

INDIAN CHRONICLE

24 November, 2024 | Sunday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:244 Pages: 8+8 www.indianchronicle.com Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State) ₹ 3

Police raids brothel house disguised as spa in Masab Tank; Four women rescued

Hyderabad: The Commissioner's Task Force (west) team raided a brothel house operated under the guise of a spa and massage parlour on Friday night. The team caught two organizers and a customer while four women victims were rescued during the operation. Acting on information that the management was coercing women who were from financially disadvantaged families into prostitution, the Task Force team raided 'Amazing Beauty Salon and Spa', located at Masab Tank road. The police caught Yazali Prakash (50) owner of Amazing Spa, Medhari Kavitha (29) supervisor at Amazing Spa and a customer Shaik Faisal (29) of Asifnagar.

NHRC team reaches Telangana, begins probe into Lagacherla incident

Vikarabad: A three-member delegation from the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has arrived in the district and is interacting with the residents of Rotibanda thanda on Saturday. The delegation is also expected to visit Lagacherla and speak to the villagers. The NHRC had taken cognisance of a complaint alleging harassment, torture and false implication of the villagers of Lagacherla after they protested against land acquisition for a pharma village project by the State government without following proper procedures. Accordingly, the NHRC members are interacting with tribal farmers, women and others. It may be recalled that National Commission for Scheduled Tribes Member Jatothu Hussain Nayak had already visited Rotibanda thanda and Lagacherla last week.

Congress' 53,000 job claim exposed: Credit goes to BRS Government



GNS News Agency, Nov 23
Hyderabad: The Congress government's tall claims of filling up around 53,000 jobs in various departments in the last one year have actually been the seeds sown by the previous BRS government. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, as part of 'Praja Vijayotsavalu' meeting in Warangal, recently made bold claims of recruiting 50,000 vacancies in the last 10 months. And unofficial statistics circulated by the grand-old-party took the stake of recruiting 53,310 vacancies, including police personnel and teachers. However, the reality is far from the truth.

From SI and constables vacancies in the Police department to various teaching positions in different residential educational institutions societies, all vacancies have been notified and exams were conducted under the previous pink party government regime. Before coming to power, the Congress party showered assurances on the unemployed youth of filling two lakh vacancies within a year into forming the government. However, hardly two per cent out of the total assured jobs were notified. Take the case of the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC), a largest recruiting body, which has not issued a single notification since the grand-old-party formed the government in the State. Similar is the situation with the Telangana Police Recruitment Board and Telangana Residential Educational Institutions Recruitment Board, which have not issued a single notification in the last 11 months. As for the Group-I services recruitment, which the Congress government now takes the claim of notification, the previous BRS government created a record of its sorts by notifying a staggering 503 vacancies. However, this notification was cancelled by the State government only to renotify, adding another 60 posts to already notified 503 vacancies. Similarly, the then BRS government issued the District Selection Committee (DSC) notification for 5,089 vacancies in the government and local body schools across the State.

Congress reaped what it deserved in Maharashtra polls: Harish Rao

GNS News Agency, Nov 23
Hyderabad: Stating that the Congress had failed miserably to impress upon the electorate in Maharashtra, former Minister and BRS MLA T Harish Rao said on Saturday that the people rejected its promises and five guarantees as a mere gimmick. Reacting to the verdict of the voters in the two States that went for polls, he strongly criticized the Congress saying that its



leadership had reaped what it deserved. He also criticised the BJP for its vindictive politics.

Harish Rao pointed out that the Congress's failure to implement schemes such as the Mahalakshmi scheme, which promised Rs.2,500 to women in Telangana even while promising Rs 3,000 in Maharashtra, along with the unfulfilled promises of Rythu Bharosa, Aasara pensions, and farmer loan waivers in Telangana, had a considerable impact on the election outcome.

He noted that the people of Maharashtra, particularly those from the regions with a predominant presence of people from Telangana, especially Mumbai, Solapur, Pune and Nanded, were well aware of the Congress's deceptions. He also lashed out at the BJP's vindictive tactics, including arrests and false cases against Hemant Soren in Jharkhand. He stated that the people of Jharkhand had rejected the BJP's attempts to divide the party and had instead supported Soren's leadership. Harish Rao congratulated Hemant Soren on his victory, highlighting that the public does not endorse the BJP's retaliatory policies.

Modi urges Indian diaspora to participate in 'Bharat Ko Janiye' quiz



GNS News Agency, Nov 23
Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited on Saturday the Indian community members residing abroad to participate in the 'Bharat Ko Janiye' quiz, aiming to strengthen the connection between the country and its diaspora abroad. Taking to social media platform X, PM Modi posted, "Strengthening the bond with our diaspora! Urge the Indian community abroad and friends from other countries to take part in the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz!" This quiz deepens the connect between India and its diaspora

worldwide. It's also a wonderful way to rediscover our rich heritage and vibrant culture," he added. The Prime Minister also mentioned that the winners will get an opportunity to experience the "wonders of Incredible India." PM Modi also urged the Indian diaspora members in Guyana to participate in the quiz during his recent trip to the South American nation. He noted that it was an opportunity for the people to understand India and their roots that are embedded in the nation's values, culture and diversity. The fifth 'Bharat Ko Janiye' quiz was virtually launched by External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on November 11.




WHEN WOMEN RISE TELANGANA RISES



**TELANGANA
RISING**







TELANGANA RISING WITH WOMEN-CENTRIC SCHEMES

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|  <p>MAHALAKSHMI Free bus rides for women as assured Rs. 3,710.22 crores subsidy by government 7292 buses provided Gas cylinder at Rs.500 43 lakh women beneficiaries 1,41,76,222 cylinders distributed at subsidised cost and expenditure of Rs. 394.13 crores</p> |  <p>GRUHA JYOTI 200 units free power to every household 49,54,834 lakh families have benefitted Rs 1,336 crores subsidy provided by Government till November 2024</p> |
|  <p>INDIRA MAHILA SHAKTHI launched on March 12, 2024. Rs. 1 lakh crore loans to be disbursed in 5 years to women to empower their growth Mahila Shakti Canteens and Mahila Shakti Groups to be launched across the state.</p> |  <p>INDIRAMMA INDLU Implemented in 119 constituencies 3,500 houses will be distributed every year and 20 lakh homes in 5 years 4,50,000 houses will be distributed this financial year at an expenditure of Rs. 22,500 crores</p> |

PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT COMPLETING ONE YEAR

Issued by: Special Commissioner, Department of Information and Public Relations, Government of Telangana.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Booming gun trade

THE mushrooming of factories and workshops for the manufacture of unlicensed arms and ammunition across the country stems from gross dereliction of duty on the part of the authorities in various states and union territories. The use of these weapons in murder and other crimes is a matter of concern not only for law enforcement agencies but also for the public. Slamming the generally 'lackadaisical' approach to the implementation of the Arms Act, 1959, and the Arms Rules, 2016, the Supreme Court has set up a five-member committee headed by the Chief Secretary in each state and UT to tackle the menace. Each panel has been given 10 weeks to formulate an action plan to enforce the Act and the rules. The obvious question is: Why is this plan not already in place even though there is a well-defined regulatory framework?

The manufacture, sale and use of illegal firearms has serious implications for India's internal security. Last week, the National Investigation Agency chargesheeted a Mizoram resident for his alleged involvement in the trafficking of arms and ammunition to strife-torn Manipur and other states. Militants in Manipur are using unlicensed arms along with weapons looted from police armouries. Curbing the supply of unauthorised guns is vital for restoring peace in the northeastern state.

Statistics sum up the disturbing state of affairs. According to the Crime in India report of the National Crime Records Bureau, 80,118 cases were registered nationwide in 2022 under the Arms Act; of the 1.04 lakh arms seized, more than 95 per cent were unlicensed, improvised, crude or country-made. A major source of these weapons is Uttar Pradesh; it's no secret that many such firearms are being used to commit crimes in the National Capital Region and beyond. Police officials and politicians in league with unauthorised arms manufacturers and vendors should be brought to book.

In West Bengal, BJP claims key police officials were transferred 'following pressure from unseen forces'

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

After key officers of Kolkata and Howrah police were transferred, BJP West Bengal president Sukanta Majumder alleged that the transfer of key Kolkata and Howrah police officials was due to "pressure from unknown forces", targeting the ruling party Trinamool Congress. State government sources, however, claimed that the transfers on Wednesday were "routine". "BJP sees politics in everything. Transfers are administrative decisions and I do not want to comment on that. But I must (the BJP) is trying to do cheap politics by saying all this. People of Bengal don't pay much heed to what they say," said Kunal Ghosh, TMC spokesperson and general secretary. Kolkata and West Bengal police are under pressure from both the Opposition and a section of TMC leaders, MPs, and ministers after Bihar-based miscreants attempted to kill a councillor of Kolkata Municipal Corporation in the city. On Wednesday, officers of Kolkata and Howrah were transferred. Murlidhar, the additional police commissioner of Kolkata police, was transferred to the role of inspector general of the Swami Vivekananda State Police Academy in Barrackpore. He was replaced by Pranav Kumar. Swati Bhangalia, police superintendent of Howrah (Rural), was transferred to the cyber cell and replaced by Subimal Paul, who was deputy commissioner (Central) of the Howrah police Commissionerate. Biswajit Mahato, deputy commissioner (South) of the Howrah Police Commissionerate was transferred to the position of deputy commissioner (Central). Surinder Singh, SS IB, has been transferred to the DC South Howrah Police Commissionerate. Both Murlidhar and Swati Bhangalia held key posts in Kolkata and Howrah. "It became clear that the Kolkata Police had crossed all limits of loyalty towards Mamata Banerjee during the investigation at R G Kar Medical College. After this, the Trinamool Congress-controlled police faced severe criticism for failing to provide adequate security to the party's leaders and councillors. Following pressure from unseen forces, several officials were transferred today," wrote Sukanta Majumder, who is also the union MoS for the development of northeastern regions, on X Thursday night. "Yet, Mamata Banerjee, known for her appeasement politics, remains silent when innocent Hindus in the state suffer unprovoked attacks in places like Beldanga, Shyampur, or Rajabazar. Is this what democracy looks like? When the police fail to shield the ruling party's wrongdoers, action is taken immediately. But the Chief Minister shows no concern for the plight of Bengali Hindus facing atrocities," he added.

US Govt, Sesame Workshop India Trust announce launch of 'Learn Play Grow' program in Bhupalapally

Hyderabad: As a part of International Education Week, the United States Government and Sesame Workshop India Trust on Thursday announced the launch of 'Learn Play Grow' program, which will be implemented in more than 644 Anganwadi centers in Bhupalapally district of Telangana State. Driven by play-based pedagogy, the Learn Play Grow program is expected to engage anywhere between 14, 000 and 16000 children and their families, besides reaching millions more through digital programming, according to a press release.

The Learn Play Grow initiative, which is collaboration between U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Sesame Workshop India Trust, is designed to support early childhood education and health practices for young children and their families across India. With interactive learning led by Sesame Street characters Chamki, Elmo, and their friends, Learn Play Grow will provide foundational skills in literacy, numeracy, and hygiene to children in Telangana and Rajasthan, with digital content in Telugu and Hindi reaching millions more across the country. U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said, "This initiative represents a step forward in our U.S.-India education partnership."

Delhi HC grants ED time to file response in former CM Kejriwal's plea challenging absence of sanction to prosecute



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

The Delhi High Court on Thursday granted time to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to file its response to a petition by former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking the quashing of a trial court order that took cognisance of an ED chargesheet without sanction to prosecute. The court of Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri posted the matter for further hearing on December 20.

Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta, appearing on behalf of ED virtually before the court on Thursday, submitted at the outset, "It is my case that there's a sanction, I need to put it on record by way of an affidavit... there's a sanction, I'll file with my affidavit." However, senior advocates N Hariharan and Rebecca John on behalf of Kejriwal, pointed out before the court that while there is sanction to prosecute in the CBI proceedings against Kejriwal in relation to the alleged excise scam, they were not aware of any such sanction in the ED case. Addressing SG Mehta and the court, Hariharan said, "Because it (prosecution sanction) was not supplied to us, if there's an ED sanction... Issue is that, when chargesheet (the seventh supplementary prosecution complaint filed by the ED which names Kejriwal as an accused) was filed or otherwise, there was

no sanction under CrPC Section 197. Subsequently only panchnama was filed."

Hariharan and John added that apart from the absence of prosecution sanction while taking cognisance of the complaint, Kejriwal's plea is also challenging two other aspects: "One is, this particular chargesheet is the 7th prosecution complaint. There's nothing afresh which has been investigated, it is the same prosecution complaint as the 6th prosecution complaint, including witnesses." SG Mehta, however, rebutted, saying, "This is factually incorrect, additional investigation was taken up and this same argument has been rejected by trial court." Kejriwal's counsels contended that the trial court "never went" into this aspect. Meanwhile, Kejriwal's counsels also pressed the court for a stay on the trial court proceedings in the interim, which the court declined. The court also refused to grant Kejriwal's oral request to grant exemption from personal appearance before the trial court on the next date of hearing and instead suggested that Kejriwal seek relief before the trial court itself. Kejriwal, in his petition, has submitted that the 7th supplementary prosecution complaint dated May 17 this year which named him as an accused, has been filed without adding any additional material on record. It has also been pointed out that the "majority of the material relied upon" in the supplementary chargesheet of ED against Kejriwal "was already available while filing the previous prosecution complaint and (prior) supplementary chargesheets" and thus the same material could not have been the basis to file the chargesheet against Kejriwal. Relying on a 2024 SC verdict, Kejriwal has contended in his petition that summoning of an accused "without any fresh/additional evidence in the supplementary chargesheet... is nothing but a review of the original order of summoning and as such abuse of the process of Court." Kejriwal is seeking the quashing of the trial court's order from July 9 this year where it had taken cognisance of the 7th supplementary chargesheet.

