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## Four students fall ill after consuming mid-day meals at Nagarkurnool

Nagarkurnool: In yet another suspected case of food poisoning, four students of the government primary school at Gorita under Timmajipet mandal in the district have fallen ill after consuming mid-day meals at the school. The students were served tomato rice and egg for lunch. However soon after consuming the food, the students complained about stomach ache and nausea. Immediately, the teachers arranged a doctor and treatment was being extended at the school, according to reports. Incidentally, the State government issued orders about constituting the Institution Level Food Safety Committee to oversee the cooking and the food served in various institutions to prevent food contamination and food-borne diseases.

## PM Modi condoles loss of lives in Maha tragedy, announces Rs 2 lakh solatium



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday condoled the loss of lives in a road accident in Maharashtra's Gondia district. He extended condolences to the bereaved family and wished speedy recovery for the injured. PM Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 to the injured. In a post on social media platform X, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said: "Distressed by the loss of lives in the bus mishap in Gondia,

Maharashtra. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. The local administration is assisting those affected."

"An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000," the PMO's post read. Caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has directed the district authorities to extend all medical help to the injured and inform the families of the victims. He also announced a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased in the tragedy. At least 11 passengers were killed and another 15 injured when a state transport bus overturned while attempting to avoid hitting a biker.

The incident occurred around 12.30 p.m. when the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) bus was speeding along the Gondia-Kohmara Road near Khajri village. Eyewitnesses said that to avoid hitting the motorbike, the bus driver swerved sharply at the high speed, lost control and the heavy vehicle flipped over to one side, skidding for several metres before coming to a screeching halt. The injured passengers, who got trapped in the bus as the door of the bus was jammed, were pulled out and rushed to nearby hospitals in Gorgoan and Sadak Arjuni.

## MahaYuti's meeting over govt formation cancelled as CM leaves for his native village

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Mumbai: The wait is getting longer for the formation of a new government in Maharashtra as the meeting among the MahaYuti allies, which was to take place on Friday, has been cancelled as Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has left for his native village Dare in Satara district. The meeting was slated to discuss details with regard to the government formation, especially on the allocation of cabinet berths, distribution of portfolios and appointment of district guardian ministers. The meeting was scheduled after the two-and-half-hour-long meeting chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday night in New Delhi where Fadnavis' name was reportedly finalised as the Maharashtra Chief Minister.

Shinde after the MahaYuti's meeting with the Home Minister had said that the three partners would meet on Friday to finalise the government formation and sort out related issues. "The MahaYuti's meeting will be held in Mumbai on Friday and the allies will arrive at a final decision on government formation. Our meeting in Delhi was positive. We had a discussion with Amit Shah and JP Nadda. I have announced my stand. As Shiv Sena, I have supported the name of the Chief Minister of the Grand Alliance. The deadlock is over. Everything is fine. I am a caretaker Chief Minister, I am taking care of everyone," said Shinde. Although Shinde on Wednesday said he would abide by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision on the chief minister's post. Shinde is reluctant to join as the deputy chief minister in the new government but pressure is mounting from leaders and cadres that he should become part of the government and continue to head the Shiv Sena. Shinde's bargaining power seems to have reduced after NCP president and Deputy CM Ajit Pawar on last Sunday announced his



party's support to Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis for the chief minister's post. Ajit Pawar did not stop there but further added that he would continue to hold the strategically important planning and finance departments. Shinde camp is insisting on the allocation of home and urban development departments. However, the BJP has already rejected its proposal as the home department will remain within its quota. Despite BJP's refusal, Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat on Friday said that the home department should be given to Eknath Shinde who is quite capable of maintaining the law and order situation in the state. Shiv Sena focuses on urban development, education, cultural affairs, water supply, health, transport, and state excise departments. NCP has made a pitch for the allocation of departments including planning and finance, cooperation, women and child welfare, food and civil supply, minority affairs, medical education and tribal development. BJP sources said that the party will keep key departments including home, revenue, energy, housing, rural development, water resources, forest, OBC welfare, tourism and general administration.

## Israeli technology for Musi project, says Sridhar Babu



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Hyderabad: IT Minister D Sridhar Babu said Israel

has expressed its willingness to provide technical expertise for the State government's Musi River rejuvenation project. To this effect, the Minister conveyed his gratitude to Israeli Ambassador Reuven Azar during a meeting at Secretariat here on Friday. Recognizing Israel's global leadership in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cyber security, Sridhar Babu urged for collaboration in these domains to benefit Telangana. He also sought Israel's support in defense, agriculture, water management, advanced technologies, and industrial development and Ambassador Reuven Azar responded positively to the Minister's appeals. Sridhar Babu briefed the Ambassador about establishment of an Artificial Intelligence City spanning 200 acres. He requested Israel's assistance in providing advanced training for trainers in AI and cyber security, besides expertise in wastewater reuse technologies.

## BRS forced Congress govt to cancel Lagacherla pharma village, says Harish Rao

GNS News Agency, Nov 29 Siddipet: Former Minister T Harish Rao said the Congress government canceled the Lagacherla Pharma village notification because BRS fought hard against the pharma hub and supported the tribal farmers who had refused to give their lands to the pharma hub. Addressing the people in Siddipet on the occasion of "Deeksha Divas" in Siddipet on Friday, Rao said that the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAPAA) had also stopped the demolition works in the State capital as BRS put a brave fight against the move. He called upon the BRS cadre to draw inspiration from Former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, who took up the hunger strike on

November 29, 2009, to achieve statehood for Telangana, to resolve to dethrone Congress government in the coming elections since it acting against the welfare of the people. Hailing Chandrashekar Rao for going on an indefinite hunger strike for Telangana's cause, he observed the Congress and BJP parties would not have such concern for the State's development and future because they never put any efforts into achieving statehood. Recalling how Congress tried to suppress the Telangana movement, the former minister said that then Congress Chief Minister YS Rajashekar Reddy encouraged the defections of BRS MLAs into Congress post-2004 elections. However, he said that they fought so hard overcoming all the challenges. During the 2009 elections.

## Fifteen posts of judges vacant in Telangana HC, says Union Law Minister

Hyderabad: Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal informed Rajya Sabha that 15 posts of judges were vacant in the Telangana High Court.

Replying to a question raised by Congress member Anil Kumar Yadav, the Law Minister said 24 permanent and three additional judges were currently working in the State High Court, which was supposed to have 42 judges. At present 8 posts of permanent and 7 additional judges were vacant, he said, adding that 115 magistrate posts were vacant in the district and other subordinate courts in the State as of November 21.

## CM Revanth Reddy Reviews Indiramma Housing Scheme Implementation

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Hyderabad : Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy conducted a review meeting at his residence in Jubilee Hills to assess the progress of the Indiramma Housing Scheme. The meeting was attended by Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and senior officials.

During the review, the Chief Minister discussed the procedures for sanctioning houses under the scheme, emphasizing the need for a transparent selection process for beneficiaries. Key measures to ensure effective implementation and address challenges in the allocation of houses were deliberated upon. The Indiramma Housing Scheme aims to provide affordable housing to economically weaker sections of society. The CM instructed officials to expedite the process and maintain fairness in beneficiary identification. He also highlighted the importance of ensuring the scheme reaches the intended sections of the population without delays. Further discussions focused on refining op-



erational policies and addressing any administrative hurdles. Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy expressed confidence that the scheme would significantly contribute to improving living conditions for the underprivileged in Telangana.

## KTR calls for renewed struggle against Congress

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Karimnagar: BRS working president KT Rama Rao invoked the spirit of Telangana's historic struggle for statehood, urging party members and the public to stand against the Congress government for its betrayal of the people of Telangana. He called for a fight to ensure the Congress delivers its electoral promises over the next four years, by taking inspiration from the Telangana agitation led by BRS president and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao to realise Telangana statehood. He participated in the Deeksha Divas cel-

ebrations at Alugunoor near Karimnagar on Friday, marking the fast unto death launched by Chandrashekar Rao on November 29, 2009. The BRS cadre took out a bike rally on the occasion. Addressing a gathering on the occasion, Rama Rao said the Congress was misleading the public with false promises, leading to widespread dissatisfaction among people across the State. Referring to Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, he said the one who aimed his rifle against Telangana agitators was now ruling the State and speaking as per his whims, without realising that though he was in power, K Chandrashekar Rao was ruling the hearts of people of Telangana."




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# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## EVMs get SC vote

THERE is no going back to paper ballot voting — this is the Supreme Court's clear message to all the doubting Thomases who are questioning the reliability of electronic voting machines (EVMs). Dismissing a plea seeking to revert to the paper mode in elections across the country, the court has rightly observed that allegations of tampering with EVMs crop up only when people lose polls. The Congress and its allies are blaming the voting machine for their rout in the Maharashtra Assembly polls. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has gone to the extent of calling for a national movement like Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra to "bring back the ballot paper". Ironically, the grand old party has no issues with EVMs in Jharkhand, where it has retained power as a member of the JMM-led alliance. The use of EVMs over the past two decades in parliamentary and Assembly elections has undeniably fast-tracked and streamlined the electoral process. No wonder Elon Musk has lauded India for counting 640 million votes in a day, while lamenting the 'tragic' delay in the California results of the US presidential election. However, it's not the machine's speed but its accuracy that has repeatedly come under a cloud. In 2017, the Election Commission of India (ECI) had dared political parties to hack its EVMs, but none picked up the gauntlet. The detractors quietened down a bit when the VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) system was rolled out for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections on the SC's directions. However, the naysayers have again been making noises in recent years, demanding 100 per cent tallying of VVPAT slips with EVM votes rather than confining the exercise to just five randomly selected polling booths per constituency. Losers should look within instead of trying to peer into every nook and cranny of the EVM. Attempts to vitiate the legitimacy and sanctity of the electoral process should be resisted by all stakeholders, including voters. Public trust, after all, is the bedrock of democracy.

## Court attaches salary of under secretary for delay in prosecution sanction against forest officer

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Corruption case After hearing the application, the court observed that since Harmohinder is approver in the present case, he is exempted from personal appearance till further orders. The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) SAS Nagar Harsimranjit Singh pulled up Union environment ministry officials for delaying the prosecution sanction against Indian Forest Services (IFS) officer Vishal Chauhan, an accused in an alleged corruption case.

The court also ordered to attach the salary of Under Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climatic Change, New Delhi, for the delay. The case had come up for hearing on November 22 and will be heard next on December 9. The ADSJ was hearing an application by one of the accused Harmohinder Singh Hummy, who later became approver in the case, for permanent exemption from appearance.

The case dates back to July 2022 when the Punjab Vigilance Bureau arrested IFS officer Chauhan, who was then posted as conservator of forests planning, in a corruption case. The arrest was made after conducting interrogations of arrested accused Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Mohali Guramprateet Singh and contractor Harmahinder Singh. Both were arrested on June 2 for accepting a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from realty firm WWICS Estate Private Limited for allegedly favouring it in a project.

After hearing the application, the court observed that since Harmohinder is approver in the present case, he is exempted from personal appearance till further orders. Also observing the delay in prosecution sanction against Chauhan, the court observed, "Sanction qua accused Chauhan again not received. Perusal of the file shows that in a letter dated July 23, Under Secretary to Gol, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climatic Change had requested for more time to finalise the case regarding sanction for Chauhan's prosecution since the process involves mandatory advice of CVC and seeking approval of the minister twice. However, almost four months have passed and the competent authority has failed to finalise the case. This is a gross derogation of circular (No.15/07/22 of CVC dated 29.07.2022) in terms of Vineet Narain's Supreme Court judgment."

The court further observed that the proceedings in the case are being held up for over 2.5 years since the challan in July 2022. "Under these compelling circumstances, salary of Under Secretary to Gol, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climatic Change is ordered to be attached and necessary intimation in this regard be given. Separate letter be also written to the Under Secretary directing to appear in person and explain the reasons behind the delay," the court said. Further, an application for exemption from the execution of superdary bonds against the release of the articles taken into possession, including Ipad, pen-drives and mobiles already ordered to be released as per order dated September 8, 2023, filed on behalf of accused Harmohinder. The application moved by Enforcement Directorate under Section 44(1)(c) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act will be heard in the next hearing.

## Fire breaks out in scrap yard at Karwan in Old City

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Hyderabad: Property worth lakhs of rupees gutted when a fire broke out in a scrap yard at Karwan area in Old City late According to the fire officials, the incident occurred at the scrap yard located adjacent to Mahboob function hall. A lot of combustible material was stored in the yard and as fire started, huge flames erupted from the place.

Tension prevailed in the area as the fire spread rapidly in the yard and power supply was shutdown. On information, fire tenders from nearby fire stations reached the spot and doused the flames. The police chased away the onlookers who gathered at the spot.



## Aman Arora to meet party workers at AAP headquarters for two hours every day



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Getting into action mode, soon after taking over as Punjab president of ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Aman Arora will be sitting in party headquarters in Chandigarh for at least two hours everyday. This would be in addition to fulfilling his responsibilities as a minister in Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's Cabinet. Arora was named president of the state unit of AAP last week, replacing Mann. On Monday, he had taken out Shukrana Yatra and a day later, Arora was in his Sunam constituency meeting people and launching a few development projects. AAP is now readying the party office, housed in an official bungalow of Punjab Government in sector 39 in Chandigarh, for arrival of party leaders and workers to meet Arora. It will be after a long time that the ruling party will see the party president working from state headquarters.

## Radha Soami to shut charitable hospital, protests erupt against Congress govt in Himachal



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Radha Soami Satsang Beas Former chief minister P K Dhupal said that during his first tenure as CM, he had talked to Baba Gurinder Singh (In frame), the head of Radha Soami Satsang Beas, for such an institute following which the construction work was started in 1999. Hundreds of Hamirpur residents Wednesday held a protest against the closure of a charitable hospital run by Radha Soami Satsang Beas in Bhotia area and obstructed the traffic on Hamirpur-Shimla highway for sometime. Raising slogans demanding the continuation of medical services at the charitable hospital, a group of women obstructed the traffic and a minor scuffle also ensued between protesters and the police.

While the administration and the police are trying to pacify the agitators, the locals have decided to hold protests from 11 am to 4 pm every day over the failure of the state government to transfer the land of the hospital. The villagers on Monday had held a demonstration after the sect put up a notice on the hospital's main gate informing people that it will not be able to give its services from December 1. The Radha Soami Satsang Beas has been approaching the state government to transfer the hospital's land to its sister organisation but is facing some issues under the Land Ceiling Act. The request for land transfer was made to obtain GST exemption in the purchase of machinery and other equipment to upgrade the hospital facilities. Located in the

## Jai Ram sees rift between Sukhvinder Sukhu and Holly Lodge; Vikramaditya: 'irrelevant remarks'

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

A war of words broke out between senior BJP leader Jai Ram Thakur and PWD Minister Vikramaditya Singh on Wednesday after the former alleged that Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu is trying to make the state Congress free of Holly Lodge Thakur made the remarks during his interaction with the media on Wednesday while speaking on the Sukhu government which will complete two years on December 11. The government has organised an event at Kahlur Sports Complex in Bilaspur on the same day to mark the occasion. When asked about the comments of Sukhu that the state BJP is divided in five groups, the former CM said, "The state government is making tall claims that a celebratory event will be organised in Bilaspur to mark the completion of two years of the Sukhu regime. However, when the media asked Cabinet Minister Vikramaditya Singh about the celebrations, the minister was completely clueless about it. Moreover, state Congress chief Pratibha Singh too had no knowledge of it. Sukhu is trying to make a Holly Lodge-free Congress in the state." Pratibha Singh is the wife of six-time CM Virbhadr Singh, while Vikramaditya Singh is his son.

