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Four-year-old girl raped, murdered by maternal uncle in Andhra's Tirupati

Tirupati: A four-year-old girl was allegedly raped and murdered by her distant relative at a village in Tirupati district, said a police official on Saturday. According to Tirupati district superintendent of police L Subbarayudu, Nagaraju (24), who is the victim's maternal uncle, lured the girl to a secluded place in AM Puram village by offering her snacks on Friday evening and committed the crime. "Nagaraju lives near the girl's house and used to play with her everyday. Yesterday (Friday) evening he took her to a shop and bought some snacks. Later, he took her away from her house and sexually assaulted and killed her," he said.

Revanth Reddy counters PM Modi's criticism, outlines Telangana govt's initiatives



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Saturday issued a response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi stating he was pleased to clarify "misconceptions and factual errors" and shared the initiatives implemented by the Congress government since it took office in December last year. Reddy underlined the optimism felt across Telangana following the Congress victory. The Telangana CM said, "A wave of joy and hope has swept the state, after a near-decade of BRS misrule." Within just two days of taking office, he noted, the Congress government had already started delivering on its key promises.

"The government of Telangana unveiled the delivery of its first and second promises—free bus travel for women across all TGSRTC buses, and healthcare & hospitalisation cover of Rs 10 lakh under Rajiv Arogyasree," Reddy said. He further shared that in the past 11 months, Telangana's women had made 101 crore free bus trips, saving Rs 3,433 crore collectively. The CM also stressed Telangana's farmer-centric policies. He explained that Telangana now has India's largest state-level farm loan waiver program, benefitting over 22 lakh farmers, with loans of up to Rs 2 lakh waived. "We have put over Rs 18,000 crore into farmers' accounts in 25 days," Reddy added while also asserting that the state is upholding the principle "Rythu Raju" (Farmer is King). Reddy outlined several other measures aimed at empowering women, noting that they receive free electricity for up to 200 units and gas cylinders for Rs 500, significantly less than the rates in BJP-ruled states. According to Reddy, "Over 1.31 crore gas cylinder refills have been provided, bringing relief to 42,90,246 families."

Harish Rao flays Revanth Reddy for misleading public on promises



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Hyderabad: Former Minister and BRS MLA Harish Rao on Saturday strongly criticized Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for misleading the public of Telangana on the implementation of promises. He accused the Chief Minister of political vendetta and targeting families for questioning the demolition of houses belonging to the poor. Harish Rao highlighted that the BRS government had filled 1,61,000 posts over the past nine years, and it is unfortunate that there is false propaganda about the appointments. He pointed out that the Congress government was boasting about providing 50,000 jobs, which were actually notified during the previous government. He criticized the Congress for claiming credit for issuing appointment letters that were pending due to the election code. The Congress promised to fill 2 lakh jobs in the first year but has not even completed 10% to date. Despite promising to complete the loan waiver by December 9, 2023, more than half of the eligible farmers are still waiting. The promise of Rs 4,000 monthly pensions has not been implemented even after 11 months. The promise of Rs 2,500 monthly allowance for women above 18 years has not been fulfilled. The promise of Rs 5 lakh education assurance cards for every student has not been initiated. The promise of bonuses for every crop has been limited to only certain varieties. The promise of one tola gold for Kalyana Lakshmi beneficiaries has not been fulfilled. The promise of electric vehicles for female students has not been addressed. Harish Rao emphasized that the Congress government had failed to fulfill its promises even after 300 days in power, despite claiming they would be implemented within 100 days. He accused the government of shelving the schemes initiated by the BRS government, including Rythu Bandhu, Dalit Bandhu, BC Bandhu, KCR Kit, Nutrition Kit, Breakfast Scheme in government schools, and Bathukamma sarees. He criticized Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Telangana Congress for attempting to portray their failures as successes and misleading the public.

MEA summons Canadian diplomat; says references to Home Minister Amit Shah 'absurd and baseless'

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

India had summoned Canadian High Commissioner on Friday (November 1, 2024) to protest in the strongest terms for the references made to the Home Minister Amit Shah by the Canadian officials, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Saturday (November 2, 2024). Mr. Jaiswal said "Such irresponsible actions will have serious consequences for bilateral ties." "We had summoned the representative of the Canadian High Commission yesterday. A diplomatic note was handed over in reference to the proceedings of the Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security in Ottawa on October 29, 2024," the MEA statement said.

The MEA also criticised senior Canadian officials, including Deputy Foreign Minister David Morrison, for leaking "baseless" reports to international media in order to defame India. "It was conveyed in the Note that the



Government of India protests in the strongest terms to the absurd and baseless references made to the Union Home Minister of India before the Committee by Deputy Minister David Morrison. In fact, the revelation that high Canadian officials deliberately leak unfounded insinuations to the international media as part of a conscious strategy to discredit India and influence other nations only confirms the view Government of India has long held about current Canadian Government's political agenda and behavioral pattern. Such irresponsible actions will have serious consequences for bilateral ties" the statement added. On Canadian

cybersecurity report, Mr. Jaiswal said, "This appears to be another example of a Canadian strategy to attack India. As I mentioned earlier, their senior officials have openly confessed that they are seeking to manipulate global opinion against India. As on other occasions, imputations are made without any evidence." The MEA Spokesperson confirmed that NSA had met with Canadian officials in Singapore. According to reports the meeting went on for 5 hours, but he said that Canada had not issued a shred of evidence in the Nijjar killing during the talks. When asked why NSA met with Canadians at all, Mr. Jaiswal said "there are

several issues that are discussed" at such meetings. On cancellation of Diwali Celebrations in Canada, Mr. Jaiswal said, "We have seen some reports in this regard. It is unfortunate that the prevailing atmosphere in Canada has reached high levels of intolerance and extremism."

"Flagrant violation of conventions" On the surveillance done by Canada on Indian Officials, Mr. Jaiswal said, "Some of our Consular officials were recently informed by the Canadian Government that they have been and continued to be under audio and video surveillance. Their communications have also been intercepted. We have formally protested to the Canadian Government as we deem these actions to be a flagrant violation of relevant diplomatic and consular conventions." By citing technicalities, the Canadian Government cannot justify the fact that it is indulging in harassment and intimidation. Our diplomatic and consular personnel are already functioning in an environment of extremism and violence.

Lies, deceit & fakery: Kharge fires salvo at PM Modi, Centre over unkept promises

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

In a strong response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday accused the government of indulging in deceitful tactics and using "cheap PR stunts". Describing the BJP's 100-day plan as "mere publicity," Kharge claimed it lacked substance and authenticity. The Congress party chief also questioned the government's assertion of taking input from over two million people for a 2047 roadmap, noting that a Right to Information (RTI) query to the Prime Minister's Office failed to provide details to substantiate this claim. Kharge went on to remark that the letters "B" and "J" in BJP stand for "Betrayal" and "Jumla" (empty promises), slamming the party for what he believes is a continuous betrayal of public trust. This outburst came after Kharge, earlier in the day, advised the Karnataka unit about fiscal responsibility, saying: "They should announce guarantees based on budget. Otherwise, there'll be bankruptcy. If there's no money for roads, everyone will turn against you." It was followed by



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allegations about Congress accepting making "unreal" and "fake" promises to the state's residents, which prompted the reaction. Kharge then questioned BJP over its promises such as the promise of 2 crore jobs, crumbling infrastructure projects, the SEBI chairperson controversy among others.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visits Field Gun Factory in Kanpur



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday visited the Field Gun Factory, a unit of Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), at Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. The factory specialises in manufacturing barrel and breach assemblies of various artillery guns and tanks including the T-90 tank and Dhanush gun. During the visit, the Defence Minister inspected key facilities, including the Heat Treatment and the New Assembly Shop of the factory, to take stock of critical indigenous defence capabilities. He was accompanied by Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar and Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V. Kamat, according to a Defence Ministry statement. Following the visit to the shop floor, Rajnath Singh was briefed by the CMDs of three Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) based in Kanpur — AWEIL, Troop Comforts India Limited, Gliders India Limited (GIL) — and Director of Defence Materials and Stores Research

& Development Establishment, a DRDO laboratory located in Kanpur, the statement added. During the presentations, the CMDs of the new DPSUs apprised the Defence Minister about the product profile, major ongoing projects, R&D efforts and modernisation activities being undertaken in their pursuit to meet the requirements of the services.

Terrorist killed, four security personnel injured in Srinagar encounter; two militants killed in Anantnag

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

A Pakistani terrorist of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) was killed and four security personnel were injured in an encounter that broke out in the Khanyar area on Saturday (November 2, 2024) morning, officials said. Security forces launched a cordon and search operation in the densely populated locality of Khanyar in the interior city following inputs about the presence of terrorists in the area, a police official said. A senior police officer told PTI that the slain terrorist was a Pakistani and belonged to the LeT. Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans and two policemen were injured in the encounter. They were taken to the Army's 92 Base Hospital.

Rise of pollution levels less compared to last year in Hyd

Hyderabad: Though the Diwali festivities on Thursday saw some parameters of pollution studies in the city going up sharply as against normal days, the rise happens to be less when compared to last year festival day recordings. The Telangana Pollution Control Board which regularly monitors the Ambient Air Quality with respect to the particulate matter, gases and noise levels, is carrying out special purpose (Diwali) AAQ monitoring from October 24 to November 7. As per the PCB data collated this Diwali day, concentrations have decreased with respect to PM2.5 and PM10 when compared to last year.

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy meets University VCs, Emphasizes Restoration of Trust in Universities



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy convened a meeting with newly appointed Vice Chancellors of state universities on Saturday at the Telangana Secretariat, where he highlighted the urgent need to restore trust and respect for higher education institutions in the region. Expressing concern over declining confidence in universities, CM Reddy directed the Vice Chancellors to undertake a comprehensive review of the current university systems, which he indicated have been compromised. He called for a thorough study to be conducted to identify necessary measures for restoring the integrity and effectiveness of these educational institutions. The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of merit-based appointments, clarifying that the Vice Chancellors were selected without external influence, based on their qualifications and social equity. He urged them to work diligently to enhance the reputation of the Congress government through their leadership. Reddy warned that any failure in their responsibilities could result in "surprising decisions" from his office, underscoring the serious nature of their obligations. He assured the Vice Chancellors of government support, while also stressing the importance of a complete cleansing of university environments. The CM also drew attention to pressing issues such as the rising concerns over drug abuse within universities, advising Vice Chancellors to monitor student activities closely and offer guidance where necessary. He recalled a time when students honored their Vice Chancellors for years, a sentiment he believes should be reinstated.

Time to reconsider policies for traditional occupations- KTR



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Hyderabad: BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao has called on the Congress government in the State to reconsider their policies that were impacting traditional occupations. Highlighting the facts and figures released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in support of the great strides made by the State during the BRS regime, he said significant progress was made by the State in livestock and traditional occupations. He attributed it to the unwavering support of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao towards traditional occupations. The state had focused on increasing meat and poultry production to meet local demand, reducing the need for hundreds of trucks to import these products from other states. He pointed out that despite the success of these schemes, some have attempted to discredit them as scams. K.T. Rama Rao urged these detractors to change their perspective and recognize the remarkable achievements of the state that unfolded before their eyes during the BRS rule.

Census, delimitation: Address concerns of southern states

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

The much-delayed Census is likely to kick off next year and be wrapped up by 2026. India will have two historic changes in the composition of legislative assemblies and parliament: 1. delimitation will lead to more constituencies, and 2. there will be 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha amounting to 182 seats. When the historic new Parliament Complex was unveiled on 28th May 2023, it was keenly observed that Lok Sabha had a seating capacity of 888 members, which gave rise to speculations that the additional seats were meant to accommodate new constituencies that would be created post delimitation exercise which has been due for decades. At present, the number of seats in Lok Sabha is currently 543 plus two nominated numbers, and in all state Assemblies taken together, 4,123.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Punjab's drug war

PUNJAB'S ongoing crackdown on drug trafficking demonstrates a renewed commitment to combating the drug menace that has gripped the state for long. Over the past 10 months, the Punjab Police have arrested 10,524 smugglers, including 153 high-level operators, recovering substantial amounts of heroin and other drugs. While these numbers reflect commendable action, simply reporting figures is not enough. To create real deterrence, the police must go beyond these statistics by naming and shaming major traffickers. This must be followed up with swift judicial proceedings against the big fish to send out the message that engaging in such illicit activities has very serious consequences.

Punjab's current two-pronged approach — targeting large drug networks alongside local peddlers — has yielded significant success, with seizures totalling 790 kg of heroin, 860 kg of opium and other narcotics, along with drug money amounting to over Rs 13 crore. Additionally, the state has frozen assets worth Rs 208 crore, striking at the financial foundations of these criminal operations. However, a more impactful strategy would involve publicly exposing major traffickers and demolishing the notion of impunity associated with the trade. At the same time, the authorities need to strike at the threat of cross-border trafficking, which has intensified with the increasing use of drones to smuggle narcotics. This year alone, the Border Security Force (BSF) seized 183 drones along the Punjab border, a significant rise from 107 in 2023. These drones, primarily from Pakistan, represent a sophisticated smuggling method that demands stronger countermeasures, though the BSF has put in place some anti-drone systems.

Cops register case against diamond factory owner 'who went into hiding without paying salaries', search for accused



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

With the ongoing recession in Surat's diamond industry, last Thursday, a group of diamond workers approached police against the owners of a diamond factory, accusing them of going into hiding without paying them their pending salaries — worth Rs 10.41 cumulatively over several months. After primary investigations, on Tuesday night, Katargam police registered a case against the owners, brothers Amit Virani and Viren Virani, under BNS sections 316(2) (criminal breach of trust), 352 (intentional insults that provoke a breach of public peace or other offenses), 351 (3) (criminal intimidation). Police are now searching for the accused, who are residents of Surat. The complaint was filed by a diamond cutter (polisher), Nikunj Soni, a resident of Amroli who had been working in Virani Diamonds company at Katargam for the last two years.

According to the FIR, "the company owners had proposed a scheme among diamond polishers that if they did not draw the monthly salary from July/August until October, the company will give pending salaries with a bonus. Soni, and other diamond polishers working in the factory... waited for October. On October 16, the company manager Rajendra Chauhan called up diamond polishers who opted for the scheme, asking them to collect pending salaries and scheme benefits on October 20 at the company premises. When nine diamond polishers... reached... they found the (premises) locked. The diamond polishers reached the house of owner Amit Virani and found him missing, but his younger brother Viren was available. Viren told them that Amit had left with all the money... (Viren) threatened the diamond polishers." When police went to the house, they did not find either of the brothers. Katargam police inspector B K Chaudhary said, "After primary investigations, we have found that the firm owners had failed to fulfill the promise of a special scheme they had launched for diamond workers in the factory. The diamond polishers' pending salaries of Rs. 10.41 lakh are also due and the firm owners have gone underground. We have launched a hunt for them and are searching for their close aides for clues."

On deathbed, two-year-old foreign national saves 2 lives, provides gift of sight to others

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

A two-year-old, a foreign national, has become the youngest pancreatic donor in India, as he granted two terminally ill renal failure patients a renewed opportunity for health and happiness. While simultaneous pancreas and kidney (SPK) transplant was done in one patient, the second underwent solo kidney transplant. Apart from saving two patients, Prosper was also able to provide the gift of sight to two individuals because of his family's decision for cornea transplantation. This is the first foreign national case of organ donation at PGI, making Prosper the youngest pancreatic donor in the country. On October 17, Prosper sustained severe injury from an accidental fall at home and was immediately rushed to the PGIMER Chandigarh in critical condition. Despite the dedicated efforts of the medical team, he was declared brain-dead on October 26. Amidst their overwhelming grief, the young one's family chose to donate his organs.