'Insufficient in today's economic situation of Bengal': BJP MP writes to Mamata Banerjee, seeks doubling of money under Lakshmir Bhandar scheme



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

BJP MP Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato said the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme can be a powerful tool for women's empowerment, but not if it remains a mere bribe to lure voters. BJP MP Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato said the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme can be a powerful tool for women's empowerment, but not if it remains a mere bribe to lure voters.

In a curious move, BJP MP Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato from Purulia wrote a letter to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, demanding that the money for the state's Lakshmir Bhandar scheme be doubled to a monthly Rs 2,000 per recipient. Presently, under the government scheme for women, Rs 1,000 is given each month to the general category beneficiaries and Rs 1,200 to SC/ST women. "As a strong political opponent but equally as someone concerned about the welfare of our state, I am compelled to write. While the scheme has provided some financial relief, the current amount of Rs 1,000-Rs 1,200 per month is insufficient in today's economic climate, especially

given West Bengal's inflation rate," Mahato wrote in his letter. "In BJP-ruled Maharashtra, the government provides Rs 1,500 per month to women under the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, which serves a larger demographic and has a broader impact. Similarly, Jharkhand has taken a proactive approach by increasing their cash assistance under the Mukhyamantri Maiyan Samman Yojana to Rs 2,500 per month. These states, despite their financial challenges, have shown commitment to women's empowerment by offering substantial and meaningful support," the letter read. "The financial relief provided under Lakshmir Bhandar is insufficient to combat the high inflation rate in West Bengal, largely due to the corrupt practices of your party-affiliated middlemen who manipulate the markets. From basic food items to utilities, prices are skyrocketing, diminishing the value of the assistance offered under this scheme. This financial aid barely covers a fraction of household expenses, making it more of a political gimmick than a step towards true empowerment," Mahato claimed.

He added, "The West Bengal exchequer is already under immense pressure, with an annual outlay of over Rs 12,000 crore on this scheme alone." "To ensure the sustainability of welfare programs like Lakshmir Bhandar without derailing the economy, you should consider Enhancing revenue collection: Improve tax compliance and boost industrialization. Curtailing corruption: Transparent governance will free up significant public resources. Rationalizing expenditures: Prioritise productive investments in infrastructure, healthcare, and education, alongside welfare measures," the letter continued. "Lakshmir Bhandar could be a powerful tool for women's empowerment, but not if it remains a mere bribe to lure voters," Mahato wrote.

Devendra Fadnavis says high voter turnout to work in BJP's favour: 'People have endorsed Mahayuti government'



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

A day after Maharashtra saw a high voter turnout for the Assembly elections, Deputy Chief Minister (CM) Devendra Fadnavis said on Thursday that the increase in voting percentage could be attributed to a pro-incumbency factor and showed that "people have accepted and endorsed the present Mahayuti government". "Whenever there is an increase in polling, it works to the advantage of the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) and its alliance partners. This is evident from our past experience," Fadnavis said, speaking to the media at Nagpur airport. As elections for 288 constituencies took place in Maharashtra on November 20, the state recorded a voter turnout of 65.02 per cent - the second highest after the 71.7 per cent recorded in the 1995 Assembly elections. "The government's flagship project Ladki Bahin Yojana could be crucial to the rise in voting. Booth-level reports have shown that there was an increase in women voters in this election," Fadnavis said. Exuding confidence that the Mahayuti - the BJP, Shiv Sena, NCP coalition headed by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde - would form the government once the results were declared on Saturday, Fadnavis said, "I am sure the results will be in

favour of Mahayuti and we will be able to form the government."

However, Fadnavis refused to discuss who the next chief minister would be if the Mahayuti was voted to power. "All details regarding the government composition and the CM will be taken collectively by leaders of the three parties in the Mahayuti," he asserted. "We will hold a meeting after the poll results and all decisions will be taken through consensus collectively," he added. The BJP contested 149 seats in the Assembly elections, the highest by any party, whereas alliance partner Shiv Sena contested 81 seats and the NCP led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar 59 seats. Meanwhile, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi has convened a meeting on Thursday to review polls and plan its post-poll strategy.

NDA MLAs call for 'mass operation' against 'Kuki militants' in Manipur

Imphal: Days after violence in Manipur, the Legislators of ruling BJP-led NDA called for a "mass operation" against the 'Kuki militants' responsible for killing three women and three children in Jiribam district. The MLAs have adopted a resolution in this regard. "To start Mass Operations against the Kuki militants responsible for the killing of the 6 (six) innocent women and children within 7 (seven) days," the statement said. "Declare the Kuki Militants responsible for the killing of the 6 (six) innocent women and children as an 'unlawful organisation' within 7 (seven) days," it added. The meeting, which was held late on Monday and attended by 27 MLAs, resolved that the case be handed over to the NIA immediately.

Bombay HC grants bail to consultant Chetan Patil



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

The Bombay High Court on Thursday granted bail to consultant Chetan Patil arrested in connection with the collapse of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue at Rajkot fort in Malvan in August.

A 35-foot statue of the iconic Maratha warrior king collapsed in Sindhudurg district on August 26, nearly nine months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled it on Navy Day. A single bench of Justice A S Kilor on Thursday held that no case was made out to implicate Patil in the case as he had not been appointed as the structural designer of the statue. The bench further said Patil had only submitted a structural stability report of the pedestal of the Shivaji statue and the pedestal was intact even after the collapse. Another accused, Jaydeep Apte, who was the sculptor and contractor, was also arrested in the case. The HC said it would hear his bail plea on November 25. The Sindhudurg police had registered an FIR under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita for negligence and other offences against Apte and Patil for the statue's collapse.

Delhi HC rejects plea seeking de-registration, de-recognition of AIMIM: 'tantamount to interference with fundamental rights...'



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday dismissed a petition seeking the deregistration and derecognition of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) by the Election Commission of India (ECI), terming the plea as "tantamount to interference with the fundamental rights of the members of AIMIM to constitute themselves as a political party". The petition was filed by Tirupati Narasimha Murari, a member of the undivided Shiv Sena, in 2018. Murari had challenged the AIMIM's recognition, contending that its constitution was "intended to further the cause only of one religious community (viz. Muslims), and thus militates against the principles of secularism, to which every political party must adhere under the scheme of the Constitution and the Act [Representation of the People Act]".

The ECI had accepted the AIMIM's request for registration on June 1, 1992, and it was recognised as a state party in Telangana in 2014. Refusing to entertain Murari's plea, the court of Justice Prateek Jalan reiterated that the ECI is not empowered to deregister a political party and that the relief sought by Murari "lies beyond the jurisdiction of ECI". "The petitioner's arguments are thus tantamount to interference with the fundamental rights of the members of AIMIM to constitute themselves as a political party espousing their political beliefs and values. Such a consequence cannot lightly be countenanced..." the court said in its order. The court also held that the AIMIM fulfils the statutory condition under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act which includes a requirement that the constitutional documents of a political party should declare that the party bears true faith and allegiance to the Constitution, and to the basic tenets of socialism, secularism, and democracy, which are embedded in our constitutional values. "On the facts of the present case, this requirement has been fulfilled by AIMIM. The petitioner (Murari) himself has annexed to the writ petition, a letter dated 09.08.1989, submitted by AIMIM in support of its application for registration, stating that its constitution had been amended in terms of Section 29A(5) of the Act," Justice Jalan recorded.

Protocol row brings out serious internal issues in Congress

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

Mancherial: Neither Peddapalli MP G Vamshi, nor MLAs Dr G Vivek and Vinod were invited to a programme attended by ministers Damodara Rajanarasimha, D Sridhar Babu and D Aanasuya who laid the foundation stone for a super speciality hospital here on Thursday, exposing internal bickering among Congress legislators.

Peddapalli MP Vamshi and MLAs Vivek and Vinod were not invited by Mancherial MLA K Prensagar Rao to the foundation stone programme, after which their followers expressed unhappiness against Rao for not following protocol. A message stating that Vamshi was insulted went viral on social media platforms on Thursday. Cadres of the Congress opined that ignoring the MP and MLA would send a negative message to the public. They stated that people would be wondering as to why the local MP and MLAs of both Chennai and Bellampalli who belong to the district were not participating in the programme. They reasoned that Rao was looking down upon the MP and MLAs for being Dalits. It is learnt that Prensagar Rao, Vivek and Vinod are vying for a berth in the State Cabinet, which is expected to be expanded soon. They are leaving no stone unturned to get a minister post using their proximity to top leadership of the party. This has led to internal bickering among the legislators and the MP, who is the son of Vivek.

'Green election' initiative in Mumbai's Anushakti Nagar and Chembur partially successful in raising voter turnout



Mumbai Following guidelines from the Election Commission of India (ECI), the initiative emphasised sustainability through the use of biodegradable materials and environmental awareness. (Express Photo by Ganesh Shirsekar) Mumbai's Anushakti Nagar and Chembur constituencies adopted a "green election" model during Maharashtra Assembly polls to promote eco-friendly practices and increase voter turnout. Led by IAS officer Heera Lal, the initiative aimed to reduce the election process's carbon footprint while encouraging democratic participation.

From October 31, the campaign included street plays, tree-planting drives, and outreach at schools, malls, housing societies, and railway stations. On Wednesday, the polling day, first-time voters and senior citizens were gifted saplings and certificates for participation. Following guidelines from the Election Commission of India (ECI), the initiative emphasised sustainability through the use of biodegradable materials and environmental awareness. Dr Lal, who had successfully implemented similar models in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, worked with NGOs, women's groups, and schools to engage voters, especially habitual non-voters. His team distributed handbills, posters, and pamphlets highlighting how green practices can combat global warming and maintain a clean environment. The initiative, backed by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), the Navy, and the National Cadet Corps (NCC), aimed to promote both voter participation and environmental sustainability. The voter turnout in Anushakti Nagar increased from 52.20 per cent in the 2019 Assembly polls to 54.92 per cent this time, while in Chembur, it saw a slight decrease from 54.35 per cent to 54.04 per cent. As a result, the expected increase of 5 per cent in overall voting percentage across the two constituencies was not achieved, according to officials. The Maharashtra Assembly elections polling to elect 288 MLA was held on Wednesday. The counting will be held on Saturday, November 23.

Delhi HC refuses to quash FIR against telecom co, others for selling substandard oxygen concentrators during pandemic

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

Delhi HC, delhi health secretary, stonewalling' orders, implement panel's recommendations, delhi hospitals, lack of ICU beds, ventilators at delhi govt hospitals, Indian express news Delhi HC Justice Sharma also pointed out that whether oxygen concentrators did not meet the parameters as set by WHO. The Delhi High Court Wednesday refused to quash an FIR against telecom service provider Matrix Cellular International Services and others who have been accused of selling defective and substandard oxygen concentrators at inflated prices during the peak of the second wave of the pandemic. The First Information Report was lodged at the Lodhi Colony Police Station on May 5, 2021, against accused Gaurav Khanna, CEO, Matrix Cellular, and others who were found selling oxygen concentrators, KN-95 masks, and oximeters. The products were recovered from the telecom company's office at Khullar Farm House, as well as from Town Hall restaurant and Khan Chacha restaurant at Khan Market. According to the police, the accused were making a profit of Rs 40,000 to Rs 42,000 per oxygen concentrator, and the devices were found to be providing only 32.7 per cent to 38.2 per cent oxygen purity, against the World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines, which require oxygen purity levels of 82 per cent to 96 per cent.

The accused were charged for cheating and conspiracy under the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and for offences under the Essential Commodities Act in the FIR. However, the charges under the Essential Commodities Act were subsequently dropped. Noting that the investigation remains pending with respect to several aspects, Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma refused to quash the FIR and the subsequent proceedings.

"...the allegations of selling the un-tested oxygen concentrators to get wrongful gains, taking undue advantage of the crisis and acute shortage of oxygen supply caused due



to the pandemic, and compelling needy persons to part with their hard-earned money cannot be ignored. The margin of profit was very high, especially in view of the ongoing pandemic. Further, the fact that the oxygen concentrators sold by the petitioners were not in compliance with the required parameters recommended by the WHO to help patients suffering from COVID-19 is still to be investigated," Justice Sharma ruled. "The petitioner faces allegations of selling defective/un-tested/sub-standard oxygen concentrators at inflated prices and allegedly providing products that were not in compliance with essential quality standards. During the COVID-19 pandemic, access to reliable and effective oxygen concentrators was critical. The Supreme Court has time and again ruled that alleged non-compliance with regulatory standards and potential knowledge of such non-compliance constitute issues that are subject to investigation and determination at trial," said Justice Sharma. Justice Sharma also pointed out that whether oxygen concentrators did not meet the parameters as set by WHO and the government and whether the petitioner knew that they were sub-standard and did not meet the requirements is still being probed. "The investigation is still pending, and therefore, it would not be apposite to quash the proceedings at this stage," Justice Sharma ruled.

Hike in OPD, admission charges at Bengaluru govt hospitals: here are new rates

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

bmcriKarnataka government hospitals associated with the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) in the city have raised ward charges and fees for various other services. Karnataka government hospitals associated with the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) in the city have raised ward charges and fees for various other services, including outpatient department (OPD) facilities. According to a BMCRI notification, the revised charges, which came into effect on November 1, apply at the state-run Victoria Hospital, Vani Vilas Hospital, Minto Eye Hospital, BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, and Trauma Care Centre.

