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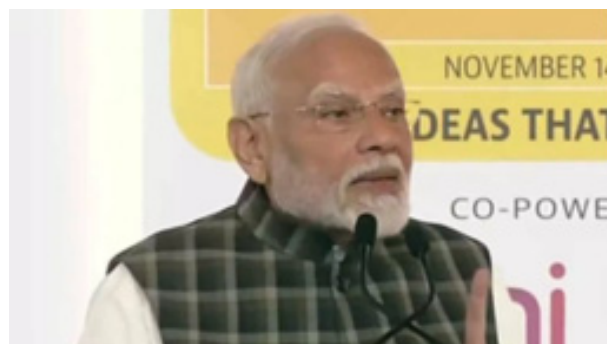
Nayanthara lashes out at Dhanush for serving legal notice; calls him 'vengeful'

Hyderabad: Amidst the release of much-awaited documentary about the South Lady Superstar Nayanthara 'Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairytale' on November 18, 2024, the actor took to Instagram to lash out at actor Dhanush for serving a legal notice. In an open letter, the actor condemned Dhanush for holding vengeance against her and her husband Vignesh Shivan particularly for using clips from the popular film 'Naanum Rowdy Dhaan'. The actor in her strong statement said that, "The Netflix documentary about me, my life, my love and marriage includes clips of many of my industry friends and well-wishers who have graciously contributed and memories from multiple films,

Jake Paul beats 58-year old legendary boxer Mike Tyson in Texas

Arlington (Texas): The boos from a crowd wanting more action were growing again when Jake Paul dropped his gloves before the final bell, and bowed towards 58-year-old Mike Tyson. Paying homage to one of the biggest names in boxing history didn't do much for the fans that filled the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys on Friday night. Paul won a unanimous decision over Tyson as the hits didn't match the hype in a fight between the 27-year-old YouTuber-turned-boxer and the former heavyweight champion in his first sanctioned pro fight in almost 20 years. All the hate from the pre-fight buildup was gone, replaced by boos from bewildered fans hoping for more action in a fight that drew plenty of questions about its legitimacy long before it happened.

'This is India's century', says PM Modi; urges all to aim for 'Viksit Bharat'



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday declared that the 21st century belongs to India and urged everyone to aim 'Viksit Bharat' even as the nation continues its journey toward achieving this goal by 2047. Speaking at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, PM Modi emphasised government's commitment for prioritising public welfare and driving transformative changes.

Addressing the gathering, PM Modi said, "When the British left India, many believed the country would disintegrate. During the Emergency, it was assumed that the suppression of democracy would become permanent. Even then, the people of India rose up and defended democracy." Reflecting on the Covid-19 pandemic, he said, "When the pandemic hit, the world thought India would prove to be a laggard. However, the resilience of Indian citizens proved them wrong and the nation also extended a helping hand to other economies with vaccine supply." Stressing on India's fight against terrorism, he cited the significant changes in the security environment and said, "There was a time when terrorism made Indians feel unsafe. Today, terrorists are the ones who feel insecure, even in their own homes." He credited this transformation to government's decisive actions and unwavering focus on national security.

RMC issues yellow alert for 18 districts in Tamil Nadu



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Chennai: The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) has issued a yellow alert for 18 districts in Tamil Nadu for Saturday (November 16) and Sunday (November 17). According to an RMC statement, heavy rains are expected in Kanyakumari, Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Tenkasi, Virudhunagar, Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Sivaganga, Pudukottai, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore, Villupuram, and Chengalpattu districts over the weekend. The heavy rains are attributed to a cyclonic circulation over south Tamil Nadu and its surrounding areas. The rest of the state is likely to experience light to moderate rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning in the coming days. In Chennai, the sky is expected to be partly cloudy, with moderate rains predicted in some areas during the evening and nighttime. The RMC has also forecast heavy rainfall in the north coastal districts, including Chennai, Tiruvallur, Chengalpattu, and Kancheepuram, starting November 22. These districts are expected to receive above-normal rainfall from November 22 to 28, while the rest of the state is likely to receive normal to below-normal rainfall during this period. During the Northeast Monsoon From October 1 to November 15, Tamil Nadu received 276 mm of rainfall. Coimbatore recorded the highest rainfall at 418 mm-67 per cent above the normal level. While 17 districts, including Chennai, experienced excess rainfall, the remaining districts recorded a deficit. Since the onset of the monsoon, heavy rainfall across many districts has led to a significant reduction in electricity consumption.

Haryana's Jind records AQI at 410; other parts in 'very poor' zone

Haryana's Jind recorded its Air Quality Index (AQI) in the "severe" category while several other parts of the State and many places in Punjab witnessed air quality in the "very poor" and "poor" zones on Saturday, November 16, 2024. Chandigarh saw some improvement in its AQI as it was registered at 298 at 10 a.m., according to the Central Pollution Control Board's Sameer app, which provides hourly updates. For the past many days, the AQI of the Union Territory remained in the "severe" and "very poor" brackets. Among many places in Haryana, the AQI was 410 in Jind, 392 in Bhiwani, 383 in Bahadurgarh, 357 in Panipat, 321 in Kaithal, 309 in Rohtak, 297 each in Charkhi Dadri and Gurugram, 289 in Kurukshetra, 285 in Karnal.

Ten children die, 16 critically injured as fire engulfs NICU in Jhansi Medical College

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Jhansi: At least 10 children died in a fire that engulfed the children's ward of a medical college in Uttar Pradesh's Jhansi district, officials said, as 16 others injured battled for life on Saturday. District Magistrate (DM) Avinash Kumar told reporters that the fire broke out around 10.45 pm on Friday in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) of the Maharani Laxmi Bai Medical College, possibly due to an electrical short circuit. The children who were in the outer part of the NICU were rescued, along with some of those who were in the interior part. "Prima facie there is information of the death of 10 children," the DM said. Those less critical are admitted in the outer section of the NICU while the more critical patients are kept in the interior part, Kumar said. Divisional Commissioner Jhansi Bimal Kumar Dubey, who reached the hospital around midnight, told reporters that there were about 30 children in the interior section of the NICU and most of them



were rescued. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Jhansi Sudha Singh on Saturday said another 16 children who suffered injuries in the episode were undergoing treatment. There were over 50 children admitted in the NICU when the incident took place. A fire brigade was rushed to the spot while senior officers of the district also reached the medical college, Jhansi police said in a brief statement on social media. A couple hailing from nearby Mahoba district grieved the demise of their newborn child. The mother told reporters that the child was born on November 13 at 8 am. "My child has been

cerned officials have been instructed to conduct relief and rescue operations on a war footing," he posted in Hindi on X. He also wished for the speedy recovery of the injured. The chief minister directed the district administration officials and the fire brigade vehicles to reach the spot and expedite the relief work. Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak, who also holds the health portfolio, said on X he was en route to Jhansi. He said the incident was extremely said and heartbreaking. The state's principal secretary of health was accompanying Pathak on the directions of Adityanath, an official statement said. Adityanath directed Divisional Commissioner Bimal Kumar Dubey and Deputy Inspector General (Jhansi police range) Kalandi Naithani to submit a report on the matter within 12 hours, the statement added. "I am extremely pained by this incident," Jhansi Lok Sabha MP Anurag Sharma told a news channel, adding that he was out of station at the moment. Sadar MLA Ravi Sharma also reached the hospital shortly after the incident.

BJP leaders accept Revanth's challenge, to stay with Musi residents on Saturday

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Hyderabad: Accepting the challenge thrown by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to live with the residents along the Musi river to understand their plight, BJP State unit president and union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy and fellow leaders have decided to stay among the people living across the river on Saturday night in 20 areas falling under 13 Assembly constituencies. About 20 senior leaders of the party will have food with the people and sleep in 20 habitations adjoining the Musi river on Saturday. Along with Kishan Reddy, party Rajya Sabha member K Laxman, party MPs Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Eatala Rajender, official spokesperson N Ramchander Rao and senior party leaders Chada Suresh Reddy, KS Ratnam, BB Patil, Seetaram Naik, Yendala Laxminarayana, Venkata Ramana Reddy, Gujula Premender Reddy, and NVSS Prabhakar, among others will stay in the Musi riverbed area. According to party leaders, Kishan Reddy would stay at Tulsii Ram Nagar of Amberpet constituency, Laxman in Old Malakpet Shalivahana Nagar, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy in Hydershakote area, and Eatala Rajender in Dwarakapuram



colony. During their stay, the leaders would interact with the people who had lost their houses and also meet people residing in the area. They also have food along with the affected families and stay at their homes. The entire exercise is intended to send a firm message to the State government against demolishing houses of the poor in Musi rejuvenation project and also to boost the confidence levels of the people.

Supreme Court rejects Vedanta's plea to review Thoothukudi plant order



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

The Supreme Court has dismissed a review petition filed by Vedanta Sterlite to reconsider its February judgment refusing to direct the reopening of the company's Thoothukudi copper plant. The plant was closed six years ago on grounds of pollution. The apex court judgment had endorsed the public's right to health over sheer industrial gains. "The application for listing the review petition in open court is rejected. Having perused the review petitions, there is no error apparent on the face of the record. No case for review has been established. The review petitions are, therefore, dismissed," a three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court recorded in a short order dated October 22 and published on Saturday. The review petition was dismissed by the Bench headed by then Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, who retired on November 10. In February, the apex court had upheld a Madras High Court decision of August 2020, which had confirmed the decisions of the Tamil Nadu government and the State Pollution Control Board to permanently shut down the plant in 2018. The court had said the closure of an industry was never a first choice. But the long and repeated breaches coupled with serious violations

by Vedanta had left the High Court and the statutory authorities no other option but to bring the curtain down on the Thoothukudi plant. Anything else would have been sheer obliviousness of their plain duty to the public, the court had noted. "We are conscious of the fact that the unit has contributed to the productive assets of the nation and providing employment and revenue in the area," the court had said. But equally relevant, it had noted, were the principles of sustainable development, public trust, and finally, that a polluter should pay. "The health and welfare of the residents of the area is a matter of utmost concern. In the ultimate analysis, the State government is responsible for preserving and protecting their concerns," the court had surmised. The State government had strongly opposed the reopening of the plant, arguing that the only "way forward" for Vedanta was to "sell the plant and go elsewhere". The 2018 closure of the plant was preceded by nearly 30 years of local protests, which had even led to an incident of police firing. eom

Govt. school HM suspended for neglecting household survey

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Kothagudem: A government school headmaster has been suspended for neglecting the ongoing comprehensive household survey being conducted by the State government. The headmaster of Government Primary School at Medara basti in Kothagudem, Phani Bhaskar was accused of neglecting the duties, not attending the survey and failing to give prior information about his absence to higher officials.

Cong wants to break marginalised communities, BJP bats for everyone: PM



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Mumbai: As the polling for the Maharashtra Assembly elections is slated for November 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that the Congress wants to break marginalised communities while the BJP bats for everyone. PM Modi said this during his interaction with the BJP's booth-level activists on Saturday through the Nammo App, before leaving on a three-nation tour. He asserted that the NDA and Mahayuti governments have a vision for development wherein everyone gets an opportunity to progress, while the Congress and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) want to break the SC, ST and OBC communities and weaken their strength. "The vision of our government is that we together develop so much that everyone gets an opportunity to progress. The Congress knows its history. Till the time SC-ST-OBC communities in the country did not become aware, the Congress used to form a government with full majority at the Centre. But ever since the SC-ST-OBC community has united, the position of the Congress has been weakening. Therefore, the Congress now wants to break the SC-ST-OBC community to such an extent that no strength is left against the Congress," he claimed. The PM further stated, "The Mahayuti government is trying to empower every section of society. This is the difference between our government and the Maha Vikas Aghadi government and the people are feeling this difference."

Voting for Congress ushered in touch of ruin: KTR

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Hyderabad: Highlighting the failure of the Congress government in fulfilling its commitments to the people, BRS Working President, KT Rama Rao said on Saturday that voting for the Congress Party falling prey to its false promises only resulted in inviting the touch of ruin. Taking to social media platform 'X', Rama Rao pointed out that despite the Congress government's 420 promises, key initiatives including the Rs 15,000 Rythu Bharosa support, Rs 2 lakh loan waiver were not implemented. He accused the



government of betraying farmers' trust by not delivering on these promises. He also mentioned that the Congress government has failed to provide the Rs 500 bonus per quintal for fine quality paddy, which was one of the key promises made to farmers. He warned that believing in false promises and voting for the Congress would lead to disappointment and betrayal.

Kharge claims not allowed into reserved airport lounge, questions if toilet can be reserved for PM Modi

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday (November 16, 2024) attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing them of delaying the helicopters of his and Rahul Gandhi in Jharkhand, and alleged that despite holding Cabinet Minister rank, the Opposition leaders were not given access to reserved airport lounge.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's helicopter, which was supposed to take him from Mahagama in Jharkhand's Godda district after he addressed an election rally there, was grounded for about two hours on Friday (November 16, 2024), prompting allegations from the Congress that the delay was politically motivated.

Prime Minister Modi was stranded at Deoghar airport for nearly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform to the general public at large that, Gedam Salik Rao s/o Gadama Mahadu, is intending to advance loan from Bank, by mortgaging property H.No. 4-4-24/2/307/5/7/2/45/2 in Sy No. 45/2, situated at Village LBS Nagar Revenue Village Batti savargaon, Mdl & Dist. Adilabad within the limits of Adilabad Municipality, to the bank.

That, the original link document No. 619/2006 is been lost. If any one has any claim, right, title or interest of any kind in the said property, they may contact the undersigned within 7 days of the publication of this Notice, with all documents of claim and title. If no objection is received within 7 days, then the bank will proceed to complete the other formalities for the mortgage and if any claim and objection arise, it shall be deemed to have been waived.

Bipin Kumar Patel
Advocate,
ADARSH Building, N.H.No.7,
Adilabad
Cell: 9440005500
Dt:16-11-2024

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

AFSPA returns

THE reimposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in Manipur marks a sombre turn in the state's struggle for stability and peace. After years of gradual reduction in AFSPA-designated areas, recent escalations have led the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to reinstate the Disturbed Areas status in the jurisdiction of six police stations across the state. This decision reflects the grim reality that, despite past gains, Manipur's path to peace remains perilously uncertain. AFSPA is controversial due to its broad powers, which allow the armed forces to act with significant immunity. This, in turn, has created an environment of mistrust between civilians and the military. In Manipur, its presence has often been linked with allegations of human rights violations, further complicating the peace process in a region where historical grievances already run deep.

While the MHA has cited 'volatile' conditions and "active participation of insurgent groups in heinous acts of violence", the decision to reintroduce AFSPA as the most effective approach to quell these issues is questionable. The state's challenges extend beyond insurgency and violence. Ethnic divides, regional grievances and economic stagnation have contributed to the unrest.

Manipur's people, including the Kukis and Meiteis who are mainly embroiled in the conflict, deserve a future free from violence and repression. To achieve this, the Central government must prioritise non-military solutions, promoting dialogue, economic investment and social programmes that address the underlying issues fuelling the unrest. Enduring peace in Manipur will not come from the barrel of a gun but from comprehensive efforts to bridge divides and build trust. Reimposing AFSPA may restore order, but it is a step backward in the quest for sustainable peace.

Punjab BJP chief Sunil Jakhar slams move to allocate Chandigarh land to Haryana: 'Appeal to PM Modi, reverse this decision'

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Punjab BJP president Sunil Jakhar on Thursday opposed the Centre's move to allocate 10 acres of land in Chandigarh to the BJP-led Haryana government for a Legislative Assembly, saying it would "harm the close relationship Punjab shares" with the Union Territory. "I believe that in order to maintain strong relations between Punjab and the central government, this decision should be reconsidered, and I appeal to the Prime Minister to personally intervene and have this decision reversed," Jakhar said in a long post in Punjabi on X.

