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Actor Ram Charan criticised for visiting Kadapa Dargah in 'Ayyappa Mala'

Hyderabad: Tollywood actor Ram Charan's recent visit to the Kadapa Dargah in Andhra Pradesh while being on the 'Ayyappa Deeksha' received severe backlash from Ayyappa devotees who criticised the actor for not honouring the religious customs. The actor visited the Dargah as a chief guest for the 80th National Mushaira Ghazal event, reportedly fulfilling a commitment made by legendary music composer AR Rahman. The Hindu devotees expressing their disappointment demanded that the actor immediately withdraw himself from the 'Deeksha' and apologize to all the Ayyappa devotees and the entire Hindu community.

Telangana Assembly session from December 9?

Hyderabad: The Telangana Assembly's winter session is likely to be conducted from December 9 and speculation is rife that the State government is likely to table the new Revenue Act. The last session was held in August this year.

In the wake of the local body elections, there is a buzz that the State government might pass a resolution on Rythu Bharosa and Aasara pensions as well. There is also a possibility of the State government holding a discussion on the caste census and getting it approved in the House.

Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka Highlights Congress Government's Achievements



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka emphasised the administration's people-centric approach, contrasting it with the governance style of the previous regime in a statement explaining the achievements of the current Congress government. Speaking at a public event, Bhatti Vikramarka said, "While the previous government isolated itself from the people, our government is committed to being accessible. Not only are the ministers actively engaging with the public, but the Chief Minister himself is making efforts to connect directly with the people." The Deputy CM also highlighted the government's emphasis on key sectors such as education and healthcare. "We are giving top priority to improving education and healthcare services, ensuring that these sectors receive the attention they deserve," he stated. One of the key achievements mentioned by Vikramarka was the creation of job opportunities. "Under Congress rule, we have already provided 59,000 jobs to the youth. Additionally, after years of anticipation, we have successfully conducted exams for Group-1 recruitment, offering a long-awaited opportunity to aspirants." Vikramarka concluded by reaffirming the government's commitment to addressing the needs of the people, with a particular focus on creating employment opportunities and improving public services.

Russia launches intercontinental missile for first time in Ukraine war, claims Kyiv

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Ukraine says Russia launched an intercontinental ballistic missile overnight targeting Dnipro city in the central-east of the country, which, if confirmed, would be the first time Moscow has used such a missile in the war. In a statement Thursday (November 21, 2024) on the Telegram messaging app, Ukraine's air force did not specify the exact type of missile, but said it was launched from Russia's Astrakhan region, which borders the Caspian Sea. It said an intercontinental ballistic missile was fired at Dnipro city along with eight other missiles, and that the Ukrainian military shot down six of them. Two people were wounded as a result of the attack, and an industrial facility and a rehabilitation center for people with disabilities were damaged, according to local officials. While the range of an ICBM would seem excessive for use against Ukraine, such missiles are designed to carry nuclear warheads, and the use of one would serve as a chilling reminder of Russia's nuclear capability and a powerful message of potential escalation. The attack comes two days after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a revised nuclear doctrine that formally lowers the threshold for the country's use of nuclear weapons. Ukraine on Tuesday fired several American-supplied longer-range missiles and reportedly fired U.K.-made Storm Shadows on Wednesday into Russia. The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement Thursday that its air defence systems shot down two British-made Storm Shadow missiles, six HIMARS rockets, and 67 drones. The announcement came in the ministry's daily roundup regarding the military actions in Ukraine.

K. Sanjay Murthy sworn in as Comptroller and Auditor General



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Former Higher Education Secretary K. Sanjay Murthy was sworn in as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India by President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday (November 21, 2024). Mr. Murthy, a 1989 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu. Mr. Murthy was named the new CAG by the Centre on Monday (November 18, 2024). Girish Chandra Murmu completed his tenure as the CAG on Wednesday (November 20, 2024). "At a ceremony held today at 10 am in the Ganatantra Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan, K Sanjay Murthy was sworn in as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Guyana, Dominica confer top awards on PM Modi

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Guyana and Dominica have conferred their top awards on Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and his exceptional contributions to the global community and efforts in strengthening bilateral ties with the two Caribbean nations. I am grateful to President Dr. Irfaan Ali, the Government and the people of Guyana for conferring 'The Order of Excellence.' This honour belongs to the people of India. "Sincerely thank President Dr. Irfaan Ali, for conferring upon me Guyana's highest honour, 'The Order of Excellence.' This is a recognition of the



140 crore people of India," he said in a post on X. "This is living proof of your deep commitment towards our relations which will continue to inspire us to move forward in every field," he said while accepting the award.

Mr. Modi dedicated the honour to the people of India and the deep-rooted histori-

cal ties between the people of the two countries, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a press release. He also emphasised that his State visit is a testament to India's continued commitment towards deepening India-Guyana friendship. "Another feather in the cap for India!

Every nation must embrace Buddhist doctrine of peaceful co-existence: Rajnath Singh at ASEAN meeting



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday pitched for the Buddhist doctrine of peaceful co-existence at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting in Laos. "The Buddhist doctrine of peaceful co-existence must be embraced more closely by all the nations as the world is increasingly getting polarised into blocks and camps which is leading to increasing strain on the established world order," said the Defence Minister while addressing the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus forum in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Rajnath Singh added that India stands for freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce and adherence to international law for peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific.

"India has always advocated and practised dialogue for resolving complex international issues. This commitment to open communication and peaceful negotiation is evident in India's approach to a wide range of international challenges, from border disputes to trade agreements," the Defence Minister said. He added that an open dialogue promotes trust, understanding, and cooperation, laying the foundation for sustainable partnerships. "The power of dialogue has always proven effective, yielding tangible results that contribute to stability and harmony on the global stage. India believes that genuine, long-term solutions to global problems can only be achieved when nations engage constructively, respecting each other's perspectives and working toward shared goals in the spirit of cooperation," the

Defence Minister said. He said that the ASEAN region, in particular, has always been economically dynamic and bustling with trade, commerce and cultural activities, adding that all through this transformational journey, India has remained a trusted friend of the region. Citing a quote by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, while he visited South East Asia in 1927, the Defence Minister said, "Everywhere I could see India, yet I could not recognise it." The Defence Minister also stressed that the statement symbolises the deep and widespread cultural and historical ties between India and South East Asia. Sharing his insights on the discussions on the Code of Conduct, Rajnath Singh said: "India would like to see a Code that does not prejudice the legitimate rights and interests of nations which are not party to these deliberations. The code should be fully consistent with international law, in particular the UN Convention Law of Sea 1982." In view of the natural disasters wreaking havoc in different parts of the world, the Defence Minister said that it reminds of the perils of climate change while also complementing the chair for choosing the most relevant topic in today's scenario for the 11th ADMM-Plus Joint statement. "Strengthening resilience to climate change in the defence domain requires multi-stakeholder engagement, from developing innovative solutions to managing the adverse impacts of climate change. This includes protecting vulnerable populations as well as safeguarding our defence installations," the Defence Minister added. He also highlighted the need to deepen the understanding of the interlinkages between climate change and threats to security while calling for developing an ADMM-Plus Defence Strategy on climate change.

Rajnath Singh also drew attention to the Global Commons - the shared natural resources and ecosystems essential to sustaining life and bringing prosperity on the planet. He underscored the need to safeguard these Global Commons in a just and balanced manner by not resorting to unilateral actions. "These resources provide invaluable ecological, economic, and social benefits that extend beyond national boundaries," said the Defence Minister. The 11th ADMM-Plus forum consisted of 10 ASEAN countries, eight Plus countries, and Timor Leste. The meeting was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Laos General Chansamone Chanyalath.

Gautam Adani charged in US over \$265 million bribe plot, fraud

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Billionaire Gautam Adani has been charged by US prosecutors over his role in an alleged years-long scheme to pay USD 250 million bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts. US prosecutors charged Adani, 62, his nephew Sagar and other defendants for paying over USD 250 million in bribes between 2020 and 2024 to Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts on terms that could potentially bring in more than USD 2 billion in profit. This, they alleged, was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project.

US law allows pursuing foreign corruption allegations if they involve certain links to American investors or markets. Meanwhile, Adani group denied charges of paying bribe to secure favourable terms for solar power contracts, saying the allegations by US prosecutors are baseless and the conglomerate is compliant with all laws. It said all possible legal recourse will be sought. "The allegations made by the US Department of Justice and the US Securities and Exchange Commission against directors of Adani Green are baseless and denied," the group spokesperson said in a statement. Commenting on the development, the spokesperson pointed to US Department of Justice statement that said "the charges in the indictment are allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty." "The Adani Group has always upheld and is steadfastly committed to maintaining the highest stan-



dards of governance, transparency and regulatory compliance across all jurisdictions of its operations. We assure our stakeholders, partners and employees that we are a law-abiding organisation, fully compliant with all laws," the spokesperson added. Breon Peace, US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, which brought the case, said in a statement that "the defendants orchestrated an elaborate scheme to bribe Indian government officials to secure contracts worth billions of dollars". Adani, chairman of the ports-to-energy Adani Group, his nephew Sagar R Adani, who is an executive director at the conglomerate's renewable energy arm Adani Green Energy Ltd, and its former CEO Vneet Jaain were charged with securities fraud, securities fraud conspiracy and wire fraud conspiracy.

President Droupadi Murmu Arrives in Hyderabad to Attend Koti Deepotsavam



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

President Droupadi Murmu arrived at Begumpet Airport today to a warm reception by Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka. The President is in the city to grace the grand Koti Deepotsavam celebrations as the chief guest. The annual Koti Deepotsavam, a spiritual and cultural event, draws thousands of devotees who light a million lamps, symbolizing unity, hope, and divinity. The President's participation in this auspicious event adds significance to the celebrations. Governor Varma and CM Reddy extended a heartfelt welcome to the President upon her arrival, showcasing Telangana's hospitality and cultural pride. Security arrangements have been tightened across the city, especially at the event venue, to ensure a smooth and peaceful celebration. President Murmu's presence is expected to elevate the spiritual fervour of Koti Deepotsavam, making it a memorable occasion for the attendees.

AP Govt. Introduces Resolution for High Court Bench in Kurnool



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Andhra Pradesh government has introduced a resolution in the Assembly to establish a permanent bench of the High Court in the city. The resolution was presented by Minister NMD Farooq. The demand for a High Court bench in Kurnool has been a longstanding aspiration among the local population. Historically, this request gained traction during the Prajagalam program, when the then Leader of the Opposition and current Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu, assured citizens that efforts would be made to fulfill this need. Recently, Chief Minister Naidu conducted a review of the situation and instructed authorities to expedite the necessary procedures for the establishment of the High Court bench in Kurnool. This initiative is expected to enhance access to justice for the region and address the needs of its residents effectively.

Rahul Gandhi demands arrest of Gautam Adani

Senior Congress leader and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi on Thursday (November 21, 2024) said that industrialist Gautam Adani has broken both the Indian and American law, and wondered how is he still roaming scot-free, after the U.S. prosecutors charged the billionaire chairman of the Indian conglomerate with bribery and fraud.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUMAYYA TABASSUM W/O SHAHAZAD KHAN AYUBI (Old name)** born on 15-05-1998 at Adilabad Earlier was holding Passport No. T0633376 DT: 14-03-2019 hereby changing my name and henceforth in future I would be known as **SUMMAYYA TABASSUM W/O SHAHAZAD KHAN AYUBI (New Name)** R/o H.No. 12-112, Dhobi Colony, Adilabad-504001, Telangana.

DECLARANT.
SUMMAYYA TABASSUM
W/O SHAHAZAD KHAN AYUBI
Place: Adilabad
Date: 22-11-2024

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Cracks in AAP

The resignation of senior leader Kailash Gahlot from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has shaken the party's foundations in Delhi at a critical juncture as it comes a few months before the Assembly elections. Gahlot's exit, citing unfulfilled promises like cleaning the Yamuna and controversies such as the costly renovation of the Chief Minister's residence, underscores internal dissent and governance failures. This is the fourth high-profile departure in recent months as Gahlot joins a growing list of leaders disillusioned by AAP's internal strife. The party's inability to retain key figures such as Rajendra Pal Gautam and Raaj Kumar Anand raises serious questions about its leadership and direction. While AAP has accused the BJP of exploiting Central agencies like the Enforcement Directorate to intimidate its leaders, this narrative is insufficient to explain its crumbling internal cohesion. In-fighting, portfolio reshuffles and accusations of sidelining experienced leaders in favour of newer faces like Atishi have further alienated senior members.

Adding to these woes is the party's declining popularity in Punjab, the only other state where it holds power. AAP's vote share in Punjab fell from 42% in the 2022 Assembly elections to 26% in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, reflecting widespread disillusionment. Key issues such as agrarian distress, unchecked drug trade and poor governance have tarnished its image. The perception of Delhi-based leaders dominating Punjab's administration has exacerbated factionalism within the party. AAP's decline in both states raises pressing questions about its future. The party, once a symbol of grassroots activism and clean governance, seems adrift. Rebuilding trust requires a return to its founding ideals of transparency, accountability and public service. Without immediate course correction, AAP risks fading into political irrelevance, leaving behind a legacy of unfulfilled aspirations.

Centre directs all States, UTs to hold ground-level surveys, identify gaps and expedite construction of Individual Household Latrines



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Central government has directed all States and Union Territories to conduct ground-level surveys to identify existing gaps and expedite the construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) to mark World Toilet Day that falls on November 19. Also, to reinforce efforts toward sustaining the nation's Open Defecation Free (ODF) status, the Centre has directed that village-level registration drives and camps be organised to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries receive timely sanction orders for toilet construction.

In its official release, the government said that India has launched the campaign 'Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman', linking sanitation with human rights and the uni-

versal need for dignity and privacy, especially for women and girls. The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) has been the cornerstone of India's efforts to improve sanitation and eliminate open defecation, and the Central government noted that under the SBM Grameen, substantial progress has been made, including the construction of over 11.73 crore household toilets, resulting in more than 5.57 lakh ODF Plus villages.

"The mission has also registered positive economic impact saving ODF villages an average of ₹50,000 per family annually on healthcare. The urban counterpart, Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban, also met and exceeded its targets, facilitating the construction of 63.63 lakh household latrines and over 6.36 lakh community and public toilets," said the release. It added that one of the facts about the need for toilets is that children living in fragile contexts are particularly vulnerable, being three times more likely to practice open defecation and eight times more likely to lack basic drinking water services. In conflict-affected areas, children under 15 are nearly three times more likely to die from diseases linked to poor sanitation than from direct violence, underscoring the catastrophic impact of inadequate sanitation. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported in 2023 that unsafe water, sanitation, and hygiene are responsible for approximately 1,000 deaths of children under the age of five every day. Improved sanitation could potentially save 1.4 million lives annually, highlighting the urgent need for action.

Delhi HC issues summons to OpenAI on ANI's copyright violation plea against ChatGPT



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday (November 19, 2024) issued summons to OpenAI, which operates ChatGPT, in a suit filed by news agency Asian News International (ANI) over use of its news content "without any license or permission", by the advanced AI-powered chatbot to provide services to its users. In its fresh lawsuit, ANI alleged OpenAI of unlawfully using its content to train the chatbot. It alleged OpenAI of unlawfully storing its content which are then used to train the Large Language Model (LLM) to generate results "extensively copy or closely summarise the Plaintiff's (ANI) Works". "These results reproduce the exclusive content and emulate even the manner of presentation of the Plaintiff's Works without any authorisation. This clearly amounts to an infringement of copyright in the Plaintiff's Works," ANI said in its plea.