The cost for a single-bed special ward will now be Rs 2,000 per day, up from the previous rate of Rs 750. Additionally, the charge for a twin-occupancy special ward has been increased from Rs 750 to Rs 1,000. Patients in single-bed special wards will also incur an additional charge of 40 per cent for hospital procedures, while those in twin-sharing wards will face a 30 per cent increase in these procedure charges. The charges for the deluxe special ward will remain at Rs 3,000 per day. However, the charges for hospital procedures will increase by 6 per cent. Additionally, the daily charge for the general ward has risen from Rs 15



to Rs 50. The registration charge for the OPD has been revised from Rs 10 to Rs 20, while the in-patient registration fee will now cost Rs 50 instead of the previous Rs 25. Intensive care unit (ICU) charges, costs for the ICU step-down area, and post-operative room charges remain unchanged at Rs 2,000, Rs 1,500, and Rs 500, respectively. Diet counselling, previously offered free at these hospitals, will now incur a fee of Rs 100. The cost for copies of exact medical records, post-mortem certificates, medical certificates, physical fitness certificates, and wound certificates has increased from Rs 250 to Rs 300.

Retired IFS officer in Delhi cheated of Rs 11.70 lakh by man posing as treasury officer of pension department

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

According to the police, on October 24, a 61-year-old resident of Vasant Enclave lodged a complaint saying that he had been duped. According to the police, on October 24, a 61-year-old resident of Vasant Enclave lodged a complaint saying that he had been duped. A retired Indian Forest Service officer was duped of his post-retirement savings of Rs 11.70 lakh by a man posing as a treasury officer of the Gwalior pension department, the Delhi Police said, adding that the accused then bought jewellery from the money. According to the police, on October 24, a 61-year-old resident of Vasant Enclave lodged a complaint saying that he had been duped. The man said that he had retired recently and his pension disbursing agency was based in Gwalior. He told the police that he got a call from a man claiming to be a treasury officer of the pension department in Gwalior. "The alleged caller claimed that to incur the benefits of his pension account, the complainant needed to

complete some important documentation. The caller then shared a link and asked the complainant to fill in the details," Surender Chaudhary, Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West), said. The former officer submitted the form, and immediately, a slew of transactions was carried out from his account, the police said. "The money trail revealed that Rs 5 lakh was transferred into an account belonging to Lochan Prasad from Kotmi area of Chhattisgarh. The money was then subsequently transferred to HDFC and DCBL accounts based in Champa district. The money was then withdrawn in Asansol, West Bengal," DCP Chaudhary said. On October 28, a team led by Station House Officer Vikas Kumar Buldak of the cyber police station in the South West district reached Asansol. The money trail revealed that one of the accounts was used to pay at a jewellery shop using a point of sale (POS) terminal, the police said. The CCTV footage revealed that the man who withdrew the money from the accounts was the same person who bought the jewellery.

Why has Gautam Adani been indicted in the U.S. over alleged \$250mn bribery scheme?



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

Federal prosecutors in New York on Wednesday (November 21, 2024) indicted Adani Group Chairman Gautam S. Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and six others on multiple counts of fraud. The charges stem from an alleged multibillion-dollar scheme to bribe Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms on solar power contracts, which were projected to generate over \$2 billion in profits. "This indictment alleges schemes to pay over \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials, to lie to investors and banks to raise billions of dollars, and to obstruct justice," a press release issued by the US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York, said quoting U.S. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Lisa Miller. The individuals named as defendants, alongside Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani, include Vneet Jaain, CEO of Adani Green Energy Ltd; Ranjit Gupta, who served as CEO of Azure Power Global Ltd from 2019 to 2022; Rupesh Agarwal, who was with Azure Power from 2022 to 2023; and Cyril Cabanes, an Australian-French dual citizen, along with Saurabh Agarwal and Deepak Malhotra — all of whom were affiliated with Canada-based pension fund Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ). A novel tender floated by the state-owned Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) in 2019 forms the heart of the indictment that has accused the Adani Group Chairman and his associates of paying over \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials. The manufacturing-linked solar tender was eventually awarded to Adani Green Energy and Azure Power with the former claiming in a press statement at the time that it had won "the world's largest solar award"

According to the indictment, the \$6 billion investment was projected to yield over \$2 billion in post-tax profits over 20 years. However, the project encountered an unexpected setback — SECI was unable to sign power supply agreements (PSAs) with state electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) due to the "high energy prices". At this point, Adani Green executives allegedly bribed government officials in several states, including Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir, to pressure their power distribution companies into agreeing to purchase solar power at above-market rates. The U.S. case is based on the premise that this is where the corruption took place, and that Adani Green failed to disclose this information to its investors in the U.S., constituting fraud under federal securities law.

The indictment accuses Adani and his associates of conspiring to bribe Indian officials to secure energy contracts in a purported violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Although enacted in 1977, the law has been more stringently enforced in recent decades resulting in substantial fines for major companies, including Germany's Siemens, Brazil's state-owned Petrobras, and a subsidiary of Halliburton, the oil services giant. President-elect Donald J. Trump reportedly wanted to strike down the legislation in his first term since he considered it "unfair" to American companies. Another prominent critic of the law, Jay Clayton, whom Trump appointed as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, contended in a 2011 paper that U.S. anti-bribery policies disproportionately burdened American companies in international transactions,

thereby undermining U.S. competitiveness. The prosecutors alleged that the defendants meticulously tracked their bribes and offers to Indian officials using messaging apps, phones, and PowerPoint presentations, often employing "code names" in their communications. It was further claimed that two of the defendants even engaged in discussions to delete "incriminating electronic materials, including emails, electronic messages and a PowerPoint analysis." Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani, and Vneet Jaain are accused of conspiring to deceive investors by issuing bonds supported by falsified and misleading financial data. According to the indictment, the scheme involved employing fraudulent tactics, such as withholding crucial information and fabricating corporate resolutions, to attract U.S. investors to their bond sales. The indictment outlines that Adani Green executives attempted to raise funds from U.S. and international investors in connection with a 2021 bond offering by making false and misleading claims regarding the company's anti-corruption and anti-bribery measures.

The defendants also face charges of conspiring to commit wire fraud by making false promises and fraudulent claims to secure loans and investments for their energy ventures. According to the indictment, Adani and his nephew lied to investors when their businesses took out a \$1.35 billion loan and issued \$750 million in bonds in 2021. Additionally, they are accused of withholding information from investors regarding ongoing U.S. investigations into their business practices in 2023 and 2024. Former employees of CDPQ — Cyril Cabanes, Saurabh Agarwal, and Deepak Malhotra — have been accused of obstructing an investigation into the bribery scheme by deleting emails and agreeing to provide false information to the U.S. government. CDPQ, a shareholder in Adani companies, invests in infrastructure projects. In response to the indictment, CDPQ issued a statement saying, "CDPQ is aware of charges filed in the US against certain former employees. Those employees were all terminated in 2023 and CDPQ is co-operating with US authorities. In light of the pending cases, we have no further comment at this time." The US Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) has filed a parallel civil lawsuit against Adani and his associates "for conduct arising out of a massive bribery scheme". The complaint alleges that they engaged in a scheme that involved "paying or promising to pay the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes to Indian government officials to secure their commitment to purchase energy at above-market rates". This was reportedly done while simultaneously raising \$175 million from U.S. investors, based on "materially false and misleading" statements.

What happens next?

If proven, the charges could invite hefty financial penalties and a ban on the defendants from holding directorial or executive positions in companies that fall under US exchange regulations. The case will now proceed to the "arraignment" stage where the concerned judge will formally communicate the charges to the defendants and decide whether to grant bail or not. The defendants will then be required to enter a plea — either guilty or not guilty. If they plead not guilty, the case will move forward to a jury trial. The indictment risks reigniting a reputational crisis for the Adani conglomerate, which had been previously accused of "brazen accounting fraud, stock manipulation and money laundering" by Hindenburg Research, a small investment firm in New York. Although the Adani Group denied those claims, its stock price plummeted following the release of the report. On Thursday, Adani Green Energy Ltd, the company at the heart of the allegations, cancelled a \$600 million bond sale, the proceeds of which were intended to refinance a foreign-currency loan. Several Adani Group shares, including those of the flagship firm Adani Enterprises, also suffered massive losses and hit their lower circuits in early trade. An Adani Group spokesperson, however, dismissed the allegations as baseless, asserting that the conglomerate remains fully compliant with all applicable laws.

Bulldozer demolitions: More than 100 writers slam JCB literature prize's 'hypocrisy'

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

More than a hundred writers, translators and publishers have written an open letter accusing the 'JCB Prize for Literature' of hypocrisy, saying the British bulldozer manufacturer company, which funds it, played a "major role in the horrifying destruction of homes" across India and Palestine. They said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has consistently used JCB bulldozers in a "systemic campaign" to demolish Muslim homes, shops and places of worship across various Indian States — "an ongoing project disturbingly named 'bulldozer justice'". The letter was released two days before the winners of the 'JCB Prize for Literature' were announced on November 23. In an open letter signed by celebrated poet and critic K. Satchidanandan, poet and publisher Asad Zaidi, poet Jacinta Kerketta, poet and novelist Meena Kandasamy, and poet and activist Cynthia Stephen, the writers said JCB (India) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the British construction equipment manufacturer JCB Bamford Excavators Limited (JCB), which has been one of the most influential donors to the British Conservative party. "The employment of JCB equipment within far-right Hindu supremacist projects in India comes as no surprise in this context," the open letter read. JCB bulldozers are also responsible for home demolitions and settlement expansion in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, owing to a contract between JCB's agent and the Israeli Ministry of Defence, thus playing a "key role in Israel's continued attempts at ethnic cleansing of Palestinians and demolitions in Kashmir". "The JCB has created a literature prize 'aimed at marginalised and diverse writers', while simultaneously 'remaining complicit in destroying the lives and livelihoods of so many as a form of 'punishment', it said.

"As writers, we will not stand for such disingenuous claims of support for the literary community. This prize cannot wash off the blood on JCB's hands. India's up-and-coming writers deserve better," they said. Several writers from Palestine and West Asia, including Palestinian novelist Isabella Hammad and poet Rafeef Ziadah, Egyptian novelist Ahdaf Soueif, Iraqi poet and novelist Sinan Antoon and Omar Robert Hamilton, novelist and Director of the Palestinian Festival of Literature are also among the signatories. Irish novelist and screenwriter Ronan Bennett, novelist Andrew O'Hagan and novelist and screenwriter Nikesh Shukla are also among the signatories.

"How ironic that the term JCB is more popular in India as the machine that has aided the demolition of literally hundreds of thousands of houses of the common citizens of India in certain States of India. To see it associated with a very 'prestigious' literary prize for Indian literature is surreal. 'Heavy earthmoving equipment is like a knife. It can be used to build infrastructure for human comfort, but in



recent years has been more used to destroy the lives of the poor and marginalised. We condemn such hypocrisy on the part of the company and those administering the prize," poet Cynthia Stephen said. Writer and journalist Zia Us Salam said, "JCB has become a symbol of State-sponsored hate and intimidation of minorities and marginalised groups in Modi's India. It is trying to gain legitimacy with the literature prize. This has nothing to do with promotion of free speech, diversity and pluralism. As writers, it's critical that we speak up against this flagrant violation of human rights," he said.

Kolkata goes from 18 degrees to 19, as WB's winter chill halted by deep depression in Bay of Bengal

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

A deep depression forming in the Bay of Bengal has halted the winter chill in Kolkata, raising temperatures from 18 to 19 degrees Celsius. As per the IMD, all districts of West Bengal will experience dry weather in the coming days until Tuesday. However, the office added that the depression is not expected to have any direct impact on southern West Bengal. Kolkata will experience clear skies with occasional light morning fog. The maximum temperature will likely hover around 28 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature may settle around 19 degrees Celsius. The Meteorological Department has indicated that there will be no significant drop in minimum temperatures across the state in the next five days. This means that the much-anticipated bone-chilling winter is still a few days away.

Allegations and scandals against the Adani Group: A timeline



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

With a U.S. court indicting Gautam Adani and seven others on charges of securities and wire fraud, Adani's stocks nosedived as possible arrest of one of India's richest businessmen looms large. The indictment by the United States Department of Justice (DoJ) and United States Securities and Exchange Commission accuses Mr. Adani of duping investors by concealing that his company's huge solar energy project on the subcontinent was being facilitated by an alleged bribery scheme. The fallout of the indictment was immediate. Adani Green Energy Ltd withdrew its proposed \$600 million U.S. dollar denominated bond offering after the Eastern New York district court charged the apples to airports conglomerate of bribery and civil charges of securities fraud, according to the company's regulatory filings. Gautam Adani U.S. indictment LIVE updates: Adani dollar bonds tumble after 250 million bribery scheme

Moreover, shares of Adani Group companies lost about \$28 billion in market value in morning trade on Thursday (November 21, 2024). Gautam Adani's flagship company Adani Enterprises tumbled 23%, while Adani Ports, Adani Total Gas, Adani Green, Adani Power, Adani Wilmar and Adani Energy Solutions, ACC, Ambuja Cements and NDTV fell between 20% and 90%. It is the latest scandal to grip the Adani Group a year after an OCCRP report accused the Adani family of using offshore funds in August 2023. In January 2023, U.S.-based short-seller Hindenburg Research accused the conglomerate of stock manipulation and accounting fraud scheme, improper use of offshore tax havens and higher-than-manageable debt levels. Previously, the Group has been accused of getting preferential treatment and environmental damage. Here is a timeline.

