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## Millet Sisters network celebrates fourth formation day

Sangareddy: All Indian Millets Sisters Network celebrated the fourth formation day at KVK Didgi near Zaheerabad on Tuesday. While the Deccan Development Society (DDS) hosted the programme, 100 women farmers from 10 states participated in the celebrations. Agriculture Scientist Sheik N Mira said that the government should follow in the footsteps of the millet sisters to encourage its cultivation and consumption. While the governments were focusing on improving nutritional values in rice by spending crores of rupees on research, he said it is sad to know they forgot that millets contains nutrients abundantly.

## Rahul Gandhi asked to meet unemployed youth at Ashok Nagar

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Hyderabad: With Congress MP Rahul Gandhi arriving in the city on Tuesday, people from different sections were seen appealing to him to meet unemployed youth, farmers and women, who are waiting for the Congress to fulfill the promises made to them during the elections. This apart, posters taking a sarcastic jibe at the Congress MP, especially with the party's hypocrisy towards Adani Group also surfaced in different parts of the city. "Instead of giving unnecessary speeches, we kindly request that you revisit Ashok Nagar and arrange a meeting with the youth. After that, please visit the victims of HYDRAA and the Musi River area. Additionally, do not return to New Delhi without meeting the farmers who have fallen victim to Revanth Reddy's lies and false promises," one X user said. Sharing an image of poster in which Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is seen along with Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani, BRS social media convener Manne Krishank said on X: "Team RADANI welcomes Rahul Gandhi..." "With some reports suggesting that Rahul Gandhi was likely to meet unemployed youth at a hotel in RTC crossroads in the evening after participating in the Congress party programme on caste census at



Bowenpally, BRS leader Satish Reddy went a step ahead and booked a table at the restaurant for Gandhi. Sharing the image on X, Satish Reddy said "Rahul Gandhiji, we are waiting in the same seat, same table and the same restaurant with the very same Bawarchi Biryani, where are you dined a year ago. Youth of Telangana are waiting to serve you and discuss on the promises given by you. Are you ready? Hot biryani and chilling Thums Up waiting for you!"

## Trump, Harris locked in tight Presidential race as millions head to polls today

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

The race between Democratic leader Kamala Harris and her Republican rival Donald Trump for the White House has been truly unprecedented as it saw drama, tragedy, political comebacks, fierce rhetoric and a historically razor-tight contest. As the fight reaches its crescendo with the big election day just hours away, many political observers billed the unpredictable race for the 47th President as the most consequential one in decades while appearing to project a grim picture for the country's future under a Trump presidency. In her final days of campaign, Vice President Harris focused on a message of hope, unity, optimism and women rights whereas Trump remained fiercely combative in targeting his Democratic rival and even suggested that he may not accept the election outcome in case of a defeat. Overall, it has been a roller-coaster ride for both 60-year-old Harris and 78-year-old Trump. Trump received his party's nomination in March and formally at the Republican National Convention (RNC) in July — in a historic comeback after remaining in political wilderness for months following several court cases. In effect, he became the first former president to get the nomination for the top office on the planet after being convicted of a felony. "Trump has made one of the biggest political comebacks since Richard Nixon in terms of the political struggles that he has had in the last four years," Communication Strategist Anang Mittal said. Just days ahead of the RNC, Trump was shot at during a rally in Pennsylvania. He suffered an upper ear injury. Minutes later, a bleeding Trump raised his fist in defiance, images that drew a lot of emotional support from his die-hard supporters. For Harris too, it has been a dramatic ride after Biden ended his re-election campaign in July, nearly weeks after he came under severe scrutiny follow-



ing his incoherent performance at a televised debate with Trump. While dropping out from the race, Biden, 81, endorsed Harris to succeed him as the Democratic candidate. Finally, in August, the Democratic National Convention formally nominated Harris as the party's candidate for the presidential election.

The presidential election will be a chance to "move past the bitterness, cynicism and divisive battles of the past", she said in a powerful speech at the Convention. If Harris wins the race, she will become the first woman, first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to become the US President. In the overall campaign, Harris has been projecting the election as the one to protect the country's fundamental freedoms, safeguard constitutional values and ensure women's rights. On his part, Trump has maintained his signature aggressive rhetoric promising to rebuild the economy and rid the US from illegal immigrants. However, there has been strong criticism of the Republican leader's roadmap to repair the economy.

## Kharge campaigns in Jharkhand, replies to BJP's 'batenge toh katenge' slogan

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Ranchi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, on a campaign trail in poll-bound Jharkhand on Tuesday, responded to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s 'batenge toh katenge' slogan and dubbed this as the communal agenda of the latter to seek votes. Congress president, in a fierce counter to 'batenge toh katenge' call of Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, said that it was the BJP which was sowing the seeds of division among communities and also then going a step to break the social fabric. He said that the BJP leaders are giving such divisive calls as part of their agenda and also appealed to the people to break the vicious campaign if they want to change their lives for the better. "Dalits are denied entry into temple premises and other common places, poor and marginalised classes have to run from pillar to post in getting basic needs addressed," he said. "Unless you break this agenda, your lives won't change... you will be subjected to exploitation for years to come," he further stated.

Addressing two public rallies, first in the Mandu region of Hazaribagh and then in Kanke of Ranchi district,

Kharge slammed the Centre and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for pursuing 'divisive and destructive' politics. Kharge, speaking at a huge public meeting Ranchi's Kanke said that the BJP's only intention and motive was to gain power. "They want to rule by making people fight among themselves. But we will not let their agenda succeed at any cost," the Congress chief declared, eliciting cheers and praise from the crowd. He also launched an attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah over alleged fake promises. "PM Modi had promised Rs 15 lakh in everyone's account. Have you received it? When a journalist asked Amit Shah, he said that it was an election slogan," Kharge pointed out. On the jobs front also, the Congress veteran sought to expose the Modi government.

## The Winter Session of the Parliament will commence from November 25

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Mr. Rijiju said a special celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution will be held in the Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sadan on November 26, observed as Constitution Day. "Hon'ble President, on the recommendation of the Government of India, has approved the proposal for summoning both the Houses of Parliament for the Winter Session, 2024, from November 25 to December 20, 2024 (subject to exigencies of parliamentary business)," Mr. Rijiju said. Hon'ble President, on the recommendation of Government of India, has approved the proposal for summoning of both the Houses of Parliament for the Winter Session, 2024 from 25th November to 20th December,

## Surya Rath Yatra launched to promote solar energy awareness in Hyd

Hyderabad: The Telangana Solar Energy Association (T-SEA), in collaboration with the National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI), launched the Surya Rath Yatra in the city on Tuesday. Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation (TGREDCO) Vice Chairman & Managing Director Anila Vavilla flagged off the Yatra from Vishweshwara Bhavan, Khairatabad. The event is part of a nationwide initiative under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana to promote rooftop solar adoption. Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via Sequa gGmbH under project KVP P933. This campaign aims to educate the public about the benefits of solar energy.

## 'Not every property owned by individual can be material resource of community': SC 9-judge Bench

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

In a landmark ruling that has implications on the right of a citizen to hold property, a 9-judge bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that not all private property can be deemed "material resource of the community" for redistribution in Article 39(b) of the Constitution. The phrase material resource in Article 39(b) of the Constitution "may include privately owned resources... not all privately owned resources fall within the ambit of the phrase," the majority opinion of the SC said. Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud wrote for the majority ruling for himself, and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, J.B. Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Rajesh Bindal, Satish Chandra Sharma and Augustine George Masih; Justice BV Nagarathna penned a concurring opinion while Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia dissented.

The ruling in the constitutional reference pending since 1992 essentially undoes several decades of Supreme Court jurisprudence on the issue. A line of judgments holding that both public and private resources fell within the ambit of "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) stem from a minority opinion by Justice Krishna Iyer in State of Karnataka v Shri Ranganatha Reddy (1977). A 1982 constitution bench ruling in case Sanjeev Coke Manufacturing Company vs Bharat Cooking Coal Ltd had affirmed Justice Iyer's view. The majority opinion of the SC has now disagreed with Justice Iyer's views and said he "cast the net wide, holding that all resources which meet material needs are covered by the phrase, and any attempts by the government to nationalize these resources would be within the scope of article 39(b)." Falling under Part IV of the Constitution titled "Directive Principles of State Policy" (DPSP),



Article 39(b) places an obligation on the state to create policy towards securing "the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good". DPSP are meant to be guiding principles for the enactment of laws, but are not directly enforceable in any court of law. The majority was of the view that Justice Iyer's "interpretation amounts to endorsing a particular economic ideology. To declare that article 39 b includes the distribution of all private resources amounts to endorsing a particular economic ideology and structure for our economy." It said that Iyer's judgement which was followed in Sanjeev Coke "was influenced by a particular school of economic thought. This is evident from various observations made in these judgments." The majority said that "an interpretation of article 39(b), which places all private property within the net of the phrase material resources of the community, only satisfies one of the 3 requirements of the phrase. That is that the goods in question must be a resource. However, it ignores the qualifiers that they must be material and of the community."

## Stop neglecting auto drivers, address issues, KTR tells Congress Govt

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday demanded immediate action from the Congress government to address the plight of auto-rickshaw drivers. The ruling party, which promised the moon during elections, has abandoned auto drivers after winning the elections and betrayed them, he said. Speaking at a demonstration organised by auto driver unions affiliated to all political parties at Dharna Chowk here, Rama Rao pointed out at the deteriorating condition of around 6.5 lakh auto drivers since the Congress assumed office. He said the State government launched free RTC bus travel for women in the State, but ignored its promises to auto drivers, posing a threat to their livelihood.

"We are not opposed to free bus travel. But the promises made to auto drivers should be fulfilled as well. The Congress promised a financial support of Rs.1,000 per month, besides establishing an Auto Drivers' Welfare Board," he reminded, urging the government to consider just demands of auto-drivers by providing financial assistance to Rs.5,000 per month, third-party insurance, and criminalise exploitation of auto drivers. He expressed concern over the financial decline auto drivers were facing, noting that those who once earned Rs.2,000 daily under the previous BRS government were now struggling to make even Rs.200-300. He charged the State government of conspiring to remove the life insurance scheme provided by the previous BRS government to auto drivers. He pointed out that the Centre enacted contentious laws that further complicate the lives of auto drivers, and urged the State government to prevent their imple-



mentation in the Telangana. In a direct attack on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Rama Rao pointed out the gap between electoral promises and current inaction. "Rahul Gandhi gave numerous assurances to auto drivers during his campaign, but has since disappeared. Auto drivers should remember this empty rhetoric," he said. He said the Congress government's policies had led to suicides among auto drivers, farmers and weavers.

"Even after we raised the issue in the Assembly and handed over a list of the victims' names, there has been no response," he said. He urged the auto driver unions to set aside their party affiliations and put up an united fight in demanding their rights. He vowed that the BRS would continue to advocate for them in the Assembly and in public space. "No matter how many cases are filed or how many are jailed, we will stand by the people as the main opposition," he assured.

## India takes first step to hosting Olympics and Paralympics, sends Letter of Intent for 2036 edition

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

While there has been no official confirmation yet, sources said the letter was sent to the IOC Future Hosts Commission (FHC) on October 1 with Ahmedabad as the likely host city. This is in continuation of the push from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for hosting major multi-discipline events, including the 2030 Youth Olympics, publicly declaring India's intention to host the 2036 Olympics during the opening ceremony of the 141st IOC session in Mumbai last year. If India does manage to win, it will become only the fourth Asian country ever to host the quadrennial event — after China, South Korea and Japan. Yoga, kho-kho, kabaddi and chess are among the sports likely to be included in India's bid. The letter,

though, is just the first step in a long and arduous process to select a final host with no fixed deadlines. While any decision is only likely after the IOC elections next year, the process can take even longer. The FHC holds initial detailed discussions with all interested parties without being edition specific before entering the more serious, rigorous phase of getting guarantees on infrastructure, accommodation, security and public services among others. It then prepares an advisory report for the IOC Executive Board to take a final call. It won't be a cakewalk for India, however, with at least three other confirmed bids — Chile (Santiago), Indonesia (across Jakarta, Bali and the new capital of under-construction Nusantara), and Turkey (Istanbul) — and more in various stages

of internal preparations and discussions with the IOC including the likes of cash-rich Riyadh and Qatar. India's efforts will also be hampered by the

long-running infighting among the Indian Olympic Association members that has brought all IOA work to almost standstill for several months now.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MUMTAZ SULTANA W/O SYED SAFDAR ALI (old name)** born on 15-03-1969 at Nirmal earlier was Holding Passport No. C4029363 Dt: 16-10-2024 hereby Changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as **MUMTAZ BEGUM W/O SYED SAFDAR ALI (new name)** HNo.1-4-310 Massodnagar, Adilabad-504001, Telangana State.

**DECLARANT.**  
**MUMTAZ BEGUM**  
**W/O SYED SAFDAR ALI**

**Place: Adilabad**  
**Date: 28-10-2024**

# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Trouble in Canada

THE deplorable violence at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton has laid bare Canada's inept handling of a sensitive situation. This is a new low for the Justin Trudeau government, which has been recklessly burning bridges with India following the murder of Khalistan activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year. Trudeau has condemned the temple incident, saying that every Canadian has the right to practise his or her faith freely and safely, but he owes an explanation for letting anti-India elements have their way with impunity. The allegation that the police targeted Hindu devotees and tried to protect Khalistan supporters has added fuel to the fire. Hindu-Sikh tensions in the Maple Country are closely linked to the deterioration in India-Canada relations. Canadian Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister David Morrison's allegation that Home Minister Amit Shah ordered a campaign of violence, intimidation and intelligence-gathering targeting Sikh separatists in that country has raised India's hackles. The charge — dismissed as absurd and baseless by New Delhi — has also emboldened pro-Khalistan Canadians to up the ante against the Indian government. Their anti-India protests have put them on a collision course with Indian-origin Canadian citizens who wear the Tricolour on their sleeve. Canada, which proudly regards itself as a peace-loving land of opportunities, needs to deal firmly with those who threaten communal harmony and public order. It must crack down on troublemakers and rabble-rousers, no matter which community they belong to. Allowing the misuse of Canadian territory to spew venom against India — all in the name of freedom of expression — is undermining the Trudeau government's diplomatic and democratic credentials. At stake is the safety and security of the law-abiding members of the diaspora.

## Legal Aid Clinics, no unnecessary arrest, mental health assistance to inmates: Gujarat SOPs for prison reforms

Establishment of Legal Aid Clinics in all jails, prevention of unnecessary arrests, steps to improve mental health of the inmates, proper counselling in Juvenile Justice Homes, and assistance in remission and rehabilitation of inmates: these were some of the SOPs issued by the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority (GSLSA) in its report on prison reforms published recently.