This is the first such case of copyright infringement by an Indian news media against OpenAI. In the United States, the artificial intelligence company is facing copyright cases filed by several U.S. newspapers including The New York Daily News and Chicago Tribune for alleging using copyrighted news articles to train their LLM without permission

or payment. During the hearing, Justice Amit Bansal took on record the statement made by the counsel for OpenAI that ANI's official website has been already been blocked by it so that its content is not used by ChatGPT. Advocate Sidhant Kumar, representing ANI, said OpenAI have, without ANI's consent, included its contents in the Text Corpus of ChatGPT. This content is then used by the LLM to generate responses to user queries, he said. ANI, on October 3, 2024, offered to grant a license to OpenAI for using the news contents for the training of the LLM. However, the U.S.-based company declined this proposal. Mr Kumar said it is publicly known that OpenAI have entered into strategic partnerships and licensing arrangements with news organisations such as the Financial Times, Associated Press, and Conde Nast that function on a similar business model as ANI.

The plea stated that on September 11, 2024, OpenAI claimed to have placed ANI's website on an internal blacklist, indicating that ChatGPT no longer makes use of ANI's works. "However, even after this purported placement of the Plaintiff's (ANI) Website on a blacklist, ChatGPT is continually using the Plaintiff's Works published on the website of its subscribers," the plea said. "In addition to the illegitimate copying and storage of the Plaintiff's (ANI) Works, ChatGPT is openly misattributing news content to the Plaintiff. ChatGPT is wrongly and maliciously accrediting the Plaintiff with statements and news events that never occurred," the plea added. Considering the complexity and wide range of issue involved, Justice Bansal said he will appoint an amicus curiae, who will assist the court in the case. On a query posed by the judge over whether such lawsuit have been filed against OpenAI in other countries, senior advocate Amit Sibal, representing OpenAI, said his client was facing 13 lawsuits in the U.S., two in Canada and one in Germany since ChatGPT was launched.

Rice University announces up to \$2 million annual scholarships for Indian students, opens centre in Bengaluru



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

US-based Rice University on Monday announced its expansion plans into India with the launch of Rice Global India in Bengaluru. The initiative is aimed at fostering global collaboration and advancing the university's contribution to India's growing education and technology sectors. The global centre at the IT capital of India will chart out strategies to initiate formal operations in the region and strengthen collaborations with top-tier research and academic institutions in India. Rice University president Reginald DesRoches also unveiled a scholarship programme, offering up to \$2 million annually to support students as part of exchange programmes, pursuing professional master's degrees. The initiative aims to attract international talent and expand the university's global outreach.

DesRoches highlighted that the scholarships are part of a broader commitment to subsidize resources for master's students. "To begin with, we are allocating around \$2 million per year for scholarships to support incoming students. This will help us gauge the demand and determine future expansion," he said. For doctoral programmes, Rice University located in Texas continues its tradition of fully funding PhD candidates. Students enrolled in these programmes will receive a comprehensive package, including tuition coverage and a stipend exceeding \$35,000 annually. The university anticipates significant interest in its PhD programmes, with funding determined based on the number of students admitted. Under the student exchange programme at undergraduate level, students from partner institutions in India will have their expenses completely covered, fostering academic and cultural exchange on both ends. As part of the expansion, Rice University is also deepening its collaborations with prestigious institutions such as the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru. These partnerships will foster advanced research initiatives, collaborations in key areas of mutual interest such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology, healthcare and sustainable energy, university leaders said. Rice University authorities also met with Karnataka IT Minister Priyank Karge and discussed partnership opportunities for promoting Global Capability Centers (GCC), an investment initiative to conduct joint research projects between academia and GCCs.

Haryana again withdraws Organised Crime Control Bill, 3rd time since 2014

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Haryana government Monday withdrew the Haryana Organised Crime Control Bill, 2023, after Union Ministry of Home Affairs raised objections to certain provisions. This is the third time since 2014 that the BJP, which came to power that year for the first time, has tabled the contentious legislation and withdrew it. Resolutions were moved by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to withdraw the HOCB Bill and Haryana Honourable Disposal of Dead Body Bill, 2024 without specifying the objections raised by the MHA. The Vidhan Sabha in March last year had passed the Haryana Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2023, which

sought to prevent and control criminal activity by organised syndicates or gangs. The Bill provides for punishment of upto life imprisonment for advocating organised crime and penalties if the accused could not explain possession of certain properties. It also allowed confessions made before a Superintendent of Police (SP) rank officer to be admissible as evidence in the court of law. Earlier, the BJP government had withdrawn the Haryana Control of Organised Crime Bill, 2020, after the Centre pointed out "certain discrepancies." At that time, certain provisions of the withdrawn Bill were found to conflict with provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Act.

Savarkar defamation case: Rahul Gandhi asked to appear in Pune court on December 2

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

A Pune court ordered Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to appear in person before it on December 2 in connection with a defamation complaint filed against him by Hindutva icon V.D. Savarkar's grandnephew. Satyaki Savarkar had filed a complaint in a Pune court claiming Mr. Gandhi, in his speech in London in March 2023, stated that Mr. Satyaki



had written in a book that he and five to six of his friends once beat up a Muslim man and he (Savarkar) felt happy. As per the plea, Mr. Satyaki has not written this anywhere. The court had asked the police to investigate the allegations and file a report. The Vishrambaug police station had carried out the enquiry and said that there is a prima-facie truth in the complaint. On October 4, Special court for MP/MLA, presided over by Joint Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate (First Class) Amol Shinde, had issued summons to Gandhi asking him to appear before it on October 23. However, Mr. Gandhi did not appear as it was told that he did not receive the summons. Advocate Sangram Kolhatkar, lawyer of petitioner Satyaki Savarkar, told PTI he approached the court on Monday praying to issue summons Gandhi to appear before the court. Adv Milind Pawar approached the court on behalf of Mr. Gandhi and said the Congress leader will appear before the court on the next date, Kolhatkar said. "However, we took an objection to Jadhav representing Gandhi as there was no 'vakalatnama or pursis' presented to the court. Advocate Jadhav told the court Gandhi will appear before the court under any circumstance. On this, court asked Gandhi to appear in court on December 2," said Mr. Kolhatkar.

Delhi air pollution: CJI Sanjeev Khanna gives lawyers the option to appear online



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Chief Justice of India Sanjeev Khanna on Tuesday (November 19, 2024) left it to lawyers to either opt for online mode of appearance or appear in person for their cases, following the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)'s Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) restrictions in the national capital due to air pollution. The clarification was in response to requests made in open court by Supreme Court Bar Association president, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan for courts to go completely online considering the GRAP-IV restrictions. Mr. Sibal said pollution levels continue to remain very high. Lawyers should be allowed to appear online not only in the Supreme Court but also the High Court. Mr. Mehta seconded the request for virtual hearings. Mr. Sankaranarayanan, who appears in the Delhi pollution case for a petitioner, said GRAP-IV does not cover courts. "At least 10000 lawyers come to the Supreme Court everyday. This does not include their clerks, juniors and litigants and others," Mr. Sankaranarayanan addressed the CJI. Chief Justice Khanna said the court has already given lawyers an option. "It is for the lawyers to take the option," Chief Justice Khanna said.

Punjab women panel summons Congress MP Channi over 'sexist' remarks

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Channi says he has not received any notice. 'It's all political. They just wanted to make news,' he adds. Channi says he has not received any notice. 'It's all political. They just wanted to make news,' he adds.

On the last day of campaigning for the bypolls in the state, the Punjab State Women Commission on Monday summoned former chief minister and Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi with an explanation for his alleged objectionable remarks against women while campaigning for Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring's wife Amrita Warring in Gidderbaha. Channi, however, said that he had not received any notice. "I have not received any notice. It's all political. They just wanted to make news." "Exercising its powers under Section 10 of the Punjab State Women Commission Act, 2001, the commission has taken suo moto cognisance and issued a notice to former Punjab chief minister and current Lok Sabha member Charanjit Singh Channi pertaining to allegations of making "vulgar and derogatory" remarks about women while addressing an election rally in the Gidderbaha Assembly constituency," a statement said. "The Commission, exercising its powers regarding cases related to the violation of women's rights, dignity and security, has summoned Charanjit Singh Channi to appear in person on November 19, 2024, at 11:00 am at the Punjab State Women Commission office located at SCO No. 5, 1st Floor, Phase-1, SAS Nagar (Mohali). He has been asked to provide a detailed explanation regarding the allegations," the statement added. Chairperson of the Commission Raj Lalli Gill said she had summoned him to appear before the commission. "The Commission will take action against him after getting his explanation," she added. Channi had allegedly likened the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Gidderbaha "with a man having two wives and both fighting with each other" while referring to discord within the AAP as several of its leaders rebelled over the distribution of tickets.

How a city-based company is helping Indian MSMEs with essential finance

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Ramaswamy Iyer, Founder-CEO, Vayana, one of India's largest organisations for trade financing, pune, indian express Ramaswamy Iyer, Founder-CEO, Vayana, one of India's largest organisations for trade financing. India is witnessing rapid growth in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, with the Centre estimating that it will touch \$1 trillion by 2028. Companies such as Vayana are easing such businesses by enabling, for instance, a kirana wala in a city to procure trade credit of Rs 1-5 lakh for a short term.

Since 2017, Vayana, based in Pune, has worked with more than three lakh MSMEs and 1,300 corporates, enabling supply chains to access finance at affordable rates easily. "We have more than 70 million businesses in India, of which 69 million have less than Rs 1 crore annual turnover. These micro-businesses are made up of kirana stores, pharmacy stores and textile shops that run at very low margins of profit or income. Consequently, when they require money to pay for the goods that they buy or they have to give credit to their customers, the interest rates that they can afford are very, very low. Even at two per cent, the interest could wipe away the entire income they are earning from sales. So, the effective problem is not the lack of access to credit but a lack of access to affordable credit," says Ramaswamy Iyer, Founder-CEO, Vayana, one of India's largest organisations for trade financing. Vayana's model is to engage at various levels of the supply chain of a company that already has an existing trade relationship with a larger, more creditworthy entity. "A small business does not merely receive funds. The money is always provided by a creditor for a specific purpose. So, if a small business is buying from or selling to a larger, credible entity, and needs the money, we give the funds for the transaction to the latter's account," says Iyer. This system has ensured that Vayana, whose name is inspired by the Sanskrit word for 'weaving', recovers the loan amount in "99.9 per cent of cases". Iyer says he has seen that borrowers tend to return the money because they get loans at low cost for the everyday running of their business. Vayana is also engaged in providing risk data for corporates so that they can identify whether a supply chain is healthy. The company also functions as a pipe to GST for businesses. "With the help of the above three products, we do close to Rs 9,500 crore of financing every month," says Iyer. Vayana acknowledges that, despite its impressive numbers, it has only reached a small portion of the market. In 2025, they plan to extend their outreach to many more small businesses. "Another area that we are focusing on is cross-border export and import businesses. How do we cut down the cost of borrowing for exports and imports? We have set up a cross-border trade exchange in GIFT City, Ahmedabad, and that's an area of focus for us for the future," says Iyer.

Army, Navy, Air Force conduct joint exercise in Arunachal Pradesh

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Army, Navy and Air Force held a joint exercise in Arunachal Pradesh's Shi-Yomi district, a defence spokesperson said on Tuesday (November 19, 2024). The four-day exercise, 'Pooovi Prahar', validated the effectiveness of joint structures in intelligence gathering, surveillance, reconnaissance, rapid mobilisation, deployment and operational logistics, he said. The forces exhibited precision strike capabilities utilising high-tech equipment to guarantee mission success, besides showcasing the strength of integration amongst the services and the evolved civil-military fusion essential for ensuring victory in operations, defence spokesperson Lt Col Athul Sreedharan said. Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen RC Tiwari and Air Marshal IS Walia of Eastern Air Command participated in the exercise, held in Mechuka from November 14 to 17, he said. Appreciating the clockwork precision exhibited by the participating troops, Lt Gen Tiwari emphasised the importance of joint structures and mechanisms to enhance synergy among the Army, Navy and Air Force. Integrated joint operations were conducted across multiple domains for the first time on such a large scale in the Eastern Theatre, the spokesperson said.

Triangular battle on cards: Cong hopes to get 3rd time lucky as AAP makes inroads



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Campaigning for by-election in the Chabbewal Assembly constituency (reserved) in Hoshiarpur district concluded Monday evening, with all major political parties leaving no stone unturned to woo voters. The stage is set for a three-cornered electoral contest on November 20. The election is being seen as a litmus test for the candidates' personal appeal and how political realignments and defections shape voters' sentiment. The Chabbewal constituency features candidates who have switched their allegiances, turning the contest into a battle of turncoats. This bypoll is crucial for the ruling AAP, which faced a setback in the Lok Sabha elections, securing only three of the 13 seats in the state. The seat was vacated by Congress MLA Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal after joining the AAP ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Dr Chabbewal is now the AAP MP from the Hoshiarpur Lok Sabha seat. The ruling AAP has fielded Dr Ishank Kumar, son of Dr Chabbewal, as its candidate. The Congress is betting on former Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate Ranjit Kumar, a lawyer, who had contested the Lok Sabha election on a BSP ticket, and joined the Congress shortly before the by-election was announced. The BJP has nominated former Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) MLA and Punjab minister Sohan Singh Thandal, who recently switched to the BJP. Interestingly, all three candidates in the fray are turncoats, leading to frequent accusations of defection during the campaign.

The AAP emphasised that having both an MP and an MLA from the same party would ensure faster and more focused development in the constituency. Dr Chabbewal highlighted the development work he carried out in the constituency during his tenure as a Congress MLA from 2017 until he was elected an AAP MP earlier this year. He also underscored his active involvement in Chabbewal since he entered politics in 2010. Dr Ishank focused his campaign

on infrastructure improvements such as better roads, community centres and a polytechnic college. He has also highlighted the AAP government's welfare initiatives such as the provision of 300 units of free electricity.

Rival parties have been targeting the AAP government for its alleged failure to maintain law and order in the state, and its inability to tackle the pervasive drug menace and farmers' issues. The Congress emphasised the Chabbewal constituency traditionally favoured the party which won the past two elections in a row. AAP leaders, however, said in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, their candidate led from this constituency, "suggesting a shift in voters' sentiment". "We are looking for a candidate's integrity rather than the party," said a resident of Chabbewal, reflecting the evolving political dynamics. Although the Congress traditionally has a strong presence in the constituency, its candidate Ranjit Kumar is relatively new to the area. Having recently shifted from the BSP to the Congress, Kumar may draw support from SC voters, as the BSP is not contesting the by-election.

Additionally, Kumar, also the president of the Hoshiarpur Bar Association, could garner the legal community's votes. Senior Congress leaders are backing him, but there is discontent among local Congress workers due to the denial of a ticket to Kulwinder Singh Rasulpuri, who had been working actively in the constituency for months, despite earlier promises. Former SAD minister Sohan Singh Thandal, a four-time MLA (1997-2012), who represented Chabbewal for two decades from 1997 to 2017 is now contesting on a BJP ticket. However, his defection has drawn flak from SAD and BJP loyalists who view his switching as "opportunistic". Thandal is also facing criticism from farmers who are angry over BJP's policies. Besides, the BJP has not much presence here and even in 2019, the BJP candidate had lost security deposits in this segment. AAP has, however, made notable gains since 2017, with its vote share increasing from 17.71 per cent to 34.40 per cent by 2022. The reserved Chabbewal Assembly constituency with 1.59 lakh voters represents diverse Dalit communities such as Ravidassia, Valmiki and others. The voter demographics include 83,704 males, 75,724 females and four transgender individuals, besides 600 service voters — 571 male and 29 female. A total of 205 polling stations have been set up to facilitate voting. The district administration has completed all necessary arrangements for the by-election. The voting will be conducted from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm and the counting of votes will take place on November 23. Polling parties will be dispatched to their respective stations on November 19 from the Rayat Bahra Group of Institutes.