On November 21, interacting with the media in Shimla, Vikramaditya Singh had said, "I have heard from the media that an event is being organised but I am yet to get formal information in this regard. We would definitely participate in the event and highlight the two years of achievement of the Congress government." Responding to the remarks of Thakur, the PWD minister said, "These are political statements. Abhi koi mai kaa laal paida nahi hua jo Holly Lodge ko dislodge kar sake. Mai Jai Ram Thakur ji ko kehna chauhnga ki Holly Lodge par Maa Kali and Prabhu Sri Ram ka pura ashirwad hai. Humai pichalee che dashak sai janta kaa ashariyad mil raha hai (There is no one born to date who can dislodge the Holly Lodge from the state politics and the Congress. I would like to tell Jai Ram ji that Holly Lodge has the blessings of Maa Kali and Lord Shri Ram. People of Himachal Pradesh have been blessing us for the last six decades)."

Vikramaditya further said, "I don't think there is any relevance of these comments in political life. I respect Jai Ram Thakur. He is a seasoned politician and has been the CM of our state. I will urge him not to speak such things." The minister, who was at Rajiv Bhawan to attend a meeting with AICC secretaries and newly appointed 16 observers, also dismissed the claims of Thakur that "there is no coordination between the government and the Congress in the state". He said, "There is absolute coordination between the state government and the Congress. We are progressing strongly. Indeed, it is the party cadres who are taking forward the welfare schemes of the government to the grassroots." Thakur also hit out at CM Sukhu and Deputy

During an election rally in Chabbewal, Mann had indicated his desire to step down as state party chief and had said that working on two posts adds to the pressure on the CM. He had said that as a CM, he has "huge responsibilities, overseeing 13-14 departments". The issue of unavailability of leadership had come to the fore several times in party's internal meetings. MLAs and other party leaders had also raised it with national convenor Arvind Kejriwal during recent meetings in Delhi. After coming out of Tihar jail, Kejriwal had effected several changes in Punjab's Chief Minister's Office and Mann's cabinet also. Four ministers were dropped and five new faces were inducted. Later, four of Mann's aides were removed from CMO. Finally, Aman Arora was named state president replacing Mann and Batala MLA Amansher Singh Sherry Kalsi was named working president replacing Budh Ram. The party has also been seeking land for setting up office in Chandigarh. It had put up a case to former Governor and UT Administrator Banwarilal Purohit for seeking land for party office. It has however not been given yet. Arora would also have to work towards getting land for setting up office as all political parties, active in the region, have own offices in Chandigarh and AAP is running it from a Punjab government bungalow. Arora has already stated that he would be a bridge between the government and the party workers and take the "good work" done by the government at the grassroots level.

foothills of Himalayas, the 75-bed hospital on Hamirpur-Shimla highway gives free medical facilities to patients and has been running since 2000. It caters to people from over 900 villages in its 15 km radius.

Hospital administrator Colonel Jaggi (retired) said a notice has been put up on the gate following the orders received from the sect management. As of now, no written assurance has been received from the state government, he said. The protesters were also upset over the levying of GST on hospital services despite the fact that the trust was rendering free medical services and demanded a written assurance or notification from the state government that the hospital would not be closed. BJP MLAs Inder Dutt Lakahpal and Ashish Sharma visited the spot and held talks with the management as well as protesters and urged them not to resort to road blockade and continue their agitation peacefully. The MLAs said it was up to the state government to take immediate action to end the stalemate. There was no hitch in transferring the land in the name of the charitable trust but the dilly delaying attitude of the state government was responsible for this. Meanwhile, in a statement, former chief minister P K Dhupal said that the state government should ensure smooth running of the hospital in the public interest. He said during his first tenure as CM, he had talked to Baba Gurinder Singh, the head of Radha Soami Satsang Beas, for such an institute following which the construction work was started in 1999. Since then, this hospital has dedicated itself to the people of the area. "The closure of this institute is a matter of concern. Roads, education and health are basic facilities and it is the duty of the government to make these facilities available to the public and such charitable health institutes are beneficial for both the government and the public," he added. On Monday, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said the sect wishes to give the land of the charitable hospital to its sister organisation and the state government is contemplating to bring an ordinance for making provision in the Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holding Act, 1972 to transfer the land



CM Mukesh Agnihotri for making contradictory statements. The Leader of Opposition in the state assembly said, "CM Sukhu has been saying that his government has no problem in handing over the loss-making hotels of Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) to the private players. However, yesterday, Deputy CM Mukesh Agnihotri had said that we would not allow privatisation of any of the property of HPTDC."

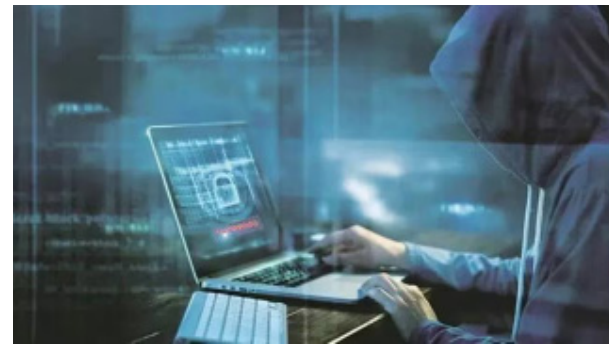
## Pune and its surrounding regions to experience first cold wave of the season

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Pune and its surrounding regions will experience a further dip in temperature thanks to a cold wave being active in the region. On Wednesday morning, Pune saw the mercury dip below the 10 degree Celsius for the first time this season. Further dip in temperature is expected in the days to come with the chill factor also being more prominent.

On Wednesday morning the weather station in NDA recorded the lowest temperature of 8.9 degrees, with the observatory at Shivajinagar recording 9.9 degrees Celsius. This would be the consecutive third day when the city has reported a significant dip in temperature and the trend Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said would continue from the next few days. Anupam Kashyapi, former head of weather forecasting, IMD said this dip was unusual for November. "The dip is mainly due to the formation of the powerful cyclone Fenegal- due to this the moisture is being sucked out of parts of Maharashtra and thus the cold winds from North are entering the state," he said. IMD officials say the incursion of cold winds from the north is the main reason for this drop in temperature.

## 'Son arrested in Canada, must pay Rs 4 lakh for bail': Cyber fraudsters dupe Ludhiana man



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

In yet another case of an alleged cyber fraud, a resident of Ludhiana district was tricked into transferring Rs 4 lakh after fraudsters claimed that his son has been arrested in Canada for causing a fatal accident. The victim, Bhupinder Singh of Patti Mann village, said that on October 18, he received a call from an unknown number. The caller posed as a police officer from Canada, alleging that his son, Rajinder Singh, currently in Canada, was arrested for crushing a man to death.

The fraudster claimed that Rajinder would face life imprisonment unless Bhupinder immediately transferred Rs 4 lakh for bail. The accused provided a bank account number, and Bhupinder, fearing for his son's safety, transferred the amount without delay. After sending the money, Bhupinder contacted his son to confirm the situation. To his shock, Rajinder was safe and unaware of any such incident. Realising he had been duped, Bhupinder reported the matter to the police. An FIR was registered against unidentified individuals under Section 318(4) (cheating and dishonestly inducing the delivery of property) of the BNS Act

## Chandigarh to woo tourists with day pass, food festival at Sector 17 plaza and more

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Chandigarh, food festival, indian express Chandigarh administration discusses measures to improve tourism in the city, including introducing a day pass system, opening souvenir shops, and promoting "Tourism for All" with a focus on senior citizens. A food festival at the plaza in Sector 17, introduction of a day pass in Chandigarh, tourism for all, and opening more souvenir shops — these were certain measures suggested to improve and enhance tourism activities in Chandigarh during a meeting Mandip Singh Brar, Home Secretary-cum-Secretary Tourism, chaired the meeting with the Department of Tourism and the Department of Cultural Affairs, to discuss and implement measures aimed at improving the functioning of these departments and promoting tourism in Chandigarh.

During the meetings, Brar emphasised the need for streamlined operations within the departments and outlined several key initiatives designed to enhance the city's tourism infrastructure and appeal. One of the significant points of focus was improving Chandigarh's tourism facilities and engaging with citizens for their feedback on promoting tourism. Brar recommended exploring the introduction of a day pass system for visitors to Chandigarh, aimed at enhancing visitor experience and encouraging longer stays in the city. "It was also discussed to open souvenir shops at different locations in Chandigarh. Further, it was also asked to explore enhancing the facilities on Chandigarh tourism app to provide better services for the tourists. Another key area of focus was "Tourism for All", with the Secretary Tourism directing the department to promote activities tailored to senior citizens at various locations around the city, a senior official of the administration said. He recommended expanding the concept of the Senior Citizens' Corner, which currently exists in Sector 17, to other areas, to foster an inclusive tourism experience.

Stating that it was important to ensure memorable experience for the tourists both domestic as well as international, Brar recommended organising a food festival at the Plaza, Sector 17, which would feature food vendors from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and other states of north India. The Secretary (Tourism) also asked to organise weekly events at various parks across Chandigarh on Sundays, where citizens could also exhibit their musical talent. "The initiatives discussed in the meeting are part of Chandigarh's ongoing efforts to improve its tourism offerings and enhance the city's global appeal," it was added. Brar also visited the Le Corbusier Centre, Sector 19, Capitol Complex and the Pierre Jeanneret house, Sector 5, to identify opportunities for promoting these significant landmarks. The secretary discussed various strategies aimed at making the sites a more prominent tourist attraction, recognising its unique place in Chandigarh's heritage. The Tourism Department, Chandigarh Administration, has invited citizens to contribute their valuable insights on improving tourism in the city. A Google form is available on the official website of the Tourism Department, and the public is encouraged to submit their suggestions within seven days via <http://www.chandigarhtourism.gov.in>. The link for the Google form is also available on the Facebook and Instagram page of Tourism Department, Chandigarh Administration, a statement issued by the Chandigarh administration said.

## NMC advisory to MBBS aspirants in foreign universities

Hyderabad: The National Medical Commission (NMC) in an advisory on Wednesday made it clear that MBBS aspirants desirous to obtain the medical qualification from any foreign medical institutions or universities and thereafter practice allopathy in India have to ensure that all conditions prescribed Foreign Medical Graduate Licentiates (FMGL) Regulations, 2021 are fulfilled before taking admission. In the notification issued on Wednesday, the NMC said that it has noticed that several Indian students are seeking admission to private medical colleges abroad which do not adhere to regulations laid by National Medical Commission. The Institutes or Universities abroad are following the curriculum, time frame and training imparted to the students are not in consonance with NMC regulations being followed in India. It has also come to the notice of this Commission that many students are still taking admissions to such Institutes/Universities. The NMC has already published Foreign Medical Graduate Licentiates (FMGL) Regulations, 2021 in which the terms of duration of the study, medium of instructions, syllabus, clinical training or internship/clerkship etc. are prescribed.

## 'GST is a good tax to share with urban local bodies. Every citizen becomes a stakeholder in welfare': Vijay Kelkar at Idea Exchange



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Dr. Vijay Kelkar, a distinguished economist and academic, has held several prominent positions in India and internationally. As Chairman of the Finance Commission (2008–2010), he contributed significantly to India's fiscal policy. He served as Finance Secretary of the Government of India (1998–1999) during Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure, playing a pivotal role in shaping economic policies aligned with Vajpayee's vision of liberalization and development. Earlier, he served as Secretary to the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (1985–1988) and chaired the Tariff Commission (1997–1998). From 2010 to 2012, he served as Chairman of the National Stock Exchange and was a Director at Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) from 2010 to 2017. Dr. Kelkar has been a consultant for the UN and UNCTAD, contributing to global economic discussions. Honoured with the Padma Vibhushan in 2011, he holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.S. from the University of Minnesota. 'GST is a good tax to share with urban local bodies. Every citizen becomes a stakeholder in welfare.'

Sunanda Mehta: You have been delivering these talks on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and his policies. Would you like to start with that?

To my mind, the reform story of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee is seldom talked about. I have worked with him in various capacities. In 1999, I was moved from chairman of the tariff commission where my idea was to make it an independent body to safeguard liberal trade policies. I remember my daughter was studying in the US and I was visiting her when suddenly I received a call from Montek Singh Ahluwalia saying 'Look I'm moving to the Planning Commission, you have to become the Finance Secretary'. I said, 'I have bought tickets for my wife and myself out of my own savings and I would not come back immediately. When I came back though, I became the Finance Secretary. I had never met Vajpayeeji. As soon as I took charge, I went to meet him. It was a bit daunting as he did not speak much. I kept quiet. After a great pause, he said, "Aapko bahut soch samajh ke banaya gaya hai (You have been appointed after much deliberation)." Then, he said, if you have any problem come to me directly. When I came back to my office I wondered why he said that. He wanted to signal that the government might have changed but the reforms would continue. I was replacing Ahluwalia, who was spearheading the reforms, and, instead of choosing a civil servant, I was chosen. The way to think about Vajpayeeji's reforms is that they fall in four categories — micro, meso, macro and meta economic reforms. He firstly continued the path the earlier government of P V Narasimha Rao and Manmohan Singh had started of trade liberalisation. It was the first time during the Budget that no excise rates were changed. Back then, we were facing nuclear sanctions. So, we had to show the world that we were open for business and are not a closed economy. So, we continued tariff reforms in a planned manner, which was rule-based. Liberal trade policies became the cornerstone of the micro economy.

If you slice or dice the macroeconomic performance for 30 years, Indian growth rate is stable and between 5-6 per cent. Our inflation rate is also stable. I would argue that it is possible because Vajpayeeji created the policy infrastructure necessary for two reforms — one was the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management (FRBM) Act. For the first time, a democratic country's politicians put constraints on themselves on fiscal policy. The second was the Monetary policy. These were the guardrails which kept the Indian economy from falling off its rails. I would argue that these two guardrails helped India do well in comparison to other developing or developed countries in spite of enormous shocks, one of them being Covid-19. We got all sorts of advice but we did not require it because of these two guardrails that also explain India's macroeconomic stability in spite of sanctions, war, and the oil crisis.

Now the Meso economic policies. He reformed three important sectors: telecom, electricity and roads. Interestingly, all three sectors are network industries. And they give enormous boost to goods productivity. I'm told an apocryphal story of how he got fed up with the great discussion in the Cabinet when he proposed the Golden Quadrilateral and he got up and drew the same on the map of India and got it pushed. More important is the concept of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna that revolutionised rural connectivity and is not well-appreciated. He took a lot of interest in this project. In the Telecom sector if you remember we had the licensing policy where people gave enormous bids and were stuck. He took a bold decision to change the policy: scrap the biddable licensing policy.

This led to the telecom boom and revolutionised India's telecom sector. IT export was possible because of this. Another important reform was in the port sector, which allowed for private ports to be developed. His contribution to the meta economic policies is through the formation of various institutions, one of which is the Competition Commission of India (CCI). It was an independent commission. Second was the National Statistical Commission (NSC). One more institution was created, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which was to be led by a Supreme Court Judge. He was concerned about social justice. He used to talk about Antyodaya as a policy. His crisis management was par excellence.

A crisis came during his prime ministership when from a high interest rate regime, we went to a low interest rate regime. State governments, Maharashtra for example, had done borrowings on high interest rates, while the market rates were low. The Central government took all the high interest rate and allowed state governments to take the interest at a lower rate. I remember the Cabinet meeting which as Finance Secretary I was privy to. I told him 'Sir, do you remember our classics when the Samudra Manthan took place. Lord Shankhar took the poison and became Nilkanth. Reforms are like manthan and the government has to be Nilkanth'. He was a great prime minister and everything he did was by consensus. I think he had a God-given gift to charm and persuade people. He had the knack for managing people. He knew exactly which button to push. In public meetings, he used to talk but in private he used to listen. He was a class apart.

Anuradha Mascarenhas: What are the challenges India is facing as an emerging economy?

I think India's challenge number one in terms of competition would be China. We have to work out a strategy in which we need to build our technology at home. That's the only way we can outpace China. In many ways we have the demographic dividend. China is aging. We are also aging but it would take some time to show. We have a small window to catch up. We have to really build on an innovation-led model for India. We are not spending enough on technology or innovation.

Partha Sarathi Biswas: A large part of our population is still working on minimum or below minimum wages. Should it not be a cause of concern? What is your opinion about Ladki Bahin Yojana?

I think this is where social policy is extremely important. Markets would provide market wages. We can't force them to pay higher. By improving public goods, public schools and public health, we can help the population. Improvement in public services can help growth.