In a conversation with the media, Jakhar also confirmed that he had resigned after the BJP's dismal show in the Lok Sabha elections in Punjab. "After the Lok Sabha polls, although the BJP gained vote share, it was not able to win even a single seat. I had submitted my resignation to national president Jagat Prakash Nadda ji, asking to be relieved of this responsibility. Now, whatever decision they take is up to them as I have already submitted my resignation," Jakhar said. The BJP is yet to appoint a new state president and party sources said a decision on whether or not Jakhar will be urged to stay will be taken by the high command. Asked if he would continue as state president if the party persuaded him to do so, Jakhar avoided a direct answer. Known for airing his independent views, Jakhar also voiced his concerns about the move to allocate land to Haryana. "Chandigarh is not only a piece of land as the capital of Punjab but also deeply connected to the emotions of the people of Punjab. In an effort to heal Punjab's past wounds, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has taken steps for the social and religious prosperity of Punjab. However, by allocating 10 acres of land in Chandigarh to Haryana for a separate legislative assembly, this initiative will harm the close relationship Punjab shares with Chandigarh," he said in a post on X.

"Due to the misunderstanding of the Aam Aadmi Party's Chief Minister, on an issue where all political parties of Punjab were united, Punjab's claim on Chandigarh has weakened. During the Northern Zonal Council meeting in Jaipur in July 2022, when Haryana demanded land for its legislative assembly in the presence of the Union Home Minister, Punjab's Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann, instead of opposing this, requested land for a Punjab assembly in Chandigarh as well, effectively supporting Haryana's demand. Why should the people of Punjab bear the consequences of this Punjab-opposing stance taken by Punjab's inexperienced Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann?" Jakhar added.

"When Chandigarh belongs to Punjab, why should we ask for land for our Vidhan Sabha from a place that is already ours? Rather, Mann should have opposed Haryana's demand. I will strongly take up the matter with PM Modi and seek his intervention to have this land allotment cancelled," Jakhar told a veteran Congressman, Jakhar had joined the BJP in May 2022 and was made the BJP state president in July 2023. Referring to his resignation, Jakhar said that in 2019, when he lost the Gurdaspur Lok Sabha seat, he had offered his resignation to the Congress as he was serving as the party's state president at the time. Asked about the possibility of rejoining Congress, Jakhar categorically told The Indian Express, "Which Congress are you talking about? Earlier, the Congress's secular slogan was 'Na jaat pe na paat pe, mohar lagegi haath pe (Vote for the hand symbol, not caste)...now they are even asking for a caste census.' On the possibility of a Shiromani Akali Dal-BJP alliance, Jakhar said, "I mentioned before the Lok Sabha polls that an alliance could be beneficial for the state. However, at this stage, both parties need to first strengthen themselves within Punjab. They need to stand on their own feet." Discussing his appeal to the Akal Takht Sahib regarding the 'Tankhaiya' (guilty of violating Sikh religious code) status of Sukhbir Singh Badal, he reiterated, "As a Punjabi, I believe the Akali Dal must exist in Punjab for the state's stability, regardless of its electoral success, as its foundation was laid at the Akal Takht Sahib." Jakhar had appealed to the Akal Takht Jathedar to save the Akali Dal.

Bombay HC reserves orders on pleas by BMW hit-and-run accused seeking immediate release



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

BMW The petitioners claimed that the arrest grounds were not given as per Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and their fundamental rights of personal liberty among others were violated due to illegal detention. The Bombay High Court on Thursday concluded hearing and reserved orders on pleas by Mihir Shah and his driver Rajrishi Bindawat, accused in the BMW hit-and-run incident in which a 45-year-old woman was killed in Worli in Mumbai last month, claiming that their arrest was illegal. The HC said that it will pass orders on November 21.

The petitioners claimed that the arrest grounds were not given as per Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and their fundamental rights of personal liberty among others were violated due to illegal detention. Stating that the police failed to follow constitutional mandate, the petitioners sought quashing of remand orders and his immediate release. A bench of jus-

tices Bharati H Dangre and Manjusha A Deshpande indicated that it would decide as to whether the accused were required to be informed about the grounds of arrest even though they were caught 'red handed' and whether it would become an empty formality in such cases.

"It is true that grounds of arrest need to be communicated as per Supreme Court judgement, but if an accident takes place and if a person is caught red handed in the car, does he not know for what purpose he is arrested? How does he say arrest is vitiated as the grounds of arrest are not communicated. According to us, it is an empty formality. For example, if murder takes place and the accused is aware, but as per formality, he should be informed so that he is aware when taken in custody. In such cases, there is a chain of circumstances.

Despite having knowledge, will formality be required to be completed?" Justice Dangre orally questioned. However, public prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar for Mumbai Police opposed the plea and submitted that both the accused were very much in the know of the offences and were made aware of the same.

Mihir Shah, 24, is the son of Rajesh Shah, a Shiv Sena leader close to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. While Rajesh was granted bail, Mihir and his driver Rajrishi Bindawat are in judicial custody in the case. In July, this year, Shah allegedly rammed his BMW car he was driving into a two-wheeler on which Pradip Nakhwa, 50, and his wife Kaveri Nakhwa, 45, were travelling. Kaveri was allegedly dragged for nearly 2 km after she got stuck between the car's bumper and tire. She was later flung onto the road, leading to her death.

Uber unveils Assisted Service at Pune Airport's New Terminal: Convenient cab rides for people with mobility challenges

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Uber is set to launch India's first 'Assisted Service' option in its app at the new terminal of the Pune International Airport (PIA), offering a specialized service for people with mobility challenges and making it easier for them to reach their final destinations. Passengers with disabilities (PWD), solo women travellers, pregnant women, and those with joint pain or fractures can now identify themselves on the Uber app to access direct and convenient transportation options to their drop-off locations by selecting the pickup point at Terminal Two.

These targeted flyers arriving at the New Integrated Terminal Building (NITB) can now book a cab directly through this option, allowing them to reach their homes without needing to walk to Aeromall's multi-level parking to find cabs. In collaboration with Uber, the Aeromall authority will implement this new service within a week, aiming to enhance transportation accessibility from the new terminal for passengers with mobility restraints. Y S Rajput, Aeromall's Vice-President, said that a similar system was introduced in September, operating manually through a counter service where solo women, pregnant women, and PWDs were assisted in booking direct cabs to their drop-off locations. Rajput stated that Uber's app integration will make this process even easier and it would be the first such tech-service, initiated at the PIA.



When asked about potential misuse of the service by people falsely claiming mobility issues, Rajput explained that while this is challenging to monitor, Uber plans to offer only premium vehicles for this service. "This will deter people from making false claims, as premium cars cost more, which they can save by walking to the Aeromall parking lot," he said. He also mentioned that the service will initially operate as a pilot project to allow Uber's technical team to update their software and assess profitability. "This option will only be available for pickup at the new terminal, with specific categories for solo women, pregnant women, wheelchair users, and people with health issues. Even those carrying excess luggage can opt for this service," Rajput added.

Poll-bound Maharashtra lags behind, while Congress-ruled Telangana races ahead in soybean procurement



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

At a time when the low rates for soybean in mandis (wholesale markets) have become a major political issue in Maharashtra ahead of the Assembly elections — particularly in Marathwada and Vidarbha — government procurement of the oilseed at the officially declared minimum support price (MSP) remains abysmally low. Soybean prices have collapsed in the wake of a bumper crop. Cultivated over 50 lakh hectare in Maharashtra, soybean is now trading at Rs 4,100-4,200/ quintal as against the MSP of Rs 4,892/quintal. A glut in the international market has also resulted in low prices.

Government agencies had bought a mere 3,887.94 tonnes of soybean in Maharashtra till November 12. This

was against the procurement target of 13.08 lakh tonnes set for the current season. Procurement of soybeans started on October 15 and is expected to go on till January 12 next year. On the other hand, neighbouring Telangana has procured 24,253 tonnes of the oilseed since September 15 as against its target of 59,508 tonnes. Madhya Pradesh, the largest soybean grower in the country, has procured 9,971.94 tonnes of its 13.68 lakh-tonnes target. Procurement in this BJP-ruled state started on October 21. However, despite starting late Madhya Pradesh has raced ahead of Maharashtra in terms of the quantum of soybean procured. Notably, Maharashtra has over 40 state-level agencies (SLAs) — the highest for a state — that act as sub-agents of the Centre for procurement of crops. But the higher SLA numbers have not helped the state in terms of soybean procurement. Senior government officials said one reason for the low procurement could be the higher-than-allowed moisture level in the oilseed. "At present, the oilseed has over 15 per cent moisture, which does not adhere to the government's Fair and Average Quality (FAQ) of 12 per cent moisture. High moisture content would result in the oilseed molting and thus we can't procure from the farmers," added an official. Private traders have drying sheds that allow them to buy oilseed with higher moisture content but obviously at a lower price. The 288-member Maharashtra Assembly will go to the polls on November 20, and the counting of votes will be held on November 23.

Threat call to Shah Rukh Khan: Chhattisgarh lawyer remanded in police custody till Nov 18

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

A Bandra court on Thursday remanded the Chhattisgarh lawyer, accused of threatening to kill Shah Rukh Khan, in police custody till November 18. After obtaining his transit remand from a Chhattisgarh court, the police brought the accused to Bandra, where they sought a seven-day remand to investigate the case.

The accused's lawyers, Amit Mishra and Sunil Mishra submitted that Faizan Khan's phone was stolen before the alleged incident. They claimed that the threat call made from his device was part of a conspiracy, citing Khan's previous complaint to the Mumbai police against Shah Rukh Khan over a dialogue in his movie 'Anjaam' (1994) referring to deer hunting. After hearing both sides, the court remanded the accused in police custody till November 18.

The Bandra police station received a call on No-

vember 5 threatening to kill Shah Rukh Khan and demanding Rs 50 lakh. A case was registered against the unidentified caller under sections 308(4) (extortion with death threats) and 351(3)(4) (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The caller was later identified as Faizan Khan and traced to Raipur. Before his arrest, Faizan Khan claimed that his phone was stolen and someone else made the call to the Mumbai police and gave threats to frame him.

On his objection over a scene in Shah Rukh Khan's movie, he had said, "I hail from Rajasthan. The Bishnoi community (whose members mainly reside in Rajasthan) is my friend. It is in their religion to protect deer. So, if a Muslim says something like this about deer, it is condemnable. Therefore, I raised an objection." The threat to the 59-year-old superstar follows a series of such phone calls targeting fellow actor Salman Khan, allegedly from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

As daily ridership figures fail to meet target, is Pune Metro on the right track?

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

With the inauguration of the Swargate station in October, the first two phases of the Pune Metro, covering 33.1 km, are almost completely operational. From Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, politicians have cited the Metro as a testament to the Mahayuti government's focus on infrastructure development in Maharashtra. But has Pune Metro met the expectations set out before its construction? A look at what the numbers reveal about the Rs 13,000 crore project:

The detailed project report (DPR) for the Pune Metro was first prepared by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) in 2009. The final version submitted in 2015 presented an 'optimistic' and a 'most likely' scenario for projected ridership figures. The most likely estimate for the PCCM-Swargate route in 2021 was 3,97,229 and for the Vanaz-Ramwadi route was 2,12,019. This means the estimated combined daily ridership figure for 2021 was over 6 lakh. The 'optimistic' scenario predicted an even greater ridership of 10 lakh for 2021. According to the figures on the Pune Metro website, in October 2024, the average daily rides on the Pune Metro were 1,55,407 — around one-fourth of the over 6 lakh estimated combined daily ridership figure predicted for 2021.

'Overestimating Metro ridership, underestimating costs a pattern' Pune is not the only city facing this issue. According to a 2023 report by IIT-Delhi and Delhi-based thinktank The Infravision Foundation, all Metro systems in the country are operating on less than 50 per cent of their projected ridership. "There has always been a very consistent pattern of overestimating ridership and underestimating costs for metro projects in India. This allows them to pass the bar that has been set by typically the Ministry of Finance to get approval for the project," says Ranjit Gadgil, Program Director at Parisar, a Pune-based NGO advocating sustainable development.

The Union Ministry of Urban Development in a 2014 letter had recommended to the Maharashtra urban development department that alternatives like Bus Rapid Transport or Light Rail should be considered for Pune in place of the Metro as these are cheaper alternatives for the level of passenger traffic estimated in the city. This suggestion was not genuine, according to Gadgil, who says, "It is a bit of a fait accompli. The political system has already decided that the Metro will happen in Pune, whether it is required or not."

Will expanding Metro lines bring ridership up?

Expanding existing Metro lines and building new lines might increase ridership but it would not resolve the issue as projected estimates were given for the currently operational lines. Urban transport planner Bhaumik Gawande, who has worked on the Station Access and Mobility Program for Delhi and Nagpur Metro, said, "They really need to dig deep into the issue of low ridership immediately before they expand the lines. Everybody says, 'When you expand the Metro to the entire city then people will use it'. But the projection was given for the lines currently operational. Why has it not been achieved? It is not rocket science, you have to really go on the ground and understand the problem."

Local behaviour patterns and public needs also need to be taken into account, adds Gawande. "These estimations are thumb rule-based or formula-based. But to ensure that they are realistic, on-ground public consultation needs to happen. You will see a lot of photos from the Pune Metro stations where two-wheelers are parked on the sidewalk. This means that the local behaviour was not taken into consideration. Two-wheelers are the lifeblood of Pune," he explains. While Hemant Sonawane, Executive Director (Administration & Public Relations), Pune Metro, did not respond to requests for a comment, Shrawan Hardikar, Managing Director of Maha Metro, refused to comment on the issue citing the Model Code of Conduct in place for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections. Gadgil questions the lack of accountability that has followed Metro projects around the country. "Shouldn't someone ask the government: Why was the projected number high? Why is the ridership lower than that? What assumptions in the DPR were not fulfilled? Typically the CAG [Comptroller and Auditor General of India] comes out with a report, which is often reported in the media. What happens to the CAG report?" Gadgil asks.

"When we had questioned the estimates in the DPR before the construction started we were told by officials 'Why do you bother reading these documents?'" Gadgil alleges. He also raises doubts over the competence of authorities preparing reports for approval of Metro projects. "DMRC touts itself as an expert in this (Metro planning), their credibility should be called into question. How are they constantly giving estimates that do not match up with real figures? Either they are incompetent, or dishonest, you take your pick. If the DMRC had predicted a ridership of say even 2 lakh for this line, I do not think the project would have been sanctioned," says Gadgil. In an interview with The Indian Express in October, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) spokesperson Anish Gawande spoke about why politicians prefer Metros over buses. He said, "Metros are flashy big-ticket infrastructure projects that look good for the government in power, and you can give out the contracts for thousands of crores of rupees. Buses, on the other hand, require much less effort, are not as sexy, and do not get you the PR stunt that you need. But the reality is that buses work better than Metros."

ABVP-HCU flags land encroachment issue with Union Education Minister

Hyderabad: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Hyderabad Central University (HCU) has flagged the university's land encroachment issue with the Union Minister of State for Education Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, who visited the campus here on Wednesday.

The ABVP-HCU delegation led by president Balakrishna Kanukati and secretary Sakshi apprised the Union Minister about the demolition of the university boundary wall by unknown persons and laying of a road inside the campus. They also pointed out that there were no boundary walls at several places on the campus, making the varsity land vulnerable for further encroachment. The delegation also voiced concerns over declining deer population on the campus due to attacks by stray dogs and killings by unknown persons and sought immediate steps for protection of deer population and other flora and fauna.