SC suggests setting up courtroom in jail for Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik amid security concerns



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

The Supreme Court on Thursday (November 21, 2024) orally suggested setting up a courtroom in jail in Delhi for Kashmiri separatist Yasin Malik in the face of strong objection raised by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to a Jammu court order allowing his physical presence in a criminal trial connected to the killing of four Air Force personnel in 1989. Justice A.S. Oka said a fair trial was afforded to even 26/11 Mumbai attack terrorist Ajmal Kasab in response to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's submission that Malik was not "just another terrorist". Mr. Mehta, for the Central agency, said "We, that is the government, cannot go by the book in this case". The Solicitor General submitted that Malik

was playing tricks with the courts by insisting on cross-examining witnesses in the trial instead of keeping a lawyer. The law officer said Malik had been in contact with Pakistani militant and founder of terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba Hafiz Saeed. Opposing the Jammu court order, the top law officer cautioned that taking Malik to Jammu would be a security risk. Already, he said, a witness in the case has been killed.

Justice Oka raised doubts about online connectivity in Jammu while exploring the idea of facilitating Malik's virtual presence in the Jammu court trial. Mr. Mehta assured the Bench that connectivity was good. "We can set up a courtroom in Delhi in jail..." Justice Oka proposed while Mr. Mehta raised no objection to it. The court highlighted that witnesses in the case would require security, and asked for details about the arrangements to protect them.

Mr. Mehta mentioned how Malik was once brought in person to the Supreme Court last year in July after the Tihar Jail had misinterpreted a judicial order. The visit had caused quite a furore and led to sharp remarks from the Bench. The Bench adjourned the case to November 28, giving time to the CBI to amend its petition and implead the other accused persons as respondents in the case. The Supreme Court had last year stayed the Operation Jammu Special Court order allowing Malik's physical presence at the trial to cross examine witnesses in the case.

Adani indictment in U.S. vindicates demand for JPC probe, says Congress

The Congress on Thursday (November 21, 2024) reiterated its demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the transactions of the Adani Group after the India conglomerate's billionaire chairman was indicted in New York over allegations of bribery and fraud. Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that the U.S. vindicated the demand that the Congress was making for a JPC investigation into the various alleged scams. In a post on X, Mr. Jairam said, "The indictment of Gautam Adani and others by the Securities and Exchanges Commission (SEC) of the US vindicates the demand that the Indian National Congress has been making since Jan 2023 for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation into the various Modani scams." The indictment of Gautam Adani and others by the Securities and Exchanges Commission (SEC) of the US vindicates the demand that the Indian National Congress has been making since Jan 2023 for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) investigation into the various Modani scams. The "The INC had asked a hundred questions in its Hum Adani ke Hain (HAHK) series bringing out the various dimensions of these scams and of the intimate nexus that has existed between the PM and his favourite businessman. These questions have remained unanswered," he added. The Congress leader also mentioned that the actions of the Securities and Exchanges Commission (SEC) of the U.S. cast a poor light on the manner in which its "Indian counterpart, namely SEBI", has gone about investigating alleged violations of securities and other laws by the Adani Group. "The INC reiterates its demand for a JPC in the transactions of the Adani Group, which is leading to growing monopolization in key sectors of the Indian economy, fuelling inflation, and posing huge foreign policy challenges as well, especially in our neighbourhood," Jairam



Ramesh said further. Billionaire Gautam Adani has been charged by The U.S. prosecutors charged Gautam Adani over his role in an alleged years-long scheme to pay \$250 million bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts. US prosecutors charged Mr. Adani, 62, his nephew Sagar and other defendants for paying over \$250 million in bribes between 2020 and 2024 to Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts on terms that could potentially bring in more than \$2 billion in profit.

The U.S. Attorney's office said that the charges in the indictment are allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. The investigation was conducted by the FBI New York's Corporate, Securities and Commodities Fraud and International Corruption Units. The government's case is being handled by the Business and Securities Fraud Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York and the Criminal Division's Fraud Section.

Should packaged food content be labelled? | Explained

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

The story so far: A new report published by Access to Nutrition Initiative (ATNI) a non-profit global foundation, has found that leading food and beverage (F&B) companies, on average, sell products that are less healthy in low-and-middle income countries (LMICs) compared to what they sell in high-income countries (HICs). This report, which is the fifth edition of the 'Global Access to Nutrition Index', states that it assessed 30 of the world's largest F&B manufacturers — 23% of the global F&B market — on their performance to improve access to nutritious foods.

What were the report's findings?

The report analysed 52,414 products — including those from popular brands such as Nestle, Pepsico, Unilever, Coca-Cola and Hershey among others — using a health star rating system. Under this system products are ranked out of 5 on their healthiness, with 5 being the best, and a score above 3.5 considered to be a healthier choice. The system assesses components of food considered to increase risk (energy, saturated fat, total sugars and sodium) and offsets these against components considered to decrease risk (protein, fibre and fruit, vegetable, nut and legume) to calculate a final score that is converted to a star rating. The ATNI report found that 'portfolio healthiness' was found to be lowest in LMICs, highlighting disparities in products offered across different markets. Food product healthiness in LMICs scored much lower — 1.8 on the system — than in HICs where it scored 2.3. Only 30% of companies have demonstrated a strategy to price some of their 'healthier' products affordably for lower income consumers, the report found. It also found that in LMICs, micronutrient data were available for a smaller proportion of products as compared to those in HICs.

Is this the first time?

This is not the first instance of such a finding: in April this year, a report by Swiss NGO, Public Eye and the global coalition International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), found that Nestle's baby food products sold in India as well as in African and Latin American countries, had higher sugar content compared to the same products sold in European markets. While Nestle denied this, the Central government asked the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to initiate "appropriate action" against Nestle.

Why is this of significance in India?

India is staring at a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) burden of epic proportions — an estimated 10.13 crore Indians have diabetes, and as per National Family Health Survey 5 data, obesity stands at 24% among women and 23% among men. At the same time, undernutrition, anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies continue to remain pressing problems. A large chunk of the NCD burden, experts say, has to do with diets changing over the past few decades and becoming unhealthier. Citing the Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) dietary guidelines, published in April this year, the Economic Survey of India 2023-24 noted that 56.4% of the total disease burden in India is due to unhealthy diets. The ICMR report had said the upsurge



What does the report published by the Access to Nutrition Initiative state? How does a health star rating system work? Why have non-communicable diseases become so common in India? Can front-of-pack labelling help?

in the consumption of highly processed foods, laden with sugars and fat, coupled with reduced physical activity and limited access to diverse foods, exacerbate micronutrient deficiencies and overweight/obesity problems. Another significant issue here is affordability: as per UN data over 50% of Indians cannot afford a healthy diet. At the same time, Indian government data reveals that households' expenditure on processed food as a proportion of their food expenditure has risen, says development economist Dipa Sinha.

What about food package labelling?

India is a party to the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions, one of which is a resolution on marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children, highlighting the need to protect children from harmful marketing of junk foods. In 2017, India launched the National Multisectoral Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Common NCDs, 2017-22 (NMAP). However, there has been very little progress made to address front-of-pack labelling of food. Activists have, for years, been pushing the government to bring in regulations for front-of-pack labelling of foods that would indicate high sugar, fat and sodium content. A draft notification: Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Amendment Regulation 2022 was brought in, but has made no headway in two years, says Arun Gupta, convener, Nutrition Advocacy for Public Interest (NAPI). Studies have shown, Dr. Gupta points out, that labelling on the front of packaged food is effective: in Chile and Mexico for instance, the consumption of sugary beverages decreased after such mandatory labelling. He adds that warning labels are found to have worked best, compared to other labelling systems such as star ratings. An analysis by NAPI of 43 advertisements of pre-packaged food products and their composition revealed that these foods were high in one or more nutrients of concern such as saturated fat etc. "Policymakers and governments should introduce mandatory policies. To date, voluntary efforts by companies have been insufficient to ensure widespread and strong nutrition-related performance," the ATNI report states.

Adani U.S. indictment: BJP hits back at Congress, questions timing of bribery allegations

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

"It is Rahul Gandhi's usual tactic to attack India and structures that defend country, he similarly raked up Rafale issue," the BJP said, adding "Rahul may try to tarnish PM Modi's image but his credibility is so high that he just received highest civilian award in a foreign country." Federal U.S. prosecutors have charged Mr. Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and some other group officials for paying over \$250 millions in bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts. U.S. prosecutors charged Mr. Adani, 62, his nephew Sagar and other defendants for paying over \$250 million in bribes between 2020 and 2024 to Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts on terms that could potentially bring in more than \$2 billion in profit. Meanwhile, the Adani group denied the charges, saying the allegations by U.S. prosecutors are baseless and the conglomerate is compliant with all laws. It also said that all possible legal recourse will be sought.



were Opposition-ruled during that time. So, before you pontificate, answer on the bribes the Congress and its allies accepted," he said. While Odisha and Andhra Pradesh were then ruled by the BJD and the YSR Congress, two regional parties unaffiliated to either the ruling or the Opposition alliance at that time, the Congress ally DMK was and remains in power in Tamil Nadu. The Congress was in power in Chhattisgarh. Taking a swipe at Mr. Ramesh, he said it is always good to read before one reacts and added that the U.S. document cited by the senior Congress leader said the charges in the indictment are allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. An Indian court, the BJP leader said, can similarly on legitimate grounds accuse American firms of bribing U.S. government officials to deny access to Indian markets. "Should we then allow law to take its course and the concerned corporate to defend or plant ourselves in domestic politics of a foreign country," he said, asking the Congress to not get needlessly excited.

Congress allegations The Congress, especially the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, has constantly alleged proximity between the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Adani, claiming that the port-to-energy conglomerate has received undue favours from the BJP dispensation. Mr. Adani has dismissed such suggestions. The BJP, too, has denied the allegations and noted that the Adani Group has invested heavily in many Opposition-ruled states as well.

Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's brother Anmol arrested in U.S., lodged in Iowa jail

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

Jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's younger brother Anmol, wanted for the murder of NCP leader Baba Siddique and firing outside actor Salman Khan's Mumbai home, has been arrested by U.S. law enforcement authorities and is currently lodged in a prison in Iowa. According to a recent update on the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement website, Anmol Bishnoi is lodged at Pottawattamie County Jail in Iowa. No other details were immediately available.



in response to a question on Anmol's possible deportation at a press meet on November 18. A lookout circular was issued in April against Anmol, who had claimed responsibility for the firing incident outside Salman Khan's residence. An FIR was also registered by the NIA against nine accused, including the Bishnoi brothers, in August 2022 for being part of a conspiracy to "raise funds, recruit youth to carry out terrorist acts in the Union Territory of Delhi and other parts of the country" besides "targeted killings of prominent persons".

NIA carries out raids in Jammu to probe terrorist infiltration cases

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday (November 21, 2024) carried out raids at several locations across the Jammu region, including Reasi, Udhampur and Ramban, in connection with its probe into terrorist infiltration cases, official sources said. The searches are being conducted following the registration of cases involving the infiltration of Pakistani terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir, they said, adding that raids are underway at nine places in the division. "NIA raids are going on at various locations in Reasi, Doda, Udhampur, Ramban and Kishtwar in cases related to terrorist infiltration," a source said. The NIA offi-



cial are being assisted by the police and Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in this operation.

All about the latest spy war: how Iran and Israel are relying heavily on espionage



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

Iran and Israel's intense spy war escalates with assassinations, cyberwarfare, secret recruitments, and misinformation. As tensions rise, West Asia plunges deeper into chaos with no resolution in sight! Espionage – intelligence, counter-intelligence, spies – is a central element of statecraft. It has been so since the ancient period, and continues to remain extremely relevant. As conflict and war engulfs contemporary global geopolitics, espionage has taken on an even greater role. The latest spy war is playing out between the two biggest actors in West Asia: Iran and Israel. The U.S. is also very much in the middle of this battle between the two adversaries. Asif Rehman, a CIA official working overseas, was arrested in the first week of November – on allegations of leaking US intelligence on Israeli plans for retaliation against Iran after the latter had launched a barrage of missiles on Israel on October 1st.

The Iran-Israel animosity is not new. Iran voted against Israel's admission to the United Nations in 1949. Israel on its part, officially aims to 'foment the overthrow of Iran's Islamic Regime from within'. However, the protracted Israel-Hamas war, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, and Iran's role in the regional conflict through its proxies, has seen the confrontation reach new heights. Leaders of both countries have been vocal in their condemnation of the other. However, there is another battle, raging just below the surface. A covert war has been in motion between the two countries – through their intelligence and counter-intelligence units, cyber warfare, and vast network of spies.

Israel has had a head start in the risky, yet crucial task of intelligence gathering. The country has a composite and sophisticated intelligence structure involving the Prime Minister's office, the IDF, the Israeli police, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Of these, the most important bodies are the Mossad, Shabak or Shin Bet, and the Military Intelligence Directorate or Aman. The first two are under the PM's Office, and take care of foreign intelligence work and internal security respectively. While Aman is the military intelligence branch of the Israeli Defence Forces. The now well known Unit 8200 – credited for the pager and walkie-talkie attacks on Hezbollah operatives across Lebanon – is the signals-intelligence division of Aman.

