers belonging to Dilawarpur mandal headquarters, Gundampalli, Mukundapur, Samundarpalli villages staged the protest on the busy Nirmal-Bhiwandi stretch of the Maharashtra national highway since morning. They raised slogans against the government and establishment of the factory. They said their agricultural farms would be polluted and their lives would be thrown out of gear with the advent of the factory.

As a result, traffic passing on the stretch came to a standstill for several hours. Passengers travelling in TGRTC buses and cars, students of schools faced inconvenience due to the protest. They were forced to wait in the vehicles from morning to afternoon.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Guiding the way

DISCIPLINE in India is undergoing a transformative shift. In Faridkot, Punjab, a group of rowdy students, who allegedly endangered police officers during a clash recently, were met with an unusual punishment: a week of assisting the traffic police for two hours daily after school. This innovative disciplinary approach aims to teach civic responsibility while deterring future misconduct. In Brinagar, a tragic car accident involving underage drivers in mid-November led to a crackdown on violations. The authorities seized vehicles and implemented stricter licensing policies while counselling parents and students to address the root causes of rash behaviour. This holistic tactic underscores the need for behavioural reform rather than mere retribution. In schools, innovative methods are gaining ground. For example, rowdy students in UP schools are assigned such tasks as organising books or assisting peers. Meanwhile, creative punishments like rewriting lessons or engaging in debates channel energy constructively and emphasise growth over reprimand. Discipline should not be about just imposing consequences but also guiding young minds toward self-awareness and societal contribution. Restorative justice, community service and counselling are replacing outdated corporal punishment, which often leaves emotional scars. Nevertheless, these reforms require collective commitment. Policymakers must institutionalise such practices, educators must adopt empathetic approaches and parents must support these efforts. Experts from NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences) have stressed the importance of balancing love and limits at home to complement school-based initiatives. Constructive discipline reflects the society's recognition that youth's missteps often stem from immaturity, not malice. By transforming mistakes into learning experiences, we not only shape better individuals but also foster a more compassionate community.

Work on central medicine store in Mancheril drags on

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Mancheril: Work on a central medicine store (CMS) is dragging on for over three years, indicating laxity of officials and affecting services of government-run primary, community health centres and hospitals. The store was sanctioned to ensure supply of medicines for 17 primary and 4 urban primary, three community health centres, 100 palle Dawakhana, four Basti Dawakhana, one area, one district headquarters hospital in the district at an estimated cost of Rs.3.5 crore in 2021. The funds were granted by the National Health Mission.

However, a piece of over an acre was allocated to the store in Naspur mandal centre. The then finance minister T Harish Rao laid the foundation stone to the facility in April, 2023. Work is being monitored by Telangana Medical Services and Infrastructure Development Corporation System (TGMSIDCS). However, the work is being executed at a snail's pace. Foundation and pillars were constructed so far, slab and other civil works were yet to be completed. K Shashi Sriam, Additional Director from Directorate of Public Health, expressed displeasure over lethargic progress of the work when she toured the district recently. She instructed officials to take steps to address challenges hindering the progress of the work. She stated that measures would be taken to make sure each district has a store.

Officials of the TGMSIDCS said that steps were being taken to expedite the work. They reasoned that the allocation of the land for the facility was delayed. However, it was learnt that the elected representatives were not showing interest to speed up the work since the store was sanctioned during the regime of the BRS government. Meanwhile, a temporary warehouse of medicines was opened on the premises of government ITI. However, it was shifted to the mother and child hospital. It is unable to store large quantities of medicines required for health centres and hospitals. As a result, the health centres and hospitals are facing inconvenience due to severe shortage of medicines.

Officials of the primary, community health centres and area hospitals said that the dearth of medicines affecting the services. "Around 20 percent of the drugs are being supplied through the temporary store. Importantly, sufficient injections and certain tablets are not being provided to the centres and hospitals as required," an official said.

Telangana High Court reserves order on Patnam's petition

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Hyderabad: Justice K. Lakshman of the Telangana High Court today reserved orders on the criminal petition filed by Patnam Narendra Reddy, former MLA of Kodangal, in connection with the Lagacherla incident. Justice Lakshman, after hearing both parties at length, raised concerns over the police's actions, particularly questioning under which legal provisions multiple FIRs had been registered for the same offence. The judge also expressed serious reservations about the negligence of police officers in filing these complaints, highlighting that the contents of the FIRs were identical, with only the dates, accused persons, and places of offence altered. He noted that the complaints were drafted by the station writer, rather than by the police officers concerned themselves, a fact that drew criticism from the court. Justice Lakshman remarked, "To copy also, you require some sense", commenting on the lack of diligence in the police work. The petitioner has challenged the registration of multiple FIRs against him for the same cause of action, alleging harassment by the police. The case is related to the violence that occurred during a protest involving landowners and farmers in the Lagacherla village, which led to the registration of several FIRs. The petitioner's counsel, T.V. Ramana Rao, argued that the police had unlawfully registered three separate FIRs for the same incident, despite the legal principle that multiple FIRs on the same cause of action are not maintainable. Rao cited various rulings from the Supreme Court and the High Court on the illegality of registering multiple FIRs for identical allegations and incidents. Patnam Narendra Reddy, accused of inciting violence and provoking farmers, was arrested in one of the FIRs (No. 153/2024). However, two other FIRs (Nos. 154 and 155/2024) were also registered for similar charges, despite the fact that the complainants were different individuals, including an MRO and a Dy. SP. The content of the complaints was virtually identical, which led Justice Lakshman to question the legality and motives behind the police's actions.

Himachal HC allows 18 hotels that were ordered shut to function till March



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

The Himachal Pradesh High Court Monday stayed an earlier order by which it had directed the state government to shut down 18 loss-making hotels run by Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) by November 25. A division bench of Justices Vivek Singh Thakur and Rakesh Kainthala, staying a single bench's November 19 order, allowed the hotels to be operated till March 31, 2025. It also directed the HPTDC to clear all pending dues including arrears, dearness allowance (DA), and gratuity of its pensioners by June 30, 2025.

Earlier, hearing a petition regarding unpaid financial benefits to retired HPTDC employees, a single-judge bench of Justice Ajay Mohan Goel on November 19 had ordered to shut down 18 hotels, adding that public resources should not be wasted in the upkeep of "these white elephants". On November 22, however, the bench of Justice Goel modified the order and permitted the state's tourism department to continue operating till March 2025 nine of the 18 properties till March 31, 2025. The state had challenged the single

bench's order submitting that HPTDC has received advance payments for bookings for several hotels that have been ordered to be closed. It also contended that financial earning of the 18 properties demonstrates that some of these units having hotel rooms are also providing other facilities of restaurant and banquet hall and of late have started earning from the same. While filed an application praying for a recall or modification of the November 19 order, the HPTDC had also submitted that it "stands chastened" and shall be making "all out endeavours to pull the corporation out of red" besides ensuring that the dues of the retired employees are paid in time. It had also said that the corporation is taking serious steps to ensure that its properties are put to maximum utilisation and they become profit-earning ventures rather than white elephants. Advocate Shilpa Goel, who appeared for the HPTDC in the high court said, "The division bench accepted our plea wherein we submitted that people have already booked rooms in many these hotels. The corporation also assured the high court of making sincere efforts to clear the pending dues of its retired employees. The division bench stayed the November 19 order and allowed the HPTDC to run all the 18 properties till March 31 next year," Advocate Goel told. The properties that were ordered to be shut down but will now remain open include the Palace Hotel (Chail), Hotel Geetanjali (Dalhousie), Hotel Baghal (Darlaghat); Hotel Dhawaladhar, Hotel Kunal Dharamshala and Hotel Kashmir House (Dharamshala); Hotel Apple Blossom (Fagu), Hotel Chandrabhaga (Keylong), Hotel Devdar (Khajiar), Hotel Giriganga (Kharapathar), Hotel Meghdoot (Kiarighat), Hotel Sarvan (Kullu); Hotel Log Huts, Hotel Hadimba Cottage and Hotel Kunzum (Manali); Hotel Lihagsa (McLeodganj), The Castle (Naggar) and Hotel Shivalik (Parwanoo).

After SC rap, Delhi Police urge people to avoid firecracker use in wedding season



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Even as the Supreme Court said on Monday that emergency measures under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to deal with air pollution in Delhi will continue for the time being, Delhi Police officials said they are sensitising people against the use of firecrackers in the ongoing winter wedding season. "We are sensitising the public and briefing owners of marriage venues and banquet halls to avoid firecrackers," Ankit Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka, said. Other police officials said they have yet to receive any formal complaints about the use of firecrackers during weddings in the national capital.

Delhi's air quality index (AQI) has fluctuated between the 'very poor' and 'severe' categories ever since the GRAP-IV was enforced on November 18. And despite the ongoing ban on firecrackers in the national capital, fireworks have lit up skies this wedding season. "The widely publicised ban on the storage, manufacturing, and sale of firecrackers... is a total failure. The bursting of firecrackers can be heard by an ordinary person so the enforcement agencies must be aware of them too. Why are these rules and laws not being effectively enforced?" Mohan George, former additional chairman of Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPC), said. "We always impose a blanket ban but it is a total fail-

ure if we do not enforce it... These violations continue in wedding venues but if police cannot hear them (firecrackers), it is shocking," George added.

Earlier this month, the Supreme Court had directed the Delhi police commissioner to take effective steps to implement an October 14 Delhi government order regarding a complete ban on all categories of firecrackers - including their manufacture, storage, sale, and bursting, as well as online sales and delivery in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi - until January 1, 2025. The Supreme Court had also pulled up the Delhi Police for failing to implement the firecracker ban completely in the national capital. "We find that the Delhi Police have not taken the implementation of the said order seriously. There is nothing mentioned in the affidavit to show that the order imposing the ban was communicated to those who have been permitted within the limits of the territory of NCT of Delhi to manufacture, store and sell the firecrackers, including those who sell the firecrackers online marketing platforms," the bench said. The apex court said the Delhi Police should have informed all licence holders and those who sell firecrackers on online platforms to stop the sale immediately. "The Delhi Police shall immediately inform those entities which sell firecrackers through online marketing platforms to stop the sale and delivery of the firecrackers within the limits of the territory of the NCT of Delhi. We direct the commissioner of the Delhi Police to set up a special cell for implementation of the order of ban and hold the station house officers of all the local police stations responsible for enforcing the said ban," the court had said. After the reprimand, the Delhi Police Crime Branch on November 19 wrote to social media and e-commerce platforms seeking an immediate stop to the online sale of firecrackers. The police said an email in this regard was sent to social media and e-commerce platforms that offer online sales of firecrackers within the NCT of Delhi. "E-commerce and social media platforms have been asked for a written confirmation regarding compliance of the directions," Devesh Chandra Srivastava, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch), had said.

Mayor writes against BJP councillor's 'indecent behaviour', recommends show-cause notice

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Citing "indecent behaviour" on the part of BJP councillor and Leader of Opposition Kanwarjeet Singh Rana, Chandigarh Mayor Kuldeep Kumar Monday shot off a letter to the Municipal Commissioner recommending a show-cause notice against the councillor. If no reply is submitted within seven days, he may be suspended. "I would like to express my strong objection and disappointment regarding the misbehaviour of Kanwarjeet Singh, elected councillor and Leader of Opposition, during the 342nd meeting of the general house of the corporation held on November 23. When the MC secretary was reading the agenda item in the meeting, Kanwarjeet Singh suddenly came into the well of the Assembly Hall, took the mic, his name plate and snatched the agenda booklets from him," the mayor said in the letter.

The mayor mentioned that it was serious misconduct. "This is serious misconduct and indecent behaviour towards a government officer. He disturbed the proceedings of the House. His conduct was unacceptable and unbecoming of a councillor. It created a hostile and intimidating environment, making it difficult for others to participate and engage in constructive discussion," Kumar stated. "In view of above, I hereby recommend that a show-cause notice be issued to Kanwarjeet Singh, councillor, for his misconduct. He shall submit the reply within seven days, failing which he may be suspended from the next meeting of General House as per rule," the mayor added. However, the BJP councillor denied the allegations. "We were just protesting against an agenda item being passed illegally. Mayor should speak of my suspension after taking action against his own councillor who threw and broke bangles at the then mayor," Rana told.

Rajiv Sharma, Congress spokesperson and advocate of Punjab & Haryana High Court, said, "If the allegation against the LoP Kanwarjeet Singh Rana and nominated councillor Satinder Singh pertains to damaging the mic and other property of the corporation, they can be removed as councillors in the light of the provisions of section 36 (b) of the Punjab Municipal Corporation Act as extended to Chandigarh, which state that if a councillor has flagrantly abused his position as a councillor or has through negligence or misconduct been responsible for loss of property of the corporation, he can be removed as a councillor."

He added, "Further, Punjab and Haryana High Court in a judgment delivered in August 2017 on a petition filed by Satinder Singh, a councillor elected in December 2011,



stated that nominated councillors cannot vote in the house as originally provided in section 4(3)(ii) of the Punjab Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, as extended to UT Chandigarh. This sub-section providing for voting rights was set aside, being in contravention of Article 243-R of the Constitution. The petitioner, Satinder Singh, had pleaded that the duty of the nominated councillors is to give their expert advice in the running of municipal corporation and for the betterment of the city. They are not nominated just to take part in the election of mayor and indulge in vote politics."

ACB traps Irrigation AE in Peddapalli

Peddapalli: Anti-Corruption Bureau sleuths trapped an Assistant Engineer of the Irrigation department allegedly while accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 from a contractor in Peddapalli.

According to ACB officials, AE Narsinga Rao demanded a bribe from contractor Thammadaboina Srinivas to record in the measurement book (MB) of the work done by the latter. Srinivas had done work worth Rs 90,000 in Kachapur of Julapalli mandal. The AE, who demanded half of the amount to record the MB, finally settled for Rs.20,000.

Srinivas approached ACB who hatched a plan and trapped AE while accepting Rs 20,000 from the contractor. Surprisingly, AE took the amount from the contractor at a tea stall in front of the collectorate office. ACB sleuths, who hid nearby, detained the AE while accepting the bribe. Later, ACB police took the AE to the Executive Engineer office for questioning and examined the records.