Manipur students organise mass protest demanding safe release of 6 abducted Meitei women and children



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Students in Manipur's Valley districts held demonstrations Thursday demanding the release of six people — three children and three women — allegedly abducted by armed miscreants in the Jiribam district recently. Students staged rallies at their respective school and college premises as part of the demonstrations. "Today is Children's Day, Release the

Innocent Children" read one of the placards displayed during the protests. Meanwhile, the police said security forces were conducting operations to rescue the missing individuals.

Condemning the abductions, 13 Meitei organisations imposed a total shutdown in the Valley districts on Wednesday. They also submitted a memorandum to the Governor's office, urging action to rescue the missing persons and find a lasting solution to the Meitei-Kuki conflict. Mass torch rallies were also held on Wednesday evening, calling for the safe release of the six captives. In response to the deteriorating law and order situation, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has deployed an additional 20 companies of CRPF and BSF in Manipur. Meanwhile, Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanjaoba on his X account posted, "According to the Home Ministry's instruction, DG Assam Rifles has already reached CCpur (Churachandpur) for the safe release of the 6 abducted Meitei people from Jiribam, Manipur. Great efforts from the Ministry of Home Affairs & grateful to Hon'ble HM Shri @Amitshah ji & @PMOIndia."

Citing remarks against Telugu community, Madras HC rejects actress Kasthuri's anticipatory bail plea: 'What has fallen out of petitioner's mouth is highly pejorative'

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court Thursday dismissed a plea for anticipatory bail filed by South Indian actress S Kasthuri, who is facing potential arrest for her comments about the Telugu community during a recent event in Chennai. Justice N Anand Venkatesh, presiding over the case, concluded that the remarks constituted hate speech and underscored the delicate balance between free expression and communal responsibility. Her remarks, delivered during a speech at a Brahmin meet early this month, had provoked widespread backlash. A police complaint against her was filed by a member of the Naidu Mahajana Sangam State Executive Committee, citing offences under several sections of the BNS Act along with provisions from the IT Act. According to the complaint, she allegedly said that Telugu people, who "came to serve the wives and courtisans of Tamil kings" only 300 years ago, now falsely claimed Tamil identity even as the Brahmin community had been denied the identity of Tamizhian. After a public outcry, she issued a public apology, clarifying that her remarks were intended to address only certain individuals and not the Telugu community at large.

In a statement to the court, too, Kasthuri explained that her comments were aimed only at a specific group rather than the entire community. "This speech made by the petitioner must be understood only with this background and bits and pieces cannot be lifted from that speech and it should not be given a convoluted meaning," the order quoted her counsel as saying. Claiming that the case has arisen out of political vendetta, the counsel said the petitioner posted a Twitter message on November 5, explaining her stand and also expressed her regret for any inadvertent ill feeling after she realised that some Telugu speaking persons were hurt.

Kasthuri's defence also argued that her comments were an appeal for recognition of Tamil identity within the Brahmin and Telugu communities, noting her reference to historical migrations to Tamil Nadu. The court, however, took a critical view. Justice Venkatesh said her comments painted an entire community in a negative light, irrespective of any qualifications she may have later issued. Observing that her remarks carried undertones of divisive rhetoric, the court emphasised the need for care in public statements, particularly in the era of social media where words can rapidly gain permanence and reach. "The ability to speak freely," the judge said, "should not be misused to spread hatred or cause communal disharmony."

The state prosecutor argued that Kasthuri's comments, allegedly delivered with malicious intent, could



exacerbate tensions between Tamil Nadu and its neighbouring states. With Tamil Nadu already engaged in contentious relations with neighbouring Karnataka and Kerala, the state argued that such speech had the potential to further disrupt communal harmony. Justice Venkatesh also spoke about the role of responsibility in free speech, particularly in a diverse nation like India, where religious and linguistic diversity must be respected. He said that "a speaker must think twice" before making statements that could inflame communal sensitivities. Pointing to the applause Kasthuri received at the event, the judge noted that while the remarks may have resonated with some, they ultimately affected the sentiments of Telugu-speaking people across Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

The judge said that Kasthuri's lack of genuine remorse compounded the impact of her words. "The petitioner claims to be an educated and public spirited person but what has fallen out of the mouth of the petitioner is highly pejorative. Courts must be more stringent when such demeaning statements are made by such persons since they are setting a bad role model for others to follow," the order said. "In navigating the landscape of communication," Justice Venkatesh said, "let us commit to using our voices for good... to foster understanding and compassion rather than division and hatred." In a poetic reflection on speech and responsibility, the court order said, "A careless word, like an arrow let fly, strikes deep and leaves scars, no chance to deny. Once loose from the bow, it cannot retract — choose wisdom in speech, lest we suffer the impact." Kasthuri's plea also contended that no incidents of unrest followed her remarks, asserting that her comments had been met with support from various Telugu community members. However, the court held that freedom of speech does not shield individuals from accountability when their words are viewed as inflammatory or derogatory by the wider public.

Will follow up on Arsh Dalla extradition, says MEA after Canada police arrested Nijjar aide

Indian agencies had requested the Canadian government for his provisional arrest in July last year, which was declined, the MEA said. However, the Indian side expects he will now "be extradited or deported to face justice in India". In response to media queries, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Thursday, "We have seen media reports circulating since November 10 on the arrest in Canada of proclaimed offender Arsh Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, the de-facto chief of the Khalistan Tiger Force. Canadian print and visual media have widely reported on the arrest. We understand that the Ontario Court has listed the case for hearing."

Arsh Dalla is a proclaimed offender in over 50 cases of murder, attempt to murder, extortion and terrorist acts, including terror financing. In May 2022, a Red Corner Notice was issued against him. He was designated in India as an individual terrorist by the NIA in 2023. In July last year, the Government of India requested the Canadian government for his provisional arrest, which was declined. A separate request was also sent to Canada under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) to verify Dalla's suspected residential address, his financial transactions to India, moveable/immovable properties, details of mobile numbers, etc — all of which were provided to Canadian authorities in January 2023. "In December 2023, the Department of Justice of Canada sought additional information on the case. A reply to these queries was sent in March this year," the MEA spokesperson said. He added that "in view of the recent arrest, our agencies will be following up on an extradition request".

"Given Arsh Dalla's criminal record in India and his involvement in similar illegal activities in Canada, it is expected that he will be extradited or deported to face justice in India," he said. Canadian police arrested Dalla for a shooting that took place in Milton town last month.

Dalla started off as a small-time gangster in Moga, Punjab, before fleeing to Canada in 2018. There, he came



in contact with Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar and began collaborating with him. Canadian newspaper The Globe and Mail has described Dalla as a plumber in Surrey who frequented the Guru Nanak Darbar gurdwara, where Nijjar was the president. An NIA chargesheet filed in July 2023 alleges that Dalla used his connections in Punjab to form a "terrorist gang". "He, along with Nijjar, raised funds through extortion and targeted killings of businessmen and leaders from specific communities in Punjab," states the chargesheet. Sources within the agency, which has been issuing red corner notices against his gang members, had noted an ongoing conflict between Dalla and the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. This rivalry reportedly escalated in December 2023, as numerous Indian-origin business owners in Canada began reporting extortion calls and threats. Originally from Dala village in Moga, he is also accused of conspiring with other gang members to fund the KTF's terror activities through killings and extortion. Wire-transfer records and WhatsApp messages filed in the NIA court reveal that Dalla, along with his wife, transferred large sums of money to men allegedly involved in an extortion and weapons smuggling network.

SC gives ex-Chhattisgarh bureaucrat interim protection from arrest in liquor scam case booked in UP



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Chhattisgarh The Supreme Court later quashed the ECIR saying there was no scheduled offence as contemplated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act for registering it. The Supreme Court on Thursday gave former Chhattisgarh bureaucrat Anil Tuteja interim protection from arrest in a case booked in Uttar Pradesh in connection with an alleged liquor scam. Issuing a notice to the UP Government and the Enforcement Directorate on his appeal challenging the Allahabad High Court's refusal to quash the FIR, a bench of Justices A S Oka and A G Masih directed that "even if petitioner appears before trial court pursuant to High Court's decision, he shall not be taken into the custody." In February 2020, the Income Tax Department searched premises owned by Tuteja and lodged a case before the Tis Hazari Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court. Based on the income tax complaint, the ED registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) on November 18, 2022, alleging that a liquor scam had come to light in Chhattisgarh.

In April 2023, the magistrate court returned the income tax complaint citing lack of territorial jurisdiction. In the meantime, the ED wrote to the additional director-general of police of an Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force, with certain information about a company called M/s Prizm Holography & Security Films Pvt Ltd, Noida. On the basis of this, the UP police registered an FIR against five people

including Tuteja.

The company was allegedly illegally granted a tender to supply holograms (to be fixed on liquor bottles for its authentication and to confirm excise duty payments) to the Chhattisgarh excise department. The Supreme Court later quashed the ECIR saying there was no scheduled offence as contemplated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act for registering it. The accused then approached the Allahabad High Court seeking the quashing of the Uttar Pradesh FIR on the ground that it was also registered on the basis of same witness statements.

However, the high court rejected the plea. "We are of the view that when on the date when the ED had communicated to the State of Uttar Pradesh on 28.7.2023 (purportedly under section 66(2) of the PML Act 2002) then on that date, the prosecution complaint was very much surviving and, therefore, there was nothing wrong in the communication being sent on 28.7.2023 and in the lodging of the FIR on 30.7.2023," the court said. The high court further said, "The answer to the question that whether when the prosecution complaint itself had been done away with, could the FIR stand on the basis of the statements etc. which were recorded under section 50 of the PML Act, 2002, would be that definitely the information which was gathered under section 50 of the PML Act, 2002, was a material in the possession of the Director of ED which had to be transmitted to the concerned agency for necessary action."

"In the instant case, the State of Uttar Pradesh was the concerned agency which had to look into the fact as to whether the work of manufacturing holograms was given to M/s. Prizm Holography and Security Films Pvt. Ltd. illegally by the accused persons and whether the accused persons for their illegal acts had charged commission. Also, the State of Uttar Pradesh had to see that when duplicate holograms, in connivance with the accused persons, were being made and for this purpose, the ED had passed on information in its possession to it, then it had to further investigate and bring the guilty to book."

Piyush Goyal wants RBI to cut rates, look through food prices; RBI gov 'reserves' comment

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Piyush Goyal Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that average inflation under the Narendra Modi government had been the lowest since Independence. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to cut repo rates. Considering food prices while deciding on interest rate structure was a "flawed theory", he said, while speaking at a CNBC TV18 event in Mumbai. "I certainly believe they (central bank) should cut interest rates. Growth needs a further impetus," the North Mumbai Lok Sabha MP said, adding he was speaking in his personal capacity and pointed to Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran's Economic Survey this year. The CEA had said that the RBI shouldn't solely focus on targeting food inflation as it could not control food prices. Goyal also said that average inflation under the Narendra Modi government had been the lowest since Independence. When asked for his reaction to Goyal's statement at the same event, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said he would reserve his comments for the Monetary Policy Committee meeting next month.

Congress questions Goyal's statement Reacting later in the day, Congress questioned Goyal's statement, and said the government only knew one trick: "to change the data if it didn't suit them." "Aside from raising concerns



about the RBI's independence, this statement also shows extreme insensitivity. Food inflation... is a very large component of the budgets of India's families, and absolutely needs to be considered when setting monetary policy rates," Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. India's central bank has a mandate to maintain consumer price inflation in a band of 2-6 per cent. Goyal's comments came days after government data showed that October retail inflation had breached RBI's comfort level. Retail inflation increased by 6.21 per cent in the month, the fastest pace in 14 months.

India expects Trump's return to White House to improve oil availability, ease international oil prices

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Donald Trump's victory in the US presidential election and rising oil production from countries "in the Western Hemisphere" is expected to increase oil availability in the international market, which in turn would be a positive for major oil consumers and importers like India, Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said Thursday. Puri expressed hope that higher production from countries like the US, Canada, Brazil, and Guyana, will also nudge the OPEC+ group of major oil producers to rethink their production cuts and increase output. Trump's diplomatic moves, particularly those aimed at cooling down geopolitical conflicts, can also positively impact oil availability and affordability.

"More and more oil is coming to the market. One expects, as a result of that, that the market situation will calm. At some stage, the producers who have cut back (oil production) will also decide... if there is more coming on to the market, they just might use the oil that they have in order to earn revenue for development. I see that as a natural byproduct of where we are going," the minister said at a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event in the Capital. For India, which is the world's third-largest consumer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet over 85 per cent of its requirement of the commodity, higher oil availability and the consequent downward pressure on international oil prices would be generally beneficial. Heavy reliance on imported crude oil makes the Indian economy vulnerable to global oil price volatility, apart from having a bearing on the country's trade deficit, foreign exchange reserves, rupee's exchange rate, and inflation.

While it may be too early to say how Trump's second term as president will turn out to be for global oil markets, industry watchers expect the Trump administration's economic and energy policies to put limited downward pressure on oil prices. If strictly implemented, his plans to impose high tariffs on imports—particularly on those from China—could negatively impact global oil demand as China is the world's top oil importer.

Moreover, Trump's push to significantly increase US oil production and even exports, for which he employed the slogan "Drill, baby, drill", could add to the global oil supply and even push major oil producers to compete for market share by increasing their own oil production and exports. Subdued demand from China and rising production from non-OPEC+ suppliers have weighed on in-



ternational oil prices over the past few months. From around \$85 per barrel in mid-April, the price of benchmark Brent crude has fallen to around \$72 per barrel. In a recent note, S&P Global Commodity Insights (SPGI) said that growing US crude production has posed a significant challenge for OPEC+ in recent years, exerting downward pressure on prices, threatening the bloc's market share and prompting massive output cuts to support oil prices. Analysts say increased US production, as well as output increases in other non-OPEC+ countries, such as Brazil, Guyana and Canada, have nearly nullified the impact of OPEC+ production cuts in 2024.

SPGI expects Asian buyers—including India—to witness significantly more opportunities to import "attractively priced crude from the US" as its competition with the OPEC suppliers intensifies. The US is India's fifth-largest source market for crude oil behind Russia, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Apart from his economic and energy policies, Trump's diplomatic moves could also affect the international oil market. During his election campaign, the US president-elect had vowed to end the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and the Russia-Ukraine war. Although Trump has not outlined what he has in mind to wind down these conflicts, experts expect his administration to make concerted efforts to that end in order to score a diplomatic victory early in his presidency. Cooling off of these conflicts is likely to bring stability to the global oil market. "What we need is stability and predictability (in oil markets) so that in the period ahead, countries can base their decisions on lines which are predictable. Because fluctuations create uncertainties in the market, and that is not good for economic decision making... Stability in oil prices depends both on the availability and the global geopolitical situation calming," Puri said Thursday.

DGCA nod for flight landing tests at Jewar airport now expected by November-end



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Jewar airport Another official pointed out that the approvals for the runway, Instrument Landing System (ILS), and calibration flight have already been granted by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The landing test of aircraft, which was supposed to

commence at the Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL) in Uttar Pradesh's Jewar on Friday, is now likely to take place in the last week of November. A senior NIAL official said, "The trial will happen in the last week of November. We have no further information as of now". Another official pointed out that the approvals for the runway, Instrument Landing System (ILS), and calibration flight have already been granted by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). "We will conduct a one-day trial and the data will be submitted to the DGCA now as part of the application process," the official said. Earlier this month, Arun Veer Singh, Chief Executive Officer, NIAL, told the Express that Jewar airport was all set for the second stage of trial operations starting November 15. "In the second stage, flights of Akasa, Indigo and most probably Air India will take off and land daily till December 15," Singh had said. He also said that the testing process is expected to continue for a month. "This data will be uploaded on December 20 on the DGCA website. We will apply for the aerodrome licensing."

