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## Gold, Silver prices drop post-US election

New Delhi: Gold prices continue to fall after the US presidential election and on Thursday, the December future contracts of gold on MCX opened with a decline of 0.37 per cent at Rs 76,369 per 10 grams, while silver December future contracts were trading 0.24 per cent low at Rs 90,601 per kg. After the US elections, in the last two days, gold prices have fallen by Rs 2,100 per 10 grams and silver prices by Rs 4,050 per kg. According to the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd (IBJA), the price of 24-carat gold is Rs 76,570 per 10 grams, the price of 22-carat gold is Rs 74,720 per 10 grams, the price of 20-carat gold is Rs 68,130 per 10 grams and the price of 18-carat gold is Rs 62,201 per 10 grams. Pranav Mer, Vice President, EBG-Commodity & Currency Research, JM Financial Services said that gold and most other commodities are trading in the negative territory, weighed by a strong US dollar as Donald Trump won the presidential race.

## Tribute to courage, sacrifice of veterans: PM Modi on 10 years of OROP

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed the government's commitment to honouring India's armed forces, praising the 'One Rank, One Pension' (OROP) as a tribute to the courage and sacrifices of veterans and ex-service personnel, as the scheme marked its 10 years on Thursday. Taking to X, PM Modi posted, "On this day, 'One Rank, One Pension' (OROP) was implemented. This was a tribute to the courage and sacrifices of our veterans and ex-service personnel who dedicate their lives to protecting our nation. The decision to implement OROP was a significant step towards addressing this long-standing demand and reaffirming our nation's gratitude to our heroes."

"It would make you all happy that over the decade, lakhs of pensioners and pensioner families have benefited from this landmark initiative. Beyond the numbers, OROP represents the government's commitment to the well-being of our armed forces," he added. The Prime Minister also reiterated the government's commitment to do every possible thing to strengthen the armed forces and further the welfare of those who serve the nation.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also expressed appreciation for OROP, calling it a core aspect of PM Modi's policy towards the armed forces. "The 'One Rank, One Pension' (OROP) has been an important pillar of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy towards the Armed Forces. The Government under his leadership is committed to take care of the soldiers and their families," Singh stated. Sharing a video of the Indian armed forces, he noted, "More than 25 lakh veterans have been ben-



efitted from the implementation of OROP. My gratitude to the Prime Minister for fulfilling the commitment given to the ex-servicemen of this country."

OROP, implemented in 2014, is a long-awaited scheme that ensures uniform pension payments for retired military personnel based on rank and service length, regardless of retirement date. This reform addressed disparities in pension, where personnel with the same rank and service length but different retirement dates received unequal pensions. Previously, a Lieutenant General who retired in 1995 could have received a lower pension than a colonel who retired after 2006 despite similar service tenure. Under the revised system, all Defence pensioners retired, discharged, or invalided out of service as of July 1 -- including Commissioned Officers, honorary commissioned officers, JCOs/ORs, and non-combatants -- are eligible for the OROP pension.

## Jet Airways liquidation ordered by Supreme Court amid unresolved financial issues

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud invoked its plenary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to order the liquidation of Jet Airways. Justice J.B. Pardiwala, who authored the judgment, ordered the amount of ₹200 crore paid by Jalan Kalrock Consortium (JKC) towards the initial tranche payment of ₹350 crore to the creditors to be forfeited. Justice Pardiwala said the fact that resolution plan had not progressed despite the lapse of five years was both "peculiar and alarming". The court set aside the NCLAT direction to the lenders of Jet Airways to adjust the ₹150 crore paid by JKC the consortium as performance bank guarantee (PBG). The top court directed the NCLT (Mumbai) to commence the liquidation process and appoint a liquidator as early as possible. The Supreme Court judgment was based on an appeal filed by State Bank of India-led consortium of creditors which had challenged the March 12 verdict of the NCLAT. The NCLAT had upheld the resolution plan of the grounded air carrier and approved the transfer of its ownership to the JKC. It had further ordered the Jet Airways monitoring committee to complete the transfer of ownership within 90 days. In its appeal before the apex court, the SBI consortium, which included the Punjab National Bank and JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Private Limited, said the situation was a "nightmare" for the lenders. The lenders described the NCLAT verdict of March 12 as "shocking" and a deviation from the Supreme Court direction of January 18, 2024. The judgment saw the court agree with the banks before ordering for the liquidation of the airline company. The court said it had no choice now and understood that "liquidation remains the last resort". The lenders had argued in the hearing that they were even bearing the burden of airport dues, which came to ₹1000 crore and ₹22 crore a month. Besides, the "clock [was] ticking" on the maintenance of aircrafts lying dormant on the tarmac before they turned junk.

## Supreme Court refuses to transfer RG Kar rape and murder case trial out of West Bengal

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

RG Kar. Meanwhile, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is probing the August 9, 2024, rape and murder of a junior doctor at the R G Kar Medical College and Hospital, informed the bench of its fresh status report. (Express Photo) The Supreme Court Thursday rejected a prayer to transfer the trial in the August 9 rape and murder of a junior doctor at Kolkata's R G Kar Medical College and Hospital out of West Bengal, saying "we will be casting doubts on the legitimacy of our own judicial system". The remarks by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud came when a counsel urged the three-judge bench to direct the transfer of the trial out of the state keeping in mind the disturbing features in the R G Kar rape and murder case from day 1. The counsel also pointed out that there are precedents to the trial being shifted out of states in many cases. "I know. There are precedents. We have shifted some trials out of Manipur for instance to Assam. Here we are not doing it. Let the trial continue before the Additional Sessions Judge. Otherwise, we will be casting doubts on the legitimacy of our own judicial system,"



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

India on Thursday (November 7, 2024) said Canada blocked an Australian media outlet hours after it broadcast the press conference of External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar and his Australian counterpart Penny Wong. External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said the Canadian action of blocking the social media handles and certain pages of Australia Today smacked of hypocrisy towards freedom of speech. "We understand that the social media handles, pages of this

## Rahul, Priyanka and Kharge to campaign for MVA in Maharashtra next week



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Mumbai: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and party President Mallikarjun Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, will campaign for the Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra next week, a top party leader said here on Thursday. Besides the trio of bigwigs, Congress Chief Minister Revanth Reddy (of Telangana), Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah, plus other senior party leaders from all over India will join the campaign trail in Maharashtra, said AICC General Secretary Ramesh Chennithala. The MVA manifesto will be released here on November 10 in the presence of Kharge and other top alliance leaders, he added, after a detailed meeting with state Campaign Committee Chairman Chandrakant Handore and state Congress Vice-President Nana Gawande. Detailing the programme, Chennithala said that Kharge will be on a 5-day poll tour with a series of rallies all over the state on November 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18. Rahul Gandhi will take up his intensive campaign on November 12, 14 and 16, while Priyanka Gandhi will take a breather from her duties in Wayanad LS by-polls to canvass for the MVA candidates here on November 13, 16 and 17. Chennithala reiterated that rebels contesting against the official MVA candidates

## Cold Wave Intensifies in Telangana, Temperatures Drop in Hyd

Hyderabad: As a cold wave continues to intensify across Telangana, temperatures in Hyderabad have been steadily dropping. The city has been experiencing cooler conditions, especially during the night, with meteorologists predicting a further dip in temperatures over the coming days. Typically, during the festival season of Dussehra and Diwali, Telangana witnesses a drop in temperatures, signaling the onset of the colder months. This year, however, the cooling process has been gradual, with the nights becoming notably colder. The temperature in Hyderabad has been hovering between 18-20°C in recent days, providing much-needed relief to the city's residents.

## Home Minister Shah, LoP Gandhi, UP CM wish citizens on Chhath Puja

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

New Delhi: As the auspicious Chhath Puja festival unfolded, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, extended heartfelt greetings, highlighting the significance of this Sun-worshipping celebration, which is observed with great devotion and fervour in many parts of the country. The Union Home Minister conveyed his warm wishes, emphasising the broad celebrations of Chhath Puja across India and beyond. "Jai Chhathi Maiya! Best wishes to everyone on Chhath Puja. Indians living in different parts of the country and abroad are celebrating the Chhath festival with great enthusiasm and faith. I wish everyone happiness, peace, and prosperity on this holy festival of Surya worship. May Chhathi Maiya keep her blessings on everyone," Shah said in a post. Earlier, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi extended his greetings on Thursday, sharing his wishes for the festival through a post on X. "Heartiest greetings on Chhath Puja, the great festival of Sun worship and folk faith. I hope this festival brings new energy and strength in the lives of all of you," Gandhi wrote, expressing his hopes for the festival to inspire vitality and positivity in people's lives. UP CM Adityanath, a leader representing one of the states where Chhath is fervently celebrated, also extended his greetings to the people of the state.

"With the blessings of Chhathi Maiya, may there be happiness and prosperity in the life of everyone in the state," Yogi Adityanath stated, invoking blessings for the well-being of all his constituents during this sacred time. Today marks the third day of the Chhath festival,



during which devotees across the country participate in the Sandhya Puja, a ritual dedicated to the setting Sun. As part of the evening prayers, families gather near water bodies, offering 'prasad' such as fruits, sweets, and thekua, as they sing hymns and offer prayers to the Sun god and Chhathi Maiya.

The four-day festival began with Nahay-Khay, a day of purification and preparation, followed by Kharna on the second day, a day of fasting and feasting. Chhath Puja itself, held on the third day, involves elaborate rituals, and the celebrations will conclude with the Usha Arghya on November 8, marking the final offering to the rising Sun. Chhath Puja is especially revered in states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh, as well as parts of Nepal and by the Indian diaspora. It is known for its rigorous fasting, strict rituals, and the deep sense of gratitude towards the Sun god for sustaining life on Earth.

## India says Canada blocked Australian media outlet for reporting Jaishankar's presser

particular outlet, which are important diaspora outlets, have been blocked and are not available for viewers in Canada. This happened just an hour or few hours after this particular handle carried the press conference of EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar with Penny Wong," Mr. Jaiswal said in response to a question at the weekly media briefing.

"We were surprised. It looks strange to us. But nonetheless, what I say is that these are actions which yet again highlight the hypocrisy of Canada towards freedom of speech," the External Affairs Ministry spokesman said. He said Mr. Jaishankar, in his media interactions in Australia, had spoken about the allegations levelled against India by Canada without sharing any specific evidence. "You would have seen that the External Affairs Minister, in his media engagements, spoke about three things. One was Canada making allegations and a pattern has developed without any specific evidence," he said. The spokesperson said the second thing he highlighted was surveillance of Indian diplomats happening in Canada, which he termed as unacceptable. "The third thing which he highlighted was the political space which has been given in Canada to anti-India elements. So you can draw your conclusions from that, why the Australia Today channel was blocked by Canada," Mr. Jaiswal said.

## No foul play in Formula-E deal: KTR; says event boosted Hyderabad's brand image



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Hyderabad: Rubbishing allegations of irregularities in hosting the Formula-E racing event in Hyderabad and taking the fizz out of the false campaign unleashed against him, BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday said the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) had issued orders for release of Rs.55 crore to sustain the Formula-E initiative after the private promoter Greenko pulled out due to financial constraints. Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan here, Rama Rao pointed out that the HMDA was an independent board with the Chief Minister as chairman and Municipal Administration Minister as vice-chairman. As an autonomous body, HMDA did not require Cabinet approval to release funds. As per his instructions, the then Special Chief Secretary for Municipal Administration and HMDA Commissioner Arvind Kumar had ordered for release of funds to host the event. "Formula-E was more than motorsports. It was the platform to organise Mobility Week, designed to attract Electric Vehicle (EV) manufacturers and position Telangana as a leader in EV technology," he said, adding that the objective of the event was not only to promote motorcar racing, but also to boost Hyderabad's brand image and attract investments in the EV manufacturing sector to improve the State's economy. The race, part of a broader Mobility Week aimed at promoting EVs, was lauded for its economic impact, adding Rs.700 crore to Hyderabad's economy, as per a Nielsen report. Further, the Mobility Week also attracted investments at the State's Mobility Valley at Divitipally including Rs.4,500 crore by Amara Raja Batteries and Rs.1,400 crore by Hyundai among other investments. "It was a strategic move to enhance Hyderabad's global image and attract investments. We made Hyderabad known in 49 countries through the Formula-E race, attracting significant investments. But Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's hasty cancellation of the event in the second year has cost the city Rs.700 crore and tarnished its image," Rama Rao said. In response to accusations of corruption and fiscal mismanagement from Congress leaders including Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the BRS working president challenged them to prove the same, asserting that there was no misuse of public funds and charged the Congress for running a misinformation campaign for political gain.

## PV Sindhu performs Bhumi Puja for Badminton Academy in Visakhapatnam

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

In a significant step towards nurturing badminton talent in India, Olympic medalist PV Sindhu, accompanied by her parents, conducted a Bhumi Puja ceremony for the construction of her dedicated badminton academy. The state government has allocated approximately three acres of land for this project, located near Peda Gadhili Junction in Visakhapatnam. Sindhu expressed her commitment to training young girls and youth who aspire to excel in high-level badminton competitions. She announced that efforts are being made to expedite the construction of the academy, with plans to complete it within a year.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Boost to madrasas

THE Supreme Court's decision to uphold the constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Act, 2004, has sent out a strong message that the rights of minorities will be safeguarded at any cost. The Muslim community in UP, a BJP-ruled state which has become synonymous with bulldozer justice, has every reason to hail the verdict. The madrasas in the state had been under threat after the Allahabad High Court scrapped the 20-year-old law earlier this year, stating that these schools violated the constitutional tenet of secularism. The apex court has set aside the HC verdict, thus ensuring that lakhs of students will not be shifted to conventional institutions. Madrasas have been on the 'hit list' of the saffron party in recent years not only in UP but also in states such as Assam and Madhya Pradesh. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has also been in the thick of things; last month, it wrote to the chief secretaries of all states and union territories, recommending that madrasa boards be closed down, state funding to the institutions be stopped and the children studying there be enrolled in 'formal' schools. The NCPCR's unconvincing contention is that the education imparted to children in madrasas is not 'comprehensive' or 'proper'; the commission has gone to the extent of accusing these schools of not complying with provisions of the Right to Education Act. It is hoped that the SC ruling will help in curbing the brazen vilification of madrasas. These institutions are being targeted on the pretext that they are breeding grounds for religious fanatics and terrorists. Weeding out the black sheep is no doubt important, but attempts to dismantle the entire madrasa system reek of intolerance and hatred. Such nefarious moves are undermining the secular credentials of India, aptly described by the Supreme Court as a melting pot of cultures, civilisations and religions.

