

INDIAN CHRONICLE

5 November, 2024 | Tuesday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:227

Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

₹ 3

Hyderabad Metro's ridership rises to 4.68 lakh daily

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metro achieved its highest-ever daily ridership of 5.60 lakh passengers on August 14. In its latest financial results for Q2FY2025, the metro saw an improvement in average ridership, rising to 4.68 lakh passengers per day, up from 4.32 lakh in Q1FY2025. During the earnings call, P. Ramakrishnan, Head of Investor Relations at L&T, highlighted that this growth in ridership also surpassed Q2FY2024's daily average of 4.62 lakh. Despite the record ridership, Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T), reported a consolidated loss at the Profit After Tax (PAT) level of Rs 2.07 billion for the quarter ending in September.

PM Modi condoles loss of lives in Almora bus mishap; Centre, state govts announce ex-gratia

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences to the families and loved ones of the bus accident victims, who lost their lives in a tragic road mishap in Almora, Uttarakhand on Monday. PM Modi also announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of the 36 deceased in the mishap from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. An amount of Rs 50,000 will be given to those injured in the mishap. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Dhama has also announced monetary compensation of Rs 4 lakh for the kin of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh to those injured in the tragic accident. Meanwhile, the death toll in the Almora bus accident has climbed to 36 from the 20 announced initially. According to the authorities, the incident happened when a 45-seater passenger bus fell into a 200-metre-deep gorge at Marchula this morning while travelling from Pauri in Garhwal to Ramnagar in Kumaon. Uttarakhand CM, taking strict cognisance of the matter, has ordered suspension of Regional Transport Officials (RTO) in the area. A magisterial enquiry has also been ordered into the reasons behind the accident.

The road accident happened at around 8.25 A.M. on Monday morning. Following the accident, the locals and nearby villagers were the first to take up the rescue work. The state administration rushed rescue teams to the spot, who lifted and shifted the victims to hospital for treatment. Sharing details about the rescue mission, the Chief Minister also posted on X, "The local administration and SDRF teams at the accident site are working rapidly to evacuate the injured and take them to the nearest health centre for treatment. Instructions have also been given to airlift seriously injured passengers if required." According to reports, the bus was overloaded with passengers at the time of the accident. Eyewitnesses said that the bus driver lost control when it reached Kupel village and the vehicle veered off the highway. At the time of the accident, over 40 people were traveling in the bus.

Bandi Sanjay demands release of arrested sarpanches

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Hyderabad: Condemning the arrest of former sarpanches, who were demanding that the State government clear their long-pending bills, Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay demanded the government to immediately release all the arrested sarpanches. Speaking to the media here on Monday, Sanjay said the Congress during poll campaigning had promised to clear all the pending bills of the sarpanches, but even after eleven months it failed to do so. The Congress instead of addressing their issues was trying to harass them by not releasing the pending bill amounts, he said.

"Congress has cheated sarpanches by not honouring the promises made to them. The sarpanches were going to the CM's residence to just hand over a memorandum. Is there any need to arrest them? I demand the government to immediately release them," he said. Coming down heavily on Congress party, the former BJP State unit chief alleged that within a span of few months anti-Congress winds had started blowing in the State, as the party failed to fulfil poll promises.

ECI changes dates for by-polls: Voting in Kerala, Punjab and UP rescheduled to November 20

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Lucknow: In a significant development ahead of by-polls, the Election Commission of India on Monday rescheduled the polling dates in three states - Kerala, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The by-elections for nine Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh, four Assembly seats in Punjab and two Assembly seats in Kerala will now be held on November 20, instead of November 13. There is no change in counting day, however, and the results will be declared as earlier scheduled on November 23.

The decision to re-work the dates in these states were taken in wake of upcoming festivals, the poll body said in a statement. "The decision was made in response to requests from parties including Congress, BJP, BSP, RLD, and other national and state-level parties to prevent any potential dip in voter turnout during the festive season," said EC. In Kerala, the two Assembly constituencies going to polls on November 20 are Palakkad and Chelakkara. Palakkad is a hot seat in the state and is expected to see a tight contest between Congress and BJP. In the past two elections, BJP came second and fell barely behind Congress, while consistently increasing its vote share. In Punjab, the Assembly constituencies headed for by-polls include Dera Baba Nanak, Chabbawal, Gidderbaha, and Barnala. These four Assembly seats fell vacant after MLAs from these constituencies, three from Congress and one from AAP, got elected to the Lok Sabha, this year. The Punjab by-polls are seen as a prestige battle for the ruling AAP and a chance for Congress to increase its growing clout and might in the state. For the Akali Dal, the by-elections are an opportunity to regain the foothold it once enjoyed.

PM Modi blasts JMM, Congress and allies, labels them as 'anti-Adivasi'

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Ranchi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during a mega rally in Jharkhand's Chaibasa, slammed the Congress, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), labelling them as "anti-Adivasi." Accusing the parties of disrespecting country's Adivasi community, PM Modi highlighted their disregard for India's first female Adivasi President. Addressing a huge gathering in Jharkhand's Chaibasa area, PM Modi stated, "History stands as a proof of how the British were uprooted from Kolhan. Today, Kolhan is determined to uproot the corrupt JMM government." He prophesied that BJP will be next to form government in the state. "This is my second rally here, and from the enthusiasm I see, I can confidently say that BJP will form the government with record-breaking seats."

PM Modi underscored the BJP's commitment to Jharkhand, invoking the popular slogan that has gained traction among the masses: "Roti, beti aur maati ki pukaar, Jharkhand



me BJP-NDA sarkar," affirming that if the NDA assumes power, it will focus on addressing local demands symbolised by "Roti, Beti, Maati" (livelihood, daughters, and land). He praised the BJP's historical role in advancing Adivasi rights, stating, "When the BJP first formed a government at the Centre, it was under Atal Bihari Vajpayee's leadership that Adivasis were granted their own states, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. For the past decade, we have tirelessly advocated for Adivasi demands nationally and globally." The Prime Minister contrasted BJP's pro-Adivasi approach with the Congress, RJD, and JMM, accusing them of being "anti-Adivasi" forces. "No one has been a bigger enemy to the Adivasi community than Congress and RJD," he asserted, urging young people to remember the Gua Goli Kand incident of the 1980s, where Adivasis were reportedly oppressed and even shot at under the Congress government in Bihar for demanding statehood for Jharkhand. Continuing his critique, PM Modi claimed that RJD leaders once vowed that Jharkhand would only be formed "over their dead bodies."

MIG-24 fighter jet crashes near Agra, no casualties

A MIG-29 fighter jet crashed in Agra's Bagha Sonigha village in the Kagarol police station area in Uttar Pradesh during a routine training sortie around 5pm Monday after encountering a system malfunction, said a senior official of the Indian Air Force. There have been no casualties as the pilot maneuvered the aircraft to ensure that there was no damage to life or property and ejected it safely, he added. "The pilot and co-pilot have been rescued and admitted to the district hospital," said Devesh Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police (Sainya), Agra. He added that he is at the site of the accident and a rescue operation is currently underway at the spot.

blood on its hands," is now supporting JMM, illustrating what he described as the "betrayal" of Adivasi aspirations by these alliances. The Prime Minister pointed out that, unlike the Congress, the BJP has appointed Adivasi leaders to top positions, including President Droupadi Murmu, Chhattisgarh's Vishnu Deo Sai and Union Minister Savitri Thakur. He noted that the BJP-led NDA was responsible for giving India its first female Adivasi President. "Even when we chose an Adivasi woman as the President of India, these Congress leaders opposed it," he said, underlining BJP's commitment to empowering the Adivasi community. PM Modi also accused the Congress, JMM, and RJD of repeatedly "insulting" the Adivasi community, citing the dismissal of Champai Soren from the Chief Minister post as a direct affront to Adivasis. "Today, the voice of Adivasis is represented by our President, but Congress, JMM, and their allies cannot tolerate an Adivasi President. They didn't shy away from hurling insults at her," he stated, concluding with a strong appeal to Jharkhand's electorate.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Calls for BC Commission



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Hyderabad: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed the need to take necessary precautions to avoid legal issues concerning Backward Class (BC) reservations in local bodies. He instructed officials to take immediate action to establish a Dedicated BC Commission. During a meeting at the Chief Minister's residence, discussions took place with ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Damodara Rajanarsimha, and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, focusing on various legal aspects related to caste enumeration. The Chief Minister referred to recent Supreme Court and High Court rulings, stressing the importance of following these judgments to prevent any future legal complications.

In light of the social, economic, educational, employment, and caste survey set to begin on the 6th of this month, he underscored the necessity of adhering to court decisions. He directed officials to issue relevant orders by tomorrow regarding the establishment of the BC Commission. Revanth Reddy reiterated that the government would not tolerate any complacency in crucial matters and insisted on transparency in handling local body reservations. He expressed optimism that these measures would facilitate the reservation process and avert any potential issues in the future.

One year of Congress has derailed decade of Telangana's progress: KTR



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Monday held the Congress government responsible for derailing Telangana's decade-long progress within a year of its rule, pushing the State into a crisis with hollow electoral promises and failed policies. Reprimanding the Congress for its anti-people actions, he demanded that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi apologise to the people of Telangana for deceiving them with six guarantees and 420 promises. "Rahul Gandhi, who promised to respond to Telangana's call within seconds, has been silent for an entire year, while the Congress's rule has halted the State's prosperity and become responsible for people's woes," he said in an open letter addressed to Rahul Gandhi ahead of the latter's visit to Telangana.

The BRS working president criticised the Congress government for deceiving the people of Telangana, promising to deliver its six guarantees and 420 promises within 100 days. "But even after 300 days in power, the Congress delivered nothing but disappointment," he said, pointing out that only the single promise of free bus for women had been implemented out of all the promises made. Rama Rao pointed out that farmers, job aspirants, students, police, government employees, handloom workers and auto drivers, as well as HYDRABAD and Musi river project victims, have all been forced to hit the streets and protest under the Congress regime.

Gold prices drop Rs 1,300 to Rs 81,100 per 10 Grams in Delhi

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

New Delhi: Gold prices retreated from record high in the national capital on Monday, declining Rs 1,300 to Rs 81,100 per 10 grams following fresh selling by stockists and retailers, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had traded flat at Rs 82,400 per 10 grams — its all-time high — on Thursday.

Silver also remained under selling pressure and slipped below the Rs 95,000-mark, depreciating Rs 4,600 to Rs 94,900 per kg. It had closed at Rs 99,500 per kg on Thursday.

Death toll in Uttarakhand bus accident rises to 36; CM announces Rs 4 lakh ex-gratia



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Dehradun: A privately operated bus fell into a deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Almora district on Monday, killing at least 36 of the about 60 people on board and injuring 24. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama announced a compensation of Rs 4 lakh for the next of those killed in the accident and a financial assistance of Rs one lakh for the injured, according to an official statement. Officials said the chief minister is on his way to the accident spot. Four of the injured are serious out of which three were airlifted to AIIMS, Rishikesh and one was taken to Sushila Tiwari Hospital, Haldwani, Almora District Disaster Management Officer Vineet Pal said. There were around 60 people on board the 43-seater bus when the accident took place, he said, adding that overloading of the vehicle could have

led to the accident, he said.

District Magistrate Alok Kumar Pandey said the bus, operated by the Garhwal Motor Owner Association, was on its way from Pauri in Garhwal region to Ramnagar in Kumaon about 250 km away when the accident took place around 8 am. It is an overnight journey. The 43-seater bus plunged into a 200-metre gorge and landed close to a rivulet in Almora's Marchula area just 35 km before its destination Ramnagar, he said. Police and personnel of the National and State Disaster Response Forces rushed to the spot to launch a search and rescue operation, he added.

Assistant Regional Transport Officers of Pauri and Almora were suspended following the accident in which a magisterial probe has been ordered. Visuals from the area pointed to the magnitude of the accident, the vehicle reduced to a mangled mess as it rolled down the forested, rocky slope and stopped just short of a stream. Rescuers could be seen working to pull out the passengers. Pal said 36 people were killed in the accident and 24 injured. The Garhwal Motor Owners Association bus was carrying people returning after spending the long weekend at home to work. Union Home Minister Amit Shah condoned the loss of lives in the bus accident. "The bus accident in Almora, Uttarakhand is extremely sad. I express my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in this accident. The local administration is providing immediate treatment to the injured. I pray to God for the speedy recovery of the injured," Shah wrote on 'X' in Hindi. Expressing grief over the incident, Chief Minister Dhama said on X, "Received very sad news of casualties of passengers in the unfortunate bus accident that took place in Marchula of Almora district. The district administration has been instructed to conduct relief and rescue operations swiftly."

SC relaxes bail condition on Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan in UAPA case

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed a plea by Kerala-based journalist Siddique Kappan seeking relaxation of a bail condition of reporting to police every week in a UAPA case registered against him. A bench of Justices P S Narasimhan and Sandeep Mehta relaxed the bail condition imposed by the top court on Kappan while granting bail in September 2022. "The order dated September 9, 2022, is modified and it shall not be necessary for the petitioner to report to the local police station. The other prayers made in the present application can be agitated independently," the bench said. The top court had on September 17 asked the state government to file its reply on the plea of Kappan, who was arrested in October 2020 while on his way to Hathras in Uttar Pradesh after a Dalit woman from there died following gangrape. On September 9, 2022, the top court granted bail to

Kappan, who was in jail for almost two years, while observing that every person has the right to free expression. It had laid down several conditions for bail, including that he would have to remain in Delhi for the next six weeks after release from prison and report to the Nizamuddin police station here on Monday every week. "The appellant shall be taken to the trial court within three days and shall be released on bail on conditions as deemed fit by the trial court," the bench had said in the order. Elaborating further, the court had said, that after six months, he may travel to his native place Malappuram in Kerala and there also he will have to report to the local police station similarly, that is every Monday, and mark his presence in the register kept on that behalf. "The appellant (Kappan) shall not leave the jurisdiction of Delhi without the express consent of the trial court," it had said, adding, "The appellant shall either in person or through lawyer shall attend the trial court on every single day."