As for those schemes, they do not bother me much. What bothers me the most is that economic policies have become very bureaucratic. Our real problem is, public policy is not rule-based anymore. Have you tried starting a business or buying a flat? I would rather have general improvement in productivity rather than a few Unicorns.

I have no problem about direct benefit transfer if they go to those intended. But wastage is a cause of concern. Look at the city's infrastructure. There is no accountability. There is no elected mayor in the town. You would probably know who is the mayor of New York than who is the mayor of Pune

Sushant Kulkarni: You talked about nuclear independence and fiscal independence. In a largely interconnected world, how is this evolving?

Strategic patience and rapid economic growth are important. We have to be patient while dealing with China. If we grow we can catch up with them sooner than they think. In my view, we should concentrate on growth. We have to be intelligent with economic sanctions against them. Just be patient, grow, grow, grow and grow.

Anuradha: Are you satisfied with the manner in which the Public Private Partnership model has evolved?

No. The government is used to a one-time purchase contract while PPP is like marriage, so a different approach has to be taken. It has to be give and take. You can't write everything in advance and be ready to negotiate. Unless you do that it would not work. No one can anticipate change. The only PPP which works is the one when the contract owes the government money.

Sushant: So how does an economist who is in an administrative chair deal with a political leader? How was your experience?

No, I was not a dyed-in-wool civil servant. The one thing I have learnt, the only change agents in the country are the politicians. They want change. Because they want to win elections. All changes don't come from civil servants. They come from politicians.

Sunanda: So talking of changes by politicians, what is your opinion on demonetisation?

That's the kind of change one should not bring about. No civil servant would have recommended that. Continued languishing of the employment issue, which you mentioned, is the scar left by that shock. The whole idea came from the Pune-based group - many years before that they had discussed the idea with me and I had actively discouraged them from pursuing it. Soham Shah: Do you see any justification for the rationale they gave for it? That they wanted to fight black money through demonetisation. I don't understand it (the justification). Black money is not stocked, but it flows. So this move cannot be a means to end black money. The intention was honourable but the instrument chosen was a wrong one. Partha: An economist is like a doctor. Feeling the pulse, you can understand the illness and the state of the Indian economy. As I mentioned to you, India is now recording 5-6% growth and no one can bring it down. Even if I became the PM, I will not be able to bring it down. In other words, as long as there are two guardrails, the economy will not be in crisis. As I told you, we passed the FRBM Act. And before that, Jaswant Singh was very correct. He told us that we should tax services. But according to the Constitution, the right to tax manufacturing was with the Centre. Agriculture was with states. So he said, 'Yeh toh achha nahi hai. Why don't we go to Parliament and get it done officially, the right to tax.'

I said, this is the time. Let's share this service tax power with states in exchange for a common market. We called it a grand bargain. Because we gave Goods & Services Tax (GST), states also can now tax services. They can also tax imports now, which was with the Centre. So we gave this grand bargain. We are getting more money. But you share the sovereignty. The Centre is also sharing its sovereignty. So we share the tax sovereignty and GST was born. And then we submitted our report. The minister loved it, the Prime Minister loved it. And suddenly I got a call from Rashtrapati Bhavan that the President wants to see you. A P J Abdul Kalam was President. He asked penetrating questions.

The last question was most interesting. He said, 'If we have GST, would trucks go unchecked from Kanyakumari to Srinagar?' I said yes. He said, 'I'll support you.' To him that was the litmus test. Till then every state had boundaries and checks for trucks. GST has been a problem. Our solution, 'lakh dukho ki ek dawa hai': Have a single rate GST. No exceptions. You'll find compliance will go up. Your earnings will go up. Exports will go up. All these problems can be solved.

I have been arguing that the real problem with delivery of public goods is because the urban local bodies are not strong enough. My argument is to share a portion of GST with them. Have a flat rate of GST and share equally with three levels of government. You have to empower the federal base and build a tax base. If you have a single rate GST on all commodities with no exception and share 5 (Central government), 5 (state government) and 2 (local bodies) percentage, it would allow local bodies to have enough money to approach the capital markets. Sunanda: Despite paying so much in taxes, what are we getting in return? Look at the infrastructure for instance. Empower cities. You have to empower mayors. Ludhiana has the largest number of Mercedes Benz, per capita. But 50% of the city has no drainage facility.

This city has a poor municipality. That was our proposal. Share... GST is a good tax to share with the local government. Every citizen becomes a stakeholder in welfare. Everyone.... That's why we have to go about involving citizens.

## Not robbery, crime appears pre-planned, say police



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Bloody footprints on the floor, a missing DVR (digital video recorder), and a slashed kitchen net — these are among the evidence police found at the residence of Rohit Kumar Alagh. Early on Monday, the 64-year-old businessman was found with his throat slit at his home in South Delhi's Panchsheel Park. Based on suspicious movement caught on CCTVs installed in the neighbourhood and technical surveillance, police said the murder took place between 4-4.30 am on Monday. The body of Alagh, a businessman, was found on the floor with multiple sharp stab wounds to the neck, face, chest and abdomen.

Alagh stayed in a three-storey house in S Block, Panchsheel Park. His elder son, a chef and the owner of a well-known eatery in Hauz Khas, lives on the third floor with his family. While Alagh lived on the ground floor with his younger son, a freelance musician, the first floor is occupied by tenants. The second floor is locked. As per the sequence of events established by the police so far, Alagh

returned home from the local Panchsheel Club around 12 am. At 12.40 am, one of his sons ordered a pizza. Later, Alagh went to his room to sleep.

DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan said the younger son found the body. "The incident came to light when the car cleaner came to get the keys but the deceased didn't open the door. When the younger son, who was in the next room, opened the door to give the keys to the cleaner, he noticed his father was lying on the floor." He added, "Nothing was stolen. No room was ransacked and robbery is not suspected. Prima facie, it seems to be a case of a pre-planned murder. The role of everyone (attached to Alagh) is being verified." The forensic team inspected the spot and found blood stains with footprints on the floor, said Chauhan

The accused was well-versed with the structure of the house, the entry and exit points, as well as the location of the DVR, an officer added. Police said as the DVR went missing after the murder, no footage from CCTVs installed at the house could be recovered. Further, blood-soaked footprints found at multiple places on the floor, including the bathroom, seem to belong to one person, said police. "So far, they do not match with anyone who resides at the residence," an officer said. However, police said, as Alagh was well-built and tall, it would not have been easy for only one person to kill him. Prima facie, it appears that the killer used the kitchen window to possibly distract or dodge the police, the officer said. Police called both sons for questioning on Wednesday. On Monday too, police called the younger son for questioning. He had earlier told the police that he was sleeping when Alagh was murdered. Police said they have questioned other relatives regarding any previous dispute or disturbance in the family.

## Why 7 hospitals faced action under PMJAY within one year



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

The death of two PMJAY beneficiaries at a private hospital in Ahmedabad following alleged unnecessary angioplasty earlier this month has put a spotlight on similar instances of misuse of the Central government scheme in the state over the last one year, resulting in suspension or de-empanelment of at least seven hospitals or clinics from the scheme. According to the FIR filed by the state government against Khyati Hospital owners, the surgeries were unnecessary and were conducted for illegal financial gain through claims under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana-Mukhyamantri Amrutam (PMJAY-MA) scheme.

However, this is not the only case related to alleged fraud under PMJAY scheme in the state. On November 13, Dhananjay Dwivedi, the Principal Secretary of Health, said that in the last one year, SAFU had visited 95 hospitals. Irregularities found in several of these hospitals had led to penalties amounting to Rs 20 crore being levied on them. Further, Rs 44 lakh illegally charged from 1,024 beneficiaries had been returned to them. However, of these 95 hospitals and doctors practising there, the state had found that seven hospitals and four doctors had committed the level of irregularities that deemed suspension from the scheme and the imposition of large monetary penalties, totalling Rs 8.94 crore for loss caused to the government exchequer and patients.

Khyati Hospital, which was de-empanelled and permanently blacklisted from PMJAY-MA on November 13, picked up patients from a Mehsana village following a medical camp and performed angioplasty on seven of them. It was alleged that the procedure was unnecessary and carried out without consent. Bachhu Govaji Barot (77), who was among those who underwent the surgery, said the experience traumatised him. "We deserve justice and compensation," he said. Six people, including the visiting cardiologist who performed the surgeries, have been arrested. The visiting Cardiologist at Khyati Hospital, Dr Prashant Vazirani, was accused of having performed unnecessary angiography and angioplasty surgeries to make illicit gains from the scheme. He was also suspended from the scheme on November 13.

2) 'Upcoding' assisted institutional deliveries Naritva Women's Medical Studio in Ahmedabad was suspended from the PMJAY on October 25 and a penalty of Rs 1.22 crore was imposed on it. Owned by Turning Point Health Care Pvt Ltd, the facility has three premises — in Bapunagar, New Naroda and Gota — in Ahmedabad. It is run by Group CEO Dr Vijay Pandya. An investigation by the State Anti-Fraud Unit (SAFU) of PMJAY-MA scheme showed that the hospital had carried out "upcoding" in the claim for "Ruptured Uterus and Assisted Vaginal Delivery - Vacuum/Episiotomy" procedure on several occasions. As part of upcoding, a healthcare provider bills for a service or procedure that is more expensive or severe than what was actually provided.

## Police add stringent charges against Mohammed Zubair in Narsinghanand FIR

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

The Ghaziabad Police on Wednesday informed the Allahabad High Court that it has added a new charge against Ait News co-founder Mohammed Zubair for "endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India", and the relevant sections of the IT Act in their October 8 FIR. The High Court was hearing Zubair's plea seeking quashing of the October 8 FIR against him over sharing a video clip of Narsinghanand.

Zubair's lawyer, Vrinda Grover, said: "When the matter was being heard on Monday, the state (UP Police) kept saying that they had added more sections to the FIR. The court then asked them to put it on record. This morning, when they filed an affidavit, the Investigating Officer informed the court that they have added two new sections — 152 and 66 of the IT Act," "All the previous sections under which the

police had framed Zubair were all below seven years of jail term, and therefore there was no arrest required. But then the police added section 152 (BNS) which is known for being monstrous. The personal liberty of people is at stake. We hope that the court will put things back in order," Grover told. Section 152 of the BNS, related to alleged acts endangering sovereignty unity and integrity of India, is a non-bailable offence. Ghaziabad Police had registered an FIR on October 8 against Zubair on a complaint lodged by Udit Tyagi, general secretary of Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati Trust, under BNS sections 196 (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion), 228 (fabricating false evidence), 299 (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings), 356(3) (defamation) and 351(2) (punishment for criminal intimidation), following which Zubair had filed a writ petition before the Allahabad High Court.

3) Healthy children presented as sick

Nihit Babycare Children Hospital in Rajkot is owned and run by Dr Hiren Mashru, a paediatrician. A tip-off from a whistleblower that led to a probe by the SAFU as well as auditors from the insurance company contracted for payouts under the PMJAY found that the hospital allegedly manipulated pathological laboratory reports of 18 children and uploaded false X-ray reports of 98 children, to ensure they were admitted to the hospital. The fraud allegedly went on for 10 months. The hospital was suspended on June 27 and fined Rs 6.54 crore. Dr Mashru, was also suspended from the scheme on October 25, for manipulating and forging medical records of newborns.

4) False signatures and stamps

Sunshine Global Hospital, with branches in Vadodara and Surat, both run by M/s. Baroda Medicare Private Limited, was suspended from the PMJAY scheme on October 25. At the Vadodara facility, the SAFU found deficiencies in the Surgical Oncology department, leading to it being suspended from the specific Oncology cluster. The state also imposed a penalty of Rs 10.84 lakh on the hospital. Further, during an inspection, Surgical Oncologist Dr Mihir Shah was found to be engaged in alleged "upcoding" of surgical packages. He was also suspended from the scheme. Meanwhile, the sister hospital located in Surat was suspended from the Oncology Speciality of PMJAY after it was found that "false signatures and stamps" were made on the Tumour Board Certificate (TBC). The facility was fined to the tune of Rs 1.06 crore.

5) Infrastructural deficiency

While there were no medical or financial irregularities found at the Trust-run Everest Hospital in Una town of Gir Somnath district, the hospital was suspended from PMJAY because it did not have a Building Use (BU) permission from its local civic body. This hospital was suspended from all specialities on June 27. No fine was imposed.

6) Overcharging patients

At Shiv Hospital in Ahmedabad, a flying squad of the SAFU found that patients were being charged higher rates than permitted. It was suspended on June 27 and fined Rs 5,600.

7) Upcoding cancer radiation

Dr Ketan Kalariya, a Radiation Oncologist at Samanvay Hospitals in Junagadh, is accused of "upcoding" a radiation package claim of a patient uploaded on the PMJAY site. He was suspended from the scheme on October 25.

When hospitals threatened to suspend services under scheme Under the hybrid Ayushman Bharat PMJAY-MA scheme run by the government of Gujarat, the insurer has a liability to pay claims up to Rs 1 lakh while the remaining is paid from a state government trust. However, between August 2023 and February 2024, there was some tension between private hospitals empanelled under the scheme and the state government over dues to the tune of Rs 650 crore owed by the state to the hospitals for treating patients under the scheme. After several months of negotiations with state health minister Rushikesh Patel assuring action, the matter was finally sorted out earlier this year with the intervention of the then Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. Dr Bharat Gadhi, Convener of the Gujarat Association of Hospitals and Nursing Homes and Allied Healthcare Services, told "There were several issues with the payments pending to hospitals... However, they were sorted out to a large extent earlier this year with help from ministers Mandaviya and Patel... The procedure for payments to the hospitals was also amended at that time to everyone's satisfaction."

## TDP raises heat on Jagan Mohan, asks him to reveal details of meetings with Gautam Adani



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Jagan Mohan Reddy, leader of the YSRCP government, has accused the YSRCP government of secretly approving power purchase files with Adani Group despite opposition, demanding Jagan address bribery allegations linked to Gautam Adani in a US court indictment. Telugu Desam Party (TDP) spokesperson Anam Venkataramana Reddy Wednesday demanded that YSR Congress Party president and former chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy reveal details of his meetings with industrialist Gautam Adani.

Claiming that files related to purchasing power from Adani Group through the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) were secretly signed and moved by the previous YSRCP government in spite of opposition from various departments, the TDP leader demanded that Jagan come clean on the bribery allegations made in the indictment of Gautam Adani in a US court. Sources in the TDP

say that several party leaders are in a bind regarding the bribery allegations amounting to Rs 1,750 crore, and feel the TDP-led NDA government should open an investigation into the power purchase agreements and hold Jagan accountable.

Two state ministers had said that power purchase agreements made by the Jagan government with the Solar Energy Corporation of India to purchase power from Adani Group are under scanner. Speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Friday, CM Chandrababu Naidu had said, "I have all the reports of the indictment filed in the US. We will study them and take action accordingly. We will inform what action we will take." In response to some NDA members demanding action against Jagan, Naidu had said the allegations against the previous YSRCP government hurt the brand image of Andhra Pradesh. "It is sad. Our prestige has been hurt." According to the US court indictment, Adani "personally met with Foreign Official 1 in Andhra Pradesh to advance the execution of PSA (power supply agreements) between SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India) and AP's state electricity distribution companies, including on or about August 7, 2021, on or about September 12, 2021 and on or about November 20, 2021". The "Foreign Official 1", according to the indictment, "had served as a high-ranking government official of Andhra Pradesh from May 2019 to June 2024". While the indictment does not name Foreign Officer 1, a filing by the Security Exchanges Commission filing does say that in August 2021, Adani "met personally with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh..." Between May 2019 and June 2024, Jagan was the chief minister.

## Stop those trying to divide students on caste, religion: CM Yogi Adityanath

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Yogi Adityanath, students religion, students caste, divide student, student discrimination, Lucknow news, Uttar Pradesh news, Indian express, Current affairs Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Allahabad University in Prayagraj on Wednesday. CHIEF MINISTER Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday condemned those "attempting to divide student and youth power on the basis of caste, opinion, or religion", calling them "perpetrators of grave injustice by weakening India's youth force." Such individuals, he said, must "never be allowed to advance." Adityanath was addressing the convocation of Allahabad University. He conferred degrees to the graduating students.