## \$1-trn economy target: UP cabinet approves amendment to Incentive policy 2023 to attract foreign investors

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

As part of the government's efforts to reach the \$1 trillion economy goal, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Monday approved an amendment to the Incentive Policy 2023 for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the state. The amended policy will allow firms to raise funds through foreign investment not just in the form of equity but from other resources as well. Cabinet Minister Suresh Khanna said the ambit of the policy has now been widened to also include Foreign Capital Investment, which would consider external loans and other means of raising funds as well. In other significant decisions, the Cabinet also approved New Higher Service Rules 2024, which would allow transfer of teachers in aided schools after three years of service instead of five in the past.

Earlier, the state government had come up with the incentive policy for FDI and investment of Fortune 500 companies in 2023 to attract foreign investment. Cabinet Minister Suresh Khanna informed that while the eligibility criteria of Rs 100-crore investment would remain the same but now the policy would not just provide incentive to FDI but include broader spectrum of Foreign Capital Investment. "As per the RBI definition, the FDI has so far only included equity investments. However, with the new amendment, we have broadened its ambit to include Foreign Capital Investment. So far FDI included investment made by a company in its equity alone, however, many companies raise funds from external loans or other sources to expand, which would also be accepted under the amended policy," informed the minister. Officials informed that if a company has just 10 percent equity and secures 90 per cent of its investment from other sources, it will still be eligible for benefits under the amended policy.

Thus, apart from equity, the policy would also include preference shares, debentures, external commercial borrowing, standby letters of credit, letters of guarantee, and other debt securities for foreign companies investing in equity as foreign capital investment. In another significant decision, the Cabinet approved New Higher Service Rules 2024, as per which transfers would be allowed just after three years of service instead of five in the past. Notably, the new rules would mean that teachers can avail of a transfer only once during their entire careers. Higher Education Minister Yogendra Upadhyay pointed out that the new rule would allow teachers the opportunity to work closer to their home districts, enhancing their dedication and commitment to teaching. "This change will not only elevate teachers' satisfaction levels but also benefit students, as teachers will be able to perform their duties with greater ease and contentment," said Upadhyay. To improve veterinary services, govt to start animal husbandry courses aiming at increasing employment opportunities, the Cabinet also approved Animal Husbandry Diploma and Certificate Course Policy for skill development of rural youths as "para-vets".

This initiative is being taken to strengthen veterinary services in rural areas and increase the number of paravets trained in veterinary science, Animal Husbandry Minister Dharampal Singh said. The policy is aimed at training and skill development for "para-veterinary workers" with recognition from leading veterinary institutes — both government as well as private ones. Dharampal Singh informed that while there are approximately 34,500 veterinarians across the country, Uttar Pradesh has only 8,193 at present. In rural areas, "paravets" assist veterinarians with vaccinations, wound care, first aid as well as general animal health care. This step will provide a new direction in the field of animal husbandry and paraveterinary medicine and will empower paravets professionally, he added. He said that the main institutes working in the field of animal husbandry in the state are Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya and Gau Anusandhan Sansthan, Mathura. Apart from this, Acharya Narendra Dev Agriculture and Technology University, Kumarganj and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Agriculture and Technology University, Meerut are also running veterinary colleges. Now standards will be set by these universities for providing affiliation to private colleges so that animal husbandry and para veterinary courses can be conducted in private sectors as well.

## Delhi consumer court directs Rs 1 lakh refund to man who booked wedding hall during COVID pandemic



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

A consumer court in Delhi recently ordered a hospitality group to refund Rs 1 lakh to a man who had booked a banquet hall for his daughter's wedding scheduled to take place in June 2020 but was cancelled since a nationwide lockdown was in place following the pandemic. On October 15, the Central Delhi District Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission directed Wedding Opera, a unit of S G Hospitality, to return Rs. 1 lakh to Sunil Kumar Khurana, the complainant who lives in Old

Rajender Nagar. The consumer commission also directed the organisation to pay an additional Rs 15,000 for litigation charges and mental agony caused to the complainant. "The OP (Wedding Opera) had unjustly retained the amount paid by the complainant, especially when there was an order from the government for a nationwide lockdown and the complainant was bound to reschedule the wedding date due to unprecedented conditions in the country and there is no fault on the part of the complainant," the commission noted in its order. "As such, non-refund by OP without providing any services amounts to unfair trade practice and deficiency in service. No function could be held on the day fixed for the wedding due to COVID restrictions and because of government notifications, which are applicable all over India, therefore, no loss occurred to OP just because of the cancellation of the wedding booking of the complainant, as no expenses were incurred by it," the commission added. Despite requests, Khurana stated that Wedding Opera refused to shift the booking date to December 11, 2020. The organisation cited having other bookings that day as a reason to deny Khurana's request. This, alleged Khurana, left him no choice but to book another banquet hall.

## Ex-district president of Bajrang Dal Gurgaon held for shooting at Gurgaon man

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

The outfit's Haryana state general secretary, Varun Gaur, said, "He is not the president or a member anymore. We are not aware of this incident." The outfit's Haryana state general secretary, Varun Gaur, said, "He is not the president or a member anymore. We are not aware of this incident." Former district president of Gurgaon's Bajrang Dal unit and block coordinator has been arrested for opening fire at a man Monday, police said.

Police said a person named Jatin filed a complaint, stating that on Sunday night, he was at Dreams Mall in Sector 4/7 Chowk with his friends. Two men, including the arrested accused Abhishek Gaur, came in a car and asked him to move his vehicle, referring to him as "Chotu." This led to a verbal altercation, during which one of the individuals said he would shoot at him. As the complainant asked how that could be done, he fired at him, hitting his vehicle," said ACP (Crime 2) Manoj Kumar. Abhishek (36) was later arrested. However, the VHP has distanced itself from him. The outfit's Haryana state general secretary, Varun Gaur, said, "He is not the president or a member anymore. We are not aware of



this incident." Kumar further said, "During police questioning, it was revealed that the accused had a dispute with the complainant regarding moving the vehicle. During this altercation, he fired a gun, leading to the incident described in the complaint. The police team is proceeding with the necessary actions regarding the case, and the investigation is ongoing. We have initiated the process to revoke his gun license." Abhishek has been active in Gurgaon as a cow vigilante, cracking down on "cow smugglers" and filing complaints with the police.

## Brothers in jail for her 'kidnap', Kanpur woman missing for over a year traced by police

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Kanpur On Tuesday, the police received information about the woman, Rekha also known as Rakhi Devi, being spotted in the Rania area of the neighbouring Kanpur Dehat district. The Kanpur police have traced a 30-year-old woman whose disappearance led to her two brothers being jailed for the past few months on kidnapping charges, officers said on Monday. The woman, along with her three minor children, had been "missing" since May last year, they added. She claimed to the police that she fled home with her 3 minor children to escape "frequent harassment" by husband and was "unaware of her brothers' arrest."

On Tuesday, the police received information about the woman, Rekha also known as Rakhi Devi, being spotted in the Rania area of the neighbouring Kanpur Dehat district. A police team reached the location. Upon questioning, Rekha revealed that she left home with her three minor children, the youngest being a two-year-old daughter, due to frequent harassment by her husband, Shyam Agnihotri, who she alleged would assault her under the influence of alcohol. Rekha also said that she had been moving from place to place before settling in the Rania area, where she found work at a private factory. She claimed that she had been unaware that her brothers had been jailed over her 'disappearance'. Police have since sent her to a protection home in Kanpur. "The woman was produced in the Kanpur district court on Monday, where her statement was recorded. We will file an application in the court concerned seeking permission for the release of her two brothers who are lodged in jail," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Kanpur, Rajesh Kumar Singh. When she had been untraceable and the police filed a closure report in the kidnapping case, her husband, a farmer, moved high court and filed a habeas



corpus that is still pending. The DCP added that the woman along with her husband would be produced before the High Court where habeas corpus was filed. "If the woman files a complaint against her husband on charges of harassment, we will take action accordingly," said Singh. According to the police, Shyam Agnihotri had filed a missing person's complaint in May last year after his wife and their three children went missing. When she remained untraceable, Agnihotri moved the court, which directed the Kanpur police to file a kidnapping case. The case was filed against Rekha's parents, her two brothers, and three other persons at the Shivrajpur police station in July last year. Following an investigation, the police submitted a final report in June this year, saying that Rekha could not be located. Agnihotri then approached the Allahabad High Court with a habeas corpus petition. In response, the police suspended the initial investigating officer and reopened the case, forming a team to trace Rekha. The police arrested her two brothers — Ashok Dubey and Raju Dubey — in August. The police said they "acted swiftly" after getting a tip-off about her location recently.

## Delhi MCD mayoral elections to be held on November 14, after 7-month delay



GNS News Agency, Nov 7, After nearly a seven-month delay, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will hold the mayoral elections on November 14, the civic body stated Monday. "The adjourned April (2024) meeting of the corporation for the election of Mayor and Dy. Mayor will be held on November 14, 2024 at 2:00 pm," read a notice released by Municipal Secretary Shiva Prasad. Even if the elections are held successfully, the new Mayor and deputy mayor will only have a five-month

tenure as the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act mandates mayoral elections to be held annually in April.

Leader of Opposition in the MCD, BJP's Raja Iqbal Singh, credited his party following the date announcement. "The BJP's struggle has borne fruit. Under BJP's pressure, AAP has allowed the mayoral election on November 14. However, the Dalit community will remember the injustice committed by AAP. For seven months, AAP prevented the Dalit mayor from assuming office," he said. The mayoral posts have been reserved for the Scheduled Caste (SC) category this year. Meanwhile, referring to a letter its convener Arvind Kejriwal had sent to the incumbent Mayor Shelly Oberoi, the AAP said: "As instructed by Arvind Kejriwal, Mayor has given the dates for the elections. AAP has left no stone unturned to take every possible step for the welfare of the Dalit community whereas it was BJP who has deprived the community of their rights".

The AAP had nominated Dev Nagar councillor Mahesh Kumar Khichi and Aman Vihar councillor Ravinder Bhudraj for the posts of mayor and deputy mayor. Meanwhile, the BJP had nominated its Shakurpur councillor Kishan Lal for mayor and Sadatpur councillor Neeta Bisht for deputy mayor.

## 'Drunk' man driving Mercedes-Benz mows down 30-year-old woman in Bengaluru

Dhanush allegedly attempted to flee but the passersby caught him and found that he was under the influence of alcohol. (Special arrangement) Dhanush allegedly attempted to flee but the passersby caught him and found that he was under the influence of alcohol. A 20-year-old man driving a Mercedes-Benz car allegedly under the influence of alcohol ran over a 30-year-old woman in Bengaluru on Saturday, said the police.

The deceased was identified as Sandhya A S, a resident of Basaveshwara Nagar. The police arrested the accused, Dhanush and placed him in judicial custody. He is the son of Parameshwar, who owns the private bus firm L V Travels. After hitting Sandhya, Dhanush allegedly also crashed into a biker named Syed Arbaz, 23, who also sustained injuries. According to police sources, the accident took place around 6.45 pm near the Kengeri Traffic Transit Management Centre. Sandhya was crossing the road when Dhanush, who was driving a Mercedes-Benz AMG GLC43, knocked her down and then hit the bike which Syed Arbaz was riding, said the police.

Dhanush allegedly attempted to flee but the passersby caught him and found that he was under the influence of alcohol. A source said a test showed that he had 177 mg/100 ml of alcohol in his blood against the permissible limit of 30 mg/100 ml. After the accident, Sandhya was taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared her brought dead. Her family members alleged that the Kengeri traffic police were reluctant to register an FIR initially. Speaking to the media, her uncle Umesh said the FIR was registered only on Sunday around 3 am at the R R Nagar police station as the IT system in Kengeri traffic police station was down.

"I got to know about the accident only at 9.15 pm (on Saturday) as the police traced Sandhya through her Aadhaar card. She reached Kengeri by 6.30 pm in a Metro train to visit a shop in which she is a co-owner. We had to find an eyewitness. We requested one Puneeth, who witnessed the accident, to come to the police station, and the police filed the FIR based on his statement," Umesh added. The police filed a case under sections 185 (driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol) of the Motor Vehicles Act and 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 125(a) (endangering personal safety causing hurt) and 281 (rash driving) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Sandhya was married and previously worked as a voice-over artist in radio stations, said the police.

## BJP leader Yamal Vyas appointed chief of Gujarat's 4th Finance Commission

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Senior BJP leader Yamal Vyas has been appointed the chairman of the fourth State Finance Commission of Gujarat. A notification in this regard was issued by the state government. A chartered accountant and company secretary by profession, Vyas is a veteran BJP leader who has functioned in different roles in the party and is currently the chief spokesperson of Gujarat BJP. He was also the member of the third state Finance Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Bharat Garivala between 2011 and 2015.

The notification reads, "In pursuance of the provision of article 243-I, 243-Y of the Constitution of India read with section 226 of the Gujarat Panchayat Act, 1993, the Governor of Gujarat is pleased to constitute the fourth State Finance Commission under the chairmanship Yamal Vyas." The notification added that further orders regarding the detailed terms of reference, the term and condition of appointment of the chairman and the period for which he will hold office will be issued hereafter. Party sources termed the appointment as a 'well deserved one' for Vyas, while adding that it will suit his interest and expertise. Following his appointment, Vyas is likely to resign from the post of chief spokesperson of Gujarat BJP on Tuesday.



## Court directs Enforcement Directorate to provide 'unrelied' documents to accused



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

A Delhi court on Monday directed the Enforcement Directorate to supply the digitised records of the remaining "unrelied documents" (those which are not used by the prosecution to support their case) to the people accused in the money laundering case linked to the alleged excise policy "scam". Delhi's former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, AAP leaders Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh and BRS legislator K Kavitha are some of the accused in the case. "As regards to supply of remaining un-inspected devices/documents, Ld. SPPs for ED inform upon query of the court that some more time is required for supplying the copy of digitized record/soft copies of remaining unrelied upon documents/devices to the accused in terms of order dated 09.10.2024," noted the order of Special Judge Kaveri Baweja. The judge had earlier asked the Central probe agency to supply the unrelied documents to the accused. The matter is now listed on November 13.