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

The great choke

THE Supreme Court's guidelines on green firecrackers and a two-hour window (8-10 pm) for bursting them became a casualty this Diwali as around 100 cities reported poor air quality the day after the festival. These included Ambala, Amritsar and Delhi. The situation did not improve in Punjab and Haryana over the weekend, even as it worsened in the national capital. Vehicular pollution and stubble burning have aggravated the problem, making it tough for residents to breathe. It was just a week before Diwali that the apex court had reminded the Centre and the governments of Punjab and Haryana of the citizens' right to live in a pollution-free environment. Clean air, however, remains conspicuous by its absence.

While the respective governments are to blame for letting things come to such a pass, the functioning of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has left a lot to be desired. Delhi continues to grapple with smog despite the CAQM's remedial steps. In bypoll-bound Punjab, the authorities are reluctant to take action against farmers who are burning paddy stubble. The scheme for incentivising cultivators to opt for crop residue management has also come a-cropper.

Diwali presented an opportunity to the people to do their bit for the environment by reducing the use of fireworks or shunning them altogether. But that, unfortunately, did not happen. Ironically, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai thanked Delhiites for "largely refraining from bursting firecrackers". He conveniently ignored the fact that the SC curbs on the use and sale of firecrackers were blatantly violated. An ostrich-like approach to a public health emergency is a recipe for disaster. Collective accountability is the key to averting the great choke.

'When prisoners ask public authorities and when they reply, answers should immediately be delivered': Gujarat Information Commission



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

The Gujarat Information Commission (GIC) has instructed the state's jail and revenue authorities to set up a procedure so that when any prisoner seeks information from a public authority, the application is delivered immediately as well as the authority's reply. The Commission has asked state authorities like the Director General of Police, Inspector General (Jails), and Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) to issue instructions to set up a procedure in this regard for all central, district, and taluka jails in Gujarat.

State Information Commissioner Nikhil Bhatt passed the order last week while acting on a plea moved by one Praful Datani who was lodged at Lajpore Central Jail in Surat under the provisions of the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act (PASA). Datani had sought to fine pub-

lic information officers of the Surat district collectorate and Lajpore jail since he did not receive a certified copy of the PASA Act and its amendments within 48 hours after he requested the same, under the provisions of the Right to Information Act. He also sought compensation for this. Although the Commission dismissed Datani's application, noting that he was transferred to another jail the same day and stating that the Lajpore jail authorities were merely playing the role of "postman/courier", the Commission still decided on the "procedure" in the interest of "the welfare of jail inmates".

Datani had filed his application seeking the information on December 17, 2022. Recording the version of the respondents to the plea, the order recorded that the said application was transferred to the office of Surat District Magistrate on December 28, 2022, and the Public Information Officer (PIO) of the Surat District Magistrate office had received the same on January 7, 2023. The PIO replied the same day with an order, asking the applicant to download a copy of the PASA Act and related provisions from the Home Department's website. However, this order was received by Lajpore jail authorities on January 11, 2023, following which Datani was asked to download the information by paying a fee of Rs 18 for the copies on January 20. Under a Gujarat HC order, Datani was shifted to Porbandar jail on the same day. The PIO of Lajpore jail told the GIC that the Lajpore jail officials could not provide him with the information in time due to his jail transfer.

Over half of Kolkata's private buses to end service in 5 months, state govt plans to go to Supreme Court



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Kolkata private buses, Indian express Fearing a "huge scarcity" next year, bus owners recently filed a petition at the Calcutta High Court appealing for the extension of the services of buses by two years. It's a trying time for Kolkata commuters — more than 800 plying buses have been terminated since August this year, due to their completion of 15 years of service. This rule has been in place since a Calcutta High Court verdict in 2009.

By March 2025, the situation will become more acute as over half of the city's private buses will be off the roads. Meanwhile, the number of new bus registrations has been on a steady decline since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020: according to transport department statistics, it went from 871 registrations (in 2014-15) to 46 in 2023. Fearing a "huge scarcity" next year, bus owners recently filed a

petition at the Calcutta High Court appealing for the extension of the services of buses by two years. Bus owners also claimed that for the last seven years, fares were not increased by the government, while the prices of fuel, spare parts, insurance, and road taxes rose. They cite this as a reason why the "business of commercial buses" is no longer "lucrative". "During the COVID period, our buses were sitting idle almost for two years... so we basically operated them for 13 years. Earlier, we wrote to the state government to increase the buses' services by two years. But they did not take any steps," said Tapan Banerjee, General Secretary of the Joint Council of Bus Syndicates. "If we get permission, commuters will be relieved, and the government will have time to solve this problem," he added.

Transport Minister Snehashish Chakraborty, speaking to mediapersons, said, "We will also approach the Supreme Court to solve this problem." "It is difficult to earn profit by riding a bus in Kolkata. If a person will not be able to make a profit why should he or she be interested?" said a senior bus owner of Kolkata. Many are waiting for their buses to complete fifteen years of service, after which they plan to send them to scraps and quit the business. Banerjee said, "In 2009, after the Supreme Court order, all buses (that were) more than fifteen years old were replaced with new buses. A major number of buses were replaced then. More than four thousand of these buses will complete 15 years in 2024... We are sure that if bus fares are not increased, these buses will not be replaced."

BBMP invites public feedback on proposed 250m sky deck locations in Bengaluru



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

BBMP, sky deck, bengaluru news, indian express BBMP has invited residents, community groups, and other stakeholders to submit their feedback on the proposed location, particularly on whether Hemmigeppura would be an appropriate site or if there are other preferred locations in the city's west or southwest. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) recently invited public feedback on the proposed 250-metre sky deck at Hemmigeppura, one of the multiple locations found favourable for the structure. Expected to be constructed at a cost of Rs 500 crore, the proposed sky deck is one of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar's ambitious pet projects for Bengaluru.

The sky deck is intended to offer a unique panoramic view of the city, creating employment opportunities and stimulating economic growth. It will also have food courts and play arenas, among other amenities. The civic body had identified potential sites, including NGEF in Benniganahalli, Karnataka Soaps & Detergents Ltd in Yeshwanthapura, Karnataka Trade Promotion Organisation in Whitefield, and GKVK in Jakkuru. However, several sites fall near sensitive zones such as the Kempegowda International Airport, Yelahanka Defence Airport, and HAL Defence Airport, where height restrictions prevent high-rise constructions as per the Colour Coded Zoning Map (CCZM). These restrictions limit feasible areas for the sky deck to the west and southwest parts of Bengaluru. In response, BBMP is also considering alternative locations, such as Hemmigeppura near NICE Clover Leaf, Bangalore University's Jnanabharati campus, and Kammaghatta near NICE Road. Hemmigeppura is particularly favoured due to its connectivity to major routes like Tumkur, Kanakapura, Mysuru, and Hosur via NICE Road, which could help minimise traffic disruptions during construction. The area's proximity to Turahalli forest would also provide visitors with scenic natural views from the sky deck. BBMP has invited residents, community groups, and other stakeholders to submit their feedback on the proposed location, particularly on whether Hemmigeppura would be an appropriate

site or if there are other preferred locations in the city's west or southwest. Submissions can be made via email to bbmpeep3@gmail.com or delivered in person to the BBMP head office at N R Square, Bengaluru. The feedback window is open for the next seven days, BBMP said. In September, Shivakumar also visited a sky deck in New York during his personal visit to the US. Shivakumar inspected the Skydeck 'The Edge' and its architecture, design, and other structural aspects, hinting at a similar replication in Bengaluru. However, several residents have criticised the project and asked the government to fix basic roads and other essential infrastructure first. R Rajagopalan, convener of Bengaluru Residents Welfare Association, said, "We urge residents to strongly oppose the project. We don't need a sky deck to fulfill someone's personal ambitions. There are more pressing social, civil infrastructure issues for which the coffers are empty and loans are being sought. When the state and the city are in a golden period of surplus, such projects may be considered by a city's Metropolitan Planning Committee per the constitution."

West Bengal Governor to visit 250 locations in state to 'address issues, guide young'

GNS News Agency, Nov 4, Governor of West Bengal C V Ananda Bose will be visiting 250 places across the state from Friday onwards to address "important issues that people face" and "guide the young" in the state. On November 23, Bose will complete two years in office. A month-long initiative, "Apna Bhaarat Jagta Bengal", was launched by the Governor on this occasion. "The Governor will visit anybody who calls him, especially those in any kind of distress, destitute and infirm, orphanages and old age homes," read a statement by the Raj Bhavan. "Through the initiative... Governor Bose envisions linking National Pride and the gravitas of rising Bengal. The diverse socially relevant initiatives shall fan out to different corners of the State... Special stress is to be put on anti-human trafficking, anti-drug abuse, empowerment of women, safety and security of children, participation of youth, cultural and educational initiatives... (the) focus... will be on the welfare of the weaker sections of society," the statement further read.



Kerala govt to issue one more instalment



GNS News Agency, Nov 4, Kerala Around Rs 400 crore due from July 2023 till October is outstanding in Central government allocation. The Kerala government on Friday issued another instalment of social security and welfare fund pension to beneficiaries.

Around 62 lakh people will get Rs 1,600 each, state Finance Minister K N Balagopal said, adding the pensioners will start getting the amount from Wednesday next. The amount will reach the bank accounts of 26.62 lakh people. For others, the pension will be handed over to them at home through cooperative banks, he said in the release. Three installments of pension were distributed as part of the Onam festival. The monthly pension distribution has been ensured since last March. After the LDF government assumed office, about Rs 33,000 crore was allocated for the distribution of welfare pension, he said. Kerala has implemented the most comprehensive social security pension scheme in India. A total of 98 per cent of the money required for this is being spent by the state, while the Central share is only two per cent. Of the 62 lakh welfare pension beneficiaries, 5.88 lakh get an average assistance of Rs 300 from the Central government. Around Rs 400 crore due from July 2023 till October is outstanding in Central government allocation, the release said.

2 plays cancelled at IIT Bombay; admin says 'permission not obtained properly'



GNS News Agency, Nov 4, IIT Bombay According to a complaint letter forwarded by a section of students opposed to the plays, the portrayal of Indian Army personnel in Siachen is "deeply troubling". The performances of two plays — Sir Sir Sarla and Siachen, both directed by well-known writer-director and actor Makrand Deshpande — were cancelled at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay just a couple of days before they were due to take place. The plays were to be staged as part of a theatre festival organised by 'Fourthwall' — the dramatics club of IIT Bombay — on October 29 and 30.

The administration said the performances were cancelled as the process for obtaining permission was not followed properly. However, the students claimed that the shows were cancelled following opposition from a section of the campus community questioning the themes of the plays. According to a complaint letter forwarded by a section of students opposed to the plays, the portrayal of Indian Army personnel in Siachen is "deeply troubling". "It depicts the army commander as a coward... undermining the dignity and sacrifices of our armed forces... put IITB in a negative image," the letter states. Whereas Sir Sir Sarla "presents a negative depiction of the illicit relationship between a professor and two female students, suggesting infidelity and deceit towards their spouses. Such themes raise questions on ethical boundaries in educational institutes... and it may foster an environment of discomfort and controversy within our campus community." Notably, the latest cancellation came just days after another cultural program — Dastangoi by Mahmood Farooqui — which was part of Izhar 2024, a three-day event organised by Vaani, the Indian Languages Club at IIT-Bombay from October 25-27, was cancelled.

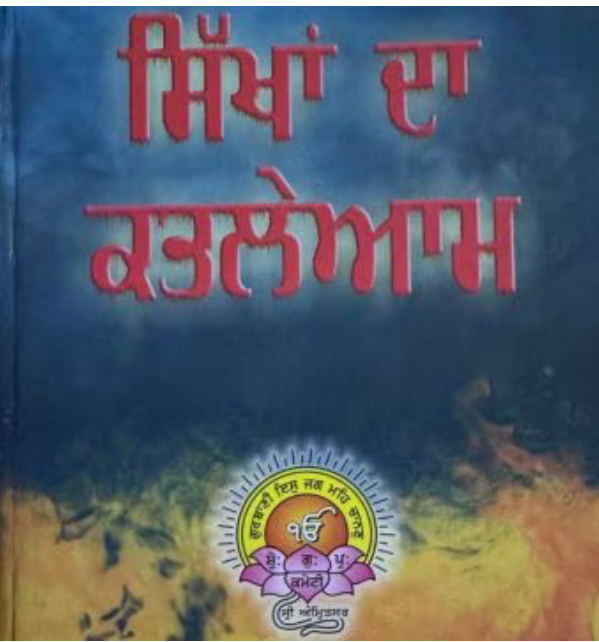
Ex-Army man kills tempo driver following dispute over vehicle parking in Pune



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

A former Indian Army personnel allegedly shot dead a man following a petty dispute over vehicle parking in the Yerwada area of Pune on Thursday night. The police have arrested the assailant identified as Shrikant Patil in this case. The deceased Shahnawaz Shaikh was a tempo driver. A quarrel broke out between Patil and Shaikh over the parking of a vehicle at Ashok Nagar in Yerwada around 11 pm on Thursday. A prima facie probe by the police has revealed that Patil got agitated during the quarrel, and opened fire at Shaikh from a double-barrel gun. The victim was rushed to a hospital but died while undergoing treatment, the police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police Himmat Jadhav visited the crime scene for investigation.