TMC leader arrested by CBI in Bengal school jobs scam



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

The CBI arrested a Trinamool Congress leader, a close aide of former Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee, for his alleged involvement in the school jobs scam, an official said. The TMC leader from Behala, Santu Ganguly, was held on Monday evening after marathon questioning by officers of the central probe agency at its city office here in connection with irregularities in recruitment in state-run primary schools, he said. "We have evidence of his involvement in the scam. There is proof of his involvement in monetary dealings," the officer told. The CBI, during earlier searches at Ganguly's Behala residence, had seized several bank-related documents pertaining to the case, he said. "Ganguly has been close to Partha Chatterjee (former state industry minister). He was summoned today and remained non-cooperative throughout the questioning. We needed to take him in custody as part of the investigation," the officer added. The Enforcement Directorate, too, had earlier quizzed him and conducted search operations at his residence in connection with the scam.

Blast outside rapper Badshah's Chandigarh lounge



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

A blast occurred outside Sevillee, a bar and lounge owned by rapper Badshah, in Chandigarh's Sector 26 during the early hours. The incident reportedly took place around 3 AM when two unidentified miscreants threw an explosive substance outside the lounge before fleeing the scene. The blast shattered the glass windows of the establishment, but no injuries were reported.

Police and forensic teams arrived at the scene shortly after being alerted and have begun an investigation into the incident. The Sector 26 police are handling the probe. Following the attack at Sevillee, the miscreants also targeted De Orna Club, located just 30 metres away, throwing a similar explosive device. Both incidents have prompted heightened security measures as the police work to secure the area and investigate the blasts. The blast outside rapper Badshah's Sevillee lounge in Sector 26, Chandigarh, has added to police concerns ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to the city on December 3. Sources revealed that a security team for the PM is expected to arrive in Chandigarh within a day or two, intensifying the alert mode for local authorities.

Congress begins reconstitution of HP unit, observers meet Pratibha

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

AICC observers with Himachal Pradesh Congress chief Pratibha Singh, in Shimla, Monday. ExpressAICC observers with Himachal Pradesh Congress chief Pratibha Singh, in Shimla. The Congress formally Monday launched the process for re-constitution of the party's organisational structure in Himachal Pradesh, with two All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretaries and state co-incharges — Vedit Chaudhary and Chetan Chauhan — holding a meeting with state unit chief Pratibha Singh at the party office in Shimla.

The Observers have been sent to understand the situation, interact with senior party leaders, hold meetings, visit field and give their feedback to the AICC in-charge Rajiv Shukla. They have also been given the responsibility to oversee the working of the government and to coordinate between the government and the organisation," Pratibha told reporters after the meeting.

She said, "People who actively worked for the party during elections and the ones who held posts but were non-active would be identified and a report would be submitted to the high Command". Senior leaders, including former state unit chiefs Thakur Kaul Singh and Kuldeep Rathore, along with Shimla parliamentary constituency observer Omvir Yadav and Kangra parliamentary constituency incharge Shantanu Chauhan, were present in the meeting. Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge had on November 6 dissolved the Pradesh Congress Committee along with the district and block units with immediate effect. Pratibha, however, was asked to carry on the state unit chief. Talking to the media, Chetan Chauhan said that new office-bearers in the state unit would be named soon. He emphasised that energetic individuals connected to the grassroots would take centre stage in the organisation. Asked about resentment among a section of workers pertaining to the appointment of observers, Chauhan said that "this practice is being followed in many other states also". Notably, several Congress leaders particularly those close to Pratibha have been claiming that the observers were appointed without consultation with her. Vedit Chaudhary said that the state will see a new form of the Congress unit this time.

Pratibha, meanwhile, said despite natural disasters, the current regime in the state had provided significant relief to the people using its limited resources. She criticised the central government for not providing any special economic assistance to the state. She accused the BJP of not contributing to the state's development and only criticising the government, which, she said, is "unfortunate".

Ahead of hunger strike, Punjab Police detain farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal at Khanauri border



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

punjab farmersWhen contacted by Dr Nanak Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Patiala, said they have not detained Dallewal. "We have got him admitted to Ludhiana's Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) because of his age and health issues. Hours before Jagjit Singh Dallewal, coordinator of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (non-political), had to start his fast-unto-death protest at the Khanauri border in Punjab's Sangrur, the Patiala police on Tuesday took him to a hospital in Ludhiana.

Earlier this month, Dallewal, 70, announced he would sit on a fast unto death from November 26, the fourth anniversary of the farmers' protest, to get the demands of MSP as a legal guarantee implemented. In 2020, farmers started marching towards Delhi on November 26 to protest against the now-scrapped farm laws. "The cops came to the Khanauri border at 2.30 am and they broke the fibreglass wall of the temporary room in which Dallewalji was sleeping and took him to an undisclosed location. As he had refused to open the door, they broke the wall of the temporary hut built on the highway where he sleeps," Amrik Singh, from Bharti Kisan Union (Sidhupur), told. "There were over 250 people and they locked all the farmers in their huts. Those in trollies were forcibly held by the police until they took Dallewal along with them," Amrik Singh said. Punjab farmers gather at Khanauri border. "Everything happened within two minutes, we got no chance to do any-

thing. I sleep along with Pradhan ji (Dallewal). I was held by the cops, and later they took Pradhan ji along. I couldn't even reach my mobile phone to make a video," said Balpreet Singh.

Sarwan Singh Pandher, coordinator, Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM), said, "I have learnt that it was a joint operation of the Punjab Police, Haryana Police, and central forces... We strongly condemn this act of security forces who are preventing our right to protest." "We don't even know where our leader has been taken. The Punjab government should let us immediately inform about his whereabouts or the consequences wouldn't be good," he added. Broken glass "Cops broke the wall of the temporary room in which Dallewal slept," a BKU leader to.

Following the incident, BKU Sidhupur and SKM (non-political) have given a call to the farmers to reach the Khanauri border in large numbers. SKM has planned Chetavni rallies in over 500 districts of India along with central trade unions on the day. In addition, SKM non-political and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha have also announced to march towards Delhi by foot from the Shambhu border on December 6. When contacted by Dr Nanak Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Patiala, said they have not detained Dallewal. "We have got him admitted to Ludhiana's Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) because of his age and health issues. He is a cancer patient as well". A follower of Anna Hazare, Dallewal, 70, is known for his hunger strikes and has sat on such protests several times in the past. Reacting to Dallewal's detention, Union Minister of State Ravneet Singh Bittu said no central agency was involved. "The detention of farmer leader Dallewal ji has been orchestrated by the Bhagwant Mann government. It is purely the work of the state police, aimed at shifting the blame onto central agencies to divert attention from the real issue. The Central Government always works for the welfare of farmers and does not engage in such tactics," Bittu said. "We don't even know where our leader has been taken. The Punjab government should let us immediately inform about his whereabouts or the consequences wouldn't be good," he added.

Stop illegal immigration', says Trump, threatens 25 per cent duty on all Canadian goods

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

The announcement comes amidst rising concerns over illicit activities at the US-Canada border. The announcement comes amidst rising concerns over illicit activities at the US-Canada border. The Canadian government is expected to take additional measures to curb illegal immigration following US President-elect Donald Trump's pledge to impose a 25% tariff on all imports from Canada and Mexico unless both nations take stronger action against the flow of drugs and migrants into the United States. "On January 20th, as one of my many first executive orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25% tariff on ALL products coming into the United States, and its ridiculous open borders," Trump wrote on Truth Social. He added that the tariff would remain in place "until such time as drugs, in particular fentanyl, and all illegal aliens stop this invasion of our country!" Trump further claimed, "Both Mexico and Canada have the absolute right and power to easily solve this long-simmering problem. We hereby demand that they use this power, and until such time that they do, it is time for them to pay a very big price!"

The announcement comes amidst rising concerns over illicit activities at the US-Canada border. In British Columbia, Canadian authorities recently arrested Gaganpreet Singh Randhawa, an Indian-origin man connected to a large-scale drug lab allegedly producing fentanyl and methamphetamine for export, including to the U.S. Separately, another Indian-origin agent Harshkumar Ramanlal Patel was convicted last week for running a human smuggling operation that tragically led to the deaths of a Gujarati family of four, who froze while attempting to cross the border on foot. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has already



announced a shift in immigration policy. He acknowledged that "bad actors," such as fake colleges and corporations, have exploited Canada's system and revealed plans to reduce immigration targets. By 2025, Canada will admit around 395,000 permanent residents, a 20% cut from previous levels, according to Immigration Minister Marc Miller. Vivek Ramaswamy, a recently appointed advisor to Trump, had earlier called for building a wall on the Canadian border with the US. Earlier this month Tom Homan, the "border czar" chosen by Trump told a TV station in New York that the Canadian border is an "extreme national security vulnerability" and might be "a gateway to terrorists coming into the United States." Trump's announcement, coupled with calls from US Republicans for tighter border enforcement, including proposals for increased patrols and even a wall along the northern border, has already led Canadian politicians across the board to call for a Team Canada approach to address illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

Identify law & order flaws, check BS-IV vehicles: Delhi top cop's directives to police



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Two days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a high-level meeting on the law and order situation in the Capital, Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora is learnt to have issued key directives Monday — to identify shortcomings regarding controlling criminal activities and deployment of police personnel to control air pollution in Delhi. Amid rampant criminal activities, Arora, police sources said, expressed his displeasure regarding the law and order situation in the city. He asked all Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) to take action against illegal activities and local criminals and prepare an action-taken report in 25 days.

"All district DCPs have been directed to visit police stations in their district concerned and identify shortcomings," an officer said. Increasing incidents of firing leading to extortion bids, police losing grip on hardened criminals, and poor projection of police's good work in the media — these were some of the key points highlighted by Shah in the meeting. The Commissioner's key directions also included the deployment of district police personnel to take action against BS-IV diesel vehicles in tandem with their counterparts in the traffic department. "Ten prosecution machines have been issued to all 15 district police and they have been asked to start prosecuting BS-IV (diesel) vehicles. Currently, only traffic police are prosecuting these vehicles," a senior police officer said. In addition, police control room (PCR) vehicles have been asked to work in close coordination with traffic police and alert them if any violations are witnessed on the road. "At the border areas, from where most heavy vehicles and trucks carrying construction material enter, senior officers have been asked to hold briefings and give written instructions," the officer said. Further, an officer said, Arora also directed the installation of 10 pickets by all 15

district police in areas under their jurisdiction for prosecution and enforcement of the Commission for Air Quality Management's guidelines.

Under pressure to 'repay debt', man steals gold worth Rs 1 cr from Chandni Chowk jeweller; held

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

On the night of November 17, Amit Verma, 35, who had been working at a jewelry store in Chandni Chowk for 10 years, asked his wife and daughters to switch off their phones. The next morning, as per CCTV footage, he was at Kanha Jewellers asking its owner Pankaj Goyal for some articles — 110 rings and 30 necklaces cumulatively weighing 1.08 kg. Since exchange of jewellery is common among jewellers of Chandni Chowk, Goyal did not suspect anything. "However, Verma fled with the items," said DCP (North) Raja Banthia, adding, that the accused was arrested on November 23 with the stolen items worth Rs 1 crore.

According to police, Verma had been allegedly planning the theft for months. "He had incurred a loan of Rs 80 lakh from multiple lenders and was under pressure to repay. That's when he started to consider a theft at the store he worked at," a police officer said. According to police, since his employer used to send him to fetch jewellery from nearby shops, he thought it was the easiest way to get his hands on some expensive pieces and flee. "He knew a day before that, an important customer was going to visit the shop. He was already told by the owner that he had to go to Kanha Jewellers on November 18 to get some samples to show the customer," an officer said. CCTV footage showed Verma, after fleeing with the stolen articles, boarding an auto from Chandni Chowk and getting off at Azad Nagar, police said. "He entered a house in the East Azad Nagar area. The resident was his friend. When the resident was questioned, he said Verma had come to his room on the day of the incident after committing the offence and left the same day after separating jewellery from the boxes," said Banthia.

Delhi had no 'good' air day this year, none expected until December-end



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Delhi breathed its cleanest air this year in August when the average Air Quality Index (AQI) was 52. Yet, it fell short by two points required for a 'good' day, as per national standards. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), a 'good' air day is when the AQI is below 50. Delhi has not had a single 'good' air quality day so far this year. With the current pollution levels and the air quality fluctuating between 'severe' and 'very poor' so far this month, it is unlikely the Capital will have a good day before next year. After a brief respite, Delhi's AQI returned to the 'very poor' category from 'poor' by noon. With an AQI of 349, the city was the second most polluted, closely behind West Bengal's Durgapur (AQI of 360). Notably, this is the first year

after 2018 when Delhi recorded no 'good' air days. There were no 'good' air days in 2016, too. Since 2016, the lockdown year of 2020 saw the highest number of five 'good' air days — one in March and four in August. However, by 2021, this number had come down to one day in October but improved a tad to three 'good' days — one in September and two in October — in 2022. However, 2023 saw only a single clean-air day, in September. Delhi reports the cleanest air during the monsoon season compared to the rest of the year, according to CPCB data. This explains the concentration of 'good' air days between August and October. Meteorological factors can lead to a lowering of pollution levels in pre-winter months. According to the India Meteorological Department data, Delhi received no rain so far this month. In contrast, there were four rainy days in 2023. Further, since 2016, there have been instances of November rain in 2018, 2019 and 2020. As per AQI trends over the past 10 years, the AQI at best has fallen to around 130, and not less in November and December. As a result, the year-end months record only 'moderate', 'very poor', 'severe' and 'severe plus' AQI days. While a 'good' AQI has minimal health impacts, the index even in the 'satisfactory' range can lead to minor breathing discomforts. A 'moderate' AQI would impact people with existing heart or lung diseases. When it plummets to the 'poor' range, most people would start experiencing symptoms of 'prolonged exposure'. At 'severe' or 'severe plus' levels, pollution does not differentiate between healthy and unhealthy individuals.

Bengal records 4,000 dengue cases in just 2 weeks, rural areas worst-hit

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

DengueThe Health Department has urged people to take preventive measures like removing mosquito breeding sites and using mosquito repellents among others. More than 4,000 cases of dengue were recorded in West Bengal in the last two weeks alone, taking this season's total tally of the disease to over 27,000. Also, a concerning shift in the dengue outbreak has emerged, with more cases being reported in rural areas than urban centres, officials said. While cases in the metropolitan areas like Kolkata have shown a decline when compared to the last year, the infection rate in districts like Murshidabad, Malda, and North 24 Parganas has surged dramatically, they added. Of the 27,142 dengue cases recorded till November 18 in the state, Kolkata accounted for 973 cases. Murshidabad district alone has seen a surge in infection with 5,147 confirmed cases. "We see such a spike in dengue cases almost every year at this time. The situation is under control," said an official. The rapid



spread to rural areas, where access to healthcare and vector control measures may be limited, is a matter of concern, another official said. The Health Department has urged people to take preventive measures like removing mosquito breeding sites and using mosquito repellents among others.