## No cash, 'ordinary phone': How JNU student escaped being robbed at gunpoint



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

JNUThe victim, a JNU student, was returning to JNU from a friend's place in Jangpura in an autorickshaw on the intervening night of October 20 and 21 when, near Adhchini Red light on Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg around 2:30 am, three unidentified men approached on a bike asking for directions towards Mehrauli, said Surendra Choudhary, DCP South West, Monday. A female student survived an alleged robbery bid at gunpoint by three "intoxicated" delivery agents as she was carrying no cash and only had an "ordinary phone". Police said the accused, who were arrested Saturday, even resorted to frisking the woman and eventually left her alone as they could not find anything valuable. The three accused, identified as Anil (22), Saurabh (23) and Salman (27), were arrested under charges of attempt to robbery. The victim, a JNU student, was returning to JNU from a friend's place in Jangpura in an autorickshaw on the intervening night of October 20 and 21 when, near Adhchini Red light on Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg around 2:30 am, three unidentified men approached on a bike asking for directions towards Mehrauli, said

Surendra Choudhary, DCP South West, Monday. "While the auto driver slowed down to reply, the bike halted in the front, restricting its way. One of the men, armed with a country-made pistol, got off the bike and threatened the auto driver saying 'they didn't want anything from him'," her complaint stated. Meanwhile, the masked assailant allegedly forced his way inside the back seat of the auto where the victim was seated and started demanding money. "When I repeatedly told him that I wasn't carrying any cash, the accused allegedly frisked me for any valuables. When I pleaded to let me go as I had nothing valuable, the assailant asked for my phone pointing the gun at me. I somehow convinced him that it was a cheap phone. He asked the auto driver to leave saying that 'she has nothing'," the complaint read. The victim said she "took a few days to recover" from the traumatising incident and recorded her police statement only on October 24. A case was registered at the Kishangarh police station and an investigation was launched. Police examined the route taken by the victim's auto on the night of the incident with the help of CCTV footage and identified the bike. This led them to the owner of the vehicle and subsequently, the three accused were arrested on November 2, police said. During questioning, the accused admitted to the crime and claimed they were intoxicated. "They revealed that they went to eat paranthas in Safdarjung Enclave from their workplace in Ghitorni but near Adhchini Red light they saw an auto and stopped to rob the female passenger of cash. However, no cash was found on her. They claimed that they didn't rob anything from her and ran away from the spot," DCP Choudhary said. The accused also revealed that Salman allegedly carried an illegal firearm on the night of the incident, the officer said, adding that a black Apache used in the crime was recovered from them.

## 'New Noida': Authority discusses project framework at first meeting

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

UP governmentTo facilitate project operations, the CEO also directed to set up a temporary office along the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, which runs from Sonipat to Palwal and passes through Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida and Faridabad. Weeks after the UP government approved the Dadri-Noida-Ghaziabad Investment Region (DNGIR) Master Plan 2041, authorities have set the ball rolling for the New Noida project, with its first meeting held Monday. Steps to finalise a development framework and launch the project were outlined at the meeting chaired by Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M and attended by other senior officials. Any new construction in the designated area after the master plan's approval on October 18 will be considered illegal and action will be taken against those violating it, said Lokesh. "Preparations for aerial photography and surveys for the first phase are expected to begin soon, providing essential data to inform the project's early stages," the CEO said. The meeting also focussed on ways to handle critical tasks such as drafting land acquisition proposals for the initial phase, identifying priority projects, and overseeing planning and execution.

To facilitate project operations, the CEO also directed to set up a temporary office along the Eastern Peripheral Expressway, which runs from Sonipat to Palwal and passes through Baghpat, Ghaziabad, Greater Noida and Faridabad, where land records and civil department per-



sonnel will manage field activities. "We have also made a request for additional government staff for timely execution of the project," Lokesh said. Last month, the Noida Authority Board instructed officials to start the land acquisition process for DNGIR. The authority has allocated around Rs 1,000 crore for initial land acquisition. Of the total land for the project, 40% is designated for industries, 13% for residential development, and 18% for green areas and recreational spaces. The new city has been designed to accommodate around 6 lakh residents and will comprise commercial zones covering 4% of the total area and institutional areas spanning over 8%. The New Noida area includes 80 villages across Gautam Buddha Nagar and Bulandshahr districts. Its development has been planned in four phases and is to be completed by 2041.

## National Clean Air programme: Delhi among bottom 5 cities, only 32% of funds used



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Delhi is among the bottom five cities in terms of fund expenditure under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) — 68% of its funds are unutilised. Among NCR cities, Faridabad lagged with an expenditure of 39%, Ghaziabad utilised 89%, and Noida recorded the least utilisation at 11%. The NCAP's target is to cut particulate matter pollution (PM 10) by 40% by 2025-26 or meet National Ambient Air Quality standards. However, a recent submission by the Environment Ministry to the National Green Tribunal revealed gaps in the implementation of the programme which include under-utilisation of NCAP funds, lack of completion of source apportionment studies, and poor performance in meeting NCAP targets.

Out of the 19 cities covered under the NCAP, only five cities have so far met annual air pollution reduction targets. With the air quality deteriorating this time of the

year, the performance of various cities under the programme becomes crucial. Among the cities, Delhi used Rs 13.56 crore of the Rs 42.69 crore allocated for procurement of 14 mechanical road sweepers, 28 water sprinklers or anti-smog machines, and two pothole repair machines. However, machine procurements have not been completed yet, the ministry said. A source apportionment study for Delhi reveals that 17.5-30.6% of PM 10 levels are from soil, road dust and construction activities whereas 12-37% are from coal and fly ash.

The top five cities in terms of utilisation were Amritsar at 99%, Jhansi at 98%, Pune at 96%, Jharkhand at 94% and Navi Mumbai at 92%. Amritsar has shown a 38% improvement in PM 10 levels compared to the base year (2017). In Navi Mumbai, however, PM 10 levels have worsened by 11%. The 19 cities identified are non-attainment cities (NACs), selected upon failure to meet national air quality standards consecutively for five years between 2011 and 2015. Out of these, eight cities still have to complete source apportionment studies to assess the contribution of various pollution sources — these include NCR cities of Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad and Amritsar and Khurja. According to the source apportionment studies in the rest of the NACs, road dust, vehicular emissions and the industry sector emerged as major contributors. To combat this, cities have used the NCAP funds mainly for road dust control — procurement of anti-smog guns, water sprinklers, end-to-end paving of roads, construction and demolition waste collection centres, and development of green spaces, parks, playgrounds — as per the Ministry.

## Salman Khan gets another death threat, told to 'apologise or pay Rs 5 cr'

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Mumbai: Bollywood actor Salman Khan has received another threat, a police official said on Tuesday, adding the person who threatened the actor has demanded Rs 5 crore from him. The threat message was received on the Mumbai traffic police helpline and an officer read it around midnight, the official said. The person who sent the message claimed he is brother of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, the police official said. "If Salman Khan wants to stay alive, he should go to our (Bishnoi community) temple and apologise or pay Rs 5 crore. If he does not do so, we will kill him; our gang is still active," the message said. Police are probing the origin of the threat message and have beefed up security measures for Salman Khan, sources said, adding police are also



checking if the message is linked to Lawrence Bishnoi, who is in jail on various charges, including attempted murder and extortion.

## 'Accused can't be behind bars indefinitely': Delhi HC grants bail to man jailed for cop's death during Northeast Delhi riots



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Delhi riotsArguing for bail, Wasim relied on CCTV footage and submitted that he was not part of the mob and had only come out of his home to check on his brother as the mob was allegedly gathered at the site, near his residence. Emphasising that an accused cannot be made to languish behind bars for an "indefinite period", the Delhi High Court Monday granted bail to a man who was arrested in 2022 for allegedly murdering a head constable during the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots.

"... it is the duty of the judicial pillars of this country that an accused is not unnecessarily deprived of his personal liberty as enshrined under Article 21... Undoubtedly, bail is a rule and jail is an exception, therefore, it is imperative to state that in case a court finds sufficient grounds to enlarge an accused on bail, it must exercise

its powers discretionarily and uphold the ends of justice to an accused languishing in jail while ensuring the proper enforcement of procedural law as envisaged in the provision... (the accused) cannot be made to languish behind the bars for an indefinite period," stated the court of Justice Chandra Dhari Singh as it granted relief to the accused, Mohd Wasim alias Bablu (35), who has been in custody for more than 25 months. Arguing for bail, Wasim relied on CCTV footage and submitted that he was not part of the mob and had only come out of his home to check on his brother as the mob was allegedly gathered at the site, near his residence. He was arraigned as an accused merely based on the statement of a police officer, he added. Wasim also cited "grounds of parity", highlighting that 20 of the 28 accused in the case were already out on bail. Riots had erupted on February 24, 2020, on the 25-foot service road near Chand Bagh on Wazirabad Road. An FIR alleged that "furious protesters", with an intention to kill police personnel on duty, started pelting stones at officers. Following the attack, head constable Ratan Lal sustained grievous injuries and died subsequently. The FIR alleged Wasim attacked officers by throwing petrol bombs, which led to Lal's demise. However, the HC relied on a prior judgment by the Supreme Court, which observed that a mere finding that a person was present would not be sufficient to prove that the accused acted with a common intention to cause communal violence unless it is supported by credible evidence. Justice Singh ruled that the said "principle is crucial".

## Ex-MLC Trilochan Wazir's murder case: Delhi HC directs surrender of Sikh leader

GNS News Agency, Nov 7, The Delhi High Court Monday directed the surrender of Sikh leader and former president of the Jammu and Kashmir State Gurdwara Parbandhak Board, Sudershan Singh Wazir, in connection with the murder of former National Conference MLC Trilochan Singh Wazir in September 2021. Trilochan (67) was found dead with a gunshot wound in a flat in Delhi in September 2021. He had come to Delhi from Jammu to stay at a friend's place in West Delhi's Basai Darapur and was set to leave for Canada and meet his wife and children. In 2023, Sudershan was among three people arrested by the Delhi Police in connection with the case. He was discharged for murder and other offences, along with three other accused, in the case by the Tis Hazari court on October 20 of the same year. The next day, the Delhi HC had stayed the district court's verdict. While three other accused who were discharged by the district court — Harpreet Singh Khalsa, Rajender Chaudhary and Balbir Singh — were still in judicial custody at the time when the district court's verdict was stayed, Sudershan had already been released on the night of October 20, 2023. The latest direction came in an application filed by the Delhi government under CrPC Section 390, which deals with the arrest of the accused in an appeal from acquittal, seeking the court's directions for Sudershan's surrender. Sudershan's counsel, senior advocate Mohit Mathur, argued that a stay of the operation of the district court's order would have a prospective effect and, thus, actions that have already been taken pursuant to the district court's order cannot be reversed. It was also argued that discharge stands at a higher pedestal than acquittal as the discharge was based on non-sufficiency of material. The State, on the other hand, countered that Sudershan cannot be treated differently from the other three accused who were discharged but did not avail of the benefit of being released. Directing Sudershan's surrender, the court of Justice Anish Dayal reasoned, "In the opinion of this court, there can never be a situation where the court, in its discretion, would not take steps to rectify this situation and would not correct it, to ensure that, in effect, its orders are both judicially and



practically implemented... It is quite clear that by staying the operation of the impugned order, the court intended to ensure that consequential action under the discharge order is not taken. This is in context of the urgent mentioning by the State, immediately after the impugned order was passed and the urgent hearing before the Court... his release pursuant to discharge order, operation of which is stayed, needs to be reversed as a first step. Otherwise having stayed the discharge orders, it would revive the status of respondents as accused, and at least in the interim, they would have to be restored to judicial custody. This would apply to all the respondents."

"Contention of (Sudershan), that stay does not operate upon him since he was released, would mean that discharge order is final, binding, and effective, and the stay order of this Court, is not... The discharge itself, is therefore under the judicial scanner of this Court and stage of filtering evidence has not been reached... Present situation, therefore, is not akin to an acquittal... considering the stay order dated 21st October 2023 passed by this Court, (Sudershan) continuing to avail the benefits of the impugned discharge order (of the trial court), would be illegal, invalid, and infirm," the court concluded.

## Liquor, gold and cash worth Rs 16.34 crore seized since announcement of polls, says Pune collector

GNS News Agency, Nov 7, PuneOn the last day of withdrawing nominations for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, Vinayak Sopan Ovhal, a man with visual impairment, tried to set afire the vehicle of Anil Pawar, returning officer of Chinchwad assembly constituency. Ovhal filed his nomination as an independent candidate from the Chinchwad constituency. Ever since the Model Code of Conduct came into effect following the announcement of the schedule for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, gold, cash and liquor, collectively amounting to Rs 16.34 crores, has been seized in Pune district, said District Collector Suhas Diwase.

While addressing the media in Pune on Monday, Diwase said the highest seizure was reported from the assembly constituencies of Khadakwasla, Shirur and Bhosari. Giving a breakup of all that has been seized, Diwase said liquor worth Rs 3.05 crores, precious metal worth Rs 1.04 crores and Rs 9.01 crore cash has been seized in the district. Shirur is the only assembly constituency which has reported seizure of precious metal in the district. Ambegaon has by far



reported the lowest seizure in terms of cash, liquor and other freebies, with the total seizure valued at Rs 4.35 lakh.

The total volume of liquor seized so far is 4.35 lakh litres. Diwase also said as of November 1, the total number of registered voters in the district stood at 88.49 lakh. At 6.63 lakh, Chinchwad has the largest number of registered voters, followed by Hadapsar (6.25 lakh) and Bhosari (6.08 lakh). Kasba has the lowest number of voters in the entire district at 2.83 lakh. Pune has 1,957 overseas voters, an increase from 1,765 such

voters reported in January this year. A total of 805 transgender are also on the electoral rolls in Pune. A total of 8,462 polling booths would be set up for the convenience of voters. Diwase said a total of 22 complaints have been filed for violation of Model Code of Conduct, of which only two are pending for completion. Visually challenged candidate tries to set RO's vehicle on fire

On the last day of withdrawing nominations for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, Vinayak Sopan Ovhal, a man with visual impairment, tried to set afire the vehicle of Anil Pawar,

returning officer of Chinchwad assembly constituency. Ovhal filed his nomination as an independent candidate from the Chinchwad constituency.

Police officers said Ovhal's attempt was not related to the elections. Ovhal had submitted multiple applications to the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation for a house under the Ramai Awasi Yogana but had not been able to get any response. Ovhal had earlier broken the glass of the Municipal Corporation earlier this year. The police had booked him under relevant sections.



## Kharge flags reserved vacancies in Central varsities, Pradhan hits back with UPA figures



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Mallikarjun Kharge accusing the government of "snatching away the rights of reservation of teachers" in Central universities, Kharge said that "out of the sanctioned 18,940 teaching posts in 46 Central universities, 27% are vacant". Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday targeted the government for "snatching away reservation rights" of Central university teachers, to which Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that the "Congress party is in the habit of lying".

Kharge said that 27 per cent of the teaching posts in 46 Central universities are lying vacant. Pradhan countered Kharge's claim saying that "in 2024 as compared to 2014, the total number of vacant posts has decreased from 37% to 26.8% today". Accusing the government of "snatching away the rights of reservation of teachers" in Central universities, Kharge said that "out of the sanctioned 18,940 teaching posts in 46 Central universities, 27% are vacant". Citing an RTI response, he said: "More than 38% of SC, ST, OBC reserved posts are lying vacant... SC: 32.1% vacant; ST: 40.3% vacant, OBC: 41.8% vacant," said Kharge in a post on X. Countering Kharge, Pradhan said: "...the truth is crystal clear. In 2014, during the Congress UPA government, there were 16,217 sanctioned posts in Central universities out of which 6,042 posts, i.e. 37% posts, were vacant. 57%, 63% and 60% posts of SC, ST and OBC were vacant... The Modi government is rapidly filling all these posts by taking every section along. This is the reason that despite the increase in the number of sanctioned posts (18,940) in 2024 as compared to 2014, the total number of vacant posts has decreased from 37% to 26.8% today," said the Union minister in a post on X, replying to Kharge.