Should you buy an air purifier? Here's what top pulmonologists in Delhi say

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Can an air purifier help even when the Air Quality Index (AQI) levels have crossed 400, as it did in Delhi on Wednesday and Thursday? Pulmonologists in the National Capital say that while an air purifier can be helpful in improving indoor air quality by removing pollutants like dust, pollen, pet dander, mould spores, and certain chemical particles, they have to be used with all doors and windows shut to be effective. According to Dr G C Khilnani, chairman of Pulmonary, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine at PSRI Hospital, there is no scientific evidence or study which can prove the health benefits of an air purifier. One should not assume that an air purifier kept in one's living room can clean the air of the entire house.

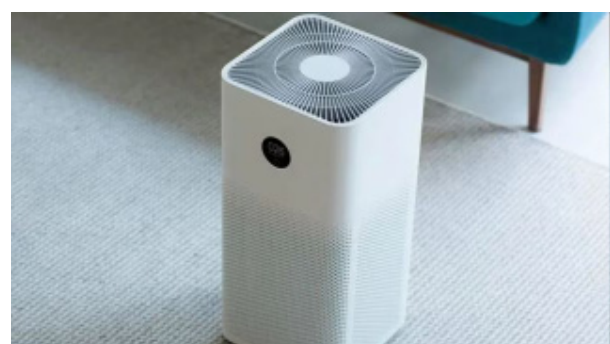
How should one use an air purifier? Dr Khilnani says air purifiers have two components – a filter which stops PM 2.5 and PM 10 particles and an adsorbent which adsorbs pollutant gases like NO₂, carbon monoxide, etc. An air purifier should have both. It should be of good quality and should be commensurate with the volume of the room. Air purifiers should be kept on all the time and not just when you enter the room because otherwise the utility is reduced. The direction of the air should be towards the area where you sit or sleep. The room should be kept closed all the time because if you keep opening windows and doors, its efficacy is reduced. "As a pulmonologist and a person who has been working on air pollution for years, I am also a member of an expert committee on global air pollution's effects on health. This issue has been discussed in Geneva meetings as well. People who are suffering from asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), heart disease, bronchitis, or immunosuppression, and can afford to stay within closed doors should use air purifiers, particularly in the National Capital Region (NCR) when the AQI is severe," he adds. But poor maintenance can lead to harmful effects. Unless the filter is changed periodically, it could imbibe fungi which can cause serious infections.

Will an air purifier be able to tackle the kind of pollution in Delhi?

Not really, says Khilnani. "If you keep an air purifier in the living room and think that it is purifying the air, it is incorrect. It has to be a closed room. When the AQI is 400-500 or on Diwali, perhaps it can reduce the PM 2.5 to 150 after it is run the whole night. They are not 100 per cent efficacious but somebody who is unwell and has breathing difficulties may benefit by using it in the correct way." Air purifiers can be especially beneficial during times of high outdoor pollution or for people with respiratory issues, allergies, or asthma. However, it has side effects as well.

How can an air purifier help?

According to Dr Nikhil Modi, senior consultant, Respiratory and Critical Care, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, air purifiers with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters can capture up to 99.97 per cent of particles as small as 0.3 microns. They can reduce the presence of allergens and irritants that trigger respiratory symptoms. Models with activated carbon filters are also effective in removing odours and VOCs (volatile organic compounds) from cooking, cleaning products, and smoke. Regular use can lead to fewer allergy and asthma symptoms as many airborne triggers are effectively removed. Cleaner air, especially free of



allergens, can improve sleep, as respiratory discomfort can disrupt sleep cycles.

What are the potential side effects of air purifiers?

Dr Modi says some air purifiers (especially those with ionizers) emit trace amounts of ozone, which can irritate the lungs and worsen asthma or allergy symptoms. It is recommended to choose models certified by standards like California Air Resources Board (CARB) for safe ozone levels. Extended use can cause dryness in the air, which may dry out skin and mucous membranes, especially during winter. A humidifier can help balance this if it becomes an issue. Some models can be noisy, especially at higher fan speeds, which might be bothersome at night. Checking for noise levels before purchase can help avoid disruptions. Frequent filter replacements can be costly, but not replacing filters can reduce effectiveness and potentially harbour allergens.

How often must the filter be replaced when the pollution levels are as high as seen in Delhi?

According to Dr Modi, air purifiers can significantly improve indoor air quality in high-pollution environments like Delhi, where AQI often dips to hazardous levels. However, extreme pollution places a heavy load on filters, especially during periods when particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) levels are extremely high. In these conditions, a HEPA filter's lifespan may reduce drastically—potentially needing replacement every 1-3 months instead of the usual 6-12 months. For optimal performance, regular maintenance and possibly an additional pre-filter layer to capture larger particles are recommended. The high pollution levels may also require air purifiers to run at higher fan speeds, which can further accelerate wear and filter saturation. Regular filter checks are essential, as clogged filters lose effectiveness and may even become sources of trapped pollutants recirculating into the air if not replaced promptly.

Will keeping indoor plants serve as an alternative?

Dr Vikas Mittal, pulmonologist at the CK Birla Hospital, says indoor plants like peace lilies, snake plants, and spider plants can help absorb some pollutants and improve air quality modestly, especially in terms of CO₂ and some volatile organic compounds. Indoor plants supplement air purification efforts but should not replace air purifiers entirely. However, studies have shown that their effect is relatively limited in comparison to air purifiers, particularly for particulate matter like PM_{2.5}, which is prevalent in polluted cities. Plants need to be in high numbers and placed strategically throughout a home to have any measurable effect, and even then, they don't eliminate the smallest harmful particles.

How Dubai bank staffer connected cyber crime operatives in Mumbai, Pune to international masterminds



Cyber crime The newly established cyber crime police station of Pimpri Chinchwad police was investigating a case in which a businessman from Rahatani area was duped of Rs 99 lakh in an online share trading fraud. In a major breakthrough establishing a direct link between international cyber criminals and their Indian operatives, the Pimpri Chinchwad police arrested an employee of a Dubai-based bank who led a group of seven cyber crime operatives working from Mumbai and Pune and duped hundreds of people in share trading frauds.

Among the other arrested include a failed film producer, a software professional working in blockchain firm, a property broker and used car salesman who together managed a web of hundreds of mule accounts and funnelled money to operatives in China via cryptocurrency route. The fraud and the initial leads The newly established cyber crime police station of Pimpri Chinchwad police was investigating a case in which a businessman from Rahatani area was duped of Rs 99 lakh in an online share trading fraud. The complainant, a senior citizen, was manipulated into downloading an application after he was added to a WhatsApp group. He was made to make investments per day and promised upto 300 per cent profit and the applications displayed profits accordingly. As the complainant tried to make withdrawals from his 'profits', more money was sought from him. After realising that he was being cheated, he approached the police.

The investigation team got a hit of one of the accounts used to receive the money. When the police questioned the account holder from Mumbai, he revealed that his maternal

uncle Mahadev Katke from Navi Mumbai had asked him to open the account and it was Katke who was operating it. Questioning of Katke, a used car dealer, revealed that he was further passing on the control of the mule bank accounts to two more men — one from Mumbai and another from Pune. It was at this point that the investigators realised that they were looking for an organised racket with international links and footprints in Pune and Mumbai. Between November 10 and 13, a team from the cyber crime police station arrested a total of eight people—Katke (44) from Kamothe and Masood Alam Siddique (48) from Jogeshwari in Mumbai, both second hand car dealers, Mohammed Afzal Salmani (49) from Goregaon West, who ran a salon and also made failed attempts at producing Kannada films, Tausaif Sayyed (40) from Malad East, who is a property broker, Sagar Bhosale (38) of Indapur in Pune, whose father is a retired cop, Imran Sayyed (44) from Kalwa in Thane, Pranav Dalvi (30) from Borivali East, a software professional who works for a blockchain firm and Danish Sathi (24) from Mumbra, who works for a bank in Dubai for last couple of years and had come on live when he was arrested. The racket unravels.

Probe revealed that Sathi came in contact with Chinese cyber criminals and was the final link with operatives in India. He was in contact with all the others arrested and was receiving all the funds siphoned from victims into various bank accounts. He was the one who channelled the money to international cyber criminals via cryptocurrency. Dalvi, on the other hand, was in contact with some more operatives from Hong Kong and also performed similar tasks. All the other suspects mainly recruited mule account holders from among their own relatives and acquaintances and managed them. The account holders received commissions in return of total control of account operation.

The probe was led by DCP Crime Sandeep Doiphone and ACP Vishal Hire and the investigation team comprised inspector Ravikiran Nale, assistant inspector Praveen Swami and sub inspectors Sagar Poman, Vaibhav Patil and Prakash Katkade. As per the latest figures available of cases registered with the cyber crime police station of Pune city and Pimpri Chinchwad, around 510 people have lost a staggering Rs 170 crores in online share trading frauds as of mid October.

BMC completes girders installation on t-shaped flyover in Mumbai's Malad; likely to become fully operational in January

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

The t-shaped flyover in Mumbai's Malad area is likely to become fully operational from the first week of January with Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) completing the launch of all the girders of the proposed bridge early Friday. Currently, the flyover in Mith Chowky is partially operational catering only to vehicles which travel east to west. After the flyover becomes entirely operational, southbound vehicles can also use it.

"The final launch of the girders was completed during the intervening night of Thursday (November 14) and Friday (November 15). Now, that the girders are installed, work on making the asphalt roads will be taken up, followed by waterproofing works, which is likely to take more than a month. We expect to open it for traffic by the first week of January," said an official. This flyover originates near the Girdhar Park Bridge, which passes above the Malad Creek and extends above the Mith Chowky traffic junction. The eastern landing is near the St Joseph's school, from where vehicles can move further towards Malad station and Western Express High (WEH) and the south-bound arm will drop at Link Road, from where motorists can take the route towards Andheri, Juhu, and the airport. With the elevated north-



south Mumbai Metro 2-A line passing above this bridge, the 800-meter flyover will only cater to two-wheelers and light motor vehicles (LMV), with the entry for buses and heavy vehicles restricted. The idea of constructing a flyover in this junction was floated in 2014. However, the project didn't see the light of day owing to the announcement of the metro project, and amid the ambiguity about the height of the elevated metro bridges. Therefore, BMC waited for the metro line to become operational, following which the work on this new flyover was initiated.

Prominent Bengaluru IT park did not encroach defence land, says Karnataka HC on basis of 2022 survey

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Bringing an over-a-decade-long legal battle over a small portion of prime real estate in Bengaluru to its conclusion, the Karnataka High Court recently ruled that Embassy Golf Links Business Park, one of the most well-known software parks in the city, has not encroached on defence land as claimed by defence authorities in 2014.

The Karnataka High Court on October 28 allowed a petition filed by Golf Links Software Park Ltd against an eviction notice issued on October 13, 2014, by the defence estate officer in Bengaluru under Section 4 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupation) Act, 1971. Based on a joint survey conducted by the state land records department in November 2022 in the presence of defence and IT park officials following high court orders in the legal dispute, the high court also ruled that there was no encroachment by the software park into defence land belonging to the Army Service Corps Centre in Bengaluru. The high court further rejected a plea by the defence authorities for the conduct of a re-survey of the land. Golf Links Software Park Ltd is a joint venture of the real estate unit of the Embassy Group and the Kelachandra group belonging to the family of Karnataka Congress leader and minister K J George. Embassy Group's Jitendra Virwani and George are directors of the firm. "...it is a case where joint survey pursuant to the orders passed by this court takes place with the participation of respondents 6 to 9 of the Defence Estate Office. The report was that there was no encroachment but encroachment by the defence," the high court observed. "If survey conducted pursuant to the orders passed by this court in compliance with law and in the presence of the defence is permitted to be objected to by the respondents, it would be respondents arguing against their own orders or the joint survey report doubting their own officers," Justice M Nagaprasanna said. "A repeat survey is sought, which this court declined to accept as survey cannot be conducted any number of times, till a report in favour of respondents 6 to 9 would come about," the high court said, allowing the petition filed by Golf Links Software Park Ltd. The "notice dated 13-10-2014 as communicated to the petitioner on 10-11-2014 stands quashed" and the "observations made in the course of the order regarding survey are noted to have become final", the high court said in an order that was uploaded on Thursday. The defence estate officer had alleged in 2014 that the software park created in 2006 following the acquisition of over 10 acres of land from private people in Challagatta village of Bengaluru between 1997 and 1998 had encroached on portions of defence land in Survey Number 282 of Domlur village. "The land in your occupation belongs to the defence dept. The defence dept. is the absolute owner in possession of the land which is, in



your occupation. You have illegally occupied part of the defence land without an iota of right, title or interest," the October 2014 notice said.

The notice said that the software park had encroached on 92 sq m, 274 sq m and 2,079 sq m of land belonging to the ASC Centre South in Survey number 282. Earlier, in December 2014, the Karnataka High Court had intervened in the dispute to order the construction of a 1,151-metre public road between the IT park and Challagatta village area which had been held up due to the land dispute with the IT park — despite a memorandum of understanding signed in 2006 by the Bengaluru city corporation and defence authorities. Between December 2014 and 2022, the case had been pending in the high court, and subsequently, the joint survey by the assistant director for land records in the presence of defence officials and IT park officials was ordered by the high court in July 2022.

BJP workers brawl during Shivajinagar candidate Siddhartha Shirole's campaign; no FIR lodged

Siddhartha Shirole campaign, maharashtra election, indian express The groups of BJP workers quarrelled as Siddhartha Shirole (middle) met other party workers in the area after the election rally. A brawl was reported between two groups of BJP workers at Sangamwadi in Pune Thursday night during the Maharashtra Assembly election campaign rally of Siddhartha Shirole, the party's candidate and sitting MLA in the Shivajinagar constituency.

The Pune police said the Bharatiya Janata Party workers settled the issue between themselves and no complaint was filed by anybody.

Himachal Pradesh challenges HC decision on chief parliamentary secretaries in Supreme Court

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

A day after the Himachal Pradesh High Court declared the Himachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances, Powers, Privileges and Amenities) Act, 2006, void and disqualified six chief parliamentary secretaries (CPS), the state government on Thursday challenged the verdict in the Supreme Court. One of the petitioners in the case before the high court, Kalpana Devi, also moved a caveat in the apex court. "The state government has moved a Special Leave Petition (SLP) against the Shimla high court verdict in the apex court. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal is looking after our SLP in the apex court. One of the petitioners Kamala Devi filed a caveat in the apex court, urging the court that she should be intimidated before issuing any grant to the state," Anup Kumar Rattan, Advocate General, Himachal Pradesh, told. Rattan is in Delhi along with his team. On November 13, a division bench of the Himachal Pradesh High Court had declared the Himachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries Act, 2006, void and directed the state to immediately withdraw all facilities provided to the six chief parliamentary secretaries in the government. The move came as a jolt to the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led government in Himachal Pradesh. The Congress government formed in December 2020 under Sukhu appointed six MLAs as CPS and granted them facilities equivalent to those of state ministers. The six MLAs are Ram Kumar Chaudhary, Sanjay Awasthi, Ashish Butail, Sunder Singh Thakur, Mohan Lal Brakta, and Kishori Lal. They have been receiving monthly wages of approximately Rs 1.20 lakh each, as well as other benefits such as vehicles, office staff, and allowances. A division bench of Justices Vivek Singh Thakur and Bipin Chander Negi issued the order in petitions by Kalpana Devi and BJP leaders alleging that no such post of CPS exists under the Constitution or any statute or Act passed by Parliament. The Sukhu



government defended the appointments, stating they complied with the provisions of the state Act passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Elderly man dies trying to stop husband from beating wife in Delhi, accused nabbed

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

"On November 13, Dhiraj was beating his wife and cursing his neighbour Ran Singh. Ran Singh objected to his abuses and went to the first floor to stop Dhiraj from beating his wife and solve their dispute," said Nidhin Valsan, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer North). However, Dhiraj, enraged at the intervention by Singh, hit him on the head with an iron rod.