Scattered leaders, decentralised voters: Dhangars of Maharashtra a divided house ahead of Assembly polls



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the Dhangar community is experiencing internal divisions without a central leadership or a unified agenda. Many leaders who previously worked to consolidate the community during the 2014 and 2019 elections are now gravitating toward different political parties. As a result, the community views this election as primarily focused on local issues rather than on topics like the inclusion of the Dhangar community in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category or securing guaranteed pastoral rights. On Monday, Nationalist Congress Party (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar filed his nomination for re-election from the Kartaj Jankhed constituency in Ahilyanagar (Ahmednagar). He was accompanied by Shrimant Bhushanraje Holkar, a descendant of the Holkar dynasty of Indore. The symbolism of this event was significant, as the Dhangar community has a substantial presence in the constituency. Pawar is up against the BJP's Ram Shinde, who also belongs to the Dhangar community. Gopichand Padalkar, a dynamic leader from the community, is contesting from the Jat constituency in Sangli district on a BJP ticket. Mahadev Jankar, another senior leader, was fielded by the BJP from the Parbhani seat during the Lok Sabha elections but lost to Sanjay Jadhav of Shiv Sena (UBT) by more than 1,00,000 votes. According to Sourabh Hatkar, a PhD scholar at the University of Edinburgh and founder of the Mendpal Putra Army (Sons of Shepherds Army—an organisation representing the Dhangar community), the scene was much

different in 2014 and 2019. "Back then, the community was united in its demand for inclusion within the Scheduled Tribes (ST) community. Leaders like Jankar and Padalkar took the initiative, with Jankar serving as the leader in 2014 and Padalkar capturing attention in 2019," he said.

Padalkar contested the Lok Sabha elections from the Sangli seat and received significant votes. Jankar served as a minister in the Devendra Fadnis-led government, while Padalkar held the position of member of the Legislative Council (MLC). Dattatreya Bhanre, the sitting MLA affiliated with the NCP (Ajit Pawar) from Indapur, is also from the Dhangar community. However, he has primarily focused on the politics of Indapur and has not taken a prominent role in the broader politics of the Dhangar community. The Dhangar community makes up about 10 per cent of Maharashtra's population, primarily concentrated in Western Maharashtra and certain districts of Vidarbha. In the state, they are categorised as part of the Vimukta Jati and Nomadic Tribes (VJNT), but they have been advocating for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category. The community primarily consists of pastoral shepherds and is also found in other states, including Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. According to community leaders, the Dhangars are referred to as "Dhangads" in other parts of India, where they are recognised as part of the ST community. In addition to seeking reservation, the community also requests the right to pastoral land, a movement led by Hatkar. Hatkar emphasised that the community's traditional pastoral routes have been taken over by the reserve forests. As a result, the forest department has filed cases against people who occasionally stray into the protected forests. "A few days before the Model Code of Conduct was announced, the state government formed a committee to address this demand, but it was too late to make any decisions," he said. Both major demands remain unresolved, and Hatkar noted that the lack of cohesive leadership would be an issue during the elections. "Local issues and leadership will ultimately determine voting choices; cohesion is now lacking," Hatkar added.

King Charles, Queen Camilla on secret Bengaluru trip for wellness treatment, here's their daily routine

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

King Charles and Queen Camilla's secret visit to Bengaluru, Indian Express According to sources, King Charles and Queen Camilla follow a structured wellness routine that includes morning yoga, breakfast, rejuvenation therapies, lunch, and a brief rest daily. In a tightly guarded visit, Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla have been staying in Bengaluru since October 27. The royal couple has been undergoing wellness treatments at Soukya International Holistic Health Centre (SIHHC) in Whitefield, where they were expected to stay until Wednesday night before departing for London. This marked the King's first trip to India since his coronation on May 6, 2023, following the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on September 8, 2022. Sources familiar with the royal couple's itinerary revealed that King Charles flew directly to Bengaluru from Samoa after attending the 2024 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which was held from October 21 to 26. To maintain secrecy, the royal visit was unannounced, and the Karnataka government did not formally receive the couple upon their arrival at the HAL Airport.

The couple was directly escorted to the wellness centre where they have been receiving specialised holistic health treatments. Due to the high-profile nature of the guests, security measures at the health centre have been heightened. Founded by Dr Issac Mathai, SIHHC is in Samethanahalli, on the outskirts of Bengaluru. For King Charles, an advocate of holistic healing, SIHHC has long



been a preferred wellness destination. He has visited the centre nine times previously, celebrating Deepavali there on three occasions and his 71st birthday there in November 2019. According to sources, King Charles and Queen Camilla follow a structured wellness routine that includes morning yoga, breakfast, rejuvenation therapies, lunch, and a brief rest daily. Later in the day, they participate in a second round of therapeutic sessions, which ends with a meditation practice before dinner. They aim to go to bed by 9 pm. Reportedly, the couple has been enjoying the serene environment, taking long walks around the campus, and exploring the organic farm and cattle shed. SIHHC offers traditional and integrative medicine, including Ayurveda, homeopathy, yoga, and naturopathy, alongside complementary therapies such as acupuncture, reflexology, and dietetics.

Karnataka governor's office refuses information about pending requests for prosecution sanction



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

At a time when Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot is accused by the ruling Congress of a selective approach to prosecution sanction, his office has refused to disclose information about pending requests for sanction made against former chief ministers and ministers. Advocate S Umesh filed a Right To Information (RTI) application seeking information about sanction sought by the Lokayukta, police, other investigating agen-

cies or the public during the governor's term to investigate or prosecute former chief ministers, former ministers and ministers. In its response, the governor's office said that as per section 8(1)(h) of the RTI Act, information that would impede the process of investigation or prosecution is exempted from disclosure. Umesh also asked for details of rejected sanction requests, but the governor's office has said it is not part of records kept by a public authority and that the RTI Act does not cast an obligation on a public authority to collect or collate such non-available information. Umesh said he was disappointed by the response and that he would approach the Karnataka Information Commission over the matter. Governor Gehlot recently came under fire from the Congress after he sanctioned an investigation against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over corruption allegations related to the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA). The Congress then termed the governor's move as being part of a "political conspiracy" and pointed to a few sanction requests that were pending with the governor. The party thus highlighted corruption allegations against JD(S) and BJP leaders.

'Not just alcohol': How a Pune startup founder is busting myths about mahua, tribal culture

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

At a crowded Diwali Mela near Patrakar Bhavan in Pune, among the unusual fural offerings were laddoos made of mahua, a plant that holds deep significance in tribal cultures but is understood by urban populations only for its alcoholic properties. "There is a misconception that only mahua is used to make just alcohol. Mahua flowers are rich in vitamins, minerals and antioxidants that promote overall well-being. Tribal people have used mahua as an energy booster and for its medicinal properties for centuries. Mahua is also known to support digestive health and helps improve gut function naturally," says Rajat Raghatwan, founder of Universal Tribes, which has been platforming the art and culture of tribal communities since 2017. Raghatwan, who highlighted India's rich tribal traditions at the G20 in Delhi last year, says that the journey to create the bridge between tribes and mainstream markets has, literally, taken him down uneven

roads. From Maharashtra, there are 42 tribes that the startup works with and, pan-India, almost 100. "The major challenge is the lack of connectivity. We have to send a person 40-50 km deep into forests if we want to pass any kind of message. We also face a language barrier as some of the artisans don't understand us and we need a translator," says Raghatwan. What the startup brings back from the indigenous communities are, besides mahua laddoos, raw and wild honey that is made the traditional way by beekeepers in the wild, Warli and Gond paintings, earrings made by Naga artisans and boho-chic bamboo lanterns, among others. There are also purses for women made from recycled silk stuffed cotton elephants and other toys and handcrafted piggy banks shaped like cars. Raghatwan grew up among indigenous communities as his father was working in the tribal department of the government of Maharashtra. "Once I completed my post-graduation, I started the organisation with

Karnataka High Court quashes proceedings against pilot over 2022 Jakkur aircraft accident



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Karnataka high court After a complaint was registered against the pilot in April 2022, the lower court took cognisance of the alleged offence in July last year.

The Karnataka High Court has quashed proceedings against a pilot over alleged negligence in an aircraft accident at Jakkur. His counsel argued the lower court had taken cognisance of the 2022 incident without the necessary sanction as mandated by the Aircraft Act and that a departmental inquiry had exonerated him. The pilot was taking off on board a Cessna aircraft at the Jakkur Aerodrome in Bengaluru when he veered to a side to avoid dogs and birds on the tarmac, leading the aircraft to overturn. There were no injuries as a result of the accident. After a complaint was registered against the pilot in April 2022, the lower court took cognisance of the alleged offence in July last year. The pilot's counsel argued that the court could not take cognisance in the absence of any sanction, while a departmental inquiry had exonerated him. In an order passed on September 27, the bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna noted that as per section 12B of the Aircraft Act, courts could not take cognisance of offences unless the directors-general of civil aviation, civil aviation security or the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau made a complaint or gave sanction in writing. The court also observed that similar cases were earlier dealt with at the high courts of Kerala and Jharkhand. Striking down the case against the pilot, the court said, "The very registration of the FIR is contrary to law and permitting further trial in the case at hand merely because the police have filed their chargesheet and the Court has taken cognisance would undoubtedly become an abuse of the process of the law."

Keshav Chandra named NDMC chairperson, V Candavelou new Goa chief secretary



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Keshav Chandra as the new chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). Keshav Chandra appointed as the new chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). (Photo Credit: andaman.gov.in) The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Wednesday appointed former Andaman chief secretary Keshav Chandra as the new chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).

A 1995-batch Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre IAS officer, Chandra takes over from former Delhi chief secretary Naresh Kumar, whose tenure at the helm of the civic body that administers municipal services to Lutyens Delhi, came to an end in August this year. Sources said Chandra's transfer to the national capital was the first among several significant postings across the central AGMUT pool of bureaucrats just around the corner. In another order, the MHA appointed 1997-batch IAS officer Dr V Candavelou as the new chief secretary of Goa, filling one out of three such vacancies across the board. Candavelou takes over from 1991-batch AGMUT cadre IAS officer Puneet Kumar Goel following his transfer to the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes earlier this month. Meanwhile, senior IAS officers from the 1992 to 1997 batches of the service are in the running for significant posts. These include secretary, Department of Personnel and Training, after the post fell vacant following the repatriation of 1989-batch Haryana cadre IAS officer Vivek Joshi to his parent cadre and the chief secretary posts in Mizoram and Andaman. According to bureaucratic sources, appointments to these posts were "likely from officers currently serving in Delhi" either at the Centre or in the Delhi government.



Rs 5,000 and five artisans. Since then, I have met many tribal artisans across India. We are working with more than 4,000 artisans from nine states, mostly from the North-east, South India, Odisha, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Right-wing populism a growing threat to democracy, constitutional balance: Brazilian Supreme Court chief



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Addressing the students at the National Law School of India University in Bengaluru, Justice Luis Roberto Barroso, president of the Federal Supreme Court of Brazil, has highlighted the 'dangers' posed by rising right-wing populism to democratic values and the critical balance between the rule of law and majority rule. Justice Barroso, during his address on Tuesday, described the foundation of constitutional democracy as a "two-sided coin", combining popular sovereignty with the constitutional limits on power. "On one side, it means popular sovereignty — free and fair elections, rule of the majority," he explained. "On the other side is limited power, the rule of law, and protection of fundamental rights. These two sides must coexist for true democracy. Rule of the majority without constitutional limits can easily slide into abuse," he added, emphasizing how this balance upholds democracy in nations like Brazil and India. Justice Barroso also warned of the divisive nature of right wing populism, which he sees as fostering an "us versus them" mentality that creates distrust in institutions essential to democracy. "(Right wing) populism tends to frame society into two sides—the 'good people' they claim to represent, and the 'corrupt elite' they accuse of undermining the majority's will," Barroso noted. "In this framework, courts, the press, and universities are labelled as enemies because they don't bow to the majority. Populists bypass

these institutions to appeal directly to their base, weakening democratic checks and balances. The narrative of being anti-institutional and anti-pluralistic is dangerous because it disrupts the democratic process by removing important safeguards," he said. Discussing the specific dangers of majoritarianism, he provided a compelling hypothetical: "If 10 Christians in a room vote to exclude two non-Christians, they cannot, despite being the majority. Democracy is not unlimited rule by the majority; it is majority rule within constitutional boundaries that protects everyone". He added, "The role of the courts is to uphold these boundaries, to say, 'Yes, you are the majority, but the constitution prevents you from violating fundamental rights.' This is essential to prevent abuse and ensure everyone's rights are safeguarded." Justice Barroso also delved into the methods populists employ to undermine courts, highlighting their efforts to "capture" the judiciary. "Populist governments often seek to fill courts with loyalists who will serve their interests rather than uphold the constitution," he said. "In extreme cases, as seen in Hungary and Venezuela, courts have been turned into tools of the government. When this happens, it eliminates judicial checks on executive power, effectively silencing any opposition.

By compromising judicial independence, populist leaders bypass constitutional safeguards, giving them free rein over public policy without accountability," he explained, underscoring the importance of an independent judiciary to democracy's health. Justice Barroso also called for a robust defense of democratic institutions. "In this global wave of democratic recession, courts must resist authoritarian encroachment," he asserted. "Supreme courts like those in Brazil and India must act as defenders of constitutional values. Upholding human dignity, fundamental rights, and the rule of law is our role—without becoming political actors. When courts remain impartial and uphold these principles, they sustain democracy even when populist pressures threaten to destabilize it. Balancing law and majority rule is complex, but essential to democracy's resilience," he said.

Health risk from excessive heat rising in India, says new Lancet report

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

heat health risk, Lancet reportThe 2024 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change notes that 10 of the 15 indicators it uses for monitoring climate change-related health hazards globally have reached "concerning new records". Targeted interventions for vulnerable populations and changes in working hours, particularly for those working outdoors, are some of the essential measures that India needs to take to arrest the increasing risk of heat-related health impacts on its people, says a new Lancet report on climate change and health.

The report, an annual publication that tracks climate impacts on human health at the global level, has pointed out that health-threatening temperatures are getting increasingly prolonged in India. In 2023, every person in the country was exposed to at least 2,400 hours of heat, equivalent to 100 days, that could have resulted in moderate to serious heat-related diseases, says the report. "Strengthening public health systems and sector-specific cooling plans, including revised working hours, can reduce heat exposure and prevent health impacts. Additionally, there is an urgent need for financial support for sector-wide adaptation," the report says about India. The 2024 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change notes that 10 of the 15 indicators it uses for monitoring climate change-related health hazards globally have reached "concerning new records".