Delhi-NCR schools must adopt hybrid mode up to Class XII: CQAM

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Hours after the Supreme Court asked the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to decide on re-opening schools and other educational institutions in Delhi-NCR, the central air quality panel Monday said classes up to Grade XII in schools and colleges must shift to a "hybrid" mode. In its order, the Commission took into account the lack of resources faced by schools in Delhi-NCR to conduct online classes as well as difficulties faced by students appearing for Board examinations this year. "The option to exercise an online mode of education, wherever available, shall vest with students and their guardians." Other NCR governments may also consider conducting classes in hybrid mode, as per the order. Meanwhile, emergency measures under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to deal with air pollution will continue in Delhi for the time being, said the Supreme Court Monday.

The bench, which reviewed a chart of Air Quality Index (AQI) figures for Delhi, said, "It shows that AQI... from November 20-24 ranges between 318 and 419... unless the court is satisfied that there is a consistent downward trend of AQI, we cannot permit the Commission to go down to stage 3 or 2." Fixing the matter for hearing next on November 28, it directed the Commission "to place updated data on" that date "so the court can take a call on GRAP 4 measures".

Asking the Commission to consider if the ban on physical classes as part of the emergency measures should continue, the bench said this was necessary because "some students are being deprived of facility of midday meal as schools and anganwadis are closed... a large number of students do not have the facility of attending online education" and "the residences of a large number of students do not have air purifiers. And, therefore, there may not be any difference between children sitting at home and children attending schools." The court said, "We make it clear that we are leaving it to the Commission to decide to what extent



the norms, which are otherwise applicable in GRAP 3 and 4 as of today, can be either relaxed or exceptions can be carved out. We expect a decision to be taken during the course of the day or latest by tomorrow morning so it can be implemented." It added, "Various aspects can be considered by the Commission. One can be granting relaxation to those schools and educational institutions that do not have facility for online education. The other can be granting relaxation to those students who do not have facilities of online education at their respective residences." On November 22, the apex court called for reports on the implementation of GRAP 4 measures at 113 entry points into the national capital. The court was previously told there was no security or barricading at a majority of the entry points. Taking note, the bench said, "It is apparent that authorities mentioned against item numbers 1, 2, and 3 of Stage 4 of GRAP have made no earnest effort to implement action in terms of clauses 1 to 3. Some police teams were deputed at a few entry points, without any specific instructions. In fact, the report of the court commissioner indicates that most of the entry points, police were posted pursuant to order of this court dated November 23." Stating that "there is a serious lapse by the authorities, it asked "CAQM to immediately initiate action" against them.

MP named in Sambhal FIR part of SP delegation

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

SAMAJWADI PARTY (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday formed a delegation of Samajwadi Party MPs and MLAs including Sambhal MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq, which will visit Sambhal, gather information about the violence and submit a report to him. The delegation includes: Mata Prasad Pandey, Leader of Opposition, Legislative Assembly; Lal Bihari Yadav, Leader of Opposition, Legislative Council; Javed Ali, Rajya Sabha MP as well as Lok Sabha MPs including Harinder Malik, Ruchi Vira; Zia Ur Rehman Barq; Neeraj Maurya. It also include MLAs i.e. Nawab Iqbal, Pinky Yadav, Kamal Akhtar along with Jaiveer Yadav, the SP's Moradabad district chief and Shivcharan Kashyap, its district president in Bareilly. The party's announcement in this regard came after Akhilesh Yadav with wife and MP Dimple Yadav and other MPs of Samajwadi Party met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and raised the issue of the "violence in Sambhal". Members of the delegation were also part of the group that met Birla.

Earlier in the day, Akhilesh alleged, "The BJP government has deliberately caused the riots in Sambhal to hide its failures and divert the attention of the public. The BJP government is committing injustice and atrocities." He alleged that he wanted to raise the issue in the Lok Sabha but was not given the opportunity. He said that while SP would raise the issue when it gets the chance but in the mean-



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time, an SP delegation would go there. Asked SP MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq being named in an FIR over the Sambhal violence, Akhilesh Yadav claimed, "The Sambhal MP (Barq) was not in Sambhal on that day. He was in Bengaluru to take part in an event. A false case has been registered against him." Barq was earlier SP MLA from Kundarki Assembly seat of Moradabad. He is the grandson of former SP MP from Sambhal Shafiqur Rehman Barq.

TMC National Executive Meet: To discipline its leaders, party forms multiple panels



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

In a bid to curb dissension, the leadership of the ruling TMC in West Bengal on Monday decided to form three disciplinary committees comprising veteran loyalists — one for MPs, another for MLAs, and the third for state party unit leaders. This was decided at the TMC national executive meet, chaired by party chief Mamata Banerjee at her Kailghat residence. At the meeting, the TMC chief also included national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee in the list of national spokespersons to raise issues of national importance in New Delhi. He will be joining leaders like Derek O'Brien, Kirti Azad, Sagarika Ghosh, Sushmita Dev among others. The party also decided to appoint "area wise" and "sector wise" spokespersons. The party also elevated five senior leaders, including Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee, state minister Manas Bhunia and party MP Kalyan Banerjee, to the party's all-powerful working committee.

Speaking to the media after the national executive committee meeting, senior TMC leader and state minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said that to ensure better discipline and effective leadership, the party has constituted three disciplinary committees at different levels. The Parliamentary Disciplinary Committee includes Sudip Bandopadhyay, Derek O'Brien, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Kalyan Banerjee, and Nadimul Haque. The State Assembly Disciplinary Committee comprises Sovandeb Chattopadhyay, Nirmal Ghosh, Aroop Biswas, Debashish Kumar, and Firhad Hakim. At the state level, the disciplinary committee consists of Subrata Bakshi, Aroop Biswas, Sujit Bose, Firhad Hakim, and Chandrima Bhattacharya. "If someone is issued a show-cause notice by any of these committees, he or she has to answer it. If a person gets three such show-cause notices, steps will be taken to suspend him or her," Bhattacharya told mediapersons after the meeting. According to party sources, this strategic reshuffle is seen as a move to bring experienced leaders to the forefront, reflecting the party's

recognition of their contributions over the years. "The new appointments underline the party's commitment to bringing long-serving members into leadership roles. The prominence of veteran leaders such as Kalyan Banerjee and Manas Bhunia reflects TMC's effort to retain a balance between experience and youth in its leadership. Additionally, Abhishek Banerjee's expanded role will help the party navigate the complex political landscape at the national level, as it aims to grow its influence across India," PTI quoted a senior TMC leader as saying. The TMC, which won all the six Assembly seats in the last week's bypoll, has decided to raise issues of price rise, unemployment, North East situation, fertilizers and states' dues of PMAY and NREGS funds from Centre during the Winter Session of Parliament. When asked if the party would raise issues like allegations against Gautam Adani and Waqf Amendment Bill, Bhattacharya said, "Our Parliamentary party will decide and raise the issue." On Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was passed by the Assembly on September 3 in the aftermath of the rape-murder of a junior doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar hospital, and is yet to become a law, the TMC minister said: "We want the Bill to become an Act immediately. The women's wing of our party will hit the streets and hold rallies and dharnas on November 30 and December 1. We will also seek time from the President (Droupadi Murmu) where a delegation of women representatives will meet her. We will also seek time from the Governor (CV Ananda Bose)." To strengthen its grassroots network and deepen its connection with people, the party will launch a new campaign to educate people and TMC workers about the party's history and its contributions to the state's political landscape. "There are several youths who are not aware of the party's history and struggle. So, we have decided to take up an initiative to teach the people about the party's history and its contributions," Bhattacharya said. The party has also decided to launch a campaign christened — 'Manusher Sathe Aar Manusher Pashe' ('With the People, For the People'), aimed at building stronger engagement with the masses. The meeting was attended by several senior TMC leaders including Birbhumi district unit president Anubrata Mondol, who is facing charges in cow smuggling scam and recently got bail. The TMC has also decided to strengthen regional representation by making strategic appointments to amplify local voices. Gautam Deb, Udayan Guha, and Prakash Chik Baraik have been tasked with addressing issues in northern West Bengal. Malay Ghatak will focus on matters related to tea garden workers, while Birbaha Hansda will handle concerns specific to the tribal region of Jhargram. Senior TMC leader and minister Aroop Biswas has been appointed as the coordinator for party spokespersons.

Among four who died of gunshot wounds in Sambhal, a dhaba worker, sweet shop owner



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

NEARLY 100 metres from the Shahi Jama Masjid, where violence during a court-ordered survey killed four persons on Sunday, November 24, is the one-room house of Naeem Ghazi, a 35-year-old sweet-shop owner. A resident of Sambhal's Fatal Sarai, his family says that he had gone to the market, a few metres from home, to get sugar supplies for the shop when he was shot.

Identifying those who died in Sunday's violence as Mohammad Ayan, 19, Mohd Kaif, 23, and Bilal Ansari, 22, besides Ghazi, Sambhal Superintendent of Police Krishna Kumar Bishnoi said the four died of gunshot wounds, while claiming that the bullets were not fired by his personnel. "We have made it clear time and again that the police did not fire at anyone. We used only non-lethal weapons when the crowd resorted to stone pelting. Our own men have suffered injuries... all those who created tension will be severely punished," he said. Bishnoi said a fifth person, Mohammad Roman Khan, too, died on Sunday, but he likely suffered a heart attack. Three shot dead in Sambhal clashes, team at mosque for second survey A resident of Sambhal's Fatal Sarai, his family says that he had gone to the market, a few metres from home, to get sugar supplies for the shop when he was shot. At Ghazi's home, his mother Idris, 55, wife Tehzeeb, 27, and his four children, all under the age of 11, are still in shock. The family denies he was part of the mob that pelted stones at the team that was carrying out the survey at the mosque. "Had I known he would be shot, I would have taken the bullet," said Ghazi's mother Idris. She alleged the police didn't take him to hospital after he was shot.

Barely 500 metres away, neighbours crowded outside

43% jump in tourists visiting state during Diwali break: Gujarat govt

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Gujarat saw a 43% rise in the number of tourists visiting 16 popular destinations in the state during Diwali vacation this year, with a total of 61.7 lakh visitors as compared to 43 lakh tourists in 2023 during the same period. Tourists, however, preferred places of religious worship for Diwali vacations over other tourist spots in the state, as per the data released by the Gujarat government on Monday.

While Dwarka Temple grossed highest footfall with over 13 lakh tourists, the Statue of Unity at Ekta Nagar (formerly Kevadia) recorded 4.90 lakh tourists, falling behind the Kalika Mata temple on Pavagadh Hills that saw a footfall of 8.9 lakh devotees. The Gujarat government said that during the 15 days of Diwali vacations, "...places of worship and popular tourist spots in Gujarat, such as Statue of Unity, Atal Bridge, Riverfront flower park, Kankaria Lake, Pavagadh Temple, Ambaji Temple, Girmar Ropeway, Science City, Vadnagar, Somnath temple, Dwarka temple, Nadabet, Modhera Sun Temple, Smrutivan, Gir, Devaliya as well as Dandi memorial saw a huge turnout of tourists..." As per the data shared by the government, the footfall recorded at Dwarka (13 lakh), Ambaji (12 lakh), Pavagadh (8.92 lakh), and Somnath (8.66 lakh) was among



the top in the list of 16 most visited spots. This was followed by Kankaria Lake with 5.95 lakh tourists and Statue of Unity at 4.90 lakh tourists in the 15 days of Diwali vacation. The popular Rann Utsav in Kutch attracted 7.42 lakh tourists in 2023-24. The festival has begun this year, attracting domestic and international tourists, the release further said. While Atal Bridge in Ahmedabad attracted 1.77 lakh tourists, the Girmar ropeway and Science city attracted over a lakh tourists each.

2020 Northeast Delhi riots: 5 accused in

larger conspiracy case to now argue on grounds of delay, parity with those granted bail

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Seeking bail, at least five of the accused in the Northeast Delhi riots larger conspiracy case raised grounds of parity with others granted bail in the case, as well as the ground of delay, during the trial before the Delhi High Court Monday. Two other accused — Sharjeel Imam and Shadab Ahmed — will be arguing on the merits of the case, in addition to raising the ground of delay of trial, for their release on bail. With the five accused arguing on grounds of parity and delay in trial, the court posted the matter for further hearing on December 6 after hearing them partly on Monday. Accused Umar Khalid's bail plea, though not taken up on Monday, is due to be heard on December 6 too. Accused Gulfisha Fatima, the only woman in the case in jail to date; Abdul Khalid Saifi of United Against Hate; Athar Khan; Shifa Ur Rehman; and Mohd Saleem Khan, arguing for bail before the bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Shalinder Kaur, were among those to preliminarily raise grounds of parity with other accused and the delay in trial as grounds for bail, while foregoing arguments on merits for the time being.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Fatima, submitted before the bench, "I'm not going to argue on merits... (she is) on bail in three other cases related to (anti-CAA/NRC) protests... (she is the) only woman in custody, four others (co-accused) have been granted bail. (Fatima is) entitled to bail on parity... (Co-accused) Devangana (Kalita) and Natasha (Narwal) with identical or greater roles, have been granted bail." Pointing out that for the role ascribed in the offence, Fatima's co-accused have been granted bail and that the "possibility of a trial is not there in the near future", Sibal added that while the "plea of parity is a narrow one", the "larger plea is I've been in jail for over four-and-a-half years." While Special Public Prosecutor Amit Prasad emphasised that with the offence alleging larger conspiracy, individual roles have to be gone into, Justice Chawla orally remarked that the same can be gone into at the stage of the trial. Justice Chawla also orally inquired if there were allegations against Fatima of "actual participation in the riots", to which Sibal replied in the negative. Senior advocate Rebecca John, appearing for Saifi, submitted that



three FIRs were lodged against him in relation to the 2020 riots, of which he has been discharged in one and granted bail in another. Arguing that he is on a better footing than others who have been granted bail in the case, John added, "Several members stated to be the mastermind have not been arrested till date, administrators (of WhatsApp groups), other active members (of WhatsApp groups) have not been arrested, they (prosecution) have selectively picked and chosen members to foist this case against us." Senior advocate Salman Khurshid, appearing for Shifa Ur Rehman, similarly canvassing grounds of parity and delay in trial, compared Rehman's role with two other co-accused — Asif Iqbal Tanha and Kalita. Khurshid added that Rehman faces no other FIR and that it is "surprising that someone who participated in protests has been put through such rigors." The accused seeking bail before the Delhi HC are facing allegations of pre-planned conspiracy to allegedly cause riots in Northeast Delhi between February 23 and 25, 2020, with offences lodged under the IPC, Prevention of Damage to Public Property (PDPP) Act, Arms Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 (UAPA). An FIR was registered by the Delhi Crime Branch in March 2020 in this regard with the investigation being undertaken by the Special Cell. Notably, the bail pleas of Saifi, Fatima, Rehman and Md Saleem Khan have been argued fully by their lawyers twice before two different benches of the HC, but no verdict was delivered. This is the third time they'll be arguing for bail before the Delhi HC.