Trump's health secretary pick RFK Jr rips his love for fast food



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Robert F Kennedy Jr, Donald Trump's choice to head the US Health Department, recently delivered a scathing critique of the President-elect's eating habits, labelling what he heats as "poison". In a recent interview, RFK Jr, asserted that Trump's diet during the campaign trail was "really bad". Kennedy is an ardent advocate for removal of pro-

cessed foods from grocery store shelves, while Trump is notorious for his fondness for fast food. "The stuff that he eats is really, like, bad," Kennedy said in a podcast. "Campaign food is always bad, but the food that goes onto that airplane is, like, just poison. You have a choice between — you don't have the choice, you're either given KFC or Big Macs. That's, like, when you're lucky, and then the rest of the stuff I consider kind of inedible," he remarked. Kennedy, during the interview, also recalled a conversation with an executive of a mixed martial arts company who told him that he would sometimes sit through an hour-long fight with Trump, "and he's never seen Trump drink a glass of water," news outlet Daily Beast reported. "And then he (drinks) Diet Coke," Kennedy said.

However, Kennedy also acknowledges the cultural significance of fast food in America. He has defended it as part of American culture, despite his health initiatives. On Friday, Trump named RFK Jr, an anti-vaccine campaigner to head the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). "We want you to come up with things and ideas and what you've been talking about for a long time and I think you're going to do some unbelievable things," Trump told him. With Kennedy's appointment at the helm, the US Health Department under Donald Trump is expected to see substantial changes to established health policies and practices.

Trump wants to end 'wokeness' in education, forbid lessons on gender identity



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Donald Trump has repeatedly said he will cut money to "any school pushing critical race theory, transgender insanity, and other inappropriate racial, sexual or political content on our children." US President-elect Donald Trump depicted schools as a political battleground to be won back from the left throughout his campaign. Donald Trump's vision for education revolves around a single goal: to rid America's schools of perceived "wokeness" and "left-wing indoctrination."

The president-elect wants to keep transgender athletes out of girls' sports. He wants to forbid classroom lessons on gender identity and structural racism. He wants to abolish diversity and inclusion offices. Throughout his campaign, the Republican depicted schools as a political battleground to be won back from the left. Now that he's won the White House, he plans to use federal money as leverage to advance his vision of education across the nation. Trump's education plan pledges to cut funding for schools that defy him on a multitude of issues. On his first day in office, Trump has repeatedly said he will cut money to "any school pushing critical race theory, transgender insanity, and other inappropriate racial, sexual or political content on our children." On the campaign trail, Trump said he would "not give one penny" to schools with vaccine or mask requirements. He said it would be done through executive action, though even some of his supporters say he lacks the authority to make such swift and sweeping changes.

Trump's opponents say his vision of America's schools is warped by politics — that the type of liberal indoctrination he rails against is a fiction. They say his proposals will undermine public education and hurt the students who need schools' services the most. "It's fear-based, non-factual information, and I would call it propaganda," said Wil Del Pilar, senior vice president for Education Trust, a research and advocacy organization. "There is no evidence that students are being taught to question their sexuality in schools. There is no evidence that our American education system is full of maniacs."

Trump's platform calls for "massive funding preferences" for states and schools that end teacher tenure, enact universal school choice programs and allow parents to elect school principals. Perhaps his most ambitious promise is to shut down the U.S. Education Department entirely, a goal of conservative politicians for decades, saying it has been infiltrated by "radicals." America's public K-12 schools get about 14% of their revenue from the federal government, mainly from programs targeting low-income students and special education. The vast majority of schools' money comes from local taxes and state governments. Colleges rely more heavily on federal money, especially the grants and loans the government gives students to pay for tuition.

Trump's strongest tool to put schools' money on the line is his authority to enforce civil rights — the Education Department has the power to cut federal funding to schools and colleges that fail to follow civil rights laws.

The president can't immediately revoke money from large numbers of districts, but if he targets a few through civil rights inquiries, others are likely to fall in line, said Bob Eitel, president of the conservative Defense of Freedom

Institute and an education official during Trump's first term. That authority could be used to go after schools and colleges that have diversity and inclusion offices or those accused of antisemitism, Eitel said.

"This is not a Day One loss of funding," Eitel said, referencing Trump's campaign promise. "But at the end of the day, the president will get his way on this issue, because I do think that there are some real legal issues." Trump also has hinted at potential legislation to deliver some of his promises, including fining universities over diversity initiatives. To get colleges to shutter diversity programs — which Trump says amount to discrimination — he said he "will advance a measure to have them fined up to the entire amount of their endowment." His platform also calls for a new, free online university called the American Academy, to be paid for by "taxing, fining and suing excessively large private university endowments." During his first term, Trump occasionally threatened to cut money from schools that defied him, including those slow to reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic and colleges he accused of curbing free speech. Most of the threats came to nothing, though he succeeded in getting Congress to add a tax on wealthy university endowments, and his Education Department made sweeping changes to rules around campus sexual assault.

Universities hope their relationship with the administration won't be as antagonistic as Trump's rhetoric suggests. "Education has been an easy target during the campaign season," said Peter McDonough, general counsel for the American Council on Education, an association of university presidents. "But a partnership between higher education and the administration is going to be better for the country than an attack on education." Trump's threats of severe penalties seem to contradict another of his education pillars — the extraction of the federal government from schools. In closing the Education Department, Trump said he would return "all education work and needs back to the states." "We're going to end education coming out of Washington, D.C.," Trump said on his website last year. In his platform, he pledged to ensure schools are "free from political meddling." Rather than letting states and schools decide their stance on polarizing issues, Trump is proposing blanket bans that align with his vision. Taking a neutral stance and letting states decide wouldn't deliver Trump's campaign promises, said Max Eden, a senior fellow at AEI, a conservative think tank. For example, Trump plans to rescind guidance from President Joe Biden's administration that extended Title IX protections to LGBTQ+ students. And Trump would go further, promising a nationwide ban on transgender women in women's sports.

"Trump ran on getting boys out of girls' sports. He didn't run on letting boys play in girls' sports in blue states if they want to," Eden said. Trump also wants a say in school curriculum, vowing to fight for "patriotic" education. He promised to reinstate his 1776 Commission, which he created in 2021 to promote patriotic education. The panel created a report that called progressivism a "challenge to American principles" alongside fascism. Adding to that effort, Trump is proposing a new credentialing body to certify teachers "who embrace patriotic values." Few of his biggest education goals can be accomplished quickly, and many would require new action from Congress or federal processes that usually take months. More immediately, he plans to nullify executive orders issued by Biden, including one promoting racial equity across the federal government. He's also expected to work quickly to revoke or rewrite Biden's Title IX rules, though finalizing those changes would require a lengthier rulemaking process. Trump hasn't detailed his plans for student loans, though he has called Biden's cancellation proposals illegal and unfair. Most of Biden's signature education initiatives have been paused by courts amid legal challenges, including a proposal for widespread loan cancellation and a more generous loan repayment plan. Those plans could be revoked or rewritten once Trump takes office.

It's got to stop: Trump says his administration will focus on ending Russia-Ukraine war

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Washington: As Russia increasingly pounds the Kharkiv region and Ukrainian troops put all their might into keeping Moscow's advances at bay, US President-elect Donald Trump has said his administration will focus on ending the Russia-Ukraine war, as he lamented the killing of people in the conflict. He also said his administration will also work on bringing peace to West Asia. "We're going to work on the Middle East, and we're going to work very hard on Russia and Ukraine. It's got to stop," Trump said during a gala for the America First Policy Institute held at his Mar-a-Lago estate on Thursday. This was his first major speech and public appearance after his stunning electoral victory in the November 5 presidential elections.

"Russia and Ukraine's got to stop. I saw a report today. Thousands of people over the last three days were killed. Thousands and thousands of people were killed. They happened to be soldiers, but whether they're soldiers or they're people sitting in towns, we're going to work it," he said. The President-elect has consistently said his priority is to end the war and stem what he characterises as a drain on US resources, in the form of military aid to Ukraine. Meanwhile, Lisa Curtis, who served as deputy assistant to Trump in his previous term and National Security Council senior director for South and Central Asia from 2017 to 2021, said the war in Ukraine needs to end in a way that does not encourage other nations to invade their neighbours illegally. "President (elect) Trump has in the past talked more favourably about (Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin than most US Presidents. He has also talked about trying to end



the war between Russia and Ukraine. We haven't seen yet how he's going to do that," Curtis said.

"I would just simply say that it needs to be done in a way that Russia faces some consequences for its actions," Curtis said. It needs to be done in a way that Russia doesn't try to do the same thing two or three years down the line, she said. "It needs to be done in a way that doesn't encourage other US adversaries to try to illegally invade their neighbour's territory," said Curtis, who is currently a Senior Fellow and Director of the Indo-Pacific Security Programme at Center for a New American Security think-tank. Some of Trump's top advisors were present at the Mar-a-Lago event. He praised Tesla owner Elon Musk and Indian-American entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, who are tapped to lead the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in his second term. Trump also praised Hindu-American Tulsi Gabbard, his pick for Director of National Intelligence.

North Korea tests exploding drones designed to crash into target

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

The drones flew various routes and accurately struck targets, KCNA said. Its images showed what appeared to be a BMW sedan being destroyed and old models of tanks being blown up. North Korea tested exploding drones designed to crash into targets and leader Kim Jong Un called for accelerating mass production of the weapons, state media said Friday. The country's latest military demonstration came as the United States, South Korea and Japan engaged in combined military exercises involving advanced fighter jets and a US aircraft carrier in nearby international waters, in a display of their defense posture against North Korea. North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency published photos of Kim talking with officials near at least two different types of unmanned aerial vehicles. They included those with X-shaped tails and wings that look similar to the ones the country disclosed in August, when Kim inspected another demonstration of drones that explode on impact.

The drones flew various routes and accurately struck targets, KCNA said. Its images showed what appeared to be a BMW sedan being destroyed and old models of tanks being blown up. Kim expressed satisfaction with the weapons' development process and stressed the need to "build a serial production system as early as possible and go into full-scale mass production," noting how drones are becoming crucial in modern warfare. KCNA paraphrased Kim as saying drones were easy to make at low cost for a range of military activities. The report didn't say if Kim spoke directly about rival South Korea, which the North Korean drones are apparently designed to target.

North Korea last month accused South Korea of sending its own drones to drop anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets over the North's capital of Pyongyang, and threatened to respond with force if such flights occur again. South Korea's military has refused to confirm whether or not the North's claims were true. Tensions in the region have esca-



lated as Kim flaunts his advancing nuclear and missile program, which includes various nuclear-capable weapons targeting South Korea and intercontinental ballistic missiles that can potentially reach the US mainland.

Kim is also allegedly sending military equipment and troops to Russia to support President Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine, which raised concerns in Seoul that he would get Russian technology in return to further develop his arsenal. In addition to his intensifying nuclear threats, Kim has also engaged in psychological and electronic warfare against South Korea, such as flying thousands of balloons to drop trash in the South and disrupting GPS signals from border areas near the South's biggest airport. South Korean officials say North Korea will be a key topic in a trilateral summit between South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba this week at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meetings in Peru. South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken met on the margins of the APEC on Thursday and discussed "strong concerns" over deepening ties between Pyongyang and Moscow, particularly the deployment of North Korean troops to support Russia's war against Ukraine, the US State Department said.

Canadian cop, part of Khalistani mob that attacked temple, gets clean chit

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Canadian police officer Harinder Sohi, who was part of the pro-Khalistani rally, has been given a clean chit by Peel Police. People from the mob attacked devotees at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton. In several videos, Sohi is seen in plain clothes and with a Khalistani flag, but Peel Police said he was trying to disarm protesters. A police officer who was suspended for attending a pro-Khalistan protest, whose participants entered the premises of a Hindu temple in Brampton and attacked devotees, has been given a clean chit. Canada's Peel Regional Police said the police officer, Harinder Sohi, seen in the viral video of the temple attack was trying to disarm people who refused to surrender weapons and became confrontational. In several videos from November 3, an aggressive Sohi can be seen brandishing a Khalistani flag, and not disarming any protester. Peel police said an investigation found that the officer "acted within the lawful execution of his duties". The incident was from Diwali weekend when pro-Khalistani protesters barged into the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton where the Indian High Commission was holding a public camp.

Sohi, a Sergeant of Peel Police, was holding a Khalistani flag as the crowd chanted anti-India slogans. It is surprising that Peel Police said Sohi was trying to disarm people because the video showed him in plain clothes and off duty. The police said the protest near the temple quickly escalated, raising safety concerns, and officers seized items that could be used as weapons. During the altercation between police and Khalistani supporters, a Canadian police officer, Harinder Sohi, was caught on camera holding a Khalistani flag while supporters, armed with sticks, chanted anti-India slogans. Sohi, a sergeant with Peel Regional Police, was later suspended after the video went viral. However, in a video statement after the incident, Canadian police clarified that the suspended officer had "acted within the lawful execution of his duties". "Following an investigation, it was determined that the officer depicted in the video was attempting to disarm an individual who refused to surrender their weapon and became confrontational, and accordingly acted within the lawful execution of his duties," said Canadian police in the statement. Canadian police also confirmed that officers were attempting to de-escalate tensions. "To maintain peace and order and to prevent injuries and further escalation, officers began to seize several items that could be used as weapons, including bats, sticks, and flagpoles," said Canadian police.

Peel Police released bodycam footage of the officer in the altercation, showing Sohi attempting to disarm a person who refused to give up a weapon and became aggressive. The footage shows the officer approaching a man holding a stick and trying to take it from him. The man resisted, leading to a brief struggle before the officer seized the stick and dispersed the crowd. "What the video doesn't show is the officer identifying a protester for the purpose of



seizing a weapon that he's holding. The protester then retreats into the crowd, and he, along with others, begins to physically resist the officer. The officer's body-worn camera, which captured the interaction, was reviewed," said Constable Tyler Bell-Morena. Following the attack on Hindu worshippers in Brampton, India's Ministry of External Affairs voiced serious concerns about the safety of Indian nationals in Canada and urged the Canadian government to protect places of worship from such attacks. WHY CANADIAN POLICE OFFICER WAS CALLED A KHALISTANI It wasn't without evidence that people demanded Sohi's suspension after the protest and attack at the temple in Brampton on November 3. Sohi was caught on camera holding a Khalistan flag, while others in the protest chanted anti-India slogans. Peel Regional Police said earlier that they were aware of the circulating video that showed Sohi, an off-duty officer, actively participating in the demonstration. Videos circulating on social media showed fist fights and people striking each other with flagpoles on what appeared to be the grounds surrounding the temple.

Canadian police officer Harinder Sohi, who was part of the pro-Khalistani rally, has been given a clean chit by Peel Police. People from the mob attacked devotees at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton. In several videos, Sohi is seen in plain clothes and with a Khalistani flag, but Peel Police said he was trying to disarm protesters. Peel Police officer Harinder Sohi, who was part of a pro-Khalistani mob, has been given a clean chit after the attack on Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton. A police officer who was suspended for attending a pro-Khalistan protest, whose participants entered the premises of a Hindu temple in Brampton and attacked devotees, has been given a clean chit. Canada's Peel Regional Police said the police officer, Harinder Sohi, seen in the viral video of the temple attack was trying to

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Veg thali prices spurt 20% in October



ber rains that impacted arrivals from states such as Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh due to crop damage and festive demand, it said. However, with supplies from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh, the prices are expected to stabilise in November, it said. Crisil said price of pulses, which account for 9 per cent of the veg thali cost, rose 11 per cent due to an 11 per cent lower opening stock, a lower stock pipeline and festive demand. Prices are expected to dip from December once fresh arrivals begin. "An 11 per cent drop in fuel cost – from Rs 903 for a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder in Delhi in September last year to Rs 803 in March this year – prevented further increase in the thali cost," it said.