In India, besides the risk of heat-related diseases, the report has flagged potential health impacts from rising instances of flooding, increasing vulnerability from infectious diseases, and high levels of air pollution, all of which are getting exacerbated due to climate change. But the biggest risk, according to the report, is from heat because of which about 181 billion potential labour hours were lost last year, an increase of 50% from the 1990-1999 annual average. Dileep Mavalankar, former director of Indian Institute of Public Health, Gandhinagar, told The Indian Express that there was an immediate need to develop heat action plans in each city and town and implement them with full effort. "Adequate budget has to be provided for this by the governments. We should learn from the Ahmedabad heat action plan, which has been implemented since 2013 and has shown positive results in terms of reduction in mortality; this is documented in published scientific papers," he said.

Citing quality checks, Rajasthan recalls 4 school books; Oppn flags chapter on Godhra

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Four books distributed in August to students of government schools in Rajasthan have been recalled by the state government, citing the need for quality checks. This has sparked a controversy, with the Opposition targeting the BJP government over the decision as well as the content of the books. One of the recalled books, 'Adrishya log – Umeed aur Sahas ki Kahaniyan', has a chapter based on the 2002 burning of a train in Godhra and the subsequent riots. Another book, 'Jeevan Ki Bahar', has a chapter detailing the mating process of animals. Posting clippings of Hindi newspaper reports regarding both these books, Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotasra called for an investigation. In a post on X, Dotasra said Sunday, "Who is responsible for spreading hatred, spreading poison and teaching indecent language in the name of education in Rajasthan? Education Minister Madan Dilawar is pressuring officials and spending Rs 30 crore of public money to buy books against the rules so that hatred can be spread among children." He called on Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma to "investigate this material being distributed to children and take action". The Rajasthan School Education Council, in an order on October 21, directed all District Education Officers to recall all copies of four books – 'Jeevan Ki Bahar' and 'Chitti Ek Kutta Aur Uska Jungle Farm' for classes 9-12, as well as 'Adrishya log – Umeed aur Sahas ki Kahaniyan' for classes 11-12 and another edition of 'Jeevan Ki Bahar' for classes 11-12. The order directed that principals should collect copies of these books from students and submit them to their respective block-level offices. It said this was for "GSM testing" – a check to

determine the quality of the paper and printing. The books were published by Bhopal-based Eklavya Foundation. Responding to queries by The Indian Express, Manoj Nigam, executive officer at Eklavya Foundation, said, "In response to the public tender issued by the Rajasthan Education Department, 20 books of Eklavya Publications were proposed following all the terms and conditions of the tender. The selection committee constituted by the department selected three books out of the 20 and gave the purchase order... As per the purchase order given by the department, the books were supplied in August 2024. Since then, Eklavya Publications has not received any official information from the Education Department." Rajasthan Education Minister Madan Dilawar and officials of the Education department did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment. In the book titled 'Adrishya Log', a chapter titled 'Nau Lambe Saal (Nine Long Years)' talks of the 2002 Godhra train burning and subsequent riots, noting that three suspects spent nine years in prison before being acquitted. The chapter also alleges that after the train burning, undercover police officers raided an area arresting 14 young men without offering an explanation to their families. Responding to the order recalling the books, Congress's Tika Ram Jully, the Leader of Opposition in Rajasthan Assembly, said, "Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma ji should reveal the real reason for recalling the book. This book is a poignant portrayal of the pain of those missing children and their families who have become victims of communal violence. Has this book, along with other books, been withdrawn under pressure of some letter or rebuke received from Delhi?"

Sowing on, Haryana farmers panic over DAP shortage; police roped in



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

With sowing of mustard underway and that of wheat to pick up after Diwali, a nationwide shortage of diammonium phosphate (DAP) has led to panic among farmers in Haryana, with police stepping in to handle crowds during the distribution of the key fertiliser. DAP is required at the early stage of root establishment and development, and farmers apply it along with the seeds.

At Gohana in Haryana's Sonapat district and Narnaul in Mahendragarh, DAP bags were sold in the presence of police personnel. In Uchana in Jind on October 26, a farmer received minor injuries as police tried to control an unruly crowd that had gathered at the local cooperative society office to buy the fertiliser. At Tosham police station in Bhiwani district, staffers of a cooperative society took over the process, handing over slips to farmers that they could exchange for DAP bags. On Sunday, hundreds of farmers, many of them women, stood in long queues outside the Tosham police station, waiting for the slips. Dayanand Poonia, a farmer activist from Bhiwani, told The Indian Express that farmers from around 12 villages received information on Sunday morning that 1,500 DAP bags had arrived at the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Society in Pataudi village. The farmers were told to collect their slips from the Tosham police station, 23 km away.

Sher Singh, 70, from Rodan village, was among those who collected his slip from the police station. "I had gone to the cooperative office in Pataudi on Saturday, but there were so many people I decided to return the following morning. The next day, I reached Pataudi at 6 am, but again, the crowds were unmanageable. Finally,

we were asked to come to the Tosham police station. We were pushed around there too, but I finally got my slip." Agriculture Department Sub Divisional Officer (Bhiwani) Sanjay Kumar said, "There were more farmers than DAP bags at Pataudi. First, we called the police there but they could not control the crowd. We thought a scuffle may break out, so we decided to issue slips from the police station." Farmers typically need one 50-kg bag of DAP for every acre of mustard and wheat sown, with this going up to three bags in the case of potato. Mustard and potato planting usually happens in October, with wheat following in November. The current shortage of DAP is being blamed on higher global prices, aggravated by the government fixing a low MRP with inadequate subsidy concession that has made imports unviable. At the current MRP of Rs 1,350 per bag (Rs 27,000 per tonne) and subsidy of Rs 21,911, the gross realisation for companies comes to Rs 48,911 per tonne. On the other hand, the landed price of DAP imports is now at \$642-644 per tonne or Rs 53,930-54,100. Adding import duty, bagging, port handling, interest and dealer margins, the cost goes up to about Rs 65,000 per tonne. The resultant loss-making proposition has meant that only 19.67 lakh tonnes of the fertiliser got imported during April-September 2024, compared to 34.53 lakh tonnes in April-September 2023. Admitting to shortage of DAP, Rajbir Singh, Deputy Director, Haryana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, said, "For example, Hisar district has received a supply of only 8,000 MT DAP fertiliser so far against the demand of 25,000 MT. We are expecting a supply of more DAP bags in the coming days." Poonia said that while it's farmers in the mustard growing districts of Haryana who are desperate for DAP, the shortage is likely to worsen once the wheat sowing season starts from Diwali. "Sowing for mustard is on in Dadri, Narnaul, Bhiwani, Rewari and Hisar and farmers here are not getting enough DAP. If the supply of DAP is not increased, the crisis will worsen because after November 15, farmers in wheat growing areas would also join the queue for the fertiliser," added Poonia.

Admitting to the acute shortage of DAP, a senior BJP leader who spoke on condition of anonymity said farmers in the state must get adequate allocation of DAP and the movement and stocks of the fertiliser need to be checked to ensure uninterrupted supply.

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AAP's minority wing chief quits after Congress leaders join party: 'Growing differences'

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

In a move that appeared to have paved the way for his exit from AAP ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, Seelampur MLA Abdul Rehman on Tuesday announced his resignation as chief of the party's minority wing. Rehman chose to go public about his decision to step down in a post on X (formerly Twitter) minutes after AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal inducted Delhi Congress stalwart Chaudhary Mateen Ahmed's son Zubair Ahmed and daughter-in-law Shagufta into his party's fold. While Zubair, a district president of Congress, is considered to have "a deep-rooted influence" in the Babarpur area, his wife Shagufta is the sitting councillor from Ward 227. Zubair's father has served as an MLA from Seelampur for five consecutive terms.

Rehman, following reports of the couple's induction, posted on X: "I am resigning from the post of President of Minority Cell of Aam Aadmi Party. I have taken this decision in view of the growing differences in my views. I hope that the party and my supporters will understand my step." Even as sources in the AAP said that the decision to induct the couple was in line with the party's likely decision to replace Rehman with Zubair, the former termed his decision a personal one.

"Two of my daughters are getting married in December. I am solely responsible for the arrangements, so there is added pressure... Koi kaleh nahin hai, AAP ka parivar badh raha hai (There is no disagreement, the AAP's family is getting bigger...)." Rehman told The Indian Express. "Recently, I had told (AAP general secretary, organisation) Sandeep (Pathak) bhai that I was unable to do justice to my post (of AAP minority wing chief) due to my responsibilities, that is why I am stepping down,"



he added. Shagufta, meanwhile, attributed the couple's decision to join AAP to the unsuccessful talks related to a potential AAP-Congress alliance for the Delhi polls. "The AAP wanted a tie-up with the Congress, but the Congress leadership did not want it. Kejriwal has been doing good developmental work in our constituency and we do not want a BJP candidate to win in the elections, which is why we have switched parties," Shagufta, the Chauhan Banger councillor, said.

"Our constituency has also been facing communal issues – especially street vendors are being threatened by BJP. Working with the AAP will increase our chances of winning... While my husband is going to contest from our constituency, my father-in-law, a former MLA from the Congress, plans to stay on in the party," she added. With Shagufta joining AAP, the party now holds a majority in the 249-seat MCD with 126 seats, while BJP has 114 and Congress is left with eight seats. On September 25, the AAP had briefly lost its majority when three councillors had shifted to the BJP, pushing the BJP's and the Congress' numbers above AAP's.

Mahesh Langa booked for 'cheating' businessman of Rs 28 lakh in 4th case involving him



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Weeks after he was arrested in a Goods and Services Tax (GST) fraud case earlier this month, the Ahmedabad Detection of Crime Branch (DCB) on Tuesday filed another case against Gujarat-based senior journalist Mahesh Langa for allegedly cheating a businessman of Rs 28.68 lakh. This is the fourth case involving Langa, a senior assistant editor at The Hindu, linked to the alleged GST scam of several crores. Addressing a press conference on Tuesday, Ahmedabad City Police Commissioner Gyanender Singh Malik said that his personnel "have conducted the investigation in a professional manner". His remarks came at the first such press briefing since the alleged fraud was busted earlier this month followed by Langa's arrest.

Seventeen people have been arrested in the case so far, said Malik. "There are comments on X questioning the actions of the police. That is absolutely wrong. The Crime Branch is handling this case very professionally," he said. The registration of an FIR against Langa for the alleged possession of confidential documents linked to Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB) has drawn criticism from various media bodies. The case was filed after the documents were allegedly seized from Langa's home by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch. At Tuesday's press briefing, Malik dissociated the Ahmedabad City Police from the GMB documents case, stating that both, in his remarks, as well as in a press note circulated later, it was highlighted that the GMB case was exclusively under the purview of the Gandhinagar Police and that the Ahmedabad City Police "are not privy" to the investigation in the case.

Amid fresh claims against Langa by police, including those related to his lifestyle and alleged benami transactions, The Indian Express reached out to Langa's lawyers who declined to comment. However, they said they would issue a statement on Wednesday. Among other allegations against Langa, police in a statement on Tuesday underlined that "the chats from his phone have highlighted that his monetary dealings were not related at all with his investigative journalism". "However, it has been revealed that he was using his identity as an investigative journalist to indulge in illegal financial dealings and to gain access to different offices and personnel. He has introduced himself to several Indians and foreigners as financial broker, land dealer and lobbyist who works for personal favours in cash and in kind. Several incriminating facts and documents have been discovered which are also being analysed and investigated," read the statement. In the latest case against Langa, complainant Pranay Shah is a business owner in Ahmedabad who runs Khushi Advertising, said police. "Langa has been booked for cheating an amount of Rs 28,68,250 and criminal intimidation by Pranay Shah who allegedly gave him money in exchange for services as well for a party (thrown) for his wife Kavita Langa," said Malik.

A police statement further elaborated, "Over the past two years, the complainant allegedly became acquainted with Langa through meetings in Bodakdev area of Ahmedabad, where Langa portrayed himself as an influential figure with extensive media and government contact. Langa offered to assist the complainant with advertising needs, claiming he could leverage his connections for positive news coverage and even create a promotional portal for the company. Accepting Langa's offer, the complainant engaged in business transactions based on Langa's assurances of assistance and reimbursement," it added. On March 16 and June 6, Shah allegedly transferred Rs 23 lakh to Langa's account through a media company managed by Shah's friend which was meant to help the journalist buy a corporate office. Shah told the police that he paid the bill of Rs 5,68,250 following Langa's wife's birthday party in September "after Langa assured him that he would reimburse this amount in cash on the day of the event", the release said. "However, when the complainant requested the total repayment of ₹28,68,250, Langa allegedly refused and resorted to intimidation tactics. He is said to have warned the complainant that he could damage his business through negative media coverage, citing his political influence and media connections," it said. Malik said, "When Pranay Shah found out that Langa had been arrested in the GST fraud case, he approached the police and filed a complaint against him." Questions over 'lifestyle'

Malik said that Langa's income tax returns for 2022-23 show that his income was Rs 9.48 lakh and his wife's

income was Rs 6.04 lakh, totalling about Rs 15.52 lakh (in family income). "But cash worth Rs 20 lakh was seized from his home during searches," he said. Malik also suggested that Langa allegedly had an 'extravagant lifestyle' and stayed "in five star hotels, exchanged expensive gifts, and visited foreign countries like UAE and Hong Kong." A statement from his office read, "...to investigate his lifestyle and his (Langa's) unexplained expenses is not the mandate of the current (police) investigation... We have given the information to the Income Tax Department in this context." This will be the fourth case against him, registered a day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a case of money laundering against Dhruvi Enterprise, which is at the centre of the alleged GST fraud case filed earlier. The central agency had also conducted searches at seven places in Gujarat on Sunday. As per Ahmedabad police investigations, Dhruvi Enterprise was a "fake firm" registered using the credentials of a farmer from Botad district, identified as Hareesh Makwana. There have been allegations that DA Enterprises — which has been linked to Langa — had carried out transactions with Dhruvi Enterprise.

DA Enterprise, named in the first FIR based on a complaint by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGI), was allegedly one of the 220 shell companies created for fraudulent gain through Input Tax Credit (ITC) based on bogus invoices without actual supply of goods or services.

Based on statements of 139 people, Ahmedabad police have found that DA Enterprise — co-owned by Langa's cousin Manoj Langa and one Vinu Patel — was registered on July 20, 2020, and recorded a turnover of Rs 21 lakh in 2020-21. Langa removed Patel in 2021 and made his wife co-owner on October 9, 2021, "in order to obtain a bigger share of money from the new business" as per an ED statement. The turnover of the firm then rose to Rs 6.7 crore in 2022-2023. According to the ED, "during the investigation, it has come to notice that Langa was controlling the firm M/s DA Enterprises, from whose premises large quantum of unaccounted cash was seized by the police authorities, and it is further gathered that various other benami transactions are suspected to have happened with shell companies." Malik said Langa's cousin Manoj and wife Kavita are partners in the "shell firm" DA Enterprise. "Manoj Langa gave a statement before a magistrate that this company was actually run by Mahesh Langa. Mahesh Langa's wife also said she had no idea about the company. She is a housewife. If the police had some sort of vindictiveness, then... But we neither arrested his wife, nor his cousin. On record, they are both partners but we know they are innocent so we just arrested Mahesh Langa", the Ahmedabad police chief said. Regarding judicial procedures and modus operandi, the police statement said, "Statements under BNSS 183 (CrPc 164) have been deposed by the key witnesses, including Manoj Langa and others before the court, and police have obtained corroborative digital evidence to that effect. As per analysis of accounts, this money was not associated with the declared incomes or businesses run by Mahesh Langa. We have recovered technical evidence and statements.