With its many specialised divisions, resources, and trained individuals, Israeli intelligence has been largely able to repel Iran's 'axis of resistance'. Israel has also had a long period to plan, to recruit, and to structure their intelligence

within Iran. Israel's successful assassination of Hamas' political leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran in July, where he was attending the inauguration of Iran's new president Masoud Pezeshkian, sabotage of nuclear facilities, assassination of at least 6 of Iran's top nuclear scientists between 2010 and 2021, and news of attacks on an IRGC facility and theft of classified documents – are all examples of Israel's intelligence prowess. Israeli intelligence however, did face criticism for its failure to anticipate and prevent the October 7 Hamas attack, which essentially is point zero for the current escalation. Iran's intelligence community and networks

Iran on the other hand, has spent a long time acquiring allies and proxies in the region in its fight against Israel. But it is now taking the intelligence game seriously. Iran's intelligence community structure is also equally complex. The country has over a dozen intelligence agencies engaging in domestic and foreign surveillance, which report to different government ministries, branches of the military, or the police forces. Two out of these agencies are crucial. These are the Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS), which falls under the executive branch, and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Intelligence Organisation (IRGC-IO), which is part of the military. The Quds Force Division (IRGC-QF) is the IRGC's external wing operating around the world. While the IRGC Intelligence Organisation is responsible for data collection and analysis, the Cyber Electronic Command of the Guards, the IRGC-CEC oversees the cyber component of various missions. Iran's espionage efforts are grounded in recruitment, and information warfare. Between October 14 and 31, Israeli authorities arrested some 20 individuals who were operating on behalf of Iran in different raids. Recruitment is targeted at Palestinians working within Israel and facing discrimination, Jewish migrants facing financial struggles, as well as Palestinians and Israeli Arabs motivated by ideology. The Shin Bet has also blamed Iranian intelligence for posting high-paying job offers in exchange for carrying out operations at Tehran's behest. The tasks involved include intelligence collection by photographing important sites, Israeli officials' residences, as well as assassinations. Iranian intelligence is using social media to contact and lure potential spies.

Changes in Israel's social fabric after the October 7 attack, increasing dissatisfaction with the Netanyahu-led government, especially regarding its failure to resolve the hostage crisis, opposition to judicial changes, and disillusionment with the Zionist agenda have also contributed to the relative success of Iran's espionage in recent past. Not only this, Iran is also known to discredit adversary spy agencies by planting false stories – hoping they will be picked up – and later proving them wrong. Meanwhile, Israel – which is known to keep its intelligence activities secret – has resorted to publicising action against those it suspects of being spies. It hopes – and not without merit – to discourage recruitment by demonstrating that strict punishment awaits those who get involved. In this war within a war, both sides are striving to gain the upper hand using technology, cyber warfare, human intelligence, social media, lucrative financial offers and tapping into ideology for recruitment, misinformation, control over public narrative... the list goes on.

Is Pakistan scared of India's defence supremacy?

In the high-stakes world of military strategy, Pakistan's relentless pursuit to match India's advancements has become increasingly evident. Whether through borrowing, buying, or brokering advanced technology, Islamabad seems determined to keep pace with its neighbour's growing defence capabilities. India's successful test-flight of its first long-range hypersonic missile last week has intensified speculation about Pakistan's next move. The key question remains: Will Pakistan acquire hypersonic missile technology? And, more importantly, what does this mean for India's security?

The test-firing of India's hypersonic missile has sent ripples across South Asia, with defence analysts warning of a potential arms race in the region. This landmark achievement places India among a select group of nations capable of deploying hypersonic technology, a feat that signals a significant leap in its defence strategy. In response, Pakistan is reportedly considering ways to counterbalance India's strategic advantage. For Islamabad, this isn't merely about national security—it's a matter of pride and maintaining its perceived 'strategic parity' with India.

Defence experts suggest that Pakistan is unlikely to develop indigenous hypersonic capabilities in the near future. Instead, it may turn to its long-time ally, China. Reports indicate that Pakistan could seek access to China's Dongfeng-17 (DF-17), a cutting-edge hypersonic missile that has been a cornerstone of Beijing's advanced military arsenal. While China's support seems the most plausible route, experts have not ruled out the possibility of Pakistan exploring assistance from other countries, such as North Korea. However, these efforts are likely to remain heavily reliant on external support, with technical independence in



this domain a distant prospect for Pakistan.

Historically, Pakistan has prioritised military parity with India as a show of strength, even when the practical advantages are questionable. By acquiring hypersonic missile technology, Islamabad aims not only to counter India's advancements but also to maintain its standing in South Asia's evolving power dynamics. Whether Pakistan succeeds in acquiring hypersonic missiles remains uncertain. However, India's recent advancements have undeniably ignited a new wave of competition in the subcontinent. This evolving arms race could redefine the military balance in the region, with significant implications for regional security and stability. The pressing question now is: How far will Pakistan go to bridge the gap, and what will be the consequences of this pursuit for South Asia? As the region braces for a potential escalation, the world watches closely to see how this unfolding chapter in military strategy will shape the future of South Asia.

Intercontinental ballistic missile fired by Russia in first known use: Ukraine

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

In a major escalation, Russia fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) during an attack on Ukraine, marking the first use of a strategic weapon, capable of delivering nuclear armament thousands of kilometres away. The attack by Moscow came days after Ukraine fired US and UK missiles deep inside Russian territory, marking a significant escalation in the conflict that has now lasted 1,000 days. According to news agency Reuters, Russia fired its RS-26 Rubezh missile, with a range of 5,800 kilometres, deep inside Ukrainian territory. However, the missile was not carrying any nuclear warhead. The RS-26 was first successfully tested in 2012 and is estimated to be 12 metres long, with a weight of 36 tons, according to the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

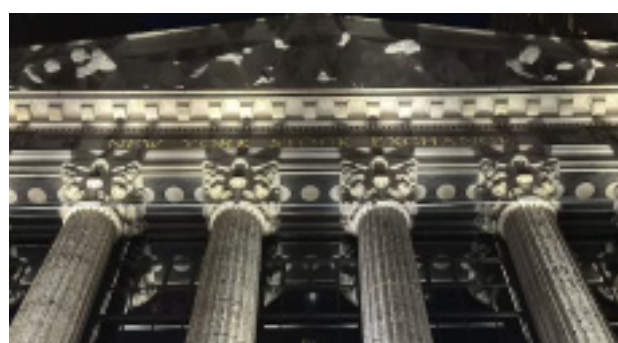
In addition to the RS-26 missile, the Russian forces also fired a Kinzhal hypersonic missile and seven Kh-101 cruise missiles, six of which were shot down, Reuters said, citing the Ukrainian Air Force. The Russian missile attack targeted enterprises and critical infrastructure in Ukraine's Dnipro, the Ukrainian Air Force said, adding that two people were also injured in the attack. Russia, which invaded Ukraine in February 2022, did not immediately comment on the Ukrainian Air Force statement. ICBMs are strategic weapons designed to deliver nuclear warheads and are an



The launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), with a range of thousands of kilometres, came days after Ukraine fired US and British missiles at targets deep inside Russian territory earlier this week.

important part of Russia's nuclear deterrent. Speaking on the launch of the ISBM, an official of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDR) called it "unprecedented". "If true this will be totally unprecedented and the first actual military use of ICBM. Not that it makes a lot of sense given their price and precision," Andrey Baklitskiy of the UNIDR said in a post on X.

US man arrested for attempting to plant bomb at New York Stock Exchange building



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

A Florida man was arrested Wednesday and charged with a plot to "reboot" the US government by planting a bomb at the New York Stock Exchange this week and detonating it with a remote-controlled device, according to the FBI. A Florida man was arrested Wednesday and charged with a plot to "reboot" the US government by planting a bomb at the New York Stock Exchange this week and detonating it with a remote-controlled device, according to the FBI.

Harun Abdul-Malik Yener, 30, of Coral Springs, Florida, was charged with attempting to use an explosive device to damage or destroy a building used in interstate commerce. The FBI began investigating Yener in February based on a tip that he was storing "bombmaking schematics" in a storage unit. They found bomb-making sketches, many watches with timers, electronic circuit boards and

other electronics that could be used for building explosive devices, according to the FBI. He had also searched online for things related to bomb-making since 2017, according to the FBI. Yener also told undercover FBI agents that he wanted to detonate the bomb the week before Thanksgiving and that the stock exchange in Lower Manhattan would be a popular site to target. "The Stock Exchange, we want to hit that, because it will wake people up," he told undercover FBI agents, according to court documents. Yener, who was described as "unhoused," wanted to bomb the stock exchange in order to "reboot" the U.S. government, explaining that it would be "like a small nuke went off," killing everyone inside the building, according to court documents.

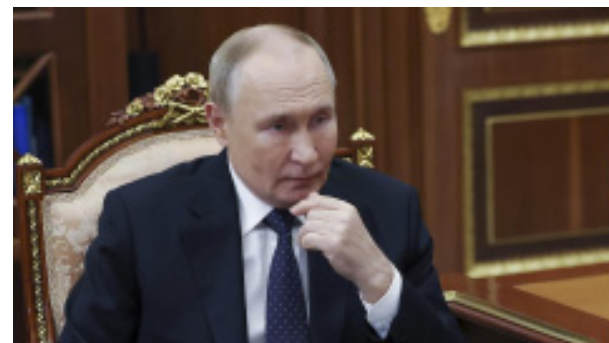
In the last month, he had rewired two-way radios so that they could work as remote triggers for an explosive device and planned to wear a disguise when planting the explosives, according to court documents. Yener had his first court appearance Wednesday afternoon and will be detained while he awaits trial. He was known to post videos on YouTube channels about making explosives and fireworks from household items, and had a history of making threats, according to court documents. He was fired last year from a restaurant in Coconut Creek, Florida, after his former supervisor said he threatened to "get a Parkland shooter in this place." He was also part of a small group that tried to join the far-right anti-government group the "Boogaloo Bois" and extremist group the Proud Boys, but was denied membership because he said he wanted "to pursue martyrdom," according to court documents.

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

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

Ukraine says Russia launched an intercontinental ballistic missile overnight targeting Dnipro city in the central-east of the country, which, if confirmed, would be the first time Moscow has used such a missile in the war. In a statement Thursday (November 21, 2024) on the Telegram messaging app, Ukraine's air force did not specify the exact type of missile, but said it was launched from Russia's Astrakhan region, which borders the Caspian Sea. It said an intercontinental ballistic missile was fired at Dnipro city along with eight other missiles, and that the Ukrainian military shot down six of them. Two people were wounded as a result of the attack, and an industrial facility and a rehabilitation center for people with disabilities were damaged, according to local officials. While the range of an ICBM would seem excessive for use against Ukraine, such missiles are designed to carry nuclear warheads, and the use of one would serve as a chilling reminder of Russia's nuclear capability and a powerful message of potential escalation.

Revised nuclear doctrine The attack comes two days after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a revised nuclear doctrine that formally lowers the threshold for the country's use of nuclear weapons. Ukraine on Tuesday fired several American-supplied longer-range missiles and reportedly fired U.K.-made Storm Shadows on Wednesday into Russia. The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement Thursday that its air defence systems shot down two British-made Storm Shadow missiles, six HIMARS rockets, and 67 drones. The announcement came in the ministry's daily roundup regarding the military actions in Ukraine. The statement didn't say when or where exactly it happened or what the missiles were targeting. This is not Moscow's first public announcement of the shooting down



of Storm Shadow missiles, as Russia earlier reported downing some over the annexed Crimean Peninsula. International dimension

The developments come as the war has taken on a growing international dimension with the arrival of North Korean troops to help Russia on the battlefield — a development that U.S. officials said prompted U.S. President Joe Biden's policy shift on allowing Ukraine to fire longer-range U.S. missiles into Russia. The Kremlin responded with threats to escalate further. Mr. Putin has previously warned the U.S. and other NATO allies that allowing Ukraine to use Western-supplied longer-range weapons to hit Russian territory would mean that Russia and NATO are at war. And the new doctrine allows for a potential nuclear response by Moscow even to a conventional attack on Russia by any nation that is supported by a nuclear power. While the doctrine envisions a possible nuclear response by Russia to a conventional strike, it is formulated broadly to avoid a firm commitment to use nuclear weapons and keep Putin's options open.

Russia and China oppose changing the Kenya-led force in Haiti to a U.N. peacekeeping mission

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

Russia and China on Wednesday (November 20, 2024) opposed a U.S.-led campaign to transform the Kenya-led multinational force in Haiti helping police to tackle escalating gang violence into a U.N. peacekeeping mission. The two allies called a U.N. Security Council meeting as gangs have intensified attacks, shooting at four aircraft which has shut the airport in the capital Port-au-Prince, and a tacking its upscale neighborhood Petionville on Tuesday. The U.N. estimates the gangs control 85% of the capital and have spread into surrounding areas.

The United States proposed a U.N. peacekeeping mission in early September as one way to secure regular financing for the U.N.-backed multinational force, which faces a serious funding crisis. The U.S. tried to get the 15-member U.N. Security Council to sign off on a draft resolution last week to start the transformation. But Russia and China refused to discuss the resolution and instead called for Wednesday's council meeting where they made their opposition clear.

China's Deputy U.N. Ambassador Geng Shuang said the council extended the mandate of the multinational force only a month ago, and discussing its transformation to a peacekeeping operation now "will only interfere" and make it harder to tackle its funding shortfall and get all the police pledged to Haiti. Peacekeepers should only be deployed when there is peace to keep, and there is no peace in Haiti, Geng stressed. "Deploying a peacekeeping operation at this time is nothing more than putting peacekeepers into the front line of the battles with gangs." The multinational force was supposed to have 2,500 international police but the head of the U.N.'s political mission in Haiti, Maria Isabel Salvador, told the council late last month that only around 430 are deployed — some 400 from Kenya and the rest from the Bahamas, Belize and Jamaica.