Bombay High Court directs civic planning bodies to link websites with MahaRERA portal for transparency, safeguarding homebuyers



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Bombay High Court directed urban planning authorities in Maharashtra to link their websites with the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA) portal within three months to protect the interests of homebuyers. The court said such an integration was imperative for establishing a streamlined process to verify the authenticity of commencement and occupation certificates (CC and OC) submitted for registration of real estate projects under the RERA Act. A division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar passed the judgement on a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) by architect Sandeep Pandurang Patil from Dombivli, who sought directions to establish accountability among the government, MahaRERA and local planning authorities. The high court asked the state government to rigorously comply with the Urban Development Department (UDD)'s government resolution (GR) of February 23, 2023, which mandated standardising procedures for issuance and publication of CCS and OCs and ensuring transparent access to

information for homebuyers. The court also said that until full integration is achieved, all civic bodies must ensure that CCs and OCs are uploaded on their websites within 48 hours of issuance so that interim transparency is maintained and public access is provided. The petitioner claimed that full integration was required to prevent the registration of illegal buildings, verify the authenticity of documents submitted for project registration, and protect homebuyers from fraudulent real estate practices. Advocate P I Bhujpal for Patil also raised concerns over widespread unauthorised construction in 27 villages in Kalyan and Ambernath talukas and claimed that the same was due to forged documents submitted by the developers to civic authorities. The court noted that "any aggrieved party retains the right to approach MahaRERA through appropriate legal proceedings as permitted under the RERA Act, 2016, to seek cancellation of a project's registration" and the Authority can revoke or suspend registrations in case of prima facie evidence of fraud, misrepresentation or use of forged documents for obtaining CCs.

It also directed MahaRERA to verify the authenticity of all certificates submitted by promoters since June 19, 2023. Registration should be granted after due verification so that only projects with genuine documents are registered, the court said. The bench asked the state government to complete the integration of the Building Plan Management System (BPMS) with MahaRERA's online system within three months so that the real estate authority can cross-verify certificates and mitigate the risk of fraudulent submissions. Disposing of the PIL, the court further directed MahaRERA to demolish within three months the illegal structures in the area constructed by submitting forged documents and asked the police stations to assist civic officials in removing occupants.

High court orders attachment of Himachal Bhawan in Delhi over unpaid dues, BJP says Sukhu govt fails to protect state's properties

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Himachal Pradesh High Court on Monday ordered the attachment of Himachal Bhawan, the state's premier guesthouse at 27 Sikandra Road in New Delhi, for potential auction over unpaid dues to Seli Hydro Electric Power Company. Justice Ajay Mohan Goel directed the principal secretary of the multi-purpose projects and power departments to conduct a factual inquiry to identify which specific officer(s) were responsible for failing to deposit the arbitration award amount of Rs 64 crore along with seven per cent interest in court. The court emphasised that determining accountability was essential, as the interest amount would be recovered personally from the guilty officers and employees. The court ordered that the inquiry be completed within 15 days and that the report be submitted during the next hearing, scheduled for December 6. The two-page order stated, "Therefore, for the purpose of executing the award in question, this court orders the attachment of Himachal Bhawan, 27 Sikandra Road, Mandi House, New Delhi, and the execution petitioner may take appropriate steps for its auction." Advocates Viplav Sharma and Anirudh Sharma represented petitioner Seli Hydro Electric Power Company, while Additional Advocate General Pushpender Jaswal appeared on behalf of Himachal Pradesh.

In 2009, the Himachal Pradesh government allotted a 320 MW power project to Seli Hydro Company in the Lahaul and Spiti district. The Border Roads Organisation was deployed to assist with the required road construction. According to the agreement, the state government was to provide basic facilities for the hydro company to start the project on time, but this did not occur. As a result, the company filed a writ petition in the high court in 2017. The company's lawyer argued that the lack of facilities forced the company to abandon the project and return it to the government. Subsequently, the government seized the upfront premium. After hearing both parties, the court on January 13, 2023, ordered the government to return the Rs 64 crore upfront premium to the company. However, the government filed a letters patent appeal (an appeal made to another bench in the same high court against a decision made by a single judge). However, a division bench stayed the order, conditional upon the respondents depositing the arbitration amount in court. When the respondents failed to deposit the amount, the division bench lifted the stay on July 15,



2024, upholding the single-judge bench's decision. Considering these facts, the court stated that since no interim order favoured the state, implementing the arbitration award was essential. The court said the government delayed depositing the award amount was accruing daily interest, which must be paid from the public treasury.

Opposition BJP leaders, including Leader of Opposition (LoP) and former chief minister Jairam Thakur, criticised the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led Congress government, accusing it of failing to protect the interests and property of Himachal Pradesh. Opposition leaders also questioned the efficiency of the state's law department, alleging that it failed to effectively present Himachal Pradesh's case in court. Thakur said, "It is a sorry state of affairs in Himachal Pradesh. The government has failed to protect the interests of the people of our state. Himachal Bhawan in Delhi is the pride of every Himachali. The Himachal Bhawan in Delhi is another home for every person in the state who goes to the national capital. I fear that if the situation continues, our state secretariat, Vidhan Sabha building, etc., in Shimla will also be attached by the courts in various matters in the coming days." Speaking to reporters in Shimla on Tuesday, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said he had not yet reviewed the high court order, "The upfront premium is governed by a policy... In 2006, when the energy policy was formed, I was one of the architects of this policy..." He added, "We had set a reserve price per megawatt on which companies bid. Arbitration decided the matter of the upfront premium, and our government challenged the arbitration order in the high court. As per the order, the government had to deposit Rs 64 crore as part of the Arbitration."

Delhi govt admits to non-utilisation of funds for One-Stop Centres even as staff remain unpaid for months

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Delhi government on Tuesday submitted before the Delhi High Court that it has not utilised 87 per cent of the grants allocated to it by the Union government for One Stop Centres (OSCs) even as it has not paid salaries to its employees in several districts for seven to nine months. The government's revenue department further admitted that "there has been a lapse" and that they will "take steps to ensure all employees are paid outstanding salaries and future salaries on time."

The submission came while the secretaries of the Department of Women and Child Development (WCD) and the Department of Revenue appeared virtually before the court of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela. The condition of OSCs in Delhi was flagged in August in a 2019 petition filed by the NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan, represented by advocate Prabhshahay Kaur. It was highlighted that there is a serious issue of underutilisation of the OSCs with the salaries of the employees normally being paid lump sum and not every month. It was also highlighted that normally no police facilitation officer is deputed at the OSCs and that the Delhi Police is non-cooperative and treats OSCs as a transit shelter. Notably, as per the details submitted by the Delhi government in a status report on September 21, the 11 OSCs in the national capital had utilised only about 21 per cent of the funds allocated as of August 19 this year. An amount of Rs 12.19 lakh was allocated to each OSC, with a total allocation of Rs 1.34 crore, for the current financial year of 2024-25. Expenditures are required to be booked under three components, which are salaries, office expenditure, which includes service to beneficiaries and immediate assistance to victims of rape, and vehicle hiring. Revenue Department Principal Secretary



Ashish Chandra Verma, who was asked to appear before the court earlier in November, submitted before the bench on Tuesday that in the east district of Delhi, salary for such employees has not been paid from November 2023 to March 2024, and in the current financial year, salary payment has been pending from July. Similarly, employees of the OSC in West Delhi, North Delhi, and South Delhi have not been paid salaries from September 2024, November 2024, and August 2024, respectively. While Verma reasoned that the non-payment of salaries is owing to non-availability of funds, which is otherwise received from the Union government and disbursed through the Delhi government's WCD department, the Union government submitted that the Centre's release of grants to Delhi has been up to date. The WCD, on the other hand, submitted that while it releases the funds received from the Union government uniformly to the districts, "based on variation in staff, some districts can pay up to date." It was further submitted that the Centre releases the next instalment of funds once 87 per cent of the funds released in the earlier instalment are utilised.

Meet next week to remove stumbling blocks, High Court tells UT Admin, IIT Roorkee

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Punjab and Haryana High Court, IIT Roorkee. The high court directed the registry to add the secretary, Transport Department, Chandigarh Administration as a respondent and ask the same to be ready on the next date of hearing to assist the court. The Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed the representatives of IIT Roorkee, the Chandigarh Administration, and the registrar of the building committee of the high court, to hold a meeting on November 27, to iron out the creases in the path of executing the holistic development plan of the high court.

The directions have been issued by a division bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and justice Anil Kshertarpal, while hearing a petition filed by Vinod Dhatteval, Secretary, Punjab and Haryana High Court Employees' Association, for the implementation of the holistic development plan, which envisaged setting up of multi-storey buildings to cater to the requirement of additional space. In the previous hearing, the high court had granted an opportunity to CHCC (Chandigarh Heritage Conservation Committee) and the Chandigarh Administration to allow necessary changes to be made in the premises of the high court including execution of the holistic plan.

During the resumed hearing of the matter, on the issue of construction of slip roads on all four sides at the junction of Uttar Marg and Jan Marg, the Chandigarh Administration submitted before the high court that the work shall be completed by March 2025, including that of widening of slip roads and the one near the Rock Garden entry point. Satya Pal Jain, Additional Solicitor General of India, submitted that a joint meeting of the representatives of both the IIT Roorkee and the Chandigarh Administration can be convened to resolve the controversy. The bench thus directed that on November 27, as agreed to by all the parties, a meeting shall be held among the representatives of IIT Roorkee, the UT administration and the registrar of the Building Committee of the high court. "As per consensus reached between rival parties, a joint meeting is directed to be held on November 27, 2024 with a positive mind to resolve the controversy and iron out the creases which exist in the path of executing the holistic plan," the bench ordered. The high court also directed the registry to add the secretary, Transport Department, Chandigarh Administration as a respondent and ask the same to be ready on the next date of hearing to assist the court. On the issue of additional space for parking, the counsel for the Chandigarh Administration assured the high court that the work is in progress behind the



Haryana MLA hostel and shall be completed by November 20. In regard to the issue of creation of service road parallel to Uttar Marg on the northern side, counsel for the UT Administration mentioned the tentative report submitted by the Department of Architecture and Planning, IIT Roorkee, which said that the work by the institute is yet to be done regarding finalisation of impact assessment after stakeholder consultations, results and recommendation, and submission of the heritage impact assessment report. The counsel for Chandigarh Administration as well as additional solicitor general of India, meanwhile submitted that it would be appropriate to await the final report of IIT Roorkee on the aforementioned aspects, especially, the heritage impact assessment report, inter alia, on repercussions, which the execution of holistic plan would cause upon the original building of the high court. Further, the UT counsel told the high court that allotment letter/order for building in Sector 17, Chandigarh for the administrative branches of the high court shall be issued within 15 days, and for the construction of verandah in front of courtroom number 1, the matter has been referred to the Chandigarh Heritage Conservation Committee and the Heritage Foundation. If the two authorities do not revert back within 10 days, then the Chandigarh Administration shall prepare a drawing of the proposed verandah in front of courtroom number 1 and send it to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the Chandigarh Administration counsel submitted. On this submission of the UT counsel, the high court clarified that in case the said assurance does not turn out to be true by the next date of hearing, then it will be compelled to issue a writ of mandamus to the Chandigarh Administration to construct the verandah opposite courtroom number 1. The high court also directed the administration to ensure filing of a fortnightly report before the registry on the progress of execution of various works, which they have assured to be completed within the prescribed time frame.

At 1,251 farm fires, Punjab reports season's highest single-day count

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Punjab Monday reported 1,251 farm fire cases — highest in a single day this season — taking the state's total count of such cases to 9,655, as per Punjab Remote Sensing Centre data. On the same day in 2022 and 2023, the state reported 701 and 637 active farm fire cases, respectively, as per the data. Muktsar district reported 247 stubble burning incidents, the most in the state on Monday, followed by Moga (149), Ferozepur (130), Bathinda (129), Fazilka (94) and Faridkot (88). Pathankot, Rupnagar, Hoshiarpur, and Mohali recorded zero stubble burning incidents. This year's stubble burning numbers reflect a significant improvement compared to previous seasons. From September 15 till November 18 last year, the state had recorded 33,719 fires, while 48,489 cases were reported in the same period in 2022. This year's numbers represent a sharp 71 per cent dip — highlighting "better management" efforts.

Stubble burning cases have been reported in Punjab since September 15, with 50% of the cases recorded in the last 13 days alone. This surge is due to the approaching end of the wheat sowing season, with farmers in a hurry to clear their fields.

Stubble burning remained under control until late October, with daily incidents below 100 until October 25. However, after that date, daily cases steadily rose, fluctuating between 200 and 300, barring a few days when the count exceeded 300. On November 13, a total of 509 cases were recorded, while 404 fires were reported on November 17. Sangrur with 1,647 farm fires and Ferozepur with 1,189 lead in burning paddy stubble. Pathankot has recorded only two fires, followed by Rupnagar (10), Hoshiarpur (22), and SBS Nagar (30). Mohali has reported 40 fires. The state government's emphasis on promoting in-situ and ex-situ management techniques, subsidies on stubble management equipment, and awareness campaigns have contributed to the reduction in farm fire incidents, said agriculture department officials. "However, farmers cite high costs of stubble management machinery, limited access to equipment, and the short sowing window for wheat as challenges that still compel them to burn paddy residue."

Punjab recorded a total of 36,663 farm fire cases in 2023, registering a 26 per cent drop as compared to the previous year, the data showed.

50 cigarettes! That's what you are inhaling in Delhi

such as respiratory and cardiovascular ailments. In such conditions, lungs can suffer significant harm – even for healthy non-smokers.

So what are you inhaling in Delhi, how does this impact your body?

Long-term exposure to such air pollution leaves residents vulnerable to a toxic cocktail of gases and particulate matter, including PM2.5, PM10, nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and ozone (O3). These pollutants originate from sources such as vehicular emissions, industrial discharges and biomass burning. The health impact is significant — and varied. The immediate effects include respiratory issues, such as coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath. Chronic exposure can lead to severe conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease and even lung cancer. Vulnerable populations, particularly children and the elderly, face heightened risk of long-term health problems due to their developing or weakened immune systems. The situation is exacerbated during winter months when weather conditions trap pollutants closer to the ground, leading to hazardous air that can affect even healthy individuals.

Does the amount of pollution outdoors also affect life indoors?

Indoor pollution is often influenced by outdoor air quality. Common indoor pollutants include volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from household products, smoke from cooking or heating and particulate matter that infiltrates from outside. In many cases, indoor pollution can be equally or more harmful than outdoor pollution due to the accumulation of toxins in enclosed spaces without adequate ventilation. Furthermore, during periods of high outdoor pollution, people tend to keep windows closed, which can trap pollutants indoors. Effective measures, such as air purifiers and proper ventilation, are crucial measures to tackle deteriorating indoor air quality caused by outdoor pollution.

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

That's the comparative amount of harmful pollutants a Delhi resident is inhaling Tuesday, with the national capital recording an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of 492 at 7 am. In fact, the AQI breached the 500 mark at some locations, such as Alipur, Anand Vihar, Bawana, Narela, Pusa and Sonia Vihar, signalling severe health risks for all, not just those with pre-existing conditions. On paper, this means Delhi's air is in the "severe-plus category", with the administration implementing its highest graded response and the Supreme Court saying that it should stay in place until it orders otherwise. In this situation, here are some questions you need to ask — and some answers you need to know. The Indian Express speaks to Dr Nikhil Modi, Senior Consultant, Respiratory and Critical Care, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals to get some answers: How can you illustrate the impact of living under current AQI levels in real-life terms?