This report is the first-of-its-kind in India and hopes to permanently institutionalise prison reforms in the country, a GSLSA official said. According to a report published on October 24, while the prisons in Gujarat are 119% over their capacity, the Godhra sub-jail tops the overcrowding list, lodging 191% inmates.

This is the same jail from where 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano gangrape case were released prematurely on remission in August 2022, following recommendation from the Jail Advisory Committee (JAC). The Supreme court later cancelled the remission and the convicts serving life terms are back in jail. Some of the observations in the report refer to "young inmates" accused under the POCSO Act who "get negative vibes" when placed in barracks with hardened criminals. About remission, the report notes, "The inmates whose plea for remission is not being forwarded in time, and even when forwarded is not decided in time, may also have to languish in the jail for a very long time."

The report says, "Despite the fact that all the major stakeholders associated with the criminal justice delivery system, particularly the prison authorities, have, in the recent past, taken a series of steps for improving the prison administration, the system has not witnessed material improvement." Chief Justice of Gujarat High Court, Justice Sunita Agrawal, who is the chief patron of GSLSA, states in her message in the report that she had visited the Sabarmati Central jail in Ahmedabad in the last week of July 2023 and noted that "while increasing the capacity of jails is also necessary by improvement of infrastructure, imminent attention needs to be given for the holistic welfare of inmates." Among the SOPs suggested to improve the system included that legal aid for the underprivileged should not be of poor quality, assistance in prompt processing of application for remission by inmates, and providing help for rehabilitation at the time of release of the convicts.

An official told The Indian Express that these SOPs will be implemented by all District Legal Services in the state under the guidance of GSLSA. Speaking to The Indian Express, Principal District and Sessions Judge RA Trivedi, who serves as the Member Secretary of the GSLSA, said, "The vision of the Honourable chief justice is to institutionalise prison reforms instead of leaving it either to the good officers' efforts or to the narrow confines of a single prison." The report shows that 19 of the 29 prisons in the state hold more than the authorised number of prisoners. While Gondal Sub Jail is filled to capacity, nine jails hold fewer prisoners than the top limit. Data says that against the authorised capacity of 14,065 inmates, these jails hold a total of 16,737 persons, both undertrial and convicts, with the penal system over capacity at 119%. The Godhra Sub Jail is at 191% capacity, housing 315 inmates against a capacity of 165 persons. The overwhelming bulk of inmates in the Godhra Sub Jail is made up of undertrial prisoners, accounting for 279 of the 315 inmates. This is followed by Junagadh District Prison, filled at 188% capacity, hosting 498 against a capacity of 265 inmates. Among the four central prisons in Gujarat, which host the most dangerous criminals among others, only one — the Lajpore Central Prison in Surat, at 94% — is filled under the holding capacity. The Rajkot Central Prison is filled at 174%, Vadodara Central Prison at 142% and Sabarmati Central Prison in Ahmedabad at 129% capacity.

Meanwhile, open prisons have the least occupancy in the state, holding less than one-third their capacities. Open prisons are premises where convicts with a history of good conduct may undergo their sentence in a "relaxed environment" to enable rehabilitation and reintegration into the society. Amreli Open Prison is at 18% capacity, Junagadh Open Prison at 30% while Danteshwar Open Prison in Vadodara is at 33% as is Rajpipla District Prison.

## 5, including revenue officer, arrested in UP journalist murder case



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Dhawal Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police, Fatehpur, said five arrests have been made, and the police were conducting raids to locate other suspects. Dhawal Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police, Fatehpur, said five arrests have been made, and the police were conducting raids to locate other suspects. The Fatehpur police recently arrested five people, including a revenue officer (lekhpal), in connection with the murder of a journalist, who was attacked and killed at his residence in Bisalui on October 30. During the attack, the journalist, Dilip Saini, 40, was fatally injured, while his friend Shahid Khan, who tried to intervene, also sustained injuries. Dhawal Jaiswal, Superintendent of Police, Fatehpur, said five arrests have been made, and the police were conducting raids to locate other suspects.

tendent of Police, Fatehpur, said five arrests have been made, and the police were conducting raids to locate other suspects. According to the complaint filed by Saini's wife, Manorama, the accused arrived at their residence around 11:48 pm on October 30 and began arguing with Saini. The confrontation escalated as the accused forced their way inside and attacked Saini with a sharp-edged weapon and a country-made pistol. When Shahid Khan attempted to protect him, he was also assaulted with a sharp weapon. The attackers then thrashed one Harshit Kumar, who was also present in the room. As villagers rushed to the scene upon hearing cries for help, the assailants managed to escape.

The victims were taken to the hospital, where doctors declared Dilip Saini dead. The other two victims were admitted for treatment. Khan told media persons that he and Saini were having dinner when Saini received a phone call. A few minutes later, the accused arrived, and a heated argument broke out between them at the gate of Saini's residence. The confrontation escalated as the accused forcibly entered the house and attacked Saini and the others. The police have registered an FIR against nine named and six unidentified persons at the Kotwali police station. Angered by the incident, journalists have been protesting, demanding strict action against the perpetrators and compensation for the victim's family.

## Three men posing as Mhada officers dupe Malad man of Rs 1 crore in the name of 'private allotment of lottery flats'



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

mhada officers dupeThe Malad police have booked the four accused under relevant sections of cheating, forgery, falsification of documents, etc. and are further investigating the matter. Mumbai Police on Thursday booked three persons who posed as senior officials from Mhada, and under the pretext of allotting a Mhada flat to a Malad-based jeweller, duped him of Rs 1 crore. Their fourth accomplice has also been made an accused in the case.

According to the police, the complainant, Prashant Jain, 43, came in contact with accused persons Sachin Dhuri, Yogesh Pote, Mahadev Bodhale and Satish Jadhav in 2019 when he had a jewellery shop in Kalbadevi. Currently Jain works with a Zaveri Bazar-based gold company as a marketing manager. In 2019, Pote had introduced Dhuri to Jain as Mhada flats distribution officer class-1, while Bodhale and Jadhav as his

assistants. As per Jain's statement to the police, the accused persons told him that Dhuri was in-charge of those flats which were lying with Mhada as the lottery winners of those flats failed to submit required documents. They also told Jain that these flats can be bought in concessional price from Dhuri without lottery system by just giving a letter of intent to Mhada and by also securing an NOC from the actual lottery winner, states the FIR. Later, the accused set up a meeting of Jain with a few winners of the lottery. Jain liked one of the winner's flats. The accused then under the name of token and other fee and flat's price made Jain pay them Rs 1.02 crore in cash. The accused told Jain that he would get all the payment receipt along with the flat allotment letter, Jain stated. However, the accused never delivered on their promises. They kept buying time by giving excuses. They even told Jain that as the state government has changed and due to Covid lockdown, the process is delayed. A suspicious Jain then went to Mhada office and also checked their website to check if such officers work in Mhada. He was shocked to find out that no such officers work in Mhada, said a police officer. When he asked the four accused to return his money, they ignored him and later also blocked him. The complainant later suffered from TB disease and didn't immediately approach the police. After treatment, he recently approached police and filed a complaint. The Malad police have booked the four accused under relevant sections of cheating, forgery, falsification of documents, etc. and are further investigating the matter. They suspect that the accused may have defrauded others using similar modus operandi.

## Noida international airport moves one step ahead, to start 2nd stage of ops from November 15

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Noida International Airport, Noida Airport, Christoph Schnellmann, Uttar Pradesh, delhi news, India news, Indian express, Indian express India news, Indian express IndiaThe airport is coming up in Jewar near Greater Noida. The Noida International Airport based at Jewar in western Uttar Pradesh has begun preparations for the second stage of trial operations that is set to begin on November 15.

In the second stage, flights of Akasa, Indigo and most probably Air India will take off and land daily till December 15, said Arun Veer Singh, Chief Executive Officer, Noida International Airport Limited. The process of testing will continue for one month. "This data will be uploaded on December 20 to the DGCA website and then we will apply for the aerodrome licensing," Singh said. The airport authorities expect to get the licence by March 20 and operations are expected to start in full swing on April 17, 2025 with 30 flights on the first day, a top official said on Saturday. He added that this will include three international flights — for Zurich, Singapore and Dubai — and two cargo flights. "Initially, we have planned for the operation of 30 flights, of which 25 are domestic flights, three international and two cargo flights," Singh said.

"The Director General of Civil Aviation has approved our flight calibrations after going through several reports relating to the runway, wind speed and with that we have



completed the first stage of the airport operations," he added. He added that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with Singapore Airlines and Lufthansa airlines. "A few more airlines will be roped in and we are working on it. As far as domestic flights are concerned, Noida will be linked to Lucknow, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Dehradun and several other cities. However, we have not yet finalised the list of domestic cities and it may change later.

We will soon finalise the framework," said the CEO. "During the trials, the runway will see several flights of Indigo Airlines, Akasa Airlines (both small and big) and also flights owned by Airport Authority of India (AAI) as well. An agreement is also being worked out with Air India," he added.

## Man accused of rape and murder of 5-year-old lynched in Bengal

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

A 40-year-old man accused of raping and murdering a five-year-old girl was allegedly tied to a tree and beaten to death by locals in West Bengal's Alipurduar district on Friday evening. Later, another man surrendered before the police claiming he was an accomplice, following which he was arrested. According to the police, the girl went missing on Friday evening. When her family members started looking out for her, they were informed that she was last seen with Mona Roy. After some time, the girl's body was found floating in a local pond, the police said.

Locals caught Roy and took him to his home where they allegedly noticed blood on his bed, the police said. Following this, they tied Roy to a tree and started assaulting him. Before local police personnel could reach the spot, Roy was beaten to death, the police said. When the police reached the spot, agitated locals stopped them from moving the two bodies. Later, a huge contingent of police personnel was sent to the spot. After two hours, the police moved the bodies from the area. Later, a man,

Bhakta Roy, approached the police claiming that he was an accomplice to the crime and feared that he too would be lynched. Bhakta was arrested.

The incident comes at a time when the state has been witnessing continuous protests following the rape and murder of a junior doctor at R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. "It is a heinous crime. We have started a detailed investigation," Y Raghuvanshi, Superintendent of Police, Alipurduar, told the media. "The bodies have been sent for a post-mortem examination. Prima facie, it seems that the man lured the girl to his empty house and committed the crime. Another man who saw the incident also participated in the crime. The girl's body was later thrown into a pond," a senior police officer of the district said. TMC Rajya Sabha MP Prakash Chik Baraik, the district party president, termed the incident "shameful". "We are with the family of the little girl," he said. Meanwhile, Manoj Tigga, BJP Lok Sabha MP from Alipurduar, said the incident showed that "Bengal is not safe". "Such incidents are happening every day. People are scared," he said.

## Parking dispute leads to clashes in Kolkata, police resort to lathicharge



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

What allegedly started out as an argument over parking escalated into full blown clashes between two groups in North Kolkata's Narkeldanga Friday night, prompting the police and the Rapid Action Force to resort to lathicharge to control the mob. According to police sources, it started as an argument between two youngsters over the parking of a motorcycle in Rajabazar area under Narkeldanga police station at around 9.30 pm. Soon, more people gathered and it escalated into stone- and glass bottle-pelting.

The incident occurred around the time of Kali Puja immersions but the police denied it had anything to do with the event. "An attempt has been made on social media to create a fake narrative about the incident at Narkeldanga. No Kali Puja immersion procession was attacked. Issue was related to parking of a bike which led to a fight between two individuals and further escalated. However police intervened timely and brought the situation under control. The scheduled Kali Puja immersion procession was completed peacefully and without any hindrance," the police post said. Reacting to the news, Kunal Ghosh, former Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP, said: "This was a commotion in a neighbourhood. Since the area has a population from different communities, police took prompt action and controlled the situation. The incident has no relation to politics or religion. The BJP, as usual, is trying to spread tension."

According to the sources, stones were also allegedly pelted from neighboring buildings, injuring members of both groups. Immersion processions were halted as people started to panic and ran away from the scene. Eventually, a huge contingent of police and the Rapid Action Force reached the scene and began resorting to lathi charge and firing tear gas. According to eyewitnesses, the situation escalated suddenly. "We were peacefully taking out our procession. Our routes and even other details were informed and ratified by the police. Suddenly we saw there was a commotion. Stones and glass bottles were lobbed at us. We had to make a U-turn and return," said Avinava Basu, secretary of Sastitla Barowari Puja Committee, one of the several groups that were part of the procession that day.

S Dutta, vice president of the Puja Committee, also said it was unexpected. "Police were late to come and intervene. Some people were injured," he said. Immersions eventually continued through a different route under police protection. "Police lobbed tear gas shells and baton charges on us. They lobbed tear gas shells near homes inside the lanes. We just gathered to see what the commotion was about," said a member of the opposing group. Police blocked Narkeldanga Main Road from both sides and placed pickets. The BJP, however, called it an "appeasement politics at its height". In a post on X, Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly and BJP MLA Suwendu Adhikari said: "Maa Kali's immersion procession attacked at Rajabazar; Kolkata. Narkeldanga Police failed to act and protect the devotees. @CPKolkata if you are yet not waking up from your deep slumber then request for the deployment of CAPF immediately in the interest of common & innocent Bharatiyas, who time and again are coming under attack from the radicals in WB."

## Police team attacked, cop held captive in UP's Sambhal; 10 people booked



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

A seven-member police team was attacked and a police sub-inspector was held captive and assaulted in a village in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district earlier this week, leading to 10 people, including a mother and daughter, being booked. The incident took place in Dewar Kanchar village on Wednesday night. On October 31, a First Information Report (FIR) was lodged at Junavai police station by Sub-Inspector Sunil Kumar Bhati, who claimed he and six other personnel, including a woman constable, were attacked when they went to Dewar Kanchar village following information of a clash between two groups over a trivial issue on October 30.

"The son of a dairy owner, Rajpal Sharma, had informed the police that a few locals had a row with the driver of a milk delivery van over parking of the vehicle. The arguments took a violent turn as enraged locals beat the driver. We reached the village to quell the trouble but the villagers attacked us and held me captive," Bhati said in the FIR. He added that the accused attacked the police team with bricks and held him captive after tearing off his uniform. "They threatened that they would level the fabricated charge of rape on me if I dared to lodge the FIR," he said. Bhati was freed after more police personnel arrived at the village and chased the villagers away.

"The villagers attacked the police team and held one of them captive. We have booked 10 people and are trying to identify more. Anyone attacking the police will be dealt with strictly," Krishna Kumar Vishnoi, Superintendent of Police (SP), Sambhal, said.