She said the U.N. trust fund that finances the multinational force and relies on voluntary contributions, "remains critically under-resourced." By last week, the trust fund had received \$85.3 million of the \$96.8 million pledged. The U.S. agreed to contribute \$300 million to the force, but that total is still far below the \$600 million cost to deploy a 2,500-strong force for a year. Russia's Deputy U.N. Ambassador Dmitry Polyansky, expressing "shock and horror" at what's happening on the streets of Port-au-Prince, accused the U.S. and other countries that initially supported the multinational force of failing to fund it. "Conditions on the ground in Haiti are not appropriate for U.N. peacekeepers," he said. "Their role is to maintain peace and not to fight crime in urban areas or to save a dysfunctional state that has been plunged into domestic conflict."

Whatever the future international presence in Haiti, Polyansky said Haitians need urgent assistance immediately which means providing the multinational force with the necessary materiel, funding and technical expertise. "Oth-

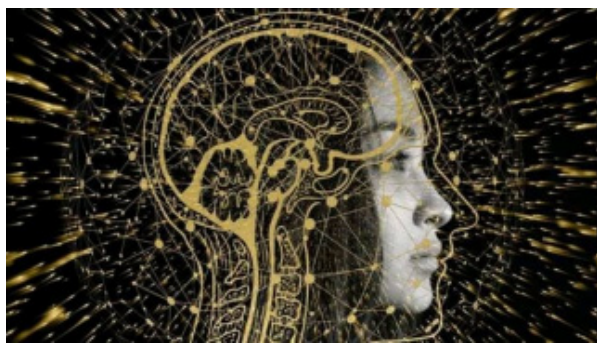


erwise, quite simply, there will be just nobody left to host any future peacekeepers," he said. Haiti's leaders have asked for a U.N. peacekeeping force, and the permanent council of the Organization of American States adopted a resolution on Nov. 13 entitled "In Support of Haiti's Request for a United States Peacekeeping Operation." At the council meeting, there was also strong support for the transformation.

Monica Juma, national security adviser to Kenya's president, told the council that joint operations by the multinational force and the Haitian police have secured critical infrastructure including the police academy, national palace, national hospital and port. But it's evident the multinational force urgently needs "a surge," she said, and Kenya looks forward to additional deployments in the shortest possible time along with contributions of equipment and logistical support. At the same time, Juma said, Kenya "strongly supports" the Haitian government's appeal to the Security Council to authorize planning for the transformation of the multinational force to a U.N. peacekeeping force. U.S. deputy ambassador Dorothy Shea told the council that with Haitian, regional and Kenyan support, "it is time for the Security Council to act to take the initial steps to realize Haiti's request to help reestablish security for the people of Haiti."

Transitioning to a U.N. peacekeeping mission, she said, would facilitate the multinational force and the countries supporting it "to take advantage of existing U.N. financial, personnel, and logistical support structures as well as predictable and sustainable financing." The most poignant appeal for a peacekeeping force came from Haitian Dr. Bill Pape, who left Port-au-Prince about two weeks ago where he works to combat infectious and chronic diseases. He is also a professor at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York. Pape said he came with a message to the Security Council: The Haitian police and multinational force "are outgunned and outnumbered." He said he recognized the controversies of previous peacekeeping missions in Haiti. The most recent, from 2004-2017, was marred by allegations of sexual assault and the introduction of cholera, which killed nearly 10,000 people. But Pape stressed that during previous foreign interventions, which date to the early 1900s, "insecurity did not exist at this scale."

Centre finalises tender to procure 1,000 GPUs under IndiaAI Mission



and build such AI systems, given the high costs.

The tender, which is for a tenth of the GPUs originally envisioned, is the first phase of the implementation of the IndiaAI Mission. It comes after the Ministry of Electronics and IT was allocated Rs 551.75 crore for the programme in the Union Budget 2024. Last month, The Indian Express had reported that the work on the tender was complete and it could be released soon. "IndiaAI is looking to empanel AI services on cloud and offer the services to academia, MSMEs, startups, research community, governments, public sector agencies and other entities approved by IndiaAI," the tender said.

As per the document, a consortium of partner companies can bid, with one of them designated as primary partner and the others as secondary. The maximum number of partners in a consortium will be three. Bidders can only be Indian entities incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, LLP Act, 2008, or Partnership Act, 1932. Members of the consortium could be data centre providers, cloud services providers, or a system integrator with experience in cloud implementation. The primary partner of a consortium must have an average annual turnover of more than Rs 100 crore for the last three financial years. One key condition of the tender is that all AI services are to be delivered from data centres in India. "Data uploaded to their cloud platform by end users should not be sent outside the sovereign territory of India in any form (anonymous/pseudonymous/encrypted, etc.)," the tender said. Successful bidders will have to ensure availability of AI compute capacity for consumption – a demand of up to 100 AI compute hours shall be met immediately and up to 500 AI compute hours shall be met within two days and demand of more than 500 hours of AI compute shall be met within a week. Of India's Rs 10,370 crore plan, the implementation of computing infrastructure will be done through a public-private partnership model with 50 per cent viability gap funding. If the compute prices come down, the private entity will have to add more compute capacity within the same budgeted amount to meet increased demand. Of the total outlay, Rs 4,564 crore has been earmarked for building computing infrastructure.

IndiaAI Mission, gpu, graphics processing units, data localisation, GPUs under IndiaAI Mission, Indian express business, business news, business articles, business news stories Successful bidders will have to ensure availability of AI compute capacity for consumption – a demand of up to 100 AI compute hours shall be met immediately and up to 500 AI compute hours shall be met within two days and demand of more than 500 hours of AI compute shall be met within a week. The government has finalised a tender document to procure 1,000 graphics processing units (GPUs) as part of its ambitious IndiaAI Mission and offer computing capacity to Indian start-ups, researchers, public sector agencies and other entities approved by the government, The Indian Express has learnt. A requirement of data localisation has also been considered in the tender.

Harnessing demographic dividend amid geopolitical tensions key challenge for policymakers: PM's top aide

Harnessing demographic dividend, geopolitical tensions, declining globalisation and rising economic nationalism, impact of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and climate change are some of the challenges that need to be addressed both through policy and action, Principal Secretary to Prime Minister PK Mishra said

To become a developed country by 2047, India needs to go beyond achieving the desired level of per capita income to achieve "more inclusive and innovative" economy, with women leading the development story, he said at the Diamond Jubilee conference organised by Delhi School of Economics. "We can do many things in the Budget and also as a policy. But there are challenges, which we must be aware of and try to address. Some of those I would like to mention, like, for example, harnessing demographic dividend. Though we talk about demographic dividend and we'll be having this for the next many years. Geopolitical tensions, declining globalisation and rising economic nationalism, impact of emerging technologies and of course climate change. These are some of the challenges we should try to address both in our policy and our action," Mishra said.

Mishra said there is a need for India to be Atmanirbhar (self reliant) critical areas. "We should achieve economic, social and environmental sustainability, in order to withstand disruptions of the supply chain. India needs to become Atmanirbhar in critical areas," he said. The Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned how export-led growth won't be easy amid the ongoing geopolitical tensions in the world. He enlisted the recent trends in challenges by citing instances of how amid geopolitical tensions, governments are pursuing onshoring and friend-shoring of production, which have consequent impact on transportation, logistic costs, resulting in increased price of production. "Recent events in the Red Sea have caused concern for reliance on the global supply chain. In other words, export-led development will not be easy because many East Asian countries had the benefit of export-led growth, which in today's context will have some challenges," he said.

Mishra also outlined the risks from use of technology and energy transition on growth. "Artificial Intelligence poses challenges for growth in service trade and employment because technology might affect the cost competitiveness of countries exporting digital services. Third, the challenge of energy transition in the context of focusing on reducing carbon emission, achieving trade off between economic growth and energy transition is not going to be easy because when we talk about reducing emission, reducing coal, there will be challenges for our growth," he said. With development of technologies that are to a large extent, labour saving, there is a need to look at employment potential of economic growth, Mishra said, adding that it is important in order to maximise India's demographic dividend. "It is essential to ensure employment of the largest possible section of the population, especially the youth," he said. Making a reference to the Washington consensus concept by John Williamson that was widely followed as a set of economic policy recommendations for developing countries for two decades, Mishra pointed out the need to revisit some policy approaches in the current concept of globalisation.

"Many people argue that globalisation, as we know it, will have to be replaced by a new understanding that rebalances national needs and needs of a healthy global economy that facilitate global trade and long-term foreign investment. Possibly the new globalisation model will be less intrusive, acknowledging the needs of all countries, not just major powers. So some of the recommendations and policy approaches based on globalisation, probably have to be revisited," he said. Citing the experience from COVID-19 pandemic, Mishra said that many referred to it as a Black Swan event and there is a need to bridge the gap between traditional disaster and risk management, and risk management in an uncertain environment. "The traditional disaster risk management paradigm is attuned to using analysis of past events, their frequency, intensity and impact, to quantify a risk and devise risk management strategies for the future," he said. Giving reference to Nassim Nicholas Taleb's 2012 book 'Antifragile: Things that Gain from Disorder', he said the concept of antifragility is important as it is beyond robustness and resilience, especially in times of Black Swan problems. "...proliferating global networks, both physical and virtual, lead to more interdependent and fragile systems. Not only risks such as pathogens, but computer vi-



rus, hacking of information networks, reckless actions of financial institutions, or particular acts of terror can also make a system fragile. Any adverse event can cause a rolling and widening collapse, a Black Swan event. The failure of a single transformer can collapse the electricity grid," Mishra said. He further said that with increasing digitisation and global interdependence, there is a risk of a small incident developing into a Black Swan event. "As we are developing the technology, developing the interdependence globally, everything depends on digitisation. So that can also cause Black Swan events and any small incident can do that," he said, adding that there are suggestions to decentralise systems and to have separate subsystems and these conceptual factors have to be addressed if India wants to have sustainable development and become a developed country. Mishra said the role of analytical models is important noting the uncertainty in today's times. "The whole concept of globalisation is probably changing. It is in this context that the role of economists, role of analytical models are also important because very often the word academic, when we talk in the bureaucratic context or political context, in a meeting, suppose, you talk about some concept, somebody will comment — it is all academic. That term academic is used in some sense, as something not practical, but I feel that unless you are able to conceptualise right from the beginning, because many of our policy measures do not get the intended results because we have not analysed all the aspects, all the scenarios, all the uncertainties which are there," he said.

Zomato CEO announces job opening; Says no salary for one year, candidate needs to pay Rs.20 lakh as fee

Hyderabad: In an unconventional way to convey a job opening, Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal took to social media platform 'X' to announce that his company is looking to hire for a Chief of Staff position.



However, the job role comes with a twist as no salary will be paid in the first year and candidate selected is required to pay Rs.20 lakh as fee. The CEO justifying his unusual offer said, "this job will provide 10x more learnings than a 2-year degree from a top management school as the candidate will be working with me and some of the smartest folks in consumer tech." The job which is based at Zomato's headquarters in Gurugram requires a candidate with 'hunger,' 'empathy,' 'common sense' and 'not a lot of experience.' Goyal said that the Rs.20 lakh collected as fee would be donated directly to 'Feeding India,' a Zomato non-profit initiative. "At our end, we want to demonstrate that we are not trying to save money here—we will contribute Rs.50 lakh (equivalent to a Chief of Staff salary) to a charity of the candidates choice." The CEO further said that, "This role is not for resume building or financial perks but for those who want to learn and contribute to building the future of Zomato, Blinkit, Hyperpure, and Feeding India.

Are pet perfumes a health risk for your furry friends? Here's what an expert has to say



Who doesn't want to smell good? If we can have a nose for fine fragrances, why can't our furry friends? However, a luxury brand's recent launch of a pet perfume has sparked concerns among pet owners about its safety and the potential impact on their pets' sensitive noses. Could these perfumes pose health risks? What precautions should be taken before spritzing your pet? Indianexpress.com spoke to a pet expert to understand the nuances of this product.

"When used correctly and in moderation, pet perfumes are generally designed to be safe and shouldn't significantly affect a pet's sense of smell," said J S Rama Krishna, business head at Growel Pet Nutrition. "However, it's important to remember that pets, especially dogs, have a much more acute sense of smell than humans. Strong scents can be overwhelming and potentially distressing for them. Therefore, it's crucial to choose pet-specific perfumes that are formulated to be mild and non-irritating," he said. Precautions to keep in mind when applying pet perfumes Choose pet-

specific products: Use perfumes specifically designed for pets, as human perfumes contain chemicals harmful to animals. Use diluted forms: Dilute the perfume according to the manufacturer's instructions. Natural ingredients: Opt for products with natural, non-toxic ingredients. Avoid perfumes with alcohol, essential oils, or synthetic fragrances that might cause irritation or allergic reactions. Patch test: Test the perfume on a small area of your pet's skin before full application to check for adverse reactions. Avoid Sensitive Areas: Do not spray perfume near your pet's face, especially around the eyes, nose, and mouth. Apply it to the back or neck where they are less likely to lick it off. Moderation: Use perfume sparingly; a small amount is sufficient, as overuse can lead to discomfort or health issues. Krishna also suggested avoiding the following ingredients especially for dogs: •Essential oils: Avoid oils like eucalyptus and lavender, which can be toxic. •Ethanol (alcohol) and artificial dyes: These can cause allergic reactions and irritation. •Parabens: These preservatives may cause hormonal imbalances and skin irritation. •Phthalates: Chemicals used to extend fragrance, potentially disrupting endocrine functions. And when it comes to cats: •Essential oils: Avoid oils such as tea tree, eucalyptus, and citrus, which are highly toxic. •Phenol-based Compounds: Found in synthetic fragrances and cleaning agents, these can be harmful. •Ethanol (alcohol) and artificial dyes: Toxic if ingested and can cause skin irritation.