According to Dr Modi, such pollution levels mean that an average individual is exposed to harmful substances that are equivalent to smoking 49-50 cigarettes per day. The particulates and gases penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream, leading to systemic health issues beyond just respiratory problems. He says all of this can cause inflammation and damage lung tissue over time, leading to chronic diseases typically associated with smoking,

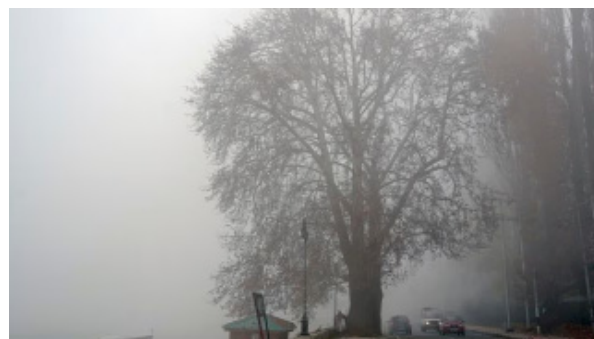
Purulia records 12 degrees Celsius, lower temperature among hill stations

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

India cold waves The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a gradual decrease in temperatures across Gangetic West Bengal in the coming days. The western districts are particularly vulnerable to this cold wave. Purulia district in southern West Bengal recorded a significantly lower temperature than several hill stations in the state. On Tuesday, the mercury dipped to a chilling 12.1 degrees Celsius, surpassing the lowest temperature recorded in Kalimpong at 14.3 degrees Celsius.

This unexpected cold wave has swept across southern West Bengal, whereas other districts in northern West Bengal, like Jalpaiguri (16.9°C), Alipurduar (17.0°C), Coochbehar (15.7°C), Raiganj (17.5°C), and Malda (20.2°C), are experiencing relatively milder temperatures. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted a gradual decrease in temperatures across Gangetic West Bengal in the coming days. The western districts are particularly vulnerable to this cold wave.

Dense fog has enveloped several South and North Bengal districts, significantly reducing visibility. The northern districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Malda North, and Dinajpur South are experiencing the most severe fog conditions, with visibility dropping to as low as 50-200 metres. The Alipore Meteorological Department has issued a warn-



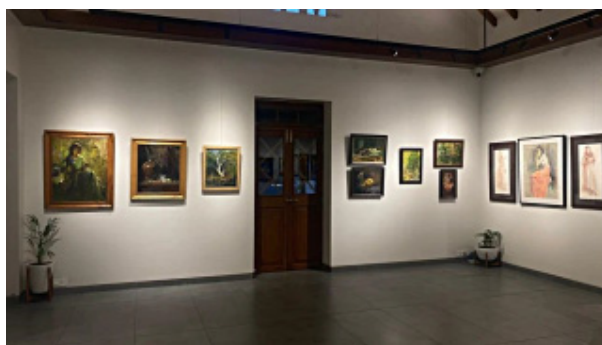
ing regarding the dense fog. The minimum temperature has dropped to 13 degrees in Sriniketan and 14 degrees in Jhargram. The temperature in Burdwan is 15 degrees. A cyclone is currently brewing over south Bangladesh, which may indirectly influence the weather patterns in West Bengal. However, there is no immediate threat of rain or thunderstorms in the state, according to the IMD. Kolkata is also experiencing a drop in temperatures, with night temperatures falling to 18 degrees Celsius and day temperatures around 27.5 degrees Celsius. The city is expected to remain clear and dry for the next six days, with light fog likely in the morning, according to a weather official.

Pune's Vesavar Art Gallery holds 'Veritas' to showcase work of late master artist John Fernandes

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Vesavar Art Gallery is ready to take residents of Pune on a soulful journey of art. Their latest exhibition 'Veritas' is an ode to John Fernandes, whose unforgettable masterpieces will adorn the walls of Vesavar and take art lovers on an unforgettable journey. Fernandes, known as the finest realistic painter in India, painted figures, landscapes, still life and anything that he found interesting in all mediums — watercolours, oils, pastels, acrylic. The late master artist's paintings will be showcased at the Vesavar Art Gallery for two months from November 18 to January 19 as a tribute to his legacy and to draw art lovers into his vivid world of colour and emotion.

"John Fernandes is a renowned artist in Indian realism. He only followed realistic art. He has huge followers. Although there were many artists in realistic painting, the way Fernandes worked in colour schemes, his impressions, and the way he used to capture views in landscapes were completely different and he had a strong memory, his compositions were different. He created his own identity and style. He did not follow only one medium of painting he created art through pastels, oil paints, water colours unlike other



artists," said Pranali Harpudeh, Director, Vesavar Studio. "Fernandes had many exhibitions in Mumbai, people used to indulge in his paintings. There have been very less exhibitions in Pune that's why we (she and other Director Kavita Bhandari) decided to install an exhibition, as watching his paintings itself is a treat," added Harpudeh. Visitors can see these paintings, as well as buy them. Entry is free and those who are curious about art can visit Vesavar Art Gallery from 10.30 am to 7.30 pm every day.

Highway robbery case turns on its head in Karnataka: complainant in dock after police recover Rs 1 crore from secret box in his car

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

karnataka, highway robbery, indian express Suraj claimed that he had sold gold ornaments and had kept Rs 75 lakh in a specially made box in the car. But when police seized the car and checked to recover the money, they found cash worth Rs 1.01 crore in it, according to the police officials. In a peculiar turn of events in a robbery case, the Karnataka Police on Monday took into custody the complainant and his associates after seizing over Rs 1 crore from his car. Gold dealer Suraj Vanmane filed a complaint before the Sankeshwar police in the Belagavi district police that he was robbed of Rs 75 lakh while returning to Kerala after completing a business deal in Maharashtra's Kolhapur on November 15. He said the robbers followed him and threatened him at gunpoint to get out of his car on the Pune-Bengaluru national highway. He alleged that they escaped in his car which contained the cash. The police said they registered a case and began a probe to trace the car. They later found it abandoned near the Nerli village in the Hukkeri taluk in Belagavi. According to a police officer, Suraj claimed that he had sold gold ornaments and had kept Rs 75 lakh in a specially made box in the car. But when police seized the



car and checked to recover the money, they found cash worth Rs 1.01 crore in it. Bhemashankar S Guled, Superintendent of Police, Belagavi, stated on Monday that the complainant had installed a 2x2 feet box with a depth of six inches and a button to open it. "We have taken Suraj, his vehicle driver Areef Sheikh, and his friend Ajay Saragar to police custody for further questioning," said Guled. "We have found that the gold ornaments belonged to a man named Bharat in Kerala.

Delhi High Court seeks OpenAI's response in copyright infringement suit by ANI



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday sought the response of OpenAI in a suit filed by news agency ANI alleging that the artificial intelligence research organisation used its copyrighted material for AI training purposes. The first-of-its-kind suit in Indian jurisdiction was filed against Open AI Inc (OAI) and Open AI OpCo LLC. The ANI, in its suit, is tentatively seeking damages of Rs 2 crore and is seeking that the court pass a decree of permanent and mandatory injunction restraining OAI or any person acting on their behalf from storing, publishing, reproducing or in any manner using ANI's works.

Open AI on the other hand, through its counsel senior advocate Amit Sibal, submitted before the court of Justice Amit Bansal that subsequent to a legal notice issued to the San Francisco-based company by ANI Media Pvt Ltd in September, as of October 2024, OAI has blocklisted ANI's domain. This, in effect means that it is not using material from the domain for training its large language models (LLMs). The court also recorded that "given the range of issues involved in the present suit as well as the issues arising on account of latest technological advancements vis-a-vis copyrights of various copyright owners, this court is of the view that an amicus curiae be appointed." The court is expected to disclose the details of the amicus curiae so appointed later in its publicly available order. ANI, through

its counsel Sidhant Kumar Marwah, has alleged copyright infringement by OAI and has listed "three broad buckets of cause of action". This includes the use of publicly available copyrighted material of ANI being used by OAI to train their LLMs. A second cause of action, as Marwah argued, is that once a query is put on ChatGPT, it provides "verbatim or substantially similar (content to) my copyrighted material which has been used by you (OAI) to train your software."

A third aspect is also of hallucinatory responses being provided by ChatGPT, while falsely attributing it to ANI, the agency alleged. Marwah informed Justice Bansal. "Third aspect, which is most problematic not only from private rights but also public rights perspective is, it gives false attribution... e.g. Rahul Gandhi gave an interview to ANI. In fact no such interview was given..." Sibal, meanwhile, contested the territorial jurisdiction for adjudication of the matter. Noting that OAI is facing 13 lawsuits in the USA, two in Canada and one in Germany, Sibal submitted that while the software is "a force for good, it is not perfect". "No court (globally in the multiple suits OAI is facing) has found prima facie infringement of copyright... I'm always transparent about what I do... There is no monopoly on facts... Copyright does not protect facts, it protects expression... No suit in India, this is the first. I don't access anything illegally. I have been operating since 2022, I'm not located in India, my servers are located abroad, I do not reproduce any material in India, training also doesn't happen in India," Sibal submitted, pointing out that thus ANI has no cause of action or reason to approach a court in the country. "The way the model works, when a query is made, the software does learn from information from various sources but does not access the database... It is not that ANI's information is stored on a database," Sibal argued. Responding to the aspect of hallucinatory answers, Sibal submitted, "There are certain instances when there are false attributions... These are softwares, they are automated... through manipulation by way of query you can have manipulated answers." While Justice Bansal refused to grant any ad interim injunction on Tuesday, the court posted the matter for further consideration on January 28.

Wanted for 20 years, Karnataka's underground Naxal leader Vikram Gowda killed in encounter in Udupi

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Anti-Naxal Force (ANF) of the Karnataka Police killed fugitive Naxal leader Vikram Gowda after an exchange of gunfire late Monday in the Kabbinala forest region of the state's Udupi district, Home Minister G Parameshwara said Tuesday. Vikram Gowda, who belonged to a place near Hebri in Udupi, was seen as the last standing major Naxal leader from Karnataka following the arrest of B G Krishnamurthy, alias Gangadhar, 50, by the Kerala Police in 2021. Krishnamurthy, who hailed from Chikamagalur, was a member of the Central Committee of the banned CPI (Maoist) party and secretary of the Western Ghats Special Zonal Committee. According to police sources, Vikram Gowda, 44, was among a group of eight remaining underground Naxals from Karnataka. With his death, there are seven members of whom four are women. Latha or Mundgaru Latha is among the underground Naxals still wanted by the police along with Angadi Pradeep.

The police said Vikram Gowda visited the Kabbinala village Monday night with his team to collect groceries. Based on information, ANF attacked him and as the Naxals opened fire, the police responded leading to Vikram Gowda's death, they added. He had a bounty of Rs 3 lakh announced by Karnataka, and that of Rs 50,000 from Kerala. "Last evening, there was an encounter after he was located, and he died in the firing and return firing. We have information that three Naxals escaped after Vikram Gowda was shot. ANF is continuing its searches in the region," Parameshwara said about his death — the first of a Naxal in over two decades in Karnataka.

The first major Naxal-police encounter in Karnataka took place in 2003. On November 17, 2003, two women Naxalites — Sumathi, 24, and Usha, 23, were killed in an encounter with the police near Idu in Karkala in Udupi district. "Vikram Gowda, a dreaded Naxal, has been wanted for 20 years, and our people (police) were carrying out efforts to locate him. He escaped in several encounters earlier. He was active as a Naxal and constantly moving between states," he said. The Karnataka home minister said two Naxals Raju and Latha were sighted last week. "The operations are on to find them and suddenly they came upon this group," he said. "The government is extending its support to those who drop their weapons and surrender before the state to rebuild their lives in the mainstream," he added. Vikram Gowda went underground in 2002 after initially being aligned with Naxal activities as a courier and



fund collector in the forests around his home in the Western Ghats in Dakshina Kannada. He studied only till Class 4, and was involved in tribal rights activism, sources said. He was reportedly leading a breakaway group of Naxals. Naxal activities in Karnataka have been almost negligible since 2018 when the group was reduced to a mere 19 members who reportedly moved to neighbouring Kerala and Tamil Nadu. However, there have been reports of the revival of Naxal activities in Karnataka in recent months. In March this year, the Kodagu and Hassan police initiated investigations after evidence of Naxal movements in the forests of the Western Ghats in Karnataka. Police units were deployed on the Kodagu-Kerala border and in the Hassan district. "They moved to Karnataka from Kerala in February," said a police source.

Reports suggested Naxals approached remote villages seeking help to fight for the poor and Vikram Gowda was spotted in a village under the Kodagu district in February. In March, the Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) criticised the Congress government after reports of Vikram Gowda-led group's entry into the state's forests. "After Siddaramaiah came to power, the Naxals, who were nowhere to be found, have come to Karnataka to hide. As Congress is in power, they believe that they can carry out terror activities safely," the Karnataka BJP alleged on social media. In 2021, Vikram Gowda's ex-wife Savitri, 35, was also arrested after B G Krishnamurthy was nabbed by the Kerala police. Savitri, alias Rajita alias Usha, was the Kabini Dalam commander and Area Committee member who was part of the Naxals since 2004. In recent years, as many as 14 Naxals have entered the mainstream under a rehabilitation policy started by the Congress party during its previous tenure in 2013.

Niki Sharma named BC's Deputy Premier, three Indo-Canadians join Cabinet

Niki Sharma, an MLA of Indian descent, has been appointed as the Deputy Premier of British Columbia (BC), making her the first woman of colour to hold this role. Alongside Sharma, three newly elected MLAs — Ravi Kahlon, Ravi Singh Parmar and Jagrup Brar — from the Indo-Canadian community have been named to the provincial Cabinet. BC Premier David Eby announced the new Cabinet on Monday.

Sharma becomes the first Indo-Canadian to serve as Deputy Premier, though the province has previously had an Indo-Canadian Premier, Ujjal Dosanjh, who led BC from 2000 to 2001. Raj Chouhan is likely to continue as the Sorajw. The Cabinet includes Ravi Parmar, responsible for Forests; Jagrup Brar, overseeing Mining and Critical Minerals; and Ravi Kahlon, assigned to Housing and Municipal Affairs. Additionally, Raj Chauhan is expected to continue as Speaker of the provincial legislature. Premier Eby also named three Indo-Canadians as Parliamentary Secretaries. Jessie Sunner, a first-time MLA, will focus on Anti-Racism Initiatives, while Sunita Dhill will handle International Credentials, and Harwinder Sandhu will work in Agriculture.

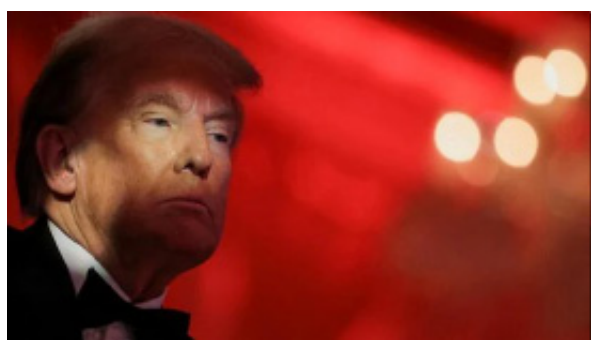
Sharma, a long-time public servant, previously served as BC's Attorney General. In that role, she introduced an Anti-Racism Act, expanded family law legal aid, and worked to improve online safety. Before entering politics, she practiced law, advocating for Indigenous communities, including residential school survivors. Sharma also served as Vice-Chair of the Vancity Credit Union Board and as Chair of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation. A resident of East Vancouver for over 15 years, Sharma is deeply connected to her community and is a mother of two. Her



The Cabinet includes Ravi Parmar, responsible for Forests; Jagrup Brar, overseeing Mining and Critical Minerals; and Ravi Kahlon, assigned to Housing and Municipal Affairs. Additionally, Raj Chauhan is expected to continue as Speaker of the provincial legislature.

father Pal, who ran a small business in Sparwood, was an immigrant from India. A record number of 14 Indo-Canadians were elected to the BC Legislative Assembly in the October 19 election. In a statement, Eby highlighted the diversity of the new Cabinet, noting that it includes more women than men.