## From software to saplings, Kapil Sharma on re-greening mission to restore Bengaluru's charm



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

In the early 2000s, Bengaluru was a city on the cusp of rapid urbanisation. For Kapil Sharma, a young engineering student at Ambedkar Institute of Technology, this transformation was exciting but increasingly distressing. He moved to Bengaluru in 2001, to pursue engineering. But by the time he graduated and found a new job as a software engineer in 2006, he had witnessed a worrisome change in the city's landscape. The lush green cover, which once defined Bengaluru, was quickly disappearing, making way for roads, buildings, and urban sprawl. "I used to travel for work from Vijayanagar to Outer Ring Road and I would see trees being cut down overnight. It was heartbreaking," Kapil recalls. "I felt that if I didn't do something about it, I'd regret it for the rest of my life." This sense of urgency and responsibility marked the beginning of his journey into environmental activism, a path that would ultimately lead to the founding of SayTrees, an organisation dedicated to re-greening urban landscapes and supporting rural communities. SayTrees, a name that evokes positivity—"like saying cheese to a camera, a smile for nature," says Sharma who is also a techie and currently based in the US working for Goldman Sachs.

Sharma's initial steps were modest but impactful. Driven by the need to make a difference, he visited government officials to try to understand how the deforestation issue could be addressed. He learnt that the best and the only way is to plant saplings and nurture them with care. As always, charity begins at home. In his neighbourhood in Vijayanagar, he nurtured a single tamarind sapling, which he planted and cared for over a year. Determined to expand his efforts, he mobilised colleagues and friends, planting around 100 saplings near the Outer Ring Road with the support from his office. Every monsoon, he encouraged people to join him over the weekends to plant and nurture saplings, often collaborating with forest officials to gather insights on the planting process. This small but steady movement grew in scale as Sharma focused on his mission to increase Bengaluru's green cover. "We planted 1,100 saplings in one year, but I realised that even this wasn't enough. However, my goal was simply to restore the lush green cover that my city was once known for," he says. The need to make a larger impact pushed him to leverage social media by 2010, using the platform to spread awareness and attract volunteers. His focus shifted to planting native saplings—such as honge, neem, and banyan trees—that were not only resilient but also ecologically beneficial. "I met forest officers who taught me what was best for the soil and ecosystem," he adds.

As his reforestation efforts gained momentum, Sharma continued to balance his work and environmental initiatives. By 2015, however, SayTrees had grown so much that his works were recognised by prominent environmental forums. This turning point coincided with an invitation to the World Forestry Congress in South Africa,

a significant milestone that further solidified his commitment to environmental conservation. Inspired by this experience, Sharma quickly diversified his initiatives, from reforestation to agroforestry. Recognising the struggles faced by farmers in dry regions of rural India, Sharma introduced the Agroforestry for Farmers initiative, which supports farmers by providing them with saplings that can yield alternative sources of income. In Andhra Pradesh, for instance, SayTrees supplied mango saplings to 11 farmers, helping them grow a sustainable income source. "Last year, one farmer sold six tonnes of mangoes," Sharma notes proudly. Today, the initiative has scaled up, with the organization distributing 25 lakh saplings annually, aiming to double that number to 60 lakh next year.

One of SayTrees' most innovative initiatives has been the adoption of the Miyawaki method, a Japanese technique of creating dense, native forests on small plots of land. Sharma introduced this method in Bengaluru in 2016, recognising its potential to bring back green cover in urban spaces lacking vegetation. The technique involves planting native trees close together, resulting in accelerated growth and richer biodiversity. SayTrees has since created over 100 such Miyawaki forests, each ranging from 2,000 to 5,000 saplings. "These forests are ten times more beneficial than regular plantations," Kapil explains, citing increased carbon absorption and ecological diversity. To date, SayTrees has planted approximately 2.5 lakh saplings in Bengaluru alone using this technique. "We focused on areas that were severely lacking in green cover," he says. Some of the locations where Miyawaki based plantations are undertaken included Bannerghatta National Park, Sarjapur Road, Bidadi, Arigevarigutta, Bangarpet Railway station, Dobbaspeta, and in other states like Maharashtra, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. In 2017, Kapil expanded SayTrees' focus to include water conservation, addressing another pressing issue in Bengaluru—water scarcity. Recognising that tree planting alone wouldn't solve the city's water crisis, he initiated efforts to rejuvenate lakes and create sustainable water sources. With corporate funding, SayTrees began its first lake rejuvenation project at Vabasandra Lake. Treated water was used to irrigate saplings, while monsoon rain filled the lake, creating a reliable water source for the nearby communities. Since then, SayTrees has rejuvenated over 10 lakes in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Pune, Delhi, and Anantapur. With plans to restore at least seven more lakes before the next monsoon, the techie's vision extends even further: by 2030, SayTrees aims to rejuvenate 300 lakes, including 100 within Bengaluru alone. "We're talking to the government and also the corporates to achieve this ambitious goal, Sharma says, emphasising the need for collaboration between public and private stakeholders. SayTrees has rejuvenated lakes such Nanjapura, Vabasandra, Konasandra, and Choodasandra among others.

Despite these successes, Sharma acknowledges that his journey hasn't been without obstacles. "The hardest part is convincing people that climate change is real and affecting our lives right now. Public awareness about environmental issues, especially on the rapid climate change remains limited. However, I strongly believe that persuading people to take action requires consistent effort and optimism," asserts the ecopreneur. At 41, Sharma's goal is clear: to create a sustainable, greener future for Bengaluru and beyond. "By 2030, we want to make a significant impact both in terms of green cover and water conservation. More lakes need to be rejuvenated with the right inter connectedness to mitigate urban floodings. Seeing the lakes filled and trees growing is a reward," he says.

## Look at Karnataka BJP's 'disastrous legacy': CM Siddaramaiah tells PM Modi



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his 'guarantees' comment, saying he should look at the 'disastrous' legacy of BJP Karnataka unit before pointing fingers at the Congress. He joined the war of words between the Congress and the BJP over AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's remark on poll guarantees at a party event. "Mr. @narendramodi, before pointing fingers at Congress, take a hard look at @BJP4Karnataka's disastrous legacy in Karnataka! We are fulfilling every promise we made to our people all 5 guarantees implemented with a budget over Rs 52,000 crore, and an additional Rs 52,903 crore in capital outlay to build Karnataka's future," Siddaramaiah said in a post on X.

He alleged that the BJP left Karnataka plagued with 40 per cent commission corruption, draining resources that could have transformed lives. "We're using that same 40 per cent redirecting it to benefit the people. What was your 'achievement' here? Empowering corrupt practices, leaving Karnataka debt-ridden, and using propaganda to cover up your failures?" the Chief Minister asked. He also hit out at Modi for his 'bad governance'.

"And let's not forget: under your watch, India's debt is projected to reach Rs 185.27 trillion by FY25 a staggering 56.8% of GDP! This isn't just bad governance; it's a burden you're placing on every Indian's back," Siddaramaiah stated. He said while Karnataka contributed significantly to the Union's coffers, the BJP government at the Centre starved the state of its rightful share to prevent it from implementing guarantee schemes. For every rupee Karnataka gives, it only receives 13 paise back. This is not 'cooperative federalism'; it's outright exploitation, the CM alleged. While Congress in Karnataka has delivered, BJP continues to fail Indians nationwide, he claimed. Kharge on Thursday told Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar to be well within the financial limits.

"Don't go for saying five, six, 10 or twenty guarantees. Give guarantees according to your state budget. If

you give guarantees beyond your budget, you will become bankrupt. You will not even get soil to fill the road." "People will blame you. If this government fails, then there will be nothing for the next generation. You will only get a bad name and not a good one." In response, Modi launched a fierce attack on the opposition party as he seized on Kharge's comments that the Congress' state units should make promises that are properly budgeted. "The Congress is realising the hard way that making unreal promises is easy but implementing them properly is tough or impossible. Campaign after campaign they promise things to the people which they also know that they will never be able to deliver. Now, they stand badly exposed in front of the people," the PM said.

## India ranks high in tuberculosis treatment coverage: WHO report

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

New Delhi: India has one of the highest levels of treatment coverage for tuberculosis, among the 30 high TB burden countries, revealed a recent report by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The report showed that India is among seven of 30 high TB-burden countries — Brazil, Mozambique, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Uganda, and Zambia — with more than 80 per cent of treatment coverage in 2023. The country also achieved a significant increase in the number of people receiving preventative therapy for household contacts of TB patients and people living with HIV, the report showed. According to the report, 12.2 lakh people in India were put on preventative therapy in 2023, up from 10.2 lakh in 2022, and 4.2 lakh in 2021. While TB medicines are expensive and the therapy may continue for as long as two years, increasing household expenditures, the government is currently offering free drugs.

The treatment was successful in 89 per cent of the people with drug-susceptible TB; 73 per cent of those with an infection resistant to one of the common medicines rifampicin or resistant to multiple drugs; and 69 per cent of those with extremely drug-resistant TB. India aims to end TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global target, but the country reported 28 lakh TB cases, accounting for 26 per cent — the highest — global TB burden. India also reported an estimated 3.15 lakh TB-related deaths, accounting for 29 per cent of the deaths globally.

The report also showed a narrowing of the gap in the estimated number of cases and the number of people actually getting diagnosed. India reported 25.2 lakh cases in 2023, increasing from 24.2 lakh the previous year, the report said.

## Poll symbol confusion: In relief to NCP (SP), free poll symbol to be called 'trumpet' in Marathi, not 'tutari'



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

In some relief to the NCP (SP) ahead of the Assembly elections in Maharashtra, the state Chief Electoral Officer has decided to call the 'Trumpet', which is in the list of free poll symbols, as 'Trumpet' in Marathi as well instead of 'Tutari', which was creating confusion with the poll symbol of the Sharad Pawar-led party. The Election Commission of India (ECI) had earlier this year allocated the poll symbol 'Man blowing turha' to the NCP (SP), which, translated in Marathi, is called 'Tutari vajavnara manus'. However, the list of free symbols also has the 'Trumpet', called 'Tutari' in Marathi, which was used by an Independent candidate during the Lok Sabha polls. The NCP (SP) had claimed that as both the symbols — the one allotted to the party and the free symbol — were called 'Tutari' in Marathi, it created confusion among voters during the Lok Sabha polls because of which it lost

votes. The party had then approached the state election office, urging it to drop the symbol 'Trumpet' from the free list of symbols.

"We had demanded that the 'Trumpet', which was creating confusion among voters, should be removed from the list of free symbols. We came to know that the name of 'Trumpet' in Marathi was being changed. It will be called 'Trumpet' in Marathi as well instead of 'Tutari'. It is better to have something rather than not have anything. I thank the election office for the decision. It was necessary as we proved with data the setback our party suffered in the Lok Sabha elections due to the confusion arising from the phonetic overlap of both symbols," NCP (SP) working president and MP Supriya Sule said. In its order on Thursday, the state Chief Electoral Officer stated that the Election Commission recognised the NCP (SP) as a state-level party on March 26 while allocating the symbol 'Man blowing turha' to the party and mentioned its Marathi translation as 'Tutari vajavnara manus'. The symbol 'Trumpet' in the list of free symbols was also translated in Marathi as 'Tutari'. "The Marathi translation of both symbols have phonetic overlap and is creating confusion during the election campaign. The NCP (SP) had requested not to pronounce the free symbol as 'Tutari'. There are multiple words for translation of 'Trumpet' but again it would create confusion so it has been decided to name the symbol as 'Trumpet' in Marathi as well," said M R Parker, secretary to the Chief Electoral Officer, in the order to all district election offices and returning officers of Assembly constituencies.

## 'Objectionable' remark: Shinde Sena's Shaina files FIR against Sena UBT's Arvind Sawant

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

The battle between the two Senas led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Uddhav Thackeray took an ugly turn on Friday with Shiv Sena candidate from Mumbai, Shaina NC, filing a police complaint against Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and MP Arvind Sawant over his alleged objectionable remark against women, targeting her. Following the complaint and protest by Shaina and her supporters at Nagpada police station, police registered an FIR against Sawant for allegedly using inappropriate words. In her statement to police, Shaina said, "At around 8 am on Friday, my PA Amit Ramjilal Yadav, informed me over the phone that a video defaming me had gone viral on social media. He sent me the video on WhatsApp, and upon watching it, I saw that Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MP Arvind Sawant was speaking to the media during which he commented that 'imported maal nahi chalega, original maal chalega'." While verifying the video, Shaina NC learned that it had been recorded between 11 am and 3 pm on October 29 at Mumbai Central, after which she approached the Nagpada police station to lodge a complaint. A senior police officer overseeing the investigation said, "We have registered a case based on the complainant's statement. We will follow the legal procedure. Sawant has been booked under Section 79 (intending to insult a woman's modesty) and Section 356(2) (defamation) of the BNS Act.

After the FIR was registered on Friday, Shaina said, "We all are aware that 'Maha Vinash Aghadi' (opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi) doesn't respect women... But Ma Mumba Devi's blessing is with me. I am a woman, daughter of Mumbai and not 'maal'. It's Laxmi Pujanala today, when you perform Puja of goddess Laxmi, and Arvind Sawant says I am a maal, which means an item." "If you are going to make derogatory remarks against any woman, such FIR will be registered against you and the law will take its course. When you outrage the modesty of a woman, do you think that the woman will keep quiet?"



Women of Maharashtra will give them a befitting reply," she added. Earlier in the day, Shaina had demanded an apology from Arvind Sawant, however, said that his statement was misrepresented and he never mentioned Shaina NC's name. "Where did I take her name? My statement has been misrepresented. The FIR has been registered and sections have been imposed because we are in the opposition," Sawant said. The alleged derogatory term was made by Sawant during his campaign for Congress's Amin Patel who is contesting against Shaina in Mumbai. Amin Patel has represented the area since 2009. Reacting to the statement, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde posted on social media platform X, "The statement made by a Sena (UBT) MP on the Shiv Sena candidate Shaina NC is insulting to all women and shows the ideological level of Sena (UBT)... From Mata Jijai who taught Rajdharm to Savitri Bai Phule who took up social reform, Maharashtra has got a great tradition of respecting women... It is unfortunate that a person should stoop to such a low level for politics." Later speaking to the media, the CM said, "Whoever has said this, all the sisters of Maharashtra will show him his place and send him back home. If Balasaheb Thackeray would have been there today, he would have smashed the face of any Sainik who has used such words."

## Gujarat records 124% surge in instances of physical assault, 91% in vehicular trauma cases

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

The number of victims of vehicular trauma caused by road traffic accidents doubled from an average of 481 on regular days to 921 on Diwali day in Gujarat, a rise of 91.48%, showed data from the GVK-EMRI control room. The state also reported a 124.31% rise in the number of victims of physical assault on Diwali, with the number of cases going up from an average of 144 in the state to 323 on October 31. Besides, a total of 4,889 medical emergencies, where patients had to be transported to hospitals for treatment, were reported in Gujarat — marking an 8.55% increase in cases from an average day.