In his address, he emphasised that India has a broad understanding of religion. "According to the original text of the Constitution, religion is defined as the flow of duty, morality, and ethical values that guide the lives of individuals and society. Our philosophy teaches that religion is not limited to mere rituals practiced on specific days, but is instead the force that drives our cultural progress and paves the way for liberation in the afterlife," he remarked. He added, "Indian wisdom has never confined religion to narrow boundaries; instead, it has embraced everyone. Whenever humanity faces crises, India has always welcomed the world with open arms, offering shelter and protection without selfish motives. This is the essence of Sanatan Dharma and India's enduring spirit."

He also targeted the Samajwadi Party (SP), saying that "those who promote nepotism in the guise of socialism can never serve as true role models." The CM pointed out that Dr Ram Manohar Lohia was the one who initiated 'Ramayana fairs' in the country and emphasised the universal message of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, who rose



above caste, creed and religion. He urged the youth to reflect on the contributions of these great men of India. The Chief Minister also stressed that Allahabad University should "once again take the lead in nurturing an exceptional team of youths in every field". He suggested that universities should consider establishing a "Youth Parliament" instead of traditional student unions, where representatives from each class could be elected, and these representatives would decide who should contest elections in subsequent years. This, he argued, would allow young leaders to emerge, who could guide society in various fields. He expressed confidence that the university would re-establish itself as a premier centre of excellence for various academic disciplines, a hub for groundbreaking research, innovation and a reflection of the public spirit it is known for. This, he argued, would allow young leaders to emerge, who could guide society in various fields. He expressed confidence that the university would re-establish itself as a premier centre of excellence for various academic disciplines, a hub for groundbreaking research, innovation and a reflection of the public spirit it is known for.

## Police add stringent charges against Mohammed Zubair in Narsinghanand FIR

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The Ghaziabad Police on Wednesday informed the Allahabad High Court that it has added a new charge against Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair for "endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India", and the relevant sections of the IT Act in their October 8 FIR. The High Court was hearing Zubair's plea seeking quashing of the October 8 FIR against him over sharing a video clip of Narsinghanand.

Zubair's lawyer, Vrinda Grover, said: "When the matter was being heard on Monday, the state (UP Police) kept saying that they had added more sections to the FIR. The court then asked them to put it on record. This morning, when they filed an affidavit, the Investigating Officer informed the court that they have added two new sections — 152 and 66 of the IT Act." "All the previous sections under which the police had framed Zubair were all below seven years of jail term, and therefore there was no arrest required. But then the police added section 152 (BNS) which is known for being monstrous. The personal liberty of people is at stake. We hope that the court will put things back in order," Grover told The Indian Express. Section 152 of the BNS, related to alleged acts endangering sovereignty unity and integrity of India, is a non-bailable offence. Ghaziabad Police had registered an FIR on October 8 against Zubair on a complaint



lodged by Udit Tyagi, general secretary of Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati Trust, under BNS sections 196 (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion), 228 (fabricating false evidence), 299 (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings), 356(3) (defamation) and 351(2) (punishment for criminal intimidation), following which Zubair had filed a writ petition before the Allahabad High Court. Tyagi, in the complaint, alleged that Zubair posted a video clip of an old programme of Narsinghanand's on October 3 to provoke violence by Muslims against him.

## 'Got along with everyone... didn't get into fights': Acquaintances of murdered Delhi businessman

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Monday morning, a small group of well-wishers and relatives gathered outside Alagh's stucco house in Panchsheel Park where the 64-year-old was killed. Despite being a short distance away from the traffic and noise of the Outer Ring Road, the house stood at a quiet corner, facing the Khel Gaon flyover. Senior police officers had just arrived to examine the scene of crime again and to question Alagh's family members who lived with him. Alagh, a widower, is survived by two sons, a daughter-in-law and a grandchild. "Rohit ji would come to the (Panchsheel) club almost everyday and stay till late at night. On Sunday, he was there till around 11.50 pm," said Pankaj Vats, managing committee member of the Panchsheel Park Cooperative Society. "He was a very social person and got along with everyone... I don't recall a single time he had any fight or disagreement with anyone," he added. "I can't believe he was killed in such a brutal fashion... He was tall... quite well-built. He could have taken on three or four persons at once. He was the last person I expected would die in such a way," said Vats.



## Ban comes year after year, but there's no support for us: Workers at Delhi's construction sites



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

It's been six days since Ram Pal went to work. An MSC graduate, he works as a mason in the national capital. "I generally used to earn 400-500 a day. But since the construction ban was implemented, I haven't got a job even a single day. How will I feed my family if this goes on?" he asked. "Aaj to khana bhi nahi ban saka The 29-year-old was referring to a ban on construction activities in the Capital, in force since November 18 when strict restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan IV kicked in as pollution worsened. This, however, isn't a new measure but an annual affair for several years now — and labourers like Pal pay the price. An estimated 1 lakh to 1.5 lakh workers have been affected by the ban and work across 600 construction sites has been stopped, said social activist and Executive Director of Centre for Holistic Development Sunil Kumar Aledia. The All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICTTU), through its affiliated Building Workers Union, staged a protest highlighting increasing economic distress and hardships faced by construction workers, particularly during the annual "work stoppage enforced in the name of pollution control". This comes even as the Supreme Court said several sections of society, especially labourers and daily wagers, were adversely affected due to GRAP-4 and directed state governments, where construction has been banned, to use funds collected as labour cess to provide subsistence to them.

For Pal, who is the sole earner in his family — he lives with his wife and four-year-old child in a rented room in Tikri — not even a month's continuous work would make up for the ongoing loss. "Roz kamane-khane wale aadmi hain. Kaam nahi milne se budget bilkul hil gaya hai (I am a daily earner... The budget has been completely shaken due to lack of work)," he said. Manoj Paswan, a raj mistri, echoed Pal. Having moved to the city in 2000 from Godda

(Jharkhand), he suffered during the Covid lockdown. "At least, the government gave us Rs 5,000 each month then... But during this ban that comes year after year, there's no support." The 43-year-old, who earns around Rs 700 a day, has a family of 6 — his wife, three sons and a daughter — to feed. "I've sent my younger sons and my daughter back home to study..." His wife, who has cervical spondylosis, lives with him in a room in Nathupur. Both Pal and Manoj are anxious about how they will manage to pay next month's rent. Batti (35) and Ramlu (40), two daily labourers, are worried about meeting the medical expenses of their 20-year-old son, Ajay. "He had lost his leg on work while cutting a wooden log with an electric saw two years ago," his mother said. The couple makes only Rs 5,000-6,000 a month and lives at project sites to save up some. However, "the stoppage of work is troubling" them. "Bacche ke chakkar mein jyada problem hai... Kharcha paani chalane mein bhi dikkat ho raha hai. Majdoor aadmi kya karega? (Things have been worse since the ban, due to my son's condition... It's been difficult to manage daily expenses... What can labourers like us can do?)" Batti asked.

In a memorandum submitted to the Lieutenant Governor, Labour Commissioner, and the Labour Ministry, workers at the protest put forward demands for financial support during work stoppages, a policy for workers during pollution-control work stoppages, dedicated budget for workers' welfare, and recovery of pending cess from the private sector. The protest saw the participation of construction workers from various parts of Delhi. It began with a march from Sushrut Trauma Centre towards the CM's camp office. Ravi Rai, the State Secretary of the CPI (ML), hit out at the Delhi government for neglecting the welfare of its workers while making hollow promises in states with upcoming elections. Vinod Kumar Singh Gautam, AICTTU's Delhi State President, criticised the Delhi government and said the previous assistance of Rs 5,000 was grossly inadequate. Rajeev, President of the Building Workers Union, said workers suffer severe economic consequences during work stoppages. In response to the protest, the AAP said: "AAP's Delhi government has already directed the Chief Secretary to provide compensation to all construction workers. This will be based on minimum wages determined by the Delhi government and duration for which construction work remains suspended, ensuring protection of construction workers' interests." It added, "The BJP must be held accountable and immediately disclose the compensation they plan to provide to workers who are being directly impacted by the GRAP-IV restrictions."

## Went to visit victims of gangster-related crimes, BJP blocked my way: Kejriwal; party hits back

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Arvind Kejriwal, Aam Aadmi Party AAP, AAP, delhi gangster-related crimes, gangster-related crimes, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs Arvind Kejriwal at Nangloi Former Delhi chief minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal Wednesday accused the BJP of trying to stop him from meeting victims of gangster-related crimes in the city. In a post on X, Kejriwal said, "Today I went to meet a businessman in Nangloi. A few days ago, miscreants had fired bullets at his shop in broad daylight. While going, BJP workers blocked my way."

"Amit Shah ji (Union Home Minister), will blocking my way end crime in Delhi? The people of Delhi want you to stop increasing crime in Delhi, but you and your BJP workers are busy stopping me," he added. Earlier in the day, he wrote: "I am going to meet two families in Nangloi... Bullets were fired at one family's shop in broad daylight... another family was asked to pay a ransom of crores of rupees... Did anyone think that Delhi would become the extortion capital of the country?" He later alleged that "BJP supporters and goons" stopped him from meeting victims' families and that police did not intervene. "... The shopowner's son had to come out and meet me," he said.

Shortly after Kejriwal announced his plan to visit Nangloi Jat, Delhi Police's Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order, Zone II) Madhup Kumar Tewari said in a video statement that a clip of the shooting incident circulating on social media was two months old. "Delhi Police ar-



rested the accused persons in a day and solved the case... We don't understand why this is being highlighted again now... Delhi Police is capable and makes all efforts to stop such crimes... the complainants are satisfied with us," Tiwari added. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, meanwhile, accused Kejriwal and CM Atishi of neglecting people. "... A protest was organised by MP Yogender Chandoliya after Kejriwal announced a visit (to Nangloi). The protest, supported by BJP workers and the public, forced Kejriwal to abandon his visit," he said. Meanwhile, Kejriwal invited sanitation workers to his residence for tea and emphasised the need to respect their hard work and dedication. In a post on X, he said, "Today, I invited the sanitation workers of my area to my home for tea. I understood the challenges they face in their lives. They serve us with a smile every day, and keep our areas clean."

## Visit slums, spend a night: Ahead of Delhi polls, BJP ropes in MPs & MLAs for key outreach event

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

On a cool Tuesday evening at Ravidas Camp in New Delhi, BJP workers began setting up chairs and tables and hung up saffron banners and flags. Campaign songs filled the air, mingling with sounds of conversations and children running about. The arrangements finished, workers took turns to announce that MP Bansuri Swaraj would be arriving soon. In the meantime, they organised a game of musical chairs to keep the youngsters engaged. At 8.30 pm, Swaraj arrived to a warm welcome. As children rushed forward, she asked each one their names, distributed motichoora laddoos and prizes to the musical chair winners. The children, wearing caps and scarves with the party symbol, then chanted a patriotic poem taught to them just moments ago.

The interaction was part of the party's key campaign, 'Ratri Pravas Samvad Abhiyaan', ahead of next year's Delhi Assembly polls. Launched on Tuesday, several BJP MPs, MLAs, and senior leaders visited various slums — a key battleground between the AAP and BJP — across the Capital to interact with residents and spend a night in their homes. Back at Ravidas Camp, Swaraj addressed the crowd. "I was eagerly looking forward to meeting all of you," she said. "This camp holds a special place in my heart, as it played a pivotal role in my election victory. I want to assure each one of you that I will never let you down..." Referring to Bhagwan Ravidas, after whom the slum has been named, she recounted a story from her childhood. "I remember my mother telling me a story about a Yagya being held in Kashi... The great saints performing the Yagya took an earthen pot, poured water into it, and declared that when the most pious person touched it, the water would turn pure. Our saint, Bhagwan Ravidas, was present there. As soon as he placed his hands on the pot, the water transformed into Ganga Jal," she said.

Urging residents to vote for the BJP's candidate, she continued, "Today, after visiting you all, my actions have also turned into Ganga Jal. In the upcoming Assembly polls, I want to tell you that whatever work I aim to do for you... will only succeed if you elect a BJP MLA." Vijay, a resident,



was not impressed. "There is only (Arvind) Kejriwal here," he said, only to be countered by another resident who said he would always support the BJP. Shanti Devi appeared disillusioned by both parties. Sitting on a pavement, she said: "Elections are the only time politicians remember us... once the votes are cast, we're back to struggling on our own." Swaraj then visited a few houses, walking through winding lanes, where residents offered her tea and snacks. "Har ghar mai chai pe charcha karwa rahe ho aap," she said. Swaraj then ate a meal of aloo sabzi, paneer, rotis and rice at a BJP worker's house — a small space with two single beds and a kitchen — where she was to spend the night with his family.

The campaign, meanwhile, drew sharp criticism from AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal. During a speech at the party's 12th foundation day celebrations, he said: "On Tuesday evening, some BJP leaders are going to stay in slums, just like people take a day off to visit Goa for leisure. Someone was calling it 'Jhuggi-Tourism'. Spending one night with the poor is mocking their poverty." Hitting back, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva said, "For the last five months, our workers have been visiting these slums and spending time with residents... but in the last 10 days, AAP has not done any work for them. From flowing sewers and dirty water, their living conditions are not good. Today you are going to the slums in frustration after seeing our visit." He was referring to a visit by AAP MLAs to jhuggis Tuesday.

## Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire holds in first hours, Lebanese civilians start to return home



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

BEIRUT, - A ceasefire between Israel and Lebanese armed group Hezbollah held on Wednesday after the two sides struck a deal brokered by the U.S. and France, a rare feat of diplomacy in the Middle East wracked by two wars and several proxy conflicts for over a year. The agreement ended the deadliest confrontation between Israel and the Iran-backed militant group in years but Israel is still fighting its other arch foe the Palestinian militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Lebanon's army, tasked with ensuring the ceasefire lasts, said it was preparing to deploy to the south of the country, a region Israel heavily bombarded in its battle against Hezbollah, along with eastern cities and towns and the armed group's stronghold in the southern suburbs of Beirut. Cars and vans piled high with mattresses, suitcases and even furniture streamed through the heavily-bombed southern port city of Tyre, heading south. Fighting had escalated drastically over the past two months, forcing hundreds of thousands of Lebanese from their homes. Israel's military said on Wednesday its forces were still on Lebanese territory and urged residents of southern Lebanese villages who had been ordered to evacuate in recent months to delay returning home until further notice from the Israeli military. Israeli troops have pushed around 6 km (4 miles) into Lebanon in a series of ground incursions launched in September. Israel said it identified Hezbollah operatives returning to areas near the border and had opened fire to prevent them from coming closer. There were no immediate signs that the incident would undermine the ceasefire. The agreement, which promises to end a conflict across the Israeli-Lebanese border that has killed thousands of people since it was ignited by the Gaza war last year, is a major achievement for the U.S. in the waning days of President Joe Biden's administration. Diplomatic efforts will now turn to shattered Gaza, where Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas, which led the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israeli communities.