For some – It's 'Mourning' in America



the deep red state of Indiana to be his deputy. Pence was viewed as a milquetoast white Christian evangelical and needed to appeal to the traditional base. As evinced with the GOP convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this time and the electoral outcome, Trump doesn't need to appeal to a base anymore. He has become the base. It was no longer a GOP convention; it became a MAGA convention. Ergo, to tie it back to where I first started – Reagan wouldn't get elected on the GOP platform today. Moderate Republicans in Mitt Romney, John Kasich, Larry Hogan, Charlie Baker, and Chris Christie are all ostracised and left in the GOP wilderness.

Lifelong Republicans, who once eviscerated Trump, are now singing the MAGA hymn to the MAGA choir - none more so than Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who publicly sparred with Donald Trump when they both ran in the GOP Primaries back in 2016. During the contentious GOP bouts, Trump belittled his then opponent as "Little Marco," and Senator Rubio responded with acerbic attacks. Today, Rubio is riding the MAGA train, a staunch Trump surrogate, and fierce campaigner, was also touted for the ticket as Vice President, and he is now Trump's nominee for Secretary of State. For the Democrats, it's an internal election post-mortem as the blame game spars between Harris and Biden camp for the defeat. There is no doubt, that President Joe Biden looked enfeebled and not up to the task of campaigning let alone running the country for another four years. As I outlined earlier, Joe Biden has a Jimmy Carter problem, where "he looks old, frail, weak, and fragile. The American psyche during polling and voting reveals umbrage towards pusillanimity and pusillanimous foreign policy on the world stage."

On the campaign strategy front, the Democrats ran confidently that abortion and Trump's trial would be the coup-de-grace, but for voters, inflation and immigration at the southern border "Trumped" abortion. An autopsy showed that in 2016 and 2024, the Democrats appealed to a centrist base or moved rightward. But in 2020, Biden despite being seen as a moderate courted progressives, since Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, leading voices of the progressive base moved the party leftwards. Trump appealed to his far-right MAGA base, Kamala Harris and the Democrats didn't appeal enough to their progressive base, except on cases of abortion and gender identity. One key issue is the Middle East crisis and the humanitarian toll on Gaza.

Dearborn and Hamtramck in Michigan, are two of the heaviest Arab-American cities in America and were incensed at the Biden administration's apathy to reign back the onslaught on the besieged population of Gaza. The Democrats, simply scare mongered that Donald Trump would be worse on the issue, and no doubt so, but the Arab-American voters knew that. But that isn't enough to win a base – votes are earned and not entitled. Many Arab-Americans who campaigned actively for Biden in 2020, this time, voted either uncommitted or for Trump or didn't vote – thus sending Michigan red and costing the Democrats the famed "Blue Wall". Equally important to remember, Biden didn't win because of this vision in 2020, but was seen as the veteran stable old hand who was the anti-Trump candidate who would bring back normalcy to Washington and the country. Furthermore, one-term Presidents lose because of a major crisis during their time at the helm. Carter had the Iran hostage crisis, Bush 41 had the inflation, Herbert Hoover had the Great Depression, and the pandemic was a referendum on Trump's poor handling of the crisis. As I outlined, in 2020, for many, it was not that they loved Joe Biden, but that they loathed Donald Trump. And with Biden's frail health, many saw his remaining days in office as a presidency without a President.

As one podcast host notes, Trump's biggest asset is that even "in his incoherence, Trump is coherent" with his base. As we approach the end of 2024 and prepare for inauguration day in January 2025, we are truly looking at two different Americas, people on opposite ends of the spectrum politically, and each side sees the other as an existential threat to their vision of America. We've seen this movie before, between 2017-2021, however, if election results and Donald Trump's behaviour have taught us anything, is that unpredictability remains the only predictability. Akshobh Giridharadas is a Washington, D.C., based policy professional, a former journalist based out of Singapore, and a two-time TED-X speaker.

Trump Jr, Elon Musk take credit for Victoria Kjaer Theilvig's win as Miss Universe 2024; Here's why



A woman won Miss Universe this year! Uproar over transgenders' participation in Miss Universe competition

In contrast to the previous year's competition, which featured two transgender competitors – Portugal's Marina Machete and the Netherlands' Rikkie Kollé, who took home the title, the 2024 Miss Universe pageant was very different. Their participation came after Angela Ponce made history in 2018 as the first transgender woman to represent Spain in Miss Universe. Some people have disagreed with the pageant's increasing representation of transgender women, saying it has eclipsed its traditional focus. Donald Trump, a former co-owner of the Miss Universe Organization and the US President-elect, targeted the transgender contenders and referred to their participation as an endorsement of "woke ideology."

Putin dares US with bold shift in nuclear policy amid Ukraine conflict

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Putin's newly signed decree permits the use of nuclear weapons in retaliation against any significant assault on Russia, including drone attacks. In a clear message to the US and the rest of the Western powers, Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday approved revisions in its nuclear doctrine amid the ongoing conflict with Ukraine. The new policy broadens the scope of when Moscow can use nuclear weapons. "It was necessary to bring our principles in line with the current situation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said about the changes to Russia's nuclear doctrine, calling the update a "very important" document that should be "studied" abroad. Russia's announcement coincided with the US granting limited permission to Ukraine for the use of long-range missile strikes targeting Russian territory, notably, after Putin's warning to the West against facilitating Kyiv's attack against Moscow. What does Putin's updated nuclear doctrine say? According to the updated nuclear policy, Russia will consider aggression from a non-nuclear state, especially when backed by a nuclear power state, as a coordinated attack against it and will retaliate in the same fashion, reported news agency Reuters. The updated policy also allows Russia to expand the use of its atomic weapons in retaliation in case of an external assault.

UK farmers rally to oppose government's inheritance tax reforms



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The National Farmers Union is mobilizing 1,800 members for a parliamentary lobby against inheritance tax changes. British farmers called on the government on Tuesday to revoke a contentious proposal to alter inheritance tax laws for land ownership, threatening to jam the streets of London. In the past, farming enterprises were eligible for a 100% inheritance tax exemption on commercial and agricultural property, which decreased the amount that landowners and farmers had to pay when acreage was transferred after a death. From April 6, 2026, however, total exemption from death duties will only apply to the first £1 million (\$1.27 million) of combined agricultural and business property.

The Labour government has faced a furious backlash from farmers since the change was announced by finance minister Rachel Reeves last month, with even tech billionaire Elon Musk wading in on the row. Musk, who has been critical of Prime Minister Keir Starmer, on Monday claimed

on his X social media platform that "Britain is going full Stalin", in an apparent reference to Soviet leader Joseph Stalin's forced collectivisation of privately owned farms. He shared a Guardian newspaper comment piece that accused farmers of having "hoarded land for too long", and argued the inheritance tax change could break up farms and give younger farmers a chance to buy land. The National Farmers Union (NFU), which represents more than 45,000 members in England and Wales, said its "mass lobby" of parliament will help explain the effects of the policy change on farms, farming and food supply. It is expecting some 1,800 members to take part from 0900 GMT, with thousands more to turn up at a rally in nearby Whitehall. "This awful family farm tax has to be overturned," NFU president Tom Bradshaw said in a video message to members.

"The evidence that this decision is based on is weak. Even the government can't agree between Defra (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and Treasury whether the figures are accurate." The dispute revolves over how many individuals may be harmed. Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced on Monday that "the vast majority of farms" will be unaffected. The government believes that the true threshold for paying inheritance tax may be as high as £3 million (\$3.8 million), if exclusions for each spouse in a married and agricultural property are taken into consideration. The Treasury maintains that this means as such nearly three-quarters of farms would not be liable to pay death duties. The NFU cites Defra data showing that 66% of farm companies in England have a net worth of more than £1 million to support their claim that more farms may be required to pay the tax when land, property, and equipment are excluded.

McBride brutally blasted for slamming Capitol bathroom bill: 'Stay out of women's spaces'

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Sarah McBride, the Democratic representative-elect and the first openly transgender member of Congress, blasted Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC) for unveiling a resolution on Monday that would prohibit transgender women from accessing female restrooms inside the Capitol Building. Sharing her legislative proposal on X, Mace wrote: "Biological men do not belong in private women's spaces. Period. Full stop. End of story." The resolution seeks a "prohibition" on House members and staff from using restrooms, locker rooms or changing rooms "other than those corresponding to the biological sex of such individuals" in the Capitol or House office buildings. Mace seeks to incorporate the new regulation in a House rules package that will be placed to a vote early next year.

In another tweet, Mace stated, "Never thought this would have to happen," adding that "protecting biological women starts here and it starts now." Mace's suggestion comes just weeks after Delaware voters elected Sarah McBride to serve in the state's at-large congressional district. The 34-year-old leader, who will soon become the first openly transgender member of Congress, called Mace's resolution a distraction. Taking to X, McBride wrote: "Every day Americans go to work with people who have life journeys different than their own and engage with them respectfully. I hope members of Congress can muster that same kindness." Blasting Mace, McBride dubbed it "an obvious attempt" by far-right radicals to divert attention from the reality that they have no practical answers for the problems that Americans are facing. Instead of creating culture warfare, she stressed that the focus should be on lowering the



cost of housing, healthcare, and child care. "Delawareans sent me here to make the American dream more affordable and accessible and that's what I'm focused on," she added.

McBride's remarks fume citizens. Reacting to McBride's comment, one X user wrote: "You are a mentally ill MAN and you should not be allowed to enter a women's restroom. The fact that you were elected to Congress just shows how insane people in Delaware are." Hailing Mace, the user said she is "100% right to stop you from violating female only spaces." "Culture war? I don't think so congressman. It's an actual human rights violation. Stay out of women's spaces," another added. "This is 'whataboutery'. Women have real issues facing them, YOU don't get to tell us to ignore them. Our sports, spaces, services and language keep us safe and allow us privacy, dignity and fairness," a third user commented.

About 182 million children in poor nations lack nurture; pollution, climate change risk factors: Study

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

In low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), three-fourths of those aged three or four years lack -- nearly 182 million children -- access to adequate nurture, thereby risking healthy development, according to a new series paper, published in The Lancet journal. Child development is also affected by air pollution, climate change, and exposure to chemicals, which are emerging environmental risk factors, said an international team, including researchers from the Centre for Chronic Disease Control (CCDC), New Delhi.

The series builds on the foundation of the first 1,000 days of life -- referring to the time period starting conception until two years old -- and highlights how the 'next 1,000 days' (from age two to age five) is a crucial window of opportunity for providing nurturing care to children, the researchers said. During this stage of "next 1,000 days", children are often not in direct regular contact with health or education services, with fewer than one in three children aged three or four attending early childhood care and education programmes in LMICs, said the researchers.

The authors called for an increased investment for this stage of child development, with a particular focus on improving access to high quality childhood care and education programmes, which should involve adequately paid and trained teachers and reasonable teacher-student ratios. These programmes should also include child-centred play, evidence-based curricula, and warm, stimulating, and responsive classroom interactions, they said. Author Aditi Roy, Senior Research Scientist, CCDC, told PTI, "The main concern for India is ensuring an equitable access to quality ECCE. There needs to be a holistic approach with an activity-based curriculum rather than traditional academic-focus rote learning which goes against the National Education Policy recommendations." Further, data regarding children in India attending ECCE programmes is sketchy, with no reliable estimates of current reality, she said. A 2022 report by a government's task force on ECCE said that 285.82 lakh children aged 3-6 years were covered under early childhood education in 2022 under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), with an almost equal number of boys and girls.

A 2018 Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) survey found that over 70 per cent of 3-year-olds, 85 per cent of 4-year-olds, 92 per cent of 5-year-olds and 96 per cent of 6-year-olds were attending a pre-school or school. The survey, facilitated by the non-profit 'Pratham', was conducted in nearly 600 rural districts. "However, as there is no data for private entities, it is hard to provide an estimate. But clearly, there is a steady increase in the number of private pre-schools, also referred to as 'affordable primary schools' in India with questionable quality and no regulation," Ms. Roy cautioned. While in recent years, the National Family Household Survey-5 has collected data for children aged five years who attended pre-primary school during



the school year 2019-20, Roy said that the data might not reflect the current reality because that was a Covid year. "The ongoing NFHS 6 survey will (possibly) give us more recent data in the coming months," she said. According to a new analysis, which is included in the Lancet series, providing one year of early childhood care and education for all children would cost on average under 0.15 per cent of the current gross domestic product of LMIC countries.

The series' authors said that the potential benefits of these programmes are 8-19 times higher than the cost of implementing them. "This Lancet series has brought together global researchers who share a passion for early childhood development, and were keen to profile the 'next 1,000 days' as a crucial stage of development, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)," Catherine Draper, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, and co-chair of the Series said. "Children from LMICs not only need to feature more strongly in research on the next 1,000 days, but should also be receiving the care they need to thrive. This includes supporting caregivers of young children, and ensuring that they have access to high quality early care and education programmes," Ms. Draper said.

Children not involved in childhood care and education programmes miss crucial nurturing care opportunities as roughly 80% of interventions promoting healthy development are taking place in such settings, the authors said. They added that the programmes offer a platform to combine yearly screening and growth monitoring, along with food assistance, nutrition supplements, and caregiver support. Further, air pollution, climate change, and chemical exposures as emerging environmental risk factors for poor child development, the authors said. "Air pollution can affect early child development directly through physical changes and indirectly through disruptions in education as is currently happening in Delhi-NCR," Ms. Roy explained. "Similarly, extreme heat, drought, heavy rainfall, and flood (driven by climate change) can affect early child development and ECCE by impacting food and water security, physical and mental health. Extreme weather events could also physically damage ECCE centres and impact families economically," she said.

IndiGo introduces daily direct flights between Chennai and Penang



Indian woman missing from cruise ship sailing through Singapore Strait family seeks answers as search and investigation continue. Penang, known for its vibrant culture and scenic beauty, is a popular tourist destination. IndiGo Airlines has announced the launch of daily direct flights connecting Chennai and Penang, starting December 21, 2024. This marks Penang as IndiGo's third direct destination in Malaysia, alongside Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi.

According to the airline, this new route is designed to meet the rising demand for travel between Chennai and Penang, providing a seamless and budget-friendly option for both business and leisure travellers. The direct service

from Chennai to Penang will cut travel time from 7 hours to just 4. Additionally, IndiGo plans to resume flights between Bengaluru and Kuala Lumpur on the same date. In a statement, the airline highlighted that India is Malaysia's fifth-largest source of tourists, and the new routes are expected to strengthen economic and cultural ties between the two nations. By reducing travel time between Chennai and Penang from seven hours to just four, the service promises enhanced convenience for travellers. Chennai will also act as a key hub for passengers from cities like Bengaluru, Delhi, Kolkata, and Mumbai travelling to Penang. Vinay Malhotra, IndiGo's Head of Global Sales, stated, "With 28 weekly flights from India to Kuala Lumpur, Langkawi, and Penang, this expansion reinforces our commitment to connecting established hubs and emerging destinations. It offers greater flexibility and convenience for travellers, whether they are flying for business or leisure." Penang, known for its vibrant culture and scenic beauty, is a popular tourist destination. The island boasts a unique blend of colonial architecture, colourful street art, and natural attractions, including rainforests and pristine beaches. From its world-famous street food to its rich heritage, Penang offers a diverse range of experiences, making it a must-visit spot for travellers in Southeast Asia.