It further added, "DA enterprise was being used to route money by artificially increasing expenses in the form of fake billings and receiving the cash in return. Money was transferred from DA enterprises to Dhruvi Enterprises. This money was withdrawn as cash and routed back to Mahesh through a hawala network. This method of cheating the exchequer helped Mahesh in evading 18% GST and allow him to carry over tax liability by using forged billings. He would receive the entire money (principal and tax) in cash through hawala operators. Similarly three other suspicious firms which are prima facie shell companies and who have done a total suspicious transaction of Rs 15,52,041 with DA enterprises have also been found and respected units have been informed and legal action will follow shortly." Malik, hinting at Langa being involved in another benami firm said, "In 2023 too, he had started another company... this time in the name of his sister-in-law Nayana Langa. There are several suspicious transactions from that firm (Nisarg Enterprises) as well but it is still under investigation." The ED had on October 17 conducted the first set of searches at 23 locations in Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Veraval, Rajkot, Surat and Kodinar, including the registered addresses of the entities availing the input tax credit in this case. The ED's Ahmedabad Zonal Office in a statement on Tuesday said that it had recovered and seized "incriminating documents" during the second set of searches in Ahmedabad, Surat and Bhavnagar districts. Langa, who continues to be in judicial custody, was arrested on October 8 after a case was filed the previous day alleging involvement in a GST fraud based on the DGI's complaint. The second case, filed by Gandhinagar Police on October 22, named Langa as accused of theft and possession of confidential documents of the Gujarat Maritime Board (GMB). The third case, according to a statement by the ED on Monday, was filed on charges of money laundering on October 27. The fourth case is for cheating, filed by the Ahmedabad DCB on October 28.

Environment Ministry mulls revising penalties for stubble burning, in talks with Law ministry

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is deliberating on plans to increase environmental compensation to be imposed on farmers for burning paddy straw and may revise the existing rules which empower the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to impose such fines. As part of this process, MoEF&CC is consulting with the Ministry of Law and Justice, specifically on whether it could forego the process of placing a draft of the revised rules for public comments before notifying it. This, highly-placed sources said, is being explored since the peak stubble burning season is upon Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) and the usual process involves placing draft amendments to existing rules in public domain for sixty days. "We are considering doubling of the existing compensation matrix which is based on the extent of land holdings," a highly-placed source from the MoEF&CC said. The government's proposal to increase the compensation comes in the backdrop of the Supreme Court taking a dim view of the government's selective and inadequate action to recover environmental compensation for burning paddy stubble. The Supreme Court had also pulled up Centre for not giving effect to provisions of the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, which had decriminalized environmental offences under the Environment Protection Act, Air Act and Water Act.

Currently, CAQM has adopted the formula laid down by the National Green Tribunal for imposing environmental compensation on farmers for stubble burning. The CAQM also has the aid of the Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (Imposition, Collection and Utilization of Environmental Compensation for Stubble Burning) Rules, 2023 and section 15 of the CAQM Act, 2021, empowers it to collect an environmental compensation. As per the existing norms, farmers with less than two acres of land holding have to cough up Rs 2,500 for burning paddy stubble, Rs 5,000 for those with two-five acres and Rs 15,000 for those with more than five acres. During their hearing on October 23, in which chief secretaries of Punjab and Haryana were present, the apex court directed the Centre to take action under Section 15 of the CAQM Act, 2021, which empowers the commission to collect compensation. "Unless proper exercise of power under Section 15 of the Act is made, there cannot be any effective action against the wrongdoers. We expect the Government to take action within two weeks from today," a bench of Justice Abhay S.Oka, Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Justice Augustine George Masih said in its order. The court will take up the air pollution matter again on November 4. A day ahead of Diwali, Delhi's air quality was hovering in the poor category on Wednesday.

To re-open money laundering probe against 'lottery king' Santiago Martin, ED to challenge SC verdict



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

santiago martinA source said that the Supreme Court's order had followed the Tamil Nadu Police's decision to close a corruption case against Martin. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is set to move an application before the Supreme Court, challenging its 2023 decision to close the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) probe against Santiago Martin's Future Gaming and Hotels Pvt Ltd, sources said. "Lottery king" Martin's company is the largest purchaser of electoral bonds as per Election Commission data released earlier this year and purchased bonds worth Rs 1,300 crore between 2019 and 2024.

A source said that the Supreme Court's order had followed the Tamil Nadu Police's decision to close a corruption case against Martin. The ED's PMLA case was

registered on the basis of this case. Earlier this week, the Madras High Court allowed the ED to proceed with its probe against four people, including Martin, as it set aside a lower court order, accepting the closure report filed by the Chennai Crime Branch unit in the predicate case related to the seizure of Rs 7.2 crore in unaccounted cash from his house in Chennai. According to sources, after studying the case documents and obtaining legal opinion, the ED has decided to challenge the Supreme Court's decision in the coming days. In a separate matter, the ED began a money laundering probe against Future Gaming in early 2019. By July of that year, it had attached assets worth over Rs 250 crore belonging to the company. On April 2, 2022, the ED attached movable assets worth Rs 409.92 crore in the case. On April 7, five days after the attachment of these assets, Future Gaming bought Rs 100 crore in electoral bonds. The ED initiated its investigation under the provisions of PMLA against Martin and his company M/s Future Gaming Solutions (P) Ltd (formerly Martin Lottery Agencies Ltd) on the basis of a chargesheet filed by the Central Bureau of investigation. According to the ED, Martin and others entered into a criminal conspiracy to violate provisions of the Lottery Regulation Act, 1998, and to obtain wrongful gain by cheating the Sikkim government. "Martin and his associates made illegal gains to the extent of Rs 910.3 crores on account of inflating the prize winning tickets claim for the period from 01.04.2009 to 31.08.2010," the ED said in a statement on July 22, 2019.

Toilets without doors, crumbling buildings — Goa rights panel's red flags from Colvale jail

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Goa Jails, Goa conclave jail, Goa Prison rights, Goa jail Toilets condition, Goa rights panel, medical care, functional issues, Indian express news Prison authorities said they had already taken note of these concerns and were working to fix the issues. Dilapidated condition of jail premises, toilets without doors in male and female blocks, no woman medical officer to examine women inmates, non-functional hospital block, poor sewage system — these are among several concerns flagged by the Goa Human Rights Commission after a recent inspection of the central jail in Colvale.

A 10-member delegation of the commission visited the central jail on October 24. The delegation went to some of the cells of the undertrials and spoke to inmates about their grievances. In its report, which has been sent to the prison authorities, the delegation observed that the jail buildings and premises are in a dilapidated and "very bad condition" and in urgent need of repairs. "The toilets without doors in the male as well as the female blocks violate the human right to privacy of the inmates, and hence, this needs to be resolved on priority," the report said. Prison authorities said they had already taken note of these concerns and were working to fix the issues. The commission also urged jail authorities to set up jammers in the jail premises to prevent the use of mobile phones by inmates, and to ensure effective functioning of CCTVs. "There is no female medical officer for examining the women inmates and there has been a request for a female or male nurse... The women undertrials com-



plained that when they are brought for the first time by the police, they are not allowed to bring their clothes. So also, the jail administration needs to provide the undertrials adequate clothes for their use to safeguard their human dignity," the report said. Foreign inmates complained of a "delay in forwarding their requests for visas to their embassies", the commission said, urging officials to look into these concerns. "It was noted that there was no ISD facility to enable the foreigners to communicate with their family members. There were complaints of no proper drinking water facilities in the cells. The inmates complained of mosquito menace which can be taken care of to some extent by providing the windows with nets. There is a hospital block but it is non-functional," the commission observed in its report. Omvir Singh, Inspector General of Prisons, said, "We have taken note of these concerns well in advance. Proposals for rectification of civil and technical works are already in the pipeline and pending with the PWD department."

Yellow crosses on century-old trees, and a protest against flyover in Guwahati



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Yellow crosses on century-old trees, and a protest against flyover in Guwahati In Tuesday's protest, citizens said that the area should be preserved for its environmental, historical and cultural significance. The imminent felling of trees around an iconic waterbody in the heart of Guwahati city for an under-construction flyover — the latest in a string of mega flyover projects in the city — has prompted protests from residents of the city. On Tuesday, several citizens gathered to protest at Dighalipukhuri — a picturesque and culturally important historic spot in Guwahati — days after 28 century-old trees around it were marked for felling with yellow crosses painted on them. A section of a four-lane 5.05 kilometre flyover — slated to be the longest yet in the city — is proposed to be constructed along Dighalipukhuri and terminate beyond it. Other sections of the flyover are already under construction. In response to an RTI query on the felling of trees around Dighalipukhuri for the construction work, the Public Works Department had responded earlier this month that 21 trees would be impacted, of which some will be uprooted while others will have branches cut. In Tuesday's protest, citizens said that the area should be preserved for its environmental, historical and cultural significance.

"While we had protested earlier too, once the crosses were made, many people were alarmed. These trees are 100-200 years old — they are both the lungs and heart of Guwahati... The world is discussing how flyovers are not the solution to traffic congestion and we should instead work on public transport," said Indrani Dutta, one of the protesters. Among the accounts of Dighalipukhuri's history are that it was created by the ancient king of Pragjyotishpur, Bhagadatta, and that it was used as a naval dockyard for the battleships of the Ahom kings. It is fringed by many significant institutions of the city, including the Handique Girls' College, Cotton College, Assam State Museum, Gauhati High Court and Rabindra Bhawan, and the district library has long been a prominent protest venue.

The flyover currently under construction is being built at an estimated cost of Rs 852 crore and is supposed to connect Dighalipukhuri to Noonmati with arms extending in three directions. The foundation stone for it

was laid earlier this year and the government estimates it will be completed by early 2026. In the last couple of years, several mega flyover projects have been completed in the city, including the 2.6 kilometre four-lane flyover in Maligaon and the 2.3 kilometre flyover in Zoo Road. "Before these development works begin, there must be consultations with residents and locals. Today people from all walks of life have gathered to deliver this message," said Mowsam Hazarika, another protester. The RTI response from the PWD states that there had not been an impact assessment or public hearings for the project. On Tuesday, citizens also sent an application to Chief Justice of Assam Vijay Bishnoi, appealing that a suo motu PIL be initiated against the felling of trees in the area. In their letter, they said that the move "threatens to destroy the very identity of Guwahati".

K'taka HC grants 6-week conditional bail to Kannada actor Darshan

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday granted conditional bail on medical grounds to Kannada actor Darshan for six weeks in the fan murder case. The bench stated that availing medical treatment is the right of an undertrial and granted interim bail for six weeks to get treatment for severe back pain. As per the submission of the Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Prasanna Kumar, the bench has directed the seizure of the actor's passport. The bench has allowed Darshan to get the treatment at his choice of hospital. He has also been asked to submit the details and report of the medical treatment he is undergoing within seven days. Single bench Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the order. Darshan, Pavithra Gowda and 15 others were arrested on June 11 on charges of kidnapping and brutally murdering Renukaswamy from Chitradurga. Renukaswamy had allegedly sent derogatory and obscene messages to Pavithra Gowda as he was miffed with the actor for his relationship with Pavithra Gowda despite being married. Darshan was shifted to Ballari prison after photos of 'royal treatment' for him at the Bengaluru Central Prison surfaced. He is facing three FIRs in this connection. The police submitted a 3,991-page charge sheet on September 4 in the fan murder case. The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday reserved its order on the bail petition of jailed Kannada superstar Darshan after completing arguments and counterarguments. Senior counsel C.V. Nagesh, appearing for the jailed actor, had stated that Darshan is suffering from severe back pain, which is causing numbness in his legs. He added that if the condition persists, Darshan could face further health complications.

Israeli strike kills dozens in north Gaza residential block, US calls incident 'horrifying'



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

At least 93 Palestinians were killed or missing and dozens wounded in an Israeli strike on a residential building in the northern Gaza town of Beit Lahiya on Tuesday, the Gaza health ministry said, and the U.S. called the incident "horrifying". Medics said at least 20 children were among the dead. "A number of victims are still under the rubble and on the roads, and ambulance and civil defence crews cannot reach them," the territory's health ministry said in a statement. Later on Tuesday, Ismail Al-Thawabta, director of the Gaza government media office, put the number of fatalities at 93.

There was no immediate Israeli comment. The Israeli military has frequently questioned figures on death toll published by the Hamas-run media office, saying they were often exaggerated. Israel's main ally the United States said it was concerned by the high casualty toll, with State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller calling it a "horrifying incident with a horrifying result". U.S. officials have reached out to the Israeli government to ask what happened, Miller told reporters, adding he was aware of reports that many of the dead were children. The U.N. Human Rights Office said it was "appalled" by one of the deadliest single attacks in nearly three months, calling for a prompt, transparent investigation into the circumstances. Video footage obtained by Reuters showed several bodies wrapped in blankets on the ground outside a bombed four-storey building. More bodies and survivors were being retrieved from under the wreckage as neighbours rushed to help with rescue. "There are tens of martyrs (dead) - tens of displaced people were living in this house. The house was bombed without prior warning. As you can see, martyrs are here and there, with body parts hanging on the walls," Ismail Ouaida, a witness who was helping to recover bodies, said in the video. Later on Tuesday, Palestinian

health officials said, several people were killed and wounded in an Israeli airstrike that hit three houses in Beit Lahiya. TRAPPED

On Monday, the Palestinian Civil Emergency Service said around 100,000 people were trapped in Jabalia, Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun without medical or food supplies. Reuters could not verify the number independently. The health ministry said on Tuesday those wounded in the Beit Lahiya strike could not receive care as doctors had been forced to evacuate the nearby Kamal Adwan Hospital. "Critical cases without intervention will succumb to their destiny and die," the ministry said in a statement. Gaza's emergency service said its operations had come to a halt because of the three-week Israeli assault into northern Gaza. Israel says its campaign is to destroy Palestinian militant group Hamas, whose fighters had regrouped to the area in the year-long war. Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack on Israel killed 1,200 people and more than 250 hostages were captured and taken into Gaza, according to Israeli tallies. The death toll from Israel's retaliatory air and ground onslaught in Gaza has exceeded 43,000, the Gaza health ministry said on Monday. Gaza's war has kindled wider conflict in the Middle East, with Israel bombing Lebanon and sending forces into its south to disable Iran-backed Hezbollah, a Hamas ally. Tuesday's strike came a day after Israel's parliament passed a law to ban the U.N. relief agency UNRWA from operating inside the country, alarming some of Israel's Western allies who fear it will worsen the already dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. Israeli officials cited the involvement of a handful of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees' thousands of staffers in the Oct. 7, 2023 attack and a few staffers' membership in Hamas and other armed groups.

UNRWA head Philippe Lazzarini described the move as "collective punishment". It was unclear yet how the decision will impact the lives of Palestinians, especially in the Gaza Strip, where the United Nations said most of its 2.3 million people have become internally displaced since the war broke out over a year ago. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here. Reporting and writing by Nidal Al-Mughrabi in Cairo; additional reporting by Ali Sawafa, Humejra Pamuk, Doina Chiacu and Simon Lewis; editing by Ros Russell, Angus MacSwan and Mark Heinrich. Our Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles., opens new tab A senior correspondent with nearly 25 years' experience covering the Palestinian-Israeli conflict including several wars and the signing of the first historic peace accord between the two sides.