Three arrested for strangling man over Rs 10 lakh in Gurgaon

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Two women and a man have been arrested in Gurgaon for allegedly murdering a 52-year-old man over Rs 10 lakh that one of them owed the victim, police said. The accused were identified as Sushma (42), and her accomplices, Anil and Seema, police said, adding the trio allegedly killed the victim, Rajendra, by lacing his tea and strangling him when he fell unconscious. Rajendra had allegedly given Rs 10 lakh to Sushma for an investment scheme. However, she ended up spending the money and hatched a plan with the other accused to murder him, police said.

"She told Rajendra she had given the money to a woman named Seema. When Rajendra demanded to meet Seema to inquire about the money, Sushma conspired with Anil and Seema to murder him. Sushma also promised Seema Rs 50,000 in return," ACP (Crime) Varun Dahiya said. "On Friday, Sushma invited Rajendra to her house in Manesar, on the pretext of introducing him to Seema. When Rajendra arrived, Anil and Seema were also present. Around 6 pm, Anil made tea for everyone, mixing a sedative in one cup," Dahiya said.

"After drinking it, Rajendra fell unconscious, and Sushma strangled him to death. After the murder, Sushma



and Anil sent Seema away and took Rajendra's body in Anil's car to Rewari, where they abandoned it near the Rewari-Narnaal highway," he added. Meanwhile, Rajendra's son filed a complaint Saturday at Manesar police station saying his father, who had left for his workplace at IMT Manesar in his car a day before, had not returned yet. Police soon zeroed in on Sushma and Anil and arrested them after questioning Saturday. They also found Rajendra's body the same day. On Sunday, Seema was arrested from Gurgaon.

Per capita energy consumption in six states far below national average: IIMA report



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

The per capita energy consumption in six states in the country as on 2019 was found to be below 6 gigajoules (GJ) per annum, far less than the national average of 21 GJ, according to a report commissioned by the office of the Principal Scientific Advisor along with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, and prepared by the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA). Per capita energy consumption is a metric for Human Development Index (HDI) for developing countries. The six states comprise large ones such as Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh besides smaller ones like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam.

These states, until 2019, also figured in the bottom 33 per cent of the HDI as well as its components EI (Education Index) and II (Income Index), highlighted the report titled "Synchronising energy transitions toward possible Net Zero for India: Affordable and clean energy for all". The objective of the report is to "bring out all aspects for the benefit of the public and policymakers and build scenarios for an energy mix that provides affordable and clean energy for all citizens living in a well developed India," according to authors of the report. Released in April at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, earlier this year, the report further stated that "an immediate scope for moving toward high HDI and, eventually, very high HDI is to reduce the disparity between high-performing and low-performing states, increasing energy access in states that currently consume 50 per cent less per-capita energy compared to the national average." The analysis of 2011 and 2019 state-level data on HDI, EI, II, energy and electrification revealed, "With greater electrification in states like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam — with high population and low energy access — there is an opportunity to improve the national HDI to 0.7 by 2025, 0.805 by 2035-40, and 0.9 by 2045-50."

India's current HDI is 0.645, placing it in the medium HDI group. The investigators recommend: "The most 'bang

per buck' spent may be obtained by investing in education in Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal along with several northeastern states as these are in the 'elastic' range of growth for education." IIMA Professor Amit Garg, the principal investigator for the report, told The Indian Express, "The smaller states are doing good as compared to the larger ones." According to Prof Garg, who is National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIFF) Chair in Environment, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) at IIMA, the transition has to be "development-led". He said, "For the next five years, (we should) focus on the states lagging behind in higher HDI, finding ways on how energy consumption can be increased."

The report stated that lagging states must work on improving the health index (HI) while pointing out that overall national HDI may not improve by improving the HI alone. "While the national mean number of schooling years is averaged at 6.5 years, it is as low as 4.6 years in Bihar. For females, the national mean is 5.4 years, which is 2.9 years in Bihar," it added. The report emphasised that coal cannot be "wished away" for another 20 years in the country, noting that over 15 million people are employed in the sector and there are industries dependent on the fuel. "The coal phase-down will require undertaking significant imports of critical minerals to fulfill the needs of renewable energy and battery storage sectors. Therefore, the mining sector is expected to face substantial challenges," the report concluded. For the report, the data for HDIs were obtained from the Global Data Lab's Human Development Indices. To obtain per capita estimates, energy consumption data was divided by state population, thus baseline calculations were done for 2011 and 2019.

Tanker seized for releasing chemicals into Musi river at Langar Houz

Hyderabad: The Attapur police seized a tanker on Monday night when local residents at Langar Houz spotted a truck driver allegedly trying to release the chemical effluents from the tanker into river Musi. According to the local residents, the big tanker drove towards Musi river bed near Ram Temple Langar Houz on Monday night. Spotting the huge truck with bold lettering of Hydrochloric Acid in the dead of the night, suspicious residents in the neighborhood apprehended the driver.

Trump threatens sweeping new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China on first day in office



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump is threatening to impose sweeping new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China as soon as he takes office as part of his effort to crack down on illegal immigration and drugs. The tariffs, if implemented, could dramatically raise prices on everything from gas to automobiles to agricultural products. The U.S. is the largest importer of goods in the world, with Mexico, China and Canada its top three suppliers, according to the most recent U.S. Census data. Mr. Trump made the threats in a pair of posts on his Truth Social site Monday (November 25, 2024) evening in which he railed against an influx of illegal migrants, even though southern border apprehensions have been hovering near four-year lows. "On January 20th, as one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25% Tariff on ALL products coming into the United States, and its ridiculous Open Borders," he wrote, complaining that "thousands of people are pouring through Mexico and Canada, bringing Crime and Drugs at levels never seen before," even though violent crime is down from pandemic highs.

He said the new tariffs would remain in place "until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country!" Both Mexico and Canada have the absolute right and power to easily solve this long simmering problem. We hereby demand that they use this power," he went on, "and until such time that they do, it is time for them to pay a very big price!" Mr. Trump also turned his ire on China, saying he has "had many talks with China about the massive amounts of drugs, in particular Fentanyl, being sent into the United States - But to no avail." "Until such time as they stop, we will be charging China an additional 10% Tariff, above any additional Tariffs, on all of their many products coming into the United States of America," he wrote.

Negotiation tactic is unclear whether Mr. Trump will actually go through with the threats or if he is using them as a negotiating tactic before he takes office in the new year. Mr. Trump's nominee for treasury secretary, Scott Bessent — who if confirmed, would be one of several officials responsible for imposing tariffs on other nations — has on several occasions said tariffs are a means of negotiation with other countries. He wrote in a Fox News op-ed last week, before his nomination, that tariffs are "a useful tool for achieving the president's foreign policy objectives. Whether it is getting allies to spend more on their own defence, opening foreign markets to U.S. exports, securing cooperation on ending illegal immigration and interdicting fentanyl trafficking, or deterring military aggression, tariffs can play a central role." Border crossing Mr. Trump's threats come as arrests for illegally crossing the border from Mexico have been falling. The most recent U.S. numbers for October show arrests remain near four-year lows, with U.S. Border Patrol making 56,530 arrests in October, less than one third of the tally from October last year.

Meanwhile, arrests for illegally crossing the border from Canada have been rising over the past two years. The Border Patrol made 23,721 arrests between October 2023

and September 2024, compared with 10,021 the previous 12 months. More than 14,000 of those arrested on the Canadian border were Indian — more than 10 times the number two years ago. Last week, a jury convicted two men on charges related to human smuggling for their roles in an international operation that led to the deaths of a family of Indian migrants who froze while trying to cross the Canada-U.S. border during a 2022 blizzard. Much of America's fentanyl is smuggled from Mexico. Border seizures of the drug rose sharply under President Joe Biden, and U.S. officials tallied about 21,900 pounds (12,247 kilograms) of fentanyl seized in the 2024 government budget year, compared with 2,545 pounds (1,154 kilograms) in 2019, when Mr. Trump was president.

Challenge to Canada and Mexico Mr. Trump were to move forward with the threatened tariffs, the new taxes would pose an enormous challenge for the economies of Canada and Mexico, in particular. During Mr. Trump's first term, his move to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, and reports that he was considering a 25% tariff on the Canadian auto sector were considered an existential threat in Canada. Canada is one of the most trade-dependent countries in the world, and 75% of Canada's exports, which include automobiles, go to the U.S. The Canadian dollar weakened sharply in foreign exchange markets immediately following Mr. Trump's post. The tariffs would also throw into doubt the reliability of the 2020 trade deal brokered in large part by Mr. Trump during his first term with Canada and Mexico, the USMCA, which replaced NAFTA and is up for review in 2026. It's unclear from Mr. Trump's social media post how he would legally apply tariff hikes on those two pivotal U.S. trade partners, but the 2020 deal allows for national security exceptions. Retaliation When Mr. Trump imposed higher tariffs during his first term in office, other countries responded with retaliatory tariffs of their own. Canada, for instance, announced billions of new duties in 2018 against the U.S. in a tit-for-tat response to new taxes on Canadian steel and aluminum. Many of the U.S. products were chosen for their political rather than economic impact. For example, Canada imports just \$3 million worth of yogurt from the U.S. annually and most of it comes from one plant in Wisconsin, the home state of then-Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan. That product was hit with a 10% duty.

Spokespeople for Canada's ambassador to Washington and its deputy prime minister, Chrystia Freeland, who chairs a special Cabinet committee on Canada-U.S. relations to address concerns about another Mr. Trump presidency, did not immediately comment on the threats. Trump's promise to launch a mass deportation effort is a top focus for the Cabinet committee, Ms. Freeland has said. A senior Canadian official had said before Mr. Trump's posts that Canadian officials were expecting him to issue executive orders on trade and the border as soon as he assumed office. The official was not authorised to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Mexico's Foreign Relations Department and Economy Department also had no immediate reaction to Mr. Trump's statements. Normally such weighty issues are handled by the president at her morning press briefings. Last week, a senior Chinese commerce official said higher tariffs on Chinese exports would backfire by raising prices for consumers. Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen also said China can manage the impact of such "external shocks." Mr. Trump in early November had said that, if elected, he would inform Mexico's new president, Claudia Sheinbaum, on day one that she must stop the flow of migrants and drugs into the U.S. or risk a 25% tariff on Mexican imports. "If they don't stop this onslaught of criminals and drugs coming into our country, I am going to immediately impose a 25% tariff on everything they send into the United States of America," he told supporters in North Carolina.

U.K. sees 'generational mission' in Indo-Pacific, not short term shift: U.K. Minister Catherine West



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

More than four months after the U.K.'s Labour government came to power, it has declared that the U.K.'s engagement in the Indo-Pacific is long term. The U.K.'s Indo-Pacific Minister Catherine West outlined the position of the U.K. government at the second Indo-Pacific Conference organized by the High Commissions of India, Australia and Singapore in London, in collaboration with the International Institute for Strategic Studies. In 2021, the Boris Johnson led Conservative government had said that the U.K. would undertake a "tilt" towards the Indo-Pacific in its defence, foreign and security policy. "For us, this is a generational mission, a long term strategic posture, not just a short term shift to the sake of sound bites," Ms. West said at the Indian High Commission in London on Monday (November 25, 2024) morning. The Keir Starmer government is currently undertaking the Strategic Defence Review, led by UK Defence Secretary John Healey. The process is expected to be completed next year. The Indo-Pacific was crucial to the U.K. for three reasons: global growth, tackling climate change and strengthening national and global security. "We want a free and open Indo Pacific underpinned by the rules-based international system, because rules matter," Ms. West said. She also highlighted the "centrality" of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) — a concept that is supported by many countries and groups with interests in the region — such as India, the U.S., the other two Quad countries (i.e., Australia and Japan) and the EU. "Despite the distance, the security and prosperity of the Indo Pacific and Euro-Atlantic are inseparable," the Minister said, citing the example of North Korea helping Russia in its war with Ukraine. The Labour government confirmed in July that the Royal Navy's Carrier Strike Group would be deployed in the Indo Pacific where it would undertake exercises and visit Japan in 2025. The deployment was announced earlier this year by the Conservative government.

The Royal Navy's Littoral Response Group was deployed to the region earlier this year with two ships docking in Chennai in April. India was uniquely placed to help shift the dialogue and make progress on climate change and sustainable development, said Ms. West, who has just concluded a two-day visit to India last week. In India, she had

discussed climate, technology, education and health, she said, noting that the University of Southampton was opening a campus in India, in New Delhi. Ms. West reiterated U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy's position that a U.K.-India trade deal was the "floor, and not a ceiling" of the U.K.'s ambitions for the U.K.-India relationship. "There is significant potential for much closer defense collaboration over the coming years," she said, emphasizing that the U.K. was co-leading, with India, the maritime security pillar of India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative. On the U.K.'s approach to China, Ms. West said it would be a mixture of 'complete, cooperate and challenge' [i.e., the "three C's approach"]. Where applicable, the U.K. would seek cooperation with China, as a fellow permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (such as in growing trade and on climate action) and challenge Beijing when it felt its security and national interests were being undermined. Ms. West criticised China's actions curbing democratic freedoms in Hong Kong, a British colony until 1997. Countries were increasingly challenged by the fact that notions of security and prosperity were now global in nature, India's High Commissioner to the U.K., Vikram Doraiswami said. "We have to talk these challenges in the context of interconnectedness between the Euro-Atlantic region and the Indo-Pacific region," he said. The High Commissioner described India's 'Act East Policy', its partnerships with Japan and Australia and said it was natural for New Delhi to be looking to deepen partnerships in the Euro-Atlantic. He suggested that the U.K. was a natural partner in this endeavour, owing to its historical connections with India and the region.

Chilly weather conditions grip Telangana; Adilabad's Bela records lowest temperature

Hyderabad: Chilly weather conditions have continued to grip Hyderabad, its outskirts and in multiple districts of Telangana State on Monday night and in the early hours of Tuesday. In Hyderabad, the lowest temperatures were recorded in areas close to BHEL where mercury fell to 11.7 degree Celsius closely followed by 11.8 degree Celsius at Rajendranagar. In districts, the peak cold weather for this spell in Telangana State was recorded at Adilabad and Asifabad districts where the temperature hovered between 8 degree Celsius and 9 degree Celsius. Bela in Adilabad recorded the lowest at 9.2 degree Celsius closely followed by 9.3 degree Celsius at Kohir in Sangareddy district. Minimum temperatures at Sangareddy, Vikarabad, Kamareddy, Medak and Siddipet hovered between 9 degree Celsius and 11 degree Celsius.