## Romila Thapar resisted 'distortion' of history: Kerala CM lauds PG National Award recipient

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Romila Thapar Professor Thapar is a renowned historian, known for her research on ancient Indian history. She has been writing books on the social and cultural history of early India since the 1960s. Historian Romila Thapar was honoured with PG National Award 2024 for her contribution to the field of ancient Indian history, in New Delhi on Monday. Speaking at the award function, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said Thapar has been an ardent critic of "distortion" of history for "communal" ends.

"It is because of her fearless criticism of the Sangh Parivar, especially their political interventions in history and education that she is severely disliked by them," Vijayan said. He later said that the Sangh's "dislike" for Thapar was mainly because she distinguished between Hindutva, the political ideology, and Hinduism, the religion in her work. Secondly, "she is a fierce critic of the colonial segmentation of the study of Indian history into Hindu, Islamic and British periods", he said. Third, she "disagrees with the view that the origin of Hindus can be traced back to the Aryans and the Indus Valley Civilisation," he said, adding India's history should be preserved by historians who oppose such attempts to "saffronise" history. Vijayan applauded Thapar for "coming out openly against"... "attempts to rewrite history". The PG award is a tribute to Marxist philosopher and writer P Govinda Pillai who died in 2012. The award was pre-



sented by PG Sanskriti Kendra, which was established in 2019. In 2023, writer and social activist Arundhati Roy was the recipient of the award for her contribution to the field of writing and advocacy. Advocate Prashant Bhushan and journalist N Ram were also honoured with the PG National Award in the past. Professor

Thapar is a renowned historian, known for her research on ancient Indian history. She has been writing books on the social and cultural history of early India since the 1960s. Thapar was born in 1931. She graduated from Panjab University and finished her PhD from the University of London. Thapar taught ancient Indian history in Delhi University and Jawaharlal Nehru University. She retired from JNU in 1991.

## Chikungunya outbreak in Bengal's Malda village, 24 test +ve

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Chikungunya Chikungunya symptoms include fever, joint pain, rash, and foot swelling. The health department has conducted medical camps and provided training to vector control teams. Weeks after a mystery fever gripped a village in Malda district, the health authorities have now confirmed it to be an outbreak of chikungunya. At least 24 people from Kalaibari village in Habibpur block of Malda district have tested positive for the virus, which is carried by mosquitoes.

"Blood samples were collected from residents of Kalaibari village last Monday. The samples were sent to Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital for testing. Initially, 16 people and then eight more people have tested positive for chikungunya. There is no need to panic. Emphasis is being given on awareness and cleanliness," District Chief Health Officer Sudipta Bhaduri said. Following the outbreak of fever, a medical team from Malda was sent to the village for blood sample collection. "Many villagers bring fever and joint pain from other states before the Puja. During the sample survey, mosquito breeding sites were found in every house of the village, leading to further spread," said a health offi-



cial. The district administration and health department are actively working together to control the outbreak. Meanwhile, health officials are urging villagers to practice preventive measures and maintain cleanliness. Chikungunya symptoms include fever, joint pain, rash, and foot swelling. The health department has conducted medical camps and provided training to vector control teams.

## Football clubs endorse TMC Naihati bypoll candidate, BJP demands probe



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

TMCThe TMC, on the other hand, posted, "Our candidate Sanat Dey's love for football is known to everyone in Naihati. Be it Mohun Bagan, East Bengal or Mohammedan Sporting Club, his immense contribution towards maintaining a healthy sporting culture in Naihati is appreciated by them all." With three major football clubs of Kolkata — Mohun Bagan, East Bengal or Mohammedan Sporting Club — endorsing TMC candidate Sanat Dey in the upcoming bypoll at Naihati Assembly constituency, the Opposition BJP has asked the Union Sports Ministry to order an enquiry and "take appropriate action for the violation of code of conduct".

Leader of Opposition and BJP leader, Suwendu Adhikari, posted on X, "In an unprecedented and unethical move, some top officials of football and sporting clubs like Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting have endorsed TMC candidate Sanat Dey for the upcoming Assembly by-elections in Naihati. I believe that such brazen political endorsement by people holding

important administrative positions in sporting clubs and governing bodies is an unfair tactic to associate the clubs' and governing body's name with the candidate, which is outright unsportsmanlike and also in violation of the code of conduct for such sporting institutions." "I have written to Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandviya requesting him to kindly take cognizance of the matter, conduct an enquiry and take appropriate action for the violation of the code of conduct," he added. The TMC, on the other hand, posted, "Our candidate Sanat Dey's love for football is known to everyone in Naihati. Be it Mohun Bagan, East Bengal or Mohammedan Sporting Club, his immense contribution towards maintaining a healthy sporting culture in Naihati is appreciated by them all."

## Newborn babies handed over to wrong parents in Jagtial hospital

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Jagtial: Negligence of the staff at the Mother and Child Health Centre here came to light after two newborn babies were handed over to the wrong parents. A native of Mangela of Beerpur mandal, Prasanna had approached the MCHC for delivery. On Monday, doctors performed two deliveries, including that of Prasanna and another woman. However, without crosschecking the tags fixed to the babies after delivery, the staff had handed over babies to the wrong family members.

## Kolkata rape-murder: 80 outfits join hands to keep 'flame of protests alive', seek answers from CBI



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

CBIKinjal Nanda, one of the agitating doctors, said: "It has been three months and only one person was arrested. Going by the nature of the crime, involvement of more than one person could easily be understood. What is the CBI doing? Why are they not taking the matter seriously? Three months after the rape and murder of a young trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, over 80 organisations have come together to form 'Abhaya Manch' with an aim to keep "the flame of protests alive" until the CBI investigation into the case reaches a swift and conclusive end. The Abhaya Manch

will involve representatives from various medical colleges, civil society, and the general public. The platform's slogan is — "Droher Alo Jwalo" (lit up the lamp of protests). On Monday, civil society organisations staged a rally from Karunamoyee Crossing to the CBI's office in CGO Complex in Salt Lake demanding that the agency quicken its probe into the RG Kar rape-murder case. "It's almost three months since the incident happened. What is the CBI doing? There is no clarity in its investigation. We want the CBI to complete its investigation as soon as possible," said Lipika Chakraborty, a school teacher, who participated in the march. BJP state unit Sukanta Majumdar said, "The CBI is investigating the case though the police are not cooperating with it. We must be patient," he said. Senior TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said Kolkata Police arrested the accused within 24 hours after the crime was discovered. "The CBI has also mentioned him as the sole prime accused in its charge sheet. So, when an investigation is on, it is not appropriate to comment," said Ghosh, a former Rajya Sabha MP. Meanwhile, Kinjal Nanda, one of the agitating doctors, said: "It has been three months and only one person was arrested. Going by the nature of the crime, involvement of more than one person could easily be understood. What is the CBI doing? Why are they not taking the matter seriously?"

## Winter session of Assembly from November 25, RG Kar likely to raise heat

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Winter session While the official schedule of the session has not been finalised, insiders suggested that the ruling TMC plans to bring a resolution condemning the Union government for allegedly withholding funds meant for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The winter session of the West Bengal Assembly is expected to begin on November 25 and may last for about 10 days, sources said. The upcoming session is expected to be stormy, with several contentious issues, including the RG Kar rape-murder incident, likely to be discussed. The incident sparked large-scale protests both in West Bengal as well as across India.

While the official schedule of the session has not been finalised, insiders suggested that the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) plans to bring a resolution condemning the Union government for allegedly withholding funds meant for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). "The winter session is likely to begin on November 25, but the agenda is still being decided," Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee told PTI. According to TMC sources, the government is likely to introduce a resolution criticising the central government for failing to release funds under PMAY, which in West Bengal operates as the Banglar Awas Yojana. The scheme aims to provide housing assistance to the rural poor. Recently, protests have erupted across West Bengal over alleged



exclusions of beneficiaries under the Banglar Awas Yojana.

The state is currently conducting a field survey for around 11 lakh potential beneficiaries who were initially approved to receive financial support for house construction. Villagers have been protesting in several districts, including Purulia, Birbhum, Paschim Medinipur and South 24 Parganas, particularly outside Block Development Offices (BDOs). Many of them alleged that local TMC leaders have deliberately removed their names from the list of beneficiaries. Under PMAY, beneficiaries in plain areas get a subsidy of Rs 1.2 lakh, while those in hilly or tribal regions receive Rs 1.3 lakhs.

## Punjab and Haryana High Court notice to Jindal law school for failing student over 'AI-generated' answer sheet

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

AI The petition was filed by Kaustubh Shakkwarwar, a practising lawyer currently pursuing a Master of Laws (LLM) in Intellectual Property and Technology Laws at Jindal Global Law School. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has issued a notice to Jindal Global Law School, O.P. Jindal Global University, in response to a petition filed by an LLM student seeking to quash a university committee's decision that declared his answer sheet as "AI-generated."

The petition was filed by Kaustubh Shakkwarwar, a practising lawyer currently pursuing a Master of Laws (LLM) in Intellectual Property and Technology Laws at Jindal Global Law School. Shakkwarwar appeared for his first-term examinations on May 18 and submitted answers for the end-term exam in the subject 'Law and Justice in the Globalizing World.' However, the university's Unfair Means Committee later accused him of submitting "88% AI-generated" responses and declared him 'fail' in the



subject on June 25. In his petition, Shakkwarwar argued that the university has not explicitly stated that the use of AI constitutes 'plagiarism,' and therefore, he should not be penalised for something not explicitly prohibited. He also contended that his submission was his own work and requested the university to provide a specific rule prohibiting the use of AI. He claimed the university failed to supply any such document.

## Delhi's AQI 'very poor' for sixth day in a row, several hotspots in the red



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Delhi's air quality remained in the 'very poor' category for the sixth consecutive day Monday with the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 381. The Capital had the second worst air quality, only behind Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar city that recorded an AQI of 417. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), a majority of the pollution hotspots in Delhi re-

mained in the 'severe' category throughout the day. Prevailing unfavourable meteorological conditions of low wind speeds (4-6 kmph) in the day and calm winds at night kept the AQI levels hovering near the 'severe' category for the last two days.

The particulate matter pollution was three times higher than the national prescribed standard in the city. Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai claimed that 88 per cent of pollution-related complaints registered on the Green Delhi App have been resolved. A total of 81,418 complaints have been filed through the app, of which over 71,558 have been resolved. He will hold a departmental review meeting Tuesday, he added. According to the Decision Support System, developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), stubble-burning contribution to particulate matter pollution was the highest at 20 per cent, followed by the transport sector at 11 per cent Sunday. IMD officials, meanwhile, said smog or mist conditions will likely prevail in the coming days. The maximum and minimum temperatures slightly fell to 32.1 degrees Celsius and 16.6 degrees Celsius, respectively.

## Student falls ill while playing baseball, dies during treatment in Nirmal

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Nirmal: A student, who fell sick while playing baseball, died while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Nirmal on Tuesday. Sources said Fayaz Hussain, studying Class IX at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule BC Residential School in Nirmal district headquarters, had fell sick when he was playing baseball. He was immediately rushed to

a hospital in the town. He breathed his last while undergoing treatment. Meanwhile, parents and family members staged a dharna demanding action against the officials of the school, holding them responsible for the death of the student. They alleged that Hussain died due to negligence of the principal and teachers of the institution. They wanted a probe into the incident.



## Head of Myanmar's military government Gen. Min Aung Hlaing visits China for first time since taking power



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Myanmar military leader Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing (front right), shakes hands with a military officer while members of the State Administration Council including deputy leader Vice-Senior Gen. Soe Win (far right) see off his departure to China at airport in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. Myanmar military leader Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing (front right), shakes hands with a military officer while members of the State Administration Council including deputy leader Vice-Senior Gen. Soe Win (far right) see off his departure to China at airport in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. The head of Myanmar's military government Gen. Min Aung Hlaing embarked, on Tuesday (November 5, 2024), on an official visit to China, the embattled Southeast Asian nation's most important international ally, for several regional meetings. It is the first time Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing has travelled to the neighbouring country since his Army seized power in February 2021 from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Myanmar's Army suffered unprecedented battlefield defeats over the past year, especially in areas near the Chinese border. Both Myanmar's ruling generals and China's government have shown concern as pro-democracy guerrillas and armed ethnic minority groups, sometimes working hand in hand, have taken the initiative in their fight against military rule. But Beijing is now concerned about instability that threatens its strategic and business interests in Myanmar. China's government has maintained good working relations with Myanmar's ruling military, which is shunned and sanctioned by many Western nations for the Army takeover and for major human rights violations. State-run MRTV television said that Min Aung Hlaing departed on a flight from the capital, Naypyitaw, on Tuesday morning (November 5, 2024) to begin his visit.

He will visit the Chinese city of Kunming on Wednesday and Thursday (November 6 and 7, 2024) to attend three summits: The Greater Mekong Subregion, the Ayeeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy and the Cambodia-Laos-Myanmar-Vietnam Cooperation. Kunming, the capital of China's Yunnan

province, is about 400 km (250 miles) from the border with Myanmar. The report said he will also have "meetings with Chinese government officials to discuss ways to enhance goodwill, economic and various sectors between the two governments and the people." China, along with Russia, is a major arms supplier to Myanmar's military in its war against resistance forces. Beijing is also Myanmar's biggest trading partner and has invested billions of dollars in its mines, oil and gas pipelines, and other infrastructure. Russia is the only other foreign destination to which Min Aung Hlaing is known to have travelled since taking power, aside from his attendance at an April 2021 summit meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta. His government's unwillingness to cooperate in efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution of his country's conflict led to him and other top Myanmar government officials being disinclined from ASEAN summits since then. Myanmar's pro-democracy Opposition has expressed concern about China welcoming a visit by Min Aung Hlaing. Kyaw Zaw, a spokesperson for the Opposition National Unity Government, said in a recorded video posted on Facebook before the official announcement of the trip that he was deeply concerned about China's invitation to Min Aung Hlaing and urged the Chinese government to review its action. "Myanmar's people want stability, peace and economic growth. It is Min Aung Hlaing and his group who are destroying these things," Kyaw Zaw said. "I am concerned that it will unintentionally incite a misunderstanding of the Chinese government among Myanmar's public." The shadow National Unity Government was established by elected lawmakers barred from taking their seats in 2021 and is closely linked to Suu Kyi's former ruling National League for Democracy party, which had friendly relations with Beijing. Although China is scorned by many for backing the Army, the shadow government tries to avoid antagonising Beijing too much, recognising the influence it has in the region. Myanmar's Army has been on the defensive since late last year when ethnic armed organisations dealt it major defeats in the country's northeast. The offensive by the "Three Brotherhood Alliance," comprising the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, the Arakan Army and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, was able to quickly capture towns and overrun military bases and command centres and strategic cities along the Chinese border in northeastern Shan state. It was widely seen at the time as having Beijing's tacit support to help stamp out rampant organised crime activities in the area controlled by ethnic Chinese. Beijing helped broker a cease-fire in January, but that fell apart in June when the ethnic rebel forces launched new attacks. China was displeased with the ongoing warfare, shutting down border crossings, cutting electricity to Myanmar towns and taking other measures to discourage the fighting.