For the non-veg thali, an estimated decline of 9 per cent on-year in broiler prices that account for 50 per cent of the cost led to relatively slower uptick, while the prices of vegetables, which account for almost 22 per cent of the cost, witnessed an increase, Crisil said. "On-month, the cost of both veg and non-veg thalis rose 6 per cent and 4 per cent respectively, it said. Tomato prices rose 39 per cent on-month to Rs 64/kg in October amid heavy rainfall in the tomato growing areas, which impacted market arrivals," Crisil said. Onion prices rose 6 per cent on-month because of incessant rainfall in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, which damaged crops and delayed kharif harvests by 10-15 days, it said. Vegetable oil prices rose 10 per cent on-month in October on account of increase in import duty coupled with healthy festive demand. For the non-veg thali, an estimated stable broiler prices on-month helped prevent further uptick in cost, it said.

The cost of home-cooked veg thali rose 20 per cent and that of non-veg thali, after declining for 12 consecutive months, clocked a 5 per cent increase in October, rating firm Crisil said. The cost of the veg thali rose due to an increase in the prices of vegetables, which collectively account for 40 per cent of the thali cost - In October, prices of onion and potato rose 46 per cent and 51 per cent on-year, respectively, because of lower arrivals due to incessant rainfall in September, Crisil said.

Further, rainfall in Maharashtra and Karnataka have delayed onion harvests and cold storage stocks of rabi potato (which accounts for 95 per cent of annual potato production) are declining due to the season end, while fresh arrivals are slated to begin from December-January, Crisil said. Prices of tomato more than doubled from Rs 29/kg in October 2023 to Rs 64/ kg in October 2024 due to Septem-

Why have timings for release of CPI inflation and IIP data been advanced, and the likely problems with this change

Changing over a decade-old practice of releasing the closely watched retail inflation and factory output data at 5:30 pm on the 12th of every month, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Tuesday announced new timings for data released at 4 pm. The Ministry said the revision in data release timings is being done "to provide more time on the day of release to access CPI (Consumer Price Index) & IIP (Index of Industrial Production) data. It also said the new release time aligns with the closing hours of major financial markets in India. However, some financial markets like the government bond markets and the foreign exchange futures, which are sensitive to inflation data, remain open till 5 pm and hence, may be sensitive to data released during market hours.

Why was the data release timing kept at 5:30 pm earlier?

Back in 2013, there were some reports of data getting leaked before the official release time that had led to many representations to the Ministry to keep the timing of the data release, especially retail inflation data, after the market hours. The retail inflation and IIP data used to be released around 11-11:30 am on the 12th of every month till June 2013. Retail inflation data, which is a closely watched indicator for the Indian economy, would then become a crucial input for trading and taking positions in markets, especially in the forex and government bond markets. After the representations were made about data leaks at that time, the Ministry then changed the release time for the retail inflation and IIP data to 5:30 pm from July 2013 onwards. The timing was changed keeping in mind that the forex and government bond markets close at 5 pm. While retail inflation data has always been released on a monthly basis, the wholesale inflation data was released weekly till December 2012. Now, it's released on the 14th of every month around noon.

What is the new change in data release timing?

While announcing the change in data release timing for retail inflation and IIP on Tuesday, the Ministry said it will provide more time on the day of release to access data. "The CPI & Index of Industrial Production plays a critical role in economic policy and financial markets by reflecting inflationary trends across rural, urban, and combined sectors and industrial growth in the country," it said. Currently, the CPI and IIP are released by the MoSPI on the 12th of each month at 5:30 pm. If 12th is a holiday, then CPI data is released on the next working day and IIP is released on the previous working day if 12th falls on a holiday. The data release in November for both CPI and IIP will be made at 4 pm. The Ministry stated that the new release time aligns with the closing hours of major financial markets in India, "ensuring that CPI data dissemination does not interfere with active trading". "This adjustment also adheres to MoSPI's



commitment to transparency and accessibility in data dissemination," it said. Analysts, however, point to the fact that while the stock markets may close by the 4pm release time, some financial markets such as the government bond and the foreign exchange markets, which are also sensitive to inflation data releases, remain open till 5 pm. The suggestion, therefore, is that the release time of 4 pm still does mean the data could be sensitive, given the extended timings of the bond market and the currency market.

What is the significance of CPI and IIP data?

Consumer Price Indices (CPI) measure changes over time in the general level of prices of goods and services that households purchase for consumption. CPI is widely used as a macroeconomic indicator of inflation and as a tool by governments and central banks for inflation targeting and for monitoring price stability, and as deflators in the national accounts. Inflation is the rate at which prices for a basket of selected goods and services rise over a period of time and it is calculated by measuring year-on-year change in CPI, that is, current month CPI over CPI of same month of last year. At present, the CPI (combined), which is the most closely watched indicator for retail inflation, is linked to base year 2012 since the time of release in January 2015. Before that, it was linked to the base year 2010.

The IIP data measures the quantum of changes in the industrial production in an economy and captures the general level of industrial activity in the country. It is measured as an index number to value the short term changes in the volume of production of a basket of industrial products during a given period with respect to the base period, which is 2011-12 at present.

It covers industrial growth across three sectors – Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity – and different use-based categories, that is, basic goods, capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer durables and consumer non-durables. The IIP is watched as a short-term indicator for industrial growth till the release of the Annual Survey of Industries and National Accounts Statistics.

Larsen & Toubro to buy 21% stake in E2E Networks for Rs 1,407 crore

Larsen & Toubro, E2E Networks, L&T, Indian Cloud and AI Cloud provider, Larsen and Toubro, Indian express business, business news, business articles, current affairs "The narrative in India has changed from being viewed as a digital colony to that of evolving into a provider of sovereign cloud platforms to the world," Dua said.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has proposed to acquire a 21 per cent equity stake in E2E Networks, an Indian Cloud and AI Cloud provider, at a cost of Rs 1,407 crore through a combination of primary and secondary transactions. Under this alliance, L&T will integrate E2E Networks' cloud and AI cloud platform with its expertise in data centre management and cloud solutions towards empowering startups, and enterprises, L&T said. The company will not acquire control in E2E Networks following the proposed acquisition and will be a minority shareholder with certain protective rights, it said. The collaboration aims to accelerate digital transformation for a



The company will not acquire control in E2E Networks following the proposed acquisition and will be a minority shareholder with certain protective rights, it said.

diverse range of industries, fostering a technology-driven, sustainable future for India, L&T said. Tarun Dua, Chairman and MD of E2E Networks, said, "The strategic collaboration between E2E Networks and L&T marks a significant milestone for the future of adoption of domestically built HyperScaler Cloud Platforms in India. The partner-

ship marks the next step in the journey towards "Make in India" for running production-grade traditional CPU workloads and GPU-led GenAI innovation in India. "The narrative in India has changed from being viewed as a digital colony to that of evolving into a provider of sovereign cloud platforms to the world," Dua said. "Collaborating with E2E Networks allows us to offer

our clients seamless, scalable and secure cloud experiences. By combining our capabilities, we are delivering a cloud ecosystem designed for businesses in India that want to drive growth, optimise costs and unlock the full potential of AI and digital transformation," said Seema Ambastha, Chief Executive of L&T Data Center and Cloud Business.

All about Sharda Sinha — lovingly called 'Bihar Kokila' — best known for her Chhath and wedding songs



Sharda Sinha, affectionately known as the "Bihar Kokila" or "Nightingale of Bihar," long captivated audiences with her soulful renditions of Bhojpuri, Maithili, and Magahi songs, showcasing Bihar's rich cultural heritage. The singer, who passed away Tuesday at AIIMS Delhi, has a body of music that embodies the region's heart, blending folk traditions with classical influences. Over the years, her songs have travelled far beyond the borders of Bihar, making her a beloved voice across India.

Early life and musical beginnings Born October 1, 1952, in Hulas, Bihar, Sinha grew up in a culturally rich environment steeped in folk traditions and local storytelling. She pursued higher education in music, eventually earning a Master's degree from Patna University and a Ph.D. in folk music. Sinha's early education and exposure to Bihar's folk music played a crucial role in shaping her career and commitment to preserving local music traditions. While trained in classical music, the 72-year-old focused on regional folk

styles, especially Bhojpuri, Maithili, and Magahi. This decision distinguished her as a voice dedicated to celebrating the cultural identity of Bihar, putting it on the mainstream Indian music map. Folk singer Sharda Sinha, who brought gravitas to the art and was the sound of festivals in Bihar, passes away Often feted as the successor to legendary folk singer Vidyavasin Devi, Sharda Sinha brought respectability to folk artists. Rise to fame and iconic hits

Sinha's career took off with her recordings of traditional folk songs, which resonated strongly with audiences in Bihar and beyond. Her voice quickly became synonymous with Bihar celebrations, and she earned the title "Bihar Kokila" the evidence of her impact on the region's musical landscape. Songs like "Paniya Ke Jahaj Se Palki Ae Aihe, Piya Ho" and "Jab Jab Bhauli Biyah Bhauli Ke Sanghe" became anthems at weddings and celebrations. Her Bollywood breakthrough came with "Kahe Toh Se Sajna" from Maine Pyar Kiya (1989). This Bhojpuri folk song, featured in a major Bollywood film, introduced a broader audience to her talent and regional folk music. Contributions to Bihar's folk traditions Throughout her career, Sinha had been a dedicated proponent of Bihar culture. Her renditions of Chhath Puja songs, particularly "Ho Dinanath" and "Ugi He Suruj Dev," are iconic and have become integral to the festival's celebration. Her songs are played yearly as millions observe Chhath Puja, one of Bihar's most significant festivals. In preserving Bihar's folk traditions, Sinha has brought attention to the unique qualities of Bhojpuri, Maithili, and Magahi music. She has helped many appreciate the depth of Bihar culture, and her work has paved the way for a renewed interest in regional music.

The more carbon dioxide you emit, the more likely you are to be bitten by mosquitoes

If you've ever complained about being bitten by mosquitoes, we would not be surprised if you've been told it's because your blood is 'sweeter.' But is it true? To find out, we contacted Dr Jinendra Jain, consultant physician at Wockhardt Hospital, Mira Road, who said that it's not blood but increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the environment that could significantly lead to more mosquito bites. "Mosquitoes are generally attracted to carbon dioxide, mostly inhaled by humans and animals. Several factors can contribute to the emission of CO₂. The higher carbon dioxide levels in certain areas with warmer temperatures and climate changes can create a perfect atmosphere for more mosquitoes to breed," said Dr Jain.

Dr Mallika Motta, MD (Homeopathy), The Vital Dose Homeopathy Clinic, noted that mosquitoes have nerve cell receptors that detect carbon dioxide, allowing them to sense the air we exhale from over 30 feet away. "Mosquitoes are attracted to the carbon dioxide that humans and other animals exhale. This is one of the primary ways they locate potential hosts for their blood meals. The more carbon dioxide a person or animal emits, the more likely they are to be targeted by mosquitoes," said Dr Motta. While carbon dioxide is a natural byproduct of respiration, increased levels in the atmosphere due to human activities like burning fossil fuels can contribute to a higher concentration of this attractant for mosquitoes, said Dr Motta. Apart from CO₂, mosquitoes are attracted to certain compounds that are present on human skin and in sweat, noted Dr Motta. "These compounds give us a specific odour that can draw mosquitoes in. Several different compounds have been identified as being attractive to mosquitoes. Some that you may be familiar with include lactic acid and ammonia," said Dr Motta.

People with high metabolic rates, like pregnant women and those who work out, "who generally have subnormal body temperatures," are more prone to mosquito bites, said Dr Motta. While a 2019 study found that the primary mosquito vector of dengue virus preferred people with type O blood to those with other blood types, Dr Motta noted that separate research notes that experimental and laboratory data evaluating whether blood type makes one person more



(or less) attractive to mosquitoes has fueled a lot of speculation, but the science is contradictory. "Instead, the researchers report that the likelihood of being a 'mosquito magnet' has more to do with skin odours and microbiota than blood type," said Dr Motta. Taking proactive steps and following necessary precautions can help mitigate this situation.

People should rely more on renewable energy sources such as solar or hydroelectric power to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels. "Use energy-saving appliances and light bulbs in your house to reduce the excessive energy consumption," said Dr Jain. Remember to apply a generous layer of mosquito repellent all over your body to protect yourself from being bitten by mosquitoes. "Immediately consult a doctor if you start to feel symptoms like fever, chills, muscle pain, vomiting, nausea, fatigue, lightheadedness, and skin rashes as it can indicate various mosquito-borne diseases," said Dr Jain. If a mosquito has bitten you, there are things you can do to help relieve the swelling and itch. Dr Motta shared the following suggestions: "Avoid scratching. Scratching can increase swelling, and it breaks your skin, putting you at risk of an infection.

*Apply a cold compress to the site, like a wet towel or cold pack, to help with swelling and itch. *Take deeper breaths so that you avoid too much CO₂ emission.

Radhika Apte opens up about first trimester struggles, says was in 'denial' after learning about pregnancy: 'I was having a meltdown'

Radhika Apte, due to deliver her first child in December 2024 with husband Benedict Taylor, recently opened up about her first trimester. Admitting that she was in "denial" for two weeks after learning about her pregnancy, Apte mentioned that she had "terrible bloating, severe constipation, and nausea" while she was shooting for those three months in 40-degree heat. "I was having a meltdown all the time. And people were telling me you need to be happy because you're having a child. I wanted to punch them. I'm telling you that I'm suffering, and you're telling me to be happy," said Apte, adding that she never planned to have children. In an interview with ETimes, Apte, 39, shared that the couple "never looked into what pregnancy means or what happens when you're pregnant." "What are the changes that the body goes through? There's so much sacredness attached to pregnancy that nobody tells you the truth because pregnancy is very hard. Pregnancy is not fun. Some people have a better pregnancy; for some, it's easier than other people. But it's a very subjective case. Pregnancy is very hard, and bodies constantly go through very big changes," the Merry Christmas actor added.

Notably, Apte surprised her fans by appearing at the BFI London Film Festival last month, flaunting her baby bump. Taking a cue from the actor's admission, let's understand the changes that occur in the first trimester and what can help to cope. Dr Pratima Thamke, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, Motherhood Hospital, Kharghar, seconded Apte and said that the first trimester of pregnancy could feel like navigating through a wide range of emotions and physical changes, often leaving expectant mothers with anxiety and stress. "For many, the thought of bringing new life into the world is tempered by overwhelming fatigue and nausea. Hormonal shifts can create heightened sensitivity, stress, fatigue, and weight gain in a large number of women," said Dr Thamke.

According to Dr Thamke, emotional turmoil can cause loneliness, frustration, and irritation. "Initiating conversations about fears, hopes, and expectations can help form deeper



bonds with partners while opening channels for essential support networks from families and friends during this time," said Dr Thamke. Moreover, mindfulness practices like journaling or gentle yoga can help "ground fluctuating emotions while promoting a sense of control during this journey." According to Dr Thamke, the challenges differ from woman to woman as every woman's journey is different, and the issues they experience will also not be similar. "It is better for pregnant women to stay calm and composed during the first three months by opting for relaxation techniques like meditation and regular check-ups with the doctor. Don't get bogged down; resilience is key during this crucial period. Pay attention to your health, eat a balanced diet, and follow the advice given by the doctor," said Dr Thamke.