Europe will pay a 'big price,' Trump warns on tariffs

WASHINGTON, -GNS News Agency, Nov 2 Republican U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Tuesday the European Union would have to "pay a big price" for not buying enough American exports if he won the Nov. 5 election. "I'll tell you what, the European Union sounds so nice, so lovely, right? All the nice European little countries that get together," Trump said during a rally in the battleground state of Pennsylvania, after promising to pass the "Trump reciprocal trade act."

"They don't take our cars. They don't take our farm products. They sell millions and millions of cars in the United States. No, no, no, they are going to have to pay a big price," he said. Trump has vowed to impose a 10% tariff on imports from all countries, and 60% duties on imports from China. These would hit supply chains throughout the world, likely triggering retaliation and raising costs, economists warn.

He has unnerved democratically governed Taiwan by saying that Taiwan should pay the United States for its defence and that it had taken America's semiconductor business. The U.S. is bound by law to provide Chinese-claimed Taiwan with the means to defend itself despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties. Democrat Kamala Harris warned tens of thousands of people gathered in Washington at her biggest rally on Tuesday that her Republican opponent Donald Trump was seeking unchecked



power as their tightening race for the presidency entered its final week. "This is someone who is unstable, obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance and out for unchecked power," Harris said during what her campaign called her closing argument before a tightly contested Nov. 5 election. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here. Reporting by Steve Holland and Eric Beech; Editing by Heather Timmons and Michael Perry. Our Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles., opens new tab

huge margins of up to 90% in rural areas, even as it underperformed in Tbilisi and other cities. Ghia Abashidze, a political analyst close to Georgian Dream, attributed the party's showing to its emphasis on keeping the peace and preserving traditional values. The Georgian parliament passed a law this year curbing LGBT rights and Pride events have been attacked by violent mobs in years past. The topic remains sensitive in conservative Georgia, which is devoutly Orthodox Christian. Abashidze said that Georgian Dream was still committed to EU integration, but found more to like in some of the bloc's Eastern European members such as Hungary, whose premier Viktor Orban flew to Tbilisi on Monday and hailed the election as free. He said Orban's Hungary, which has also been accused of democratic backsliding, shared the Georgian ruling party's core values of "family, traditions, statehood, sovereignty, peace". In Isani, a working class Tbilisi neighbourhood and one of the few in the capital where Georgian Dream received more votes than the four main opposition parties combined, Sergio, who did not want to give his last name, echoed the sentiment. "We want to go to the European Union with our customs, our traditions, our mentality," the 56-year-old said, passing freshly-baked bread to customers from his shop window. He said he believed LGBT people should receive medical treatment and go to church to become "normal people". By contrast, opposition supporters say the ruling party's positions on foreign policy and social issues are incompatible with Europe's, and keeping the peace with Russia depends on Georgia aligning with the West. At a thousands-strong protest against the election results on Monday, Salome Gasviani said the opposition was fighting to preserve Georgia's freedom and independence. "We're here to say out loud that Georgia is a very European country and our future is in the EU, in the West," she said. Russia, which ruled Georgia for about 200 years, won a brief war against the country in 2008, and memories of Russian tanks rolling towards Tbilisi are still fresh for many. During the campaign, Georgian Dream played on fears of war, with posters showing devastated Ukrainian cities beside pictures of Georgian ones to illustrate the threat.

Harris warns of dangers of another Trump presidency in speech at Jan. 6 site



WASHINGTON, -GNS News Agency, Nov 2, Democrat Kamala Harris warned tens of thousands of people gathered in Washington at her biggest rally that her Republican opponent Donald Trump was seeking unchecked power as their tightening race for the presidency entered its final week. Harris spoke on Tuesday evening to an outdoor rally estimated by her campaign to number more than 75,000 people at the spot near the White House where on Jan. 6, 2021, Trump addressed his supporters before they attacked the U.S. Capitol. "We know who Donald Trump is," Harris said. She said the then-president sent an "armed mob" to the U.S. Capitol to try to overturn his loss in the 2020 presidential election.

"This is someone who is unstable, obsessed with revenge, consumed with grievance and out for unchecked power," Harris said during what her campaign called her closing argument before a tightly contested Nov. 5 election. More than 53 million Americans have already voted in the election, according to Election Hub at the University of Florida, in a battle that will decide who runs the world's richest and most powerful country for four years.

Harris was flanked by American flags on stage and surrounded by blue and white banners that said "FREEDOM" with a well-lit White House behind her. The crowd included older people and college students, people from overseas, from New York and from nearby Virginia. Many women came in groups with other female friends. "It's important that we do not go back to the horrible past policies under President Trump," said Saul Schwartz, a former federal worker from Alexandria, Virginia.

"She is everything that I always wanted in a president. She is joyous. She is real, she is powerful. And she is a woman," said Danielle Hoffmann from Staten Island, New York. "It's time for you guys... to take a backseat because we're driving right now," she said, addressing men in general. Her husband, she noted, is a Trump supporter. A Reuters/Ipsos poll on Tuesday showed that Harris' lead had eroded to just 44% to 43% among registered voters. Harris has led Trump in every Reuters/Ipsos poll since she entered the race in July, but her advantage has steadily shrunk since late September. Trump and his allies have sought to play down the violence of Jan. 6.

Thousands of his supporters stormed the Capitol,

North Korea and Russia send political shockwaves with Ukraine war moves

MOSCOW/SEOUL, GNS News Agency, Nov 2, North Korea's foreign minister arrived in Russia on Tuesday for talks as the Russia-Ukraine war appeared to take a dangerous new turn, with NATO and South Korea expressing alarm that North Korean troops could soon be joining in on Moscow's side. U.S. President Joe Biden said Ukraine should strike back against North Korean troops "if they cross into Ukraine."

NATO said on Monday thousands of North Korean troops were moving toward the front line, a development which has prompted Kyiv to call for more weapons and an international plan to keep those troops at bay. The Pentagon confirmed on Tuesday that some North Korean soldiers are in the Kursk region, a Russian border area where Ukrainian forces staged a major incursion in August and hold hundreds of square kilometres of territory. A couple of thousand more are heading there, it said.

The United States has said any North Korean troops fighting in the war would be "fair game" for Ukrainian attacks and that Washington would not impose any fresh limits on Ukraine's use of U.S. weapons if North Korea entered the fight. South Korea, which remains technically at war with the nuclear-armed North decades after the 1950-1953 Korean War, also condemned the deployments, with officials in Seoul worried about what Russia may be providing to Pyongyang in return. North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui arrived in Russia's far east on Tuesday on her way to Moscow, Russian state media said. Russian state news agencies said it was not clear who Choe, making her second visit in six weeks, would meet. The Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin had no plans to meet her.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after talks with South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol on Tuesday that the North Korean moves were sending the war into a new phase. "This war is becoming internationalized, extending beyond two countries," Zelenskyy said on X. "We agreed to strengthen intelligence and expertise exchange, intensify contacts at all levels, especially the highest, in order to develop an action strategy and countermeasures to address this escalation," Zelenskyy said. Yoon told Zelenskyy that if North Korea receives aid from Russia and is able to glean military experience and knowledge from its involvement in the war it would pose a "great threat" to South Korea's security, his office said. South Korea has said it may start supplying weapons to Ukraine if North Korean troops joined Russia's war. Putin has not denied the presence of North Korean troops in the country. What role the North Korean troops may play is unclear.

The Pentagon said initial indications are that Russia might field them in infantry roles. "We remain concerned that Russia intends to use these soldiers in combat or to support combat operations against Ukrainian forces in Kursk," Pentagon spokesperson Major General Patrick Ryder told reporters, adding he could not corroborate reports that North Korean troops were in Ukraine itself. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) think tank said the number of North Korean forces involved "make this more than a symbolic effort." "But the troops will likely be in support roles and constitute less than 1% of Russia's forces," it said. "Russia is desperate for additional manpower, and this is one element of

sending lawmakers fleeing for their lives after Trump's address on the Ellipse, where as president in 2021 he told the crowd to "fight like hell" to prevent Congress from ratifying his loss. Four people died in the ensuing riot at the Capitol, and one police officer who defended the Capitol died the following day. Trump has said that if reelected, he would pardon the more than 1,500 participants who have been charged with crimes. Item 1 of 13 Democratic presidential nominee U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris applauds from the stage during a rally on the National Mall, one week before the Nov. 5 U.S. presidential election, Hockstein

"We have to stop pointing fingers and start locking arms," Harris told the Washington crowd on Tuesday and urged Americans to put divisions behind them. In Florida earlier in the day, Trump sought to move on from the racist and other vulgar remarks made by allies at his New York rally. Trump did not comment on the remarks made by speakers at the Sunday event where comedian Tony Hinchcliffe called Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage" and disparaged Black Americans, Jewish people, Palestinians and Latinos. Trump's campaign had said previously that the comments about Puerto Rico did not reflect the former president's views, but Trump on Tuesday called the New York event "an absolute lovefest" and said he was honored to be involved. President Joe Biden drew ire from Trump's campaign for remarks he made about the Sunday rally during a fundraising call on Tuesday. According to a transcript posted by a White House spokesperson on X, Biden said: "the only garbage I see floating out there is his supporter's - his - his demonization of Latinos is unconscionable and it's un-American." Several news organizations cited the same quote but without the apostrophe. Biden later posted on X, the social media site: "Earlier today I referred to the hateful rhetoric about Puerto Rico spewed by Trump's supporter at his Madison Square Garden rally as garbage — which is the only word I can think of to describe it. His demonization of Latinos is unconscionable. That's all I meant to say. The comments at that rally don't reflect who we are as a nation."

COURTING HISPANIC VOTERS As Harris spoke in Washington, Trump visited a heavily Hispanic city in Pennsylvania, two days after Hinchcliffe's comments about Puerto Rico drew outrage at the New York rally. The U.S. Census Bureau says Puerto Ricans are the largest Hispanic group in Pennsylvania, a state that holds the highest number of Electoral College votes of the seven battleground states expected to decide the election. "I'd like to begin with a very, very simple question: Are you better off now than you were four years ago? I'm here today with a message of hope for all Americans," Trump said. Harris, who would be the first female president, and Trump, seeking a return to office after his 2017-21 term, diverge on support for Ukraine and NATO, abortion rights, taxes, basic democratic principles and tariffs that could trigger trade wars. On tariffs, Trump on Tuesday explicitly mentioned the European Union. "They're brutal," he said in Pennsylvania. "They sell millions and millions of cars in the United States. No, no, no, they are going to have to pay a big price."



The Pentagon confirmed on Tuesday that some North Korean soldiers are in the Kursk region, a Russian border area where Ukrainian forces staged a major incursion in August and hold hundreds of square kilometres of territory. A couple of thousand more are heading there, it said.

Russia's effort to fill the ranks without a second mobilization," it added, noting the presence could grow. The troops are also likely to play a political role for Russia and North Korea, strengthening their hands in relations with China, which has an uneasy partnership with both countries, and sending a message to Washington and its allies, Western diplomats and analysts said.

"The closer Moscow's ties to Pyongyang, the more leverage it expects over U.S. allies as well as China," Gilbert Rozman, of The Asan Forum, wrote for the U.S.-based 38 North programme. Moscow needed a partner hostile to the status quo, wary of China but unwilling to antagonize it, and helpful in meeting arms or perhaps labor needs, he said. A few thousand North Korean troops will not change the course of the war so it may be a Russian attempt to underscore to the United States just how disruptive Moscow can be if it wants, said one diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Integrating North Korean troops into a very complex war machine is not easy. But using their presence to scare the United States and its allies in Asia is quite simple," the diplomat said.

TROOPS TRAINING The Ukraine conflict broke out when Russia invaded its neighbor in February 2022 and has since developed into a war of attrition largely fought along front lines in eastern Ukraine, with huge numbers of casualties on both sides. The Pentagon estimated 10,000 North Korean troops had been deployed to eastern Russia for training, up from an estimate of 3,000 troops last Wednesday. The military in Russia was trying to teach military terminology to the North Korean soldiers, South Korean lawmakers briefed by the country's spy agency said on Tuesday. Moscow was also continuing to provide technical support for North Korea's attempts to field a fleet of spy satellites, the lawmakers said. For months, North Korea has been providing Russia with short-range ballistic missiles, artillery shells, and other weapons, according to intelligence officials in the United States, South Korea, and Ukraine.

Govt considering foreign investment regulatory mechanism for FDI supervision



The 'Make in India' initiative was launched on September 25, 2014, to facilitate investment, foster innovation, build world-class infrastructure, and make the country a hub for manufacturing, design, and innovation. Over the last 10 financial years, FDI inflow has increased by 119 per cent, reaching USD 667 billion compared to USD 304 billion in the previous 10 years (2005-14), with over 90 per cent of total FDI received through the automatic route. Foreign direct investment in India jumped 47.8 per cent to USD 16.17 billion in April-June this fiscal on healthy inflows in services, computer, telecom and pharma sectors, according to government data. The government is also developing industrial townships to boost domestic manufacturing and attract foreign investors by providing world-class infrastructure. India receives maximum investments from countries like Mauritius, Singapore, the US, the Netherlands, the UAE, the Cayman Islands, Cyprus, Japan, the UK, and Germany. Sectors, which attract healthy overseas inflows, include services, computer software and hardware, telecommunication, pharma and chemicals.

On a question of whether India needs a dedicated law to deal with national security risks from FDI, Saurav Kumar, Partner, IndusLaw, said that a dedicated law to deal with national security risks in foreign investment may strengthen India's position with respect to international law by providing a clearly defined legal basis for rejecting investments on national security grounds. "This would not only reduce the risk of international challenges but also showcase that India's actions are transparent, predictable, and aligned with global best practices," Kumar said. Rudra Kumar Pandey, Partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co said it is important that a specific domestic law is introduced which provides clear guidelines on parameters for processing the foreign investment application, aspects relating to a national security risk, the threshold for determining beneficial owner, the appointment of a nodal officer to interact with the applicant, providing of regular update, specific grounds of rejection and other relevant provisions to bring out the transparency in the approval procedure. "The objective for having specific domestic law should be to bring certainty in the processing of the foreign investment application and give the investor confidence to come forward

The government is considering setting up a foreign investment regulatory mechanism for post-investment review and monitoring in the country, according to sources. At present, the consideration is at the discussion level only, they added.

"It has been observed that all countries do oversight on the FDI (foreign direct investment), which is coming into their country. People suggest that in India also, there should be an oversight mechanism. It's a kind of oversight on money, which is coming up in the country as FDI," one of the sources said. It can help ascertain that the FDI coming into the country is beneficial to the economy and originates from legitimate sources. India is a major destination for foreign direct investments given its 1.4 billion market, stable policies, demographic dividend, good investment returns and skilled workforce. The government has taken a series of measures to attract overseas investments like promoting ease of doing business through simplifying procedures and significantly reducing compliance burden for the industry. The government has also eased FDI norms in several sectors, such as space, e-commerce, pharma, civil aviation, contract manufacturing, digital media, coal mining, and defence, besides rolling out the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for 14 sectors like electronics and white goods. The official added that the measures to improve ease of doing business, zero tolerance for corruption and the focused effort on emerging sectors like electronics have helped promote 'Make In India' and boost domestic and foreign investments in the country.