## Indonesia to evacuate 16,000 people after Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki eruption

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

The Indonesian government aims to evacuate at least 16,000 residents from villages around the active Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki volcano that erupted and killed nine people and damaged thousands of houses, an official said on Tuesday (November 5, 2024). Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki, located on Flores Island in East Nusa Tenggara province, erupted on Sunday (November 3, 2024) night, followed by a smaller eruption on Monday (November 4, 2024) night, and remains on Indonesia's highest volcanic alert status. Evacuations were being hampered by thick volcanic ash on some roads, an official said. As of Tuesday (November 5, 2024) morning, about 2,472 of the 16,086 residents from eight villages had been evacuated, Heronimus Lamawuran, spokesperson of East Flores regional government told Reuters. "We plan to temporarily evacuate the residents until it's safe for them to return to their villages," he said. The residents were taken to three school buildings and temporary shelters at other villages around 20 km (12 miles) from the crater, Heronimus added. "We deployed more trucks along with military and police personnel to help evacuations on Tues-



day," he said. Authorities have revised the death toll down to nine from 10, with 63 injured and about 2,384 houses and at least 25 schools were damaged. The local government has declared a state of emergency for the next 58 days, meaning the central government could help provide aid to the residents. Four small airports in Flores Island have been closed due to the eruption. Indonesia straddles the so-called "Pacific Ring of Fire," an area of high seismic activity where multiple tectonic plates meet.

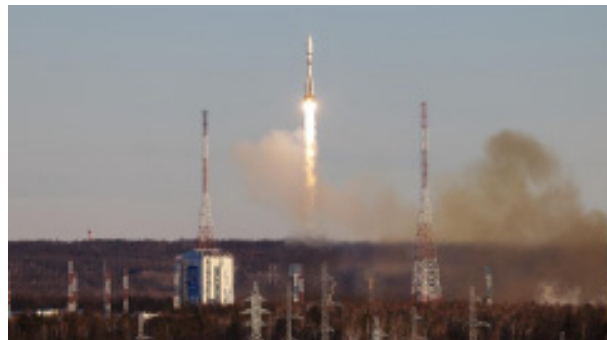
## Russian rocket launches Iranian satellites into orbit as Moscow and Tehran expand ties

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

A Russian rocket on Tuesday (November 5, 2024) blasted off successfully to carry a pair of Iranian satellites into orbit, a launch that reflected growing cooperation between Moscow and Tehran. The Soyuz rocket lifted off as scheduled from Vostochny launchpad in far eastern Russia and put its payload into a designated orbit nine minutes after the launch. It was carrying two Russian Ionosphere-M Earth observation satellites and several dozen smaller satellites, including the two Iranian ones.

Iran's two satellites, named Kowsar and Hodhod, were the first launched on behalf of the country's private sector. In 2022, a Russian rocket launched an Iranian Earth observation satellite called Khayyam that was built in Russia on Tehran's order, and in February Russia put another Iranian satellite named Pars-1 into orbit. Tuesday's (November 5, 2024) launch comes as Russia and Iran have expanded ties in various spheres. Ukraine and the West have accused Tehran of providing Moscow with hundreds of exploding drones for use on the battlefield in Ukraine and helped launch their production in Russia. The Iranian drone deliveries, which Moscow and Tehran have denied, have allowed for a constant barrage of long-range drone strikes at Ukraine's infrastructure.

Moscow and Tehran are planning to further bolster their ties with a "comprehensive strategic partnership" that is set to be signed during Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's planned visit to Russia. The date for that visit hasn't been set yet, but the Kremlin said it could happen soon. Tuesday's (November 5, 2024) successful launch of the Iranian satellites atop a Russian rocket follows a series of failed launches suffered by Iran's civilian space program in recent years. There have been five failed launches in a row for the Simorgh program, a satellite-carrying rocket. A fire at the Imam Khomeini Spaceport in February 2019 killed three researchers, authorities said at the time. A launchpad rocket explosion later that year drew the attention of then-President Donald Trump, who taunted Iran with a tweet showing what appeared to be a U.S. surveillance photo of the site. At the same time, a separate Iranian space program run by the



Successful Russian rocket launch carries Iranian satellites, showcasing growing Moscow-Tehran cooperation in space exploration

country's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard has seen successful launches from a military base outside of Shahroud, some 350 km (215 miles) east of the capital, Tehran. However, satellite images analysed by The Associated Press show Israel likely bombed the site during its October 26 retaliatory strike on Iran. The U.S. intelligence community's worldwide threat assessment this year said Iran's development of satellite launch vehicles "would shorten the timeline" for Iran to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile because it uses similar technology.

Intercontinental ballistic missiles can be used to deliver nuclear weapons. Iran is now producing uranium close to weapons-grade levels after the collapse of its nuclear deal with world powers. Tehran has enough enriched uranium for "several" nuclear weapons, if it chooses to produce them, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency has warned. Iran has always denied seeking nuclear weapons and says its space program, like its nuclear activities, is for purely civilian purposes. However, U.S. intelligence agencies and the IAEA say Iran had an organised military nuclear program up until 2003.

## Canadian cop suspended for attending pro-Khalistan protest outside Hindu temple



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

A Canadian police officer has been suspended for participating in a pro-Khalistan protest outside the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton, according to a media report. On Sunday (November 3, 2024), protestors carrying Khalistani flags clashed with people at the Hindu temple and disrupted a consular event co-organised by the temple authorities and the Indian Consulate. There were unverified videos circulating on social media about the protest. The videos appeared to show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan, as reported by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The Peel Police is "aware of a video circulating on social media which shows an off-duty Peel Police officer involved in a demonstration," said Media Relations Officer Richard Chin in an email to CBC News. "This officer has since been sus-

pending in accordance with the Community Safety and Policing Act," he said. "We are investigating the circumstances in totality depicted in the video and are unable to provide further information until such time that this investigation is complete." Peel police previously said three people have been charged after violence erupted at Indian consular officials visited the Hindu Sabha Mandir temple Sunday. Videos circulating on social media show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan, the CBC report added. Later in the day, demonstrators made their way to the Westwood Mall in neighbouring Mississauga, according to the World Sikh Organisation of Canada. A short time after, a third protest was held outside the Malton gurdwara, a Sikh place of worship on Airport Road in Mississauga, the report added. "Although these demonstrations occurred at three different locations, they appear to be related to one another. Several incidents between protestors and worshippers broke out," police said in a news release. India on Monday condemned the attack on the temple with an expectation that those indulging in violence "will be prosecuted". In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that New Delhi remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada. "We condemn the acts of violence perpetrated by extremists and separatists at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton, Ontario. We call on the government of Canada to ensure that all places of worship are protected from such attacks," MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal was quoted as saying in the statement.

## People of Kamala Harris' ancestral village eager to see her win U.S. presidential poll

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

An air of excitement and expectancy pervades the Thulasendrapuram village in Tamil Nadu's Tiruvarur district hoping that Kamala Harris wins in the U.S. presidential elections. The villagers have performed prayers at the Sri Dharma Sashta temple in her ancestral village expecting her to trounce former president and Republican Donald Trump, and emerge victorious as Americans vote today to elect their next president. Thulasendrapuram is the ancestral village of Ms. Harris's grandfather and former Indian diplomat P.V. Gopalan. Her mother Shyamala was Gopalan's daughter. The village hogged the limelight in August 2020 when Ms. Harris was nominated as the Democrat vice-president candidate, and it later celebrated her victory the same year. "Our sincere prayers are for the victory of the daughter of the soil in the election and to become the president of the most influential country in the world," says councillor Arulmozhi and her spouse T Sudhakar, who have organised a special abhishekam of sandalwood and turmeric, besides a special 'archana' to the presiding deity at the Sri Dharma Sashta temple, the family deity of Ms. Harris's ancestors. They have erected a massive banner carrying her picture, wishing her success in the election. A calendar with images of U.S. President Joe Biden and Democratic presidential nominee, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris is hung inside a shop in Thulasendrapuram, the village where Harris' maternal



grandfather was born, in the Southern state of Tamil Nadu | Photo Credit: Reuters Similar prayers filled the air in Madurai where Anushanathin Anugraham, a spiritual organisation, held a special prayer on November 4. If Ms. Harris wins in the poll, then the village leaders in Painganadu in the district will offer 'annadhanam' (free food) to the poor. "Her ancestors are from our village .. she is a woman fighting for the big post and we want her to win," says Arulmozhi. Ms. Harris's maternal grandfather Gopalan was born in this village before moving to Chennai. He had contributed nearly 71 lakh to the Sri Dharma Sashta temple. A donation of 75,000 was made to the temple towards its Kumbhabhishekam (consecration) in the name of Kamala Harris in 2014, indicating her connection to the temple, though no one from her family lives in the village today. Her donation prompted the temple authorities to inscribe her name on a stone tablet containing the list of donors to the shrine.

## Israeli airstrikes kill at least 30 Palestinians in Gaza, medics say

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

CAIRO, - Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 30 Palestinians since Monday night, Palestinian media and medics said on Tuesday, as the Israeli army tightened its siege on northern areas of the enclave. An airstrike damaged two houses in the town of Beit Lahya in northern Gaza, where the army has carried out new operations since Oct. 5, and killed at least 20 people late on Monday, the Palestinian official news agency Wafa and Hamas media said. The Gaza health ministry did not immediately confirm the toll. Four other people were killed in the central Gazan town of Al-Zawayda around midnight on Monday, medics said. Palestinian health officials said six people had also been killed in two separate Israeli airstrikes in Gaza City and Deir Al-Balah in the central area of the narrow enclave. The Israeli military said, without giving details, that its forces had "eliminated terrorists" in the central Gaza Strip and Jabalia area. Israeli troops had also located weapons and explosives over the past day in the southern Rafah area, where "terrorist infrastructure sites" had been eliminated, it said. Palestinians said the new attacks and Israeli orders for people to evacuate were aimed at emptying two northern Gaza towns and a refugee camp to create buffer zones. Israel says its forces have killed hundreds of Palestinian gunmen and dismantled military infrastructure in Jabalia in the past month. Later on Tuesday, Israeli planes dropped leaflets over Beit Lahya ordering residents who have not yet left their homes and shelters housing displaced families to quit the town completely. "To all those who remained at homes and shelters, you are risking your lives. For your



safety you have to head south," said the leaflet, which was written in Arabic.

WEST BANK RAID More than 43,300 Palestinians have been killed in more than a year of war in Gaza, the authorities in Gaza say, and much of the territory has been reduced to ruins. The war began after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages back to Gaza, according to Israeli tallies. In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the Palestinian health ministry said at least four people were killed on Tuesday during an Israeli military raid and airstrikes. Violence has surged in the West Bank since the start of the war in Gaza, with almost daily sweeps by Israeli forces that have involved thousands of arrests and regular gunbattles between security forces and Palestinian fighters.

## Iran's Supreme leader warns Israel and US of 'teeth-breaking response'

Tehran: Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has vowed that Israel and the US would face a "teeth-breaking response" for their actions against Iran and "the resistance front," according to a statement on his official website. Speaking to students in Tehran on Saturday, Khamenei warned that both Israel and its primary supporter, the US, would be punished for their military action against Iran and "resistance groups" in West Asia. Xinhua news agency reported. "The enemies... will undoubtedly receive a teeth-breaking response," he said. He added that Iran was fully prepared with military, political, and logistical measures to counter "global arrogance" — a term Iranian officials use to refer to the US and its allies. Khamenei also urged the Iranian people to fight against the "global arrogance" decisively without hesitation. Referring to recent Israeli strikes on Gaza and Lebanon, Khamenei argued that US support for these attacks

exposed "the hypocrisy of American human rights claims".

The Israel Defence Forces announced last week that it conducted "precise and targeted" airstrikes on targets in Iran in response to recent attacks from the country. Iran's air defence headquarters said it successfully countered the Israeli attacks, which resulted in only "limited damage". Iran and Israel have long been enemies, a rivalry that deepened following Hamas' attacks of October 7 last year and the subsequent Israeli invasion of Gaza. Israel has been battling Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, and overnight at least 19 people were injured in the central Israeli city of Tira after projectiles were launched over the border. Khamenei's remarks come a week after Israel's latest round of strikes on Iran in response to the Islamic Republic's October 1 missile attack on the Jewish state, which itself was a response to the Israeli killing of leaders from Hamas and Hezbollah.



## Bank deposit growth outpaces credit offtake for first time in 30 months

Deposits have remained prominent in FY25 as banks have intensified efforts to strengthen their liability franchise. (Representative/ Express file photo by Praveen Khanna) Deposits have remained prominent in FY25 as banks have intensified efforts to strengthen their liability franchise. (Representative/ Express file photo by Praveen Khanna) For the first time in 30 months, deposit growth in the banking system has outpaced credit growth after it registered a year-on-year growth of 11.8 per cent in the fortnight ended October 18, compared to a rise of 11.7 per cent in loan growth.

The growth in deposits can be attributed to rising term deposit rates of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs). The slowdown in credit growth was due to a higher base effect because of the merger of HDFC Ltd with the HDFC Bank and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) such as higher risk weights for unsecured loans and the proposed LCR (Liquidity Coverage Ratio) norms. In the fortnight ended October 18, bank credit increased to Rs 172.38 lakh crore, compared to Rs 154.57 lakh crore in the year-ago fortnight. In the same period, bank deposits grew to Rs 218.07 lakh crore, as against Rs 195.15 lakh crore in the same fortnight of last year.

"On y-o-y (year-on-year) performance, credit saw a growth of 11.7 per cent (in the fortnight ended October 18, 2024), slower than the last year's rate of 19.7 per cent. Meanwhile, deposits saw a growth of 11.8 per cent, compared to 13.4 per cent last year. Hence credit offtake has moderated relative to deposit growth," according to a report by CareEdge Ratings. When compared to growth rates with December 2023, deposit growth has continued to surpass credit offtake, the report said. Since January 2024, deposits rose to 8.6 per cent as of October 18, 2024. Meanwhile, in absolute terms, deposits have expanded by Rs 17.3 lakh crore over the last 9 months. Deposits have remained prominent in FY25 as banks have intensified efforts to strengthen their liability franchise. Banks are also sourcing funds via the certificates



of deposits (CDs) at a relatively higher cost, the report said.