As for accident cases, the highest number was reported in Ahmedabad, where the cases rose from an average of 90 to 131 on October 31. Cases nearly doubled from 25 to 48 in Rajkot, 34 to 59 in Vadodara, and 54 to 92 cases on Diwali in Surat. The highest number of such cases of physical assault were registered in Ahmedabad where the number doubled from an average of 35 to 77 on Diwali. Cases rose from seven to 18 in Rajkot, seven to 15 in Vadodara, and 15 to 33 in Surat. The districts with the highest overall percentage increase in emergencies included Anand, Aravalli, Bharuch, Botad, Dahod, Mahisagar, Morbi, Panchmahal, Porbandar, Dang, and Valsad. Notably, Ahmedabad reported a decrease in overall emergencies, with 889 cases on Diwali compared to the usual 940, reflecting a decrease of 5.43%.

49 emergency cases at Vadodara



hospital. Meanwhile, Vadodara's SSG Hospital recorded a total of 49 emergency cases of accidents, physical assaults and burns during 24 hours on the occasion of Diwali on Thursday. Officials of SSG Hospital on Friday said that the hospital had received three cases of burns due to fire-crackers, of which, one patient had been admitted to the burns wing for treatment. The hospital also received 24 cases of road accidents, including one fatality. Officials of SSG Hospital also said that a total of 22 cases of injuries due to physical assaults had been reported in the last 24 hours. The hospital said that the OPD was operational on all days and the emergency department had been fully equipped to deal with the emergencies.

## Consumer commission orders MakeMyTrip to refund Rs 3.77 lakh to family over visa refusal

The Chandigarh district Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has ordered MakeMyTrip to refund Rs 3.77 lakh to a local family whose European visa was refused, preventing their planned holiday. Mandeep Singh, his wife, and minor son booked a 7-day "Swiss Paris Delight Group" Europe tour package with the firm for September 25 to October 2, 2022. The Rs 4.71 lakh package covered flights, hotels, activities, transfers, and visa assistance. The family submitted required documents as per the firm's instructions, but on September 25, VFS Global informed them that their visa application was denied. The family sought a refund, but the company de-

clined, arguing that they provided visa assistance, not a guarantee. The commission, however, found MakeMyTrip responsible for failing to account for the visa risk, forcing the family into unnecessary litigation. In its ruling, the commission noted that visa issuance remains the receiving country's prerogative, and travel plans should ideally be finalised only after obtaining a visa. MakeMyTrip, it stated, acted hastily by collecting the full amount in advance, displaying a deficiency in service and unfair trade practice. MakeMyTrip was ordered to refund Rs 3.77 lakh to the family after deducting service charges, pay Rs 20,000 as compensation, and Rs 10,000 for litigation costs.

## 77 families get new homes after Kolhapur settlement undergoes transformation through PMAY's beneficiary-led construction



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

At 37, Chhaya Mohite proudly calls this house her own, a place built through her hard work and in her name. The bakery worker from Kolhapur's Bondre Nagar slum now eagerly awaits the day she can step inside. As a single woman, Chhaya feels empowered and confident that no one can evict her from her new home and is happy leaving behind the cramped 20 ft x 10 ft tin shed she once lived in. Chhaya, along with 76 others from the same slum, are part of the beneficiary-led construction programme of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana -U (PMAY-U), which is the first slum redevelopment project in Kolhapur city.

"This home will be my hakkache ghar (my own house)," adds Bhikaji Waidande (37), who lives with his nine-member family in a 20x20-foot mud house and works as a site supervisor under contract with the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL). "For the first time, I am so happy that we will be shifting to our new home and have obtained all the paperwork and documents. Now, I can rightfully say this is my house," he says, adding that as part of the project, all 77 slum dwellers have formed a cooperative housing society and appointed a contractor. "Now the housing project is nearing completion," he said.

In this notified slum, there are several who rely on daily wages from construction sites and industries and most of the houses here were made of tin or cement sheets with mud or brick walls. Under the beneficiary-led construction vertical of PMAY-U, financial assistance to the tune of Rs 2.5 lakh is provided to eligible families belonging to EWS categories to construct new houses. The land ownership has to be transferred to the individual families

or given on lease to their cooperative housing society. The slum dwellers then raise their own funds via bank loans and get legal ownership of their houses. "What is unique about this project is that the land has been transferred as individual plots to every family, ensuring legal property ownership rights for the residents," Pratima Joshi, founder and executive director of Pune-based Shelter Associates. Most of the BLC projects have benefited only those individual families where they had legal ownership of land, Joshi said and explained that most informal settlements get left out of this vertical as they are encroachments and lack tenure security. "Often housing stocks created under the affordable housing vertical of the PMAY-U are beyond their affordability, leaving residents of informal settlements outside the ambit of tenured housing," Joshi added.

The project - under the aegis of PMAY -was facilitated by Shelter Associates, a civil society organisation set up in 1994 to improve the living conditions of the urban poor in India and supported by Satej Patil, Congress MLC and former Kolhapur District Guardian Minister who was instrumental in ensuring that the slum dwellers were able to avail loans for their new homes. Kolhapur The project - under the aegis of PMAY -was facilitated by Shelter Associates, a civil society organisation set up in 1994 to improve the living conditions of the urban poor in India.

When contacted, Patil told The Indian Express that various schemes have aimed to upgrade existing slums or relocate dwellers to new housing areas, often providing individual homes. "This project stands out, as 70-77 slum dwellers have been rehabilitated to their original site," said Patil, adding that they were instrumental in procuring bank loans for majority of the beneficiaries. Joshi also noted that while the PMAY-U launched in 2015 to ensure affordable all-weather houses in urban areas does focus on slum-dwellers, there are some lacunae in implementing the scheme at ground level in Maharashtra, especially in regards to the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) vertical of the scheme. "The scheme is riddled with challenges like administrative delays, incorrect land records, land ownership issues and ambiguous guidelines. Hence, it is a matter of pride and joy that this is the only slum redevelopment project being implemented under the BLC - vertical of PMAY in Maharashtra," she said.

## 8-foot crocodile rescued from creek near Surat village



GNS News Agency, Nov 5, crocodile Acting on the emergency call, a team of 10 volunteers reached the spot and carried out a search operation of four-five hours, but despite clearing a few ponds and spotting traces of the crocodile on the banks, it took them until another call on Thursday evening to find the animal. Volunteers from Surat-based NGO Nature Club rescued an 8.3-foot-long crocodile from a creek on the outskirts of a village in Olpad taluka, and handed it over to forest department officials. It was released into a river two days after it was spotted.

This year, Nature Club, which works to rescue wild-

life, received five calls related to crocodile sightings within the Surat boundaries of the Tapi river. On Wednesday evening, the club received a call about a crocodile spotted in shrimp ponds on the border of the Dhabhari and Lavachha villages. Acting on the emergency call, a team of 10 volunteers reached the spot and carried out a search operation of four-five hours, but despite clearing a few ponds and spotting traces of the crocodile on the banks, it took them until another call on Thursday evening to find the animal.

A couple of hours after they reached the spot for a second time, the volunteers caught the crocodile in a fishing net. They handed it over to forest officials of Olpad division for further processing late on Thursday night. On Friday, the crocodile was taken to Vadodara where it was released in a river. Speaking to The Indian Express, Nature Club volunteer Kaushik Patel said, "The sweet water crocodile is 8.3 feet long. It was female, weighing 105 kg... We receive regular calls from people about sighting crocodiles. In the current year, we got five calls of crocodile sightings on different banks of the Tapi river in Surat city, but when our team reached the spot, reptiles immediately escaped into the river. This is the first such crocodile caught by us in the current year."

## Sarvankar firm on contesting after Sena offers him MLC nomination to withdraw from Mahim fight

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

After appealing to Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray and the Shiv Sena on Wednesday to "not do injustice to him" by putting pressure to withdraw his nomination for Assembly elections, Shiv Sena candidate from Mahim Assembly constituency Sada Savarkar was on Friday offered an MLC nomination, according to Shinde Sena sources. MNS Chief Raj Thackeray's son Amit, who is making his debut from the same seat, took a firm stance on Friday stating that "there is no question of (him) withdrawing the nomination".

Sarvankar had gone to meet Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at his official residence Varsha on Thursday. While Sarvankar claimed that he could not meet Shinde, party sources said that Shinde instructed Sarvankar to withdraw from the seat and offered him an MLC nomination. Sarvankar, however, said he will fight and be victorious with the support of Mahimkars. Sarvankar even took a jibe at Raj Thackeray, who had earlier said that the future CM will come from the BJP with the support of the MNS, saying that a party that barely has one MLA commenting about CM was a joke. Mahim constituency in



central Mumbai houses the undivided Shiv Sena's headquarters, the Shiv Sena Bhavan, which is now the Sena (UBT)'s headquarters, and the prestigious Shivaji Park. Since Amit is going to make his electoral debut from the seat, BJP leaders, including Mumbai city president Ashish Shelar and state president Chandrashekhar Bawankule, and Shiv Sena ministers have expressed that the ruling alliance pledge support to him.

## Burn units in hospitals on their toes as festivities peak

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

As Diwali festivities light up Mumbai, the city's burn units are preparing for a predictable but unfortunate surge in severe burn cases. Each year, burn centres report a rise in injuries primarily caused by traditional diyas and fireworks, with children being particularly vulnerable. According to city health officials, around 20 to 30 severe burn cases are reported each Diwali season, placing considerable pressure on hospital resources. At the National Burn Centre (NBC) in Airoli, four severe burn cases have already been admitted. The first case involved a 19-year-old girl from Navi Mumbai who sustained burns on her hand from a malfunctioning 'Anar' or flowerpot firecracker. According to doctors, during Diwali, about 80% are caused by the 'Anar' firecracker. These flowerpot-style fireworks are popular because of the beautiful display they create, but if the firecracker malfunctions or bursts unexpectedly, it can result in serious burns to the face, hands, and arms.

Dr Sunil Keswani, plastic and cosmetic surgeon and medical director of NBC, said that while firecrackers are a frequent source of injury, traditional oil lamps, or diyas are also responsible for a significant number of burns, especially in younger children. "Diyas are typically placed at low heights, making them easily accessible to children. The oil used in these lamps can spill and catch fire if knocked over, causing burns on the hands, feet, and clothing of those nearby. The oil-soaked wick of a diya can also generate a high flame, which can easily singe skin, especially that of children," he added. From a clinical perspective, burns from diyas often lead to painful superficial and partial-thickness burns that require immediate medical attention. This increased risk has prompted hospitals across the city to ready their burn units for an expected influx of patients. BMC-run Kasturba Hospital, for instance, has taken steps to enhance its burn care facilities and staff availability during the festival. "Our burn unit is fully prepared to handle the increased flow of patients," said a spokesperson for Kasturba Hospital. "We've seen how Diwali brings in a high number of cases, and many of these injuries are severe enough to require specialised care, prolonged hospitalisation, and rehabilitation." For patients, the impact of severe burns



can be long-lasting and life-altering, often requiring surgery, skin grafts, and months of rehabilitation. Hospitals are also dealing with emotional challenges for burn patients who may face social stigma and require psychological support.

In light of the seasonal increase in burn injuries, doctors and health authorities are emphasising the importance of safety measures. Dr. Keswani advised families to prioritise fire safety, especially when celebrating Diwali with children around. "Simple steps can prevent many of these tragic accidents," he noted. "Keeping diyas out of children's reach, using electric lights where possible, and maintaining a safe distance from firecrackers can help avoid unnecessary injuries." The state health department has also issued advisories on firecracker safety and diya placement, urging families to exercise caution. Dr Sagar Shah, Consultant in Emergency Medicine at Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, emphasised the importance of fire safety during Diwali to prevent avoidable injuries. "Simple precautions can make a big difference," Dr Shah advised. "We encourage families to keep diyas and candles at a safe height, away from children's reach, and avoid placing them near curtains or flammable material. When using fireworks, always light them in an open area and maintain a safe distance. Keep a bucket of water or a fire extinguisher nearby, and never attempt to relight malfunctioning firecrackers. Also, wearing cotton clothing rather than synthetics can prevent burns from spreading in case of accidents."

## File status report on Advocates Protection Bill: HC to Delhi govt

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

delhi High Court, delhi advocates, protection bill, delhi HC status report, Indian express news In an order passed on May 25 last year, the HC had directed the GNCTD to file a status report about the first draft of the Delhi Advocates' Protection Bill. This was sent to the Law Minister and the Delhi CM. The Delhi government Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it will file a status report about the progress made in drafting the Advocates Protection Bill, following which the HC listed the matter on December 16. In an earlier status report dated September 20 filed by the Department of Law, GNCTD, it was submitted in court that a draft bill has been prepared and placed for consideration before the Chief Secretary and Delhi Law Minister. It was also submitted that the Bill has been pending the Law Minister's approval since September 13. The report further stated that the Bill will require approval from the Council of Ministers, after which it will be referred to the L-G for his nod. "After receipt of

approval from the Central Government (L-G), the draft Bill may be laid before the Legislative Assembly of Delhi for its consideration. In case the Bill is passed by the Legislative Assembly of Delhi, the same is required to be reserved by Hon'ble Lt. Governor for seeking assent of His Excellency, the President of India..." said the status report. Delhi, meanwhile, is set for a hectic three months - Assembly polls are slated early next year and the Model Code of Conduct may kick in by mid-November. "The bill has already been delayed... it must be expedited at the earliest," said advocate K C Mittal, who is representing the coordination committee (of all district court bar associations) which prepared the first draft of the Bill. The petition being heard in the HC was filed by advocates Deepa Joseph and Alpha Phiris, seeking directions to the Centre and the Delhi government to consider enacting the Advocates Protection Act in Delhi. Mittal told The Indian Express that Rajasthan is the only state in the country that has enacted a law granting protection to advocates.

## Delhi govt announces public holiday on Nov 7 for Chhath Puja

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Chhath Puja Saxena wrote that the third day of the four-day festival when offerings are made to the setting sun, had already been designated a restricted holiday. Even as the AAP government in Delhi, the Lieutenant Governor's (L-G) Secretariat and the Delhi BJP jostled for credit over the issue, a public holiday was declared on November 7 on account of Chhath Puja. The announcement came after L-G V K Saxena wrote to Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, urging her to declare a public holiday on the third day of the festival, November 7.

Saxena wrote that the third day of the four-day festival when offerings are made to the setting sun, had already been designated a restricted holiday. "I urge you that the government declare November 7 (Thursday) as a full (public) holiday and the file related to this be moved at the earliest," the L-G wrote to the CM. In an order issued on Friday evening, Atishi issued directions declaring November 7 as a holiday. "Chhath Puja is an important festival for the people of Delhi. Therefore, the Delhi government has decided to declare a public holiday on November 7..." the order stated. Following this, in a post on X, Atishi said, "I am pleased to announce that the Delhi government has decided to observe a holiday on November 7 for Chhath, so that all Purvanchali brothers and sisters can celebrate the festival with



enthusiasm." Welcoming the move, Delhi president Virendra Sachdeva said that it was for the first time in 2014 that Chhath was observed as a holiday in Delhi due to the joint efforts of then Delhi BJP president Satish Upadhyay, MP Manoj Tiwari and other party leaders. "But after that, the Arvind Kejriwal government has been observing Chhath as a restricted holiday every year.