Indian Ocean celebrates 35 glorious years: 'The band always comes first,' says Rahul Ram



They may have performed only seven concerts in their first five years, but today, Indian Ocean is celebrating an incredible 35-year journey. Despite the ups and downs along the way, the band has become synonymous with iconic songs like Bandeh, Kandisa, and Jhini. Over the years, they've composed music for six movies and released eight albums. Marking this milestone, frontman Rahul Ram spoke to indianexpress.com about the band's journey spanning more than three decades, the highs and lows, composing for films versus creating independent music, their ongoing tour presented by Tribevibe Entertainment, and the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the music industry. Read the edited excerpts below:

Q. 35 years is a long time. How would you describe the journey??

Rahul Ram: Indeed. It's been a fantastic journey, but not without ups and downs. From only seven concerts in the first five years, The Indian Ocean now plays 10-11 concerts a month. We have come a long way, with eight albums and contributions to six or seven films. We've toured over 30 countries and numerous international festivals. We did feel discouraged when we weren't getting? ?shows, but the audience's enthusiasm kept us going. We love what we do.??

Q. The Indian Ocean had its share of downs, the most recent? being the royalty battle. How do you deal with such situations collectively and? ?individually??

Rahul Ram: There's no real "royalty battle." It's a made-up issue. We handle challenges calmly and? ?collectively as a band. The key to longevity is suppressing ego and prioritising the music. Public? ?conflicts have been rare.??

Q. Such conflicts can affect the essence of being a? ?band'. Does it get challenging to put music/band ahead of yourself at certain times??

Rahul Ram: When making music together, it's important to remember that disagreements aren't personal; it's about what serves the song best. The band always comes first.??

Q. Over the years, you have also composed for Bollywood films. How, and in what ways,? ?is the process different??

Rahul Ram: When composing for films, we have to work within specific constraints? ?and consider the perspectives of directors and producers. When creating our music, we? ?have more freedom. Both have their challenges. We enjoy the challenge of composing? ?within the time limits of film scores.??

Q. You recently played the role of a modern spiritualist. Did it take a lot of convincing for you to do the role? Why did you agree to do it??

Rahul Ram: I felt the role of Yara Ji in?? ?Khufiya?? was perfect for me — a babaji who plays the guitar. It was a fun? ?experience, and Vishal Bhardwaj is fantastic to work with. I even sang in the film. I love stepping outside my comfort zone.

?Q. Over the last three decades, what has been your most significant learning about the indie? ?music scene in India???

Rahul Ram: Indie music has grown tremendously, especially with the freedom to produce and release independently. But the challenge now lies in getting heard amid the vast amount of content available. As? ?with any art form, only a small percentage is truly great. Many factors contribute to a song's? ?success. The indie music scene is diverse and vibrant, and we hope to see an Indian artist? ?achieve international stardom within the next decade.??

Indian Ocean Indian Ocean is known for songs like Bandeh, Kandisa, and Jhini. (Photo: PR handout)

Q. What would you say has kept you relevant all these years??

Rahul Ram: Honesty and staying rooted in our musical identity have contributed to our relevance. Our music? ?resonates with people of all ages. Trends come and go, but we remain true to ourselves.??

Q. Tell us about your latest tour. What difference can the audience expect? Why are? ?concerts and live performances important even after so many years??

Rahul Ram: On this tour, we're taking the audience on a journey through our career, playing songs from different eras. We're having fun with diverse setlists. Nothing compares to the energy and? ?feedback of a live concert. Live performances are critical for financial sustainability, as streaming revenues are? ?negligible.??

Q. Social media has changed the game for every industry, including music. How has it? ?affected your music/journey??

Rahul Ram: Social media has impacted our journey but not our music. The pressure to post constantly is overwhelming. We prioritise meaningful content over constant updates. Social media can be useful for reaching audiences, but it's important to use it strategically.??

Q. How different do you think your journey would have been had you started today, a time when social media use is at its peak?

Rahul Ram: It's impossible to say how our journey would be different if we started today. Perhaps it would be? ?easier to reach audiences, but we've also grown and changed as individuals and musicians.??

Q. What is your take on Artificial Intelligence in music?

Rahul Ram: AI has the potential to impact music in significant ways. It's already being used to create videos? ?and music. While it may lead to job displacement in some areas, good music will always have its place. AI might even give rise to new genres. I'm curious to experiment with AI.??

Q. A song you consider your best, and why??

Rahul Ram: Each band member would have a different answer. For me, the answer is none.??

Meta 'disagrees' with CCI fine over WhatsApp privacy policy, plans to appeal

A day after being fined by the Competition Commission of India (CCI), Meta said it "disagrees" with the body's decision over WhatsApp's controversial 2021 privacy policy update and plans to appeal it. On Monday night, India's competition watchdog said it was imposing a Rs 213.14 crore penalty on the social media giant for "abusing" its dominant position in relation to the messaging platform's privacy policy update from three years ago. The concerns revolved around how the privacy policy was implemented, and user data was collected and shared with other Meta companies. "...the 2021 update did not change the nature of people's personal messages and was offered as a choice for users at the time. We also ensured no one would have their accounts deleted or lose functionality of the WhatsApp service because of this update," Meta said in a statement on Tuesday, following the CCI's decision.

"The update was about introducing optional business features on WhatsApp, and provided further transparency about how we collect and use data. And since that time, WhatsApp has been incredibly valuable to people and businesses, enabling organisations and government institutions to deliver citizen services through COVID and beyond, and as well as supporting small businesses, all of which furthers the Indian economy. WhatsApp is able to do all of this because it offers services supported by Meta," it added. Beyond the monetary fine by CCI

The Commission also issued cease-and-desist directions, asking Meta and WhatsApp to implement certain behavioural remedies within a defined timeline. As per the CCI's order, WhatsApp will not be allowed to share user data collected on its platform with other Meta Companies for advertising purposes, for a period of five years. The CCI said it has concluded that the policy update on a "take-it-or-leave-it" basis "constitutes an imposition of unfair conditions" under the Competition Act. Regarding data sharing between Meta companies, the Commission said that sharing of WhatsApp users' data between Meta companies for purposes other than providing the messaging service "creates an entry barrier for the rivals of Meta" and "results in denial of market access in the display advertisement market".

"Meta has engaged in leveraging its dominant position in the OTT (over the top) messaging apps through smartphones to protect its position in the online display advertising market," in contravention of the Competition Act, the CCI said. The CCI also said that WhatsApp's privacy policy should include a detailed explanation of the user data shared with other Meta Companies, which should specify the purpose of data sharing, linking each type of data to its corresponding purpose. "Sharing of user data collected on WhatsApp with other Meta Companies... for purposes other than for providing WhatsApp services shall not be made a condition for users to access WhatsApp Service in India," the CCI said. How WhatsApp's 2021 privacy policy courted controversy in January 2021, WhatsApp had notified users that it was updating its privacy policy — which was mandatory for them to accept — with an expanded scope of data collection and data sharing between Meta companies. While users in India could not opt-out of the updated policy, WhatsApp's users in the European Union could due to the



bloc's strong data privacy laws. After the policy update caused furore — with several users quitting the app en masse to join rivals like Signal and Telegram — the CCI, in 2021, initiated suo motu proceedings and ordered its investigative arm, the Office of the Director General, to investigate the policy.

WhatsApp and Facebook had challenged the probe in the Delhi High Court in 2021, saying that the issue related to privacy policy was already pending before the Supreme Court and High Court at the time. In 2022, the court junked further appeals filed by the companies challenging the probe, saying that WhatsApp occupies a dominant position in the market and has a strong lock-in effect which renders its users incapable of shifting to another platform despite dissatisfaction.

The problems with WhatsApp's privacy policy, especially since Meta (Facebook at the time) bought the platform in 2014, have existed since at least 2016. Two years after WhatsApp was acquired by Meta, WhatsApp announced that it would start some level of data sharing with Facebook including phone numbers and last seen activity. Users, however, had 30 days to opt-out of sharing data with Facebook for ad targeting purposes. Meta's acquisition of WhatsApp was allowed in regions like the European Union on the basis of its commitment to preserve the privacy of its users. However, the European Commission believed the policy update could violate users' privacy and fined the company \$110 million for providing incorrect or misleading information during the Commission's 2014 investigation under the EU Merger Regulation of Facebook's acquisition of WhatsApp.

The 2016 policy was challenged in India as well, but is currently pending at the Supreme Court. The 2021 policy update builds on the 2016 version, however, there was one key difference: when they were shown the update in January 2021, there was no longer an opt-out option, meaning that WhatsApp metadata sharing with Meta companies was all but mandatory. WhatsApp messages are end-to-end encrypted, meaning that the platform can not see the messages being sent on the platform. However, with each message, there is metadata associated, which is not encrypted and could reveal sensitive information about a person. Due to Europe's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), WhatsApp has to allow users in the region to opt-out of the service. However, that was not available to users in India.

Emerging India Focus Funds settles FPI rules violation case

Emerging India Focus Funds settles FPI rules violation case. Sebi initiated adjudication proceedings against the applicant and issued a showcase notice in February for the alleged violations of FPI Regulations and Intermediaries Regulations. Emerging India Focus Funds, which was named in the Hindenburg report, on Monday settled a case relating to the alleged violations of foreign portfolio investor (FPI) rules with the Securities and Exchange Board of India on payment of Rs 64.35 lakh towards settlement charges.

The settlement came after the applicant filed an application with Sebi proposing to settle the proceedings initiated against it, "without admitting or denying the findings of facts and conclusions of law" through a settlement order. Sebi initiated adjudication proceedings against the applicant and issued a showcase notice in February for the alleged violations of FPI Regulations and Intermediaries Regulations. Trident Trust Company is the declared beneficial owner of the Emerging India Focus Fund and the EM Resurgent Fund, two among the 13 foreign entities that came under Sebi's scrutiny. Pending adjudication proceedings, Emerging India Focus Funds filed an application with Sebi and shelled out Rs 64.35 lakh on November 13 to settle the alleged violations.

"In view of the acceptance of the settlement terms and the receipt of settlement amount... by Sebi, the instant adjudication proceedings initiated against applicant vide SCN (showcause notice) dated February 29, 2024, is disposed of," Sebi said in its order. The panel of Whole Time Members of the Sebi approved the recommendation of the High-Powered Advisory Committee (HPAC) on October 28, 2024 and the same was communicated by the Sebi to the applicant on October 29. Subsequently, the applicant vide email dated November 13, 2024 informed about the remittance of the settlement amount, the receipt of which is confirmed,



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according to the Sebi. According to sources, for avoidance of doubt, the case that has been settled with Emerging India Focus Funds (EIFF) has nothing to do with the Adani/Hindenburg report related enforcement actions undertaken by SEBI. The source added that specifically, this case does not form a part of the 24 cases that were reported to the Expert Committee set up by the Hon'ble Supreme Court after the Hindenburg Report of January 2023.

Squid Games creator Hwang Dong-hyuk says he lost 8-9 teeth while shooting the Emmy-winning show: 'Probably have to pull out a few more very soon'

Squid Games creator and South Korean film director Hwang Dong-hyuk was so stressed while filming the dystopian Netflix thriller that he lost his teeth. In a recent conversation with BBC News UK, Dong-hyuk said, "I lost 8-9 teeth filming Squid Games due to stress." The Emmy-winning show is slated to be back with a second season with a fresh storyline after killing almost every character in the fictional series. "The stress I feel now is much greater," he shared, adding, "I haven't seen my dentist yet, but I'll probably have to pull out a few more very soon." Taking a cue from the creator's honest admission, let's understand how stress affects teeth.



Dr Vipin Dehane, oral maxillofacial surgeon and implantologist, Fortis Hospital Mulund and Fortis Hiranandani Hospital Vashi, blamed "today's fast-paced, sedentary lifestyle" for a marked rise in stress, anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues, leading to unhealthy coping mechanisms, such as teeth grinding or clenching, and smoking. "These habits tend to be accompanied by neglect of oral health. Additionally, chronic stress and

lifestyle-related factors can disrupt hormonal balance, weakening the immune system over time, which can further exacerbate oral health problems. These issues can eventually lead to loss of teeth if not primarily taken care of," said Dr Dehane. Stress, according to Dr Gunita Singh, Dental Lasers, can lead to acidity which will lead to "acid reflux in the oral cavity" which further erodes the teeth and damages the gums as well. At the same time, teeth get eroded and gums become loose leading to loss of teeth, said Dr Singh. The following factors mainly contribute to the loss of teeth in individuals: Dr Dehane said that protective involuntary grinding/clenching of teeth, which wears off the tooth structure, leaves it weakened, making it more vulnerable to fracture and decay, is called bruxism. "It can be counteracted by wearing a customised Occlusal splint or night guard, which prevents continuous grinding," said Dr Dehane. Moreover, stress-induced neglect often leads to a lack of attention to personal well-being, such as brushing twice daily. Plaque and tartar

buildup on the teeth leads to irritation in the gums and the underlying bone. "This can lead to gum disease, like gingivitis and periodontitis. If left untreated, it can cause loss of teeth. Gum disease can be treated by scaling, laser therapies, and flap procedures," said Dr Dehane. Consumption of addictive substances/smoking tobacco has been on the rise, leading to increased vulnerability to oral disease. "Regular dental care and mental health therapies are essential for improving stress management and promoting overall well-being," said Dr Dehane.

Vignesh Shivan responds to Dhanush's legal notice by sharing unseen clip from Nayanthara documentary: 'People would understand'



Amid the ongoing rift between Dhanush and Nayanthara, her husband, director Vignesh Shivan, seemingly responded to the Raanjhanaa actor by sharing unseen footage from Nayanthara: Beyond The Fairytale on Instagram. In the caption, Vignesh explained that the clip couldn't be included in the documentary 'due to copyright issues.' In her open letter, Nayanthara had accused Dhanush of denying them permission to use clips from their film Naanum Rowdy Dhaan and allegedly demanding Rs 10 crore for including a three-second BTS clip. The video Vignesh shared features moments of Nayanthara and him spending quality time with their twins, Uyir and Ulag, set to the track "Kannaana Kanne" from the same film.

Interestingly, the lyrics for "Kannaana Kanne" were penned by Vignesh himself. In the post, Vignesh mentioned how several lines and footage failed to make it to the docu-

mentary due to copyright restrictions. Though he didn't explicitly name Dhanush, it was evident that he was referencing the ongoing rift with the Raanjhanaa actor. Vignesh and Nayanthara met on the set of Naanum Rowdy Dhaan and began dating during its production, making the film a significant part of their love story. While Vignesh directed the film, it was bankrolled by Dhanush.

"There are so many of my lines that failed to be a part of the documentary for reasons the world knows! Yes it's painful that it's not on Netflix! But it can always reach people with all the other options the world has given to us! ??????," Vignesh wrote in the caption. "Here's one version that you actually haven't seen my uyir. This is a voice over version that couldn't make it due to copyright issues ?? but here it is for you! Love you my uyir ??????????," he added. In the post, Vignesh also expressed hope that people would eventually understand his and Nayanthara's perspective in their argument with Dhanush. He wrote, "And may be some day, some day, some good day..... People will really understand where we are coming from!!! I hope! That day comes soon!"