40 years on, a look at how a Punjabi journalist recorded the 1984 anti-Sikh riots



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

The first case against senior Congress leader and former MP Sajjan Kumar for his role in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots was registered in 2005 and he was convicted only in 2018. However, Kumar's name was on the very first page of Sikhyaan Da Katleam (massacre of Sikhs), a Punjabi book published in June 1985, just seven months after the anti-Sikh riots broke out following Operation Blue Star, the Army operation to flush out militants from the Golden Temple, and the assassination of then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984. The book by senior journalist Surjit Singh Sokhi was initially prepared as a report for the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) and was published in four parts under the same name. Not limited to chronicling the anti-Sikh riots in Delhi, the report painstakingly documented the violence against Sikhs across India. After Sokhi's demise in 1995, the SGPC compiled all parts into one and republished it in 2020.

The timing of its publication made the 463-page book one of the most important documents on the 1984 anti-Sikh violence. With first-person accounts, statements, inquiry reports, news clippings, articles, editorials, statements, speeches, etc., the book recorded the victims, the accused, the people who tried to stop attackers, and those who made efforts to seek justice for the victims. It also included a list of 431 widows and named seven Hindu families who saved their Sikh neighbours. Sokhi, who began working as a journalist in the 1960s and was a news editor at Punjabi newspapers Ajit and Akali Patrika, had joined the SGPC in January 1985 to write the book. He travelled to different parts of the country to meet victims and eyewitnesses to the violence. After completing the book, he quit the SGPC and resumed working as a jour-

nalist.

Sokhi began his book by detailing the events that unfolded in Delhi's Sultanpuri area during the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. He profiled the accused and how the victims named Sajjan Kumar, among others. According to the book, the rioters had a clear plan to kill Sikh men, rape women, and then loot their houses and shops before burning them. There is an account of a station house officer who forced Sikh victims to pay Rs 21 each to a farmer after their hair was cut, in exchange for not killing them. Sokhi also met representatives of human rights groups the People's Union for Democratic Rights and People's Union for Civil Liberties and recorded their allegations on who provoked the crowd and how Sikhs were targeted and murdered. Both groups also provided lists of politicians and police officers who assisted, and in some cases, instigated mobs. The book also lists 196 civilians who were identified as attackers by victims from Trilokpuri, Sultanpuri, Mangolpuri, Majapur Gaunda, Shakarpur, Khajoori Khas, Mandawali Uchpur, Nand Nagari, and Raj Nagar areas of Delhi.

The book sheds light on the planned violence and the lack of details in the First Information Reports registered at the time. Thirty-five Hindu lawyers of Delhi had published a report on the anti-Sikh riots in the national capital and the book includes a translation of this report, which draws parallels with the genocide of Jews in Germany. The report mentioned how Sikh homes were identified and marked before the violence in some areas of Delhi, how rioters pelted stones on the car of senior lawyer Ram Jethmalani when he went to inspect Sikh homes to prepare the report, and how lawyers saw half-burned bodies of Sikhs inside their homes. A letter from Sikhs in Delhi to the Sri Akal Takht Sahib and Shiromani Akali Dal at the time pegged the number of Sikhs killed in the riots at 3,000 and listed the names of those responsible.

Across India, Sikhs, their houses and shops, and gurdwaras attacked. The book goes on to document the violence that broke out in Kanpur (400 Sikhs were killed; thousands of families were affected; and gurdwaras, shops and houses owned by Sikhs were burnt), Bihar (more than 150 Sikhs were murdered; and more than a 100 houses and shops were burnt), Ghaziabad (27 Sikhs were killed and nine Army men were attacked at the railway station), Uttar Pradesh (24 Sikhs were killed; gurdwaras were attacked; and more than a 100 Sikh homes were burnt), West Bengal (around 10 Sikhs were killed; bombs were used to attack Sikhs; and gurdwaras, factories, shops, houses and vehicles of Sikhs were set on fire), Madhya Pradesh (Sikh Army men were burnt alive amid other incidents of violence), and Himachal Pradesh (29 incidents of violence against Sikhs were recorded). The book recorded that a study by the Baba Farid Memorial Society, Patiala suggested that timely action by South Indian states reduced the number of Sikh casualties there. No Sikh was killed in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, though there were some attacks on Sikh shops.

Delhi records warmest October in 73 years

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

As per IMD records from 1901, the highest-ever average day temperature for October was recorded in 1951 at 36.2 degrees Celsius. The highest-ever average night temperature was 22.3 degrees Celsius in 1915 and 1951. As per IMD records from 1901, the highest-ever average day temperature for October was recorded in 1951 at 36.2 degrees Celsius. The highest-ever average night temperature was 22.3 degrees Celsius in 1915 and 1951. This year October ended without its typical chill. A lookback at the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data from 1901 reveal that, this year Delhi reported the warmest October in 73 years.



The monthly maximum and minimum averages over Safdarjung were recorded as 35.1 degrees Celsius and 21.2 degrees Celsius respectively. This is the fourth highest monthly day temperature and the sixth highest monthly night temperature in October recorded since 1901. As per IMD records from 1901, the highest-ever average day temperature for October was recorded in 1951 at 36.2 degrees Celsius. The highest-ever average night temperature was 22.3 degrees Celsius in 1915 and 1951. The other warm years were in 1907 with the average maximum settling at 35.5 degrees Celsius. October 1930 and 1938 recorded an average maximum temperature at 35 degrees Celsius. In 1941 a record-breaking average maximum of 35.8 degree Celsius was reported. Further in a decade, this record was again broken with the year 1951 reporting an even higher monthly maximum temperature at 36.2 degree Celsius.

The nights were also warm for the year as a monthly minimum of 22.3 degrees Celsius (highest in 1901-2024) were recorded in October 1951. Earlier in October 1915 similar night time temperatures had been observed and the average minimum settled at 22.3 degrees Celsius. The only other years with monthly minimum temperature close to this were observed in 1927 and 1928 at 21.5 degree Celsius and 22.1 degrees Celsius. According to the IMD, 15.1mm rainfall is the long period average for the month of October. However, there have been no rainy days observed in Delhi so far, which has also contributed to the above-normal temperatures. Rainy days additionally help in dispersal of pollutants. With the onset of winter, the air quality starts to worsen in the capital. Meteorological conditions such as high temperatures can also help aid dispersal of pollutants.

Attack on singer AP Dhillon: One Indian-origin Canadian held, other on the run



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

An Indian-origin Winnipeg man has been charged for the shooting at Punjabi artist AP Dhillon's Colwood residence and two vehicle fires on Ravenwood Road in early September, the North Island Gazette reports. An arrest warrant has also been issued against another man who is reportedly in India. Police in Ontario apprehended 25-year-old Abjeet Kingra on Wednesday. Kingra faces charges of discharging a firearm with intent and arson stemming from the 2 September incident. On that date, police arrived to find two burning vehicles and evidence of gunfire directed at the residence. Officers evacuated an occupant from the home while the Colwood Fire Department extinguished the flames, according to West Shore RCMP.

A video circulated after the incident, believed to have been recorded by one of the suspects, showing an individual firing at least 14 shots at the home. An unendorsed arrest warrant has also been issued for Vikram Sharma,

23, who is suspected to be in India. Sharma, wanted for discharging a firearm with intent and arson, is described as a South Asian man, approximately 5'9", weighing 200 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. Police have no photo available of Sharma at this time. "West Shore RCMP officers have been working diligently on this investigation, which has led to identifying the suspects involved," said Supt Todd Preston, officer in charge of West Shore RCMP. "We will continue to pursue this investigation and locate the outstanding suspect until an arrest is made." Earlier, the firing was connected to extortion incidents within the South Asian business community. AP Dhillon made history last year as the first Punjabi-language artist to perform at the 2023 Juno Awards.

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Cow dung According to Hindu religious practice, Swargadwara is considered to be the most auspicious place for cremation. It functions 24x7. Approximately 40 cremations take place daily. Cow dung-based biofuel and pellets are likely to replace firewood at Swargadwara in Puri for cremation. "We will urge people to consider using cow dung-based biofuel for cremation. Cow dung has huge significance in Hindu religious practice. It will

Steps taken to retain Puducherry's reputation as peaceful UT, says CM N Rangasamy



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Chief Minister N Rangasamy, Puducherry, Indian express Chief Minister N Rangasamy said that ever since his government assumed office, Rs 124.76 crore had been extended to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to enhance their education standards. (FB) Chief Minister N Rangasamy on Friday said that the territorial government has taken steps to retain Puducherry's reputation as a peaceful union territory.

Participating at the celebrations of 71st Liberation (De facto merger) Day of Puducherry after unfurling the tricolour at the Gandhi Thidal here, he said that as a result of steps taken by the government to maintain law and order, "the occurrence of crimes has declined in Puducherry". He further said the "number of road accidents has also considerably come down." The chief minister who detailed the steps taken by the government in the implementation of various schemes to benefit all sections of people also said that they had reached straight to the beneficiaries. "Puducherry has thus emerged as a model union territory for other states". He also stated that 16 government departments here were implementing 142 welfare schemes ensuring a direct benefit transfer system to the beneficiaries. More than 98 per cent of the

beneficiaries' bank accounts were linked to their Aadhaar cards. A total of Rs 796.82 crore was disbursed under the welfare schemes to the beneficiaries during 2023-2024 financial year through their bank accounts under DBT mode, he said.

Rangasamy also said that ever since his government assumed office, Rs 124.76 crore had been extended to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to enhance their education standards. "My government is focusing its attention on the development of all sectors with the cooperation of the people," he said, seeking continued support of the people so that there could be still greater development. The chief minister inspected a guard of honour presented by the police. Contingents of police, Home Guards, Fire Service personnel, members of the NCC and students of various schools participated in the march past. Cultural programmes presented by members of various institutions added to the glitter of the celebration despite intermittent rain.

Puducherry Home Minister A Namassivayam, ministers, legislators and officials were among those present. The chief minister later inaugurated a photo exhibition on the 'History of Puducherry' on the premises of the Municipal office. He also hoisted the tricolour on the premises of the Assembly. The Liberation Day was celebrated in the outlying regions of Karaikal, Yanam and Mahe, official sources said. The administration had declared a holiday on Friday for all government offices and educational institutions to mark the celebrations. Puducherry and the outlying regions of Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam became part of Indian Union as a result of the referendum held in the Kizhoor village near here on October 18, 1954. A treaty of cession was signed between the then French and Indian governments transferring power to Indian government on November 1, 1954. The 'de jure' transfer of power took place on August 16, 1962. The first election to constitute a legislative Assembly was held in 1963. Puducherry has been a union territory since the merger.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh slams NITI Aayog over 'call for power plants to pause installing sulphur reducing gear'

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Jairam Ramesh "To argue that sulphur dioxide emissions are of no concern to public health in India is ridiculous -- especially at a time when the consequences of pollution are so visibly evident across India's cities," Ramesh said. Congress leader and former Union environment minister Jairam Ramesh on Friday said sulphur dioxide emissions from power plants contributed significantly to air pollution and any argument suggesting that such emissions were of no concern to public health in India was ridiculous. His remarks came over a media report, which claimed the NITI Aayog had proposed halting the fitting of equipment to cut sulphur emissions at coal-fired power plants. In a post on X, Ramesh said India was the world's largest emitter of sulphur dioxide and these emissions from power plants contributed significantly to air pollution. "A decision had been taken earlier that the power plants must install fluoride gas desulphurisers. First, a deadline of 2017 was fixed. This was later extended to



2026. Now it appears that the all-knowing NITI Aayog wants the deadline scrapped altogether," the Congress general secretary in-charge communications said. "To argue that sulphur dioxide emissions are of no concern to public health in India is ridiculous -- especially at a time when the consequences of pollution are so visibly evident across India's cities," Ramesh said.

Indian-origin man arrested in Canada's largest drug lab bust in Surrey; RCMP seizes massive haul of drugs, guns, explosives

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

In addition to the drugs, investigators confiscated 89 firearms, including dozens of handguns, AR-style assault rifles, and submachine guns, many loaded and ready to use. An India-origin man, Gaganpreet Singh Randhawa, has been arrested as part of a massive takedown of Canada's largest illegal drug lab by a specialised RCMP unit, with more arrests expected. The operation led to the seizure of record amounts of drugs, precursor chemicals, and firearms from locations in Metro Vancouver.