Israel to decide on ceasefire with Hezbollah as U.S. says deal 'close'



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Israel's security cabinet was preparing to decide whether to accept a proposed ceasefire in its war with Hezbollah, an official said Monday (November 25, 2024), as the White House announced it believed a deal to end the fighting in Lebanon was "close". The United States, European Union and United Nations have all been actively pushing in recent days for a truce in the long-running hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah, which flared into all-out war in late September. Lebanon says at least 3,768 people have been killed in the country since October 2023, most of them in the past few weeks.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, an Israeli official told AFP that the country's security cabinet "will decide on Tuesday evening on the ceasefire deal". U.S. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby expressed optimism over the prospects for a truce but said talks were ongoing. We believe we've reached this point where we're close," Mr. Kirby told reporters, adding "we're not there yet". The United States repeatedly voiced optimism over talks on reaching a truce in the Gaza war this year but Israel is still fighting Hamas militants there even as it battles on the second front in Lebanon. France, which alongside Washington has spearheaded efforts towards a Lebanon truce, on Monday reported "significant progress" in talks on a ceasefire. The French Presidency urged Israel and Hezbollah to "seize this opportunity". The U.S. news site Axios had previously reported the parties were nearing an agreement that would involve a 60-day transition period in which the Israeli army would pull back, the Lebanese army would redeploy near the border and Iran-backed Hezbollah would withdraw its heavy weapons north of the Litani River.

The draft agreement also provides for the establishment of a U.S.-led committee to oversee implementation, as well as US assurances that Israel can take action against imminent threats if the Lebanese military does not, according to Axios. News of the security cabinet meeting came as the Israeli military said it carried out a wave of strikes on Monday, including on Beirut's southern suburbs, a stronghold of Hezbollah that Israel has repeatedly bombed since late September when it escalated its air campaign in Lebanon. The latest strikes targeted "command centres, and intelligence control and collection centres, where Hezbollah commanders and operatives were located", the military said

in a statement. They followed an intense salvo of Hezbollah fire over the weekend, with the group claiming 50 attacks against Israel on Sunday, including some deep inside its territory. Recent days have seen rising calls to end the fighting in Lebanon, with a senior U.N. official on Monday urging "the parties to accept a ceasefire".

And in Beirut on Sunday, top European Union diplomat Josep Borrell called for an immediate truce, days after U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein said a deal was "within our grasp". Israeli media reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was likely to endorse a U.S. ceasefire proposal. Asked in New York about the possible ceasefire agreement, Israeli ambassador to the U.N. Danny Danon said "we are moving forward on this front", adding the cabinet would meet soon to discuss it. The war in Lebanon followed nearly a year of limited cross-border exchanges of fire initiated by Hezbollah. The group said it was acting in support of Hamas after the Palestinian group's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, which sparked the war in Gaza. The Lebanon hostilities have killed at least 82 soldiers and 47 civilians on the Israeli side, authorities say.

Syrian state television reported Israeli strikes on several bridges in the Qusayr region near the Lebanese border on Monday. Israel accuses Hezbollah of using key routes for people fleeing the war in Lebanon to transfer weapons from Syria. Deal a 'mistake' The initial exchanges of fire forced tens of thousands of Israelis to flee their homes, and Israeli officials have said they are fighting so the residents can return safely. Some northern residents expressed fears as to whether that is possible under a ceasefire. "In my opinion, it would be a serious mistake to sign an agreement as long as Hezbollah has not been completely eliminated," said Maryam Younes, 29, an Israeli-Lebanese student from Maalot-Tarshiha. "It would be a mistake to sign an agreement as long as Hezbollah still has weapons." Dorit Sison, 51, a teacher displaced from Shlomi, said: "I don't want a ceasefire, because if they do it along the lines that they've announced, we'll be in the same place in five years."

Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir warned reaching a ceasefire deal in Lebanon would be a "historic missed opportunity to eradicate Hezbollah". "I understand all the constraints and reasons, and still it is a grave mistake," he wrote on X. Ben Gvir has repeatedly threatened to bring down the government if it agrees to a truce deal with Hamas in the Gaza Strip or Hezbollah in Lebanon. Efforts this year by mediators to secure a truce and hostage-release deal in the Gaza war have failed. Qatar early this month said it was suspending its mediation role until the warring sides showed "seriousness". With an intensive Israeli military operation in Gaza's besieged north in its 50th day, remaining residents are left "scavenging among the rubble" for food, Louise Wateridge, spokeswoman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, told AFP. Such scavenging puts Gazans at risk of coming into contact with unexploded and unused ordnance that can be found in many populated areas of the territory, the Danish Refugee Council said in a report.

Protests break out after ISKCON leader's arrest at Dhaka airport

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Protests broke out at the Bangladesh capital Dhaka hours after the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) on Monday (November 25, 2024) announced that Chinmoy Krishna Das, leader of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) in Bangladesh, had been arrested. The protesters had come to the Shahbagh neighbourhood of the city, demanding release of Mr. Das, the leader of ISKCON in Bangladesh. Mr. Das leads the Pundarik Dham in Chittagong, an important Vaishnavite monastery in Bangladesh, and is known to have a widespread following in the country. Pundarik Dham is also an important part of ISKCON in Bangladesh.

Mr. Das has been vocal about the rights of religious minorities, and has come into the spotlight for his advocacy since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government on August 5. Ever since he has held multiple rounds of dialogues with various political parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), to ensure communal harmony in the country. Dhaka Police said that Mr. Das had been arrested on the basis of a complaint that was filed against him, alleging that he and a few others had insulted the national flag of Bangladesh. It was alleged by Firoz Khan, a former BNP leader from Chittagong, that Mr. Das and others had shown disrespect to the national flag of Bangladesh during a rally by the Hindu community in Chittagong on October 25. Mr. Khan was expelled from the BNP subsequently, allegedly because of anti-party activities.

The complaint also mentions 18 others, apart from Mr. Das. Earlier, the police had arrested two individuals in the case. In a press conference earlier this month, Mr. Das had appreciated the support received from political parties, including the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, in maintaining



communal amity, but alleged that the interim government under Prof. Mohammad Yunus, had failed to prevent around 3,000 attacks on the minority Hindus in the country. According to ISKCON's social media handles, protests had also started in Chittagong, where Mr. Das, who is also known as Chandan Kumar Dhar, is based. The Daily Star has reported that Mr. Das had reached the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka around 3.30 pm to catch a flight to Chhattagram when he was arrested by the police. "From his personal assistant, I found out that some plainclothes men, introducing themselves as members of the detective branch, picked him up from the entrance of the airport," a report in The Daily Star said.

Pakistan police fire tear gas as thousands supporting former Imran Khan arrive near Islamabad

Pakistani police Monday (November 25, 2024) fired tear gas canisters at supporters of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan to stop them from entering the capital, where they hoped to stage a sit-in to demand his release, officials said. The firing of tear gas came shortly after demonstrators — who traveled 150 kilometers (93 miles) from the restive northwest — began arriving and gathering near Islamabad. They defied a lockdown, previous tear gas and widespread arrests despite a ban on rallies in the city. The development came a day after the leadership of Khan's party went ahead with the "long march" even as Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko arrived for a three-day visit. He was received at an airport near the capital by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday evening. Authorities said at least one police officer was killed and several officers and demonstrators were injured in clashes. The marchers appeared determined to enter Islamabad, where the lockdown, which has been in place for two days, has disrupted daily life. The government was in talks with Khan's party to avoid any further violence, officials said. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi told reporters after midnight that the government is willing to allow Khan supporters to rally on the outskirts of Islamabad but he threatened extreme measures if they entered the city to protest. Khan, who has been in jail for over a year and faces more than 150 criminal cases, remains popular. His party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, or PTI, says the cases are politically motivated. A convoy of vehicles carrying protesters was expected to enter the capi-

tal Monday night. Security officials say they expect between 9,000 and 11,000 demonstrators, while the PTI says the number will be much higher. Video on social media showed Khan supporters donning gas masks and protective goggles. Travel between Islamabad and other cities has become nearly impossible. Ambulances and cars were seen turning back from areas along the key Grand Trunk Road highway in Punjab province, where shipping containers were used to block roads. Video circulating online showed some protesters operating heavy machinery to remove the containers. "We are determined, and we will reach Islamabad, though police are using tear gas to stop our march," PTI senior leader Kamran Bangash told The Associated Press. "We will overcome all hurdles one by one, and our supporters are removing shipping containers from roads." Bangash also said Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, who was recently released on bail in a graft case, will lead the march along with Ali Amin Gandapur, the chief minister in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where Khan's party remains in power. Earlier, almost 50 kilometers (30 miles) from Islamabad, Bibi, wearing a white head-to-toe burqa, addressed protesters while sitting in a truck, urging them to remain determined to achieve their goal and free Khan. She then chanted, "God is great" and left. Khan's main political opponent, Mr. Sharif, heads the current government. Mr. Sharif's spokesperson, Attaullah Tarar, said on Sunday that whenever any high-profile foreign delegation comes to Pakistan.

Essar group co-founder and Chairman Shashi Ruia passes away



"It is with profound grief that we inform of the passing of Shashikant Ruia, Patriarch of the Ruia and Essar Family," Essar group said in a statement on Tuesday. "With an unwavering commitment to community upliftment and philanthropy, he touched millions of lives leaving an enduring impact. His humility, warmth, and ability to connect with everyone he met, made him a truly exceptional leader," the statement added. An iconic industrialist, Shashikant Ruia, Chairman, Essar group, played a significant role in redefining India's corporate landscape, laid the foundation of the Essar group and made it a global conglomerate, it said. "Shashikant Ruia ji was a colossal figure in the world of industry. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence transformed the business landscape of India. He also set high benchmarks for innovation and growth. He was always full of ideas, always discussing how we can make our country better. Shashi Ji's demise is deeply saddening," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his condolence message on X. Ruia began his career in the family business in 1965 under the guidance of his father, the late Nand Kishore Ruia. Along with brother Ravi, Shashi Ruia laid the foundation of Essar and spearheaded its business strategy, diversification and growth.

Essar journey began in 1969 when Shashi Ruia won a major contract worth Rs 2.3 crore for the construction of an outer breakwater for Chennai Port. In 1991, Essar became India's first Independent Power Producer and started a 515 MW cycle power plant at Hazira. Today, Essar Global Fund Limited (EGFL), which owns the businesses the brothers

co-founded, is a global investor, owning a number of world-class assets diversified across the core sectors of energy, metals & mining, infrastructure, technology and services. The Fund's portfolio companies generate aggregate revenues of US \$14 billion. These companies operate more than 50 assets spread across the globe, while adhering to international standards of health, safety, environmental protection and corporate governance, according to Essar website.

Essar's portfolio businesses in the telecom, BPO and oil & gas sectors have attracted more than US \$40 billion of monetisation proceeds from global majors, like Vodafone, Rosneft, Trafigura and Brookfield, it said. Shashi Ruia's vision saw Essar gain a first-mover advantage in many businesses. When the Indian telecom sector was opened up for private participation, Essar was among the first companies to offer mobile telephony services, it said. He also set up a steel complex, oil refinery and a shipping company. However, two of Essar's big companies set up by the Ruia brothers were sold off a couple of years ago. Essar Steel India Ltd faced financial difficulties and was placed on the defaulter's list by the Reserve Bank of India in 2017. ArcelorMittal won approval from the Supreme Court to take over Essar Steel and pay the creditors with equal rights in November 2019. Essar Oil was acquired by a consortium led by Rosneft, Trafigura, and UCP Investment Group for \$12.9 billion and rebranded as Nayara Energy.

Ruia is on several important national bodies and industry associations. He was on the managing committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), an apex body of India's trade and business associations. He has also been the Chairman of the prestigious Indo-US Joint Business Council and is a former president of the Indian National Shipowners Association (INSA). Ruia was a member of the PM's Indo-US CEO's Forum and India - Japan Business Council. In 2007, Ruia joined an elite list of achievers, which includes the likes of Richard Branson, Peter Gabriel, Ray Chambers, Pam Omidyar, Amy Robbins and Richard Tarlow, who independently fund The Elders to tackle the world's most difficult problems.

Trump excludes India from initial tariff plans; targets China, Mexico and Canada



Donald TrumpDuring election campaign, Donald Trump had labelled India a "very big [trade] abuser," suggesting he might renew trade tensions from his first term by imposing higher tariffs on over \$75 billion worth of Indian exports to the US. US President-elect Donald Trump, set to take charge of the White House on January 20, has announced plans to impose tariffs on China, Mexico, and Canada, indicating that his administration will continue to use tariffs in an effort to bring manufacturing jobs back to the country and as a leverage for trade negotiations. However, India does not feature in Trump's initial tariff plans.

In a social media post, Trump stated that immediately after taking office, he would sign an executive order imposing a 25 per cent tariff on all goods from Mexico and Canada, and an additional 10 per cent tariff on Chinese imports until the Chinese government curbs the smuggling of synthetic opioid fentanyl. Notably, Mexico, China, and Canada are the three US trading partners most exposed to potential policy changes under Trump's leadership, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), which ranks countries based

on their bilateral trade balance with the US. The EIU places India 8th on its list of 10 such countries. "I have had many talks with China about the massive amounts of drugs, in particular fentanyl, being sent into the United States - but to no avail. Representatives of China told me they would enforce their maximum penalty, including the death sentence, for any drug dealers caught doing this, but unfortunately, they never followed through. As a result, drugs are pouring into our country, mostly through Mexico, at levels never seen before. Until they stop, we will charge China an additional 10% tariff, on top of any existing tariffs, on all of their products entering the United States," Trump said on Tuesday. "On 20 January, as one of my first executive orders, I will sign all necessary documents to impose a 25% tariff on all products coming into the United States from Mexico and Canada, along with addressing its ridiculous open borders. This tariff will remain in place until drugs, particularly fentanyl, and illegal immigrants stop invading our country," he added. During his campaign, however, Trump labelled India a "very big [trade] abuser," suggesting he might renew trade tensions from his first term by imposing higher tariffs on over \$75 billion worth of Indian exports to the US. In 2019, India lost duty-free access under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme, of which it was the largest beneficiary. The programme had allowed tariff-free exports worth approximately \$5.7 billion to the US. According to Bernstein Research, a Trump presidency would adversely impact China, but the benefits for India could be "limited," as it may face renewed tariff pressures. The "China-plus-one" strategy could gain momentum, but the inflation caused by trade barriers might disrupt the anticipated interest rate cuts, affecting middle-class consumption in India, the research note highlighted.