Gold prices at all-time high: Rate cuts, geopolitical conflicts drive demand

International and domestic gold prices are at record high levels. This fresh surge in the price of the yellow metal has been driven mainly by the 50 basis points (bps) cut in interest rates announced by the US Federal Reserve recently and expectations of more cuts by the American central bank. Besides, geo-political tensions arising from the Israel and Hezbollah conflict and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war have also increased the demand for gold. One factor which has been supporting gold prices for the past many months is the continued buying by central banks across the globe. With gold prices expected to rise further, analysts suggest investors should now look at increasing their fund allocation to the yellow metal as part of their asset diversification strategy.

The recent rally in the international market, gold price touched a record high of \$2,685.42 per ounce on September 26. Domestically, MCX spot gold prices in Mumbai jumped to a new peak of Rs 75,750 per 10 grams on September 26. MCX Gold Futures contract for October touched a lifetime high of Rs 76,000 per 10 grams on September 25. In the current year, gold prices have jumped around 30 per cent internationally. Driving the surge, the recent rally in gold prices was seen after the US Federal Reserve lowered the interest rate by 50 basis points (bps) to the 4.75-5 per cent target range. A basis point is one-hundredth of one percentage point. This interest rate cut — the first since early 2020 — resulted in weakness in the dollar and led to higher demand for the yellow metal. "Gold and the dollar are inversely related. When the dollar weakens, people buy more gold," said Hareesh V, Head of Commodities, Geojit Financial Services.

"When growth slows down, and the US Fed cuts interest rates, investors globally want to move to safer havens like gold. We believe this trend may not change," said Himani Shah, Co-Fund manager, Alchemy Capital Management. Apart from the US Fed action, the uncertainty due to ongoing tensions between Russia and Ukraine and the Israel-Hezbollah conflict has made investors rush towards safer commodities, including gold. Analysts said that central banks have been purchasing gold for past many months so that they can reduce the share of the US dollar in their over foreign exchange



reserves. This change in strategy was adopted by central banks post the sanction imposed by the US on Russia in 2022 over the war in Ukraine. "Accumulation of gold by central banks as part of de-dollarisation is one of the factors for higher gold prices. Central banks are trying to diversify their accounts," said Anindya Banerjee, Senior Vice President and Head of Commodity, Currency and Interest Rate, Kotak Securities. De-dollarisation refers to reducing reliance on the US dollar or reduction in the usage of the US currency in global trade and financial transactions. Guidance on gold prices Analysts said as the US Federal Reserve expected to go for more cuts in interest rates, gold prices are likely to further rise. The US Fed is expected to cut interest rate by 25 bps each in November and December this year. "We could see gold reaching much higher levels to — \$4,000 per ounce (or Rs 1,10,000 per 10 gram) from the present level of around \$2,600 an ounce (or Rs 75,000 per 10 gram) in the next 4 years," said Kotak Securities's Banerjee. Investor outlook Investment in gold provides safety against inflation and any economic uncertainty. It can help investors in wealth creation. Since gold prices are expected to further rise, market experts suggest investors to consider investing in the yellow metal as part of the diversification strategy. Investors can invest in gold in different forms — physical (bars, coins and jewellery), stocks of companies dealing in gold jewellery, gold exchange-traded funds (ETF) and in gold futures. However, analysts suggest gold should constitute 10-15 per cent of the overall investment portfolio.

Close call over Arabian Sea: Qatar Airways, EL AL planes come within 1 minute of each other

India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) is investigating a serious incident of "airprox" or aircraft proximity — flights coming closer than the mandated minimum separation while airborne — in which two wide-body aircraft belonging to Qatar Airways and Israel's EL AL were involved. The incident occurred on March 24 at 35,000 feet over the Arabian Sea and the two aircraft came as close as 9.1 nautical miles, or around one minute of each other, even as the regulation separation for the area was 10 minutes.

The AAIB has released a preliminary report with details of the incident and the investigation process. The final investigation report is likely to be released within a couple of months, per sources in the know. Airprox is a situation in which the distance between aircraft as well as their relative positions and speed have been such that the safety of the aircraft involved may have been compromised. It is not clear yet whether the aircraft involved in this incident were on a collision course. Airprox incidents are classified into three categories — serious risk of collision, safety of the aircraft may have been compromised, and no risk of collision. Although both the aircraft were not headed to or from India, the AAIB is conducting the investigation as the area where the incident occurred falls under the Mumbai Flight Information Regions (FIR) where air traffic services are managed by the Mumbai air traffic control (ATC). While the probe is underway, two air traffic controllers on duty at the time of the incident were off-rostered as per the protocol in such cases and sent for corrective training, per sources. EL AL's Boeing 777-200

aircraft was operating a scheduled flight from Israel to Thailand's capital Bangkok, while the Qatar Airways Boeing 777-300ER aircraft was operating a flight from Doha to Male in the Maldives. "Both aircraft were on their designated flight route and were at the same flight level F350 (35,000 feet). ELY081 (EL AL flight) was following Airway L875 and QTR8E (Qatar Airways flight) was following Airway L894. The airway L875 and L894 intersect each other at a Waypoint 'GOLEM' in Mumbai FIR. The breach of standard separation took place between the aircraft, at waypoint 'GOLEM' in Mumbai FIR. NO TA/RA alert (alerts generated by Traffic Collision Avoidance System, or TCAS) was generated in aircraft," the AAIB noted in a preliminary report on the incident. According to experts, the TCAS alerts are sounded only when two aircraft come in close proximity and there is a threat of collision. The fact that the alerts were not generated in either aircraft cockpit could possibly mean that while the planes did come too close for comfort, there was no risk of collision, a source said, but added that details will only be clear once the final probe report is out.

The AAIB investigation team has visited the Oceanic Control Centre, South Subsector — which handles air traffic in Mumbai FIR — to assess the situation and to collect evidence. ATC tapes and recordings of the automation system have been examined, and initial statements of various officials have been recorded. "Based on the statements, initial phase of interviews of three involved ATCOs (air traffic control officers) have been conducted. One of the concerned trainee's statement was also recorded by the investigation team.

'That's a lot of diamonds': Trump lends name to \$100,000 watch



After already having put his name on steaks, digital trading cards and Bibles, former President Donald Trump is marketing a new product. This week, he released Trump Watches, a collection of luxury timepieces that bear his name and try to replicate his signature bling. "Almost 200 grams of gold and more than 100 real diamonds," Trump said in a video announcing the collection, which he linked to on his social media website, Truth Social. Trump was referring to the most expensive watch in the collection, the Trump Victory Tourbillon. The 18-karat gold model features a partly skeletonized dial and Trump's engraved signature. It has the word "Trump" on the dial where, say, "Rolex" might ordinarily appear. The price: \$100,000. "That's a lot of diamonds," Trump went on to say in the Truth Social video. "I love gold. I love diamonds. We all do."

Dressed in a blue suit and red tie and standing in front of four American flags in a wood-paneled room, Trump said, "The quality to me is very important." He then referred to the limited quantity — only 147 of the Victory Tourbillon will be produced — saying, "Owning one puts you in a very exclusive club." The Trump Watch collection, which also includes the Fight Fight Fight diver model (\$799 for the onyx gold tone variety; \$499 for the silver gold tone), was not designed or manufactured by Trump, per a disclaimer at the bottom of the Trump Watches website. Instead, a company called TheBestWatchesonEarth LLC licensed his name and pro-

duced the watches. Some in the watch world have cast doubt on the quality and retail price of the new timepieces, especially the Victory Tourbillon, which features a movement unfamiliar to many experts. "Probably cost around \$15,000 to \$16,000 to make," Ben Cook, the creator of Ben's Watches, said in an Instagram video, suggesting a markup of at least \$80,000. Referring to a Chinese online retailer, Cook added, "Why does it look like they are AliExpress watches that were designed in about five hours?" Still, Cook said, for around \$500, the price of the lower-tier diver watches "is actually not that bad."

Adam Golden, who runs the Instagram account Mentawatches, was less kind. He posted about the watches, saying, "If anyone buys one of these ... I have a bridge to sell you." Trump often wears shirts with long sleeves, making it hard to spot his watch, but he does have a bit of horological history. He has often appeared in public wearing an oversize square Vacheron Constantin Ultra-Fine 1968. He has also worn a Patek Philippe Ellipse and a yellow gold Rolex Day-Date — a classic rich-guy watch. Last month, Trump got the watch world talking when the popular streamer Adin Ross gifted him a \$50,000 everose gold Rolex Day-Date during a livestreamed interview. "They're a good company," Trump remarked, ticking off famous golfers who have worn Rolexes. "Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player and Arnold Palmer and all the golf guys and all the other guys." Trump Watches is not the first line of timepieces that Trump has marketed. In 2005, in partnership with Macy's, he released the Donald J. Trump Signature Watch Collection, which was marketed at far lower price points, topping out at \$250. Curiously, the new Trump Watches, which are available for preorder with delivery later this fall, are not being advertised as luxury timepieces but rather as "collectible items for individual enjoyment only," and each one includes a certificate signed by the president. In his post on Truth Social, Trump seemed to be looking beyond the election in November to the holiday shopping season. "Would make a great Christmas Gift," he wrote. Nevertheless, watch No. 1 is off-limits, even to Trump's most ardent fans. "It's mine," he said, "and that's the way I want to have it."

Is your pet acting weird? This might be the reason why



Has your pet been acting strange lately? Just like us human beings, our pets too can experience nervous system dysregulation! Since our furry friends cannot verbalise their discomfort, it becomes even more important that we watch out for important signs and take necessary steps to soothe them. Indianexpress.com spoke to experts to find out how to do that. J.S. Rama Krishna, Business Head, Growel Pet Nutrition shared that when a dog or cat's nervous system is dysregulated, it can show up in various ways. According to her, pet parents should watch for these signs:

Excessive Shaking or Trembling: Dogs or cats that tremble continuously without an obvious cause might be experiencing anxiety or neurological distress. **Hyperactivity or Lethargy:** Pets may show signs of extreme hyperactivity, such as pacing or running in circles, or exhibit lethargy and unresponsiveness. **Aggression or Sudden Mood Changes:** Unexplained aggression or sudden calmness can indicate underlying nervous system issues.

Loss of Coordination (Ataxia): Disorientation, stumbling, and difficulty balancing can be signs of ataxia, pointing to nervous system problems. **Excessive Vocalization:** Increased barking, whining, or meowing can signal anxiety or discomfort. **Compulsive Behaviors:** Repetitive actions like licking, scratching, or tail-chasing may suggest stress or neurological issues. **Changes in Eating, Drinking, and Sleep Patterns:** Irregularities in eating or sleeping habits can indicate stress or anxiety.

Involuntary Movements: Muscle spasms or twitching may be signs of neurological issues. Sudden, uncontrolled movements or seizures are serious and require immediate veterinary attention. pet Rashi Narang, Founder and Creative Director at Heads Up For Tails shared that this distress can be caused by various factors, including chronic inflammation, genetic traits, environmental toxins, or past traumas. In these challenging times, it's important to visit a vet as soon as possible. Some common causes "Changes in environment, separation anxiety, or loud noises (e.g., fireworks) can cause chronic stress affecting the nervous system. Neurological disorders like epilepsy, brain tumors, or encephalitis can lead to nervous system dysregulation," said Krishna. Diseases such as distemper in dogs or toxoplasmosis in cats can impact the central nervous system. She also added that an exposure to toxic substances, like certain plants or chemicals, can severely affect a pet's nervous system. Physical injuries to the brain or spine can result in neurological symptoms. Some breeds are predisposed to neurological issues, and aging can lead to cognitive

decline. Rashi Narang, Founder and Creative Director at Heads Up For Tails shared that this distress can be caused by various factors, including chronic inflammation, genetic traits, environmental toxins, or past traumas. In these challenging times, it's important to visit a vet as soon as possible.

How can you effectively calm down your pet?

Krishna suggested creating a calm environment by minimising noise and providing a safe, quiet space for the pet to retreat to. Maintain a routine since consistent feeding, walking, and sleeping schedules help provide a sense of security. You can also use calming aids such as pheromone diffusers, calming collars, or specially formulated treats can help. Consult a vet before using these products. Krishna also emphasised on ensuring proper nutrition. A balanced diet rich in Omega-3 fatty acids, choline, taurine and antioxidants supports their nerve health. Regular exercise and enrichment activities can reduce anxiety. Also, following regular vaccinations and de-worming can help prevent infectious diseases.

Apple continues to drive India's mobile manufacturing growth story

New Delhi: As India continues to break all previous records on local mobile manufacturing, tech giant Apple is on course to surpass the FY24 figures of exports from India, reaching over Rs 50,000 crore (more than \$6 billion) in the first six months this fiscal (FY25), according to latest industry data. The iPhone exports from India surged to cross \$10 billion in 2023-24 from \$6.27 billion in 2022-23. Overall, the iPhone maker's India operations reached \$23.5 billion in value in the last fiscal (FY24). Apple assembled \$14 billion of iPhones in India in last fiscal, exported more than \$10 billion worth of devices. This growth is set to explode in coming years as India's semiconductor market is set to cross \$100 billion in revenues by 2030, driven by government initiatives like production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme amid robust demand to build digital infrastructure across industries. Mobile handset, IT and telecom segments are leading the semiconductor industry, contributing more than 75 per cent of its revenues, according to a latest report by the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) and Counterpoint Research.

Adnan Sami slams Andrew Tate for making racist comment against Diljit Dosanjh: 'It smells of love'



Singer Adnan Sami has come to the defense of Diljit Dosanjh after controversial internet personality Andrew Tate made a racist comment about the Punjabi singer-actor. Tate's remark sparked outrage online, with many condemning it. Andrew Tate's racist comment came after Diljit Dosanjh's recent concert in New Delhi, where he gifted his jacket to a fan. Tate tweeted, "Bet it stinks of curry." Adnan Sami responded strongly on Instagram, and wrote in his caption: "Wrong... It smelled of 'love'"

and the best part was that none of the audience members were 'rapists' or 'child traffickers' like what you're accused of and arrested for, which surely smells of s***!! So STFU!" Instagram users praised Adnan for standing up against Tate's racism. Comments poured in, supporting Adnan's stance. One person wrote, "Sir ji bewakoof kya jaane pyaar ki mehak ?? (Sir, a fool won't know the scent of love)," another wrote, "Thanks Adnan for standing up." Yet another person wrote, "Arrey iske peeche apna khoon garam Mt kijiye (please don't boil your blood because of him)." Diljit Dosanjh has not publicly addressed Tate's comment, but his fans have condemned the racist remark. Andrew Tate, who is an American and British social media personality, businessman, and former professional kickboxer, faces serious allegations, including human trafficking, sexual exploitation, and money laundering. He was placed under house arrest in August and has a pending trial in a separate case. As a self-described misogynist, Andrew Tate has gained millions of followers by promoting an ultra-masculine lifestyle, which critics argue denigrates women.