Vignesh's post came shortly after Nayanthara shared an open letter on Instagram accusing Dhanush of demanding Rs 10 crore for the three seconds of BTS footage, which had been recorded on their personal devices during the filming of Naanum Rowdy Dhaan. Nayanthara also revealed that Dhanush's team had given them 24 hours to remove the clip from the documentary, threatening legal action if they failed to comply.

Nayanthara gave up non-veg food to play Sita in Sri Rama Rajyam amid protests against her casting: 'She didn't even drink water from the hotel'

Nayanthara, often hailed as the 'Lady Superstar,' has played numerous iconic roles throughout her illustrious career, including Goddess Sita in the legendary filmmaker Babu's 2011 film Sri Rama Rajyam. While Nayanthara was thrilled to portray such a revered character, her casting faced significant backlash from audiences in both Tamil and Telugu industries due to her personal life. At the time of the film's announcement, Nayanthara was in a high-profile relationship with Prabhu Deva, with rumours swirling that the two were planning to marry. Prabhu Deva was still This followed her much-discussed breakup with actor-filmmaker Silambarasan TR. Critics questioned the filmmakers' decision to cast her as the goddess, given the controversies surrounding her dating life. Despite the criticism, Nayanthara silenced her detractors by delivering a stellar performance.

In her Netflix documentary, Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairytale, a member of the film's team revealed the lengths to which she went to embody the character of Sita, even quitting non-veg food completely during the film's shoot. "There was strong opposition to her playing Sita. There were protests in both Tamil and Telugu industries. People were dead against her being cast as Goddess Sita. She overcame all of it to build the character. From the start to the end of shooting, she stayed at Taj Krishna. The hotel served non-vegetarian food, but she didn't even drink water from the hotel during the filming. We brought her vegetarian meals from outside. It was a penance for her," the team member shared. Nayanthara's commitment extended beyond her dietary changes. Her dedication to the role and her perfor-



mance eventually won over critics and audiences alike. Sri Rama Rajyam was supposed to mark her farewell from cinema, as she had decided to leave the industry for her personal life. In her documentary, she revealed that the person she was dating at the time—without directly naming Prabhu Deva—had asked her to quit films post-marriage, and she had agreed. Prabhu Deva, still married to Latha at the time, had publicly announced his intentions to marry Nayanthara. However, his wife refused to grant him a divorce, leading to the end of his relationship with Nayanthara. Following this personal upheaval, Nayanthara took a brief hiatus from the industry between 2011 and 2012. However, she continued working after a year's break.

Shah Rukh Khan says he is self-critical, opens up about handling failures: 'I cry a lot in my bathroom'

Often described as a "man written by a woman," one of the key reasons behind Shah Rukh Khan's immense popularity and the enduring admiration he garners lies in his openness to vulnerability and his refusal to conform to the hypermasculine archetype embraced by many of his contemporaries. Despite being one of the world's most prominent superstars and the wealthiest among Indian film actors, it is Shah Rukh's relatability that cements his status as a beloved figure both on and off the screen.

A thespian who has taken some bold movie choices and pushed boundaries, SRK's career has, hence, seen its fair share of ups and downs. While some of his films have achieved blockbuster status, some have failed too. Recently, Bollywood's Baadshah opened up about handling failures, acknowledging that while setbacks do affect him, he begins to move forward after allowing himself to have a good cry. Speaking at the Global Freight Summit in Dubai, he also revealed that he can be self-critical at times. "I hate feeling this and then I cry a lot in my bathroom. I do not show it to anyone. You can wallow and self-pity for that much time. And then you have to believe that the world is not against you. Your film did not go wrong because of you or because the world is conspiring to destroy your work. You have to believe that you made it badly. Then you have to move on." "There are moments of despair but there are moments which say, 'no, shut up, get up and get on with it'. You have to do it because the world is not against you. You should not believe that things are going wrong only for you. Life moves on. Life does what it does. You cannot start blaming life for what it does. You have to remember it must be something that I or the business did wrong; or the business, marketing or strategy went wrong. I need to figure it out, recalibrate and come back." he added.

In an industry where most artistes deflect responsibility—blaming audiences or alleging conspiracies when their work doesn't succeed—SRK stands out for his introspective approach. During the summit, he emphasised that failure doesn't always stem from external forces but could simply result from an inability to connect with the audience. "When you fail, you should not believe that your product or service or job went wrong. Maybe you just misunderstood the ecosystem you were working in. You have to understand how people are reacting. If I cannot elicit an emotion from the people I cater to, then my product is not going to work how wonderful it may be," SRK said. What advice would SRK give to his younger self?

When asked what advice he would give his younger self, the 59-year-old actor, with over three decades of ex-



"There are moments of despair but there are moments which say, 'no, shut up, get up and get on with it'. You have to do it because the world is not against you. You should not believe that things are going wrong only for you. Life moves on. Life does what it does. You cannot start blaming life for what it does.

perience, said he wouldn't offer any, explaining that any guidance might alter his journey, which would ultimately change the person he has become—a scenario he wouldn't want. "I have a son who's 27, a daughter who's 23 and another son who's 11. When I speak with them, I realise that the many decisions I took then, when I was 25-26, I would not take them now if I saw them (the instances) through the lens of my experience. If I didn't take them then, I would not have reached where I have. So, I don't want to give my younger self any advice... I want him to be brash, overconfident, bordering on arrogant and being extremely stupid and silly, but being extremely gutsy also." SRK, however, concluded his response with his signature wit, quipping that he wished his younger self from the '90s had better fashion sense. SRK, who was last seen in director Rajkumar Hirani's comedy drama Dunki (2023), is currently working in Sujoy Ghosh's King, wherein he will share the screen with his daughter Suhana Khan.

Mahesh Babu heartily praises Nayanthara's Netflix documentary



If there is one superstar in Telugu cinema who often moonlights as a movie connoisseur, it is Mahesh Babu. Whenever he sees a film and likes it, he never fails to share his praise on social media. Now, amidst the pre-production work of his next with SS Rajamouli, Mahesh Babu has spent 80 minutes watching the Netflix documentary, Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairytale. Choosing emojis over words to express his thoughts, Mahesh Babu shared a poster of the documentary and embellished it with three heart emojis. Incidentally, both these superstars haven't worked in a film together. However, this has helped create goodwill for Nayanthara and team because not all has been hunky dory

in the run-up to the release of the documentary. In response, Nayanthara shared Mahesh Babu's praise, and said, "Thank you so much, glad you liked it." Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairytale was released on the occasion of the actor's 40th birthday, and it was mired in controversy for more than one reason. It all started with a 3-page letter shared by Nayanthara on social media taking on Dhanush's decision to not allow them to use footage from the film, Naanum Rowdy Dhaan (2015). The film, which was backed by Dhanush, was the maiden collaboration between Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan, who fell in love during the making of the film. Dhanush's decision to not give a No Objection Certificate for the usage of some BTS stills and music didn't go down well with Nayanthara, and the letter created quite a furor. Despite netizens taking sides, and Nayanthara facing incessant and insensitive trolling for the same, the response to the documentary has been pretty decent. Many have found the documentary to be a rare glimpse into the cinema journey of Nayanthara. There have also been negative criticisms about the documentary for a variety of reasons, including the staginess of the wedding. Nevertheless, the documentary continues to be a talking point on social media, and Mahesh Babu's appreciation for the same might just be a shot in the arm for team Nayanthara.

Salman Khan shot at Shah Rukh Khan during Karan Arjun shoot following a fake argument, recalls Rakesh Roshan: 'Yeh koi mazak hai?'

Salman Khan and Shah Rukh Khan have been friends for over 30 years and during the early days of their movie careers, the two had quite a weird sense of humour. In a recent interview, Karan Arjun director Rakesh Roshan was asked about the time when Salman pretended to shoot at Shah Rukh following a staged argument, and Shah Rukh fell down, pretending that he had been hit by a bullet. Since the people around them were not aware of their skit, they were in shock. In a chat with Galatta India, when Rakesh was asked about this particular incident, he recalled that this happened during one of the get togethers that the team would host in the evening after the shoot. "We used to have fun in the evenings. The whole unit would sit together. Salman aaya aur isne aise hi goli maar di aur Shah Rukh gir gaya (Salman came and he just casually shot a bullet, and Shah Rukh fell.)"

Rakesh recalled his first reaction after his incident and said, "Maine bola yeh kya kia hai? Yeh kya hua? (I asked what just happened?) They first argued with each other, they enacted the whole thing and we all were sitting." Rakesh said that following this entire scene, Shah Rukh got up from the floor and Rakesh asked them to be wise about the kind of jokes they were playing, as this could have gotten serious. "I remember I said aise mat kia karo yaar. Yeh koi mazak hai? (Don't do this. Is this a joke?) This is a very serious thing. Someone might get a shock and die on the set. But they were kids at that time," he recalled. Salman, in an earlier appearance on Aap Ki Adalat, shared that he had borrowed a gun without any bullets from the action and was in a mood to pull a prank on everyone. "I told Shah Rukh, I'll call you for dance, you refuse, and then we will



engage in a scuffle, and here's a blank gun. I will fire a shot at you and you will fall down. Shah Rukh said he was not in a mood, he was tired," he recalled and added, "My brother Sohail was there. I pulled Shah Rukh's hand, and he snatched away his hand. He pushed me, and I also pushed him, a scuffle ensued, I took out the gun and fired a shot at him. Shah Rukh did a somersault and fell down." Salman said that director Rakesh's hands were "trembling" when this happened. "For ten minutes, I stood with red eyes, and said, 'Koi nahi uthega, sabko maar dunga (No one will get up, I will kill everyone)'. Rakesh ji's hands started trembling. I said, 'Shah Rukh uth, Shah Rukh uth (Shah Rukh wake up). When Shah Rukh didn't wake up, Sohail, Bhiku Da panicked. I checked my gun. Suddenly Shah Rukh started snoring. So, the Pathaan was at last alive. I again fired 3-4 shots, and everybody started laughing."

One Tree Hill actor Paul Teal dies at the age of 35 after battling cancer, Bethany Joy Lenz, Emilia Torello, and others mourn loss

Actor Paul Teal died at the age of 35 after battling cancer on November 18. Paul Teal, a TV and theatre actor, known best for his role One Tree Hill, passed away in Raleigh, North Carolina, according to a report by TMZ. Teal's representative confirmed that he passed away on Friday, revealing that the actor was suffering from cancer. Emilia Torello, Teal's partner, shared with TMZ that the actor was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer in April. Torello took to her Instagram account to share an emotional tribute as she wrote, "You were my soulmate, my soon-to-be-husband, my rock, and my future. You were taken too soon, in a battle that you fought bravely without fail. While a part of me died with you, I promise to fight to find joy in life as hard as you fought to live every single day."

Paul Teal gained recognition for his seven-episode role as Josh on One Tree Hill. His character's storyline included pursuing Alex, played by Jana Kramer, before revealing his true identity as a gay man. Bethany Joy Lenz, Teal's One Tree Hill co-star and director, took to her Instagram account to share an emotional post for her friend as she recalled their first meeting during a 2006 theater production of The Notebook. "I worked closely with Paul for months when he played Noah in my and @ronaniello musical production of The Notebook in 2006. He was shy and funny and so so comfortable on stage. Wow. Like his second skin. You couldn't take your eyes off him. Later, I was giddy to be directing an episode of One Tree Hill where I'd get to cast a new recurring character, Josh—the sleazy movie star. With



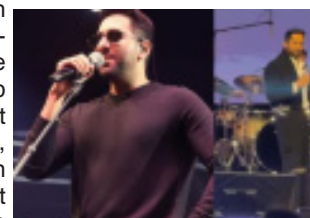
his self-effacing sense of humor and willingness to dive fully into any character, Paul was perfect for the part. He was a joy to work with in any environment and so generous," a part of her post read. Apart from One Tree Hill, Teal also appeared in Dynasty, The Walking Dead: World Beyond, USS Christmas, Fear Street Part 2: 1978, Deep Water, and Descendants: The Rise of Red. Despite battling cancer, he completed filming for the upcoming Starz series The Hunting Wives. Teal was also a celebrated stage actor, performing leading roles in productions like Newsies, Sweeney Todd, and Rent at theaters across the country.

Ayushmann Khurrana pauses NYC concert as fan throws dollars at him, says 'Charity kar dein, ye mat karein please'

Actor Ayushmann Khurrana is currently on a music tour in the US and has performed in Chicago, New York and San Jose. He is travelling with his band Ayushmann Bhava. While performing in New York City on November 16, an audience member threw a bunch of dollar bills on stage to show appreciation for his impressive performance. Ayushmann paused his performance and politely requested the fan to not attempt such gestures, and donate the money to a charitable organization instead.

The incident occurred while the actor-singer was crooning his popular song "Pani Da Rang" from his debut film Vicky Donor (2012). A fan suddenly threw dollar bills on the stage, leaving him a bit surprised. Ayushmann then addressed the fan, saying, "Paaji, aisa na karein yar. Please don't do this. Aise na karo aap, aap uska charity kar dein, kuchh kar dein. ye mat karein aap please (Give it to some

charity or somewhere else. Please don't do this). I love you. Aapki bahut saari izzat hai, par aap isko please charity khul ke karein aap, bina kisi ko bataye, bina kisi ko dikhaye. Main kya karunga iska? (I respect you a lot, but please give this to charity without telling anyone or showing anyone. What would I do with it?) He then continued singing "Pani Da Rang", as the audience couldn't stop hooting for his sweet gesture. On the work front, Ayushmann was last seen in Dream Girl 2. He will next be seen playing a vampire in Thama, joining the horror-comedy universe of Maddock Films.



India pull out of Blind T20 World Cup in Pakistan after no government clearance



They also told us that we will be getting an official letter of denial as well. However, we haven't got any official letter yet but on the basis of our conversation with MEA we've decided not to go to Pakistan and we will not participate in the Blind T20 World Cup," Yadav told Further ahead, Yadav also said that along with India England, Australia and New Zealand will also not be participating in the tournament lamented the fact all the hardwork of the players will go in vain."Along with us, England, Australia and New Zealand are also not coming. Hence, India will become the fourth team which will not take part in this tournament. However, it's a bit sad for cricket in general as cricket is a game for everyone. The match between India and Pakistan is watched intently by fans and both are really good sides. Now Pakistan will get a free walkover and it's also tragic for the players who've been working hard for a long time. The team had to leave tomorrow on November 20 and I don't think any miracle can happen in such a short period. Hence, we've decided not take part in the tournament that is scheduled to be held in Lahore, Pakistan," he added.

The decision from the Indian government comes days after the Board of Control for Cricket in India told the International Cricket Council that the Indian men's cricket team would not travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy. While the 50-over tournament is unlikely to be held without India, Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC) had said the T20 World Cup for the Blind might go on without the Indian team. PBCC Chairman Syed Sultan Shah had earlier clarified that Pakistan had issued visas for the Indian team. Notably, India are the defending champions of the Blind T20 World Cup having won all three editions of the tournament held in 2012, 2017 and 2022 respectively. Back in 2022, India beat Bangladesh by 122 runs in the final to clinch their third successive title at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. After putting up a big score of 277/2 on the board, India restricted their opponents to 157/3 and maintained their unbeaten run throughout the tournament.

Sailendra Yadav, general secretary of the Indian blind cricket association, speaking to India Today, confirmed that the government denied nod for the team to travel to Pakistan, which will host the Blind T20 World Cup from November 23. The Indian cricket team withdrew from the T20 World Cup for the Blind after the Ministry of External Affairs denied permission to travel to Pakistan, India Today has learnt. The blind cricket team got a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Sports Ministry, but was waiting for clearance from the government.