'Cautiously optimistic' economic outlook for coming months: Finance Ministry October review

While maintaining a "cautiously optimistic" economic outlook for the coming months for the Indian economy, the Finance Ministry in its monthly economic review for October released Monday stated that agriculture is likely to benefit from favourable monsoon conditions, increased minimum support prices and adequate supply of inputs. The Ministry also underlined that most countries are loosening monetary policy, with a broad consensus that after a successful disinflationary phase, monetary policy will have to be eased to avoid recession.

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has also said that the RBI shouldn't factor in food inflation while taking a decision on lowering its policy interest rates, which have been unchanged since February 2023, adding that it is his personal view and not that of the government. The RBI, on the other hand, has termed the 6.2 per cent October inflation number as a "sticker shock", stating that if the current inflation is allowed to run unchecked, it "can undermine the prospects of the real economy". The Ministry also pointed out the emergence of a few downside risks to global growth that may impact developing economies. "Financial assets such as bond prices may be repriced if inflation proves stubborn, driven by global tensions and commodity prices. That can lead to tighter conditions and potential market instability. This may affect developing economies that are vulnerable to higher borrowing costs," it said. Talking about global disinflation, the Ministry pointed out price pressures across economies have abated substantially after peaking towards the end of 2022 on account of central bank policy rate hikes and improved supply chain resilience.

"As inflation approaches the central bank target levels, disinflation seems to have slowed on account of sticky core inflation. This is due to persistence in services price inflation driven by higher nominal wage growth. There are early signs of wage growth moderating, which will aid disinflation... however, IMF (International Monetary Fund) notes that fiscal consolidation across economies between 2022 and 2024 has not played out as planned, thereby contributing to inflationary pressures. Adverse weather events and their effects on food prices may also affect disinflation, particularly in EMEs (emerging market economies)," it said. Retail inflation in India rose to a 14-month high of 6.2 per cent October driven by elevated food inflation, espe-



cially vegetables. The Ministry said tomatoes, onions, and potatoes faced pressure due to supply disruptions due to heavy rains in major producing states and tighter market stock amid lower output last year. Imported inflation drove the increase in oil and fat inflation from elevated international prices of edible oils, it said. However, a continuous easing trend is visible in pulses, spices and sugar, the Ministry said.

Going ahead, a bumper kharif harvest is expected to lower food inflation in the coming months. "Favourable monsoon, adequate reservoir levels and higher minimum support prices are likely to boost rabi sowing and production," it said, adding that bright agricultural production prospects make the inflation outlook benign, despite existing price pressures in select food items. However, the Ministry said geopolitical factors may continue to impact domestic inflation and supply chains even as early November trends show moderation in key food prices. On the employment front, it said, the formal workforce is expanding, with a notable increase in manufacturing jobs and a strong inflow of youth into organised sectors. On the external front, the Ministry said India's export recovery may encounter challenges due to softening demand in developed markets even though trade in the services sector is sustaining momentum. Apart from the emerging indications of domestic growth and stability, the dynamics of global interest rates, earning growth and valuation, geopolitical developments and policy decisions of the next administration in the United States will determine the course of trade and capital flows, the Ministry said.

Know about history, significance, tradition and celebrations



Thanksgiving 28th November 2024: Thanksgiving Day is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November every year, it is a cherished festival for Americans to gather with their friends and family in one place, show gratitude for their blessings, and enjoy scrumptious traditional meals. The date for this celebration differs across various nations. In Canada, it takes place on the second Monday of October, while in the United States, it is observed on the fourth Thursday of November. Additionally, countries like Australia, Grenada, the Netherlands, and India participate in the festivities as well.

When is Thanksgiving Day 2024?

In the United States, Thanksgiving is observed annually on the fourth Thursday of November. This year, Thanksgiving Day in 2024 will be celebrated on Thursday, November 28.

What is the significance of Thanksgiving Day?

The festival of Thanksgiving is connected for various reasons such as peace of mind, increased happiness, reduced stress, and overall betterment in family relations and friendships. Expressing gratitude and cherishing bonds can

help deepen and strengthen relationships. This tradition is passed down through generations which has aided in cultural preservation, fostering a sense of community and belonging. For many, it is a time for personal reflection, meditation, and spiritual growth. The history behind Thanksgiving:

Its traditional roots go as deep as 1941 when then-President Franklin D. Roosevelt came up with this practice to ensure its continuity and consistency. He proposed that the third Thursday of November every year be celebrated as Thanksgiving Day but due to inconsistencies in the date, it was later revised to the fourth Thursday of November which is how it is celebrated to this day. The First Thanksgiving ever celebrated has been dated to the 1621 feast in Plymouth, Massachusetts when the Pilgrims received help from the Wampanoag Indians. The pilgrims were struggling to survive in the harsh winter conditions, after which they celebrated a successful harvest as a three-day festival that included both English and Native Americans.

How is Thanksgiving Day celebrated?

Though there have been improvisations in the way Thanksgiving is celebrated, its essence has been the same which is family gatherings and delicious feasts. The main dish which is the heart of the celebration is the good old Turkey, which is marinated with spices and filled up with mashed potatoes. Other festivities include the Thanksgiving Day parades such as Macy's Parade where people donate essentials to those in need. Another tradition is the Presidential Turkey Pardon where the President saves a turkey from being slaughtered for Thanksgiving, and pardons it, allowing it to live a healthy life on a farm. Typical dishes served at the celebration include stuffed turkey, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie.

Here's how Sara Ali Khan begins her day

Sara Ali Khan recently shared that she starts her day with turmeric water or haldi paani. "It is followed by meditation," the Murder Mubarak actor told CurlyTales.

But do doctors advise having haldi or turmeric water every day?

Dr Urvi Maheshwari, an internal medicine expert at Zynova Shalby Hospital Mumbai, said caution should be exercised when having it every day. "It has been used for ages for its medicinal properties. Haldi is known to soothe inflammation and boost immunity. It can also be added to water and milk. However, one should exercise caution if he/she is drinking haldi water regularly as daily consumption can cause digestive issues like nausea, diarrhea, or stomach upset in some people," said Dr Maheshwari. According to Dr Maheshwari, it may also interfere with certain medications and is not advised daily. "What works for one person may not work for another," she stressed. Dr Maheshwari said that one should meditate daily as it helps you de-stress, calm down, retrospect, and develop a positive mindset. "It is a relaxation technique that suppresses negative thoughts and helps build a positive approach toward life," she told indianexpress.com.

Yoga trainer Mansi Gulati also added that one must



meditate for at least ten to fifteen minutes daily. "Locate a quiet, cozy space with minimal interruptions where you may practice," said Gulati.

Take a comfortable seat on the floor. Breathe normally, but pay attention to each breath. You don't have to think or visualise anything, or count your breaths. Pay attention to the thoughts that cross your mind and the feelings that surround your body. When they appear, take note of them and let them go without attempting to evaluate or interpret them," suggested Gulati.

This is what happens to the body if you replace wheat with millet for 30 days

According to the health awareness portal SHARAN India, founded by homeopath Dr Nandita Shah, one can expect changes like less bloating, feeling full faster, reduced cravings, weight loss, improved mental clarity, regular bowels, clearer skin, and feeling lighter and more energised.

Are these true?

Millet is quite popular these days due to its range of health benefits. Adding millets to your diet can be rewarding as they are rich in fibre and jam-packed with nutrients like magnesium, iron, and B vitamins. Swapping wheat with millet can be a great choice, stressed Jinal Patel, dietitian at Zynova Shalby Hospital Mumbai. "Wheat has gluten, which makes it more harmful to your body. Gluten can lead to bloating, increased weight gain, fatigue, constipation, diarrhea, and migraine," said Patel. When eaten regularly, millet can improve digestion while helping manage your weight. "It can also keep you full longer and provide long-lasting energy. If you are someone who is sensitive towards gluten or has celiac disease, then you should strictly avoid



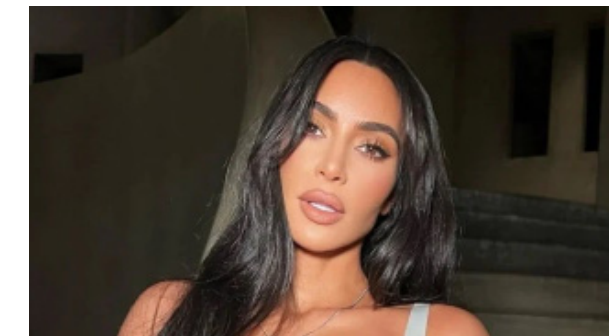
things that contain gluten, including wheat," said Patel. You can make various dishes with millet without compromising on your taste buds. "However, ensure that you consult a doctor before making any significant changes in your diet for the betterment of your health," said Patel.

Kim Kardashian reflects on the bittersweet reality of being a mother: 'The sad part about motherhood is...'

Kim Kardashian has opened up about the emotional complexities of motherhood, sharing a heartfelt post with her followers on Instagram. On Saturday, November 9, the 44-year-old mother of four posted about one of the most bittersweet aspects of parenting. "The sad part about motherhood is that you're raising the one person you can't live without... to live without you," she wrote, accompanied by a teary-eyed emoji over a background of crumpled white paper.

Kim Kardashian posted about one of the most bittersweet aspects of parenting. Kim Kardashian posted about one of the most bittersweet aspects of parenting. Kardashian, who shares children North, 11, Saint, 8, Chicago, 6, and Psalm, 5, with her ex-husband Kanye West, has always been open about her experience as a mother. According to a People report quoting a source, Kardashian has been the "primary caregiver" for their children since filing for divorce in February 2021, balancing her career, personal life, and parenting responsibilities. As children grow, parents often struggle between being supportive and encouraging self-sufficiency, as highlighted in Kardashian's post. To understand how parents can best approach this balance, indianexpress.com spoke with Neha Cadabam, a child psychologist at Cadabams Mindtalk, about strategies for supporting children in developing their independence while maintaining a strong, healthy bond. Fostering a strong bond with their children while also encouraging their independence

Cadabam states that building a strong bond with children while fostering independence requires a balance between connection and empowerment. "Studies show that children who experience secure attachment are more likely to become confident and self-reliant as they grow." She adds, "One effective way to create this bond is through responsive parenting—listening to a child's needs, validating their emotions, and providing consistent support. This teaches children that they have a safe base to return to, giving them



the confidence to venture out. Parents can nurture autonomy by setting clear boundaries and providing choices within those boundaries." For instance, letting a child choose what to wear or which activity to try fosters decision-making skills within a supportive environment. This way, the parent remains involved without micromanaging, helping the child build self-reliance. When parents handle stress or setbacks with a positive mindset, children learn by example. Children learn by example when parents handle stress or setbacks with a positive mindset. Strategies for parents to build resilience in children while supporting their autonomy Building resilience involves helping children develop coping skills, adaptability, and a sense of personal strength — all while respecting their independence, mentions Cadabam. Instead of rushing to solve every issue, parents can guide children through difficulties by asking open-ended questions like, "What do you think would work here?" or "How can we approach this differently?" She continues, "Another strategy is to model resilience. Children learn by example when parents handle stress or setbacks with a positive mindset. Positive reinforcement also plays a role in building resilience. Praising effort rather than just success encourages children to persevere even when challenging.

Arjun Kapoor was against 'irritating' Parineeti Chopra being cast in Ishaqzaade, felt she would sink his career: 'Thought she wasn't serious'



the film, he told Mashable India, "I was very against her when the casting happened. I was like, 'Yeh bahut baat karti hai (she talks a lot)' and her readings were also bad. Parineeti Chopra does not like doing workshops and readings; she's a very spontaneous actor. Or perhaps, she saves it for the sets."

"On the first day, I cracked some joke and she looked at me and said 'lol'. I was like, 'Can't you just laugh?' It's not a chat, right? Why are you saying 'lol' (laugh out loud)? Just laugh. I found her irritating since she talked in emojis. Then I thought she was not serious about it despite getting such a big movie. I had been waiting for six months for us to get Zoya (Parineeti's character) and when we finally did, Zoya was doing 'lol lol'. I was like, 'Mera career khatam hogaya (my career is over),' since this girl doesn't have any interest. She was already doing Ladies vs Ricky Bahl, so I thought she doesn't have anything at stake. (At that age) you just judge people, right? I was 24 and wanted to make a career here. I was thinking, 'Yeh abhi aayi hai... pehle YRF mein kaam karti thi, phir ek picture karli Ranaveer Singh ke saath to usko lagta hai ki bohut badi star banagayi. Kaha isko acting aata hai?' (she has just come... she previously worked at YRF, then did a film with Ranveer Singh and she feels that she has become a big star. What would she know about acting?)," he recalled.

"Then we did then we did a mock shoot, and I have to confess, I was so much in shock (of Parineeti's performance) that I forgot my lines and my acting. My effort learning the script for months had gone to waste. As soon as the camera was on, she had fire in her eyes. Once she was terrific in the mock shoot, I was like, 'Theek hai, yeh karlangi'," Arjun quipped. Bankrolled by Aditya Chopra under Yash Raj Films, Ishaqzaade also featured Gauahar Khan, Ratan Singh Rathore, Anil Rastogi and Natasha Rastogi in key roles. Parineeti received the National Film Award – Special Mention that for her performance as Zoya Qureshi in the film.

Parineeti Chopra and Arjun Kapoor played the lead roles in director Habib Faisal's romantic actioner Ishaqzaade. Parineeti Chopra and Arjun Kapoor played the lead roles in director Habib Faisal's romantic actioner Ishaqzaade. After being criticised for his acting skills — or the lack thereof — Arjun Kapoor appears to be shifting perceptions with his portrayal of the main antagonist in director Rohit Shetty's multi-starrer actioner Singham Again. Despite making his debut in 2012 with the lead role in director Habib Faisal's romantic actioner Ishaqzaade opposite Parineeti Chopra, Arjun's career was marked by a string of misfires, with his last movie, The Lady Killer (2023), earning just Rs 60,000 against a reported budget of Rs 45 crore.

As he embarks on a new chapter, the actor, son of renowned producer Boney Kapoor and the late Mona Shourie, recently reflected on his career choices. He also shared his initial reservations about the casting of Parineeti Chopra in his debut film Ishaqzaade, mainly because he found her too talkative. Stating that she did a terrific job in

Samantha Ruth Prabhu suggested Kriti Sanon and Kiara Advani as her replacements in Citadel Honey Bunny after myositis diagnosis



In previous interviews, Samantha Ruth Prabhu shared how her diagnosis with the autoimmune disorder myositis took a significant toll on her health during the making of Citadel: Honey Bunny. Recently, she revealed that she even urged the show's directors, Raj and DK, to recast her role, suggesting names like Kiara Advani and Kriti Sanon instead.