On a year-to-date basis, credit offtake increased by 8 per cent in the fortnight ended October 18. "Mortgages and MSMEs account for the bulk of this increase. However, the growth slowdown compared to last year can be attributed to a higher base effect due to the merger and RBI measures such as higher risk weights and the proposed LCR norms," CareEdge said. In November last year, the RBI increased risk weights on the exposure of banks towards consumer credit, credit card receivables and non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) by 25 per cent up to 150 per cent. In July this year, the RBI issued a draft guidelines to revise the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) framework. LCR requires banks to maintain High Quality Liquid Assets (HQLAs) to meet 30 days net outgo under stressed conditions. Banks are expected to witness a moderation in their credit growth targets in the run-up to the proposed implementation of revised LCR norms from April 1, 2025, resulting in an improvement (decline) in the CD ratio and increase in liquidity buffers. The credit deposit ratio, which has been hovering around 80 per cent since September 2023, witnessed a marginal uptick reaching 79 per cent for the fortnight ending October 18, 2024, compared to 79.5 per cent in December 2023, the report said.

## Noel Tata joins Tata Sons board

Noel Tata, who will turn 67 later this year, was lucky in the third instance in 2024. After the passing away of Ratan Tata, he was selected as the Chairman of Tata Trusts. Noel Tata, who will turn 67 later this year, was lucky in the third instance in 2024. After the passing away of Ratan Tata, he was selected as the Chairman of Tata Trusts. (File image) Tata Trusts Chairman Noel N Tata has been appointed on the board of Tata Sons Ltd, the holding company of various Tata group companies.

Tata was appointed on the firm's board last week, a source in the Tata group confirmed. However, Noel Tata, who was elected as Chairman of the Trusts after the demise of Ratan Tata last month, won't be able to become the Chairman of Tata Sons as Ratan Tata separated the roles of Chairman of Tata Sons and Tata Trusts to prevent the same person from heading both the institutions. Tata Trusts which holds over 66 per cent stake in Tata Sons has three nominees on the board of Tata Sons. Apart from Noel Tata, others included TVS group chief Venu Srinivasan and former Defence Secretary Vijay Singh. Other Directors on Tata Sons board include industrialist Ajay Piramal, former Unilever global COO Harish Manwani, JP Morgan India, South Asia Chairman Leo Puri, former World Bank official Anita M George, JLR CEO Ralph Speth and Tata Sons group CFO Saurabh Agarwal. Pallonji Mistry group which holds 18.4 per cent stake in Tata Sons doesn't have any nominee on the Tata Sons board. In 2012, when Ratan Tata retired as Tata Sons Chairman, Noel Tata was in the race to become his successor. The selection committee considered several names including Noel's but Ratan Tata was not in his favour who felt his brother "lacked the experience" to run the conglomerate, indicating his frosty relationship with Noel.

The group eventually selected Cyrus Mistry who also "lacked experience" in running a big business group. Mistry, who is Noel's brother-in-law - his sister Aloo is married to Noel - was initially supported by Ratan Tata as he also considered the Pallonji Mistry family's 18.4 per cent stake in Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata group. They fell out in a bitter boardroom battle and Mistry was ousted from the Tata group in 2016.

Noel Tata missed another chance to head Tata Sons in January 2017 as the selection committee and Ratan Tata, overlooked Noel Tata again, and put the mantle on N Chandrasekaran who was successfully running India's largest IT firm TCS. The thinking in the group then was



that let a competent professional head Tata Sons and chart the future course of the group's operations. Noel Tata, who will turn 67 later this year, was lucky in the third instance in 2024. After the passing away of Ratan Tata, he was selected as the Chairman of Tata Trusts. Ratan Tata, as Chairman of Tata Trusts and former Chairman of Tata Sons, wielded considerable influence in the affairs of the Tata group. Noel will play a key role in the selection of the next Chairman of Tata Sons in 2028 when the tenure of Chandrasekaran ends. The new Tata Trusts chief has been associated with the Tata group for over 40 years. He currently serves on the Board of various Tata group companies, including as the Chairman of Tata International Limited, Trent, Voltas & Tata Investment Corporation and as the Vice Chairman of Tata Steel and Titan Company Limited. During Noel Tata's tenure as chairman of Trent Ltd, the company's financials have shown impressive growth. The company's total revenue rose from Rs 2,381.44 crore in fiscal 2015 to Rs 12,277.49 crore in the fiscal ended March 2024. Net profit also jumped from Rs 129 crore in FY2015 to Rs 1,435.82 crore in FY24. Its market capitalisation multiplied several times to Rs 2.93 lakh crore now. He was associated with Tata International Ltd as the Managing director from August 2010 to November 2021, where he grew the company from a turnover of \$500 million to over \$3 billion in a little over a decade. Noel Tata will have many challenges before him as the Chairman of Tata Trusts and Director on the Tata Sons board. He has to ensure that corporate governance is practiced in letter and spirit in the group and shareholder wealth is not eroded in group companies. In short, he is expected to ensure that group companies perform well and explore new opportunities on the industrial horizon.

## Maintain balance between probes and ease of biz: CBIC to Customs

In a bid to reach out to industry and limit the possible overreach of tax authorities in investigations, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has instructed the Customs field formations to maintain "balance" while carrying out investigations for tax evasion related to import and export of goods in the interest of "ease of doing business". In the set of instructions issued on November 1, the CBIC said such evasion cases are categorised as commercial intelligence and fraud cases and they need to be differentiated from outright smuggling cases which involve contraband items.

The CBIC has asked the field formations to not approve any such investigation without the approval of the commissioner and conclude investigation into commercial intelligence (CI) cases within a year. The Board has also asked officers to seek information and documents in CI matters in writing with full disclosure of the specific nature of the inquiry being initiated by the authorities. "The Commissioner is responsible for developing and approving any intelligence, investigation and its completion. Each investigation must be initiated only after the approval of the Commissioner. A CI case investigation must reach the earliest conclusion which is normally not more than one year," the instructions issued by the Investigation-Customs wing of the CBIC under the Ministry of Finance said.

Earlier in March, the CBIC had issued a similar set of guidelines to its Goods and Services Tax (GST) field formations asking them to maintain ease of doing business while engaging in investigation with regular taxpayers. The new instructions come now after concerns being raised by a section of taxpayers on investigations lingering for years and sometimes processes being initiated without adequate written documentation by authorities. The CBIC has told the officers to analyse all

intelligence inputs and relevant aspects in CI matters before initiating investigation including cross checking with available data, technical literature, prevalent industry practice, judicial pronouncements, extant legal framework, precedence etc. "It is desirable to undertake as complete an analysis as feasible, before the actual investigation is initiated," it said.

The Commissioner may also decide whether the commercial intelligence is to be brought to the notice of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) in case it may have cross jurisdictional relevance, the CBIC said.

The Board underlined that ease of business is to be maintained in the process of such investigations by seeking documents preferably by writing letters, as far as possible. "The time frame specified for appearance, or producing information, should be reasonable and keeping in view the mode of communication of the letter/summon. Before seeking any information or documents, the relevancy and propriety of what is being sought shall be recorded (on e-file), ensuring that it is holistic and result of preparation, and also so as not to have repeated issuance of letter/summons or seeking of piecemeal information," it said.

The Board also highlighted that it is "not necessary" to keep investigation pending till limitation in law and the conclusion of investigation should also mean recording that it is not being pursued further as nothing objectionable was found in terms of matter investigated. "The closure report consequent to the appropriate payment of government dues by the person concerned should also not be delayed and should have a brief self-explanatory narration of the issue and the period involved. Timely actions, i.e. without delay, at these stages are all part of preventive vigilance ensuring that no room remains for malpractices," it said.

## Rajshri Deshpande on being 'an activist actor', not doing films for money and fighting stereotypes: 'Would only get offered gangster's wife or intimate parts'

When the Netflix global hit Sacred Games dropped as the streaming giant's debut India Original in 2018, it put everyone on the map. The audience was in awe of what Anurag Kashyap-Vikramaditya Motwane had helmed with Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Saif Ali Khan in the lead and within that audience, closer home, was a section which discovered who actor Rajshri Deshpande was. The crime-thriller series brought Rajshri acclaim as Subhadra, wife of Nawazuddin's Gaitonde, but what it also led to was nasty virality, where out-of-context intimate clips from the series started crowding the internet. While all of this was peaking, Rajshri Deshpande was busy doing something which the same audience would find out about her personality later: building a school.

"I wasn't affected by it all," she tells SCREEN as recalls the phase. "I knew building the school was far more important and I told people in the village the same thing— focus on ground, all is noise," she added with a laugh. In an interview with SCREEN, Rajshri Deshpande—who has in recent years upped the game with works like Trial by Fire, The Fame Game and her latest Gujarat riots-based short film Gugudi by filmmaker Abhiroop Basu—charts her journey; from forgettable cameos in Salman Khan's Kick and Aamir Khan's Talaash, to memorable screen work which has made her a credible voice in the industry, although not without her major challenges.

I left a high paying corporate job and moved to Mumbai. In my early 20s, I would think money would give me happiness and then I struggled to get out of that thinking because it had stopped giving me happiness. It took away my life. In my 20s, I would dress like a 40-year-old, behave like an elderly person, which was wrong. That age, I should have travelled, partied, done theatre, but I didn't. I just wanted to make money and buy things for my parents, support my family. That's because I saw my mother struggle a lot. When I moved here, I had enough money to survive, so I was absolutely fearless. So, I did small roles in films like Salman Khan's Kick, Aamir Khan's Talaash, did some TV shows as well. But it wasn't my calling, so I stopped that, because there was no growth. Then I travelled, enrolled in some classes for self-development. Acting wasn't my dream— freedom was. There were no goals that I want to achieve this or that. I did get good money for both, I just had one scene. It was funny because Salman Khan couldn't turn up for shoot, so I get paid for one day extra! I don't even remember if my scene is still there. I thought those big sets were boring, because you are such a tiny person there, no one knows you, nobody is paying attention to you. You are one of the junior artistes there, and I didn't feel bad then, nor will I feel hurt today. It is not like I want some special treatment, but people look at me differently. Never, I have said no to so many ads which don't align with me. There was one shoot where a six-year-old child was filming with me and after 14 long hours, he was so exhausted he started crying. I requested them to do the rest later, I will do it for free, but they convinced the parents by paying them extra. But it was a wrong thing to do. After that, they never called me. The moment you say something you get blacklisted.

No, because there is a lot of love and respect, I get. I do like to stand up for things. We were shooting for a film, and they had two vanity vans for two actors, including me. There were a few girls in the costume department, and they had to walk three kilometers for the washroom. How was that even possible? I put my foot down, said they will have one vanity van. But if you say this out



loud, they will call you whatever. You do have to stand up for the right reason.

How was the phase of Angry Indian Goddesses, Sacred Games and Manto for you? My parents were happy that my work was coming out, but I didn't realise what was happening, especially when Sacred Games blew up. I was in the village, working on my school, solving a crisis there. It was around that time when the madness of Sacred Games was peaking with videos of mine from the show being circulated on WhatsApp. I wasn't affected, I knew building the school was far more important and told people in the village the same thing, ki waha mat dhyano do, ye zaroori hai.. My attention was there more. And not like some great roles were coming my way then.

There was a gap of two years after Sacred Games, were you refusing work?

I was in the village at that time and the roles which were coming were clones of Sacred Games. Either it was the wife of a gangster or something to do with intimacy. I remember getting some casting calls where I was told, 'Mam this has just two sex scenes, that shouldn't be a problem for you.' This is how they'd talk. Another problem here is that the more popular you are in terms of social media trends, people will pay attention to that. You will have very often paying attention to other kind of cinema and what people are doing there. A film works because of the entire ensemble, Trail by Fire reached out to many because it had a fantastic cast and an amazing team.

But if a film comes your way, with not the best of scripts but good money, won't that be tempting?

I have said no to films even when I had no work and little money. What exactly will I buy with that money? I want money to travel, but I am not materialistic. I have seen what money did to me in my 20s, I don't want to go back to that depression. Everyone loves money, but it is difficult to handle it. I remember after Sacred Games people told me now, I should just cash in on the show and earn truckloads of money, go ballistic with my PR. But that's not me.

Do you feel popular?

See there is a lot of respect, and I have worked hard to get here. It takes time to achieve this space, but the audience can see it. My 'popularity' is because of my social work as well as acting. Otherwise, some people think I am just an actor, some believe I am just an activist. A lot of times, when I go to do my social work, they feel I am an actor first whereas here in the industry, they feel I am an 'activist kind of an actor.' I am both and I keep these two separate.

## How vitamin B9 deficiency affects the body, and here's what you can do



A deficiency of vitamin B9 can lead to various health issues and complications. Also known as folate or folic, this vitamin plays a pivotal role in DNA synthesis, cell division, and one's entire well-being. Despite its importance, not many people are aware of this deficiency that can cause symptoms like fatigue, irritability, and digestive problems. In addition, vitamin B9 also helps with mood regulation and cognitive function. "In severe cases, a deficiency in vitamin B9 can lead to anemia, which is characterized by a decrease in red blood cells and can result in symptoms like shortness of breath and dizziness," said Dr Shireen Furtado, senior consultant, medical and cosmetic dermatology, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore.

Vitamin B9 is equally essential for the body's ability to produce red blood cells, as well as for proper nerve function. Adding, Dr Aniket Mule, consultant internal medicine, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mira Road said that B9 deficiency is also associated with cardiovascular diseases and strokes that are known to cause higher mortality and morbidity rates. According to Dr Mule, vegetarians and vegans tend to have this deficiency. To prevent this deficiency, it is essential to consume a diet rich in folate-containing foods such as leafy green vegetables, citrus fruits, legumes: chickpeas, soybeans, ladyfinger, tomatoes, beans, lentils, lettuce, oranges, and sweetcorn, said Dr Mule.

Adding, Dr Furtado said that in some cases, supplementation may be necessary, especially for pregnant women or individuals with certain medical conditions that affect nutrient absorption. Regular blood tests can also help monitor vitamin B9 levels and ensure that any deficiencies are promptly addressed through dietary changes or supplementation. Insufficient folate levels are associated with neural tube defects and congenital anomalies, mentioned Dr Mule. "It will be imperative for you to consult an expert who will help you to understand what B9 deficiency is and recommend a diet plan to ensure your B9 levels are in the required range. Maintaining adequate B9 levels will do wonders for your health," said Dr Mule.

## This viral challenge reveals why women might have better balance than men

While social media is filled with videos of people attempting this feat, there seems to be a curious pattern - women often find it easier to balance than men. While social media is filled with videos of people attempting this feat, there seems to be a curious pattern -- women often find it easier than men. A new viral challenge has people getting down on all fours, placing their elbows on the ground, and attempting to put their hands behind their backs without falling over. While social media is filled with videos of people attempting this feat, there seems to be a curious pattern -- women often find it easier than men. But is there a reason behind this gender difference?