BJP believes that the people of Purvanchal are the backbone of today's economy and their great festival Chhath should be declared a public holiday. I support and welcome the proposal letter sent by Honorable Lieutenant Governor Shri Vinay Kumar Saxena to the Chief Minister!" Sachdeva said in a post on X.

## TMC MLA & husband 'beaten up'; BJP points to 'infighting'



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

TRINAMOL CONGRESS (TMC) MLA from Minakhan Usharani Mondal and her husband were "beaten up" allegedly by a group of her own party workers on Thursday, police said on Friday. According to a complaint filed by Mondal at the Haroa police station in North 24 Parganas, she and her husband Mrityunjay Mondal were returning from a Kali Puja programme when a group of around 30 people, allegedly led by a local TMC leader, Khalek Molla, intercepted her convoy. Molla, however, denied the allegations.

"I was dragged out of the car and assaulted with a rod, resulting in a leg injury. Several of my party workers were also injured and are undergoing treatment," Mondal told the police. The MLA claimed that her husband was also allegedly forced to step out of the car and beaten up. Her husband, Mrityunjay Mondal, told mediapersons, "We were ambushed by Khalek Molla's group near the Haroa auto-rickshaw stand. They pelted our car with bricks and attacked us with rods. Our boys were following us on motorcycles. At least 10-12 people were injured in the incident." Addressing mediapersons on Friday, Molla denied all the allegations and claimed that Mondal "instigated" violence. He claimed that she had brought "armed goons" to attack local TMC leaders and those persons had opened fire at the spot. Molla, however, is yet to file a police complaint in this regard.

"The party lost in Usharani Mondal's own booth area

in the Lok Sabha elections... She is now resorting to such tactics to gain political mileage," he alleged. "She has close ties with the BJP and has been sidelined by the party (TMC). This is a desperate attempt to tarnish our image," claimed Molla.

Molla alleged, "Armed goons brought by Mondal attacked our panchayat pradhan Mallika Mondal and her supporters. Shots were fired. The MLA is cornered. She did not attend a meeting convened by the Chief Minister after the polls. She (MLA Mondal) has been targeting our panchayat pradhan." Panchayat pradhan Mallika Mondal claimed to mediapersons, "Several rounds were fired. They vandalised my house, broke open the doors." The police said they would look into these allegations if a formal complaint is received, adding that a probe was on into the MLA's allegations. Meanwhile, BJP spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said on Friday, "This incident has no connection with the coming bypolls. It's a fight between two groups within the TMC over looting money meant for the common public."

## Himachal Pradesh witnesses

### third driest October in 123 years

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Himachal Pradesh witnessed the third driest October in 123 years with 97 per cent rain deficit as the state received 0.7 mm of rain against a normal of 25.1 mm, the weather department said on Friday. As per the data, Hamirpur, Bilaspur, Solan, Sirmour, Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti 99 per cent, Kinnaur 98 per cent, Kangra 94 per cent, Mandi 83 per cent, and Una 54 per cent in the month of October. With weak rainfall activity on most days, Himachal Pradesh received the third lowest rainfall in the month of October since 1901. The highest rainfall in the month of October was recorded in 1955 at 413.5 mm, the Met department said in a statement.

## Was Elon Musk, staunch critic of open borders, once an illegal worker in US? Here's all we know



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Various details have emerged about Elon Musk's immigration journey in the past week. His immigration story resurfaced after a Washington Post report claimed that he was an illegal immigrant in the 1990s when he came to the US. However, the Tesla CEO has denied all allegations about his immigration journey and called it all a ruse of the Democrats. Here is all you need to know about Musk's illegal immigration fiasco. The Washington Post recently reported that Musk may have worked illegally in the U.S. while starting a tech company in the 1990s. The article mentioned court records, company documents, and former colleagues, including a CEO who said investors were concerned that Musk might face deportation. However, he denied the claims from the Washington Post report that he had worked without authorization in the U.S. This came after a video circulated of President Joe Biden discussing those claims. Musk wrote, "I was in fact allowed to work in the US," as reported by CNN. Reports were massively circulated among his crit-

ics as an emphasising statement of the billionaire's double standards given he had denounced illegal immigration in the past months leading up to election day.

In 1995, Musk moved to the United States to attend Stanford University where he pursued a PhD in physics but left after just two days to start a tech company. Initially, he came on a student visa and later obtained a work visa (H-1B) for his entrepreneurial ventures, which led to questions about his visa status during the early years of his career. Musk never shared many details about his immigration status during the early part of his career when he and his brother were starting their first company, an online city guide and mapping tool called Zip2, as reported by CNN.

Musk and his brother's old immigration post On a rare occasion in 2013, Musk's brother, Kimbal Musk repeatedly mentioned that the investors in the early days gradually caught up with the fact that the two brothers were "illegal immigrants". However, the SpaceX founder argued his brother's characterisation and said, "I'd say it was a grey area" at the same event. In another podcast episode in 2020, Musk revealed that he had a "student work visa" during his early days. Musk has reacted to recent claims about immigration violations by saying that these allegations are politically motivated attempts to "destroy him." He believes that the accusations are aimed at undermining his reputation rather than being based on facts. He reacted to the threats of deportation as he wrote on X, "A lot of people still don't believe me when I say that the Dems will do everything in their power to destroy me if they win on Nov 5th," along with citing a report by Newsweek claiming, "Could Elon Musk Be Deported For Immigration Violation?"

## Serbia opens probe into railway building disaster that killed 14

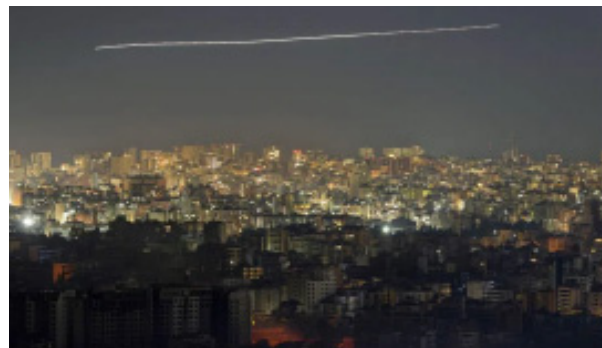
GNS News Agency, Nov 5

NOVI SAD, Serbia - Serbia wound up a rescue operation and opened an investigation on Saturday into a roof collapse that killed 14 and injured three at a railway station in the northern city of Novi Sad. The disaster happened on Friday when a length of roofing along the entrance to the station collapsed on a sunny day. Rescuers worked into the night, using heavy construction machinery, to free the dead and wounded from under the rubble. The station in the city about 70 km northwest of Belgrade underwent renovations in 2021 and 2022. Other minor works continued until July this year when the transportation ministry said that a total of 16 million euros had been invested in the renovation. Transport Minister Goran Vesic said the inquiry, opened by authorities in Novi Sad, would include the state Traffic Institute, state railway company and the Chinese consortium that undertook the renovation work. "The investigation will determine ... who made decisions and put seals and signatures, who was in charge of controlling the works," Vesic said in a TV broadcast. Vesic, state Serbian Railways company, the state Traffic Institute and the Chinese consortium - China Railway International Co. Ltd and China Communications Construction Company, that renovated the build-

ing, all said that the part of the building that collapsed was not a part of the works. Interior Minister Ivica Dacic said 20 people would be interviewed by authorities on Saturday in connection with the disaster, including people from the ministry in charge and the state railways operator. "The documentation about the building will be obtained ... about who made the decisions," Dacic added. Authorities declared Saturday a national day of mourning. On Saturday morning, people brought flowers and lit candles near the site. Workers were clearing away the last of the rubble. Serbia's opposition, which accuses authorities loyal to President Aleksandar Vucic of rampant corruption, nepotism and excessive red tape, called for a protest in downtown Novi Sad later in the day. Vucic, a populist, and his allies deny such allegations.

In a televised address late on Friday the president promised justice and demanded harsh punishment for those responsible. As he spoke, hundreds of people lit candles at a vigil outside the city hall to honour the victims of the disaster. Sorrow was gradually evolving into anger. "We demand to know who is responsible for this because someone is," said 27-year old resident Mila Jovic, who attended the vigil.

## 52 killed, many injured as Israel launches intense airstrikes across Lebanon



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Beirut: Israel launched dozens of intense airstrikes across Lebanon's northeastern farming villages on Friday, killing at least 52 people and wounding scores more, the Lebanese Health Ministry reported. In central Gaza, Palestinians recovered the bodies of 25 people killed in a barrage of Israeli aerial attacks that began Thursday, hospital officials said. Israel says another rocket barrage from Lebanon kills 2 in Israel, hours after 5 were killed.

The latest violence comes against the backdrop of a renewed diplomatic push by United States President Joe Biden's administration, days before the presidential election, to reach temporary ceasefire deals. Israel's emergency services said seven people were injured before dawn Saturday in attack in the central town of Tira. Three projectiles crossed into Israel from Lebanon, Israel's military said, and some were intercepted. The Magen David Adom service said two of those injured were in moderate condition from the attack, and the others had milder injuries. A photo the service released showed damage to what appeared to be an apartment building. Israel has stepped up its offensive against Hamas' remaining fighters in Gaza, pulverizing areas in the north and raising fears of worsening humanitarian conditions for civilians still there. In Lebanon, Israel has broadened its strikes in recent weeks to bigger urban hubs, like the town of Baalbek, home to 80,000 people, after initially targeting smaller border villages in the south, where Hezbollah conducts operations. Intensified Israeli airstrikes on and around the northeastern city of Baalbek after Israel issued evacuation warnings have prompted 60,000 people to flee, emptying nearby villages, said Hussein Haj Hassan, a Lebanese lawmaker representing the region.

## Harris says America deserves better than what Trump is offering

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Washington: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump pits Americans against one another, his Democratic rival and Vice President Kamala Harris alleged and asserted her pledge to pursue common sense solutions and to be a President for all Americans. "America deserves better than what Donald Trump is offering. America deserves a President who understands our role and responsibility to our people and to the rest of the world to be a model," she said. Campaigning in the presidential elections entered the last few days with both Harris and Trump making closing arguments before voters in the key swing States.

"As you have heard me say many a times, my pledge to the American people is to pursue common sense solutions, to listen to those, even those who disagree with me, to listen to experts, and to be a President for all Americans," Harris said in Wisconsin. "Donald Trump's closing argument is very different. He pits Americans against one another. He spends full time having Americans point their fingers at one another. And he spends a considerable amount of time plotting his revenge on his political opponents," she said.

She said that as of last night, Trump has indicated that the person who would be in charge of healthcare for Americans people is someone who has "routinely promoted junk science and crazy conspiracy theories", and who once expressed support for a national abortion ban. "And who is the exact last person in America who should be setting health care policy for America's families and children." Harris said Trump is increasingly someone who considers his political opponents his enemy, is permanently out for revenge, and is increasingly "unstable and



unhinged". "His enemies list has grown longer, his rhetoric has grown more extreme, and he is even less focused than before on the needs and the concerns and the challenges facing the American people," she said. "I have also thought a lot about what this means in terms of our standing in the world. As Vice President, I have represented the United States of America around the world, and what I know is that when we walk in those rooms representing the United States of America, we have the earned and self-appointed authority to then talk about the importance of democracy, the importance of rule of law. And as a result, people around the world who are fighting for freedom and opportunity hold us up as a model," she said. Responding to a question, Harris said there is a real contrast in this race when one looks at who stands for democracy and democratic principles and who does not. "Donald Trump is talking about an enemies list... He talks in a way that suggests that there should be retribution and severe consequences just because people disagree with him," she said.

## US Supreme Court rejects major Republican plea just days ahead of the election

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected an emergency appeal from Republicans that could have led to thousands of provisional ballots not being counted in Pennsylvania as the presidential campaigns vie in the final days before the election in the nation's biggest battleground state. The justices left in place a state Supreme Court ruling that elections officials must count provisional ballots cast by voters whose mail-in ballots were rejected. Enhance your career with IIT Delhi's Design Thinking & Innovation Programme Enroll now! The ruling is a victory for voting-rights advocates, who had sought to force counties — primarily Republican-controlled counties — to let voters cast a provisional ballot on Election Day if their mail-in ballot was to be rejected for a garden-variety error.

While the Supreme Court action was a setback for Republicans, the GOP separately claimed victory in a decision by Pennsylvania's Supreme Court. That court rejected a last-ditch effort by voting rights advocates to ensure that mail-in ballots that lack an accurate, handwritten date on the exterior envelope will still count in this year's presidential election. The rulings are the latest in four years of litigation over voting by mail in Pennsylvania, where every vote truly counts in presidential races. Republicans have sought in dozens of court cases to push the strictest possible interpretation for throwing out mail-in ballots, which are predominantly cast by Democrats. Taken together, Friday's near-simultaneous rulings will ensure a heavy emphasis on helping thousands of people vote provisionally on Election Day if their mail-in ballot was rejected — and potentially more litigation. As of Thursday, about 9,000 ballots out of more than 1.6 million returned have arrived at elections offices around Pennsylvania lacking a secrecy envelope, a signature or a handwritten date, according to state records.

Pennsylvania is the biggest presidential election battleground this year, with 19 electoral votes, and is ex-



pected to play an outsized role in deciding the election between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Kamala Harris. It was decided by tens of thousands of votes in 2016 when Trump won it and again in 2020 when Democrat Joe Biden won it. A voting-rights lawyer in Pennsylvania who helped bring both cases said it is almost certain that another case over undated ballots will be back before the state Supreme Court within days after the presidential election if it is close. "It's almost certain that this is going to be raised again after the election, especially if it's a close election," Witold Walczak, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania, said in an interview. In its unsigned, two-page order, the state's highest court put a lower court ruling on hold that would have required counties to count the ballots. The high court said the case won't apply to the presidential election being decided next week, but held out the possibility that it would still rule on the case at a later time. The rulings came as voters had their last chance Friday to apply for a mail-in ballot in a bellwether suburban Philadelphia county while a county clear across the state gave voters who didn't receive their ballot in the mail another chance to get one.