Speaking to Galatta India, Samantha opened up about her struggles during that period. She said, "I didn't think that a few months later, I would request Raj & DK to choose another heroine because it was not possible. I believe I couldn't do it because of the circumstances I was in." She went a step further, sending the directors pictures of potential replacements. She said, "I actually sent them Kiara's pictures and Kriti's pictures. I remember sending four to them, saying, 'Oh my God, she is so hot. Just look at her. She will be amazing doing action. Please, I can't do it. They

said, 'We know them. You don't have to introduce us to them. We know who they are.'" Despite her health challenges, Samantha completed her demanding, action-packed role in Citadel: Honey Bunny and received widespread acclaim for her performance. At the trailer launch event, her co-star Varun Dhawan commended her resilience and dedication. He said, "I've never been on a shoot or a creative process like that before, where I witnessed a co-actor going through such challenges. You learn a lot about human resilience and strength when you see someone battling something and still succeeding. Samantha inspired not just me, but also Raj, DK, Sita, and everyone at Amazon. Her dedication to this action show is truly inspirational." Citadel Honey Bunny is the Indian spin-off of the American spy-action series Citadel, which starred Priyanka Chopra and Richard Madden. It is streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

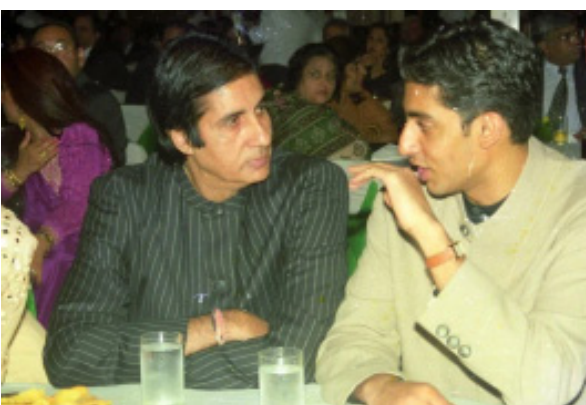
Samantha Ruth Prabhu says people called her 'second hand, 'used' after divorce with Naga Chaitanya: 'Absolute lies were spread'

Samantha Ruth Prabhu, one of the most talented and versatile actresses in the South Indian film industry, has spoken out about the societal pressures and judgments she faced after her divorce from Telugu star Naga Chaitanya. In a recent interview, Samantha addressed the issue of being labeled "second-hand" after her divorce, highlighting the deep-seated patriarchy and sexism that pervades Indian society. "When a woman goes through a divorce, there's a lot of shame and stigma attached. I get a lot of comments saying 'second hand, 'used', and 'wasted life'. You're pushed into a corner where you are supposed to feel like you're a failure that you were once married and now you're not. And I do believe, it can be really hard for families and girls who've gone through," Samantha said in an interview with Galatta India. With her voice filled with conviction, she added that she has healed and in a happy space now. "I'm very happy right now. I've grown so much, and I am doing incredible work, and I'm looking forward to the next stage in my life," she said. Samantha also spoke about how she felt a need to slam those who were passing judgement against her and spreading misinformation during her divorce but she resisted. "Many things were said about me that were absolutely untrue. There were many times that I was so tempted to say 'this is not true, let me tell you the truth'. But, what



held me back — when things were crappy and absolute lies being spread — I remember having this conversation with myself. 'Okay, you're tempted to come out with your side of the story. What do you gain from it? You gain a bunch of people who are so fickle. You tell your story, and they love you for a minute and three days later, if you do something stupid, they'll go back to hating you. I wanted to resist that. Can you not live with the fact that your friends and family know the truth?'

Abhishek Bachchan was ready to quit films, felt becoming an actor 'was a mistake'; dad Amitabh Bachchan stopped him: 'You have a...'



Abhishek Bachchan, who was recently in I Want To Talk, opened up about the time when his career was going through a lull and he thought about quitting showbiz. The actor said that at this time, it was his father Amitabh Bachchan who asked him to stick around and keep working and polishing his craft as Big B believed that there was a "hidden good actor" within Abhishek. Talking to Galatta Plus, Abhishek said that he had this chat with his father when "a lot of my movies were not working, critics were panning my performances no matter who I worked with." Abhishek said that he worked with some of the biggest directors of that era "hoping that they will teach me stuff and rectify stuff that I haven't managed to do and nothing was happening."

He shared, "Eventually at a weaker moment, which is embarrassing for me to think of now, I went to my dad and

I said 'we need to talk, I think we have made a mistake. I don't think I am cut out for this because no matter what I do, it isn't working, I have tried everything. I have tried all genres. I have tried all kinds of cinema. I have tried all kind of film-makers and I am just not able to do it. Maybe it's time for me to be honest with myself and say you are not cut out for this, you are not good enough, find something else to do'. And I did go and speak to him about this and he reassured me."

Abhishek recalled father Amitabh's words who gave him the confidence to carry on. "He said 'look, I am talking to you as a senior, not as your father. You are nowhere near the finished product. You have a lot of improving to do and I am noticing improvement in every film of yours. There is a hidden good actor within you. How good you become is upto you and how hard you want to work. The only way you will be able to polish your craft is by working so go out there, whatever film you get just sign and just work' and that's what I did," he recalled.

Abhishek said that it was after this conversation that he started taking up supporting roles. "I didn't care what kind of a role it was supporting, secondary, tertiary, I did everything, until I found the confidence in myself. Until I could deliver at the box office and people started banking on me as a leading man again," he said. Abhishek's film I Want To Talk released in theatres on Friday and has made Rs 1.5 crore in the first four days. Abhishek started his career in 2000 with Refugee, and experienced his first box office success in 2004 with Dhoom. He appeared in 13 films in these five years.

Alia Bhatt faced 'absolute disdain and hatred' over 2 States casting, reveals Arjun Kapoor: 'She never complained'

Arjun Kapoor recently opened up about the backlash Alia Bhatt faced when she was cast as Ananya Swaminathan, a Tamilian, in 2 States. According to the Gunday actor, many doubted Alia's ability to portray a South Indian character and argued that she didn't fit the role visually. However, the release of her critically acclaimed film Highway—which hit theatres before 2 States—helped change audience perceptions.

Speaking to Mashable India, Arjun revealed, "There was absolute disdain and hatred against Alia on social media when she signed 2 States. It was because they said she doesn't look like a South Indian and her previous film Student Of The Year hadn't given her that kind of recognition that was needed to play that role, which was already established at that point because many people had read the book. There were also other big names that were considered exciting and visually relevant for the role. But Alia just kept her head down and worked. I never heard her complain about anything on the set. She did an audition, she did a photoshoot and that was the day they decided that she is the right choice for the role." Arjun further highlighted that Alia was simultaneously shooting Imtiaz Ali's Highway while working on 2 States. He shared how Highway significantly impacted people's perception of her acting abilities. "She shot Highway and 2 States at the same time. Highway released just before 2 States and the world's opinion of Alia Bhatt changed completely and in just one Friday."



2 States was based on Chetan Bhagat's 2009 novel of the same name, with the story adapted for the screen by the film's director, Abhishek Varman, in collaboration with Bhagat. The film was a box office success. Alia Bhatt, who made her debut in Bollywood with a glamorous role in Karan Johar's Student of the Year, quickly proved her acting prowess with her second film, Highway. The road drama earned her widespread acclaim from audiences and critics alike and has since achieved cult status, remaining one of the most celebrated performances of her career.

Raghu Ram says divorce 'nearly killed' him, reveals wife Natalie's family objected to their marriage: 'He's the most abusive man in India'

Raghu Ram, who rose to fame as the creator of MTV Roadies, opened up about shedding his past personality and embracing a quieter, kinder version of himself after the birth of his child. In an interview, Raghu also spoke in detail about his separation from first wife Sugandha Garg, and said that she was the first person he told about his current wife, Natalie Di Luccio.

Appearing on the Untriggered with AminJaz podcast, Raghu said that he would project anger on TV as a defence mechanism, and that he is actually a non-confrontational person in real life. Raghu also revealed that his wife's family held an intervention before their marriage, after they realised what he was known for being on television. "In her family, there is one Indian. They realised that she's getting married to Raghu. There was an intervention, where the women of the family cornered Natalie's mom and let loose on her. 'What's wrong with you? How can you let your daughter do this? Maybe she likes being slapped around, but how can you let her do this? He's the most abusive guy in India.'"

Raghu's mother-in-law was shocked, because to her eyes, he was "the sweetest guy". "This really happened. Because of Roadies Raghu, there was a huge issue with Natalie and her family," he said, explaining that he has now shed that version of himself for his own good. "I went through my divorce, which we call an uncoupling, because Kuhu and I are friends. We were friends, we got married, we f****d up the friendship. After that, I was single, I met Natalie, and we clicked. The first person I told was Kuhu." Raghu admitted that the separation was very hard on him. "They say



what doesn't kill you makes you stronger, my divorce nearly killed me. I am stronger, and now, I have more clarity about relationships, and what a man can do in a relationship than ever before," he said, adding that he has discovered that he has a 'type', but isn't sure if that's shallow of him. "I was married to Kuhu, who is from Rajasthan. She's dusky, she's beautiful, she's an actor. She acts, she sings, she writes. I'm now married to Natalie Di Luccio. She's from Toronto, she's of Italian descent. Their personalities are very different. I guess I have a type, but it's nothing to do with physical appearance." Raghu and Natalie welcomed their first child in 2020, a son named Rhythm. He said in the interview that he has changed greatly since then, and avoids consuming social media, the news, and stays away from subjects like religion and politics.

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan shares a hard-hitting video on 'self-worth': 'Look the problem directly in the eyes'

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan has shared a powerful video message on social media, emphasising the importance of self-worth and resilience in the face of adversity. In the hard-hitting video, Aishwarya can be seen delivering a strong message about standing up for oneself and not letting others dictate one's worth. "I think it's really important to stand up for your worth," she says. "I think it's really important to know your value and not let anyone else dictate it for you." She captioned the post, "On this International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, join @lorealparis's Stand Up against street harassment training program. We're all worth it." The video, which appears

to be a clip from a larger interview or conversation, sees Aishwarya speaking candidly about the importance of self-love and self-respect. "Street harassment, how to deal with it? Avoid eye contact? No. Look the problem directly in the eyes. Hold your head high. Feminine and feminist. My body, my worth. Never compromise your worth. Do not doubt yourself. Stand up for your worth. Don't blame your dress or your lipstick. Street harassment is never your fault," she emphasises. Reacting to the video, fans and followers of Aishwarya poured in their love in the comments section of the video post. One person commented, "The icon of Beauty with Brain ??," another person wrote, "

Opting for rebuild, strong attack and middle-order headlines RCB new-look squad

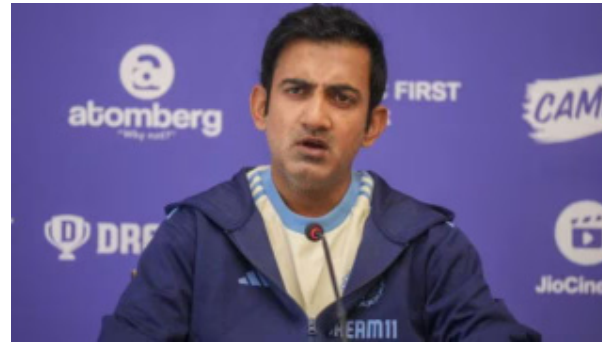


GNS News Agency, Nov 27

It was a strange couple of days for Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the auction table in Jeddah. With their head coach Andy Flower getting a clear look at the team last season, they wanted to start fresh as it was evident when they retained only three players in Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar and Yash Dayal. And after two days of intense bidding, this is how their squad looks: Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar, Tim David, Manoj Bhandage, Devdutt Padikkal, Swastik Chikara. Wicketkeepers Phil Salt, Jitesh Sharma. All-rounders Liam Livingstone (spin), Krunal Pandya (spin), Swapnil Singh (spin), Romario Shepherd (pace), Jacob Bethell (spin), Mohit Rathee (spin). Spinners Suyash Sharma, Abhinandan Singh. Fast

bowlers Josh Hazlewood, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Yash Dayal (retained), Rasikh Salam, Nuwan Thushara, Lungi Ngidi. First impression At times it was hard to understand what RCB were up to, especially when they let go off KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan. Getting one of them would have definitely added more strength to their local talent. And strangely, they didn't even use the RTM option on Glenn Maxwell, Mohammed Siraj and Will Jacks and instead went for a completely different outlook. It got them Phil Salt, Liam Livingstone, Tim David – three aggressive, power-hitters who will ensure they are just dependent on a couple of batsmen. Similarly, their bowling attack has the variety and the necessary resources to take care of the unforgiving home conditions at M Chinnaswamy stadium. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood, Yash Dayal and Lungi Ngidi make up a strong pace attack and for X-factor, have Nuwan Thushara, whose slinging action could be hard to pick. For a change, there was clarity in what they wanted and overall go back with a strong, balanced squad on paper. There are not enough left-handed batsmen in the mix, which means they could be forced to add one, which could affect their balance. Likely XI (Impact Player included) 1 Virat Kohli, 2 Phil Salt, 3 Liam Livingstone, 4 Rajat Patidar, 5 Tim David/ Jacob Bethell, 6 Jitesh Sharma, 7 Krunal Pandya, 8 Rasikh Salam, 9 Bhuvneshwar Kumar, 10 Josh Hazlewood, 11 Yash Dayal, 12 Suyash Sharma/Manoj Bhandage.

India coach Gautam Gambhir to fly back home because of 'personal reasons'



GNS News Agency, Nov 27

India cricket team coach Gautam Gambhir will fly back home from Australia on Tuesday because of 'personal reasons' but will rejoin the team before the start of the second Test, a pink-ball game, which begins in Adelaide from December 6. Gautam Gambhir will join the team on December 3.

"Gambhir has informed us that he will be travelling back home and will join the team before the start of the second Test. He has cited personal reasons and the BCCI

has accepted his request," a BCCI source told The Indian Express on Monday. Gautam Gambhir will join the team on December 3. The Indian team will travel to Canberra on Wednesday to play a two-day pink-ball tour game, which is scheduled to start from Saturday.