Tracing the seven stages of love through the Tamil films of Indian cinema icon



From time immemorial, the best of the writers have winged their imaginations and dried their inks to wax eloquently about beauty. So, it is no wonder that Indian filmmakers, the modern day engineers of creativity, have a penchant for casting winners of beauty pageants in their films. However, more often than not, despite 'conventional' beauty being the biggest requisite for being an actor in Indian cinema, the careers of many such actors have been short-lived. They were definitely the flavor du jour, but the du jour wasn't always longer than a few good years. And then... there was Aishwarya Rai. Of course, she wasn't the first one to make the transition from the ramp to the arlight. But she created a lasting legacy for models-turned-actors across various languages in India, and became the face of the country in various global avenues. While Aishwarya Rai was identified as a Hindi cinema star, and was seen as a primarily Bollywood heroine, there can be no doubt that it was Tamil cinema that showcased her acting prowess. It was in Tamil that she made her acting debut in 1997, and starred in one of her most seminal roles in 2023. In these 27 years, Aishwarya has only starred in seven Tamil films, worked with just three Tamil filmmakers — Mani Ratnam (4), Shankar (2), and Rajiv Menon (1), and performed to the tunes of just one composer, AR Rahman.

Each of her films in the southern sojourn were handcrafted to perfection to showcase that Aishwarya Rai wasn't just a beautiful face, but a wonderful performer too. And it is impressive how, in each of those seven films, despite the genres varying from historical, political drama, sci-fi comedy, epic action-adventure, literary romance, and sci-fi action, the core of her roles lay in the power of love. Through her seven films, Aishwarya Rai's characters lived an entire life. Each of them go through the entire gamut of stages, including attraction, attachment, romance, trust, worship, madness, and death. The more you think of it, the more astounding it gets. So, let's look at how Aishwarya Rai, through her Tamil films, has been the epitome of all things love.

Do you believe in reincarnation? Do you believe in a love that will transcend ages? Do you believe in destiny? Well, even if Iruvar's Anandan (Mohanlal) didn't believe it wholeheartedly, the thought would have crossed him multiple times whenever he set his eyes on Kalpana (Aishwarya Rai). It is beautiful how director Mani Ratnam made Anandan see Kalpana for the first time on a big screen. It is also the first time we see the defining image of Aishwarya Rai on the big screen. Of course, we see her as the demure Pushpavalli earlier in the film, but it is not the flamboyance we associate with the Miss World. Pushpavalli was beautiful. Kalpana was bold and beautiful. And just like how a flustered Anandan is agitated, uncomfortable, but just can't take his eyes off the screen, we were clued into the talent of Aishwarya Rai. Anandan was attracted to her. We were attracted to her. And thus, the first step of love was complete. We were hooked in, line and sinker. But if you think Kalpana was just about attraction, you would be terribly wrong.

Watch Iruvar to know why Aishwarya Rai had one of the most explosive debuts in Tamil cinema, and how she reveled in expressing the complexities of love, right from her first film.

It is very rare to see the heroine have an important role in a comic caper. Of course, she is, many a time, part of the laugh riot, but never quite in on the joke. But in Shankar's Jeans, it is the women who are responsible for setting the stage for the humour. And by women, I mean Lakshmi playing Krishnaveni paati, and Aishwarya Rai playing the twin roles of Madhumitha and Vaishnavi. Acing comedy is always tough, and it gets tougher when the language isn't natural to you. But, Madhumitha, who is completely attached to Vishwanathan, has to conjure up a Vaishnavi for a completely smitten Ramamoorthy. Vishwanathan was attached to Madhumitha. Ramamoorthy was attracted to Vaishnavi. And we knew Aishwarya Rai's attraction and attachment to cinema wasn't just a flash in the pan. And thus, the second step of love was complete.

Jeans to know how Aishwarya Rai, in a complex double action role, treaded on thin ice. The smallest of slips would have pushed her roles into the realm of taboo topics, but credit to the writing and performances that we are laughing at the incredulity, and never thinking about the nefariousness. Isn't that the essence of a comedy of errors? The most important part of any romance is the time when the lovers start believing every dream is pos-

sible. In Rajiv Menon's adaptation of Pride and Prejudice, Aishwarya Rai played Meenakshi, a dreamer, who wants a knight in shining armour to come rescue her from a Scottish castle and hold her in his arms while saying a Bharatiya couplet.

Her love makes her believe the world is hers for the taking, even when her world comes crashing down due to a familial dispute. But the dream doesn't die. Even when everything around her changes, her belief in love allows her to hold onto the dream. She is even blind to someone else's outpouring of unadulterated love because her dream is all-encompassing. Till one fine day, destiny gives her a reality check. Then, her world crumbles. Then, the foundation of her life disintegrates. Then, she is aware of the realities of her world. Then, she realises love is not just in expecting and receiving, but also in giving and understanding. And thus, the third step of love was complete. Kandukondain Kandukondain to know how Aishwarya Rai, in a very layered role makes us fall in love with her at every instance despite the possibilities of misunderstanding the character at every instance. Is she a good person? Yes. Did she only do good things? Probably not. But shouldn't only good things happen to someone we love. Definitely.

So, a scientist creates an android robot. He takes it home, and his mother names the robot after her second son, who passed away as a child. This scientist is already in love with a medical student. Now, when the scientist introduces this robot to the love of her life, isn't it fair to believe that she would trust the robot to be just... a robot? Isn't this trust the basis for all the shenanigans she does with this robot? That is why when Sana kisses Chitti on the cheek, it comes out of the trust in the robot's talents. She never knew what placing a trust could do in the neural schema of a robot. She couldn't predict what this trust could do, especially when the neural network of Chitti was corrupted using an 'evil red chip.' Vaseegaran is distraught about his creation working too well, and a lot more effectively than he expected. But for Sana, it was seeing the fruits of her trust being poisonous. She saw him as a friend and a guide for life, not someone who would kidnap her from her own wedding, hold her hostage, and threaten to kill the love of her life if she doesn't accede to his demands. That is why when the final act happens, you see her look at Chitti with a sort of trusted reverence and it is why his apology to her feels more true than anything the robot ever did in the film. And thus, the fourth step of love was complete. Enthiran to know how Aishwarya Rai returned to Tamil cinema after almost a decade to wow the audience playing a role that required her to be attracted, attached and in love with a scientist, and trusting his creation, only to face her worst nightmares, and yet, come out of all of the chaos with an understanding smile that melts the heart of the metallic android robot.

It is interesting how different Aishwarya Rai played the hostage in two films that had her at the control of someone who felt wronged by the actions of her partner. In Mani Ratnam's Raavanan, the film begins with the kidnapping of Aishwarya Rai's Ragini. She is the trump card of Vikram's Veera, who is at loggerheads with the cops, lead by Prithviraj's Dev. In this Ramayana redux, Aishwarya Rai plays a version of Sita, who is taken into the forest by the leader of a clan, who shows her the atrocities committed by the powerful in the name of maintaining law and order. Of course, Ragini isn't going down without a fight, and gives her kidnapper sleepless nights with her feistiness, and unadulterated responses to his antics. She believes in the triumph of good over evil, and waits for her husband to come and save her from the clutches of the bad people. But Veera worships her. There is almost a reverential look whenever he sees Ragini. Why? Because he loves the woman.

But he knows she is someone else's wife, and it leads to some of the most intricately written scenes and lines in a Mani Ratnam film. While there is no reverence from the part of Ragini, she understands the methods of their lives, and how the tools of the oppressed cannot be the same as the tools of the oppressors. Probably why, when Dev tricks Ragini to find out the hiding place of Veera, and shoots him dead as he falls into the valley of no return with AR Rahman's haunting score gently caressing his head in his final descent, Ragini bursts into tears. This wasn't because of an attachment, or attraction, or even love as we know it. This emotion was the result of feeling a sense of reverence to a man who was only trying to save his people. And thus, the fifth step of love was complete. Raavanan to see how Aishwarya Rai plays a mythical figure set in a contemporary world. She is an outsider in a world that accepts her, but knows she can never be one of them. This dissonance is wonderfully accentuated by her performance, especially as the daggers thrown from her eyes get blunt as the film progresses. Rage is a raw emotion that brings to life our inner demons. Just like love, rage consumes us from within, and yet, we go down that path because catharsis of a broken heart can happen in a myriad of ways. In Mani Ratnam's Ponniyin Selvan, Aishwarya Rai plays Nandhini, who exists for just one reason — Revenge against Aditya Karikalan (Vikram). This rage slowly descends into madness, and it pushes her to do things that she wouldn't have done if certain wheels weren't set in motion. She gaslights. She manipulates. She orchestrates murders. She plans mutinies. She tries to break the biggest kingdoms of them all.

Dulquer Salmaan bounces back after King of Kotha debacle; period crime thriller stands firm against major releases



Lucky Baskhar box office collection day 1: Despite releasing alongside big films like Bhooh Bhulaiyaa 3, Singham Again and Amaran, the Dulquer Salmaan-starrer has already carved out its own space, earning over Rs 7 crore. Lucky Baskhar box office collection day 1: On its release day, the Dulquer Salmaan-starrer earned close to what his King of Kotha, the most ambitious film of his career, made. Lucky Baskhar box office collection day 1: After the setback of King of Kotha and a 14-month hiatus, actor Dulquer Salmaan has made a grand comeback with director Venky Atluri's period crime thriller Lucky Baskhar, which opened to rave reviews on Thursday. Despite releasing alongside monumental films like Bhooh

Bhulaiyaa 3, Singham Again and Amaran, Lucky Baskhar has already carved out its own space, leveraging the Diwali holiday audience.

On its release day, the Dulquer Salmaan-starrer recorded an India nett collection of Rs 6.6 crore, according to early estimates from industry tracker Sacnilk. With an additional Rs 90 lakh earned on Wednesday from pre-view shows, Lucky Baskhar's domestic collection has reached Rs 7.5 crore. It may be recalled that King of Kotha, the most ambitious film of his career, had registered an India nett collection of Rs 8.05 crore on its first day when it hit screens in August last year. Of Lucky Baskhar's total day-one earnings, Rs 4.4 crore came from the Telugu version, while the Malayalam, Tamil and Kannada versions brought in Rs 1.8 crore, Rs 40 lakh and Rs 10 lakh, respectively. Lucky Baskhar achieved an overall occupancy rate of 38.43 per cent in the Telugu market. Morning shows started with 29.52 per cent occupancy, which increased to 48.24 per cent in the afternoon. Though occupancy dipped to 32.83 per cent during the evening showings, it rose again at night, reaching 43.13 per cent. The film recorded an occupancy rate of 54.95 per cent in the Tamil market, 45.87 per cent in the Malayalam market and 20.17 per cent in Kannada. According to the local industry tracker What The Fuss, the movie collected a net of Rs 1.54 crore in Kerala, with 94,375 admissions for 764 shows and an occupancy rate of 44.75 per cent. In his review of the movie, SCREEN's Avinash Ramachandran wrote, "Venky Atluri spins a fascinating tale involving banking, and scams, and Dulquer Salmaan ensures everything sails smoothly despite hitting a few road bumps."

Vettaiyan gets OTT release date: Here's when and where you can watch the Rajinikanth-Amitabh Bachchan film

Amazon Prime Video has officially announced the OTT premiere of the film Vettaiyan. The Tamil action drama will be made available on the platform from November 8. Directed by TJ Gnanavel, the film stars veteran actors Rajinikanth and Amitabh Bachchan, along with an ensemble cast featuring Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Dushara Vijayan, Manju Warrier, Ritika Singh, and Abhirami in vital roles. Following its theatrical release on October 10, Vettaiyan will be available to stream on Prime Video in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi, in India and over 240 countries and territories globally.

Vettaiyan follows SP Athiyan (Rajinikanth), a no-nonsense police officer who is forced to re-examine his approach to dispensing justice when his decision-making leads to the loss of an innocent life. The Indian Express review of the movie read, "What really works for Vettaiyan is the central conceit of the film, and the commentary on India's education system. Vettaiyan goes into some interesting places, and ruffles a few feathers. The intent is on point, and the execution too isn't faulty either. Probably why the detours to elevate the superstar at the centre of it all dilute the proceedings. Also, the film is predictable to a fault, and it takes away from the kind of tension associated with such procedurals. It also doesn't help Vettaiyan's case, considering one of the biggest names of the cast isn't introduced till almost three-fourths



of the film." With a worldwide gross of around Rs 250 crore, Vettaiyan was seen as a box office under-performer. The film will land on Prime Video on the same day that Kareena Kapoor's The Buckingham Murders debuts on Netflix.

Tom Hanks hails Aamir Khan's Laal Singh Chaddha, calls it a 'glorious thing to behold', says it needs to be 'celebrated'



Veteran Hollywood star Tom Hanks recently shared his thoughts on the Bollywood remake of his iconic 1994 film Forrest Gump, titled Laal Singh Chaddha and starring Aamir Khan. Hanks called the film, also starring Kareena Kapoor Khan, a "glorious thing to behold," and emphasised its impact. "I saw that. Extraordinary," Hanks exclaimed, praising the Indian adaptation. "I think it's a testament to how film grows on film. I think all of us have seen movies that have been incorporated into the rest of our creative process, sometimes bleakly, but sometimes

very specifically," Hanks told Zoom. Hanks reflected on the global appeal of films like Forrest Gump, highlighting their ability to transcend cultural boundaries. "Every now and again, there is a film that enters the worldwide consciousness that you cannot forget, that you cannot escape."

He noted the fascinating similarities and differences between the original and its remake. "Look at the difference and yet look at the similarities despite the filmmakers and the cultures that they were in. In many ways, those films were saying the same thing but with the added prospect of the new perspective that came along with it." Hanks concluded by celebrating the beauty of cinematic adaptations. "I just, I think it's to be celebrated. It was a glorious thing to behold." Aamir Khan's Laal Singh Chaddha offers a unique perspective on the classic tale, blending Indian culture and sensibilities with the timeless themes of Forrest Gump. However, despite Hanks' praise, Laal Singh Chaddha faced a different reality in India. The film underperformed at the box office, receiving mixed reviews from critics and audiences alike. Many felt that the adaptation failed to resonate with Indian audiences, with some criticising the film's pacing, dialogue, and Aamir's central performance. Aamir Khan, known for his perfectionism, took full responsibility for the film's failure. He recently said that the failure of Laal Singh Chaddha was due to his performance and other shortcomings. He said his performance in the film was "weak and that he pitched it too high".

Early reviews say Salman Khan steals the show in Rohit Shetty's star-studded action film

Singham Again blog mSingham Again Movie Review Live Updates: Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, Akshay Kumar-starrer is out in theatres. Singham Again Movie Review, Rating and Release Live Updates: Rohit Shetty's Singham Again, starring Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, Akshay Kumar, Arjun Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, and Jackie Shroff, among others, was released in theatres today. The fifth film in the director's Cop Universe has been hyped like an Avengers-style experience that unites characters from Shetty's Singham, Simmba and Sooryavanshi films. The trailer for Singham Again appeared to present a Ramayan-inspired story in which Kareena's character is kidnapped by the antagonist Danger Lanka, played by Arjun. It is now up to Ajay's Singham and his army to bring her back to safety.