## Israel says another rocket barrage from Lebanon kills 2 in Israel, hours after 5 were killed

Israel: Rockets fired from Lebanon killed two more people in northern Israel on Thursday, Israeli medics said, raising the death toll there to seven in what marked the deadliest strikes to hit Israel since its military invaded southern Lebanon earlier this month. The attack came as senior U.S. diplomats were in the region to push for cease-fires in Lebanon and Gaza, hoping to wind down the wars in the Middle East in the Biden administration's final months. Hezbollah has been firing rockets, drones and missiles into Israel, and drawing retaliatory strikes, since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack out of the Gaza Strip triggered the war there. Hezbollah and Hamas are allies backed by Iran. The conflict along the border escalated into a full-blown war last month, when Israel launched a wave of

heavy airstrikes across Lebanon and killed Hezbollah's top leader, Hassan Nasrallah, and most of his deputies. Israeli ground forces pushed into Lebanon at the start of October. Magen David Adom, Israel's main emergency medical organization, said its medics confirmed the deaths of a 30-year-old man and 60-year-old woman in a suburb of the northern city of Haifa. They also treated two other people who suffered mild injuries and were hospitalized. The Israeli military said that roughly 25 rockets crossed into Israel from Lebanon as part of the volley that struck an olive grove where people had gathered for the harvest. The deadly attack came just hours after local officials in Metula, in northern Israel, said that projectiles fired from Lebanon had struck an agricultural project,

## Indian origin girl confronts Vivek Ramaswamy on H1-B visa, asks 'Why are you turning your back on Indian community?'

Indian origin girl came face to face with biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ganapathy Ramaswamy on H1-B Visa, stating that she believes he was granted US citizenship on the basis of his parental ties. While highlighting that his company hired employees on this visa, she interrogated, "why are you turning your back on the Indian community, man?" During an event at University Of North Carolina At Asheville, the girl raised a "genuine" question stating: "You were quoted saying that people who come to this country as family members are not the meritocratic citizens who should be accepted." "Why would you have got the H-1B visa, which 70 % of is given to Indian people?" she questioned Trump's staunch supporter, who may get a major role to play in the GOP leader's administration if he wins the 5 November election. Know about H1-B visas

The H-1B visa is intended to enable qualified workers to enter the United States and work without compromising American workers' pay and working conditions. In comparison to other visa categories, such as J-1 or TN visas, H-1Bs are comparatively costly and have a high compliance and time burden. "First of all, a lot of the people who have come here through the H-1B system would tell you, as I would, that it is just a broken system no matter who you're seeking to serve. For example, you want to talk about special interests and lobbying? This is direct Silicon Valley lobbying that said that if you get your H-1B visa and you're hired by one company, you're effectively like a slave, you can't switch to a different company." He further mentioned that this is not a free labour market, adding that "there's so much that's broken and bureaucratized."

Ramaswamy further explained about the H-1B visa system and "why the heck do we do it on the basis of a lottery, when you could actually just select the very best people?" Blasting the US administration, he asserted when something's broken in government, nobody can really fix it. "When it's lasted that long. You need to shut it down, start with a blank slate and rebuild from scratch," he suggested. As immigration policy has taken a central role in this US election, he said an immigration system generally selects for the smartest people to come to the US, the ones who are going to work the hardest, those who love the United States, or know the most about the United States, or speak the best English. He, however, remarked that "none of those is the quality that our current immigration system rewards." According to him, no migration should be allowed without consent. "Consent should only be granted to migrants who benefit America, and those who enter without consent must be removed and must be punished."

He went on to mention that he will be partial for those immigrants who are going to benefit America. "As legal immigrants, as a kid of legal immigrants to this country, if there are benefits, if there are immigrants who are going to benefit the United States of America, that should be the standard that we actually use. It just turns out that's



not actually the standard we're using today." Reacting to Ramaswamy's views, one X user shared the video of the event on X, writing: "H1B visas are not given away. You have to get a qualifying job and then go through the lottery." "If being on H1B is like working as a slave, the immediate focus should be on removing country caps which has made H1B permanent status for many based on their country of birth," he added. Commenting on the post, another user wrote: "It's point blank slavery. Most Indians don't like to accept, because no one likes being called a slave. But the truth can't change."

## Ladakh disengagement is good but what about the Eastern Himalayas?

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 Depsang 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 standpoint 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,

## 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-industrial 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 — TSMC 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, Shreegee 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).

## Tunnel boring machines: Machines for India delayed, German firm flags bottleneck at Chinese customs

tunnel boring machines, Chinese customs, german tunnel boring machines, Herrenknecht, Piyush Goyal, Robert Habeck, Indian express news, current affairs "Due to contractual agreements with our customers, we ask for your understanding that we will not make any statements about specific projects, delivery scopes, or the status of individual machines," Herrenknecht said in response to the queries. German mechanised tunnelling major Herrenknecht, which was at the centre of a recent conversation between Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Germany's Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck, has said it has been facing "extraordinary circumstances" with Chinese customs clearances in delivery of tunnel boring machines (TBMs) to India from China. This, the company said, is hampering its efforts to deliver the TBMs to its Indian customers.

"For several months now, we have been observing extraordinary circumstances in the customs clearance processes for machines to be delivered from China to India. These are hindering us from fulfilling our delivery obligations as expected and, in some cases, entirely," a spokesperson for Herrenknecht said in a statement in response to queries from The Indian Express. Recently, in a video of an interaction between Goyal and Habeck during a Metro train ride in Delhi, the Commerce Minister was heard telling Habeck that India was to get some TBMs from Herrenknecht that the company was making in China, but China was not allowing the sale of those machines to India. Habeck, who is also Germany's economic affairs minister, was in Delhi as part of a high-level delegation led by German Chancellor Olaf Scholz. An independent family-owned company, Herrenknecht is seen as a global major in mechanised tunnelling and manufacturing of TBMs. These large machines are used to excavate tunnels for infrastructure projects. The company has been involved with a number of projects in India, where it operates through its subsidiary Herrenknecht India, which is based out of Chennai. "In India, Herrenknecht's machines and equipment are used for civil infrastructure projects like hydroelectric, railways, roads, water, sewerage projects including the expansion or construction of metro networks in Delhi, Kanpur, Agra, Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and many more cities," the company said.

It declined to comment on the number of TBMs that were to be delivered to Indian customers but are stuck in China. It also declined to provide details about the Indian customers and the projects for which these TBMs are intended to be used. "Due to contractual agreements with our customers, we ask for your understanding that we will not make any statements about specific projects, delivery scopes, or the status of individual machines," Herrenknecht said in response to the queries. The main location of Herrenknecht is in Schwanau, Germany, where "innovations are developed that customers use in projects worldwide", the company said. Schwanau is also home to Herrenknecht's central production facility. Overall, the company operates from over 60 locations globally as part of its strategy to be able to offer services close to project sites. It has a few manufacturing and assembly plants in China, where the company has been involved with numerous infrastructure projects for over two decades. "In addition to the USA and Thailand, steel fabrication and pre- as well as final assembly of tunnel boring machines also take place at locations in India and China. Key functional units of the machines and technological core components still predominantly come from the manufacturing site in Schwanau. They are completed at one of our assembly sites with large steel structures mostly manufactured in the production regions," the company said. "This allows our customers to verify the functionality



of the machines in their entirety at one location and rely on consistently high-quality standards. The globally positioned production network enables Herrenknecht to optimally utilise production capacities and optimise delivery times," Herrenknecht said in its response.

## Musk lays off more employees from his social media platform X



San Francisco: Elon Musk, who is busy promoting Donald Trump for the keenly-watched US presidential election on November 5, has reportedly laid off more employees from his X social media platform. According to a report in The Verge, a new wave of layoffs has hit X, primarily affecting its engineering department, citing sources inside X and posts on the workplace forum Blind. "The exact scale of the job cuts remains unknown. These cuts come just two months after staffers were required to submit a one-page summary telling leadership their contributions to the company," the report claimed. Musk or X were yet to comment on the report. Recently, the tech billionaire had reportedly sent an email to X staff about their much-anticipated stock grants — although with a catch. In an email to staff seen by The Verge, the social media platform planned to award stock options based on the anticipated impact of employees. "That means staff have to submit a one-page summary telling leadership their contributions to the company in order to get their stock," said the report. Keeping in mind how the company has continued to struggle under Musk's ownership, employees have been bracing for more layoffs. Musk bought X (then called Twitter) in 2022 and laid off more than 6,000 employees— roughly 80 per cent of the company's staff. The workforce was forced to justify their roles and even judge whether their own colleagues should be retained. The job cuts affected departments like diversity and inclusion teams as well as product development and design. Even, Twitter's content moderation team was not spared. In January this year, X reportedly fired 1,000 employees from its 'safety' staff which was responsible for stopping abusive content online.

## 'Answer to our prayers': Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh names their daughter 'Dua' — here's what it signifies



Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh had a baby girl in September, and this Diwali, the Bollywood couple shared her name with the rest of the world. The Singham Again stars shared a picture of their daughter's feet clad in a red salwar kurta and captioned it, "Close friends in the industry shared their appreciation and lots of heart emojis in the comments, with Karan Johar leaving a "Such a gorgeous name ??????????????" to Tahira Kashyap dropping "Precious ?????".

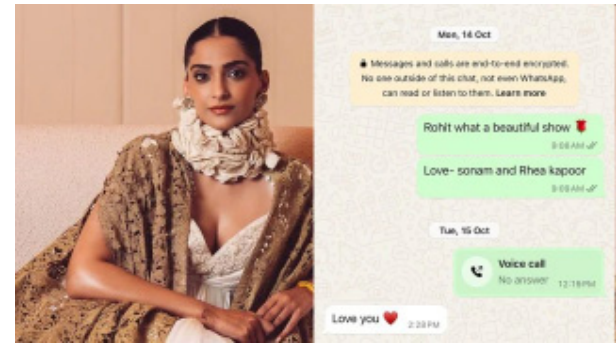
The couple had announced the birth of their first daughter on September 8, 2024, just a few weeks after sharing glimpses of a maternity shoot in black and white.

## 'I can't stop tearing up': Sonam Kapoor pays tribute to fashion legend Rohit Bal with Instagram post

Rohit Bal, one of India's most celebrated fashion designers, passed away in Delhi on Friday night following a heart attack. He was 63. His last tryst with fashion was in October when he presented his collection at the grand finale of Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI 2024. Along with sister and stylist Rhea, Sonam Kapoor paid tribute to Rohit Bal on his passing by donning elements of three of his most iconic looks from the vast expanse of his prolific career. Kapoor clubbed a white quilled statement neck piece from Bal's Husn-e-Tairat collection of 2015, a golden lace cape from Kroshni collection from 2016, and a white gown from Kaynaat collection of 2024 to create her own unique ensemble. Pulled back neat hair, sculpted cheeks and round earrings completed her look.

Sonam also penned a heart-felt tribute to Bal and posted it on Instagram along with a series of pictures wearing Bal's creations on the runway. "Dear gudda, I hear about your passing on my way to celebrate Diwali in your gorgeous creation that you generously lent to me for the second time. I've been blessed to have known you and worn you and walked for you multiple times. I hope you are at peace. Always your biggest fan," the actor said. Designer Anamika Khanna also shared a moving post dedicated to Bal on her Instagram, reminiscing her bond with the fellow artist. "Rohit! My friend, mentor and guide! Someone who I cherished, respected and

Padukone's new role as a mother also finds mention in her social media profile bio, which reads "Feed. Burp. Sleep. Repeat." In case you're curious, indianexpress.com spoke to an expert and found out the spiritual significance the name Dua carries. Astrologer Arun Sharma shared that the starting letter for this name is "D", and this sound of the phonetic "d" represents the 4th Charan (pada) of the most sacred nakshatra of the 27 nakshatras called "Pushya". This nakshatra is ruled by planet Saturn, which brings stability and enables creativity to fructify into entirely new forms. A vibrant tranquility, faith in oneself and fullness of life can occur due to the interaction of Jupiter and Saturn," he said. According to him, the ruling deity is lord "Brihaspati" (Guru the Jupiter), who is the lord of sacred rituals, speech and spiritual prayers. "Planet Jupiter, considered "Exalted" in Pushya Nakshatra, reflects the intuitive wisdom, great fortune, luck, powerful speech and purification of the psyche. The nakshatra has the power to create great spiritual energies called "brahmavarchasa shakti", he said. Sharma mentioned that all forms of worship and spiritual practices are emphasised here. "This nakshatra resides completely in the zodiac sign of Cancer, which is a water sign and is also considered to be moveable. Cancer is ruled by planet Moon, and often embodies high emotions buoyed by the mother's influence".



loved. You will be missed deeply. Moments like these made it worth their while. May your soul be in design forever." "Love you Anamika, I can't stop tearing up" Kapoor commented on Khanna's post.

Fashion Development Council of India (FDCI) president Sunil Sethi confirmed Bal's death on Friday evening. According to him, Bal was admitted to Aashlok Hospital in Safdarjung Enclave and was being treated by Dr Alok Chopra. "He had a cardiac arrest... heart failure. Rohit was a legend, we are completely shaken right now. We are trying to work out details for the cremation tomorrow," he told PTI.

## 'Main aapka ghar ek museum banaun': Madhuri Dixit reveals MF Husain's wish for her Mumbai home

"As you can see, I have a lot of Husainji's paintings in my house. I remember he had said, meri ek dil ki khwaish hai ke main aapka ghar ek museum banaun," Madhuri Dixit reveals as she opens the doors to her stunning home in Mumbai.

Along with her husband, Dr Shiram Madhav Nene, she welcomes viewers inside her sea-facing apartment, which boasts a thoughtful convergence between art and technology. Nestled on the 53rd floor, her space is a cosy sanctuary that "blends contemporary aesthetics with a minimalist undertone, emphasising straight lines, clean forms, and a sober palette." Designed by Apoorva Shroff of Lyth Design, the 5,500-square-foot space in the city of dreams was indeed the actor's long-desired dream: "to have a husband, kids, and a house where you feel comfortable, cosy and loved." According to her, the home boasts an atmosphere that "evokes calm, clarity, and comfort."

In an interview with Architectural Digest India, Madhuri revealed that "Everything about the house is uncluttered; it's straight lines... beautiful yet artistic." Dr Nene added that their take on contemporary design is very similar. With a pianoforte and multiple guitars scattered around the house, Dr Nene and Madhuri alluded to theirs being a "musical family" that comes together often to play and perform. Speaking about her home, adorned with the works of the notable modernist painter, she said: "Husainji wanted to paint the walls of my home, but I objected on the account of moving, so he painted me some



of his finest works."

One of the founding members of the Bombay Progressive Artists' Group in the 1940s, Maqbool Fida Husain dedicated multiple vibrant works exclusively to Dixit, which are proudly displayed on the walls of her residence. M F Husain's art adds life to various corners of the house, and the Bhool Bhulaiya 3 actor opened up about the entrance foyer, where a console by Vikram Goyal's Viya Home is brought to light by Husain's auspicious Ganeshas. While the master bedroom overlooks a breathtaking view of Mumbai's seafront, Madhuri revealed, "This is the first thing I see every morning; it's very peaceful." According to the publication, Shroff chose a "neutral interior palette that complements the homeowners' vibrant personalities." Madhuri and Dr Nene resorted to "simplicity" — a timeless template that feels like home.