Authorities seized 54 kilograms of fentanyl, 390 kilograms of methamphetamine, 35 kilograms of cocaine, 15 kilograms of MDMA, and six kilograms of cannabis. "The 95 million potentially lethal doses of fentanyl seized could have taken the lives of every Canadian at least twice over," Assistant Commissioner David Teboul, head of the RCMP's federal policing in B.C. noted during a press conference on Thursday. In addition to the drugs, investigators confiscated 89 firearms, including dozens of handguns, AR-style assault rifles, and submachine guns, many loaded and ready to use. Explosive devices, large amounts of ammunition, silencers, high-capacity magazines, body armour, and \$500,000 in cash were also uncovered. The cocaine came from a location in Surrey; most of the drugs were from the lab in Falkland. In a written statement, Corporal Arash Seyed, Media Relations Officer for Federal Policing in the Pacific Region, said RCMP federal investigators conducted a series of coordinated enforcement actions across Metro Vancouver on Friday, October 25, 2024, executing search warrants on a massive drug superlab in Falkland, BC, and related locations in Surrey, BC.

The bust is a substantial hit to the transnational organised crime group behind it, cutting off an estimated \$485 million in profits. Assistant Commissioner David



Teboul shared details of the raid at a Thursday news conference surrounded by the seized firearms and synthetic drugs. He said Randhawa faces multiple drug and firearms charges, while more arrests are anticipated as the investigation continues. Teboul said, "Following several months of investigative work into a transnational organized crime group involved in the production and distribution of massive quantities of illicit drugs, Federal Policing investigators have dismantled the largest, and most sophisticated drug superlab in Canadian history." The seizure included tonnes of precursor chemicals for methamphetamine production using a formula associated with Mexican cartels, a method not previously seen in Western Canada, Teboul added. The Falkland lab's dismantling and clean-up have already exceeded \$1 million, impacting RCMP budgets and resources funded by Canadians. The synthetic drugs produced at the lab were reportedly intended for both domestic markets and export, though Teboul declined to name potential destination countries. A related search warrant was also executed at a property in Surrey. Teboul said suspect Gaganpreet Randhawa was identified and arrested by investigators from the Federal Policing Group 6.

At Puri Swargadwara, cow dung may replace wood for cremation

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Cow dung According to Hindu religious practice, Swargadwara is considered to be the most auspicious place for cremation. It functions 24x7. Approximately 40 cremations take place daily. Cow dung-based biofuel and pellets are likely to replace firewood at Swargadwara in Puri for cremation. "We will urge people to consider using cow dung-based biofuel for cremation. Cow dung has huge significance in Hindu religious practice. It will

also have no impact on the environment compared," said Odisha Minister Gokulananda Mallik. Before taking a final decision, Mallik said that the government will seek inputs from the committee managing the Swargadwara. A committee headed by a deputy Chief Minister, comprising senior ministers and secretaries, will also be formed by the government. "It will look into different aspects like better utilisation of cow dung and cow urine, protection of cows, including expansion of shelters and

enhancing dairy production in the state," said Mallik. According to Hindu religious practice, Swargadwara is considered to be the most auspicious place for cremation. It functions 24x7. Approximately 40 cremations take place daily. Jagannath culture researcher Naresh Das said as per Hindu religious traditions, only wood is used for cremation. "If the government introduces cow dung-based biofuel, it will hurt people's religious sentiments," said Das.

Valued at Rs 8,000 crore, half of Bettiah Raj land encroached upon in Bihar



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Bihar government, Bettiah Raj land encroached, Bihar land encroached, Champaran region of Bihar, Champaran, Indian express news, current affairs. With farmers paying an annual sum to till the land, the Bihar government, which has been controlling the estate since the death of the second widow of the last zamindar, makes around Rs 2.5 crore from bandobasti (the administrative and revenue collection system) of the land. With officials estimating that around 50 per cent of the land that came under the erstwhile zamindari estate of Bettiah Raj has been encroached upon over the years, the Bihar government has initiated efforts to clear the encroachments. The estate comprises over 15,000 acres of land, most of which is in the Champaran region of Bihar and some in parts of Uttar Pradesh. It is valued at around Rs 8,000 crore.

With farmers paying an annual sum to till the land, the Bihar government, which has been controlling the estate since the death of the second widow of the last zamindar, makes around Rs 2.5 crore from bandobasti

(the administrative and revenue collection system) of the land. The estate is currently managed by an additional district magistrate-level officer and two clerks. Bettiah Raj originated in the Champaran region and traces its descent from Ujjain Singh and his son, Gaj Singh, who had received the title of Raja from Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century. The last raja of Bettiah Raj, Harendra Kishore Singh, died in 1893 without an heir and the estate passed to his first wife, who died in 1896. It was then held by his second wife, Maharani Janki Kuar, but came under the management of a Court of Wards. Since the Court of Wards took over the estate in 1897, it could not be sold or transferred to anyone. Upon Maharani Janki Kuar's death in 1954, the Bihar government took control of the estate.

Recently, the Bihar government provided a breakup of the land that was held by Bettiah Raj. Of the 15,215 acres under the estate in Bihar, 9,758 acres is in West Champaran, and 5,320 acres is in East Champaran. Government sources estimate that around 50 per cent of this land has been encroached upon. According to officials, ever since the Revenue Council got a new chairman earlier this year, the department has initiated an anti-encroachment drive in the erstwhile zamindari land. Anil Kumar Sinha, the manager in charge of the Bettiah Raj estate, told The Indian Express: "After K K Pathak took over as head of the Revenue Council, there has been a concerted effort to free Bettiah Raj land from encroachment. As land survey has been underway in Bihar, he has assigned district magistrates and circle officers to identify Bettiah Raj land and free it from encroachment." Circle officers will go by land papers. If any bandobasti and sale is done after April 1, 1897, it is illegal possession. The land survey will settle the long pending issue once and for all," Sinha said.

India, China troops making progress on disengagement, says Chinese military

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

The Chinese military on Thursday said troops of India and China are "making progress" in implementing the recent agreement to disengage from the friction points in the eastern Ladakh border but declined to comment on reports that the disengagement has been completed. Commenting for the first time after the October 21 agreement to disengage the troops, Zhang Xiaogang, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defence, told a media briefing that "China and India have reached resolutions on the issues concerning the border areas through diplomatic and military channels".

"The frontline troops of the two militaries are making progress in implementing resolutions in an orderly manner," he said, reiterating the foreign ministry's comments on Wednesday. He, however, declined to comment on the reports that the Indian and Chinese troops have completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh and patrolling is set to commence soon at these points. "On this question, I have no more information to offer," Col Zhang said. On the bilateral agreement to disengage the troops, Col Zhang said President Xi Jinping met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the margins of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia last week. "Both sides have agreed that China and India should view and handle the bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective and make sure that the differences on specific issues will not affect the overall relationship," he said. "We hope the Indian side will work together with China to take important common understandings between the two leaders as guidance and continuously implement the above-men-



tioned resolutions and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility along the border areas," he said. Indian Army sources said on Wednesday that the troops of both countries have completed disengagement at two friction points at Demchok and Depsang Plains in eastern Ladakh and patrolling is set to commence soon at these points.

The verification process post-disengagement is in progress and patrolling modalities are to be decided between ground commanders, an Indian Army source said. "Talks will continue at the local commander level," the Army source added. The process follows the agreement between the two countries on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, a major breakthrough to end the over four-year standoff, bringing a fresh thaw in their frosty ties. The move marks a significant development in the pursuit of reduced tension along the LAC in eastern Ladakh since the fierce clash in the Galwan Valley in June 2020 that marked the most serious military conflict between the two sides in decades.

Officials suspect kodo millet plants could be linked to Bandhavgarh elephant deaths, await autopsy for full picture



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

The death toll of wild elephants at Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve climbed to 10 on Thursday, after the Madhya Pradesh wildlife department informed that two more tuskers had died. On Tuesday, patrolling staff at BTR had found four dead elephants at the protected forest reserve, located in the Salakhaniya Beat of Khitauli and Pataur core ranges. Five other elephants were lying on the ground in a critically unwell state. On Wednesday, four elephants died during treatment. The affected herd, officials said, had 13 members – only four were healthy. On Thursday, another elephant died during treatment, taking the toll to nine. "Plus, officials later found another elephant dead deep inside the forest during a combing operation," said a senior wildlife officer.

Officials have said that going by "circumstantial evidence", "toxicity has been observed in their stomach", and it is suspected that they consumed kodo millets. However, the post-mortem reports are awaited to shed more light on the case. According to officials who are treating the elephants, the surviving tuskers have been given a treatment of liver tonics, multivitamins and general antibiotics. "There is now a large team of doctors who are looking into the case. We are mainly treating them for toxic infection. The medicines are registered intravenously. Several villagers have been questioned on the use of pesticides in the kodo millet plants. The villagers have claimed that the act was not intentional. The investigation is underway," said a senior wildlife department official. Officials said the expert teams have suggested to even "look into fungal infections that may arise from ingesting harvested kodo millets". "We have consulted some Chhattisgarh-based doctors and are collecting research papers on the same. The experts have informed us that there have been past instances of elephants dying due

to ingesting kodo millets and there have also been cases of successful treatment," said a senior wildlife department official.

The Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh has a population of elephants that migrated from Chhattisgarh in 2018. The first herd of about 15-20 elephants was spotted in 2018. The elephants are now permanent residents and can be seen in the core and buffer areas of the reserve. Following the discovery of the dead elephants, several teams had been rushed to the spot. The teams examined nearby fields and crops, checked the water sources where the elephants drank, a watering hole where they played, inspected the Kodi-Kutki crop for any poison, collected samples from elephant dung, and also took soil samples and plant exhibits from the vicinity.

Telangana's economic growth lauded: Per Capita Income soars, highest among major States

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Hyderabad: In the decade since Telangana's formation in 2014, the State's economic growth has earned widespread recognition, with its Per Capita Income (PCI) more than doubling, from Rs 1,24,104 in 2014-15 to Rs 3,47,299 in 2023-24. Telangana's PCI is now the highest among major Indian states, far surpassing the national average of Rs 2.12 lakh for 2023-24. This growth rate is the fastest among southern States as well. Highlighting Telangana's economic strides, Saurabh Mukherjee and Nandita Rajhansa's new book 'Behold the Leviathan: The Unusual Rise of Modern India' attributes much of this success to Telangana's strategic investments and reforms. Mukherjee, founder of Marcellus Investment Advisors, commends Telangana for achieving the PCI doubling milestone within just six years, a phenomenal achievement by any standard. The growth story under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao is often cited as a model for rapid urban and economic development, particularly in Hyderabad. Experts believe a third term under Chandrashekar Rao could have continued this trajectory, propelling Telangana to even greater heights in economic performance and development.

With feedback from 5,000 girls, officials work to make Nainital district safe



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Uniforms and identity cards for auto drivers, crack-down on "eve-teasing" and action against property owners whose abandoned plots are being used for "unlawful" gatherings — these are among measures that the Nainital district administration has taken over the last month in an attempt to make the city safer for girls. In Haldwani, a city grappling with rising public safety concerns, the Nainital district administration is undertaking an innovative programme to ensure the security of schoolgirls. Based on their discussions with over 5,000 girl students from 41 schools over the month of September, the district administration has identified 480 "vulnerable" locations in the city that they consider most unsafe. These areas include auto stands, parks, abandoned plots and even shopping malls. Of these, 89 spots were listed as "highly vulnerable" for reasons such as their seclusion and the lack of adequate street lighting there, making them particularly prone to crimes against women.

This drive is significant following a recent viral video from Haldwani that purportedly showed some men harassing some girls who were returning home late in the night. According to officials, the rape and murder of a junior doctor in Kolkata further encouraged the Nainital administration to run such a "sensitisation" programme under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign. Last week, Chief Secretary Radha Raturi issued orders to have the administration's drive replicated across Uttarakhand.

"A total of 102 people have been arrested under the Uttarakhand Police Act during this drive. Periodic police patrolling is being done at the locations that the girls identified. Feedback has also been received from schools," city magistrate A P Bajpai told The Indian Express, adding that while some areas are still unattended, "rigorous action will be taken there too". According to the district

administration, in the first week of September, Nainital District Magistrate Vandana Singh constituted a team of five female officers from various departments — including the police — to hold gender sensitisation workshops. The team, helmed by nodal officer Richa Singh, Uttarakhand's additional director, training and employment, was tasked with holding workshops in schools and asking girl students about the areas that they felt unsafe.

"Being a woman, I can understand when girls go out, parents have so many apprehensions and it affects the children's education and career. So, we thought of making a team of women officers to directly talk to the girls and ask them where they feel unsafe and how we can make that area safer," Singh said. According to officials, the girl students reported being groped at auto-rickshaw stands and inside autos, and being harassed outside their schools and even shopping malls. On the basis of these reports, the district administration has drawn up a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). Under this, raids were conducted, with police also arresting those drinking at roadside eateries. Likewise, action was taken against people who gathered without reason near schools and coaching centres, vacant plots and also on roadsides, officials said. Meanwhile, 28 plot owners have been challaned after their abandoned properties were used for "nuisance" activities. According to Bajpai, these owners have been told to fence their properties, with the administration issuing orders that there would be regular police patrolling in these areas.

The district administration is also conducting a verification drive of all rickshaws, e-rickshaws and roadside vendors, said Singh. Uniforms of khaki pants and shirts have been made mandatory for all auto drivers from December and identity-cards are currently being distributed among them. But these measures are not only reactive, they are also preventive. According to officials, the SOP also recommends running Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) awareness programmes in schools for boys. Based on students' reports, the Haldwani Municipal Corporation has also installed street lights at 106 locations and the exercise is ongoing in other places, officials said. There is also a crackdown on "night-time loitering", with the administration holding counselling sessions for youngsters who get "caught". "We will intensify these exercises in the coming days. It will be a continuous process," DM Vandana Singh said, adding that girls have been made aware of helpline numbers, now being displayed in auto-rickshaws, schools and other public places.