Israel has said its military aim in Lebanon had been to ensure the safe return of about 60,000 Israelis who fled from their communities along the northern border when Hezbollah started firing rockets at them in support of Hamas in Gaza. In

Lebanon, some cars flew national flags, others honked, and one woman could be seen flashing the victory sign with her fingers as people started to return to homes they had fled. Many of the villages the people were likely returning to have been destroyed. Hussam Arrout, a father of four said he was itching to return to his home. "The Israelis haven't withdrawn in full, they're still on the edge. So we decided to wait until the army announces that we can go in. Then we'll turn the cars on immediately and go to the village," he said. Announcing the ceasefire, Biden spoke at the White House on Tuesday shortly after Israel's security cabinet approved the agreement in a 10-1 vote. Item 1 of 23 A man waves a Lebanese flag as he stands amidst the rubble of a building destroyed in Israeli strikes, after a ceasefire between Israel and Iran-backed group Hezbollah took effect, in Tyre, Lebanon. REUTERS/Adnan Abidi This is designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities," Biden said. "What is left of Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations will not be allowed to threaten the security of Israel again. Israel will gradually withdraw its forces over 60 days as Lebanon's army takes control of territory near its border with Israel to ensure that Hezbollah does not rebuild its infrastructure there after a costly war, Biden said. He said his administration was also pushing for an elusive ceasefire in Gaza. Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters that the group "appreciates" Lebanon's right to reach an agreement which protects its people, and hopes for a deal to end the Gaza war. National security adviser Jake Sullivan said the U.S. would start its renewed push for a Gaza ceasefire on Wednesday. But without a similar agreement yet in Gaza, many residents said they felt abandoned. "We hope that all Arab and Western countries, and all people with merciful hearts and consciences... implement a truce here because we are tired," said displaced Gazan Malak Abu Laila. Egypt and Qatar, which along with the United States have tried unsuccessfully to mediate a ceasefire in Gaza, welcomed the Lebanon truce. Qatar's foreign ministry said on Wednesday it hoped it would lead to a similar agreement to end the Gaza war. Iran, which backs Hezbollah and Hamas as well as the Houthi rebels that have attacked Israel from Yemen, said it also welcomed the ceasefire.

Israel has dealt a series of blows to Hezbollah, notably the assassination of its veteran leader Hassan Nasrallah. The Israeli military said on Wednesday Israeli forces fired at several vehicles with suspects to prevent them from reaching a no-go zone in Lebanese territory and the suspects moved away. Defense Minister Israel Katz said he instructed the military to "act firmly and without compromise" should it happen again. Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah said that the militant Lebanese group would retain the right to defend itself if Israel attacked. The ceasefire would give the Israeli army an opportunity to rest and replenish supplies, and isolate Hamas, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "We have pushed them (Hezbollah) decades back. We eliminated Nasrallah, the axis of the axis. We have taken out the organization's top leadership, we have destroyed most of their rockets and missiles," he said.

## ICC prosecutor seeks arrest warrant for Myanmar military leader over Rohingya campaign



THE HAGUE, The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) said on Wednesday he would seek an arrest warrant for Myanmar's military leader Min Aung Hlaing for crimes against humanity in the alleged persecution of the Rohingya, a mainly Muslim minority. Myanmar's ruling junta said in a statement to Reuters that the country was not a member of the court and that it does not recognise its statements. A million Rohingya fled, most to neighbouring Bangladesh, to escape a Myanmar military offensive launched in August 2017, a campaign that U.N. investigators have described as a textbook example of ethnic cleansing. Soldiers, police, and Buddhist residents are alleged by U.N. investigators to have razed hundreds of villages in Myanmar's remote western Rakhine state, torturing residents as they fled, carrying out mass-killing and gang-rapes. Myanmar has denied the allegations, saying security forces were carrying out legitimate operations against militants who attacked police posts.

Most refugees now live in squalor in camps in Bangladesh. "He [Min Aung Hlaing] is responsible for orchestrating the genocide against the innocent Rohingya people," said Mohammed Zubair, a Rohingya researcher living in a Bangladesh refugee camp. "Under his command, the military killed thousands of Rohingya and subjected countless women and girls to horrific acts of sexual violence." Seeking a warrant for "the person who holds the highest military position in Myanmar sends a strong message to perpetrators that no one stands above the law," said Nicholas Koumjian, head of the U.N. Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, which assisted the ICC investigation.

A panel of three judges will now decide if they agree there are "reasonable grounds" to believe Min Aung Hlaing bears criminal responsibility for the deportation and persecution of Rohingya in Myanmar and Bangladesh. There is no set time frame for their decision but it generally takes around three months to rule on a warrant. The ICC prosecutor's move comes as his office faces intense political backlash from Washington, among others, over its arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense chief Yoav Gallant. Myanmar's Prime Minister and State Administrative Council Chairman Min Aung Hlaing in Moscow, Russia July 12, 2022. Roscosmos/Handout via REUTERS Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab The prosecutor's office said it was seeking the warrant after extensive, independent and impartial investigations. More applications for arrest warrants relating to Myanmar will follow, it added. Myanmar is not a member of the treaty-based ICC, but in 2018 and 2019 rulings judges said the court had jurisdiction over alleged cross-border crimes that partially took place in neighbouring ICC member Bangladesh, and said prosecutors could open a formal investigation.

"This is the first application for an arrest warrant against a high-level Myanmar government official that my Office is filing. More will follow," the ICC prosecutor's statement said. The ICC has been investigating crimes against the Rohingya for nearly five years. Its investigation has not only been hampered by a lack of access to the country but also because Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military ousted an elected government led by Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, sparking a resistance movement that began as peaceful protests and later evolved into an armed rebellion on multiple fronts. Investigators drew on witness testimonies, including from insiders, documentary evidence and authenticated scientific, photographic and video materials. "The ICC prosecutor's decision to seek a warrant against Sr. Gen. Min Aung Hlaing comes amid renewed atrocities against Rohingya civilians that echo those suffered seven years ago," Maria Elena Vignoli, senior international justice counsel at Human Rights Watch said. "The ICC's action is an important step toward breaking the cycle of abuses and impunity that has long been a key factor in fuelling the military's mass violations." With 124 member nations, the ICC prosecutes individuals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and aggression. With no police force to make arrests, it relies on states to do this. It faces a challenge to get Min Aung Hlaing into custody, as he does not travel. Global powers the United States, Russia, China and India have not signed onto the ICC. It is backed by all of the European Union, Australia, Canada, Britain, Brazil, Japan and dozens of African and Latin American countries. It has issued several arrest warrants for serving national leaders including Netanyahu, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Sudan's Omar al-Bashir. So far, only one sitting head of state, Kenya's Uhuru Kenyatta, who was charged by the ICC before he was elected president in 2013, appeared in court to face charges. The case was later dropped.

## Israeli strikes on Gaza Strip leave 15 dead, medics say

CAIRO, Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip killed 15 people on Wednesday, some of them in a school housing displaced people, medics in Gaza said, adding that the fatalities included two sons of a former Hamas spokesman. Health officials in the Hamas-run enclave said eight Palestinians were killed and dozens of others wounded in an Israeli strike that hit the Al-Tabaeen School, which was sheltering displaced families in Gaza City. Among those killed were two sons of former Hamas spokesman, Fawzi Barhoum, according to medics and Barhoum himself.

In the Shejaia suburb of Gaza City, another strike killed four people, while three people were killed in an Israeli air strike in Beit Lahiya on the northern edge of the enclave where army forces have been operating since last month. Separately, a ceasefire between Israel and Iran-backed group Hezbollah came into effect on Wednesday after both sides accepted an agreement brokered by the U.S. and France, a rare victory for diplomacy in a region shaken by two wars for over a year. Iran-backed Hezbollah militants began firing missiles at Israel in solidarity with Hamas after the Palestinian militant group attacked Israel in October of 2023, killing around 1,200 people and capturing over 250 hostages, Israel has said, triggering the Gaza war. Israel's 13-month campaign in Gaza has left nearly 44,200 people dead and displaced nearly all the enclave's population at least once, according to Gaza health officials.

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## China state media warn Trump against mutually destructive tariff war

BEIJING, GNS News Agency, Nov 29, China's state media warned U.S. President-elect Donald Trump his pledge to slap additional tariffs on Chinese goods over fentanyl flows could drag the world's top two economies into a mutually destructive tariff war. Trump, who takes office on Jan. 20, said on Monday he would impose "an additional 10% tariff, above any additional tariffs" on imports from China until Beijing clamped down on trafficking of the chemical precursors used to make the deadly drug. The two superpowers are setting out their positions ahead of the former president's return to the White House. Trump's first term resulted in a trade war that uprooted global supply chains and hurt every economy as inflation and borrowing costs shot up. Editorials in Chinese communist party mouthpieces China Daily and the Global Times late on Tuesday warned the next occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue to not make China a "scapegoat" for the U.S.' fentanyl crisis or "take China's goodwill for granted regarding anti-drug cooperation". "The excuse the president-elect has given to justify his threat of additional tariffs on imports from China is farfetched," China Daily said. "There are no winners in tariff wars. If the U.S. continues to politicize economic and trade issues by weaponising tariffs, it will leave no party unscathed."

Economists have begun downgrading their growth targets for China's \$19 trillion economy for 2025 and 2026 in anticipation of further tariffs promised by Trump during the election campaign, and are warning Americans to brace for an increase in the cost of living. "For now the only thing we know for sure is that the risks in this area are high," said Louis Kuijs, chief Asia economist at S&P Global Ratings, which on Sunday lowered its China growth forecast for 2025 and 2026 to 4.1% and 3.8%, respectively.

"What we assumed in our baseline is an across-the-board (tariff) increase from around 14% now to 25%. Thus, what we assumed is a bit more than the 10% on all imports from China. Trump is threatening Beijing with far higher tariffs than the 7.5%-25% levied on Chinese goods during his first term. China already has a template for dealing with the previous U.S. tariff policy," the Global Times quoted Gao Lingyun, an analyst at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, as saying. "Using counternarcotics issues to increase tariffs on Chinese goods is untenable and unpersuasive," Gao added. Chinese President Xi Jinping told former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong that China's economy would continue to grow and develop in the long-term during a meeting in Beijing on Tuesday after Trump's comments, state news agency Xinhua said.

Lee reportedly told Xi "no one should underestimate the Chinese people's determination for their nation to succeed and stand tall in the world", a remark which a sepa-



rate Global Times piece said was "also meant for some people in (the) international community." Profits at Chinese firms fell 10% year-on-year in October, data showed on Wednesday, showing how companies are struggling to remain profitable in an economy that is far more vulnerable to trade shocks this time around. Economists in a Reuters poll last week expected additional U.S. tariffs ranging from 15% to 60%. Most said Beijing will need to inject more stimulus to boost economic growth and offset pressure on exports. The chart shows top 5 items that China exports to the U.S. and vice versa in 2017, i.e. before the trade war, and 2023. Trump previously said he would introduce tariffs in excess of 60% on Chinese goods. The threat is rattling China's industrial complex, which sells goods worth more than \$400 billion annually to the U.S. and hundreds of billions more in components for products Americans buy from elsewhere. His pick of trade lawyer Jamieson Greer as new U.S. trade representative elevates a key veteran of Trump's first term trade war against China and points to a bruising four years for trade negotiators the world over.

Greer served as chief of staff to Trump's former U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, the architect of Trump's original tariffs on some \$370 billion worth of Chinese imports and the renegotiation of the North American free trade deal with Canada and Mexico. The president-elect looks set to tear up that agreement on his first day in office. Trump on Monday also pledged 25% tariffs on goods from Mexico and Canada, saying the U.S.' neighbours were not doing enough to stop drugs and migrants crossing their borders. But China can expect to bear the brunt of Trump's efforts to bring down the U.S.' trade deficit and bring about the "manufacturing renaissance" he promised on the campaign trail. "What the future will bring on this front is hard to say," S&P Global's Kuijs said. "There are many uncertainties. There is still a large increase to go to get to 60%."

## Imran Khan's party suspends protest in Islamabad; at least four dead in overnight crackdown

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), on Wednesday (November 27, 2024) formally suspended for the time being its protest in Islamabad blaming the midnight crackdown by the authorities that left at least four dead and over 50 injured even as the PTI earlier claimed "hundreds" were killed in the violent clashes with security personnel. Amid concerns about the whereabouts of Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, who were leading the march to Islamabad, the party said they were at Mansehra town, near Abbotabad, of the north-western province. The midnight crackdown forced Khan's supporters to evacuate the D-Chowk and its adjacent main business district of the capital ending their protest, which his party described as a "massacre" under the "fascist military regime" even as police sources said about 450 protesters were arrested in the crackdown. "In view of the government's brutality and the government's plan to turn the capital into a slaughterhouse for unarmed citizens, (we) announce the suspension of the peaceful protest for the time being," Khan's PTI said in a press release shared on its official X account. Future plans would be announced "in light of directions" from Khan after the party's political and core committees presented their "analyses of the state brutality" to him. The party statement also condemned the alleged "killing" and "terror and brutality against peaceful protesters in the name of an operation". The PTI urged the Chief Justice to take suo motu notice of the alleged "brutal murder of martyred (party) workers" and order legal action against the Prime Minister, Interior Minister and police chiefs of Islamabad and Punjab for "attempt to murder." Earlier on Tuesday (November 26, 2024) evening, PTI supporters battled law enforcing agencies and succeeded in reaching the D-Chowk for a sit-in as part of their protest march that started on Sunday (November 24, 2024). The supporters' clash with police killed at least six security personnel and injured dozens since Monday (November 25, 2024) midnight. Ms. Bushra Bibi and Mr. Gandapur had announced that the protesters would not go away until Khan, who had given the 'final call' for protest, was released from jail even as security personnel continued their efforts to move them from the D-Chowk, which is located close to several im-

portant government buildings: the Presidency, the PM Office, the Parliament, and the Supreme Court. In the wee hours of Wednesday (November 27, 2024), police and Rangers launched an operation to clear the Blue Area business area, forcing the protesters to move away along with Ms. Bibi and Mr. Gandapur. Senior PTI leader Taimur Saleem Khan told the media that Ms. Bibi and Mr. Gandapur were accompanied by the party's National Assembly opposition leader Omar Ayub Khan and that they were staying at the residence of the province's Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati's residence in the Mansehra town of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. The 72-year-old former premier, who has been in jail since August last year, issued a "final call" on November 13 for nationwide protests on November 24, denouncing what he termed as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people and the passage of the 26th amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime". The midnight clashes with the security personnel left at least four dead. Two bodies and 26 injured individuals — with gunshot wounds — were received at the Polyclinic Hospital in Islamabad, officials said while, separately, the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, the largest hospital in the capital, told Geo News that they received two dead bodies and 28 injured after the protest. Earlier, PTI, in a reaction to the midnight crackdown, blamed the government for using violence and killing hundreds of its workers. "A massacre has unfolded in Pakistan at the hands of security forces under the brutal, fascist military regime led by the Shehbaz-Zardari-Asim alliance. The nation is drowning in blood," it said in a post on X referring to the ruling coalition headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari and Gen Asim Munir, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS). The party said that the armed security forces launched a violent assault on PTI protesters, firing live rounds with the intent to kill as many people as possible. "With hundreds dead and countless injured, the interior minister's threat to kill and then the declaration of 'victory' over slaughtered innocents is enough evidence of the regime's inhumanity," it said in the post. Through Tuesday (November 26, 2024) and Wednesday (November 27, 2024), the party shared videos and photos from the violent crackdown on its social media accounts.

## For consistent, superior flying experience on key routes, Air India to use Vistara planes for flights on 5 metro-to-metro routes

Prioritising deployment of a superior product on key metro-to-metro routes, Tata group airline Air India has decided that narrowbody aircraft that earlier belonged to Vistara will be used to operate nearly all the flights on five such routes from December 1. Consequently, all narrowbody flights between Delhi-Mumbai, Delhi-Bengaluru, Delhi-Hyderabad, Mumbai and Bengaluru, and Mumbai and Hyderabad will be operated by erstwhile Vistara aircraft, which are in much better shape than a number of Air India planes.

Vistara, which was widely considered as India's best full-service airline with superior aircraft cabin and service, merged into the Tata group's flagship airline Air India on November 12. With the merger, Vistara's 63 narrowbody planes of the Airbus A320 family and seven widebody aircraft (Boeing 787s) are now being operated by Air India. "Such (metro-to-metro) flights will operate with 'AI'-prefixed four-digit flight numbers beginning with '2', such as AI2999 from Delhi to Mumbai. Air India will also optimise flight schedules so that flight departures are spread out throughout the day, without reducing frequency. Air India now offers more than 1,000 weekly flights (round trips) on these key routes: 56x daily on Delhi-Mumbai, 36x daily on Delhi-Bengaluru, 24x daily on Delhi-Hyderabad, 22x daily on Mumbai-Bengaluru, and 18x daily on Mumbai-Hyderabad," Air India said in a release Wednesday.