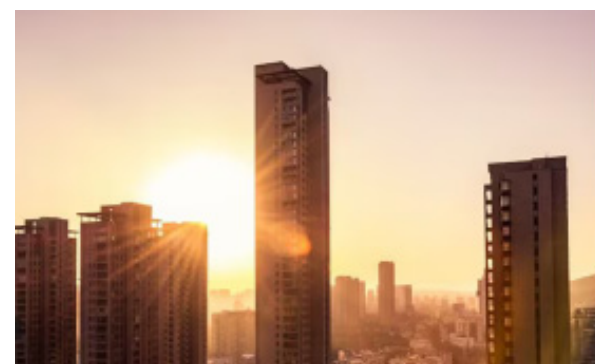
What are the potential health risks associated with these perfumes? Krishna listed skin irritation as a major concern for pet owners. Some pets may react negatively to chemicals in perfumes, resulting in rashes or itching. Ingredients in perfumes can also cause allergic reactions such as sneezing, coughing, or difficulty breathing. If pets lick the perfume off their fur, it may lead to gastrointestinal issues like vomiting or diarrhoea.

Dhvani Bhanushali recalls getting a 'headache on site' in her 76th-floor Mumbai home; experts share long-term impact of living in high altitudes

High-rise buildings have become increasingly common. Recently, Architectural Digest India shared a glimpse inside Indian pop singer Dhvani Bhanushali's home on the 76th floor of a highrise, where she reported experiencing health issues "It took us a while to figure out why everyone got a headache on site, only to realise that the low oxygen level at the height was the reason," Bhanushali told the magazine. What impact can living at such altitudes have on your health? indianexpress.com consulted health experts to understand the long-term risks this poses. "Living at high altitudes leads to decreased oxygen levels due to thinner air, which can negatively affect health, particularly those who are already sensitive. Prolonged exposure to low oxygen levels can cause chronic hypoxia, leading to issues like elevated blood pressure, rapid heart rates, and breathing difficulties, particularly at night," said Dr Manoj Pawar, Consultant – Pulmonology, Manipal Hospital, Kharadi, Pune. According to him, this could eventually impact cardiovascular health and increase the risk of conditions like sleep apnea. Pregnant women, children, the elderly, and those with heart or pre-existing respiratory disorders are especially vulnerable to these effects.

What's the ideal height to live in?

"While each person's health decides the optimal height for living, floors above the 30th can begin to show noticeable variations in oxygen and air quality," said Dr Pawar. "If you are above 8,000 feet, then it can indeed pose risk due to reduced oxygen, and this can cause significant health issues and symptoms like shortness of breath, fatigue, and



most commonly headache, and sometimes long-term exposure may impact cognitive function," said Dr Sulaiman Ladhani, chest physician and consultant pulmonologist at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central. However, he said that the altitude of a 76-floor building in Mumbai is significantly lower than what is typically considered high altitude. He noted that such apartments are equipped with sophisticated ventilation systems to regulate air quality. Therefore, any issues individuals face in high-rise apartments are likely due to their personal health conditions and tolerance to altitude variations. Dr Ladhani also clarified that, for most people, living below 8,000 feet (about 2,500 meters) should not pose significant health problems. Anything above 3,000 meters can be challenging, depending on a person's age, acclimatisation capacity, and underlying health issues," he said.

Herbalife India Announces Official Channels for Authentic Product Purchase

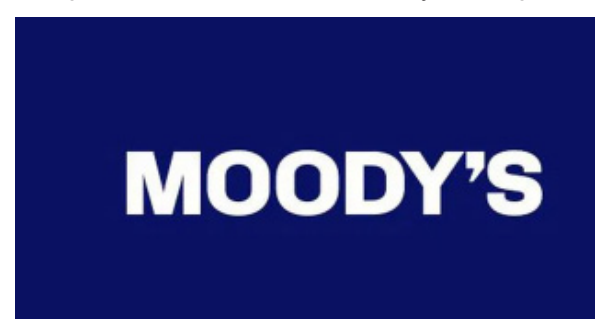
Herbalife India, a global health and wellness company and community reaffirms that its products are sold exclusively through a network of Herbalife Independent Associates/direct sellers in India and 94 other countries. Herbalife ensures that the customers receive authentic and genuine products with personalized support from the Herbalife Independent Associates/direct sellers to achieve their health and wellness goals.

"Consumers are advised to be cautious of information found or products sold on unauthorized websites, even those mentioning 'Herbalife Independent Associate' or displaying Herbalife address or identically similar. Herbalife India respectfully takes no responsibility for the accuracy of information presented and the authenticity of the products sold on other e-commerce channels/website." Herbalife said in a statement. "Consumers are advised to be cautious of information found or products sold on unauthorized websites, even those mentioning 'Herbalife Independent Associate' or displaying Herbalife address or identically similar. Herbalife India respectfully takes no responsibility for the accuracy of information presented and the authenticity of the products sold on other e-commerce channels/website." Herbalife said in a statement. "Consumers are advised to be cautious of information found or products sold on unauthorized websites, even those mentioning 'Herbalife Independent Associate' or displaying Herbalife address or identically similar. Herbalife India respectfully takes no responsibility for the accuracy of information presented and the authenticity of the products sold on other e-commerce channels/website." Herbalife said in a statement. Herbalife (NYSE: HLF) is a premier health and wellness company and community that has been changing people's lives with great nutrition products and a business opportunity for its independent distributors since 1980. The Company offers science-backed products to consumers in 95 markets through entrepreneurial distributors who provide one-on-one coaching and a supportive community that inspires their customers to embrace a healthier, more active lifestyle in order to live their best life. Herbalife (NYSE: HLF) is a premier health and wellness company and community that has been changing people's lives with great nutrition products and a business opportunity for its independent distributors since 1980. The Company offers science-backed products to consumers in 95 markets through entrepreneurial distributors who provide one-on-one coaching and a supportive community that inspires their customers to embrace a healthier, more active lifestyle in order to live their best life. This content is sponsored and does not reflect the views or opinions of IE Online Media Services Pvt Ltd. No journalist is involved in creating sponsored material and it does not imply any endorsement whatsoever by the editorial team. IE Online Media Services takes no responsibility for the



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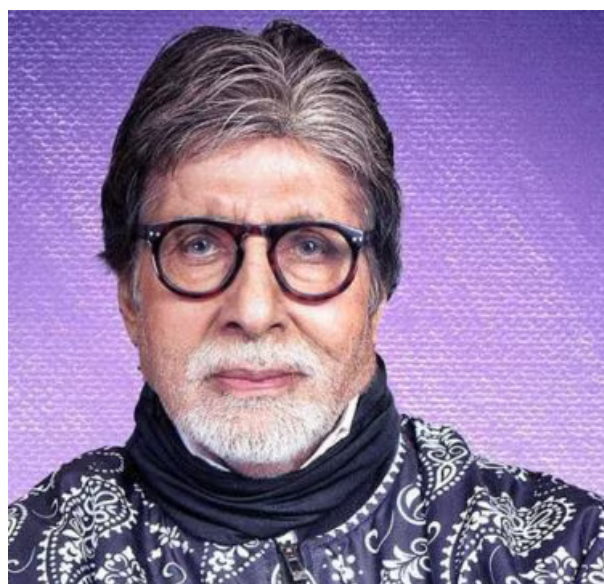
Moody's to review Adani Group's governance after bribery charges



New Delhi: Moody's Ratings on Thursday said it will look at Adani group's governance practices when assessing the ports-to-energy conglomerate's ability to access capital in the aftermath of indictment of the group head Gautam Adani on bribery charges.

"The indictment of Adani Group's chairman and other senior officials on bribery charges is credit negative for the group's companies," Moody's Ratings said in a statement. Billionaire Gautam Adani has been charged by US prosecutors for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay over USD 250 million (about Rs 2,100 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts. "Our main focus when assessing Adani Group is on the ability of the group's companies to access capital to meet their liquidity requirements and on its governance practices," Moody's said.

Amitabh Bachchan expresses concern over 'speculated untruths without verification': 'I rarely say much about family...'



privacy is maintained by me..."

The actor then went on to address the difference between speculation and verification, without directing it towards anybody. He wrote, "Speculations are speculations... they are speculated untruths, without verifications." He added, "Verifications are sought by the seekers to authenticate their business and commercials of the profession they are in... I shall not challenge their desire to be in the profession of their choice... and I shall appreciate their effort in serving society..." Expressing his concern over information ending with question mark, Big B wrote, "But untruths... or selected question marked information can be a legal safeguard for them that inform... but the seed of suspected belief is sown with this most used emblem... the question mark."

The actor said one can express whatever they like but if they follow it up with a question mark, they themselves say that the information they are sharing maybe "questionable." "But also quite surreptitiously wanting the reader to believe and expand on it, so that your write gets valued repeats... your content is done, not just for that one moment, but for many moments... the reader when they react to it gives content expansion... the reaction could be in belief or in the negative... anything that be, give credence to the write... and that is the writes business... his or her commerce dependence... fill the World with untruth or questioned untruth and your job is over." Amitabh then asked if the writers ever think of the impact their "questionable" write-ups might have on the subject. "Your conscience, if ever you have one, has been overridden?", wrote the veteran star. He ended his blog with "Each profession can have these qualities... and this is my safeguard in the write."

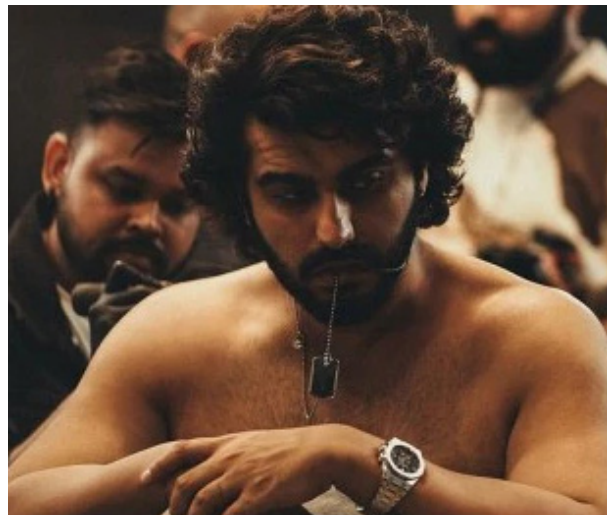
Amitabh Bachchan, who is known for keeping his personal life private and away from media, recently penned a note, expressing his views on the "questionable" writeups. The actor, in his latest blog, penned a long note expressing his opinion about "speculations" and "selected question marked information." The veteran star questioned people's conscience, who spread "speculated untruths without verification." On Thursday, the actor took to his blog and wrote, "It takes immense courage conviction and a sincerity to be different and believe in its presence in life... I rarely say much about family, because that is my domain and its

Arjun Kapoor gets a tattoo in late mother's memory to mark new phase of life, Malaika Arora makes Indian Railways 'posh'

Arjun Kapoor, who is currently celebrating the success of his latest film Singham Again, recently got a tattoo to mark this new phase of his life. Arjun played a villain named Danger Lanka in the film and chatter on the internet suggests that could be a new beginning for Arjun's career, considering he had not experienced a success at the box office since 2016's Ki and Ka. Arjun took to Instagram to share his new tattoo that reads "Rab rakha - May God be with you."

He shared in the caption, "My mother always said this - in good times and bad. Even today, it feels like she's right here with me, guiding me, watching over me ?? I got this tattoo on the eve of the 'Singham Again' release, and now, as I stand on the brink of this new chapter, I feel like she's got my back, reminding me that the universe has a plan. ????? Thank you Ma, for teaching me faith. Rab Rakha, always. ?????". He also shared a bunch of images and videos from the day he got his tattoo. Meanwhile, Malaika Arora, who has been slowly slipping back into her work life after the death of her stepfather Anil Mehta, recently took a train and shared some images from her travels on her social media. In the picture, Malaika can be seen resting on her berth with a face mask. She shared in the caption, "Make it posh" and also tagged Indian Railways in her post.

Malaika and Arjun ended their almost six-year-long relationship earlier this year. Arjun recently opened up about



going through a time while he was preparing for Singham Again. He shared with The Hollywood Reporter India, "It's very tricky to speak about it and know because I think I've got to respect the way things have been. I don't like to go into details for that reason, but I will never ever crisscross the two things. I think what my issues in the beginning part of my life are not correlated to where I am today."

did a screen test for it, but I was rejected. I was really keen on playing that role, but Kiran and I discussed it. I think my screen test was very good, but we decided to go with Ravi Kishan. Both of us took that decision."

Kiran shed light on her reasoning for the casting choice, explaining, "Obviously, his screen test was good, and he really wanted to play that role. But I felt that the balance of the film would have tipped a little. Now, everyone knows that the character does a flip in the end, even though he stays kind of grey throughout the film. It shows that he has an empathetic side to him. But with Aamir, you would have expected him to do something like this in the end because he is Aamir Khan." Aamir, quick to add his signature humor, quipped, "She didn't trust me as an actor. She didn't trust that I would convince the audience that I am a very grey person." Initially opening to a lukewarm response, Laapataa Ladies became a sleeper hit as its storyline resonated deeply with audiences. The film was later selected as India's official entry to Oscars 2025. Produced by Aamir Khan and directed by Kiran Rao, it featured Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastav, Chhaya Kadam, and Ravi Kishan in pivotal roles.

lessness and negligence.