Bangladesh national among 3 detained for illegal infiltration, human trafficking in Tripura's Khowai district

GNS News Agency, Nov 4, tripura. All three persons were produced before a local court with a plea to remand them to police custody for further interrogation. The Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday detained three persons, including one Bangladeshi national and two Indian citizens suspected to be involved in human trafficking, from Tripura's Khowai district while they were about to violate the international border. The detainees were later handed over to the state police and were charged with violating the Foreigners Act and Human Trafficking Act, officials said.

Speaking to reporters, a police officer from Khowai police station said, "BSF handed over three persons earlier today (Wednesday). We have booked a case against them, charging the Bangladeshi national of trying to illegally cross the Indo-Bangla international border into Bangladesh with the help of the Indian touts. The Indian citizens were charged with human trafficking." All three persons were produced before a local court with a plea to remand them to police custody for further interrogation. The Bangladeshi nationals was identified as Neel Das, 34, from Narsingdi of Bangladesh while details of the Indian citizens weren't revealed.

The Government Railway Police arrested 257 foreign nationals, including 239 Bangladeshis and 18 Rohingya persons, in Tripura till September 30 this year.



In addition, they arrested 54 Indian touts for allegedly facilitating the foreign nationals in crossing international borders. The official further stated that they arrested 172 persons in these nine months who were charged under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. They also seized several contraband items, including 17,500 tablets, 3,254 kilogram of cannabis, 8,411 bottles of cough syrup and 314 gram of heroin. The BSF has recently stated that it has stepped up domination and vigil along the border in Tripura to prevent infiltration. It also informed that over 70 Bangladeshi nationals were apprehended by the BSF while they were trying to infiltrate into the Indian territory in September alone.

Disengagement completed at two friction points in Ladakh, stage set for patrolling resumption

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Setting the stage for resumption of patrolling in the Depsang Plains and Demchok areas of eastern Ladakh, India and China have completed the process of disengagement at these two friction points along the Line of Actual Control. Confirming the completion of the disengagement process, Army sources said Wednesday that patrolling will commence soon and talks will continue at the level of local commanders. It is expected that there will be an exchange of sweets between the two sides Thursday, also the Diwali day.

Xu Feihong, China's Ambassador to India, in a post on X about his speech at a special session of the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) in Kolkata, said, "China-India relations are standing at a new starting point, facing new development opportunities. China stands ready to work with India to lift bilateral economic and trade cooperation to a new height." According to news agency PTI, Ambassador Xu, responding to a question on the disengagement process, said, "I hope that under the guidance of this consensus, relations will be moving forward smoothly in the future and not be restricted and interrupted by specific disagreements between the two sides. The most important thing is how to handle the differences." Disengagement completed at two friction points in Ladakh, stage set for patrolling resumption. Army sources said the verification of disengagement is in progress and the patrolling modalities are to be decided between ground commanders. The verification is being done physically as well as with unmanned aerial vehicles. The disengagement involves removal of temporary structures. This marks the first step of a three-step process – disengagement, de-escalation and de-induction of troops on the India-China border areas.

The buildup of troops and the standoff along the LAC followed detection of Chinese incursions in eastern

Ladakh in May 2020 and sent bilateral ties south. This October 21, India and China reached an agreement on patrolling arrangements. The announcement on the agreement was made by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in New Delhi, setting the stage for a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Kazan, capital of Tatarstan in Russia's southwest.

Four days later, Beijing confirmed the agreement, saying "Chinese and Indian frontier troops are engaged in relevant work, which is going smoothly at the moment". "The current agreement is only for Depsang and Demchok... Troops from both sides will retreat to positions held before April 2020," an Army source said. The Chinese PLA had cut off Indian access to patrolling points (PPs) 10 to 13 in the Depsang Plains. In the Demchok area, Chinese troops had been squatting at the Charding Nullah. This agreement is important because the Chinese side, until a year ago, showed reluctance to even discuss Depsang Plains and Demchok while it agreed on disengagement at other friction points – PP 14 (Galwan valley), PP 15 (Hot Springs), PP 17A (Gogra), north and south banks of Pangong Tso. The agreement framework was first agreed upon at the diplomatic level and then military-level talks took place, the Army source said. A day after Misri's announcement regarding the agreement, Army chief General Uday Kumar Dwivedi said the first priority for the two armies would be to "restore trust" in each other by "not creeping" into the buffer zones, "go back to the status quo of April 2020" and then look at "disengagement, de-escalation, normal management" of the LAC. "Patrolling gives you that kind of advantage... As we restore the trust, the other phases will also follow through," General Dwivedi said. According to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, this creates a basis for peace and tranquillity which was there in the border areas before 2020, and they will be able to come back to that.

Israel pounds Lebanon, Gaza after U.S. truce push



BEIRUT, GNS News Agency, Nov 4. Israel bombarded the Gaza Strip and Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday, a day after U.S. envoys made a renewed but so far fruitless diplomatic push to end more than a year of fighting between Israel and Iran-backed groups Hamas and Hezbollah. Overnight, 47 Palestinians were killed and dozens more injured in Israeli strikes on the city of Deir Al-Balah, the Nuseirat camp and the town of Al-Zawayda in the central Gaza Strip, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported. The Israeli military said its troops had killed what it called armed terrorists in central Gaza and northern Gaza's Jabalia area.

Israel also pummelled Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday morning with at least 10 strikes, Reuters journalists said. It was the first bombardment on the area - once a densely-packed district and Hezbollah stronghold - in nearly a week. The strikes came after Israel issued evacuation orders for 10 separate neighbourhoods. The attacks began before the final series of orders were published. Israel has pressed on with its military offensives in devastated Gaza and Lebanon despite efforts by Washington to secure ceasefires on both fronts ahead of the U.S. presidential election next Tuesday. The hostilities have whittled away any hope a truce could be reached before next week.

Addressing graduating Israeli troops on Thursday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that

"agreements, documents, proposals are not the main point." "The main point is our ability and determination to enforce security, thwart attacks against us, and act against the arming of our enemies, as necessary and despite any pressure and constraints. This is the main point," he said. His office said he relayed a similar message to U.S. envoys Amos Hochstein and Brett McGurk in Israel on Thursday.

'ISRAELI STUBBORNNESS' Lebanon's caretaker prime minister Najib Mikati said on Friday: "Israeli statements and diplomatic signals received by Lebanon confirm the Israeli stubbornness in rejecting the proposed solutions and insisting on the approach of killing and destruction". Israel also carried out strikes on Thursday on the region of Baalbek in Lebanon's east, home to UNESCO-listed Roman ruins. A cultural group that organises yearly festivals amid the ruins said some cracks were visible due to nearby Israeli strikes. Hezbollah began firing rockets at Israel in solidarity with Palestinians a day after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages back to Gaza, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's retaliatory offensives have killed more than 43,000 Palestinians and reduced most of Gaza to rubble, Palestinian authorities say, and another 2,800 people in Lebanon, according to the health ministry there. In Israel, a farmer and four Thai workers were killed in a Hezbollah rocket attack on Metula, according to Israeli authorities. They said two more civilians were killed by shrapnel near the town of Kiryat Ata. Hezbollah says it only fires at military targets in Israel.

Despite the new push for peace by the United States, Israel's close ally and main arms supplier, the deadly exchanges of fire indicate little progress has been made. One Lebanese man, Hassan Saad, speaking in a street in Beirut, told Reuters: "This is a brutal war and Israel does not have the right to do this... There must be a limit put for Israel because Israel does not abide by any of the laws or human morality." Another man, Ali Ramadan, said he believed the Israeli airstrikes were a way to put pressure on Lebanon in the ceasefire negotiations.

Ladakh disengagement is good but what about the Eastern Himalayas?



GNS News Agency, Nov 4, There is now an atmosphere of excitement in the corridors of power in New Delhi. Military disengagement with China in the eastern Ladakh has taken place. Armies of China and India have reportedly pulled back in Dapsung and Demchok. This is good. But there is still a veil of silence over the 'Finger' points in the Pangong Tso lake area. Previously India used to patrol till Finger 8. After the Chinese incursion this came down upto Finger 4. What will happen here? Would India have to cede the area between the two above mentioned Fingers? Till now no clear cut official stand-point is available.

So causes of worry remain. At the same time there are glimmers of hope also. Xu Feihong, Chinese envoy to New Delhi, has expressed that relations between China and India are now standing at a new starting point with new development opportunities. Is it really so? In 1962 also Chou en Lai, the then Chinese Premier, had said many such pious words before his army swooped down on North Eastern India and reached upto Bomdilla, situated deep in Arunachal Pradesh and right upto the borders of Assam.

New Delhi must always keep it in mind that in Chinese geopolitical interests Arunachal Pradesh is much more important to them than the Ladakh sector where, in many stretches, "not even a blade of grass grows". By a blitzkrieg in this sector they can overrun Daulat Beg Oldi

(DBO), India's last military post on the foot of the Karakoram pass and cut off the Siachin glacier. But how much China can gain by doing this? The DBO outpost can hardly threaten the China controlled Aksai Chin which is five miles to the East. On the other hand China is already in Pakistan through the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) coming through Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

So strategically the importance of the western Himalayas is much less to China than what it is in regard to the eastern Himalayas. Why is it so? The principal reason is China's burgeoning water shortage and at the same time increasing demands for electricity. To overcome it Beijing is building up hydro electric dams on the Brahmaputra in Tibet thereby blocking free flow of the river water to India. Now the river valleys of Arunachal Pradesh have immense hydro-power potential currently estimated at 50,328 megawatt or approximately 22 percent of India's power generating capacity. Control over this state would give China immense strategic security. Interestingly we have not heard anything from China in recent times for settling of border problems in the eastern Himalayas particularly in the McMahon Line sector that involves Arunachal Pradesh. On the contrary it 'renamed' 30 places of this Indian state this year. On several occasions China has included Arunachal Pradesh in its map. With a certain motive China is increasing its military capacity in the depth areas across Arunachal Pradesh. It is now well known that four sectors of the state namely Asaphila, Tuting Axis, Chang Tze and Fishtail 2 are under some kinds of Chinese threat. There is no scope of over satisfaction on the part of New Delhi over Beijing's future moves vis-a-vis Arunachal Pradesh. It is because the Tawang monastery of the state is invaluable to China for control over Tibetan Buddhism which in turn means complete control over Tibet, an area now occupying the central position in China's foreign policy. What would be New Delhi's approach now? Con-fabulations over the proper alignment of the McMahon Line is welcome. But at the same time New Delhi should always be prepared for some surprises.

North Korea says record test was new Hwasong-19 intercontinental ballistic missile

SEOUL, GNS News Agency, Nov 4, North Korea flexed its military muscle with the test of a huge new solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile dubbed Hwasong-19, state media said on Friday, amid international uproar over its troops deployed to aid Russia in Ukraine. The launch on Thursday flew higher than any previous North Korean missile, according to the North as well as militaries in South Korea and Japan that tracked its flight deep into space before it splashed down in the ocean between Japan and Russia. State news agency KCNA lauded it as "the world's strongest strategic missile".

While questions remain over North Korea's ability to guide such a missile and protect a nuclear warhead as it reenters the atmosphere, the Hwasong-19, like North Korea's other latest ICBMs, demonstrated the range to strike nearly anywhere in the United States. "The new-type ICBM proved before the world that the hegemonic position we have secured in the development and manufacture of nuclear delivery means of the same kind is absolutely irreversible," North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said while overseeing the launch, KCNA reported. Most of the long range missiles were test fired on steep vertical trajectories, known as lofted trajectories.

The launch, days before Tuesday's U.S. presidential election, drew swift condemnation from Washington and its allies in South Korea, Japan and Europe, as well as the United Nations secretary-general. "The missile continues to underwrite the growing credibility of North Korea's strategic deterrent capabilities," said Ankit Panda, a senior fellow at the U.S.-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, adding that Kim appeared specifically interested in communicating that message to the United States. The South Korean and U.S. air forces conducted first-ever joint live-fire attack drills on Friday with unmanned aerial vehicles, flying the Global Hawk and the Reaper drones, dropping GPS-guided munitions in simulated strikes against enemy target, South Korea's air force said.

On Friday, South Korea imposed new sanctions on 11 North Korean individuals and four entities over the ICBM test, naming officials for contributing to missile and nuclear development and channelling illegal foreign funds back to the country. A spokesperson for South Korea's unification ministry, which handles relations with the North, said the launch could have been for several purposes, including demonstrating military technology, pressuring Washington and diverting attention from the issue of sending North Korean troops to Russia. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy blasted what he called his allies' "zero" response to Russia's deployment of North Korean troops for the war in Ukraine, which has also sparked worries that Moscow could provide sensitive military technology to Pyongyang in return. Item 1 of 6 A view shows what they say is a 'Hwasong-19' missile being launched at an undisclosed location in this screengrab



obtained from a video released Russia and North Korea have not denied the troop deployments and have defended their right to help each other.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the Pentagon was very early in its assessment phase of the missile launch "and we don't see any indication at this point that there was Russian involvement." Although Russia may provide some specialists to assist with inspections or modifications, Kim Dong-yup of the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul expressed scepticism it would share sensitive technology with Pyongyang. "Even if some level of military cooperation between North Korea and Russia is possible, they are likely to be very cautious when it comes to core military technologies," he said.