On October 24, The Indian Express had reported that Air India planned to minimise the overlap between its older aircraft and Vistara planes at the individual route level with major metro-to-metro routes expected to see deployment of the newer aircraft, while Air India's older aircraft would move to certain other routes. Sources had said that this was being planned in a bid to provide certainty to flyers regarding the quality of product they are likely to experience. The idea is to set the customer's expectations right and offer a consistent product on that route irrespective of the flight booked.

Although Wednesday's announcement pertains to domestic flights, such an exercise is also in the works for international network of the expanded Air India on routes where both Air India and Vistara operated, it is learnt. Slots at certain international airports are also being adjusted accordingly. "The merger of Vistara into Air India has unlocked many new opportunities to improve our customer offering. By combining the strengths of both full-service



carriers, we are able to consolidate our best narrowbody offering on routes where there is desire for a high-frequency, full-service product. We will progressively expand the coverage to more routes as Air India inducts new aircraft and completes the retrofit of our legacy narrowbody fleet during 2025," Air India's chief executive officer and managing director Campbell Wilson said Wednesday.

Sources indicated that the product differentiation between Vistara aircraft and Air India planes is likely to continue at least till June, when the retrofit programme for Air India's legacy narrow-body fleet is scheduled to be completed. With new Air India aircraft coming in and older aircraft undergoing refurbishment, Air India will eventually be able to offer a uniform product across its fleet and the planes will largely become fungible. In its nearly 10 years of operations, Vistara had made a mark for itself as the premier full-service carrier in India that offered a superior product in a market dominated by budget carriers. With the Tata group deciding to merge Vistara into the group's flagship airline Air India—which the Tatas acquired from the government in January 2022—there were concerns about Vistara's product and service quality after the merger. Under government control, Air India was under financial stress, and this reflected in its product and service quality, which was seen as below the standards expected from a full-service carrier. While the now-privatised airline has undertaken a mammoth fleet modernisation and expansion plan, it still has a large number of legacy aircraft that are in a rundown state. The \$400-million upgrade of the airline's entire narrow-body fleet started in September and is expected to be complete by the middle of next year. As for its legacy wide-body aircraft—Boeing 787s and 777s—Air India expects their retrofit to start early next year.

## Regal Jewellers' Vision for the Next 2 Years: Expanding Across South India with New Branches in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana

Regal Jewellers, Kerala's largest wholesale jewellery group with over 50 years of experience and exceptional craftsmanship, continues to set the standard for excellence in the jewellery market. Regal's focus on quality, affordability, and craftsmanship has earned it a loyal following across the state. Whether it's traditional Kerala gold designs or contemporary styles, Regal's diverse collections cater to every taste and occasion.

Catering to both retail and wholesale buyers, Regal Jewellers emphasises offering their customers the best selection from Kerala's wholesale jewellery market. The pricing format reflects a dedication to making it an affordable luxury and making high-end jewellery accessible to a vast customer base. To provide added convenience, booking facilities are offered, allowing the gold rates to be locked in ahead of time which ensures greater value and financial peace of mind in fluctuating market conditions. With a reputation built on offering a wide variety of jewellery at unbeatable prices, Regal Jewellers has established itself as a trusted name across Kerala. From traditional to trendy, their collections cater to all tastes and occasions while delivering quality and customer satisfaction at every stage. The brand's adherence to quality and customer satisfaction has earned it a loyal following across Kerala. All the units in Regal's extensive collection are meticulously designed to uphold the highest standards of durability, purity and style. With a priority on quality control, in-house manufacturing, and a strong commitment to customer satisfaction, the brand has successfully established itself as Kerala's largest wholesale jewellery supplier.

Talented crafters carefully handcraft each unit, ensuring they adhere to Regal's strict quality standards. This direct involvement in the manufacturing process allows the brand to consistently provide jewellery that holds outstanding quality as well as earn the trust of buyers who look for excellence and reliability. With a diverse assortment of gold, diamond, and uncut jewellery, Regal has become the preferred destination for wholesale buyers statewide. Regal Jewellers provides their customers with a comprehensive and diverse range of jewellery collections, catering to a variety of tastes and preferences. From Kerala's iconic classic gold ornaments to the designs inspired by Bombay, Calcutta, Chettinad, Nagas and Antique styles, Regal presents a broad array. Whether you're looking for bangles, necklaces, chains, rings or earrings, Regal's range brings together variety and affordability while ensuring that there's something for everyone.

Jewellery at wholesale prices makes it an attractive option for both small retailers and larger businesses. Individual customers can also explore the benefit of wholesale rates, with options available starting from just one gram of gold. This accessibility has helped Regal Jewellers become a preferred choice across Kerala, giving them a unique opportunity to purchase high-quality jewellery at a fraction of the cost typically seen in retail outlets. All jewellery sold by Regal is guaranteed to meet the highest standards of gold purity, ensuring customers receive genuine and high-quality products. The Hallmark Unique Identification (HUID) system is a reliable method of certification, and Regal Jewellers' commitment to this system allows customers to trust the quality of their purchases. With the assurance of HUID-hallmarked gold, Regal Jewellers has gained the trust of thousands of wholesalers, retailers, and individual buyers. This authenticity is part of the company's broader dedication to providing peace of mind for customers, establishing it as the most trusted name in Kerala's wholesale jewelry market.

As their growth plan ahead, Regal Jewellers is going to expand its reach beyond Kerala and into other states across South India. The brand's strategic expansion aims to bring its premium jewellery collection, trusted craftsmanship and wholesale prices to fresh markets, covering an



even larger customer base with access to affordable luxury. With a wide range of jewellery to suit every event and the promise of reasonable prices, Regal Jewellers continues to be the top choice for consumers across Kerala and beyond. With its upcoming expansion plans and a commitment to quality, value and customer satisfaction, Regal Jewellers is all set to be a household name in the South Indian jewellery market while offering affordable luxury and unmatched craftsmanship to a wider audience. Regal continues to redefine the jewellery-buying experience with its commitment to quality, authenticity, and customer satisfaction. Whether you're a retailer, wholesaler, or individual buyer, Regal offers a vast collection of premium gold, diamond, and uncut jewellery that will meet your needs. This content is sponsored and does not reflect the views or opinions of IE Online Media Services Pvt Ltd. No journalist is involved in creating sponsored material and it does not imply any endorsement whatsoever by the editorial team. IE Online Media Services takes no responsibility for the content that appears in sponsored articles and the consequences thereof, directly, indirectly or in any manner. Viewer discretion is advised.

## Honda unveils ACTIVA e: and QC1 electric scooters, bookings start from Jan 1

Bengaluru: Japanese two-wheeler maker Honda Motorcycle & Scooter on Wednesday unveiled two electric scooters, 'ACTIVA e:' and 'QC1' here, marking the company's entry in the fast-growing domestic electric two-wheeler market.

Bookings for the latest offerings will commence from January 1 next year while the deliveries will start from February, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India Ltd (HMSI) said without revealing the vehicles' prices.

"The introduction of ACTIVA e: and QC1 marks a defining step in our commitment to sustainable mobility in India. It is in line with Honda's global 'Triple Action to ZERO' concept to realize carbon neutrality by 2050, which focuses on three areas: carbon neutrality, clean energy, and resource circulation," said Tsutsumu Otani, Managing Director, President & CEO, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India.

This is a milestone moment in Honda's journey to electrification, he said, adding "with every step forward, we are focused on building a future that is safer, more sustainable & meets the evolving needs of our society."

"With ACTIVA e:'s swappable battery technology and QC1's fixed battery set-up along with the industry-leading hassle-free ownership experience, we are striving to meet the diverse needs of our customers," said Yogesh Sathur, Director, Sales and Marketing, Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India.

## How often you should get the water geyser serviced

Come winter, geysers become a necessity. But have you got it serviced yet? Yes, you read that right. Water geysers, or water heaters, require regular servicing to ensure optimal performance, safety, and energy efficiency. "Eve machine needs servicing. Geysers are no different. We are using it to wash our skin and hair. So, the water that is coming through it needs to be clean and soft water," said Dr Rinky Kapoor, consultant dermatologist, cosmetic dermatologist and dermato-surgeon, The Esthetic Clinics, Mumbai. Geysers are popular because they provide hot water on demand, ensuring comfort and convenience. Dr Karuna Malhotra, cosmetologist and aesthetic physician, Cosmetic Skin Clinic Rajouri Garden New Delhi, said water geysers typically consist of a heating element, a thermostat, a storage tank, or a heat exchanger (in instant geysers). Over time, mineral deposits such as limescale accumulate inside the geyser tank, especially in areas with hard water. "This build-up reduces heating efficiency, leading to higher electricity bills and potential damage to the heating element. Regular descaling during servicing helps prevent this," said Dr Malhotra.

Additionally, the thermostat, a critical component for temperature regulation, may malfunction over time, leading to inconsistent water heating or overheating. "Servicing ensures the thermostat is checked and calibrated properly,"



said Dr Malhotra. You can save money by regularly servicing Safety is another critical concern. "Faulty pressure valves or electrical connections can pose risks of leaks or even explosions. Routine inspections help identify and address such issues," said Dr Malhotra. The geyser must be mounted securely on a wall at an adequate pace for ventilation and maintenance. Lastly, regular maintenance prolongs the lifespan of the geyser, saving money on repairs or replacements. Notably, the lifespan of a geyser typically ranges from 8 to 12 years, depending on factors including the frequency of usage, water quality, and maintenance practices. "For optimal results, professional servicing should be done annually or as the manufacturer recommends," noted Dr Malhotra.

## Nagarjuna's son Akhil Akkineni to tie the knot with Zainab Ravdjee: a timeline of their relationship

Akhil Akkineni gets engaged to Zainab Ravdjee in a private ceremony at Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. Akhil Akkineni gets engaged to Zainab Ravdjee in a private ceremony at Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad (Source: Akhil Akkineni/Instagram). Akhil Akkineni, the younger son of veteran actor Nagarjuna, has announced his engagement to Zainab Ravdjee in an intimate ceremony at their Jubilee Hills residence in Hyderabad. Nagarjuna also shared the happy news on his social media handle, expressing delight over welcoming Zainab into the Akkineni family.

Sharing a heartfelt photo from the ceremony, Nagarjuna wrote: "We are thrilled to announce the engagement of our son, @AkhilAkkineni8, to our daughter-in-law-to-be Zainab Ravdjee! We couldn't be happier to welcome Zainab into our family. Please join us to congratulate the young couple and wish them a lifetime filled with love, joy, and your countless blessings." We are thrilled to announce the engagement of our son, @AkhilAkkineni8, to our daughter in law to be Zainab Ravdjee! Akhil also took to social media, sharing candid moments from the engagement. Both Akhil and Zainab looked radiant in coordinated white outfits, capturing the essence of simplicity and elegance. Sharing his joy, Akhil posted: "Found my forever. Happy to announce that Zainab Ravdjee and I are happily engaged."

The couple reportedly met a few years ago and began dating, culminating in this heartwarming union. Zainab Ravdjee, a Hyderabad native, is the daughter of well-known industrialist Zulfi Ravdjee. Despite hailing from a prominent business family, Zainab has carved her path as a painter. With a passion for exploration, Zainab has honed her artistic skills in Dubai, Mumbai, and London. Alongside her flourishing art career, she had a brush with acting, appearing in M.F. Hussain's acclaimed film Meenaxi: A Tale of Three Cities, also starring Tabu and Kunal Kapoor. Akhil Akkineni, an American-born actor primarily working in Telugu cinema, is known for his roles in films like Sisindri,



Aatadukundam Raa, Mr. Majnu, and Agent. Akhil was born to Nagarjuna and Amala Akkineni, his second wife. This marks his second engagement; he was previously engaged to Shriya Bhupal, granddaughter of business magnate G.V. Krishna Reddy, in 2016. The wedding was called off for undisclosed reasons.

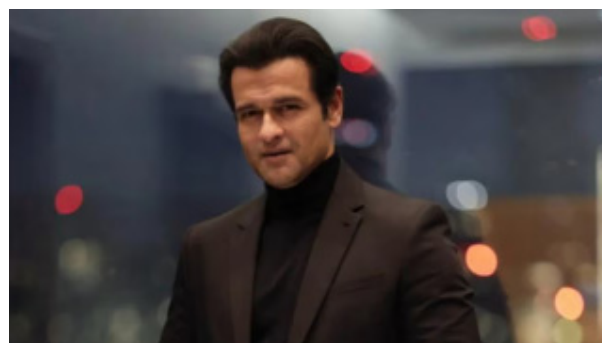
Zainab and Akhil have a 9-year age gap, with the former being 39 and the latter 30. This engagement comes just days before the wedding of Naga Chaitanya, Akhil's older half-brother, to Sobhita Dhulipala. The Akkineni household is abuzz with celebrations, marking a period of joy and togetherness for the family. With Chaitanya's wedding on December 4 just a week away, Nagarjuna shared an update with Zoom: "December 4 is around the corner. We are hosting a wedding at the Annapurna Studios, the family studio that my father built. We planned it as an intimate ceremony, but even by limiting the guest list, we expect quite a large attendance. We have a large family, so does Sobhita." Addressing Akhil Akkineni's recent engagement news, the actor expressed his joy. "I am so happy for Akhil. His fiancée Zainab is a lovely girl and I am so happy they have decided to spend their lives together." He added, "But, their wedding will happen in 2025."

## Rohit Roy avoids non-vegetarian food on a plane; we find out if you should too

After discussing practicing vipassana at night, how Ayurvedic Panchkarma helped him lose six kilos, and his experiment with the Keto diet, actor and host Rohit Bose Roy has now opened up about his peculiar choice of in-flight food. "I usually skim through what is on offer. Flights have a lot on offer these days. I avoid non-vegetarian food on flights. I avoid salads on flights. This is my take. Suppose I see a good dal bhaat (lentil-rice) that is cooked. In that case, I am very happy eating that with some vegetables," said Roy on the Unstoppable podcast. Roy also admitted to having desserts on flights as a cheat meal.

Taking a leaf out of his candid admission, let's consider the pros and cons of avoiding non-vegetarian food on flights. Jinal Patel, dietitian at Zynova Shalby Hospital Mumbai, agreed it's better to avoid eating non-vegetarian food while flying, especially on long-haul flights. "The atmosphere in the airplane can be arid. The air circulation in the plane can dehydrate your body as most people avoid drinking too much water with the worry of going to pee very often," said Patel.

According to Patel, eating meat or non-vegetarian meals, which are more difficult to digest compared to other food options, can worsen dehydration while also causing discomfort. "Meals served on flights are often mass-produced and contain excessive amounts of sodium and pre-



servatives, especially non-vegetarian dishes. This can easily upset your stomach, resulting in gastrointestinal problems like gas, bloating, and indigestion," said Patel.

Patel recommended always opting for vegan or vegetarian food options. "Avoid eating heavier meals that contain too much or greasy gravies that can upset your digestive system; instead, try eating lighter foods that can be easy to digest and help you stay hydrated," said Patel. Eating foods in smaller portions can also be helpful. "This can help keep your stomach at ease while lowering the risk of serious health complications," added Patel.

## Here's what happens to the body if you climb two flights of stairs every day

Climbing two flights of stairs daily might seem like a simple task, but it has significant benefits for your body. This form of exercise works wonders for your cardiovascular system. Let's find out what happens to your body if you climb two flights of stairs daily. The impact of climbing two flights of stairs every day

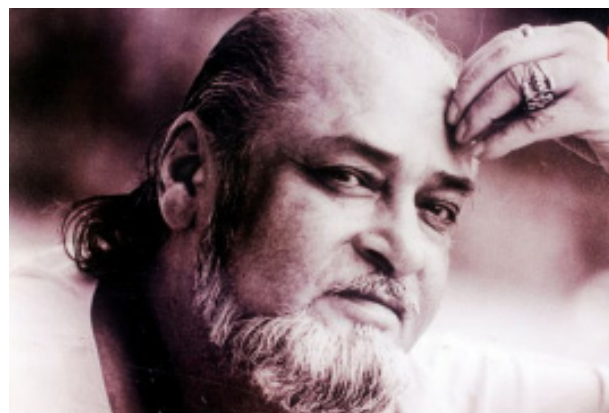
If you regularly climb two flights of stairs, you'll see amplified benefits beyond those of just one flight. Doing so strengthens the cardiovascular system even further, improves muscle tone, and increases respiratory capacity. Over time, this daily exercise can help reduce the risk of heart disease, lower blood pressure, and boost overall stamina. short article insert According to Dr Surender Pal Singh, Head of Physiotherapy at CK Birla Hospital, this daily activity improves heart health by increasing heart rate, which strengthens the heart muscle and promotes better blood circulation. Regular stair climbing also boosts lung function, helping the respiratory system take in more oxygen.