## Hyderabad Researchers part of landmark initiative to create India's first Breast Cancer Genomic Atlas

Hyderabad: Genetic researchers from Hyderabad are part of a major country-wide initiative of completing the genomic mapping of nearly 1,000 breast cancer tumours of patients drawn from the city and elsewhere and come up with a unique Indian Breast Cancer Genomic Atlas (IBCGA).

The program of genomic profiling of Indian breast cancer cases, which is already underway, is first of its kind and being taken up by multiple genetic laboratories in India under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), which also involves researchers from Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB). The overall breast cancer genomic atlas is seeking to create India-specific cancer genomic resources and in the process find actionable molecular features of clinical significance, senior scientists from CCMB said. The reason for focus on breast cancer is due to the fact that the disease has quickly become the number one cancer among Indian women. "A significant rise in the incidence of breast cancer-associated mortality in the

Indian population has been noted. Genomic characterization of tumours will help doctors/scientists improve clinical management of cancer patients," CSIR in a note on Breast Cancer Genomic Atlas said. As a part of the genomic cancer atlas, more than 50 physicians, 35 scientists and 12 hospitals from Hyderabad and across India are in the process of generating over 400 terabytes of cancer data of Indian patients. Researchers in the well-known science journal Nature (February, 2024) said that the success of the atlas will impact 20 per cent of the humanity. "The first cohort of 1,000 breast cancer patients is expected to generate a lot of data, underscoring the importance of creating high-quality data to enable impactful research," they said.

The genomic atlas uses standard data models for clinical data harmonization and bioinformatics analyses. As it expands to other cancers, the atlas will have to handle increasing volumes of complex data. Efforts are underway to construct a robust, scalable data and compute infrastructure to support this growth, the Nature article said.

## Chunky Panday says his career 'faded out' when Ajay Devgn, Aamir Khan, Salman Khan made their debuts: 'Enjoyed honeymoon for a year, then got lost'

In 1987, when actor Chunky Panday made his screen debut, he was an instant success. It was a fantastic year for him, beginning with Pahlaj Nihalani's Aag Hi Aag, followed by several other hit films. But it all started to "fade out" when other actors entered the scene. Chunky Panday says he was "lost" when stars like Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Govinda and Ajay Devgn made their debuts. In an interview with SCREEN, Panday traced his early days, and said that he has been through his fair share of rejections, which included several failed TV and film auditions.

"I remember going to the office of a very famous producer-director, who makes romantic films, and I was wearing a tank top. I was going there after my workout. He saw me and said, 'I am not making Tarzan, you can go to B Subhash's office.' So, I was thrown out of offices like that. But I landed up getting my first film in the toilet of a five-star hotel, after three years of trying!" The actor, who is currently awaiting the release of the Netflix film Vijay 69, starring Anupam Kher, reflected on his early career boom and the eventual dip. By the mid-90s, all the stars were slotted in different categories— while Ajay, Akshay Kumar and Sunny Deol were headlining action films, Shah Rukh Khan was the new romantic star, and Aamir was starring in humble dramas. Salman Khan, on the other hand, had found a blockbuster collaborator in Sooraj Barjatya.

"I got lost," Chunky Panday said when asked about making a space for himself in the 1990s. "I came when the galaxy was exploding— 1986 was Govinda, I came in 87, the next year was Aamir, Salman came in 1989 and Ajay was in 1990. So, they just kept coming, these big superstars. I did get lost, and I enjoyed my honeymoon



for exactly a year. That whole year of 1988 was fantastic for me, and then, everything just faded out." The actor said, "too many people came in" at the time, but there was "no one to blame but myself", for how his career panned out. He added, "I was that young blood who always wanted to keep working and was taking on any kind of work, trying to make money. Then, you can't chart your career very well because your priorities become very different." But then again, there is also a lot of luck involved. If I had to re-live my life, I will still go through the same process because I have also enjoyed my ups and downs. Let me tell you, downs are also great. Nobody is watching you; you are not being judged when you are down— you can do anything," he added. Chunky Panday's career got a new lease of life in 2010 when starred in the comedy role of Aakhri Pasta in Housefull. The actor is currently filming for the fifth instalment of the franchise, reprising his role.

## Seema Sajdeh and Sohail Khan's divorce confused their son Yohan: 'Truth can be disturbing, but...'



Seema Sajdeh doesn't shy away from discussing her divorce from Sohail Khan with their children, in an attempt to normalise it. In the latest season of the Netflix reality show Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives, the celebrity fashion designer also addressed her decision to move away from Bandra in the aftermath of her separation, and then move back on the request of her sons. Seema shared the importance of being transparent with her kids about everything. She said in a recent interview, "The truth might be disturbing at first but they will know that, 'My mum didn't lie to me'." Talking about being aware that her relationship status will be touched upon in the show, Seema Sajdeh said in an interview with Bollywood Hungama, "I knew that it will be touched upon at some point. How much would be out there, I didn't know, and neither did I want to know. To be honest, I don't like to prepare because the anticipation is worse. When you are anticipating, you end up saying either too much or too little, or you get misconstrued. My mother had told me in the first season that whatever you do, you be honest and you cannot be insensitive. That's my mantra."

She added, "Whatever is said to me, I will be honest and I don't want to be insensitive because at end of the day, my actions have repercussions and have consequences for my children. They are still young. One goes to school, one is at the brink of doing something with his career choices. I never want to be that person who affects them in that way. So, whenever these conversations happen, they are very organic, and real." Talking about her first-born, Seema said, "Nirvaan is a lot like me. He also has no filter. Half of the time, I don't know what he is going to reply to me or in which direction the conversation will go. That (divorce) was the topic of the hour because we were discussing it and I was moving back and why I decided to move. My go-to person is Nirvaan because my

younger one is like 10 and half years apart from his brother. And a lot of time, mothers are the punching bag. You can say anything you want to say to mumma. Sometimes to get through to Yohan, Nirvaan steps in his shoes and explains to me his point of view."

Talking about Yohan, and his confusion around his parents' relationship status, Seema shared, "He is very young. Of course, we have conversations. But, my relationship and rapport with my children from day one has always been that you can tell mumma anything under the sun and I will not be angry. I will try and understand from your point of view, but you will also have to try and understand mumma. Even though Yohan is young, I don't lie to him, because I think there is so much information out there, he should never think that my mother lied to me. He needs to know that, good, bad, ugly, mumma will tell me the truth." She explained, "Otherwise, they get confused and they keep trying to think. The truth might be disturbing at first but they will know, 'My mum didn't lie to me'. That's why when anything happens in school or if he hears anything, he has that comfort that he can come home and share it with me and I will explain it to him." "You have to keep that line of communication completely open. You have to treat your children like your friends. You can't bring up children the way I was brought up. We don't live in that world anymore. We live in a world of so much information that if I don't give it to him, at a click of a button, he is going to get it", added Seema.

Seema Sajdeh married Sohail Khan in 1998. In 2022, after 24 years of marriage, they filed for divorce. They have two sons, Nirvaan and Yohan. Currently, Seema is dating Vikram Ahuja, the man whom she was engaged to before marrying Sohail. In the show, she was also seen discussing her new partner with Nirvaan, who said, "I am okay with him. If you are happy, we are happy for you."

## Sivakarthy's hit biopic eyes Rs 100 cr global gross

Amaran box office collection day 2: Actor Sivakarthy has hit it out of the park with his latest film, the Tamil biographical action-drama Amaran, which saw a strong hold on Friday after an excellent opening on Thursday. On day one, the global gross of Amaran stood at a whopping Rs 42.3 cr, and the film maintained the positive trend on day two as well.

On Friday, Amaran netted Rs 19.25 cr across all versions—Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Hindi—according to industry tracker Sacnilk. The collections are marginally lower than the opening day haul of Rs 19.25 cr, but that was expected. The collections are expected to increase again as the film settles into the weekend.

The film's two-day India-nett collections stand at Rs 40.65 cr, and the worldwide collections would be over Rs 80 cr. By Saturday, Amaran will likely cross Rs 100 cr mark at the global box office. Amaran will now aim to beat the global gross of Indian 2, which was at Rs 148 cr. And after it does, the film will establish itself among the top four highest-earning Tamil hits of 2024, behind Dhanush's Raayan, Rajinikanth's Vettaivan and Vijay's The Great-



est of all Time. Amaran not only crossed the opening day record of Raayan (Rs 13.65 cr) but will also now likely overtake its worldwide gross of Rs 154 crore. If it does that, i

## 'Is this Shah Rukh Khan's best entry scene?' Oscars Academy asks after sharing a clip from Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham, Karan Johar reacts

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan turned a year older on November 2, and The Academy marked the occasion by sharing one of his most unforgettable scenes from the 2001 superhit Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham... The clip is being widely shared on social media, with fans and industry insiders alike unable to get enough. The scene begins with Shah Rukh Khan's character, Rahul Raichand, dramatically descending onto the courtyard in a black helicopter. As he emerges, his mother, Nandini Raichand, elegantly played by Jaya Bachchan, intuitively senses his arrival, marking the beginning of a heartfelt and iconic reunion. The Academy posted the video and wrote, "A mother's intuition is always right.?", and asked its followers, "Is this SRK's best entry scene???"

The director of the film, Karan Johar, joined the excitement on social media as he took to Instagram story to repost the Academy's video and wrote, "This post made me smile wide!" Taking to the post's comments section fan poured in their heartfelt wishes for the superstar on his 59th birthday. One user commented, "My childhood memories when watching it with my mom, I asked her if the mother in this movie has a sixth sense?," another person wrote, "He's the face of Indian Cinema," yet another person wrote, "The one and only King Khan. India



will never ever have another Sha Rukh Khan????." While most fans were thrilled to see the iconic scene featuring SRK, others were surprised that the prestigious organisation, renowned for celebrating exceptional global cinema, chose to share the clip on social media. As SRK celebrates another year of entertaining audiences worldwide, social media is flooded with heartfelt birthday wishes from colleagues, friends, and admirers. From nostalgic throwbacks to heartfelt messages, the outpouring of love for the King of Bollywood is a testament to his enduring legacy.

## Seema Sajdeh compares new partner Vikram Ahuja to her siblings: 'Without sounding creepy, hanging out with him is like...'

In the latest season of Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives, Seema Sajdeh introduced viewers to the man she's dating post her divorce with Sohail Khan. The fashion designer is currently in a relationship with Vikram Ahuja, whom she was engaged to before eloping with Sohail Khan in 1998. In the last episode of the new season, Seema revealed details about her partner without revealing his face. Now, in a new interview, Seema shared that she and Vikram were childhood friends who lived in the same building. In a recent interview with Bollywood Hungama, Seema Sajdeh was asked about her relationship status. She quickly replied, "I am very guarded about that. I am very superstitious about that. But, I don't hide anything either. But, to see my story further, you will have to see season 4."

When asked what it's like to rekindle a past romance, she shared, "Honestly, I have known him my whole life. I met him when I was 13 and we grew up in the same building. We kind of grew up together. Our families were close." She said that she enjoys the same level of comfort with him as she does with her siblings. She said, "How do I say it without sounding creepy? (Hanging out with him) It's like I would hang with my brother or sister, without sounding creepy. It's not that relationship, but the comfort level is that."

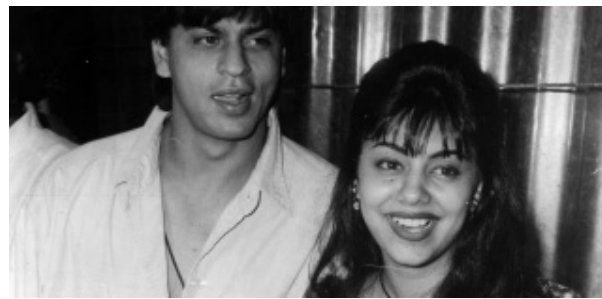
Seema's separation and divorce was discussed throughout the first and second seasons of the reality show. One of the episodes featured Shah Rukh Khan's wife, Gauri Khan, who asked Seema about what made her elope with Sohail Khan just 10 days after her engagement with Vikram. She said, "You need a whole season to understand that story! I was engaged to someone I was seeing since I was 13. We were kids. We used to keep fighting, breaking up, fighting, breaking up again. In the meantime, I met Sohail and then in excitement I..." Bhavana interrupted as she said, "I remember, I was



there at her roka. She was very happy and I have got some beautiful pictures from that. After 10 days, Chunky and I are fast asleep, and my mother-in-law walks in and she's banging on the door. She was like, 'Somebody give me alcohol'. We were like, 'What happened to her?' She said, 'Seema has run away and gotten married.' She screamed from outside the door." "It takes guts to do it," said Gauri Khan.

In another episode, while introducing Vikram, Seema said, "Vikram is the one that I was engaged to before I met Sohail, and here we are. Life comes full circle. It feels amazing. I really didn't see this coming. And I can't wait to tell these bunch of girls that I absolutely love. I mean, oh my God! Are they going to fall of their chairs? And yet again, I am entertainment, entertainment, entertainment."

## When Shah Rukh Khan said he would never abandon Gauri Khan to get ahead in his career: 'You have no right to hurt people who love you'



When Shah Rukh Khan moved to Mumbai from Delhi, he was determined to make it big as a movie star, but even when he had nothing to his name, he knew that his loved ones were the most cherished parts of his life. In a 1991 interview to Stardust, shortly after Shah Rukh lost his mother, he spoke about his then-girlfriend Gauri, and said that she, along with his sister, uncle and aunt, were the "most important people" in his life. He also spoke about actors talking about sacrificing their love life because they want to focus on their career, and said this idea was completely beyond him.

"I have a personal life. I have friends, a girlfriend, uncle, aunt, sister. And they are the most important people in my life," he said, and recalled reading another interview in the same magazine where an actor spoke about breaking up with his girlfriend so that he could focus on his career. "Love them and leave them, he said. Come on man, you're talking like a f\*\*\*ing a\*\*hole, man. And then making it public. I mean, flaunting the fact that you screw them and leave them, how crass can you get? What about the moments you shared with the woman?" he said.

Shah Rukh then questioned why one could not have it all — a career and a personal life. "And I really don't understand this big sh\*t about sacrificing this for my career and that for my career. I mean, why can't you have both? Why are you looking for excuses for your neglect towards your family or wife or girlfriend? And even if you have neglected your personal life for your professional one, what makes you so proud of it? You have no right to hurt people who love you and you tom tom about it, like a f\*\*\*ing virtue. How ridiculous," he said. At this time, Gauri was still living in Delhi while Shah Rukh had moved to Mumbai. At this point, Shah Rukh was yet to make his debut in the movies, and hoped that he doesn't lose him-

self in the glamorous world of cinema. He said, "The fact is that most of these actors are too preoccupied with themselves to even think about anyone else. They get so involved with themselves — and it's very easy to get carried away in this profession — that they have no time and room for anyone else. It's called narcissism. Most of the people out here are like that. Their make-up room is their world and the flatterers, their family. They are so cut-up from reality. They lose themselves to this world. I wish that never happens to me. And if it does, I will be very sad."