HEAVIER PAYLOADS The Hwasong-19 will deploy alongside the Hwasong-18, which was first launched last year and is also powered by solid fuel, KCNA said. Solid-fuel missiles do not need to be fuelled immediately ahead of launch, are often easier and safer to operate and require less logistical support than liquid-fuel weapons. "It can be stored and moved anywhere, allowing for excellent mobility, stealth and survivability," said Kim of the University of North Korean Studies. Photos released by KCNA showed a large, multi-stage missile launched from a canister carried by a transporter-erector-launcher vehicle. The agency showed photos from cameras that appeared to be attached to the missile, taking images of stage separations and the earth. "The increased length likely means a greater fuel capacity, which directly affects thrust and potentially increases range," Kim said. But North Korea's existing missiles already had the range to reach anywhere in the United States, and the Hwasong-19's expanded capacity combined with larger payload section is more likely designed to be able to carry heavier, and potentially multiple, nuclear warheads, he said. "North Korea may continue testing to see if, during the final re-entry phase, the warheads can separate and each head toward individual targets," Kim added. The Hwasong-19 flew 1,001.2 km (622.12 miles) for 85 minutes and 56 seconds before landing in the sea off the east coast of the Korean peninsula, with a maximum altitude of 7,687.5 km (4,776.8 miles), KCNA said.

Harris says Trump obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Philadelphia: Former President Donald Trump is becoming increasingly unstable, obsessed with revenge and is out for unchecked power, Vice President Kamala Harris said on Friday in an unprecedented attack on her Republican rival ahead of next week's election. In a rally in Las Vegas, Harris, the Democratic leader of Indian heritage said Trump is all about "hate" and more division and that he would bring an "enemies list" to the White House while she would carry a "to-do list" of priorities. Singer Jennifer Lopez joined the Democratic leader at the rally. "We all know who Donald Trump is. He is not someone who is thinking about how to make your life better. He is someone who is increasingly unstable, obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance, and he is out for unchecked power," Harris said at the rally. With just four days left for the November 5 vote, the race between Trump and Harris remained very tight in the key battleground States. "If he (Trump) is re-elected, Donald Trump will walk into the office with an enemies list. If I am

elected, I will walk in with a 'to-do list' on behalf of you," Harris said. "And at the top of my list is bringing down the cost of your living. That will be my focus every single day as the President," she added. Harris said she would put the country ahead of her party and be a President for all Americans. "Unlike Donald Trump, I do not believe that people who disagree with me are the enemy. He wants to put them in jail. I want to give them a seat at the table. That's what real leadership look like," she said. "I pledge to always put country above party, and self and to be a president for all Americans," she added. Harris said, if elected to the White House, she would make housing more affordable by building more houses. "We will cut taxes for small business, we will lower health care costs." "I see the promise of America in everyone here," she said. The Democratic leader also attacked Trump for his comment that he would protect women whether they "like it or not". The comments showed that Trump "does not understand women's rights to make decisions about their own lives, including their own bodies," she said.

Trump's fraud claims revive fears he may again seek to overturn election results

PHILADELPHIA, GNS News Agency, Nov 4, False claims about voter fraud in Pennsylvania have raised concerns that former Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump may once again seek to overturn the vote there or in other battleground states likely to determine the winner next Tuesday. Opinion polls, both nationally and in the seven closely divided states, show Trump locked in a tight race with Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris with four days to go before Election Day.

Trump continues to falsely claim his 2020 loss to Democratic President Joe Biden was the result of widespread fraud in multiple states that Trump lost, while he and his supporters have spread baseless claims about this election in Pennsylvania. Similar rhetoric about voter fraud after the 2020 vote led to a violent mob of Trump supporters attacking the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, seeking to halt or sway the congressional count of the electoral votes that determine who becomes president. "This is sowing the seeds for attempts to overturn an election result that cuts against Donald Trump," said Kyle Miller, a Pennsylvania policy strategist for the advocacy group Protect Democracy. "We saw it in 2020 and I think the lesson Trump and his allies have learned since is that they have to sow these ideas early." Trump on Thursday stepped up his unfounded allegations that probes into suspect voter registration forms are proof of voter fraud. Some of his supporters alleged voter suppression when long lines formed this week to receive mail-in ballots. State officials and democracy advocates said the incidents show a system working as intended. A judge extended the mail-in ballot deadline by three days in Bucks County, north of Philadelphia, after the former U.S. president's campaign sued over claims that some voters were turned away before a Tuesday deadline. Election officials discovered potentially fraudulent registrations in Lancaster and neighboring York counties, prompting investigations by local law enforcement. There is no evidence the applications have led or will lead to illegal votes. "This is a sign that the built-in safeguards in our voter registration process are working," Al Schmidt, Pennsylvania's top elections official, told reporters this week. Trump tells his rallies to expect a big victory on Tuesday, saying he could only envision losing "if it was a corrupt election."

Trump's claims have raised concerns that he is pre-



paring to again blame a potential loss in Pennsylvania, the largest of the seven states likely to decide the result of the election, on voter fraud. In a social media post on Thursday, he said: "We caught them CHEATING BIG in Pennsylvania" and demanded criminal prosecutions. A senior Harris campaign official on Thursday said Trump's claims were an example of the former president trying to "sow doubt in our elections and institutions when he's afraid he can't win." "Should Trump win the vote fairly, all the talk of fraud may dissipate quickly. But the United States' unique method of choosing a president, rooted in the 1789 Constitution, provides openings for Trump and his supporters to seek to undermine or delay election results at the local, state and national level. In 2020, the Trump team attempted 60 court cases alleging fraud in multiple states, all without success. But the experience has prepared lawyers from both parties for another attempt, each side sharpening their knowledge of election law. Should Trump followers overturn or delay any unfavorable state results long enough through the courts or legislative obstruction, they could prevent a duly elected Harris from taking office and tilt the result to Trump. Some U.S. states are warning county and local officials not to intervene illegally or refuse to certify results. But the final arbiter in such a case would be the nine-member U.S. Supreme Court. With six conservative justices, three of them appointed by Trump, the court has already granted the former president a victory in his bid to seek criminal immunity from acts committed as president.

Attackers set fire to headquarters of Bangladesh party that backed ousted leader Sheikh Hasina

GNS News Agency, Nov 4, Dhaka: Attackers set fire to the headquarters of a Bangladesh party that supported the country's ousted leader Sheikh Hasina on Thursday night, media reports said. There was no information if anyone was injured. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack on the Jatiya Party offices in Bangladesh's capital, Dhaka. TV stations and other media said the attackers stormed the party headquarters in Dhaka's Bijoy Nagar area, clashing with party members who were there and eventually setting the premises on fire. The extent of the damage was not immediately known. Firefighters rushed to the scene, according to Rashed bin Khaled, an official of the Fire Service and Civil Defense. Bin Khaled, who spoke to The Associated Press by phone, had no other details. The party is Bangladesh's third largest and was founded by former military dictator H.M. Ershad in the 1980s.

As the attack was underway, a prominent leader of a student protest movement that led to Hasina's ouster in August said the Jatiya Party should be "destroyed" for its support of her government. Hasnat Abdullah, the student leader, claimed in a Facebook post that the Jatiya party was "a national betrayer." Abdullah is from the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, which spearheaded the July protests. He also urged students to gather at the Dhaka University and march toward the Jatiya Party headquarters. Mujibul Haque Chunnu, the party's secretary general, blamed the students for the attack. "People are watching what they are doing with us," he said. "It is



live in social media ... they are doing it publicly, openly." Hasina's Bangladesh Awami League party ruled the country for 15 years, since 2009. Her critics said the Jatiya Party had acted to give Hasina's rule a veneer or democracy as other major political parties did not take part in the elections. Hasina fled the country to India on Aug. 5, after the student-led demonstration morphed into an anti-government protest movement. Hundreds of students, security officials and others were killed during the turmoil. Later, hundreds more, including Hasina's supporters, were killed in revenge attacks or in mob violence across the South Asian nation. She now faces arrest warrants for the killings in July and August. Muhammad Yunus, a Bangladeshi Nobel laureate, took over as head of an interim government backed by the student group and the country's influential military in August.

Electronic, aircraft parts: Most Indian firms on list supplied dual-use goods



Of the Indian entities — 19 companies and two Indian nationals — sanctioned by the United States on Wednesday for allegedly aiding Russia's war in Ukraine by supplying Moscow with materials and technology that could be used in military applications, most are suppliers of electronic components, while a few are suppliers of aircraft parts and machine tools and components, among other items. While a few India-based companies were sanctioned earlier by the US as part of its Russia-related sanctions regime, the number of firms targeted in the latest move is unusually high. As a result of the sanctions, US assets and companies owned by the sanctioned entities and individuals are blocked, and American entities are prohibited from transacting with them. Even outside the US, people and firms that transact with sanctioned entities could face the risk of sanctions.

The Indian government has so far not commented on the development. A questionnaire sent to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry did not elicit a response. A number of sanction designations pertain to export of dual-use goods — that can be used for both civil and military applications — to Russia. Many such items are part of the Common High Priority List (CHPL) made jointly by the US, the European Union, Japan, and the United Kingdom. The CHPL lists numerous items that Russia "seeks to procure for its weapons programmes". In August, The Indian Express had reported that US government officials were sensitising Indian companies and exporters to deter them from supplying Russia with dual-use goods, as these could attract Western sanctions. That exercise followed a Bengaluru-based company being sanctioned over its alleged role in supplying dual-use technology to Russia. Also, a US Treasury official had, earlier this year, cautioned Indian banks that financial institutions engaging with Russia's military-industrial base risk losing access to the US financial system, as per a Reuters report.

"Entities based in the PRC (China), India, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Türkiye, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), among other countries, continue to sell these (CHPL) items (critical to Russia's military-in-

dustrial base) and other important dual-use goods to Russia, including critical components that Russia relies on for its weapons systems to wage war against Ukraine," the US Department of State said in a release on Wednesday. The US Treasury department said it was acting against entities across 17 jurisdictions, including India, China, Switzerland, Thailand and Türkiye. Additionally, the latest sanctions also target Russian importers and producers of "key inputs and other material for Russia's military-industrial base".

Delhi-based aircraft spare parts company Ascend Aviation and two of its directors — Vivek Kumar Mishra and Sudhir Kumar — have been sanctioned by the US Department of State for shipping CHPL items to Russia, including US-origin aircraft parts. Another Indian company — Mask Trans — has been sanctioned for supplying CHPL items, including aviation components, to a Russian firm already under sanctions. The department also sanctioned two India-based companies — TSMD Global and Futrevo — for supplying electronic components to sanctioned Russian companies. Additionally, 15 Indian companies feature in the latest sanctions list issued by the US Department of Treasury for supply of dual-use items to Moscow. These include Abhar Technologies and Services, Denvas Services, Emsystech, Innovio Ventures, Pointer Electronics, and RRG Engineering Technologies, which have been sanctioned for supplying electronics, including various components and microelectronics.

Galaxy Bearings and Orbit Fintrade are also on the list for supplying roller bearings and roller assemblies to a sanctioned Russian company. Machine tools exporters Khushbu Honing, Lokesh Machines, and Sharpline Automation are also among the sanctioned Indian entities. Shaurya Aeronautics, Shreegeeg Impex, and Shreya Life Sciences have been sanctioned for supplying various dual-use goods and technology to Russian companies. India's exports of machines, auto parts, steel and aluminium products, internal combustion engines, pumps, and other items to Russia are increasing. Exports in the "engineering goods" category nearly doubled, surpassing the \$1-billion mark in 2023. Official data from the Commerce Ministry shows that India's total exports to Russia in 2023 surged by 40 per cent, exceeding \$4 billion, largely driven by engineering goods, which nearly doubled to \$1.32 billion in 2023 from \$680 million in 2022. This increase in exports coincides with Russia's heightened defence investments. In July, the World Bank reported that economic activity in Russia was influenced by a considerable increase in military-related activity in 2023. Russia's military spending rose by 24 per cent in 2023, reaching an estimated \$109 billion, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The multiple contradictions in Elon Musk's unflinching support for Donald Trump

As the US presidential elections grind towards D-day, Elon Musk has turned into the single largest contributor and most vocal proponent of Donald Trump's re-election campaign. Musk, the world's richest man, is now on stage at rallies with Trump, offering cash prizes to potential Republican voters and is turning his social media platform X into a megaphone that amplifies support for the Trump campaign. But there are also multiple contradictions in this developing symbiotic relationship. Musk may be unflinching in his hard sell of Trump's candidature, but the billionaire has expressed doubts over the basic tenets of the former US President's economic plans, especially over the question of whether those measures would indeed supercharge the American economy. Trump has called for mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, a fresh dose of his 2017 tax cuts and a range of other tax tweaks, alongside higher tariffs on practically all imports.