The impact on joint health is significant too, as stair climbing improves flexibility, helps maintain joint health, and reduces stiffness. If weight loss is your goal, climbing stairs offers an accessible way to burn more calories and boost

metabolism. Over time, you'll notice better balance, body control, and reduced risk of injury, Dr Singh said. From a musculoskeletal perspective, stair climbing strengthens muscles in the legs, hips, and core. It improves joint flexibility and helps maintain mobility by enhancing the range of motion in the knees and hips. For individuals looking to manage their weight, climbing stairs can also burn a significant number of calories, supporting weight loss efforts while increasing overall energy expenditure, Dr Singh said. This simple habit can improve body coordination and balance, making it a valuable form of exercise for people of all ages.

While stair climbing offers numerous health benefits, some individuals should approach it with caution. Those with joint conditions such as osteoarthritis or spinal issues may experience strain, particularly if the stair height is more than 6 inches, Dr Singh said. High steps can exacerbate joint discomfort over time. Additionally, individuals with cardiovascular or respiratory conditions should be careful. If you experience chest pain, breathlessness, or any discomfort, it's important to consult with a healthcare provider before continuing. Always ensure that your physical activity aligns with your current health status, especially if you have underlying medical conditions.

## Shammi Kapoor was sitting by the bushes to get his make-up done, Aditya Pancholi saw him being disrespected: Zarina Wahab



One of the rooms in the bungalow was cleaned up for Aditya to get ready. When he reached that room, which even had an AC, he asked if Shammi Kapoor had arrived, and learnt that the 'Yahoo' star was already there, but he was sitting in the garden. As Aditya looked in the garden, he saw Shammi sitting on a chair, near the bushes and getting his make up done. "He looked down and he saw that Shammi ji was sitting near the bushes under the umbrella and getting his make up done. Aditya ran downstairs and asked 'Sir, aap neeche? Please come to the make up room.' Shammi ji said 'No, no I am comfortable here. You carry on'."

Zarina said that this incident moved Aditya so deeply that he decided to give up on acting once he was done with lead roles. "After that he decided that when I have to become a character artiste, I will not work. If they can treat Shammi ji like this, then who are we? This was the main reason he stopped working," she said and added, "People who looked up to you when you were a hero, look down at you when you become a character artiste. It's not correct but such is the industry." She mentioned that his last appearance in films was in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Bajirao Mastani. She claimed that Bhansali called Aditya for Heeramandi as well but he refused. She said, "Bhansali called him for Heeramandi but he told him 'sir, please don't feel bad. I don't want to work'."

Aditya Pancholi appeared in various negative roles in Hindi films across the 1990s but as per his wife, actor Zarina Wahab, Aditya refused to accept roles of character artiste as he got older because he once saw veteran actor Shammi Kapoor getting lesser than ideal treatment on set. Zarina claimed in a new interview that Aditya once saw Shammi Kapoor getting his make-up done near the bushes in a garden and found it extremely disrespectful.

In a chat with Lehren Retro, Zarina shared that Aditya was once shooting with Shammi in a bungalow in Juhu.

## Rajkumar Rao explains why he asked Patralekha to apply sindoor on him at their wedding; reveals they 'weren't comfortable' with some traditions

Rajkumar Rao and Patralekha's wedding ceremony was equal parts traditional and modern. The couple followed many traditional rituals but added their own twist to them. One of their twists included Patralekha applying sindoor to Rajkumar, a gesture that is traditionally only done by men. In a recent interaction, the Stree actor opened up about the significance of his gesture, explaining that it was a reflection of their equal partnership. He also shared how they decided to tweak some of the things in the ceremony so it becomes more meaningful for them. Speaking to Barkha Dutt on Mojo Story, Rajkumar said, "At that moment it was very impulsive, I felt why is it just her wearing the sindoor, mangalsutra and chooda? I thought she had to wear and do so much, what I am doing? I was just wearing the ring. I just asked her, 'You should also put sindoor on me. It should be equal.'"

When asked about Patralekha's reaction to his gesture, Rajkumar replied, "I think she was overwhelmed but both of us were so elated to get married. That moment became huge later, but at that point we didn't really think that it's out of the box. She knows me very well and this is something that is expected out of me. But I am glad that it touched so many hearts." Talking about his pheras, he said, "Even during our pheras, we wanted to know what was the Pandit ji saying? We asked him the meaning behind every man-



tra. We weren't comfortable with some of the vachans (promises) that Patralekha had to take. For instance, there was one vachan which said that she can't get angry at me and I was like this one is not happening, it's not valid." Rajkumar Rao and Patralekha tied the knot in 2021 after dating for several years. The couple had previously shared screen space in Hansal Mehta's 2014 film CityLights. On the work front, Rajkumar was last seen in Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video and Stree 2. The latter became a massive hit at the box office, emerging as the highest-grossing film of 2024.

## Aditi Rao Hydari, Siddharth share dreamy pictures from their second wedding ceremony in Rajasthan

Actress Aditi Rao Hydari took the plunge with long-time beau actor Siddharth in September. Back then the couple got married in a traditional South Indian wedding keeping it an extremely intimate affair. And now it seems, Aditi and Siddharth had a second wedding ceremony, this time in Rajasthan. The wedding took place at Alila Fort Bhishangarh. While Aditi was seen wearing a red Sabyasachi lehenga, Siddharth donned an ivory sherwani.

Aditi shared some pictures from the ceremony on Instagram and wrote, "The best thing to hold on to in life is each other." Reacting to the pictures, a fan wrote, "They are manifesting a Mani Ratnam love movie goals," while another comment said, "Beauty on peak". Malaika Arora also commented on the pictures and called them stunning. Some fans have been wondering if Aditi and Siddharth tied the knot in Rajasthan soon after their South Indian wedding as the henna on Aditi's hand is the same from September, others are speculating it to be a second wedding ceremony. Earlier in September, Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth had gotten married at a 400-year-old historic temple in Wanaparthy. Sharing some pictures, they had written, "It's been a blessed, magical year! In a very special part of our Wedding Ceremonies, we received the blessings and love of our father and mother figures, our Gurus and Mentors. To be in the presence of these special people who have not just seen us grow but have been the reason for that growth was life-affirming and beyond. There is more magic and love to share before this unforgettable year ends."



Until then, Happy Diwali from Mrs and Mr Adu-Siddhu." On the work front, Aditi was last seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramandi, while Siddharth was seen in Indian 2.

## Mallika Sherawat explains why she refused to play the role of Ishaan Khatter's mother in The Royals: 'I felt cheated'

Mallika Sherawat, who gained prominence in the early 2000s with films like Murder and Kis Kis Ki Kismat, has been taking on more projects recently. In a candid interaction, the actor opened up about ageism in the film industry and spoke about her decision to avoid plastic surgery. She also opened up about why she chose to opt out of Ishaan Khatter and Bhumi Pednekar's The Royals.

In a conversation with ETimes, Mallika addressed the issue of ageism in the industry and shared her thoughts on critics who claim her career is over. She stated that she has "stood against time" and that such remarks do not bother her. "I don't listen to nonsense," she asserted, adding that she chooses to live life on her own terms. "All these new faces who are basking in their so-called claim to stardom I will meet them 20 years later, I will still be there looking exactly like this, with the same body with the same face."

Mallika revealed that she has never undergone plastic surgery, Botox, or any cosmetic enhancements and vowed to never go under the knife. She credited her disciplined, teetotaling lifestyle for her ageless appearance, which, she claimed, remains unchanged till today.



## Rajkumar Santoshi hints at Andaz Apna Apna sequel Adaa Apni Apni, says it's a misconception that Aamir Khan-Salman Khan starrer flopped



Director Rajkumar Santoshi, who is known for making films like Damini, Khakee, The Legend of Bhagat Singh among others, recently spoke about Andaz Apna Apna starring Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Raveena Tandon, Karisma Kapoor among others. Santoshi hinted that he is writing another comedy with the working title Adaa Apni Apni but did not give a definitive response when asked if it was a sequel. He also said that it was a misconception that Andaz Apna Apna flopped when it released.

Talking to Doordarshan, Santoshi said, "They just say

that it flopped after release. People were just not aware about it. The publicity wasn't done in a proper way and people were not aware that this was a comedy. People thought this would be a love story like Qayamat Se Qayam Tak or Dil or Maine Pyar Kiya. The distributors were new so they didn't release it properly. At the time of the release, Aamir, Salman and me, the three of us were not in the city so there was no premiere or anything. So maybe because of that, the film didn't get a strong response upon release. People who watched it, they were loving it." He added that the film grew with word of mouth but by the time it started growing, theatres were starting to take it off. "I wouldn't use harsh words like it was a flop, it wasn't a flop. It didn't get the kind of response what we expected. Later, people started liking it. It grew with word of mouth and as it was growing with publicity, it was taken off the theatres because the distributors didn't have faith in it. They thought it won't work," he said.

Santoshi then revealed that he is writing a similar comedy with a working title Adaa Apni Apni. "I am writing a comedy in Andaz Apna Apna's style. This is the kind of experiment that you have to do, you don't always know how it will turn out but I can assure that it will be entertaining," he said and added, "The working title of the new film is Adaa Apni Apni." When asked if it will be a sequel, he said, "Too early to say. Let's see."

## Netflix subpoenas Discord over leaked episodes of popular Anime series: 'Post-production partner compromised'

The streaming giant Netflix has subpoenaed the messaging platform Discord over leaked images and episodes of several shows. The Northern District of California has issued the subpoena. The initial request was made on November 15, after Netflix alleged that a copyrighted image from the second season of the web series Squid Game had been leaked on Discord by a user named "@jacejohns4n." A person claiming responsibility for what they described as "worst leak in streaming history" posted a now-deleted video on X, which was subsequently republished on Telegram.

Netflix first experienced such leaks in August. The shows that got affected were Mononoke the Movie: Phantom in the Rain, Ranna 1/2, Terminator Zero, Dandandan, Kengan Ashura, Spellbound, and Heartstopper. The leaked video clips were of low quality, but they found their way onto many different piracy websites months before their planned releases. The Riot Games production Arcane received a lot of love and appreciation during its first season. Screenshots and clips from its highly anticipated season 2 were also leaked.

Netflix issued the following statement after the initial leak: "One of our post-production partners has been compromised, and footage from several of our titles has unfortunately leaked online. Our team is aggressively taking action to have it taken down." Subtitling vendor Iyunno quickly



responded, "We are aware of a recent security issue involving unauthorised access to confidential content. Protecting our client's confidentiality and ensuring the security of their content is our highest priority. We are actively investigating this security breach to mitigate any potential risks and identify the responsible parties. When there are material changes or information, we will make further statements." The suspect, Johnson, claimed that he gained access to all these titles on Iyunno. He said that a friend of his used to work in the organisation and helped him get the footage and screenshots. He also gave hints at a new wave of leaks.

## Dhanush files civil suit against Nayanthara after her Netflix documentary uses footage from Naanum Rowdy Dhaan

Weeks after Nayanthara wrote an open letter to Dhanush claiming that he refused to give a NOC (No Objection Certificate) for her documentary, Nayanthara: Beyond the Fairy Tale, and even issued a legal notice claiming a sum of Rs 10 crore, Dhanush has now sued Nayanthara. As per a report in The Hindu, Dhanush's Wunderbar Films Private Limited has filed a civil suit against Nayanthara, Vignesh Shivan and her company Rowdy Pictures Private Limited and other for using visuals related to Dhanush's production Naanum Rowdy Dhaan in the Netflix documentary.

Dhanush's lawyers have also taken permission of Madras High Court to sue Los Gatos Production Services India LLP, an entity through which Netflix reports its content investments in India, and is based in Mumbai. His lawyers have sought permission to sue the company within the territorial jurisdiction of the Madras High Court.

The dispute between Dhanush and Nayanthara became public on November 16 as Nayanthara issued an open letter addressed to Dhanush. She claimed that the documentary was delayed by two years because Dhanush refused to give permission to the documentary makers for using visual footage and audio of the film Naanum Rowdy Dhaan. She also alleged that Dhanush issued a legal notice after the release of the trailer where they used three



second of behind-the-scenes footage recorded on their own devices in the documentary's trailer. "This is an all time low from you and speaks so much about your character," she wrote. In the same letter, Nayanthara wrote that she had received Dhanush's legal notice. "Your refusal to give NOC for use of elements of Naanum Rowdy Dhaan for our Netflix documentary might be justified by you to the Courts from copyright angle but I wish to remind you that there is a moral side to it, which has to be defended in the court of God," she wrote.

## Shah Rukh Khan compares Mufasa's journey to his own life: 'Many ruled over lands, but he ruled over everyone's hearts'

Shah Rukh Khan, also fondly known called The King of Bollywood, recently reflected on the similarities between his life and the journey of the iconic character of Mufasa in a new promotional video for the highly anticipated film Mufasa: The Lion King. In the recently released video, Shah Rukh Khan shares the tale of Mufasa, a story of struggle, resilience, and ultimate victory that mirrors his own remarkable rise to stardom.

He is seen saying in the clip, "Yeh kahani hai ek aise raja ki, jise siyaset ki roshni nahin, tanhaiyon ki viraasat mili. Lekin uske labon mein basaa tha uska junoon, aur usi junoon se usne zameen se uth kar aasman ko chhoo liya. Zameen par toh kai badshah hukumat karte aaye hain, aur usne raaj kiya sabhi ke dilon ka (This is the story of a king who inherited solitude instead of the throne. Yet, he had a passion so intense that it lifted him from the ground to touch the skies. Many have ruled over lands, but he ruled over everyone's hearts)." He then said while the story might sound



familiar given his own ascent in cinema, the story actually belongs to Mufasa.

Earlier, the makers of the film unveiled its Hindi trailer, offering fans a glimpse of a special collaboration between Shah Rukh Khan and his sons, Aryan Khan and AbRam. While Shah Rukh lends his voice to Mufasa,

## CSK academy to facilitate seven West Indies youngsters for special training



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Cricket West Indies has announced that seven of their youngsters will undergo specialized training at the Chennai Super Kings Academy. Assisted by Ramesh Subasinghe and assistant coach Rohan Nurse, Kirk McKenzie, Matthew Nandu, and Kevin Wickham — along with current and former West Indies Academy players Teddy Bishop and Jewel Andrew, and former West Indies Under-19 players Jordan Johnson and Akeem Auguste. Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, said: "The Chennai Academy will host these seven batsmen and aim to equip them with skills and experience in navigating spinning conditions. Our coaches will be on hand to ensure that the learnings in the period can be consoli-

dated and extended to other players in the region through the academy." The players will engage in a two-day match and three white-ball fixtures as part of their training at the CSK Academy. They will work alongside experienced coaches, including CSK Academy Director Sriram Krishnamurthy.

Earlier New Zealand had whitewashed India 3-0 and Kiwi middle-order batter Rachin Ravindra went to CSK academy ahead of their one-off Test against Afghanistan in Greater Noida and trained there to get acclimatized to Indian conditions. It was a superb call by the 24-year-old as he played a stellar innings of 134 (157) in the first Test and then followed it up with an unbeaten 39\* in the second innings to help New Zealand chase down 107 to win the Test. Courtesy of his match-winning performances, Ravindra was adjudged Player of the Match for helping New Zealand win their first Test in India after 36 years. Former India batsman Robin Uthappa has come down heavily on CSK for allowing Ravindra to practice in their academy in Chennai ahead of Test series against India. "Rachin Ravindra came here and practiced at the CSK Academy. CSK is a beautiful franchise that will always look after its franchise players but a line has to be drawn where the interest of the country comes ahead of your franchise players, especially when he is a foreign player and comes and plays against our country," Uthappa said on his YouTube channel.