Navjot Singh Sidhu says he left Kapil Sharma's show because of 'political reasons', wishes for a reunion with original gang

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Navjot Singh Sidhu left Kapil Sharma's show in 2019, and now, after over five years, the former cricketer is making a comeback on the comedian's show for a special episode. When Sidhu left Kapil's show a few years ago, it came as a shock to the viewers as the announcement happened shortly after his comments on the Pulwama terror attack. At the time, it was said that he was sacked from the show by the channel, and replaced by Archana Puran Singh. In a recent interview, when Sidhu was asked why he left Kapil's show, Sidhu said there were "political reasons" behind it.

Talking on The Grain Talk Show's YouTube channel, Sidhu recalled his memories of being associated with different versions of Kapil's shows. "The Kapil Sharma Show was a bouquet made by god. No one can take credit for it. It had different fragrances. When Kapil came to me, those days I had just come out of Bigg Boss, so we discussed and everything fell in place. Everyone was chosen to be a part of that show," he shared. Sidhu was one of the judges on The Great Indian Laughter Challenge when Kapil first found fame. He then became a part of Kapil's comedy show on Colors in 2013, and moved with him to Sony. Addressing why he quit the show, Sidhu said, "There were political reasons I don't want to talk about. There were other reasons... and the bouquet fell apart. I have a wish that that bouquet must get together again, the way it was. I will be the first to facilitate. His show is still doing very well. Kapil is a genius." Many actors who were a part of Kapil's team in those days, like Upasana Singh, Ali Asgar, Sumona Chakravarti left the show in later years. Sidhu said that when Kapil was going through a bad patch, people suspected that he was done but he always had immense faith in Kapil's capabilities. "When Kapil was not well, he was jittery, he was going through a tough time, people told me he is over. I said 'guys, he's a 20. If you can even find someone who is a 10 and make him stand in front of Kapil, I will listen. But



right now, even a 5 doesn't exist. You will have to replace him with something better. Otherwise you will keep missing him", he said and added, "You don't have a genius like him. Talent does what it can do, genius does what he must do."

Sidhu then looked back on old days and hinted that he wants to have a reunion with everyone who was a part of the original team. "There was dadi (Ali Asgar), and everyone. I wish everyone gets together... Everyone dispersed. Now Gutthi (Sunil Grover) is back. He met me in Goa. He is wonderful. He comes on for 10-15 minutes, he regales everybody. He is another genius," he said. In 2019, shortly after Pulwama attacks, Sidhu had said, "Nations cannot be held responsible for the dastardly acts of terrorists. The terrorists do not have deen, mazhab (sect and religion). There are good, the bad and the ugly. Every institution has them. Every nation has them. The ugly need to be punished. But individuals cannot be blamed for the dastardly act."

Amar Upadhyay says women dressed as widows outside his house after Mihir Virani's death in Kyunki...: 'They looked at me in disbelief'

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Actor Amar Upadhyay, best known for playing Mihir Virani in Ekta Kapoor's popular show Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, recently reminisced about the time when his character was killed off in the show, causing an unexpected wave of panic among fans. He revealed that the fan reaction was so intense that not only did viewers react, but even celebrities started calling the office of Balaji Telefilms. He also recalled how a group of women, dressed in white sarees, gathered outside his house after his character's death.

Recalling the moment, Amar shared with Entertainment Live, "In the morning, the doorbell rang, and when I opened it, there were 15-20 women standing at the gate dressed in white sarees. They looked at me in disbelief. When I asked them why they were dressed like that, they simply replied, 'Kuch nahi (nothing)'. Then my mother, who had overheard, prodded them further, and they finally said, 'Since Mihir died, we thought...'" Amar's mother, visibly upset, scolded the women, saying, "Are you mad? He has died in the show! What are you doing? Run away now. He is my son!" Amar added that his mother was very angry about the situation. After his character's death on the show, Amar Upadhyay quit Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi in 2001. His departure wasn't taken well by fans, which eventually convinced him to return. However, in 2002, following a generation leap in the show, he left once again to pursue a career in Bollywood and was replaced by Inder Kumar. When Kumar left the show later that year, the role of Mihir was taken over by Ronit Roy,



who played the character until the show's conclusion.

Post his television career, Amar Upadhyay ventured into Bollywood, taking on small roles in films like LOC Kargil, It's My Life, Kaagaz, and more. However, he was unable to replicate the level of success he had enjoyed on television. He made a return to TV and appeared in various shows, including Des Mein Nikla Hoga Chand, Saathiya - Pyar Ka Naya Ehsaas, Kasautii Zindagii Kay, and others.

Meenakshi Seshadri recalls when she had to shoot a romantic rain song while she had diarrhea; says studios had one restroom for everyone



Meenakshi Seshadri recalled shooting experiences from the 1980s and 1990s. Meenakshi Seshadri recalled shooting experiences from the 1980s and 1990s. Meenakshi Seshadri, who appeared in popular films like Damini, Hero, Meri Jung, Ghatak in the 1980s and 1990s, recently opened up about her experience of shooting under difficult circumstances. Meenakshi shared that back in those days, there was a huge problem with regard to the restrooms on sets. She recalled that Poonam Dhillon was the first actress to have her own vanity van on a set but by that time, Meenakshi was preparing to leave the film industry.

She shared on Kabir Vani's YouTube channel that almost 50-100 people used the same restroom on a set and there were no different washrooms for men and women. "There were some studios that just had one restroom. Almost 50-100 people were using the same restroom so there were no separate restrooms. And sanitation and cleanliness was in the pits. We would wear such fancy costumes and we would somehow carefully manage then," she recalled. Meenakshi was then asked about her worst experience and she recalled the time when she had to shoot a romantic rain song, while she had diarrhea. "The worst time was when one day I had diarrhea. And I was acting, I was in the shoot. And it was some romantic song and a rain sequence," she recalled.

Earlier, in a chat on What The Hell Navya, Jaya Bachchan recalled how female actors had to change sanitary pads behind bushes during outdoor shoots as there were no restrooms. "When we used to do outdoors, we didn't have vans. We had to change behind the bushes," she said and added, "There were not even enough toilets. It was awkward and embarrassing. You used 3-4 sanitary pads and you carried plastic bags to discard the pads and put them in a basket so that when you get home, you can get rid of it."

Case registered against Badshah by media company over pending overheads

Mumbai: Rapper-singer Badshah, who is known for 'Jugnu', 'Saturday Saturday' and others, has been sued by a media company in lieu of his failure to honour the payment terms agreed upon in a legal agreement.

The company claimed that all the said services with respect to the production as well as promotion of the track titled 'Baawla' were completed. However, the company has levelled allegations that Badshah has failed to clear the dues of those involved in the making of the project.

It is also alleged by the complainants that they have resorted to the legal action after multiple reminders. Despite all the positive efforts, Badshah has only given false promises and deferred the payment date, but never released a single penny. 'Baawla' is an independent track, featuring Badshah and Amit Uchana. The song has garnered over 151 Million views on YouTube. It has been released on Badshah's YouTube channel.

Arjun Kapoor reveals he flunked 11th standard, quit studies: 'If Ishaqzaade wouldn't have worked...'

Arjun Kapoor has always been open about discussing his life struggles, be it professionally or personally. The actor, who is the son of producer Boney Kapoor, recently revealed that he flunked 11th standard and his parents allowed him to drop education to pursue his passion. In an interview with Pinkvilla, Arjun also shared that his whole life was dependent on his debut film Ishaqzaade. Talking about the amazing response, he said, "My mom had passed away 45 days before Ishaqzaade, I was completely numb during promotions and was only distracting myself. I went to a theatre and saw the audience' reaction. They were whistling on Chokra Jawaan. It meant a lot to me. That day it sunk in that this could be the rest of my life."

Arjun also elaborates how he had very little hope and wanted to return home after his stint as an assistant director in Kal Ho Naa Ho. "I was in NM (Narsee Monjee) in Bombay, I had flunked 11th standard. I have had the luxury to do that, my family allowed me to go through with that choice. It is very tough for any parent to allow their child to not continue educating. But, I was very vehemently clear that I want to be a part of the film profession. I thought I would only assist in Kal Ho Na Ho and go back home but I never went," he said.

The actor further added, "A lot of people don't realise but if Ishaqzaade wouldn't have worked, then I was actually in a situation where I would have had to live with



regret that I didn't have educational qualifications to rely on. One Friday can decide what your life will be, so that Friday changes my whole life professionally, emotionally, and personally. I feel my mom blessed that day. I took a risk to not educate myself but I don't think I would agree with today if I go back in time. It is the biggest gamble I made."

Arshad Warsi asked Jaani Dushman director to kill him first in the film, Akshay Kumar was 'willing to do everybody's role': 'I died laughing'

There are films that release, flop, and are forgotten, and then there are films that flop upon its release, but gain a cult following over the years for all the wrong reasons. One such film is Jaani Dushman. The film, released in 2002, has a stellar cast including Sunny Deol, Akshay Kumar, Suniel Shetty, Arshad Warsi, Aditya Pancholi, and Manisha Koirala among others. It is also one of the rare films where singer Sonu Nigam has acted. The fantasy-drama was supposed to be the comeback film of actor Armaan Kohli. However, it opened to overwhelmingly negative reviews and was a box office failure. Arshad Warsi, who was also a part of the film, recently shared, "That was one film where my first request was, 'Sir, sabse pehle ap mujhe maaroge'."

In a recent interview with Mashable India, the actor recalled shooting for the film and said, "Do not say a word against Jaani Dushman. It is a cult movie. I love it. It is the only film, where I have laughed myself to death." He added, "If you look closely, it's a smile on my face when I am dying. That was one film where my first request was, 'Sir, sabse pehle ap mujhe maaroge' (Sir, you will kill me first). He said, 'Nahi, yaar, 2 jan ke baad tumhe maarunga. (No, I will kill you after at least two people)' I was like theek hai sir (I was like okay)." Arshad Warsi, who is all set to feature in Jolly LLLB 3 with Akshay Kumar, recalled an anecdote with the actor in Jaani Dushman. He said, "Akshay Kumar is unbelievable. He was willing to do everybody's role. He said, 'Jo bhi marega, uske baad mai aajata hu' (I will come as the reincarnation of whoever dies)."

Arshad laughed as he said, "In the film, the guy could change his form, look, and mission impossible, everything was happening. Whoever died, Akshay came back as them. There were so many funny things that happened in that. It is cult classic. That film is



unbelievable." Previously, in an interview with Pinkvilla, Akshay Kumar shared, "According to the original script, I was actually dead in the film. So then, an actor couldn't give his dates. I told the director because I was on per day, should I come? He said, 'Okay, let's do a thing. You are in coma.

So, I was in coma and then I came back." The actor who didn't give his dates is said to be Sunny Deol. Sonkashi, who was also the part of interview, quickly asked, "Was this movie a hit?" Akshay said, "On satellite, it is a huge hit. Every time a channel is losing its TRP, they put up Jaani Dushman." The film had several scenes inspired by The Terminator and The Matrix. It had also created a hype before its release for its innovative special effects, which was uncommon in the industry. However, the film failed to live up to its hype. The film was directed and produced by Rajkumar Kohli, who is known for making Jaani Dushman (1979), Nagin (1976), and Bees Saal Baad (1989) among others.

Anees Bazmee reveals he has ghost-written 6-7 films, reveals how Pahlaj Nihalani forced him to write Aankhen within 15 days: 'Chhadi lekar...'



Anees Bazmee is currently basking in the success of his latest film Bhooh Bhulaiyaa 3, starring Kartik Aaryan, Vidya Balan, and Madhuri Dixit in the lead roles. Best known directing for No Entry (2005), Welcome (2007) and Singh is Kinning (2008), Bhooh Bhulaiyaa 2 (2022), the director-screenwriter has also written several hit films, including Swarg (1990), Pratibandh (1990), Raja Babu (1994), and many others. However, not many know that he was also a ghostwriter (a ghostwriter is hired to write works that officially credit another person as the author) in the past.

In a conversation with The Mashable India, Anees accepted that he was a ghost writer for many movies. He said, "You are a writer for a film, you don't get the name, but only money. I wanted money back then and I was doing whatever work I was getting. I wasn't really busy to skip on work. Moreover, I wanted to gain experience. Even if people didn't know I wrote a film, I would know. It was a chance for me to go to the theatres, see the audience' reaction, so it was a great way to get that experience. I have ghost-written around 6-7 films. It gave me the confidence that I can become a writer."

He further added, "I can't tell the names because it was an agreement between me and my writers. They have trusted and loved me. I can't go out today and say, 'Yeh badi hit film maine likhi thi (I wrote this big hit film)', I am not that kind of a person." The director-writer also reveals that he wrote his film Aankhen (1993) while sitting on the sets, because of producer Pahlaj Nihalani's pressure. "Writing is all about re-writing. I have never taken a lot of time in writing scripts. I have written most of

my hit films in a single draft. In fact, a lot of times, a scene was getting shot and alongside I was writing the next sequence. Ekdum garam garam script (Fresh script coming up). I wrote Aankhen like this," he shared. "The producer Pahlaj Nihalani was a Hitler type person, ekdum chhadi lekar (Holding a stick). I told him that I haven't written the film yet, but he said, 'No, I am shooting'. I couldn't say anything in front of him. I came on the set with the script within 15 days, with whatever I had written till then," Anees ended.

Denzel Washington says he's spent 50 years preparing for 'Gladiator II' villain role

Mumbai: 'American Gangster' actor Denzel Washington, who will be seen playing a negative character in 'Gladiator II', says he has been preparing for his role for fifty years.

In an exclusive interview with IANS, Denzil discussed his character, experience with co-actors, and more. When asked specifically about preparing for his character Macrinus, Denzel Washington replied, "I'll be seventy in December. I played Othello at twenty two and Emperor Jones at twenty. So, I've been preparing for this role for fifty years." Denzil Washington also praised Paul Mescal for his craft. He stated "There was a tremendous amount of pressure for him coming behind Russel. I can say that I know something about acting and I can tell you he delivers." Paul Mescal plays Lucius, the former heir to the Roman Empire and son of Maximus. He lives with his wife in a coastal town in Numidia and has no connection with his mother for fifteen years. He is taken prisoner by the Roman army and is forced to fight as Gladiator. Earlier Ridley Scott the director and co-producer of the film opened up about how he zeroed down on actor Paul Mescal for the lead role. The director stated that he first noticed Paul Mescal in the acclaimed Anglo-Irish series 'Normal People'.

What is the pink strip Carlos Alcaraz wore on his nose at the ATP Finals?



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Carlos Alcaraz Nose strip Spain's Carlos Alcaraz returns the ball to Russia's Andrey Rublev during their singles tennis match of the ATP World Tour Finals at the Inalpi Arena, in Turin, Italy, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024. Carlos Alcaraz wore what looked like an adhesive strip on his nose during his victory over Andrey Rublev at the ATP Finals. "For me, it helped a lot today. I could breathe much better," Alcaraz said in the post match press conference. "I tried to forget about not feeling well, I'm sick, and deliver a really good tennis. That's what good tennis or top players do, even if you're not feeling good,"

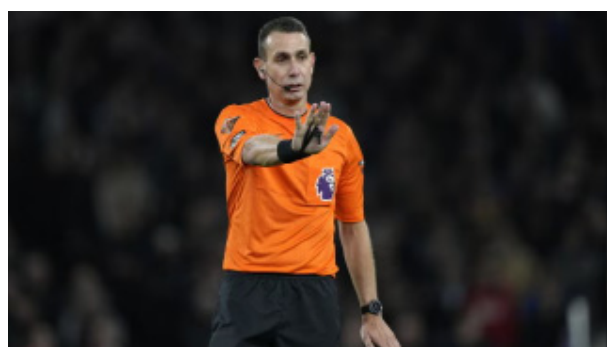
Alcaraz said. He had beaten Rublev 6-3, 7-6 (8) for his first win in this year's ATP Finals. The pink strip on the nose is a nasal dilator, which was first made popular during the Atlanta Olympics by runners. Great Britain's marathon great Paula Radcliffe wore one and so did many footballers in the 1990s. Though the nasal dilator has fallen out of fashion, Alcaraz seems to have given it a new lease of life. These strips worn across the nose keep the nostrils open and help a person take in more air and were initially used to prevent snoring. In football Robbie Fowler was the one of the first to use the nose strip. The Guardian had reported that the manufacturers of the strip claimed that it improved air flow by 31 per cent.