Dr Vajalla Shrivani, certified pilates instructor and fitness expert at Tone 30 Pilates, explains that it comes down to our center of gravity. "The center of gravity is a crucial factor in balance and stability. It refers to the point in a body or object where the weight is evenly distributed in all directions," she notes. Women's apparent advantage in this challenge isn't just coincidence. "On aver-

age, women tend to have a lower center of gravity than men due to differences in body composition and fat distribution. Women generally carry more weight around their hips and thighs, while men carry more weight around their upper body, such as the chest and shoulders," explains Dr Shrivani. The role of muscle distribution body composition plays a significant part, too. "Men typically have a higher percentage of muscle mass, especially in the upper body, while women tend to have more fat and muscle distributed around the hips and lower body," Dr Shrivani points out. This difference can make men "top-heavy," potentially making maintaining balance in certain positions harder. She adds that women rely more on their core and lower limb muscles for stability. At the same time, men depend more on upper body and trunk muscles, affecting how they maintain balance in different positions. "The key is consistency and variety in exercises, as training different muscle groups and challenging the body's balance mechanisms can lead to significant improvements," she advises.



## Somy Ali claims her relationship with Salman Khan ended due to his infidelity, abuse: 'Physically and verbally abused on a daily basis'



Somy Ali- Salman Khan Somy Ali recently opened up about her relationship with Salman Khan. Somy Ali-Salman Khan Somy Ali recently opened up about her relationship with Salman Khan. (Photos: Somy Ali, Salman Khan/ Instagram) Amid fresh life threats being received by Salman Khan, his ex girlfriend, former actress Somy Ali, has opened up about her relationship with him and has called him out for his habitual "one nights stands". Somy Ali, who dated Salman Khan in the 1990s, made explosive revelations about their relationship and Bollywood's underworld connections during a Reddit AMA session.

Ali, who debuted in Bollywood with the 1993 film Anth, stated that she ended her relationship with Khan

due to his infidelity. When an user asked her what went wrong with her relationship with Salman, Somy wrote, "Because I was tired of Salman's 8 night stands not one. Also I didn't appreciate being physically and verbally abused on a daily basis." When asked about Aishwarya Rai, Khan's ex-partner, Ali responded, "Aishwarya Rai is a wonderful person, and I feel terrible about what happened to her with Salman." When one user asked her if Salman ever abused her mentally and physically, Somy responded by writing, "If walls can talk! Forced abortions! Wait for my novel/memoir!" Salman Khan Somy Ali Somy Ali shared that she had fallen in love with Salman Khan after watching Maine Pyar Kiya.

Ali also expressed concerns about the Bollywood underworld, singling out Lawrence Bishnoi, the alleged mastermind behind life threats to Salman Khan. "Lawrence Bishnoi is the Dawood of Bollywood," she claimed, drawing parallels with the notorious underworld figure. In response to queries about her experiences with Bollywood's underworld, Ali shared, "I've seen the worst of humanity, and I've seen the best. I've been threatened, and I've been offered huge sums of money to stay silent." Ali's candid responses sparked intense discussion on social media, with fans and industry insiders weighing in on her claims. One person wrote, "Salman blocking her from acting in US seems far fetched," while another person said, "Those answers sound a little too good to be true, like they were tailor made to have the public engaged. Just my opinion." yet another person wrote, "100%. Engagement bait."

## Kamal Haasan would come 4 hours early for Chachi 420 shoot, Amitabh Bachchan stayed in water for one day in heavy armour: 'Didn't get tired'

Actor Fatima Sana Shaikh feels "blessed" to have begun her career as a child artiste working on the acclaimed film Chachi 420, which was headlined by Kamal Haasan, who also wrote and directed the film. The 1997 film also starred Tabu, Amrith Puri, Om Puri and Presh Rawal. Fatima recalled how Kamal would come at least four hours early on set to get into his "chachi" makeup and also supervise the entire production as he was the director. Fatima told Filmfare how the icon would multitask efficiently during the shoot.

"He would come four hours before to do his makeup for chachi. He was also the DOP, he had written the film, he was directing it as well, helping every actor with their performances. I am sure he worked on the music as well as sat on the edits. That man is so talented and extremely hard working. I am so fortunate that I got the opportunity to work with Amrith Puri, Om Puri, him when I was a baby!" Something similar, Fatima Sana Shaikh noted, was superstar Aamir Khan, with whom she made her acting debut in Dangal and later starred in Thugs of Hindostan. "Aamir comes on time and is extremely collaborative with his work. Even you mess up and give ten takes, he will still give you the cue, with the same emotion, cry every time and give his hundred percent even off camera. Something similar again with Manoj Bajpayee, on time, punctual and sincere with his craft."

Fatima also recalled working with Amitabh Bachchan in Thugs of Hindostan, which was a period action adventure which bombed badly at the box office in 2018. The actor said all the legends in the field of acting are considered so because they also have tremendous discipline and gratitude towards their work. Amitabh Bachchan in a



still from Thugs of Hindostan. Amitabh Bachchan in a still from Thugs of Hindostan. (Photo: IMDb) "We were doing a scene in Thugs where Amitabh Bachchan sir was in the water for one full day. He had worn a heavy armour and was giving a monologue. That man did not get tired! He would himself ask (the director), 'Sir should we have one more take? Did you get what you wanted?'" That humbleness at level... is when you realise that whether it is Aamir, Amit ji, Kamal Haasan, they are there because they have this attitude towards their work. They are grateful every day. I want to be that person. I take my work very seriously and sincerely. I have to respect what I get and be thankful," she added. On the work front, Fatima had a packed 2023 with Taapsee Pannu-backed Dhak Dhak followed by Vicky Kaushal starrer Sam Bahadur, in which she played former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She will be next seen in Anurag Basu's Metro... In Dino, which also stars Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan, Pankaj Tripathi and Konkona Sen Sharma among others.

## Amid new death threat, Salman Khan shoots with Rashmika Mandanna for Sikander in Hyderabad's Falaknuma Palace



Salman Khan- Rashmika Mandanna- Sikander-Hyderabad- Taj Falaknuma Hotel Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna shot for their upcoming movie Sikander at Taj Falaknuma Palace Hyderabad.

Hyderabad's iconic Falaknuma Palace played host to Bollywood stars Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna as they shoot for their upcoming movie, Sikander. A sea of enthusiastic fans gathered outside the palace, eager to catch a glimpse of the stars in action. Despite tight security, fans managed to click photos and videos of Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna, which quickly went viral on social media. Meanwhile, Salman Khan reportedly received another threat from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang on Monday, which demanded that the Bollywood actor should either visit a temple and apologise for allegedly killing a black buck or pay Rs 5 crore. A video from inside the set has leaked on social media, giving a glimpse from the set of the Salman and Rashmika starrer. See here: Sources close to the production revealed that the team is filming crucial scenes at the palace, leveraging its grand architecture and picturesque surroundings. In yet another video that had appeared on X shows Salman's entourage entering the palace hotel with his convoy and his vanity van. See here: In yet another video a black Rolls-Royce is seen parked with a set of other luxury cars, all being used for the film's shoot. See video: A fan also managed to get a selfie with Salman on the film's set. Salman, in the picture, is seen donning a collared t-shirt and spotting his signature smirk. See here: Sikander, touted as an action-packed entertainer with elements of drama and suspense, marks Salman's latest outing after his cameo in Rohit Shetty's Singham Again, which is running in cinemas. The film is directed by Ghajini director AR Murugadoss and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala. Along with Salman and Rashmika, the film will also star Kajal Agrewal. While details about the storyline remain scarce, Salman had earlier shared a BTS picture from the set. Salman started shooting for Sikander in June and the film is scheduled to be released in cinemas on Eid, next year.

A fan also managed to get a selfie with Salman on the film's set. Salman, in the picture, is seen donning a collared t-shirt and spotting his signature smirk. See here:

## FTII's Kannada short film Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know qualifies for Oscars 2025



Kannada short film titled Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know will now compete for the Oscar in 2025. On Monday, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting announced that Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know

has qualified for the Oscars 2025 in the Live Action Short Film category. The film was produced by the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). Chidananda S Naik is director of the film. Earlier this year, the film won the first Prize at the Cannes Film Festival's La Cinef Selection, which led to global recognition for this Kannada-language project inspired by Indian folk stories and traditions. It showcases the expertise of a talented team, including Suraj Thakur (Cinematography), Manoj V (Editing) and Abhishek Kadam (Sound Design). "It revolves around an elderly woman who steals the village rooster, leading to a cessation of sunlight and resulting in turmoil within the community. In an effort to restore order, a prophecy is invoked, resulting in the exile of the woman's family as they undertake a desperate mission to retrieve the rooster."

The La Cinef Jury at Cannes had commended the film for its illuminating storytelling and masterful direction, stating, "Une illumination qui, du fond de la nuit, brille par son humour et le sens de la mise en scene, le premier prix est attribue a Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know de Chidananda S. Naik" (An illumination that, from the depths of the night, shines with humor and a keen sense of direction, the first prize is awarded to 'Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know' by Chidananda S Naik.) Film director Chidananda S Naik remarked, "I have aspired to tell this story for as long as I can remember. Our goal was to recreate the experience of not merely hearing these stories but of genuinely living them—an experience I hope resonates with audiences around the globe." The 97th Academy Awards will take place in March 2025.

## 'Bihar Kokila' Sharda Sinha on ventilator support, son requests everyone to pray for her during Chhath Puja: 'She is in a lot of pain'

Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan recipient Singer Sharda Sinha, who is fondly called 'Bihar Kokila', has been hospitalized and is on ventilator support. The singer was in shock since her husband Brij Kishore Sinha's demise and was admitted to Delhi's AIIMS hospital. Her son Anshuman recently gave a health update on his YouTube channel about the singer, confirming that she has been put on a ventilator. He also urged everyone to pray for his mother to recover.

Going live on his official YouTube channel, Anshuman said, "So I am coming live at this time and giving you the correct information so that no one puts up wrong information. We are all praying that mother somehow survives. Her life should be saved. She is also in a lot of pain. So I request all of you who are listening and those who perform Chhath Puja to include her in your prayers. She has given a very long time for her country and state. Therefore, it is important that she should get some more time. Just thank you for now, I will be present as and when things happen." He also added, "This time this is the true news. Mother is on a ventilator. I have just



signed the consent. Keep praying. Mother has gone through a very big battle. This time it is very difficult. Just pray that she can come out of this. This is the real update. I have just met her. May Chhathi Maa bless. Right now when I met the doctors, they said that the case has suddenly worsened. Right now everyone is trying." Sharda Sinha is popularly known for singing traditional wedding and Chhath songs in Bhojpuri. She had also sung a song called Nirmohiya for the OTT series Maharani Season 2.

## Ajay Devgn film drops by 51 percent on Monday; crosses Rs 200 cr globally



Singham Again box office collection day 4: Ajay Devgn film remains steady in a clash. Singham Again box office collection day 4: Ajay Devgn film remains steady in a clash. Singham Again box office collection day 4: Film-maker Rohit Shetty's latest Diwali outing Singham Again faced the crucial Monday test and held itself steady despite an expected drop in collections. As compared to Sunday, the Monday figures dropped by 51 percent for the Ajay Devgn starrer, but the dip was expected as the film was coming off a huge holiday weekend, which had also surged its collections. According to industry tracker Sacnilk, Singham Again netted Rs 17.50 cr on Monday, which is half than its Sunday haul of Rs 35.75 cr. For it to pass the Monday test, the film had to keep its fall within 70 percent and the action drama managed to do that. The numbers have also come in during a clash with Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, which is also doing wonders at the box office. In terms of global gross, Singham Again had a weekend of Rs 186 cr, which now will be comfortably past the Rs 200 cr mark worldwide. Singham Again's India-nett total so far is Rs 139 cr. The film, which also features Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh, Tiger Shroff and Arjun Kapoor, now needs to avoid drastic fall in collections and if it trends at a stable pace, Singham Again will look at week one around Rs 175 cr mark.

If it remains steady on Tuesday, the film could also cross Rs 150 cr mark in India. As of now, Singham Again is just Rs 10 cr shy of breaking the record of Ajay Devgn's 2024 hit Shaistaan. The film had minted Rs 149 cr and Singham Again should comfortably cross the figure. Up next, it would then hope to chase down the record set by Drishyam 2, which had ended its theatrical run at Rs 240 cr. It remains to be seen if it can beat the collections of Tanhaji, which remains Ajay Devgn's highest earner at Rs 279 cr.

Before the clash, trade had dubbed Singham Again as the obviously "bigger" film due to the star cast and genre, but the four-day collections of Kartik Aaryan headlined Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 has shown excellent results. The horror comedy had a Monday of Rs 17.50 cr, which means

a fall of 47 percent from its Sunday collections. Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 had held quite well at the box office, with India nett being around Rs 123 cr and global gross around Rs 185 cr, according to Sacnilk. Singham Again and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 will now benefit from the clear run ahead as no new Hindi film is set to release in November. The next big release will also be a clash on December 6— with Allu Arjun's Pushpa 2 and Vicky Kaushal's Chhaava.

## Kartik Aaryan shares glimpse of his chill scenes with his 'Manjus'

Mumbai: Bollywood star Kartik Aaryan shared a picture "chilling" with his "Manjulikas" Vidya Balan and Madhuri Dixit Nene. Kartik took to Instagram, where he shared a monochrome picture with Vidya and Madhuri. In the image, Kartik is holding on to the necks of the two actresses as the trio pose. The three stars are looking into the camera and flashing a big smile. For the caption, he wrote: "#AboutLastNight Chill scenes with my Manjus." On November 3, Kartik shared a light-hearted moment about his mother, Mala Tiwari, struggling to secure tickets for his latest release, "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3." "Sharing the amusing clip, Kartik wrote in the caption, "Mummy ko bhi nahi mil rahi tickets. So happy to have this problem." In the video, Kartik's mom is seen sitting on a couch, telling him about her difficulty getting tickets. She humorously said: "I feel like posting 'hey Bhagwan meri aankhein taras gayi hai yeh film dekhne ko.'" Kartik then playfully asks, "Ab tickets kaha se book kare?" Directed by Anees Bazmee, "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3" was released in theatres on November 1. The horror-comedy clashed with Rohit Shetty's cop drama, "Singham Again" at the box office. "Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3" is the third installment in the franchise. The original film, released in 2007, starred Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan, while Bhool "Bhulaiyaa 2" introduced Kartik Aaryan, Kiara Advani, and Tabu in key roles. The latest film also stars Madhuri Dixit, Sanjay Mishra, Tripti Dimri, and Rajpal Yadav among others. It performed well on its first 3 days at the box office and earned an estimated Rs 106 crore India net, reports sacnilk.com. The film has currently minted Rs. 123.50 crore. The film clashed with Rohit Shetty's "Singham Again" at the box-office. The Ajay Devgn-starrer on its first four days made Rs. 139.25 crore India net. The film since its release has minted a whopping Rs 140.11 crore. Talking about "Singham Again", the movie has been given a spin of Ramayana. The film also stars Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Tiger Shroff, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Tiger Shroff, Deepika Padukone, Jackie Shroff and Arjun Kapoor.