## How Nitish Kumar Reddy showed off his immense all-round promise during dream Test debut in Perth

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Two valuable cameos, a timely wicket, a shared split-screen with Dennis Lillee, a hug with his favourite cricketer, Virat Kohli, and a thunderous victory. Nitish Kumar Reddy lived the perfect Test debut dream in Perth. The hype around him soared, television crews had been squeezing the lanes of his home in Thungalam in the Gajuwaka neighbourhood of Visakhapatnam; friends and former coaches were busy passing on anecdotes and retelling his journey. Seam-bowling all-rounders easily excite India's cricket consciousness. The historical dearth has fostered the impulse of projecting anyone with a semblance of fast-bowling-batting utility as Kapil Dev's heir. From Ajit Agarkar and Laxmi Ratan Shukla to Hardik Pandya and Irfan Pathan, cricketers would confess about the crushing burden thrust on their young shoulders. Nitish, thus, should be judged for the man he is, the gifts he possesses, the skills that could be harnessed and polished, and not pushed prematurely into the comparison blackhole.

At 21, he is more of a prospect than a promise, a batsman more than a bowler. His strokeplay embodied the freshness of IPL-age batsmen. He reverse-swept Nathan Lyon, stepped down and cuffed him down the ground, upper cut Pat Cummins, straight-drove Josh Hazlewood and helicoptered Mitchell Marsh. But between these flashy strokes, he showed his robust defensive technique, an attribute that could serve him longer in the game. His movements are minimalistic, has quick hands, is comfortable on both feet, waits to judge the length of the ball before committing to the shots, is seldom caught in two minds, adapted smartly to extra bounce, often getting on top of it and riding it. There are rough edges still, but exposure would smoothen them. As importantly, he was clear about his role when he strode out to the middle with his team reeling at 73/6. A lot of debuting youngsters would have looked to survive, maybe eke out a not out. But he embraced risks, took the bullets for the team, emerged the top-scorer and provided a precious 40-50 run cushion that made a lot of difference in the end. His cameo furnished India an impetus that they carried on with the ball in hand. In the second outing, his task was different, which was to pile the runs quickly when Kohli composed his century. He enacted both functions without fuss. His coach at Andhra Cricket Academy in Kadapa, Srinivas Rao, was not surprised at all. "He is selfless, and would sacrifice anything for his team. He also loved the extra responsibility, and would come to us and ask whether he should do this or that. He is always looking to learn something new," he says.

Nitish's bowling is still a portrait in progress. But the signs are there if you observe it. (AP) Nitish's bowling is still a portrait in progress. But the signs are there if you observe it. (AP) It's how he nurtured his bowling. It was then academy coach and former Services captain Charles David Thomson who advised him to develop his bowling gifts so that he would stand a better chance of progressing to the Andhra team, and later to the Indian team. "He said we (India) would have only a few good seam-bowling all-rounders. So, I would stand a better chance to make the team as an all-rounder than as a pure batsman," he told Sunrisers



Hyderabad, the IPL franchise that has retained his services for the next cycle.

Under Rao's guidance, he sculpted his bowling. Nitish once admitted that he was "chucking" the ball in his early days. But Rao corrected it and packaged him into a more complete bowler. "He had a good natural inswinger. I just had to refine his action and then we worked on his out-swinger and increasing his pace. I remember him bowling non-stop to polish his variations," Rao says. His bowling is still a portrait in progress. But the signs are there if you observe it. He has dexterous wrists, a lovely seam presentation, and bowls with an upright seam position. The release is fluid and the ball doesn't wobble in the air. The wicket of Mitchell Marsh, Australia's last brick of resistance, owed to the fraction of inward movement that he coaxed from a hardish length. The ball bounced a bit more than Marsh expected, as he slashed the ball back onto his stumps. In the first innings, he dutifully performed the hold-an-end-up stock chores. In less helpful conditions, he would be summoned for longer shifts. Last Ranji Trophy season, he bowled an average of 22 overs in a game, on largely arid surfaces to bag 28 wickets at 18.76. On helpful conditions, he could probe fuller lengths and seam the ball both ways. Another coach of his, Nirmal Kumar, vouches for his recovery rate to carry on bowling long spells. "No matter if he bowled or batted, his recovery used to be quick and he never got tired because he always gave prime importance to fitness. Even during breaks Nitish always worked in gyms, and with coaches," he explains. The importance of Nitish is that he is not just another seam-bowling all-rounder, but one with deeper gears. He can bat in the top order, in the middle, and down the line-up; can grind, defend, or counterattack. He can take the new ball, come in as first-change or wear the strangle's role. Nirmal reminds of Nitish's catching prowess too. "You don't see fast bowlers doing much slip fielding but Nitish fields at slip not only for pacers but also for spinners. He is not only Andhra's best batsman or fielder but also the best catcher, he says. An aging slip cordon means that Nitish could add another role to his swelling duty list. It might be presumptuous to liken him to Kapil or Pandya, but the promise of Nitish is immense and more layers could unfold along with the tour.

## KKR Probable 11 after IPL 2025 Auction: Kolkata Knight Riders playing XI not without weakness after mega auction

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

IPL Auction 2025 The Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) are preparing to contend for a fourth IPL title and further establish themselves as one of the most prosperous teams in the history of the competition. The team has experienced significant changes in preparation for the 2025 Indian Premier League after their spectacular third championship victory in 2024, when they decisively defeated Sunrisers Hyderabad by eight wickets under the captaincy of Shreyas Iyer.

While they let go of Shreyas, KKR brought back their other Iyer, Venkatesh, for a record-breaking Rs 23.75 crore on Day 1 of the auction, garnering headlines. By paying Rs 3.6 crore to acquire Quinton de Kock, an aggressive opener and



wicketkeeper, the team further strengthened its batting lineup. Having let go of Mitchell Starc, KKR's pace attack is heavily reliant on Harshit Rana and Vaibhav Arora to fire with left-armers Spencer Johnson hoping to recreate his senior Aussie's magic. Before the IPL 2025

auction, KKR strategically decided to hold onto six important players: Harshit, Ramandeep Singh (Rs 4 crore each), Rinku Singh (Rs 13 crore), Varun Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine, and Andre Russell (Rs 12 crore each). KKR predicted XI for IPL 2025: Quinton de Kock, Sunil Narine, Angkrish

Raghuvanshi, Venkatesh Iyer, Ramandeep Singh, Andre Russell, Rinku Singh, Spencer Johnson, Vaibhav Arora, Varun Chakravarthy, Harshit Rana, Rinku Singh, Quinton de Kock, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Venkatesh Iyer, Ramandeep Singh,

## How Kylian Mbappe's Real Madrid season hit a new low against Liverpool in the UEFA Champions League



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Kylian Mbappe stood with his hands above his head hiding his face from view as the blood-red wall erupted in celebration all around Anfield. The fans in white, nestled in the away stands, looked aghast. Caoimhin Kelleher, the Liverpool keeper, the architect of these contrasting emotions was being congratulated by his Liverpool teammates. Mbappe had just missed a penalty when the score was 1-0 in favour of Liverpool in the big-ticket UEFA Champions League fixture. The night would get better for the Anfield faithful as the Reds doubled their lead with a Cody Gakpo strike in the 76th minute to register their first win over the Spanish giants in 15 years. Mbappe's season, meanwhile, sputtered and fell to a new low with the French superstar having registered just 2 shots in the whole match, one of them being the missed penalty. That's a jarring number for a forward who is seen as the heir apparent for players like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

But heavy is the head that wears the crown as Mbappe has found out since his transfer to Los Blancos where the Champions League is a tournament in which the fans and the club are most eager to fare well. Mbappe's time as a UCL player for Real hasn't had the same impact that most experts would have hoped for with the star finding the net just once in the competition, way back in September against Stuttgart. With Mbappe misfiring, and a litany of injuries to key starters, Real have had a nightmare start to their Champions League campaign where they have lost to Lille as well as AC Milan and are currently 24th in the European table. Five matchweeks into the new season, a return of six points after three defeats is not something anyone would have predicted for the fate of the defending champions and the tournament's most successful side. Mbappe Soccer Football – Champions League – Liverpool v Real Madrid –

Anfield, Liverpool, Britain – November 27, 2024 Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappe has his penalty kick saved by Liverpool's Caoimhin Kelleher REUTERS/Molly Darlington

So, what has been ailing Mbappe and Real this season? Part of the problem is that Mbappe has been played out of position at various points this season, where he has been asked to play through the center instead of his preferred left side. This is because Vinicius Junior has made the left wing his own and it's very difficult to displace him. However, this weekend in La Liga against Leganes, coach Carlos Ancelotti tweaked the formation and played Mbappe on the left which had an instant impact with the player opening the score in what would be an easy 3-0 win. So, it was easy for Ancelotti to start Mbappe on the left against Liverpool as well and with Vinicius's injury-enforced absence, the Frenchman was handed a chance to burst into form on a silver platter. But he arguably played his worst game yet in a Real Madrid jersey, proving toothless at Anfield in front of a disciplined Reds defence. His shots were wayward and rushed which is a far cry from the way he played in the French league for PSG. The penalty which he took against Liverpool also encapsulated everything going wrong for the player – an underconfident punt which was the right height for the goalkeeper to save easily. The unmistakable swagger with which he used to step up to take spot kicks in the past was missing with Mbappe looking a bit cautious under the bright lights. And to add all that, he was dispossessed easily on a few occasions too. "Maybe a little, but the idea should be to play simple, this is transitory. You can't judge everything by missing a penalty," Ancelotti said after the Liverpool match when asked about Mbappe's lack of confidence. The confidence among supporters for the player might be waning too with his numbers in the domestic league being underwhelming as well. Mbappe has 7 goals in 12 La Liga matches having taken 57 shots in total, the most for any player in the league, according to ESPN's stats. Out of these, only 27 have been on target with his conversion rate at 12.3%. Even his pace, which is one of his greatest strengths, has been underwhelming with his runs behind the defenders getting mistimed far more often than not. Mbappe was infamously flagged offside 8 times in the last El Clasico against Barcelona which Real lost 4-0.

It might be the pressure of finally achieving his dream move to his dream club weighing him down but Mbappe would want to rediscover the form that made him a certified superstar. Football is a fickle sport – it might not wait for him for too long.

## Virgil Van Dijk's brutal Kylian Mbappe takedown as Real Madrid star misses penalty in Liverpool defeat

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

After having set the pace initially, Mbappe was neutralised first by Conor Bradley (right pic), whose sliding tackle swept the Real Madrid talisman off his feet. (Screengrab/AP) After having set the pace initially, Mbappe was neutralised first by Conor Bradley (right pic), whose sliding tackle swept the Real Madrid talisman off his feet. Kylian Mbappe had to endure another harrowing night in Real Madrid colours as the Galacticos suffered a brutal 0-2 defeat against Liverpool in the Champions League on Wednesday night.

On a miserable night for the Spaniards, now 24th in the 36-team competition and in danger of missing the knockouts, Mbappe was well-shackled and also missed a penalty that would have drawn Real level against the run of play in the second half. The home side could have run away with the game in the first half, as Darwin Nunez had three glorious chances but found Courtois in formidable form. The biggest cheer of the first half came when right back Conor Bradley produced a stunning tackle to stop Mbappe's marauding run towards goal. In the second half, after Mbappe's weak penalty was saved by Kelleher, Salah brought some respite for the Frenchman and more gasps from the crowd when he sent his spot kick wide of the post. Amidst a woe-filled night, Mbappe's constant tussles with Liverpool's backline made for viral clips on social media.

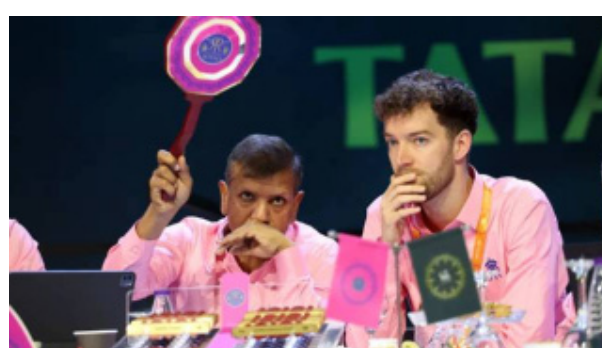
After having set the pace initially, Mbappe was neutralised first by Conor Bradley, whose sliding tackle swept the Real Madrid talisman off his feet. Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk soon added to Mbappe's misery with a



bravny takedown that sent him tumbling down and over his head. Despite the lacklustre showing, Mbappe has found backing from manager Carlo Ancelotti and teammate Jude Bellingham.

"It's a difficult moment for him, we've got to support him and give him our love, he'll soon be fine," Ancelotti said. "It could be a lack of confidence maybe. Sometimes you have moments when things aren't quite working out for you. People miss penalties, it happens a lot. You can't put too much grief on him for that. He works hard, he's got to keep working hard and fighting. We've got to be patient. He's an extraordinary player," Ancelotti added. "He (Mbappe) is a wonderful player but the pressure on him because of how good he is huge. The penalty is not why we lost the game. They performed better than us. I know that he will produce many more moments that will be huge for this club," remarked Bellingham.

## Rajasthan Royals Probable 11 after IPL Auction 2025: Can RR make a title-winning XI this time?



GNS News Agency, Nov 29

RR Probable XI: Rajasthan Royals build a formidable squad with just 41 crores in their purse going into the IPL 2025 mega auction (Source: IPL) RR Probable XI: Rajasthan Royals build a formidable squad with just 41 crores in their purse going into the IPL 2025 mega auction IPL Auction 2025: Coming into the auctions with a limited purse of Rs 41 crore, Rajasthan Royals focused on acquiring key players and strong overseas players at minimal price at the IPL 2025 mega auction. Their main focus over the course of the two days was Jofra Archer, whom they spent Rs 12.5 crore on. Their other big buy was Tushar Deshpande, another pace bowler who was in the race for the Purple Cap last season at the Chennai Super Kings. RR even acquired two Sri Lankan spinners, Wainindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana at Rs 5.25 crore and Rs 4.4 crore respectively. Even after coming into the auction with one of the lowest purses, they have made a squad that could stitch up a very strong Playing XI, with perfect balance of batters, bowlers and all-rounders. But the player that is to make the headlines not just for the Royals but the entire IPL is 13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi, the team bought for a stagger-

ing price of Rs 1.1 crore. RR Probable XI for IPL 2025: Sanju Samson (c/wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Riyan Parag, Nitish Rana, Dhruv Jurel, Shimron Hetmyer, Wanindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Jofra Archer, Akash Madhwal, Sandeep Sharma. Here is the full Squad of Rajasthan Royals for IPL 2025: Sanju Samson, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, Shimron Hetmyer, Sandeep Sharma, Jofra Archer, Wainindu Hasaranga, Maheesh Theekshana, Akash Madhwal, Kumar Kartikeya Singh, Nitish Rana, Tushar Deshpande, Shubham Dube, Yuvraj Chahal, Fazal Farooqi, Vaibhav Suryavanshi

## Telangana swimmer D Varshith wins silver at SGFI National Championship

GNS News Agency, Nov 29

Hyderabad: Telangana swimmer D Varshith clinched the silver medal in the 68th SGFI National Swimming Championship held in Rajkot, Gujarat. In the boys' U-17 400m individual medley, the State athlete secured second place with a timing of 4:47.78. Kerala's Theerdu Samadev Mongam (4:42.62) won gold, while CISCE's Prithviraj Menon (4:50.68) settled for bronze. Results: 400m indi-



vidual Medley boys U-17: 1. Theerdu Samadev Mongam (Kerala) (4:42.62s), 2. D Varshith (Telangana) (04:47.78s), 3. Prithviraj Menon (CISCE) (04:50.68s).