In absence of Gambhir, the Indian team's support staff comprising assistant coaches Abhishek Nayar and Ryan ten Doeschate, bowling coach Mome Morkel and fielding coach T Dilip will oversee training sessions in consultation with captain Rohit Sharma, who arrived in Australia on Sunday. Sharma, who missed the first Test after the birth of his second child, was seen having a practice session in Perth on Monday. "And just during the lunch break here at the nets, we've got captain of India Rohit Sharma, who's just arrived in the country," said former Australian opener and Fox commentator David Warner. "He is looking nice and sharp against his fellow countrymen here in the nets. We've got a few of the Indian fast bowlers bowling towards the captain ahead of the pink ball Test match starting the 6th of December in Adelaide. As we just see there Mukesh Kumar sending down a nice delivery. But it's great to see the captain here and we're looking forward to seeing him back out on the park here on Australian soil," Warner said on Fox Cricket.

How teams embraced well-laid plans and mindful spending to assemble strong squads

IPL Auction 2025: Beyond a 17-year-old tournament witnessing a 13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi become a crorepati and Ambala born Gurjapneet Singh who found a home at Tamil Nadu now donning the famous yellow jersey, the two-day IPL mega auctions saw teams tussle for the best talents and assemble a strong squad. In the past, franchises have come out of the auction table with plenty of unanswered questions and imbalanced squads. But at Jeddah they came up with well-laid plans and put together evenly matched squads on paper.

The two most successful franchises with five titles each, they remained in total control, even as others scrambled around. Having retained their Indian core, Mumbai Indians as usual went big for an overseas pacer in Trent Boult and a new ball bowler in Deepak Chahar. For the rest, they relied on their scouting team, which helped them snap Ryan Rickelton and uncapped Kiwi Bevan-John Jacobs to lend lower-order firepower. In Will Jacks, they got their overseas top-order bat and finished another auction without going big on a spinner. Chennai Super Kings plan was simple: First up was to get back their players who ended up in the auction pool. Thereafter, they went in search of experienced players like Rahul Tripathi, Deepak Hooda, and Khaleel Ahmed. After a long time, they pursued local TN players and brought home R Ashwin, Vijay Shankar, Gurjapneet and Andre Siddarth. In Sam Curran, Jamie Overton and Nathan Ellis, they found their overseas all-rounder and a pacer.

No to overspending Likewise, Gujarat Titans, who have been smart with their auction picks, continued the trend this time as well. It meant, they didn't overspend on any of their targets as they got Jos Buttler, Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada for a reasonable price. Thereafter, like how MI managed Jacks and CSK Curran, GT got lucky to spend less on Washington Sundar, Gerald Coetzee, Glenn Phillips and R Sai Kishore.

Successfully rebuilding Punjab Kings, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Delhi Capitals and Lucknow Super Giants came with an intent to rebuild their squad by retaining their key players. In the past, such plans have gone awry, but what stood out was they had a plan and went about it, even though some of the players they passed on (especially RCB) did raise eyebrows. But if one looks at the bigger picture, all four franchises have come out with strong squads. Delhi have assembled one of the strongest attacks which includes Mitchell Starc, T Natarajan, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Mukesh Kumar and Mohit Sharma. Unlike the last couple of seasons, they have the batting resources with an excellent blend of local and overseas talents. The divide between the two owners was evident at the table. But they have more reasons to smile. Lucknow, despite spending big on Rishabh Pant, utilised funds to assemble a rounded squad that in-



cludes David Miller, Mitchell Marsh, Shahbaz Ahmed. With Nicholas Pooran, Ravi Bishnoi already in, it is about putting the right combination on the field.

RCB's decision to not pursue KL Rahul and Pant beyond a point was surprising. But given how challenging it is to bowl at Chinnaswamy Stadium, they kept their purse to invest in bowlers who could do the most challenging job in the league. So they got Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Krunal Pandya, Josh Hazlewood and also Thushara, the pacer with a slinging action. For firepower in the middle order, they acquired Tim David and Liam Livingstone. Safe to say they have a strong team on paper.

Punjab, kings at the auction Having entered the auction with the biggest purse, Punjab's move to rebuild from scratch worked well. In Marcus Stoinis, Glenn Maxwell, and Marco Jansen they have three overseas certainties in the XI and can rotate Azmatullah Omarzai, Josh Inglis and Lockie Ferguson depending on their combination. Even on the domestic front, in Shreyas Iyer, Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal, they have three big name players. If their local uncapped talent comes good, they can dream of a play-off berth. Having retained a maximum of six players, Rajasthan had little money to work with at the auction. Yet, thanks to sharp tactics, they managed to pull off a balanced squad that includes Jofra Archer's pace, Maheesh Theekshana's mystery, and a death-over specialist in Tushar Deshpande. With Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, Shimron Hetmyer and Sandeep Sharma already in, they have their XI in hand. Wanindu Hasaranga would provide all-round balance. They have solid back-up options in Nitish Rana, Akash Madhwal, and Fazalhaq Farooqi too. Sunrisers Hyderabad, for a change, went after proven Indian names in Ishan Kishan, Mohammed Shami, Harshal Patel, Rahul Chahar, and Jaydev Unadkat to complete their squad filled with aggressive batsmen. It meant they had to settle for lesser known players to complete the squad. Like RR, filled only 20 out of the 25 slots.

World Chess Championship: How Ding Liren shocked Gukesh with black pieces in the opening game at the 'fishtank'

World Chess Championship: D Gukesh planted his face in his palms, unable to come to terms with how quickly the momentum had shifted in the first game of the World Chess Championship against Ding Liren. Game 1 of the World Chess Championship began with promise. The 18-year-old had swaggered into the playing arena — nicknamed the fishtank, a sound-proof room with mirrored glass that prevented the players from looking outside or hearing noises from outside — exuding the confidence of youth. In the first few moves, he established himself in control. But the day ended with a desperate dash to evade losing on time and then a resignation with white pieces in 42 moves.

Ding Liren, a man who has experienced the anxiety of playing in a World Chess Championship, tried to catch him off-guard with black pieces in the opening by employing the French Defence. It was a Hail Mary of sorts, coming too early into a World Chess Championship. Ding Liren takes on Gukesh in the first game of the World Chess Championship. The players were playing in a sound-proof room with mirrored glass that prevented the players from looking outside or hearing noises from outside. (Photo: FIDE Flickr via Eng Chin An) Ding Liren takes on Gukesh in the first game of the World Chess Championship. The players were playing in a sound-proof room with mirrored glass that prevented the players from looking outside or hearing noises from outside. (Photo: FIDE Flickr via Eng Chin An) But Ding had his reasons. "Because it was his first game, I was thinking he might get nervous at the start. So I tried to play something unusual which I haven't in a long time," Ding revealed. The last time the Chinese GM had used the French Defence, it was against Ian Nepomniachtchi, where he had lost. How Gukesh vs Ding Liren played out in Game 1 of the World Chess Championship. (Courtesy: Lichess) How Gukesh vs Ding Liren played out in Game 1 of the World Chess Championship. (Courtesy: Lichess)

But Gukesh had no trouble dealing with Ding Liren's



play. So much so, that he forced Ding to do a double take by the seventh move, where the world champion spent 27 minutes thinking. It was an odd time to be forced into a long, hard think, especially when he was the one who had tried to seize the early initiative. By the time Ding made his 7th move, Gukesh had a sizeable advantage on the clock. He had spent under a minute on seven moves. Ding had used up over half an hour. "I obviously surprised him in the opening. I was playing some good chess," Gukesh later said. Caution to the wind On the 10th move, Gukesh threw caution to the wind. His pawn on the g file raced away to g4, abandoning any safe plan to get his own king to cover on the king-side corner. The plan was to put pressure on Ding's pawn on the e file with a f5 pawn push soon. Ding was already 48 minutes down on the clock by this stage. The first games of the World Chess Championship are meant for tepid draws. It's an occasion to get a measure of the other player's current form and confidence. So like pugilists in a prize fight, grandmasters are content to throw a few punches just to see what the opponent's jaw is made out of. Not Gukesh. He had chosen to walk into the game with his guard down, daring his opponent to throw a haymaker. "This game already looks complicated.

New Zealand vs England Test series named after Martin Crowe and Graham Thorpe

New Zealand vs England Test series named after Martin Crowe and Graham Thorpe The England and BLACK-CAPS Test teams will honour the late Martin Crowe and Graham Thorpe with a trophy named in the pair's honour. (NZC) The Test series between New Zealand and England will be named as Crowe-Thorpe Trophy, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) and England Cricket Board (ECB) said in a statement. The trophy will pay tribute to the legacies of late New Zealand legend Martin Crowe and England great Graham Thorpe.

The trophy has been made from the wood sourced from a bat from each player, and will be unveiled on Thursday morning in Christchurch ahead of the start of the three-match series. "The bat gifted by the Thorpe family (a Kookaburra) is the one with which Graham scored his first two centuries against New Zealand, in consecutive Tests in 1997, while the one donated by the Crowe family was the GM with which Martin scored his century at Lord's in 1994," read the NZC statement. "Today's generation of players are standing on the shoulders of those who went before them, players like Graham and Martin. It's good that we recognise this and respect their legacy. Both were seriously good batters who understood the game intimately — they commanded respect wherever they went," said New Zealand CEO Scott Weenink. England CEO Richard Gould echoed those sentiments. "Martin and Graham are two legends of the game, and it is fitting that Test series between our two men's sides will now be contested in their name," he said. "It's heart-breaking to have lost both men so early, but by



honouring them in this way I hope we can help ensure the memories and legacies of two of our nations' finest cricketers live on long into the future." Both Crowe and Thorpe were hugely successful Test batsmen in their time: Crowe averaging 45.36 and posting 17 centuries with a highest score of 299, and Thorpe averaging 44.66 with 16 centuries and a highest score of 200 not out — against New Zealand in 2002. Thorpe, who debuted in 1993 and played 100 Tests, was a constant needle in the side of the New Zealand teams, against whom he scored four centuries and averaged 53. He died earlier this year, aged 55. Crowe scored five centuries against England, including 142 at Lord's in his last visit. He was enormously brave, scoring runs in the most difficult environments, including 188 in Georgetown against a West Indian attack including Malcolm Marshall, Michael Holding and Joel Garner. He died in 2016, aged 53.

Ravi Shastri and Michael Vaughan slam senior pro Usman Khawaja for not taking strike against Jasprit Bumrah

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

"I'd have loved to have seen the senior pro Usman Khawaja say to the youngster, 'I'm taking that first over'," Michael Vaughan said on Michael Vaughan. "Twenty-four minutes, it was just to get through the day's play." Just little details like that, I'd love to have seen the senior player just say to the youngster I'll take the first over for us. "Khawaja's former opening partner David Warner defended the senior pro. He said: "I'm pretty sure Uzzy would have actually asked him again when he was walking out, 'Do you want me to take it?' and I think the young guy would have said, 'Yeah I'll take it, I want it.'" However, Ravi Shastri was not on the same page with Warner and minced no words against Khawaja.

Nathan McSweeney has received a maiden Test call for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. (Cricket Australia) Nathan McSweeney has received a maiden Test call for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. (Cricket Australia) "I think the choice should not go to the young man — that's the job of the team manager and the captain," Shastri said. "Usman should have been told, 'You are taking strike.'" If you go and ask that young kid, if he says, 'I don't want to take strike', word would go around he's soft. "Don't give him that opportunity. Go and tell the senior pro, 'Go and take guard.'"

Where is the next opener?

Former Australia pacer Brett Lee chipped in saying the decision to go with Nathan McSweeney over an estab-



lished opener has send a wrong message. "(McSweeney's) a fantastic player, he's done very well in Shield cricket but never actually had that opportunity to bat in that top position," he said. "Some will say if he bats three or four, is there a difference? Well it is a difference. It is a different role." He's up against arguably the world's greatest bowler in Jasprit Bumrah firstly on a green top on day one and then secondly he gets one to shoot through so he hasn't had the rub of the green yet. "The concern is, what message does that send to the other opening batsmen around Australia?" "We have heard of other players, (Cameron) Bancroft has done very well the last couple of years, Marcus Harris was thrown in the mix again that he was close, scoring runs. Sam Konstas who bats at the top of the order will have that opportunity as well. It's concerning."

Meet Delhi's Priyansh Arya, six-hitting machine who went to Punjab Kings for Rs 3.80 crore

GNS News Agency, Nov 27

Sanjay Bharadwaj recalls how he had to change his coaching style for Priyansh Arya, who was obsessed with hitting sixes from a very young age. Bharadwaj, who has coached the likes of Gautam Gambhir, Amit Mishra, Joginder Sharma and Unmukt Chand, calls him a product of the T20 era. "All my life, I have told my students to play in the V, and if I remember correctly when it came to Priyansh, I never stopped him from playing the aerial shots. Initially, I did give him dressing down but I realised that's his strength and I gave him complete freedom, and he never looked back," Bharadwaj tells On Monday, the 23-year-old from Delhi, who is fresh from hitting a 43-ball 102 against Uttar Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, bagged a Rs 3.80 crore contract by the Punjab Kings on the second day of the IPL mega auction in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. "After the auction, when he called me I told him that they have given you Rs 3.80 crore, you give them back Rs 30 crore with your performances," Bharadwaj adds. Arya, who was the top-scorer for Delhi in last year's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy with 222 runs at the strike rate of 166.91, grabbed eyeballs in the inaugural Delhi Premier League. Playing for South Delhi Superstarz, Arya slammed 608 runs in 10 innings with a whopping strike rate of 198.69, with two centuries and

four fifty-plus total. "In the DPL he also hit six sixes in one match. Sometimes when you see such talent, you have to give them freedom. He will frustrate you but he will win you matches," says Bharadwaj. Bharadwaj took Priyansh under his wings when he was 7 years old. "Sanjay sir is like a god to us. From the time when he joined his academy. At 6 in the morning, Sanjay sir will pick him up from the house and then in the evening drop him off as well. It continued for eight years," says Priyansh's father Pawan Arya, who is a school teacher at Delhi's Government Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, Lancer Road near Vishwavidyalaya metro station. Growing up in Ashok Vihar New Delhi, Priyansh got all the freedom when it came to cricket but his parents, both teachers by profession, made sure that he did well in his studies also. "He was seven when he said, he wants to play cricket. I was fine with that but since I am a school teacher and my wife (Radha Bala Arya) is also a school teacher, we made sure that he gets good education," says Pawan. Pawan has no idea how many sixes his son has scored in the last match, but he remembers his son's marks by heart. "He has completed BA from Swami Shradhanand College and scored 67% in the under graduation. It was all his hard work. Now he is pursuing post-graduation from Delhi University," he says.