Shetty started the franchise with Singham in 2011, and released the sequel Singham Returns in 2014. The idea of turning the franchise into a shared universe was first introduced with 2018's Simmba, in which Ajay's

Singham makes a cameo in the climax. In 2021's Sooryavanshi, the universe was fully established as both Singham and Simmba made an appearance in the film. While Singham Again is named after Ajay's character, the film has been promoted as a multi-starrer with all the leads coming together to save the day. To make matters more interesting, Salman Khan's character from Dabangg, Chulbul Pandey, will also make a cameo appearance in Singham Again. Singham Again is clashing against Kartik Aaryan-starrer Bhooh Bhulaiyaa 3, which has been directed by Anees Bazmee. The third part of the Bhooh Bhulaiyaa franchise also stars Vidya Balan, Madhuri Dixit, Tripti Dimri, Rajpal Yadav, and Sanjay Mishra, among others. It is yet to be seen which film comes out on top, in the wake of a behind-the-scenes battle for more screens. Both films are targeted towards the same audience, and will be in direct competition against each other. During an appearance on Bigg Boss with Salman Khan, Ajay Devgn revealed he lost his eyesight for a couple of months after an accident on Singham Again set.

Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Hardik Pandya and Suryakumar Yadav have fans in Pakistan: Wasim Akram



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

"I think, based on what I'm reading, there are positive vibes from the Indian government and BCCI," Akram told reporters during an online press conference from Melbourne. "They will likely come to Lahore and travel back the same night. I'm all for it, as long as India is comfortable." "And I can promise you, they are going to be looked after amazingly well." Akram also highlighted the immense fan following Indian cricketers have in Pakistan. "Indian cricketers like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, Hardik Pandya, and Suryakumar Yadav have fans in Pakistan. Young cricket fans adore them," he said. Recently, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman

Mohsin Naqvi confirmed that all eight teams, including India, will travel to Pakistan for the Champions Trophy. "Do not worry, all teams will come to Pakistan to play the Champions Trophy," Naqvi stated in Karachi.

Akram on Rizwan Wasim Akram has backed Pakistan's newly-appointed ODI captain Mohammad Rizwan to excel in his role. "Rizwan is an experienced player. He has captained teams throughout his career, leading Multan Sultans in the PSL to one trophy and two finals," Akram said. When it comes to leadership, he's a seasoned campaigner. "Pakistan's newly named captain for white-ball, Mohammad Rizwan, smiles during a press conference regarding next month's white-ball series against Australia, in Lahore, Pakistan, Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024. (AP Photo) Pakistan's newly named captain, Mohammad Rizwan, smiles during a press conference regarding next month's white-ball series against Australia, in Lahore, on Sunday, Oct. 27, 2024. (AP Photo) "This is his first tour as captain, and it's a challenging one. It's tough to beat Australia in Australia, especially in ODI cricket," he added. "In T20I cricket, there's a chance, maybe, but Australia in ODI cricket is a tough team to beat." Akram said that even winning one game in Australia would be a significant achievement. "They should just focus on cricket and try to do well against Australia. Winning even one ODI out of three in Australia would be a big accomplishment," he said.

After RCB retain Virat Kohli, star says goal is to 'win title at least once in next 3 years'



GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Ahmedabad: RCB player Virat Kohli react after the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 T20 cricket match against Rajasthan Royals, at the Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad, Wednesday, May 22, 2024. Rajasthan Royals won the match by 4 wickets. File image of Royal Challengers Bengaluru player Virat Kohli during an the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match. IPL Retention: Virat Kohli sent out an emotional message for Royal Challengers Bengaluru fans after the RCB franchise chose to retain him for the next three-year cycle, thus making him the most expensive Indian retention at Rs 21 crore. Kohli posted a message for RCB fans via the team's social media handle where he marveled at the fact that the retention meant that he would spend 20 years at the franchise.

"Everyone knows what RCB means to me. It's been a very, very special relationship over so many years, which

continues to grow stronger. And what I've experienced playing for RCB is truly, truly special. I hope the fans and everyone who's connected to the franchise feels the same way. At the end of the cycle, it's going to be 20 years that I'm going to be playing for RCB. And that in itself is a very, very special feeling for me. I never thought that I'm going to play for so many years for one team. But the relationship has truly become special over so many years. And as I said before, I don't see myself anywhere else but RCB," Kohli said. Kohli also spelled out the targets for the franchise in the upcoming three years, starting with RCB winning the IPL title "at least once". "Just looking ahead in this cycle over the next three years. Obviously, the goal is to win the IPL title at least once in the next cycle. And yeah, we're going to give it our best shot as always and try to make everyone proud of the way we play our cricket," said Kohli. Besides Kohli, RCB also retained Rajat Patidar (Rs 11 crore), and Yash Dayal (Rs 5 crore).

Who will be RCB captain?

With the franchise releasing their skipper from last season, Faf du Plessis, there is speculation on who will captain the team. "We understand the curiosity surrounding the RCB captaincy and want to assure our fans that we are exploring all options. Our retention strategy not only lays a solid foundation for our upcoming lineup but also offers us the flexibility to make strategic decisions during the auctions. We are committed to building a team that reflects our ambitions and excites our fans," said Prathmesh Mishra, Chairman of the Bengaluru franchise. The team's management also revealed that RCB wanted to retain Cameron Green, but he has been ruled out of the whole season due to injury.

Rachin Ravindra reveals his family in Bengaluru still supports India

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Rachin Ravindra Bengaluru: New Zealand's batter Rachin Ravindra celebrates his century during the third day of the first Test cricket match between India and New Zealand, at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, Karnataka, New Zealand batter Rachin Ravindra shared how his family in Bengaluru is proud of him but still supports India. The 24-year-old also reflected on what it meant to score a Test hundred in Bengaluru with his family present.

"It was pretty crazy. I was actually talking to my mum this morning about it. Although my immediate family lives in New Zealand, she was saying how a lot of our family back in India is caught between, asking themselves, 'Is it Rachin? Is it India? Who do we support?'" Rachin said on BBC Stumped. "But I guess that's cool. It's nice to have their unconditional support, and it shows the pride of Indian people, right? No matter how they're related to you, they're still supporting India, which I think is quite cool." "That's why it's always great to play Test cricket in India. The fanfare and passion here are next level, and any opportunity to play here is fantastic."

Rachin Ravindra India bowlers IND vs NZ New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra plays a shot during the fifth day of the first Test cricket match between India and New Zealand at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, in Bengaluru, Ravindra scored a match-winning 134 in Bengaluru, and



he explained how much that hundred meant to him. During last year's ODI World Cup in India, he smashed a 94-ball 108 against Pakistan at the same venue. He was later picked up by the Chennai Super Kings for the IPL season, where he scored a brisk half-century against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the same ground in May. "I guess the icing on the cake was having a lot of family there (in Bengaluru). I don't get to see them that often these days, but I'm sure they're very proud and love cheering me on from behind their TV screens. So, when they do get to watch me play the odd game in Bengaluru, it's pretty special. All of these things together made for a memorable few days," he said.

Mukesh Kumar snares 6 for 46 against Australia A

India A vs Australia A, Mukesh Kumar, Ishan Kishan Mukesh Kumar celebrates the wicket of Australia A's Sam Konstas. India A seamer Mukesh Kumar ran through Australia A's batting order, picking up 6 for 46 to restrict the hosts to 195 runs in their first innings. Despite his efforts, Australia A secured a crucial first-innings lead of 88 runs.

In response to India A's first-innings score of 107, the home side ended Day 1 on 4/99 at stumps. The first wicket to fall was 19-year-old Sam Konstas, who was dismissed for a duck in the opening over, caught behind off Mukesh Kumar on the third ball of the innings. With one Test hopeful back in the hut, another, Cameron Bancroft, followed suit without scoring, caught down the leg side off the same bowler. Marcus Harris fought hard for his 17 but was caught in the slips off the bowling of Prasidh Krishna. Mukesh Kumar then removed Beau Webster (37), keeping Australia A under pressure. On Day 2, the overnight batters, captain Nathan McSweeney (39) and Cooper Connolly (37), resumed positively, putting on 51 runs for the fifth wicket, the first fifty-run stand of the match. Mukesh struck again, breaking the partnership by removing Connolly. Josh Philippe became Mukesh's fourth victim. All-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy dismissed



captain McSweeney, leaving Australia A reeling at 136 for 7.

A 41-run stand for the ninth wicket between Todd Murphy (33) and Fergus O'Neill (13) frustrated the Indians until Prasidh Krishna dismissed O'Neill, picking up his third wicket. Mukesh completed his five-wicket haul by cleaning up Brendan Doggett, later adding another by dismissing Murphy. In India A's second innings, captain Rituraj Gaikwad (5) fell cheaply, leaving India A still trailing by 76 runs.

Garry Kasparov's hot take on Gukesh vs Ding Liren: 'Don't see it as World Championship match'



Garry Kasparov (left) greets Gukesh (right) before the teenager's match against Magnus Carlsen earlier this year at the Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland tournament. (Photo Courtesy Lennart Ootes) Garry Kasparov (left) greets Gukesh (right) before the teenager's match against Magnus Carlsen earlier this year at the Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland tournament. Former world champion Garry Kasparov has said that he does not really see the upcoming battle between Gukesh and Ding Liren as a World Chess Championship battle since the world's best player at the moment, Magnus Carlsen, is not competing.

Kasparov, arguably the world's greatest player in history, has reasoned that with five-time world champion Carlsen opting out of defending his crown last year, the long line of world champions has come to an

end. Kasparov made the comment on a YouTube video for the St Louis Chess Club where grandmasters were asked for the "hottest take" on the upcoming Gukesh vs Ding Liren World Championship match. "My hottest take is that I don't treat this as a World Championship match. For me, a World Championship match was always a match for the title of the best player in the world. I think the history of the World Championship matches started here in St Louis when Steinitz faced Zukertort (when Wilhelm Steinitz faced Johannes Zukertort in the 1886 World Chess Championship match) and ended with Magnus Carlsen. There were 16 World Champions. You could call them, at every given moment, the best players in the world. They took the title by beating the best players (in the world at that time)," Kasparov said. Kasparov on Gukesh vs Ding Liren He went on to add: "With all due respect, Ding Liren playing Gukesh is an important event. It's an FIDE event. I think Gukesh is a favourite, because the way Ding Liren has been playing lately, it's kind of a shadow of the old Ding Liren we all remember. If he can recover miraculously, then it will be an interesting fight. But, in any case, it's an event that has nothing to do with the main idea of the World Championship match, to decide, to find the best player on the planet." Kasparov, who has himself sat on the world champion's throne multiple times, also backed Carlsen's rationale for forfeiting his crown. "These days, with chess getting faster and faster, with our lives getting faster, to keep an antiquated system of qualification that takes 18 months or longer to select a challenger, it's not adequate."

He's unfortunately out of IPL due to injury: RCB director of cricket Mo Bobat on Cameron Green's release

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Cameron green IPL RCB Cameron Green (T) of Royal Challengers Bangalore celebrates the wicket of Ajinkya Rahane of Chennai Superkings during match 1 of the Indian Premier League season 17 (IPL 2024) between Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bangalore held at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai on the 22nd March 2024 RCB's Director of Cricket, Mo Bobat on Thursday said that the franchise wanted to retain Australian Cameron Green but they didn't opt for it because of the allrounder's injury that effectively rules him out of the upcoming IPL season. "There was one other player we certainly would have retained. That's Cameron Green. But he's unfortunately out of the IPL due to injury," Bobat said. Green had been traded to Royal Challengers Bengaluru from Mumbai Indians for Rs 17.50 crore before last season's IPL but could not make an impact for the franchise, scoring just 255 runs in 13 matches and snapping up 10 wickets. Two weeks ago, Cricket Australia had announced that the hosts will have to do without the services of allrounder Cameron Green against India in the upcoming Border Gavaskar Trophy due to him set to undergo a back surgery. Green who was diagnosed with a lower back injury during the ODI series in England, is expected to miss around 6 months of action which will rule him out of February's Test tour of Sri Lanka and the Champions Trophy in Pakistan. Meanwhile, Virat Kohli



was retained at a whopping Rs 21 crore, making the former India captain the most-expensive Indian retention during the IPL 2025 Player Retentions on Thursday. Besides Kohli, RCB have only retained middle-order batter Rajat Patidar and left-arm seamer Yash Dayal. While Patidar was retained at Rs 11 crore, Dayal was marked at Rs 5 crore. This also means that RCB will have three Right to Match (RTM) cards available during the upcoming IPL 2025 Mega Auction. The major speculation around three-time finalists Royal Challengers Bengaluru was the possible return to leadership for Kohli. While there was hardly any doubt that Kohli was going to be RCB's top retention, it remains to be seen if the former India captain returns to a leadership role after a break.

Want to maintain core and build team around it, says Rajasthan Royals coach Rahul Dravid after IPL retentions

GNS News Agency, Nov 2

Rahul dravid Rajasthan Royals Rajasthan Royals coach Rahul Dravid on Thursday revealed the reason behind their retention picks, stressing on the fact that a team needs a strong core to compete. Rajasthan Royals coach Rahul Dravid on Thursday revealed the reason behind their retention picks, stressing on the fact that a team needs a strong core to compete. "We have a lot of talented players who have performed well. We trust our talent and we also want to maintain the core and want to build the team around it. We have seen that if you maintain the core, it's easier to build a team and there's always a loyalty factor for a franchise that you can't ignore," Dravid said after the Royals retained captain Sanju Samson, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Riyan Parag, Shimron Hetmyer, Dhruv Jurel and Sandeep Sharma. That means that big names like England white ball skipper Jos Buttler, Yuzvendra Chahal, Ravichandran Ashwin and Trent Boult will go into the auction pool after getting released.

This means that the Royals are left with Rs 41 crore in their purse for the upcoming auction with no Right To Match options available. Meanwhile, India wicket-keepers Rishabh Pant and KL Rahul headline the list of released players after the IPL 2025 Retention deadline on Thursday evening. Shreyas Iyer, who led the Kolkata Knight Riders to their third IPL title earlier this year, will also return to the auction pool before the next season.



Pant, who has featured in over 100 IPL matches with the Delhi Capitals, will return to the pool alongside Rahul who led the three-season-old Lucknow Super Giants since 2022. The Indian Express understands that Chennai Super Kings are keen on bringing Rishabh Pant to the MA Chidambaram Stadium — and are working on their retention strategy accordingly. As far as Rahul, it would be interesting to see where he lands up. Though his strike-rate has been in question, he remains a player of interest for many. There are indications that Royal Challengers Bengaluru, who are in need of a local face, may buy him back as they need a wicket-keeper batsman. Apart from being an option at the top, Rahul can also bat in the middle-order.

Hyderabad to host India-Malaysia football friendly

New Delhi: Winless in three matches after chief coach Manolo Marquez took charge as head coach, the Indian men's football team will play Malaysia in an international friendly in Hyderabad on November 18, national federation (AIFF) said on Wednesday. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) had last month announced that the match will be played on November 19 but did not specify the venue. It advanced the match by a day and also announced the venue. "The FIFA Friendly match between India and Malaysia will be played on November 18, 2024, at Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana," the AIFF said.

November 11-19 is the last FIFA international match window of this year. In international matches scheduled

during a FIFA window, clubs are mandated to release players for national duty. The Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad had also hosted the three-team Intercontinental Cup tournament last month. India had played out a goalless draw with Mauritius on September 3 before losing 0-3 to Syria, the eventual champions, on September 9 in that tournament. India then travelled to Vietnam to play an international friendly against the hosts on October 12. The match ended 1-1. The November 18 match will be Marquez's fourth match in charge of the national team and he would be looking for a win against a lower-ranked team, though it will not be an easy one. Malaysia are ranked 133rd in the FIFA chart while India are at 125th. The last time the two teams met was in October 2023 in the Merdeka Cup semifinal. India had lost 2-4.