## Ding Liren says he's 'worried about losing very badly' to Gukesh in World Chess Championship



GNS News Agency, Nov 7

China's Ding Liren speaks after his victory in the FIDE World Chess Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan, Sunday, April 30, 2023. China's Ding Liren beat Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi in a thrilling finale. He takes over the world championship title from Norway's Magnus Carlsen. (AP Photo/Stanislaw Filipov) File image of Ding Liren speaking after his victory in the FIDE World Chess Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan in April 2023. World champion Ding Liren has admitted in a searingly honest interview that he is 'worried about losing very badly' to India's Gukesh in the World Chess Championship battle. Ding Liren has had a wretched run of results ever since he became the 17th world champion in the history of the sport last year by prevailing over Ian Nepomniachtchi. "I will be the underdog approaching this match (against Gukesh). I hope I could become a totally different player (by the world championship)," Ding Liren admitted in an interview with the chess app Take Take after the final round of the Chess Olympiad in September this year.

While Ding Liren said that he was not worried about facing the in-form Gukesh by pointing out that he was yet

to lose to Gukesh in a classical match (barring at the Freestyle Chess event where starting positions were not the same as in conventional chess games), the Chinese GM did add: "I'm worried about losing very badly. Hopefully, it won't happen... Gukesh is in top form recently. He's the best player in the Olympiad. I hope I can become a totally different player (by the world championship). At least to fight, to slow down his pace, to have some winning chances." The World Chess Championship will start later this month at Singapore. Many grandmasters have picked Gukesh to become the 18th world champion based on the form of both players.

When asked what had been holding him back, a very candid Ding Liren said: "I'm feeling not so bad, but also not so good. I have tried to find my best shape, but actually I didn't manage to do that. My game has many mistakes in every part of the game. Sometimes I managed to create many chances. I got winning positions, but I couldn't convert them. It's the same problem, time from time... Maybe I'm not so eager to play. I don't have this ambition to win the game. Every time I came to the playing hall, maybe I was not in a very good mood. And after the game, especially if I drew the game, I realized I missed a huge chance. I'm not so happy with the results. This goes in a circle from time to time." In sharp contrast to Gukesh's form coming into the world championship, Ding is in the middle of what he called his longest 'un-winning streak', where he had not won a game in the classical format since the Tata Steel event in Wijk aan Zee at the start of 2024. But he said he now needed to show that he deserved the support he was getting from fans. "Although I played so badly (in recent tournaments) there are still so many players who support me. Maybe I need to show that I deserve this kind of support. If I continue to play so badly or without a fighting spirit, I may not deserve it," Ding Liren said frankly. "I hope you will see the same me as the last World Championship match."

## 'Ageing' Rohit could quit Tests if Australia tour flops: Srikanth

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Rohit, known for his big-hitting abilities, has scored only one half-century in his last 10 appearances. Rohit, known for his big-hitting abilities, has scored only one half-century in his last 10 appearances. Former India skipper Krishnamachari Srikanth feels Rohit Sharma might call time on his Test career if his Australia outing flops. The Indian management needs to stay prepared for the 37-year-old's departure and narrow in on a successor, the World Cup winner said. Sharma, along with Ravindra Jadeja and Virat Kohli, announced his retirement from T20 internationals after lifting the short-format World Cup earlier this year. But since then team India under Rohit's captaincy has failed to get off with the Test whitewash at home being the latest debacle.

"You have to start thinking ahead. If Rohit Sharma doesn't do well, I think he will retire from test cricket, for all you know. He'll play ODIs only. He has already left T20 cricket. We have to keep in mind that he's also ageing." Rohit's form has come under heavy criticism as well. Rohit, known for his big-hitting abilities, has scored only one half-century in his last 10 appearances. Against the Kiwis, he looked like a shadow of himself. His rec-



less gameplay is not something one would expect to see from a batsman who has a prolific Test record like him - 4,270 runs at an average of 42.2. "Hats off to Rohit for accepting the fact that he played badly throughout the series and captained badly. That's a great thing. That's the first move of a player to get back to rhythm. Accepting your faults is very important. That's a very important quality of a human being. He accepted it openly. That means he's on the road to recovery, that's my opinion," remarked Srikanth.

## Indians playing in unfamiliar roles underlying theme of this season

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

In six games, Bengaluru FC had only conceded one goal and scored 11 in this season of the Indian Super League. And then a trip to Fatorada to face the current national team head coach and his FC Goa happened. Ninety minutes later, Manolo Marquez inflicted a 3-0 defeat on the table-toppers. At the heart of that victory for his team were some tactical changes that involved Indian players playing in different positions to conduct specific roles. This season in particular has seen Indian players being used in roles unfamiliar to them. Usually, Mizoram midfielder Ayush Chhetri plays deep in the midfield for his team. He did so in two games for India at the Asian Games against China in a 5-1 loss and then a 1-0 win to Bangladesh. On Saturday, Chhetri started right behind Goa's primary striker.

The league is slowly starting to acclimatise to Marquez's tactical adjustments - moves that will soon be seen regularly with the national team as well. Moving Chhetri further up the pitch was a move to destabilise the core of Bengaluru's central defensive trio - where all the moves for the goals begin. Marquez later spoke about his tactics for the game and said, "Bengaluru FC are a team that play differently in attack and defence. They play with an attacking style using only three centre-backs, and when they defend, they try to set up in a 4-4-2 diamond formation, more or less. We analyze how opponents like Mumbai City FC, Punjab FC, and Kerala FC play in different ways against them." "Then we decided to try to limit (Alberto) Nogueira and (Pedro) Capó, especially since both players interact a lot with the ball, and Pereyra (Diaz), Sunil (Chhetri), and Edgar (Mendez) receive the ball from these two players. I think that the job of Ayush (Dev Chhetri) for me was key in the game," he added.

The national team may be going through a striker crisis, but that situation isn't the only position of need in the setup. Quality central defenders are always needed for the Indian team and barring Anwar Ali, there aren't many options that could inspire a sense of confidence. In this Kerala Blasters season, Pritam Kotal's switch from right back to centre back has been completed. A few years ago, Kotal was considered India's best right back. He was part of the 2019 Asian Cup campaign where the national team played some of their best football against Thailand. Since then though, Kotal has fallen through the cracks and has never been able to truly regain those heights. At Kerala, he plays as a centre-back in a three-man central defensive unit or one of two in a 4-4-2 lineup. It hasn't necessarily worked out.

This week came with the challenges that the Blasters have always faced, against Mumbai City FC, a bogey team of sorts for them. Kerala conceded four goals, two of them being penalties. They had conceded three earlier



In six games, Bengaluru FC had only conceded one goal and scored 11 in this season of the Indian Super League. And then a trip to Fatorada to face the current national team head coach and his FC Goa happened. Ninety minutes later, Manolo Marquez inflicted a 3-0 defeat on the table-toppers. At the heart of that victory for his team were some tactical changes that involved Indian players playing in different positions to conduct specific roles

this week against Bengaluru where Kotal committed an error to hand one of the goals scored by the league leaders. On Tuesday, Manolo Marquez announced his 26-member Indian squad for the upcoming friendly against Malaysia to be played in India. 31-year-old Kotal's omission from the national team continued as Marquez put his faith once again in Rahul Bheke and Chi bynglesana Singh to partner Anwar Ali in the central defensive positions.

The last time Farukh Chaudhary played for the national team, one of his standout moments was with his back to goal. He received the ball at his feet, turned around, nutmegged a Vietnamese defender and then unleashed a low rasping shot towards goal. The last time Manvir Singh played a role of note for the Indian team was on the road in Kuwait where he scored the lone goal for India in the World Cup qualifiers. In the ISL though, both of these players, of different builds and different talents, continue to be played in wide positions. While Mohun Bagan shunts Manvir to the right, Chennaiyin operates Farukh on the left flank. Both rarely get the opportunity to play in the center of the pitch, an area where India consistently looks for players but rarely gets quality individuals owing to the lack of game time given to players in the spine of a team. Both players have been included in Manolo Marquez's 26-member team. Of the six forwards chosen by the Spaniard, five play as wingers for their ISL team. The lone player who plays as a striker is Edmund Lalrindika, a player who is signed with Inter Kashi and has yet to play a club game this season.

## 'Stay on top of him': Australia pacer Boland on targeting KL Rahul



Boland knows Rahul's poor record in Australia - an average of 20.77 from five Tests. (Reuters) Boland knows Rahul's poor record in Australia - an average of 20.77 from five Tests. Seasoned fast bowler Scott Boland will feature for Australia A as they take on India A on Thursday and the 35-year-old is eager to have a go at India star KL Rahul. Rahul, going through a lean patch, has landed in Australia with Dhruv Jurel to get extra game time. The Karnataka batsman has been struggling to find

his form ahead of the Border Gavaskar Trophy. Boland knows about Rahul's poor record in Australia - an average of 20.77 from five Tests. Boland, who was part of the World Test Championship winning squad of 21-23, feels Rahul needs to be attacked early to keep him in check. "He's a world-class player but someone I think we can get on top of pretty early and hopefully stay on top of him for the majority of the summer," he said. "I was lucky to bowl to him in a Test over in India a couple of years ago, but it'll be nice to play against him in our backyard," Boland added. It's no secret that the fast and bouncy pitches of Australia are nothing like what one sees on the subcontinent. Boland is aware that the Indian management will do their homework before landing in Australia.

"There's so much more bounce here, more seam. The way they'll structure their team will be completely different to what you see over in India." Rahul only featured in the opening Test against New Zealand in Bengaluru, scoring only 12 runs with a duck. He was later dropped for the returning Shubman Gill in Pune and Mumbai during India's first Test series whitewash at home.

## Neymar injured again? Superstar subbed off after coming on for Al Hilal

Neymar was also left off Brazil's latest squad for a pair of November World Cup qualifiers, with coach Dorival saying the team and federation didn't want to rush his return to the national team. (Reuters) Neymar was also left off Brazil's latest squad for a pair of November World Cup qualifiers, with coach Dorival saying the team and federation didn't want to rush his return to the national team.



Neymar's second game since returning from a 12-month absence gave his fans another scare. The Brazilian superstar picked up another injury on Monday as Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal defeated Esteghlal of Iran 3-0 in the AFC Champions League Elite. He had only recently recovered from a torn ACL and came off the bench in Riyadh after 58 minutes. However, he had to come off with three minutes remaining, having seemed to pull up after stretching his leg out for the ball in the penalty area.

He went to the ground and grabbed the back of his right leg having seemed to pull up while stretching his leg out for the ball in the penalty area. Aleksandar Mitrovic scored a hat trick to lead Al Hilal to the win and put them at the top of the league phase table of the Asian Champions League. Al Hilal had planned a slow return for Brazil's

all-time leading scorer, who suffered a cruciate knee ligament injury during Brazil's qualifier against Uruguay shortly after joining the Saudi side and underwent surgery last November. Neymar was also left off Brazil's latest squad for a pair of November World Cup qualifiers, with coach Dorival saying the team and federation didn't want to rush his return to the national team. Brazil are fourth in their World Cup qualifying group, four points adrift of leaders Argentina after 10 games.

## 'Sleeping giant' India might awaken after NZ whitewash: Josh Hazlewood warns Australia ahead of BGT series

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Hazlewood has said the defeat to New Zealand might awaken India ahead of the BGT tour. Hazlewood has said the defeat to New Zealand might awaken India ahead of the BGT tour. New Zealand may have drubbed India 3-0 and handed them their first major Test series whitewash at home, but Australia pacer Josh Hazlewood would not read much too much into the results before India head Down Under for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Rather, the 33-year-old seamer believes the defeat may have given the perfect wake-up call for India before their first five-match Test series meeting against Australia since 1990. "It might awaken a sleeping giant, so to speak," Hazlewood told The Sydney Morning Herald after a Sheffield Shield outing for New South Wales.



Hazlewood, however, said India's defeat will still be a morale boost for Australia, who have not won the BGT series at home since 2014-15, losing in both the 2018-19 and 2020-21 editions. "It's obviously better than losing 3-0 than winning 3-0, easily. The confidence might have taken a bit of a hit. A lot of them have been out here, but there's a few batters who haven't, so they'll be a bit unsure of what to expect. I don't think you can read too much into it. The results are obviously good for us in a way."

"Credit to the Kiwi boys. They played outstanding

## Imane Khelif, who won gold at Paris Olympics, 'confirmed' as a man in leaked medical reports

GNS News Agency, Nov 7

Algeria's Imane Khelif celebrates after defeating China's Yang Liu to win gold in their women's 66 kg final boxing match at the 2024 Summer Olympics. Algeria's Imane Khelif celebrates after defeating China's Yang Liu to win gold in their women's 66 kg final boxing match at the 2024 Summer Olympics. Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, who was the talk of the Paris Olympics after she won gold in women's boxing, has come under scrutiny once more after a leak of a medical report questioning her eligibility for female competition.



The report which was accessed by French journalist Djaffar Ait Aoudia, indicated that Khelif has a condition that impacts sexual development, often resulting in ambiguous genitalia and limiting secondary male characteristics. It said she had internal testicles and an XY chromosome makeup, which may signal a genetic condition known as 5-alpha reductase deficiency.

Gold medalist Algeria's Imane Khelif poses during a medals ceremony for the women's 66 kg final boxing match at the 2024 Summer Olympics Gold medalist Algeria's Imane Khelif poses during a medals ceremony for the women's 66 kg final boxing match at the 2024 Summer Olympics. (AP) The report, prepared collaboratively by medical professionals from Kremlin-Bicêtre Hospital in Paris and Mohamed Lamine Debaghine Hospital in Algiers in June 2023, detailed Khelif's anatomy, including the absence of a uterus and the presence of what was described as a micropenis. It also recommended surgical correction and hormone

therapy, aimed at aligning Khelif's physical traits with her self-perceived gender identity. The Algerian has perennially been in the spotlight for her participation in female sports. In 2023, the International Boxing Association (IBA) barred her from competing in the World Championship gold medal match in New Delhi. That decision stirred up significant controversy, especially among those who advocate for strict gender classifications in sports. It was magnified at the Paris Olympics with notable public figures, including Piers Morgan, commenting on the matter, calling for a review of Khelif's eligibility. Former US President Donald Trump highlighted the case in discussions surrounding gender-based sports policies. Responding to earlier controversies, Khelif had defended her position, asserting her identity as a woman: "I was born as a woman, I live as a woman, and I am qualified."