Musk has raised some doubts about the efficacy of these measures. In one of his multiple responses to a pseudonymous X account on October 29 that alluded to an "initial severe overreaction in the economy" and the "market tumbling" if Trump were to be elected and then gets to roll out his plan, Musk had a three word response: "Sounds about right". On the issue of tax cuts, Musk has acknowledged earlier at a 'telephone town hall' that cutting government spending, given the tax cut promises, could be painful. On the other issue of illegal immigration, the Washington Post released a story on October 26 quoting documents stating how "long before he became one of Donald Trump's biggest donors and campaign surrogates, Elon Musk worked illegally in the United States as he launched his entrepreneurial career." South African-born Musk held no legal right to work while building the company that became Zip2, which sold for about \$300 million in 1999 and backrolled most of his other ventures. The Post noted that Musk is "arguably America's most successful immigrant." Trump's climate change denial, ridiculing of EVs, Trump has spent years ridiculing electric vehicles, saying they suffer from range-related issues, are too expensive and are made in China. In keeping with his climate change denialism, Trump has vociferously supported internal combustion engine car makers, batted for the Detroit Big Three (GM, Ford and Chrysler) and has repeatedly promised to end federal support for EVs. For Musk, all of that does present a challenge. His personal wealth is tied largely in Tesla stock and his EV hard sell is fundamentally rooted in the environmentally-friendly pitch of battery electric cars that his car company makes. The Detroit three are among Tesla's competitors. And any paring down of federal subsidy could be a serious headwind for Tesla going forward, especially at a time when EV sales are seeing a temporary slowdown.

On the EV issues, there is also a larger Republican versus Democrats divide at play. Public opinion research suggests interest in EVs has some partisan roots, with a 2023 Gallup poll finding that 71 per cent of Republicans would not consider buying an EV, compared with 17 per cent of Democrats, while a more recent 2023 Pew Research survey found that 70 per cent of Republican or Republican-leaning Americans were unlikely to consider buying an EV. The findings of a new Environmental Defense Fund Action study showed that in states where more than 50 per cent of voters linked to EVs were Democrats, only one (Kentucky) voted for Trump in 2020, with the remainder going to President Joe Biden. Also, in traditionally Democratic-leaning states like California, the average road miles between public chargers is under 10, while in states such as North Dakota or Wyoming, there can be more than 500 miles between chargers. In Musk's support for the Republican candidate, there is this inherent paradox of sorts. But fresh data also shows

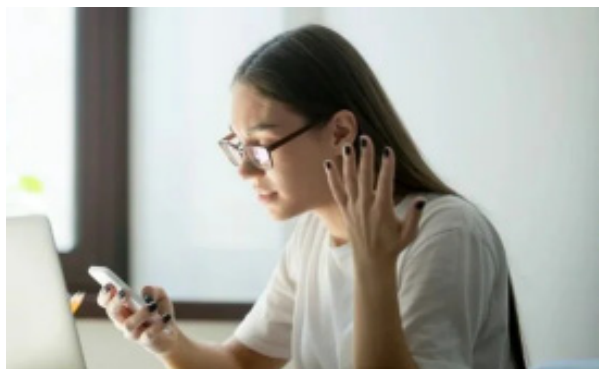
that some of those sharp divides might be easing off. The research by the Environmental Defense Fund Action's February 2024 study, which acquired the voter and vehicle data from L2 — a political firm that analyses and sells voter registration and consumer records — suggests that despite common perceptions, some of these trends could be changing and that not all electric vehicle owners are Democrats. In nine of the 31 states that register voters by party, for example, more Republican voters were reported as being linked to records of electric vehicles — including insurance and repair records — than Democrats. Republicans, independents and third-party voters associated with electric vehicles also exceed Democrats in 24 of those states. Starlink's sales pitch versus the diplomatic tightrope

Musk's Starlink satellite internet service has provided a clear frontline advantage to Ukraine's smaller military since the 2022 Russian invasion, permitting the Ukrainian forces to share real-time drone feeds between battlefield units, and continue communications in areas where cell phone services have been disrupted by the fighting. Given Trump's perceived soft corner for Russian president Vladimir Putin, Starlink's communications support to the Ukraine forces runs somewhat counter to the expectation, even though recent months have seen some recalibrations by Musk's company. Over the last few weeks, multiple Ukrainian units across the front lines were reported in a CNN story as stating that they had experienced speed problems with Starlink.

Earlier in February, Musk had responded to Ukrainian claims the Russians were "hooked on to" Starlink with a statement that his company "did not do business with the Russian government", and that the system would not work in Russia. But the CNN report noted that Starlink was unclear if the technology might work in Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine. "If SpaceX obtains knowledge that a Starlink terminal is being used by a sanctioned or unauthorised party, we investigate the claim and take actions to deactivate the terminal if confirmed," the company said then in a statement. When it comes to SpaceX, which operates the Starlink satellite system, there is clearly a lot of business that rides on the US government contracts. The company won a \$1.8 billion contract with US military and intelligence agencies in 2021 and is now the major rocket launcher for NASA and the Pentagon. For that, Musk has to straddle a diplomatic tightrope with regard to the commercial obligations of his ventures, including Starlink's Ukraine operations. Also, for Starlink and for SpaceX, Musk needs access to terrestrial relay stations across the whole world, including Russia and China and other large swathes of territories. Russia also has the capacity to destroy satellites in space and Musk would be keen to avoid that event at any cost. There is a possibility that Musk's bet on Trump is a deliberate hedge on the potential risks that span from owning a business as large in scope and scale as SpaceX.

Musk's firings versus Trump's employee-friendly pitch Trump has been championing the cause of American workers, labouring for support from prominent union leaders and has been ostensibly against lay-offs. Musk, on the other hand, is synonymous with firings across all of his companies. In January this year, SpaceX was accused by a US labour agency of illegally firing eight employees for circulating a letter calling Musk a "distraction and embarrassment." A regional official with the Washington-based National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) had issued a complaint claiming SpaceX violated the workers' rights under federal labour law to band together and advocate for better working conditions. Then in April, Musk fired practically all of Tesla's electric-vehicle charging division as part of much wider layoffs. Earlier, there was a massive purging at Twitter when Musk took over.

We find out whether poor posture can 'slowly kill the brain'



American entrepreneur and venture capitalist Bryan Johnson recently wrote on X that he discovered that his posture "was slowly killing my brain". "I didn't realise how terrible my posture was until an MRI showed it was slowly killing my brain. A ticking time bomb of a problem that I've now dramatically improved with these five habits," Johnson wrote. According to the MRI, his posture was "trapping blood in my brain, blocking it from flowing properly to my heart." "Was I going to have a seizure? A stroke? I didn't know."

He further discovered that he has "genetically narrow internal jugular veins and my bad posture was dangerously cutting off the flow of blood out of my brain and back to my heart." "Even with normal jugular veins, you may be doing the same with poor posture," said

Johnson. Johnson said he made the necessary changes, from exercises to posture tweaks and moving every 30 minutes, to reduce the pressure on his brain.

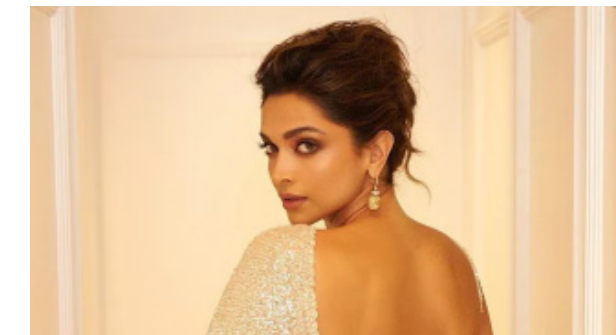
But is there really a connection?

Dr Pavan Pai, consultant and interventional neurologist at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mira Road, said many people struggle with unpleasant health problems due to improper posture. "Those with poor neck posture can experience strain on the neck muscles, worsening the pain. There can be other problems such as headaches, stiffness, and difficulty moving your neck when one maintains a wrong posture constantly," said Dr Pai. However, Dr Pai denied it having a direct connection with the brain. "There is no scientific backing. No studies are available to prove the link between poor posture and any brain problem. It is better to consult an expert if you have any issues related to the brain and understand the underlying cause. One should not panic just by reading forward messages or information not validated by experts," stressed Dr Pai. He also cautioned that nowadays, "much false information is circulated online, which can create a panic-like situation among people". "I didn't realize how terrible my posture was until an MRI showed it was slowly killing my brain. Moreover, when it comes to improving posture, exercising and stretching daily, using an ergonomic chair while working, not sitting for longer hours, and taking regular breaks can help. "Slouching is a strict no-no. Make sure to stand frequently and sit with an erect spine. Follow these essential tips, and you will surely be able to improve your posture," said Dr Pai.

'It's not about making a drastic change overnight': Deepika Padukone highlights the power of taking micro steps to implement lasting healthy habits

Deepika Padukone has always advocated prioritising mental health and also opened up about her journey. In a similar vein, as part of an ongoing lecture series, the new mother shared her experiences and nuggets of wisdom with author Arianna Huffington. "It's not about making a huge drastic change overnight. It's about starting small and bringing about those little changes, from maybe a different lifestyle that one has had, and being consistent with it," the Singham 3 actor said.

The significance of taking micro steps when making a lasting change Priyamvada Tendulkar, a counseling psychologist, said micro-steps are significant when undertaking change or habit-building. "As individuals, we have a complex system of functioning. Thus, change feels overwhelming and, at a systemic level, becomes very challenging. Taking baby steps helps cut through the overwhelming task of trying to change your whole life," she told indianexpress.com. According to her, tiny slices of change can have a significant impact because now you have overcome the biggest hurdle of starting something. Explaining the concept of activation energy or the amount required to break the stability or inertia, she said: "If 100 units are required to do an activity, typically 60 or 75 units might be required just to activate the task. Only



the remaining is actually required to do it." She gave the example of how we often need to prod and push ourselves to exercise, but "once we've already started, the resistance melts away, and momentum takes over." Hence, Tendulkar stressed that baby steps not only reduce the amount of activation energy required but also help us get going and take the pressure away from trying to change a lot at once. This can trigger an all-or-nothing mindset and stall us into procrastination and perfectionism.

From Gujarati 'vaniyo' to European banyan, how the Indian 'baniyan' became what it is today



Baniyan isn't just a garment you might find in your dad's drawer; it's also a term steeped in Indian history and commerce. From being a word meant for merchants and morphing into an undergarment in the West and India, the word has travelled far and wide. Professor Devender Singh Kharb, Dean of the School of Fashion at the World University of Design, peels back the layers of its intriguing history, revealing a captivating story of trade, cultural exchange, and a fascinating divergence in meaning. The origin of baniyan lies in the heart of Indian commerce. It stems from the Gujarati word "va?iyoy" (??????), meaning "merchant", said Kharb. In the 16th century, Portuguese traders encountered these enterprising individuals, particularly those from the Gujarati community, and adopted the term to refer to them.

Over time, baniyan transcended its association with just Gujarati merchants. Today, it broadly refers to India's

merchant communities, especially those belonging to the Vaishya varna traditionally engaged in business pursuits, according to Kharb. "The term also finds specific application for communities like the Marwaris, well-known for their prominence in Indian trade. Their traditional business roles are reflected in the use of terms like "bania" or "vanik", both derived from the root meaning "trader" or "merchant", he explained in an interaction with indianexpress.com.

Across the seas, a different story unfolded for the word. European traders and colonists in India were drawn to the comfortable, loose-fitting clothing worn by Indian merchants. They associated this attire with the term baniyan they had encountered in their trade dealings, said Kharb. When these garments were adapted and incorporated into European fashion during the 17th and 18th centuries, the term "banyan" was cleverly used to describe them. This fascinating instance, Kharb said, highlights cultural exchange, where Europeans borrowed elements of Indian dress. However, the meaning of banyan underwent a transformation in Europe, becoming a distinct garment style — a loose-fitting shirt or gown for men. While baniyan and banyan share a common origin linked to Indian merchants, their meanings diverged significantly over time. In India, "baniyan" continues to be associated with the merchant class and has further evolved to encompass undershirts commonly worn by men. Meanwhile, in Europe, "banyan" became a specific style of casual wear, a testament to the fascinating ways cultures influence and inspire each other's fashions.

Between offerings of goat and hilsa, how bhog is different for Goddesses Kali and Durga

For Bengalis, the festive Pujao season is incomplete without good food — decadent sweets, fried delicacies, and savoury goodies that promise gastronomic satisfaction. Whether you are busy pandal-hopping, visiting friends and family, or fasting all day in anticipation of pushpanjali (offering of flowers), food brings us all together. And how can we forget the bhog? Pujao afternoons spent distributing spoonfuls of khichudi and labra to the neighbourhood kids and elders while waiting eagerly for our turn form some of our very core memories. Bhog is a sacred offering to gods and goddesses that not only signifies a spiritual connection where the deity accepts the offering and blesses the devotee but is also a symbol of purity and sanctity. The entire community comes together to sit and eat bhog as well as partake in rituals and festivities that nourish their bodies, and their minds and souls. Food historian and writer Madhulika Dash shares that before being opened to the public (what we now know to be baroari or sarbojanin), pujas in West Bengal used to take place within the confines of one's home, usually hosted by zamindars who had the resources, the means, and space to do so. "A year when the rains failed

and harvest was poor, the villagers did not get many opportunities to celebrate — thus the odd wedding here and there, and the Pujas happened to be their only source of revelry throughout the year," says Dash. Durga Puja, followed by Jagadhatri, Kali and Chandi Puja, not only marked the beginning of the winter season for them but was also an occasion where they celebrated coming together and letting loose for a couple of days, enjoying the revelry through food and prayer, she adds. Sumanta Chakrabarti, consultant and culinary advisor, lists out some of the common elements found on a regular bhog platter and their significance: Khichudi: A mixture of lentils, rice and vegetables which denotes unity, harmony and power among diverse elements. Labra: Mixed vegetables cooked with Bengal spices; signifies the mixture of emotions and experiences in life. Vegetable fritters: Fritters define the transformation of raw, unrefined energies into refined, spiritual growth. They are primarily: Begun Bhaja: Eggplant represents ego and vanity; the dish symbolises surrendering ego. Bhindi Bhaja: Okra represents the tender and the delicate which defines strength and vulnerability. Chholar Dal or lentils, served with luchi, symbolise spiritual growth and humility.