## Hit with gun and dragged by hair, Pakistani actress reveals brutal torture

Lahore: A noted Pakistani film and stage actress has alleged that she was subjected to brutal torture by her husband, a police inspector, in Lahore's defence area after she refused to transfer her property to his name.

Nargis, also known as Ghazala Idrees, suffered multiple bruises on her face, eyes, and other parts of her body after being repeatedly hit by inspector Majid Bashir in Lahore's Defence Housing Authority (DHA) on Friday. "Majid Bashir repeatedly hit my face with his official gun, leaving bruises, particularly, in and around my eyes," she said in the First Information Report (FIR), reported leading Pakistani daily Dawn.

In the report lodged against Bashir at the Defence C police station by Nargis's brother Khurram Bhatti, it was mentioned that the actress — a hugely-popular stage performer in the yesteryears who has also done over 100 films — had suffered "extreme violence" at the hands of Bashir in the past as well. On Friday, Nargis alleged that her husband crossed "all limits" when was dragged by her hair, humiliated and beaten in front of her nephew and employees. She stated that Bashir also put the barrel of his official gun in her mouth in an attempt to injure the jaw.

This, she alleged, was done to grab a plot of land, gold ornaments and other properties.

## R Ashwin bamboozles Rachin Ravindra with ripping off-spinner in Mumbai



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Senior India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin bamboozled Rachin Ravindra with a ripping off-spinner on Saturday, November 2. Ashwin ended his wicket drought in the Mumbai Test with Rachin's wicket. Star India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin bamboozled Rachin Ravindra on Day 2 of the Mumbai Test match. Ashwin, who had been going through a drought in the 3rd Test match of the series, broke the shackles with a stunning wicket.

In the 14th over of New Zealand's second innings,

Ashwin dragged Rachin out of his crease with a flighted delivery and beat the batter. Rachin, who had been in good form through the series found himself miles out of the crease after taking the bat was stumped out by Rishabh Pant. The veteran India spinner has had a mellow series so far, which directly impacted India's fortunes against New Zealand. Ashwin's returns have been low which resulted in India losing their first Test series against New Zealand at home. Rachin Ravindra's wicket was the third one that New Zealand lost on Day 2 of the Test match. Earlier in the morning, New Zealand conceded a 28-run lead, courtesy of some fearless batting from Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill. After India ended Day 1 on a jittery note, the young batters were able to peg back the visitors with their firebrand approach. Both batters scored respective fifties and helped India get to 263 runs in their first innings. While Pant got out for 60 off 59 balls, Gill fell just short of a well deserved century and got out for 90. After the duo's departure, Washington Sundar added a quickfire 38 and helped the Indian team cross New Zealand's first innings score. After their batting, India started well with the ball on Day 2 and not have removed half the NZ batting line-up for 100 runs. At the time of writing, NZ are 109/5, leading India by 81 runs.

## RCB think tank explains 'big decision' of not retaining Mohammed Siraj

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Royal Challengers Bengaluru head coach Andy Flower and director of cricket, Mo Babat, shed light on the former finalists' decision to not retain fast bowler Mohammed Siraj ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 mega auction. In a move that surprised quite a few, RCB chose not to retain Siraj after having backed the pacer ever since his maiden season with them in 2018. RCB retained only three players -- Virat Kohli at Rs 21 crore, Rajat Patidar at Rs 11 crore and Yash Dayal at Rs 5 crore. RCB helped raise a few eyebrows by retaining Yash ahead of Siraj for the upcoming season.

Speaking to the franchise after the retentions were announced on October 31, Andy Flower said RCB were looking to retain a left-arm pacer and that worked in Yash Dayal's favour. "I'm sure one of the surprises around our retentions will be the fact that we haven't retained Mohamed Siraj. Mohamed Siraj is a successful international cricketer of some standing and has also been with RCB for the last eight years," Andy Flower said. "We want to look for some particular skills in the fast bowling department. We've already identified and retained one of those particular skills that we want, which is the left arm angle and T20 skills that Yash Dayal brings us," he added.

Siraj had been one of the key players for RCB, especially in the last few years when the Hyderabad pacer went on to establish himself as one of India's all-format bowlers. Siraj took 83 wickets in 87 matches for RCB in the IPL. Siraj was retained for Rs 7 crore ahead of the IPL 2025 mega auction, but the pacer was released despite picking 15 wickets last season.



**BIG DECISION TO MAKE** Mo Babat revealed that the RCB think tank had spent a long time deliberating the Siraj decision and added that the team is focused on adding variety to their bowling attack to help deal with the batter-friendly nature of the stadium in Bengaluru. "Probably the discussion that took up the most time for us actually was our decision to whether we retain or release Mohamed Siraj. When he's got his tail up, he's got that real fire that you can see that becomes infectious for the rest of the team. He bounces quite strongly off Virat and those two as a combination have been quite powerful. It was a big decision for us to make to not retain Siraj because of all of those skills and attributes," Babat said. The M Chinnaswamy Stadium has been one of the most batter-friendly pitches in the IPL over the years. It remains to be seen if RCB would use one of their three remaining Right to Match (RTM) cards to secure the services of Siraj in the auction.

## Not right person to advice new Manchester United boss Ruben Amorim: Pep Guardiola

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Pep Guardiola welcomed Ruben Amorim to the Premier League as the Portuguese tactician became the new head coach of Manchester United on November 1, Friday. Guardiola, however, refrained from giving any advice to Amorim as he feels he isn't the right person for it. Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola welcomed new Manchester United head coach Ruben Amorim to the Premier League and claimed he wasn't the best man to give the Portuguese tactician advice. Amorim replaced Erik ten Hag as the new Manchester United manager as the Dutchman was sacked after a poor start to the campaign.

Amorim has made a reputation as one of the best young managers in Europe at the moment for the work he has done with Sporting. United made the official announcement on November 1 and said that the Portuguese tactician will take over during the international break. Speaking to the reporters, Guardiola said he would congratulate and talk to Amorim during Tuesday when City face Sporting in the Champions League. "Welcome to United, to England. I congratulate him, [we will speak] next Tuesday. I'm not the right person to give advice to colleagues." "They have a lot of people at United who can give information about what is happening at United," said Guardiola.

Expect best from Sporting in UCL Manchester City and Sporting will square off in the Champions League on Tuesday, November 5, in Lisbon and Guardiola doesn't



expect the Portuguese side or Amorim to be distracted by the United news. The City boss said that he expects Sporting to be at their best, something he expects from each team he faces. Guardiola stressed that his focus will now be on Bournemouth, who they will face on Sunday, November 3. "I expect the best [Sporting]" he said. "The best advice we can have: when you play an opponent, always expect the best performance, that's for sure." "I'm pretty sure they will do it. It's a Champion League game against Manchester City. But you have to understand that my concern now is not that," said Guardiola. After their Champions League clash on Tuesday, Amorim and Guardiola will face off in 2 Manchester derbies in the Premier League. The first one take place at Etihad stadium on December 15 and the second one will be at Old Trafford on April 5, 2025.

## 'I don't care. I had zero emotions': Max Verstappen when asked about Lewis Hamilton driving a Ferrari

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Reigning Formula One champion Max Verstappen says he doesn't care that Lewis Hamilton will be racing in a Ferrari next season. The Dutchman beat Hamilton to the 2021 World title which went down to the final laps of the final race. He then dominated Formula 1 in 2022 and again in 2023 while this season he's the favourite to secure title number four given his 47-point lead in the Drivers' standings. Hamilton has seen a huge dip, having won only two Grands Prix since that 2021 finale. The seven-time World Champion announced this season that he would be joining Ferrari next season, bidding farewell to Mercedes after 12 years. Seeing Hamilton in red has made F1 fans excited with anticipation. Max Verstappen though, doesn't care.

Asked by Sport Bild if Hamilton to Ferrari was 'good or bad' for him, Verstappen said: "I don't care. Because I want to beat every driver from every car. It doesn't matter to me whether Lewis is in the red or silver car. He did



however say it's a good move for the popularity of the sport though. "I can understand that there is a lot of interest in his move. It's a good thing for Formula 1. It will be interesting to see how he and Charles (Leclerc) work together within a team." "Pressed on his first thoughts when he heard the news that Hamilton was leaving Mercedes for Ferrari, the Red Bull driver replied: "

## Sarfaraz Khan's father, brother left stunned with his duck in Mumbai



GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Sarfaraz Khan's father Naushad and brother Musheer were left shell-shocked after his four-ball duck on Day 2 of the third Test against New Zealand at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. India batter Sarfaraz Khan's father Naushad and brother Naushad were left stunned after his four-ball duck on Day 2 of the third Test against New Zealand at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. Sarfaraz walked into bat in the second session at number eight after the dismissal of Ravindra Jadeja. However, his stay at the crease was short-lived as he ended up edging Ajaz Patel into the gloves of wicketkeeper Tom Blundell and was dismissed for a four-ball duck. Following his dismissal, his father Naushad and brother

Musheer looked shell shocked in the stands as Sarfaraz made the long walk back towards the pavilion. Earlier in the day, India resumed their innings on 86/4 with Shubman Gill (31\*) and Rishabh Pant (1\*) at the crease. Pant played in his usual fashion and took down the New Zealand spinners to unsettle their line and length. He even got a life during his knock after being dropped by Matt Henry and brought up the fastest half century by an Indian vs New Zealand off just 36 balls. Gill and Pant help India take slender lead. Gill also brought up seventh half-century of his career as the duo added 96 runs for the fifth wicket. Pant was dismissed for 60 (59) getting out lbw against Ish Sodhi but Gill went on to score a brilliant 90 with the help of seven fours and a six.

For New Zealand, Ajaz Patel continued his love-affair with the Wankhede Stadium as he picked his second five wicket haul at the venue in as many matches. He registered figures of 5/103 in 21.4 overs and prevented India from getting a massive first innings lead. Later in the second innings, Akash Deep got India off to a perfect start as he thrashed Tom Latham's stumps in the very first over. The right-arm speedster brought bowled a peach of a delivery from around the wicket which came in sharply towards Latham and breached his defence to dismiss him. Following the dismissal, Akash was also seen celebrating aggressively as New Zealand were given an early blow.

## 'Introduced him to Peppa Pig but he was drawn to chess': 3-year-old from Kolkata becomes youngest rated chess player in history

Born on January 26, 2021, Sarkar picked up the sport a year ago and made his competitive debut in October when he played in the West Bengal State Under-9 Open. By defeating two rated players, he secured 5.5 out of 8 points to finish 24th. In an exhibition match played simultaneously, he also got an opportunity to play against India No. 1 and world No. 4 Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi. A week later, Sarkar competed in the West Bengal State Under-13 Open, a tournament where he met the requirement of facing five rated players which eventually earned him the initial FIDE rating of 1555. The ratings were updated by the world body on Thursday.

In doing so, he surpassed the previous record set by Tejas Tiwari, who had become the youngest FIDE-rated player at five years, India's second GM and Sarkar's coach Dibyendu Barua told the Press Trust of India. "Anish definitely has potential but he has a long way to go," Barua told PTI. "We've put him in a special group, where he trains for seven to eight hours," said Barua.

Sarkar's mother said they had 'zero knowledge' of chess. "We introduced him to different YouTube channels, including cartoons like Peppa Pig, but he was drawn



to chess videos," his mother Reshma told PTI.

She added: "By January, his interest had grown, and he would watch those videos endlessly. I bought him a chessboard and pieces, thinking it was safe for him to handle even if I couldn't supervise him closely. Since he was already good with numbers and counting, chess quickly became his favourite. That's when we decided to place him under the guidance of Dibyendu Sir."

## Amidst accusations of 'sportswashing', American tennis star holds talks with Saudi leaders on treatment of women

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Ahead of the women's tennis year-end tournament in Saudi Arabia, which has attracted plenty of criticism due to the alleged rights violations in the country, world number 3 Coco Gauff said she held discussions with country's leaders over the issue. The American tennis star said her father was 'concerned' over her visit to the country and she had 'reservations' about participating in the WTA Finals starting Saturday. Gauff said she met with Princess Reema bint Bandar Al Saud, the Saudi Ambassador to the United States, and discussed the treatment of women in the country. "We spoke with a lot of women here in Saudi. Multiple calls with her, how the best approach would be to enter into this different place that women have never kind of, women from the US, have never kind of been in. I think for me it was important, and it was one of the questions I brought up because about LGBTQ issues, women's rights issues, how we can help with that," the 20-year-old told reporters on Friday. Saudi Arabia has been accused of 'sportswashing' by a section of former players and tennis experts. While putting across her stand on playing in the Gulf Kingdom, Gauff referenced the experience of the Black community in the US and compared the situation in Saudi to what her grand-



mother went through decades ago. "I think knowing from the past from my grandmother, integrating her school, people aren't going to like it, but obviously in the long run I think it could be better for everybody," she said. "I really do feel like in order to ignite change, you have to start little by little. That's how I've been taught growing up Black in America, knowing our history." Gauff, one of eight players in Riyadh for the tournament, said she was 'so far encouraged by the progress she'd seen' but warned: "If I felt uncomfortable or felt like nothing's happening, then maybe I probably wouldn't come back."

## Shan Masood on out-of-form Babar Azam: 'There's no harm in being pulled out at times and having a breather'

GNS News Agency, Nov 5

Babar Azam Pakistan's Babar Azam reacts as he walks off the field after his dismissal during the second day of second test cricket match between Pakistan and Bangladesh, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Pakistan Test captain Shan Masood believes that a break from the game will benefit the "out-of-form" Babar Azam, who was recently dropped from Pakistan's Test squad. The former Pakistan captain was omitted after the first Test against England but is set to make a comeback in the white-ball series against Australia. "I think he's one of the best batsmen in the world. I'm nobody to deny him a future. He has every quality to be one of the greatest batsmen in Test cricket," Shan said on the BBC's Stumped podcast. "He's always near the top in the rankings. Sometimes, people just need a break. Personally, I think this break will benefit him greatly, and he'll come back a stronger player." "There's no harm in being pulled out at times and having a breather. He's played a lot of cricket, gone through a lot, and he'll always be one of Pakistan's key batsmen."



failure at the crease. The right-hander hasn't scored consistently in 18 innings, and since the start of 2023, his average has dropped below 21 across nine Tests. Former Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Ramiz Raja recently commented that Babar's slump in form is not due to technical flaws but rather a mental aspect. "I think it's more about his temperament in Test cricket. When his form slumps, it takes him longer to make a comeback in red-ball cricket compared to white-ball," Ramiz said. "Technically, he doesn't stay still against balls pitched on a back-of-a-length,