Reuters quoted Dr. Julia S. Kimbell of the University of North Carolina stating: "It is important to note that while over-the-counter nasal dilators may temporarily induce changes in nasal resistance similar to those induced by surgery, these products cannot provide the long-term treatment for nasal airway obstruction that surgery may offer." Alcaraz is likely to continue wearing the strip on his nose: "It is something that I'm going to wear more often," he explained. "Right now in the situation that I'm in right now, it helps a lot... I'm pretty sure that in the next match I'm going to wear it. Tomorrow's practice I'm going to wear it, for sure. I felt better," he said post match.

David Coote controversy: UEFA open investigation on English referee

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

David Coote suspended for abusing Klopp Referee David Coote reacts during the English Premier League soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Brighton and Brentford, at White Hart Lane Stadium in London, England, Things went from bad to worse for David Coote, the Premier League referee who allegedly used derogatory language against Liverpool and their then manager Jurgen Klopp, on Thursday when UEFA appointed an ethics and disciplinary inspector to evaluate whether he had violated their disciplinary regulations. This comes after The Sun had published a video that the newspaper said showed Coote appearing to snort white powder during his time working as a match official at Euro 2024. This new video was allegedly taken on July 6, a day after the France vs Portugal match in the Euro 2024 quarter-final in Germany in which Coote had been a support VAR official, according to The Sun. Coote had already been suspended by UEFA on Monday in addition to his suspension by the English football referees' body, the PGMOL. On Monday, an unverified video surfaced on social media where a person alleged to be Coote said about Klopp, "Aside from having a right pop at me when I refed them against Burnley in lockdown, then he ac-



used me of lying and then just had a right f****g pop at me. I've got no interest at speaking to someone who's f****g arrogant. So I do my best not to speak to him... My God, German c**t, f**k me." The video in question seemed to refer to a Premier League game that Coote refereed between Liverpool and Burnley in July 2020, which ended in a 1-1 draw. Klopp publicly criticised Coote after the match, accusing him of not penalising tackles made on Liverpool's players.

'Team backed us even when we flopped': Tilak Varma after scoring century in 4th T20I vs SA



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Tilak Varma India South Africa India's Tilak Varma celebrates after scoring a century during the third T20 International cricket match between South Africa and India, at Centurion Park in Centurion, South Africa,

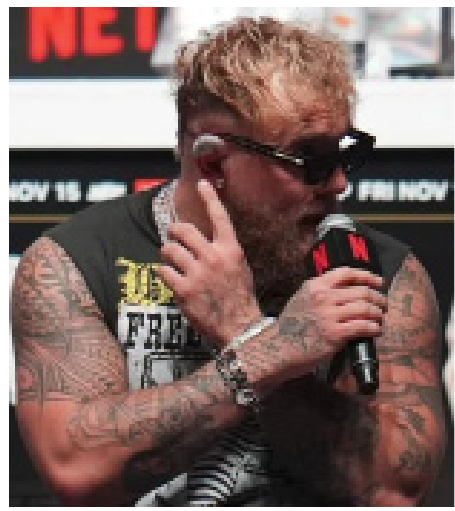
Tilak Varma who smashed a century against South Africa in the 3rd T20I at the Centurion said that it was he who had gone to skipper Suryakumar Yadav and asked to bat at No.3 instead of his regular position at No.4. "In Gqeberha, he (Tilak) came to my room and said, 'Give

me the opportunity to bat at No. 3. Let me express myself," Surya said. Varma confirmed this and also revealed the reason behind his celebration where he pointed towards the dug-out and blew a flying kiss.

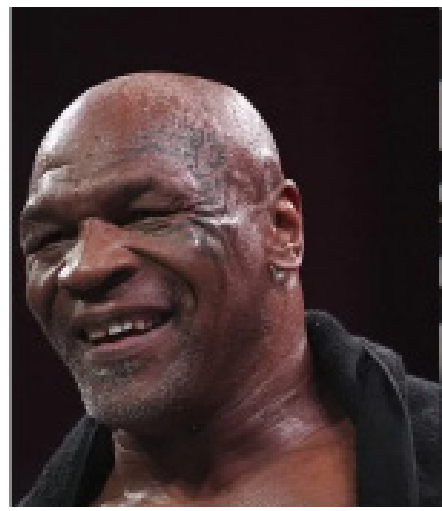
"It was for 'SKY', our skipper because he gave me a chance to bat at number three. I love batting at number three, but in last two matches, I played at number four. Last night he came to my room and said that 'You will bat No. 3' and he said it's a good opportunity. Go and express yourself. I told him, 'You have given me an opportunity, I will show you on the ground,'" said the second youngest Indian centurion in T20 Internationals," he said after the match. "The team backed us even when we flopped. They told us to play the brand of cricket Indian team is known for and the skipper and the management (interim head coach VVS Laxman) said, 'Bindaas khelna Agar wicket gire tab bhi (Play freely even if you lose a wicket),' he added. Varma got to the three-figure mark — his maiden T20I ton — in the 19th over with a gorgeous boundary. By this stage he had already blasted eight fours and six maximums for India. Ultimately he would depart for 107 runs, adding another six to his maximums' list. The century and Abhishek's Sharma's half century went a long way in securing India's win which even Marco Jansen's blistering 17-ball 54 could not change.

Jake Paul gets a \$100,000 diamond-studded ear guard before the Mike Tyson fight

Jake Paul points to diamond-studded ear-guard during a news conference ahead of his fight against Mike Tyson (RIGHT) on Wednesday in Irving, Texas. (AP Photos) (LEFT) Jake Paul points to diamond-studded ear-guard during a news conference ahead of his fight against Mike Tyson (RIGHT) on Wednesday in Irving, Texas. Jake Paul, the YouTube-turned boxer, tried to rile up former undisputed heavyweight champion of the world Mike Tyson by wearing a diamond-studded ear guard during their pre-bout press conference in Texas. The ear guard was a reminder of Tyson's infamous biting of Evander Holyfield's ear during a bout at Nevada in 1997. Jake Paul addresses a question about an item he wears on his ear during a news conference ahead of his fight against Mike



Tyson, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, in Irving, Texas. (AP Photo) Jake Paul addresses a question about an item he wears on his ear during a news conference ahead of his fight against Mike Tyson, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024, in Irving, Texas. After he bit Holyfield, Tyson was dis-



qualified from that bout and then suspended for 15 months. In comments to select reporters before training Tyson warned Paul that he better be fully prepared or else the night could end badly for him. "My own mother should be very careful if she has to get in the ring with me. When it's over, it's

over. But while the process is going on, my intention is to hurt him. I hope he has the same intentions, or he is in trouble," Tyson was quoted as saying by ESPN. At the press conference later Tyson snapped back when he was asked if he had it in him at the age of 58 to beat the 27-year-old Paul.

Sebastian Coe wants uncompromising, clear-cut transgender and DSD policies from IOC: 'Protecting women's sport is a non-negotiable for me'



GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Coe, an IOC member for only four years, has had a somewhat strained relationship with the organisation, despite being the head of its biggest sport. (Reuters) Coe, an IOC member for only four years, has had a somewhat strained relationship with the organisation, despite being the head of its biggest sport. Former Olympic champion Sebastian Coe has said the International Olympic Committee needed clear-cut policies to protect women's sport to avoid controversies such as the one in boxing at this year's Paris Games.

Coe is one of seven people in the running to become the next president of the International Olympic Committee after Thomas Bach and made it very clear he would push for immediate change in the participation of trans athletes and those with Differences of Sexual Development (DSD) in women's events, reported Reuters. Athletics was at the forefront of formulating a policy that clearly stipulated eligibility, but the IOC failed to follow suit, instead handing the responsibility to individual sports federations. When the IOC took over the running of amateur boxing for the Paris Olympics, however, that lack of clarity was thrust into the spotlight by the gold medal success of Algeria's Imane Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, who had previously been banned after adverse sex chromo-

some tests. "In a way, how I feel is irrelevant. If you press me on that, I was deeply uncomfortable by that," Coe was quoted as saying by SKY sports. SKY went on to quote him further saying, "I have done six years on the British Boxing Board of Control, I have daughters. The more fundamental observation I made is it is absolutely vital that as an organisation, you have clear-cut policies."

Guardian quoted Coe as being asked if he thought the current IOC guidance on the issue was too ambiguous. He replied: "Yes I do." He also promised he would give "uncompromising" guidance to sports if elected. "It has to be a clearcut policy, and International Federations must have some flexibility," he added. "But it is incumbent on the IOC to create that landscape. It's a very clear proposition to me — if you do not protect [the female] category, or you are in any way ambivalent about it for whatever reason, then it will not end well for women's sport. I come from a sport where that is absolutely sacrosanct."

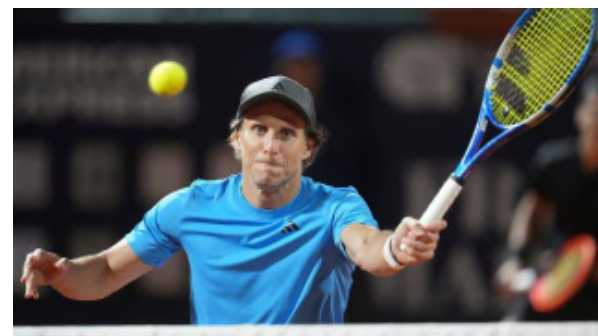
He soft-launched his bid for the top administrative post on Wednesday, saying it was a role he feels he has been building towards his whole life and that the organisation is ready for change. The World Athletics president, and a multiple world record holder, Coe won back-to-back Olympic 1,500 metres gold medals and, after a diversion as a Member of Parliament, delivered the hugely successful 2012 London Olympics. He became WA president in 2015, initiating widespread reforms, and has had a long commercial career in sports marketing. Coe, an IOC member for only four years, has had a somewhat strained relationship with the organisation, despite being the head of its biggest sport. His decisive action on banning Russian and Belarusians from all athletics, initially due to state-sponsored doping and then after the invasion of Ukraine, was at odds with the views of many IOC members. He antagonised others with his decision to award prize money to Olympic champions in Paris this year, without consulting the IOC first.

5 things you should know about Diego Forlan, Uruguay's football superstar who is now a tennis player

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Forlan Uruguay's Diego Forlan returns the ball to Boris Arias and Federico Zeballos during a men's doubles tennis match with teammate Federico Coria at the 2024 Uruguay Open in Montevideo, Uruguay, Uruguay football star Diego Forlan might not have had the perfect start to his professional tennis career, but the 45-year-old has managed to attract crowds to stadiums to watch an ATP second-tier challenger tour.

Forlan debuted at the Uruguay Open on Wednesday, partnering Federico Coria of Argentina in men's doubles. They however were outplayed in the opener, losing 6-1, 6-2 to Boris Arias and Federico Zeballos. The 2010 FIFA World Cup's Golden Ball winner and joint-highest scorer will surely know how to bounce back from a setback. After all, he's had an astonishing football career, scoring more than 300 goals in the sport that took him to Italy, Brazil, Japan, India, and Hong Kong. Forlan is right-handed in everything he does, but in tennis, he's a leftie, like one of his idols, the great Rafael Nadal. The story goes that when Forlan was about three years old, his brother told him to put the racket in his left hand, and the idea stuck. He's a right-footed footballer, but is extremely comfortable using his left boot too as he has shown on countless occasions. The world of football would be much poorer had Forlan decided to turn pro in tennis, a sport he was excellent at as a youngster. In fact, he was seen as a hugely promising talent and until his mid-teens mulled turning professional. In the end, he opted for football, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, father and brother. A few years after he retired from



football, Forlan was convinced by his friend to take up professional tennis. Carlos Obregon, a fellow Uruguayan who plays in the competition's 65+ category convinced him to give the ITF Masters a go. He did warn him that it wouldn't be easy though.

Forlan made his debut in the over-35s in Montevideo last July, reaching the second round. At the start of this year, he took things up another level, enlisting the help of his friend, former Uruguayan Davis Cup captain, Enrique 'Bebe' Perez. His ITF ranking for the 45+ category, out of around 2,000 players competing in multiple tournaments, is No. 102 for singles and No. 86 for doubles, which should go up as he plays in more tournaments. With his professional debut, he will no longer be in any age category. Away from his 'professional' life, Forlan has four children — three boys and a girl — aged between eight and three. And like their dad, they've taken to both sports. The kids play regular football and tennis. Talk about a fourth generation of Forlan sporting stars.

The Sanju Samson rollercoaster: Back-to-back ducks in South Africa after consecutive T20I centuries

GNS News Agency, Nov 16

Sanju Samson now has six ducks in T20Is with two in two games in South Africa. (AP/Screengrab) Sanju Samson now has six ducks in T20Is with two in two games in South Africa. The calendar year 2024 will go down as the 'all or nothing' year for Sanju Samson. On Wednesday in Centurion, Samson registered his second-straight score of 0, once again bowled in the first over by Marco Jansen. After starting the series with his 2nd straight century in the format, the Indian wicketkeeper became only the second T20I batter from a full-member nation to record five ducks in a calendar year.

Samson in 2024 (T20Is): 11 innings, 327 runs, Highest 111, Average 32.70, Strike rate: 175.80, 100s: 2, 50s: 1, Ducks: 5!t was a 3-ball duck in Gqeberha, where Jansen hit the top of his leg stump when Samson gave room by moving away. It was 2-ball duck in Centurion, but this time it was the top of offstump as Samson seemed to have misjudged the bounce on a short-of-length delivery. Samson now has six dismissals on zero in the format.

It's the sort of live-by-the-sword and die-by-the-sword approach we have come to expect from Samson, who has mentioned in the past that intent to be aggressive is paramount in this format rather than just accumulating runs. But it seemed that he managed to marry that intent with ability to play longer knocks after his centuries against Bangladesh in Hyderabad and South Africa in Durban. "The consistency is something that is a little missing, and that's something I'm sure the Indian selectors would be looking for," former India captain Anil Kumble had said before the South Africa series. "Failures are part of my life and career. There is doubt, especially with social media's influence, but at this level, it's important to focus on improvement. I think when you go through that failure, you have a lot of doubts in your mind. You think a lot about yourself. 'Sanju, are you not made for international level? I think you are doing well in the IPL. Why are you not doing well internationally?' So I have a lot of such

thoughts," Samson had said after his century in the series opener. But the current T20I setup seems to have made it pretty clear that Samson will get his long run as an opener. The back-to-back centuries definitely helped Samson repay the faith of the current management but he'd dearly love to finish the series with a better outing than his last two. Sanju Samson now has six ducks in T20Is with two in two games in South Africa. (AP/Screengrab) Sanju Samson now has six ducks in T20Is with two in two games in South Africa. The calendar year 2024 will go down as the 'all or nothing' year for Sanju Samson. On Wednesday in Centurion, Samson registered his second-straight score of 0, once again bowled in the first over by Marco Jansen. After starting the series with his 2nd straight century in the format, the Indian wicketkeeper became only the second T20I batter from a full-member nation to record five ducks in a calendar year.

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