Sara Ali Khan shares “Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham” moment with Ibrahim



Mumbai: On Friday, Sara Ali Khan delighted her fans by sharing stunning photos with her brother, Ibrahim Ali Khan, showcasing their sibling bond. Unleashing her poetic talent, Sara lived her ‘Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham’ moment with her brother jaan. She took to her Instagram handle to post her pictures with Ibrahim and wrote in the caption, “Kabhi Khushi Kabhi Gham. With my Brother Jaan, it’s always fun. Kabhi laughter & sometimes he’ll scold. And Appa Jaan will do as she’s told.” In the vibrant pictures, the ‘Kedarnath’ star looks radiant in a beautiful yellow suit, while Ibrahim sports a black outfit teamed with a shimmering blue jacket.

These candid clicks capture Sara and Ibrahim’s moments of laughter and teasing. Sara Ali Khan and Ibrahim share a close bond of friendship and are often seen setting major sibling goals. Whether it’s their heartwarming social media photos or appearances at star-studded parties, the brother-sister duo never fails to steal

the limelight with their strong camaraderie.

Fans could not help but gush over Sara’s latest photos. One said, “Definitely Tom and Jerry vibes.” Another wrote, “The cutest siblings.” A third user commented, “Saif and Amrita version 2.0.” Sara and Ibrahim are Saif Ali Khan’s children from his first wife, Amrita Singh. Khan later tied the knot with Kareena Kapoor in 2012, and the couple has two sons: Taimur Ali Khan and Jehangir Ali Khan. The ‘Atrangi Re’ actress had previously posted a video from Manali, where she was seen enjoying Punjabi food—missi roti with dal fry, aloo methi, and paneer bhurji. The post, showcasing her love for food, was captioned, “Happy Diwali! Wishing you joy, prosperity, bliss, an health—which for me is basically good food. So don’t be rude. Just give me my food. Thank you kindly; don’t intrude.” On the work front, Sara has been busy shooting for Aakash Kaushik’s upcoming untitled project. The film, which marks Kaushik’s directorial debut, is being touted as a spy comedy.

Karan Johar is blown away by teaser of ‘Baby John’, calls the film ‘helluva ride’

Mumbai: Karan Johar recently took to social media to express his excitement after watching the teaser for “Baby John”, a highly anticipated film starring Varun Dhawan and Jackie Shroff. The first teaser of “Baby John”, released alongside “Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3” and “Singham Again”, was leaked online. The intriguing teaser shows Varun in a never-seen-before avatar. Not just fans, even Karan Johar, can’t stop gushing over the actor, calling the film a “helluva ride”. He said he is completely “blown away” after watching Varun’s performance.

Taking to his Instagram stories, KJo shared a note that read, “Blown away by the Teaser of Baby John!!! Wow!!! This is going to be one helluva ride in the cinemas!!! XMAS Blockbuster Alert!!!” The nearly two-minute teaser shows a young girl narrating a story about how even the smallest creatures, like ants, can take down a mighty elephant. This sets the stage for the intense glimpses that follow of Varun as Baby John, in various avatars: a fierce cop, a relentless action hero, a skilled cook, and, most tenderly, a devoted father to his little girl. The teaser also showed a glimpse of Warniqa Gabbi, Keerthy Suresh, and Jackie Shroff, who will portray antagonist in the movie.

The makers of ‘Baby John’ issued a special note to audiences as exclusive taster cut releases in cinemas on November 1. An excerpt from the post read, “We’re excited to announce that we will be releasing an exclusive



Taster Cut of Baby John for the very first time which will be exclusively running in cinemas from 1st November and digitally worldwide from 4th November. This is a special moment for us, and we can’t wait for you to witness the storm of revenge and power that awaits. We appreciate the enthusiasm surrounding the film and kindly request that audiences respect our hard work by refraining from posting or recording content that could contribute to piracy. Varun Dhawan had made his Bollywood debut with Karan Johar’s directorial “Student of the Year.” Directed by Kalees, “Baby John” is produced by Atlee, Murad Khetani and Jyoti Deshpande under Jio Studios. It will hit theatres on December 25.

Shruti Haasan was 'nervous' to work with Rajinikanth in ‘Coolie’



Mumbai: Shruti Haasan will be seen sharing screen space with Rajinikanth in the upcoming film “Coolie” and the actress said that she was nervous to work with the superstar in the Tamil action thriller film. Shruti told IANS: “I was nervous to work with Rajini sir I’m not going to lie but he puts everyone at ease with his demeanour and I’ve had the best time working with sir, it’s a great learning for me.” The 38-year-old actress’s father Kamal Haasan has worked with Rajinikanth in over 20 films.

Asked about how she feels about working with Rajinikanth after her father, she said: “It’s lovely to hear about their history and friendship through the years and it’s like a lesson in what cinema was and how it is and how these two great legends have managed to still stay at the top of their game whilst being so human at the same time. The actress had recently shared her Diwali plans and had said: “Diwali this year is quiet and simple with friends and in Mumbai! Nothing major, just enjoying time around good food and good hearts.” She also spoke about sticking to her diet. “I try to stick to my diet but I never can because I have a major sweet tooth and Diwali sweets are my favourite only at that time of the year I binge on Indian sweets. Known for her goth looks and her love for the black and grey hues, Shruti said that this time of the year, had shared that she would include some colour for Diwali. “I like to change up colour out of my usual black and grey during Diwali because it is festive but you’ll never see me go too crazy with colour if it’s my

personal choice,” said the 38-year-old actress. Talking about “Coolie”, an action thriller, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj. It also stars Nagarjuna, Soubin Shahir, Sathyaraj and Upendra. Shruti was last seen in “Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire,” a Telugu-language epic action thriller film directed by Prashanth Neel. The film stars Prabhas, Jagapathi Babu, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Bobby Simha and Sriya Reddy.

‘Goofy bhabhi’ Mira Kapoor, niece Misha make cake for Ishaan Khatter’s 29th birthday

Mumbai: Actor Ishaan Khatter’s 29th birthday was extra special as he celebrated it with three cakes out of which two were made by his sister-in-law Mira Kapoor and his niece Misha. Ishaan took to Instagram, where he shared a picture. In the image, the “Pippa” actor was seen feeding cake to his brother Shahid Kapoor, while “bhabhi” Mira, whom he tagged as “goofy” was seen making a shocked face. Ishaan’s birthday is on November 1 and his family chose to ring it in on the night of Diwali on October 31. The three personalities, in the image, are seen dressed in Indian wear and celebrating both the occasions. “Birthday on Diwali means 3 cakes (two made by my amazing 8 yo niece and a goofy bhabhi),” he captioned the image. Ishaan is the son of actors Rajesh Khatter and Neelima Azeem. He made his first screen appearance as a child in the 2005 film “Vaah! Life Ho Toh Aisi!”. The movie featured his half-brother Shahid Kapoor. He made his debut as the leading actor in the 2017 Majid Majidi’s drama ‘Beyond the Clouds’. Ishaan then starred in the 2018 romantic drama ‘Dhadak’ written and directed by Shashank Khaitan. The movie was a remake of the Marathi film ‘Sairat’. It marked the debut of actress Janhvi Kapoor. Actors like Ashutosh Rana, Ankit Bisht, Shridhar Watsar, Kshitij Kumar and Aishwarya Narkar were seen in pivotal roles.

Kartik Aaryan says he was struggling to pay rent even after being in the movies for seven years: ‘My films weren’t working’

Kartik Aaryan, whose latest film Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 is currently in theatres, started his Hindi film journey when he was still in college. Even though his debut movie Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA got a place in pop culture, Kartik struggles continued. In a recent interview, Kartik recalled that even after he had done a few films, he was struggling to pay his rent as none of his movies were doing well at the box office.

Talking to Mashable India, Kartik said that after Pyaar Ka PUNCHAMA, he moved into a house all by himself but subsequent failures made his question that decision as he had to take care of all the household expenses by himself. “I moved into a house where I lived alone but I was struggling a lot then. I didn’t have much money coming in and my films were not working,” he said recalling his earlier failures like Aakash Vaani, Kaanchi, Guest in London, among others. “I was going through a lot of struggle when I lived here but I was very connected to this place. There was a point where I couldn’t pay the rent of this house. It was a very strange time because I was thinking either I bring in some roommates or I start sharing with someone else. Then finally Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweeti happened,” he shared. Kartik had already been



in the movies for seven years until then.

In the same chat, Kartik Aaryan recalled that before this house, he used to live in a 3-BHK apartment that was occupied by 12 people, but there too Kartik only had a mattress to himself in the living room. “I was paying Rs 2,000 as rent then. At one point, it went up to Rs 4,000,” he said.

Months after mass resignations in AMMA amid sexual misconduct allegations, actor-minister Suresh Gopi initiates steps to form new executive committee



on whether Mohanlal would return as AMMA’s president. Cinema Anatomy | Big B: Amal Neerad and Mammooty’s actioner that redefined the movie hero and taught Fahadh Faasil a valuable lesson on crying on screen

For now, an ad-hoc committee has taken on temporary leadership of AMMA. According to the organisation’s bylaws, members of the resigned executive committee serve on this interim committee. Former AMMA vice president Jayan Cherthala told the media that Suresh Gopi expressed his confidence in and satisfaction with the ad-hoc committee’s functioning. Jayan also noted that they have until June 2025 to conduct the elections, adding that discussions regarding the new executive committee will be held later. Following the release of the Justice Hema Committee report, which highlighted severe discrimination and exploitation faced by women in the Malayalam film industry, several survivors spoke out, revealing workplace mistreatment and levelling sexual misconduct allegations against many male insiders.

Over two months after the office bearers of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA), including president Mohanlal, submitted a mass resignation, actor and Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Suresh Gopi has announced that a new executive committee will soon be formed. Suresh made this statement while addressing questions from the media as he exited AMMA’s office in Kochi, after having attended the Kerala Piravi celebrations there. The Thrissur MP arrived for the event with his family.

When asked about the timing for forming a new committee and if any discussions were held on this matter, Suresh revealed that today’s gathering marked the beginning of that process. “Let responsible ones come forward now,” he added. On being asked about his view on the previous committee’s mass resignation, the parliamentarian responded with a wide and sarcastic smile and said, “I have shared my opinion (on this) with the organisation,” indicating his reluctance to make any public comment on the matter. He also declined to comment

Regina Cassandra calls Bollywood ‘unforgiving’: ‘I’m not the kind of a person who could sell myself for work’



Regina Cassandra, who is popularly known for her work in Telugu and Tamil films, has been juggling a lot of projects in the Hindi film industry as well. Regina started working in the entertainment industry at the age of 14 and has spent all of her adult life in the industry. In an exclusive interview with SCREEN, Regina spoke about the similarities, as well as the difference between the Hindi and southern regional industries, and shared the challenges that an actor might face as they try to make their way in Bollywood.

Regina shared she learned Hindi in school on her mother’s insistence but it actually helped her a lot. “I know so many of my actress friends from the South who really struggle with the language. Language is the main barrier for someone coming from the South. In the North, they do sync sound, but in South, we dub. For me, there is a huge difference, I would rather sync sound than dub. They are pretty unforgiving in the North, if you can’t get the language right, they are not going to take you. But in the South, if you cannot get the language right, they are still okay to take you to be a part of the film,” she said.

She added, “The kind of films that are being made in the South are more rooted, in the North it’s a lot more

urban. When I started wanting to do work in the North, I was told that I would have to live in Mumbai and attend meetings. We don’t do that in the South. You network but it’s not like you meet people. There is no concept of a casting agent in the South, it’s just managers and PROs. Talent management agencies have now infiltrated the South markets. It’s a lot more of a competition when it comes to Hindi. For me, I am not the kind of a person who could sell myself for work. I can’t go lobbying for something. But then I realised that if I don’t do this, I wouldn’t get that.”

She also said, “I understood that it was needed of me to do that, but it’s not how I would operate. A lot of people told me I was not aggressive enough like my other competitors and I made peace with it. For me, it was not about being easy or difficult. It just felt very forced. Everything in my life needs to be organic, otherwise I wouldn’t understand its importance. Now, I have a team who lobbies for me and I come down to just audition, and I am very happy with them.”

Rishab Shetty plays Lord Hanuman in the Prasanth Varma directorial ‘Jai HanuMan’

Mumbai: Actor Rishab Shetty, who won the National Award for Best Actor award for his pan-India success ‘Kantara’, is set to essay the role of Lord Hanuman in the upcoming movie ‘Jai HanuMan’. The film is directed by Prasanth Varma, and is a sequel to his superhit movie ‘HanuMan’.

The makers of the film revealed the first look of Jai HanuMan presenting Rishab Shetty as Lord Hanuman. The poster features Rishab Shetty as Hanuman, depicted in a powerful pose, sitting on his foot with an idol of Lord Ram held reverently in his hand.

This poster not only showcases Rishab’s physicality but also reflects the deep devotion and strength associated with Lord Hanuman. He looks like an apt choice to play Lord Hanuman with the character’s legendary qualities, leaving fans eager to see how he brings this iconic figure to life on screen.