Shailendra Yadav, General Secretary of the Indian Blind Cricket Association (IBCA), confirmed that the Ministry of External Affairs did not give them permission to travel across the border and told them to pull out from the tournament, which will be hosted by Pakistan from November 23 to December 3. Yadav also revealed that they're yet to get the official denial letter from the government and have been told verbally about not being granted permission to travel to Pakistan. "We were waiting for the last 25 days to get permission from the government to go to Pakistan. Now we can't wait any longer as the tournament is about to begin. When I talked with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on the phone then they told us that we won't be getting any permission to go to Pakistan and we can cancel your tour-

India focus on slip catching on first training day at Perth Stadium: Top highlights

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Team India kicked off their preparations for the upcoming Test series with an intensive training session at the iconic Optus Stadium in Perth. India's training session was marked by meticulous attention to fielding, rigorous net practice, and a strategic review of playing conditions. Under the watchful eyes of fielding coach T Dilip, the Indian team emphasised slip-catching drills, a critical aspect for success in Australian conditions. The slip cordon featured Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sarfaraz Khan, and Devdutt Padikkal. Kohli, known for his athleticism, stayed back for an extended session, fine-tuning his reflexes. A spectacular diving catch from Kohli and a one-handed effort from Padikkal were standout moments, highlighting India's intent to excel in close-in catching. While the weather initially disrupted the session, the players returned to action as soon as conditions improved. The practice resumed with fielding drills, warm-ups, and some light-hearted moments, including a football juggling contest led by Kohli. The team's adaptability underscored their hunger to succeed in the demanding away series.

India's batters took to green-topped practice nets just outside the stadium. Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul worked on leaving deliveries outside the off-stump, a crucial skill for facing the new ball. Kohli and Padikkal practiced backfoot strokes, focusing on cuts and pulls. Kohli's intensity stood out as he executed a stunning cover drive, a reminder of his class despite a few scratchy moments early on. Dhruv Jurel, who batted lower down, impressed with his upper cuts and aggressive strokeplay, positioning himself as a strong contender for the number six slot. Meanwhile, Ravindra Jadeja balanced his time between batting practice and pitch assessments, ensuring a dual focus on

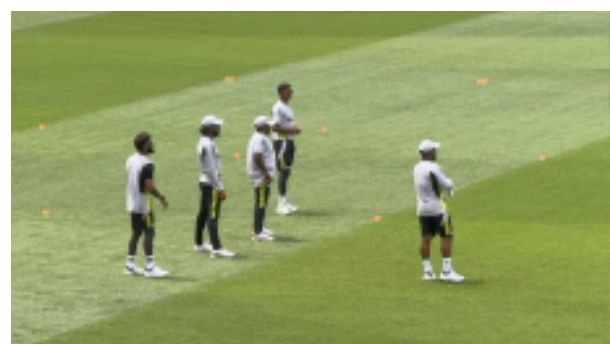
India low on confidence, but Australia won't underestimate them: Labuschagne

Border_Gavaskar Trophy: Marnus Labuschagne, speaking to reporters in Perth on Tuesday, cautioned against underestimating India even as the visitors arrived in Australia on the back of a shocking 0-3 defeat to New Zealand in a home Test series. Marnus Labuschagne remarked that India are low on confidence following an unforeseen series defeat at home to New Zealand, but he cautioned against underestimating the visitors ahead of the much-anticipated Border-Gavaskar Trophy. While Labuschagne downplayed the impact of India's shocking loss in a home Test series in October-November, he admitted that a less-confident Indian team could be advantageous for Australia.

India's hopes of dominating a Test series in Australia for the third successive time suffered a major blow after they were comprehensively beaten 0-3 at home — the first such instance in their cricketing history. In Australia, the absence of captain Rohit Sharma for the series opener in Perth further compounded their troubles. Additionally, Shubman Gill has been ruled out of the first Test after fracturing his thumb during training. "It's really hard to judge; they played on completely different conditions, spinning conditions. But, I mean, having India come here on the back of a loss at home, that's something that has never happened before. So, I think that's a good thing because they are probably a little bit lower on confidence, not coming off a Test victory, losing to New Zealand 0-3. That's going to do a little bit of damage to their confidence," Labuschagne said. "But, at the end of the day, they are a quality line-up, they are one of the best teams in the world. You can never underestimate a team like that," he added.

DEPLETED INDIA AS DANGEROUS AS EVER?

Labuschagne cited how India overcame significant injury setbacks to script history during their last tour of Australia. Despite losing captain Virat Kohli after the first Test, which they lost after being bowled out for 36 in Adelaide, India managed to defy the odds, despite losing multiple key players to injuries throughout the series. In their famous win in the decider at the Gabba in Brisbane, India fielded a severely depleted side, with debutants Washington Sundar and T Natarajan stepping in as reserves. "That's what happened in 2021. The likes of Natarajan played. Siraj got his first crack in Australia. Washington Sundar played. Shubman Gill played those last couple of games. But, they were a quality line-up." They have shown that over a period of time



his all-rounder duties. Jasprit Bumrah, expected to lead the side in the opening Test, limited his bowling but engaged in detailed discussions with Gautam Gambhir, Mohammed Siraj, and Akash Deep. His role as a mentor and tactician appeared vital as he collaborated with senior players, including Kohli, to strategize for the series. Chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and Subroto Banerjee closely observed the training session, particularly keeping an eye on the team combinations and individual performances. Their input will be crucial in finalising the playing XI for the series opener. With the first Test just days away, Team India is leaving no stone unturned in their preparations. From mastering the slip cordon to honing backfoot play, the squad is clearly focused on adapting to Australian conditions. Their first training session set the tone for what promises to be a gripping series against a formidable Australian side. India's road to potential glory Down Under starts on November 22 at the Optus Stadium, and their meticulous preparations signal a team ready to take on the challenge.



India's hopes of dominating a Test series in Australia for the third successive time suffered a major blow after they were comprehensively beaten 0-3 at home — the first such instance in their cricketing history.

you can't ever underestimate the depth of Indian cricket. Anyone who gets the opportunity to play for India has done a lot of hard work to get into the side. To get into the team, you have to play a good player," Labuschagne said. Australia will also be without the services of Cameron Green, as the star all-rounder has been ruled out of the entire series due to injury. Adding to their uncertainty, Steve Smith, who struggled as an opener, will return to his preferred No. 4 spot. Australia have included Nathan McSweeney in the squad, and he is expected to open the batting alongside Usman Khawaja.

"He is Australia's most successful player. His most successful position has been No. 4. So, to have him back in a position where he is comfortable and where he has scored a lot of his Test runs in a big series. He understands the place and the situation of the game better. Over his career, being able to evade, when they do go to bounce plan helps," Labuschagne said, welcoming Smith's return to No. 4. The first Test between India and Australia will take place at Perth Stadium from 22 November. Both teams have begun training at the Optus Stadium, working to finalise a balanced combination.

Retiring Rafael Nadal gets heartfelt message from 'fan' Roger Federer



Roger Federer wrote an emotional farewell message to Rafael Nadal as the Spaniard gets ready for his last tournament as a professional tennis player. Nadal will turn up for Spain in the Davis Cup Finals between November 19 and 24. Roger Federer has written a heart-warming farewell message to Rafael Nadal as the former World No.1 gets ready for his final tournament as a professional tennis player -- Davis Cup Finals, starting November 19, Tuesday. Nadal and Federer shared an iconic rivalry on the court, but remained friends off it. Federer even had his retirement match -- a doubles encounter along with Nadal as they teamed up in the Laver Cup in 2022. Taking to X, the Swiss great penned a special message to Nadal ahead of his swansong tournament. Federer began by acknowledging Nadal's dominance over him, admitting that the Spaniard had beaten him a lot on the court. The Swiss legend also credited Nadal for reigniting his love for the game and also opened up about the former World No.1 being his partner in his retirement match. Federer said it was one of the most special moments of his career to have Nadal as his partner in his final game. The Swiss legend concluded by saying he will be cheering on Nadal in his future work.

Rafael Nadal at Davis Cup Finals LIVE Streaming, India time: All you need to know

"As you get ready to graduate from tennis, I've got a few things to share before I maybe get emotional. Let's start with the obvious: you beat me—a lot. More than I managed to beat you. You challenged me in ways no one else could. On clay, it felt like I was stepping into your backyard, and you made me work harder than I ever thought I could just to hold my ground. You made me reimagine my game—even going so far as to change the size of my racquet head, hoping for any edge. I'm not a very superstitious person, but you took it to the next level. Your whole process. All those rituals. Assembling your water bottles like toy soldiers in formation, fixing your hair, adjusting your underwear... All

of it with the highest intensity. Secretly, I kind of loved the whole thing. Because it was so unique—it was so you. And you know what, Rafa, you made me enjoy the game even more. OK, maybe not at first. After the 2004 Australian Open, I achieved the #1 ranking for the first time. I thought I was on top of the world. And I was—until two months later, when you walked on the court in Miami in your red sleeveless shirt, showing off those biceps, and you beat me convincingly." "All that buzz I'd been hearing about you—about this amazing young player from Mallorca, a generational talent, probably going to win a major someday—it wasn't just hype. We were both at the start of our journey and it's one we ended up taking together. Twenty years later, Rafa, I have to say: What an incredible run you've had. Including 14 French Opens—historic! You made Spain proud... you made the whole tennis world proud. I keep thinking about the memories we've shared. Promoting the sport together. Playing that match on half-grass, half-clay. Breaking the all-time attendance record by playing in front of more than 50,000 fans in Cape Town, South Africa. Always cracking each other up. Wearing each other out on the court and then, sometimes, almost literally having to hold each other up during trophy ceremonies. I'm still grateful you invited me to Mallorca to help launch the Rafa Nadal Academy in 2016." "Actually, I kind of invited myself. I knew you were too polite to insist on me being there, but I didn't want to miss it. You have always been a role model for kids around the world, and Mirka and I are so glad that our children have all trained at your academies. They had a blast and learned so much—like thousands of other young players. Although I always worried my kids would come home playing tennis as lefties. And then there was London—the Laver Cup in 2022. My final match. It meant everything to me that you were there by my side—not as my rival but as my doubles partner. Sharing the court with you that night, and sharing those tears, will forever be one of the most special moments of my career. Rafa, I know you're focused on the last stretch of your epic career. We will talk when it's done. For now, I just want to congratulate your family and team, who all played a massive role in your success. And I want you to know that your old friend is always cheering for you, and will be cheering just as loud for everything you do next. Rafa that! Best always, your fan, Roger." read the statement. Nadal vs Federer rivalry Federer and Nadal faced each other 40 times on tour, with the Spaniard winning 24 of their encounters. Their first meeting took place in 2004 at the Miami Open, where a young Nadal defeated the then World No. 1 Federer 6-3, 6-3 on hard court. The two legends last clashed in the 2019 Wimbledon semi-final. Federer triumphed in four sets but ultimately lost to Novak Djokovic in an epic final.

India's slip cordon picture from nets hints at Perth Test batting order

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

India's practice session ahead of the Perth Test offered some intriguing hints about the potential playing XI. With Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma unavailable, the team is searching for replacements at the top of the order. Visuals from the nets, shared on social media, suggest that Devdutt Padikkal and Dhruv Jurel are likely to get a nod. The unavailability of captain Rohit Sharma and the injured No. 3 batter Shubman Gill forced the Indian team management to reconsider their selection strategy for the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test against Australia. The team has reserves in Abhimanyu Easwaran, Devdutt Padikkal, and Dhruv Jurel and India's slip cordon during Tuesday's net session at the Perth stadium seems to have offered clues about the likely replacements.

Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Devdutt Padikkal were spotted in the slip cordon during the practice session, with Dhruv Jurel positioned in the gully, indicating the team's faith in Padikkal and Jurel to step up at Perth's Optus Stadium. Both players have shown promise in recent practice games and appear poised to replace Shubman Gill and Rohit Sharma in India's playing XI. Gill's injury and Rohit's absence have forced India to reshuffle their batting order, requiring a new opening partner for Jaiswal, a No. 3, and a No. 6. Rahul, who opened in a recent simulated game at the WACA and in the second four-day game against Australia A, remains a key option. Though he suffered a minor elbow injury after being struck by Prasad Krishna, he has since returned to the nets. India's slip cordon in the practice sessions! āśāī, • Padikkal at first slip, Virat second, Rahul third slip, Jaiswal at gully while Dhruv Jurel is taking catches at silly-point! δY• pic.twitter.com/yStbguTXMv — IPLnCricket: Everything about Cricket (@IPLnCricket) November 19, 2024 While names like Rituraj Gaikwad and Abhimanyu Easwaran were discussed, the management appears likely to have settled on Padikkal and Jurel. Jurel has been particularly impressive, scoring two half-centuries against Australia A while batting



in the middle order. With Rishabh Pant taking the gloves, Jurel will play as a specialist batter.

Padikkal, who scored 36, 88, 26, and 1 in his recent outings, brings experience in Australian conditions and versatility to the batting lineup. Though his performances haven't been extraordinary, his previous Test appearance against England and familiarity with overseas conditions make him a reliable backup option. Both players now have a golden opportunity to make their mark in the high-pressure Border-Gavaskar series opener. There is still no clarity regarding Rohit Sharma's travel plans. With his wife having recently given birth, it is expected that he will leave for Australia soon, though the exact date remains uncertain. As a result, his availability for the first Test seems unlikely. Meanwhile, reports indicate that there are no immediate plans to send Mohammed Shami to Australia. The pacer recently made his return to competitive cricket after nearly a year, playing in a Ranji Trophy match between Bengal and Madhya Pradesh in Indore. However, the team management reportedly prefers that he participates in a few more domestic matches before being considered for an India recall. This suggests Shami might represent Bengal in the upcoming Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 tournament, which is scheduled to start in about a week.

Not like Pujara or me, but Shubman Gill will succeed at No. 3 in Australia: Dravid

Rahul Dravid has backed Shubman Gill to excel in the No.3 role for India during the upcoming Border-Gavaskar trophy, starting from November 22. Gill has performed well since taking over the No.3 spot from Cheteshwar Pujara. Former India coach and captain Rahul Dravid has backed Shubman Gill to excel in the No.3 spot during the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Gill, who started his career as an opener in Test cricket, went on to replace the prolific Cheteshwar Pujara in the spot in recent times. The 25-year-old has done well, especially during the England and Bangladesh series earlier this year. In 14 matches at the No.3 spot, Gill has scored 926 runs at an average of 42.09. The young star has scored 3 hundreds and 3 fifties during his time in the spot, that was made famous by Dravid during his playing career. Speaking to ESPNcricinfo, Dravid allayed any fears that India could miss having someone like him or Pujara in the role. The former India coach hailed Gill as a terrific player and pointed out to his incredible 91 in the Gabba Test win and said the 25-year-old had set up the victory for India.

No Rohit and Gill for India in Perth Test: Top 5 options to bat in top-order Dravid said that while Gill bats slightly different than him and Pujara, he's still a very good player. "Well, they've got Shubman Gill, who is a terrific



player. He's had some great success in Australia the last time. Everyone talks about Rishabh's 80 [89] and rightly so, but I think Shubman got 91 to set the game up on that fifth morning. So no, he's a fine, fine player, he's a great kid, and he's learning. Bats differently, slightly, to me and Pujara, but still a very, very good player," said Dravid. Runs up top important Dravid went on to say that runs up top will be important for India and said that one or two of the top four to have a great series. The former India coach feels that if the top 4 can soak in all the pressure, then the lower order will be able to control and dominate the games."