Talking about the film, Rahul, in a statement, said, "I'm thrilled to bring a story to life that not only celebrates the bravery of our firefighters but also delves into their emotional journeys. This story is a tribute to their sacrifice, loyalty, resilience, and I hope it inspires audiences to recognise and appreciate these selfless protectors in our society." Pratik, who is reuniting with his Madgaon Express team of Excel Entertainment, Prime Video, and Divyenndu, said, "Agni holds a special place in my heart. Delving into the emotional and physical challenges faced by these brave souls has been a transformative experience for me as an actor in a once-in-a-lifetime role." Sharing the sentiments, Divyenndu wrote, "This fictional film represents more than just an engaging story, but is something meaningful for me to be a part of. I consider this a significant shift in my career as I take on a character to showcase a hero's personal sacrifices, beyond just their uniforms. It has enabled me to explore new depths of my craft that are raw and emotional."



It is no secret that Aamir Khan was eager to play the character of Sub-Inspector Shyam Manohar in Kiran Rao's Laapataa Ladies. The role, however, was ultimately played by Ravi Kishan. During the film's screening at the Asian World Film Festival, Kiran elaborated on her decision not to cast Aamir, while the actor humorously accused the filmmaker of doubting his acting abilities. Recounting the experience, Aamir said, "I tried to play a character in the film; she (Kiran) didn't let me. I wanted to play the cop and even

Pratik Gandhi, Divyenndu reunite for a fiery tale of brotherhood and sacrifice.

For a few years now, Excel Entertainment and Prime Video have had a rather fruitful collaboration experimenting with the OTT space to deliver disruptive content. They have worked together on premier series like Inside Edge, Mirzapur, Made In Heaven, Dhaad, and Bambai Meri Jaan. Even on the film front, Excel Entertainment's Hello Charlie was a direct release on Prime Video. The latest offering from this collaboration is National Award winner Rahul Dholakia's gritty film, Agni, which is based on the life of firefighters.

Written and directed by Rahul, the film features Pratik Gandhi, Divyenndu in the lead roles. In the trailer, which was launched today, we see the lives of Pratik, who plays a firefighter, and Divyenndu, who plays a cop, intertwine inexplicably. From the rushes, it is clear that the film is set to be a tribute to the firefighters who brave it all, and yet aren't recognised by the society. There are brief detours into the problems faced by firefighters while doing their duties, and the risks involved due to simple cases of care-

Shah Rukh Khan recalls he almost quit Bollywood, took the first flight back to Delhi: 'I thought I was the best actor and then...'



Shah Rukh Khan, with more than 100 films to his credit in 35 years of his career, has become one of the most followed actors globally. He has a fan base in almost every part of the world. Several celebrities like Will Smith and Dua Lipa have expressed their admiration for the actor. How-

ever, there was a time when Shah Rukh Khan was ready to give it all up and thought he was a bad actor. The actor recently recalled how he took the first flight back to Delhi from Mumbai after seeing others are better than him.

At the recently held third Global Freight Summit in Dubai, Shah Rukh Khan spoke about the many aspects of his life including his career. When asked what surprises him about his profession, the actor said "waking up every day only to realise there is so much more to learn surprises me." He recalled an incident from his life to explain himself better. He said, "I thought I am the best actor when I came on the set. I was overconfident and then I realised, everyone on set were acting better than me. I took the first flight back to Delhi and I remember, there used to be an international flight that used to be 25% cheaper as I couldn't afford the other one. I rushed to the airport, bought the ticket and wanted to go home because I realised, I am such a bad actor. He added, "Every time, I am learning more, I am realising how bad I am. In 35 years of my career, every time I go on a set, I realise how much more there is to know. This surprises me about my profession."

When Sarika responded to being called 'the other woman' in Kamal Haasan's life: 'I don't regret my choices'

Kamal Haasan met Sarika on the sets of Raaj Tilak in 1984 and tied the knot in 1988 after divorcing his first wife Vani Ganapathy. Kamal Haasan's relationship with Sarika while being married to Vani Ganapathy was criticised by many. People labelled Sarika as the "other woman". Despite all the backlash, and multiple attempts at breaking off their relationship, the two fell in love and eventually tied the knot. They even welcomed two daughters, Shruti and Akshara Haasan. In 2002, however, the couple divorced each other.

In an old interview, Sarika had spoken about her marriage to Kamal Haasan and said she doesn't regret a thing about it. Speaking to India Today, Sarika said, "I have said this time and again... if given a chance, I would live my life exactly the way I have lived it because I think there have been very nice things. Whoever I am or wherever I am, all this is part of my life. Everything is nice at a point. Things go bad later otherwise, I would not have got up, left everything and gone." When asked if the "other woman" tag bothered her at the time of her relationship with the actor, Sarika quickly said, "Not at all." She explained, "That is their opinion. I have nothing to do with it. I never held it against anybody. It was my life, I had to be sure of what I was doing. I had two beautiful women, Shruti and Akshara, how can you



regret it?" Shruti, who accompanied her mother in the interview, shared her point of view and revealed if her parents' separation had any impact on her. She said, "Of course, there is certain amount of change and emotional upheaval." But, she clarified, "I always say this and I understood this while I was young, that both of them were separate individuals before becoming my parents, and even as a teenager when it all happened, I just wanted them to be happy. And I still maintain it."

Diljit Dosanjh slips on stage during Ahmedabad show, pauses the show to stop the pyrotechnics.

Diljit Dosanjh has been performing in various Indian cities for his Dil-Luminati tour and at a recent performance in Ahmedabad, the singer accidentally slipped on stage but managed to save himself. The video of this incident has now landed online. Here, Diljit can be seen performing his song 'Patiala Peg' and is pretty engrossed in the song when, during a dance step, he slipped on the stage. While the chorus continued the verse, Diljit stopped the music to alert the organisers to make some changes. He realised that the pyrotechnics being used on the stage were using some kind of fuel and that fuel was being spilled on the stage, that resulted in his fall. He can be heard saying, "Bhai yahan pe fire aap jo chhodte ho, mat chhodo. Tel aata hai yahan. I am okay (Bro, don't use the fire you are using here. There's fuel here.)" Diljit Dosanjh fell during his Live concert in Ahmedabad! Bro fell at the right lyrics "Hor Kisi te Dul gaya!"

Fans were instantly reminded of the time when Diljit had a pretty big fall on the stage during his performance with Yo Yo Honey Singh. This was during the early 2010s and the two stars were performing 'Lakk 28' and as Diljit tried to perform, he slipped and fell. At his concert in Ahmedabad, Diljit addressed the legal notice he received before his show in Hyderabad that demanded that he remove all the references of drugs and alcohol from his songs. The singer tweaked his lyrics during the performance and while he did not receive any notice in Ahmedabad, he stuck with the changed lyrics. He shared on stage, "I have sung dozens of devotional songs. In the last 10 days alone, I



released two devotional tracks, but no one talks about that. Everyone on TV is only focused on 'Patiala Peg.' He then said, "Let's start a movement—if all states ban liquor consumption completely, I will never sing a song about alcohol again in my entire life. Is this possible? During COVID, everything was closed except liquor shops. You can't fool the youth. If not a complete ban, then at least declare a dry day in your state on the day of my performance, and I will refrain from singing any alcohol-related song."

Amitabh Bachchan gets emotional as son Abhishek talks about 'what fathers do for their kids': 'It's 10 pm now, he left for work at 6:30 am'

The latest guest on Amitabh Bachchan's popular quiz show, Kaun Banega Crorepati, is his son Abhishek Bachchan along with director Shoojit Sircar. While the actor appeared on the show to promote his upcoming film I Want To Talk, a film navigating the journey of a father-daughter duo, the actor made his real father emotional by thanking him for his silent efforts to provide for his family.

In the latest promo shared by the makers of the show, Abhishek Bachchan can be heard saying, "Pa, I don't know if this is the right thing to say. I hope people don't misunderstand this. But, as we sit here to shoot this, it is already 10 pm and my father had left home around 6:30 in the morning so that we get to wake up late. Nobody speaks about what all a father does for his children. It is mostly because fathers do it all quietly." Abhishek Bachchan also shared some fun stories about his father on the show. In another teaser video, the actor shared how the entire Bachchan family is obsessed with '7 crore'. He shared, "Our family eats dinner together. During that, whenever somebody answers a question correctly, all of the kids on the table simply yell 'Saat crore'." He later teases, "Jab tak hum 7 crore nahi jeet jaate, hum nahi jayenge (We won't leave the show until we win Rs 7 crore)." Amitabh Bachchan quickly says, "Badi galti hogayi inhe show pe bulake (I regret calling him on the show)." Abhishek recalled another incident involving the



memory of his grandfather Harshivansh Rai Bachchan. He said, "Dadaji told you, 'When your son fits in your shoes, he will no longer be your son but your friend.'" The actor shared he was so delighted after hearing this as he was excited to wear all of his father's shoes.

He then jokingly questioned, "But, now I want to ask my father, 'When your father begins to wear your socks, hoodie, t-shirt, jeans, and shoes, what will he become to me?'" Abhishek then teases Big B, "By the way, your shoes look good. Who do these belong to?" Amitabh Bachchan says, "Please, spare me."

Michael Vaughan on India vs Australia rivalry: Nothing comes close to the Ashes



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

India, Australia, and England are shaping up to be the big three of world cricket, the rivalry between Australia and England in the Ashes has gone way back in history. However, in recent times with performances in the last couple of tours, there have been growing murmurs that the India-Australia rivalry is taking precedence over the Ashes. However, former England cricketer Michael Vaughan believes it is not the case. "There has been some talk out here and in India that this is now cricket's greatest rivalry. I disagree. Nothing comes close to the

Ashes for history and heritage. Across almost 150 years the rivalry and hostility between England and Australia run so deep," he wrote in his column.

"It is the best series of this era, just as we used to look at West Indies playing in Australia or England as the best of the 1980s. We do not talk about those series now, because West Indies have faded. If Australia and India put together another generation or two of competition like this, perhaps we can have the "greatest rivalry" conversation. For now, give me a break," Vaughan added. India has not lost a series against Australia since 2014/15 both home and away. England on the other hand since the 2010/11 series when they have last beaten Australia away from home in a series could not be much of a match for them Down Under. In their own backyard though the series has been more competitive England has only managed to draw the last two series. "What I will concede is that, in this generation, Australia and India have been the best two teams, and have consistently provided the most entertaining series. The Ashes have been thrilling in England, but one-sided Down Under. India have won the past four series (all of which have been four matches) 2-1, which shows that competition has been decent in both countries, even if India have the edge," Vaughan further wrote.

Eden Gardens to rename stand in honour of Jhulan Goswami

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

India bowling legend Jhulan Goswami was honoured by the Eden Gardens in Kolkata after the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) announced that a stand will be renamed in her honour at the iconic venue. According to CAB, the stand will be officially unveiled in Goswami's name during the next international fixture that will be held at the venue, on January 22, 2025, when the India men's team will take on England in a T20I. It is understood that the Block B gallery will be named after the former Indian women's team captain, making her the first woman cricketer to be honoured at the venue.

The hallowed Eden Gardens has stands named after former India captain Sourav Ganguly and former international late Pankaj Roy, besides former BCCI presidents late Jagmohan Dalmiya and Biswanath Dutt. A native of Chakdah in West Bengal's Nadia district, Goswami featured in 12 Tests, 204 ODIs, and 68 T20Is for India. Goswami claimed 355 wickets across formats in a 20-year international career, the highest for any female



bowler. Goswami had become the first bowler to cross 300 international wickets in 2018. With 255 scalps, Goswami is still the only bowler with 200-plus wickets in women's ODIs. Goswami also tops the charts in ODI World Cups, with 43 wickets. After her retirement she has worked as a mentor for Bengal's senior women's team and also been involved in the Women's Premier League.

Pat Cummins on Nitish Kumar Reddy: A great young kid...can swing the ball a little bit



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

Shardul Thakur though has been inconsistent in the role of bowling all-rounder from time to time he did blitz with a few knocks with the bat and crucial spells with the ball. However, with the team management deciding to move on from the 32-year-old the candidate who can play that role efficiently is Nitish Kumar Reddy.

Reddy has the ability to score some vital runs with the bat and also can bowl at a brisk pace consistently. Australian skipper Pat Cummins when asked about Reddy would say, "a great young kid, loved playing alongside Nitish for Sunrisers (Hyderabad). Great young guy starting his pro-

fessional career this season. Impressed by how he went about his work. He didn't bowl as much as he potentially could have but impressed with what we saw. Looks like he can swing the ball a little bit." Earlier this publication has reported that Nitish likely to make his debut in Perth. He bowls lively medium pace, can shape the ball away, and nip the ball inwards with a conventional and seam position which might come handy in Australia. He has conventional attacking shots, accentuated by a sweet bat swing, as well as a sturdy defensive technique. Nirmal, hyperbolic as childhood coaches could be, draws a lofty parallel: "From his early days he wanted to bowl quick, just like Kallis. Whatever kind of cricketer Kallis is, Nitish has the same capabilities," speaking to The Indian Express earlier. Though the 21-year-old did not have an innings or a spell to speak of in the A-games between India and Australia, bowling coach Morne Morkel has been optimistic about Reddy and his opportunities in the tour. "Any team in the world always wanted the all-rounder to take that load off your fast bowlers, just to give them an extra bit of breathing time. So how we use him, how Jasprit is going to use him, with maybe the spinner, to give himself, whoever's going to be the other quicks, time to catch their breath a little bit is going to be important. He's a guy that is a player you can keep your eye on in this series," said the South African to the press

Rohit Sharma's return could prove 'counterproductive' for India, feels Ricky Ponting



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

IND vs AUS: India captain Rohit Sharma, who opted out from the series opener in Australia, is slated to join the India camp for the second Test at Adelaide. While most experts would argue that Rohit's return would strengthen the squad, former Australian captain Ricky Ponting believes it could "disrupt" the Indian camp. "I just think there's potential for more disruption through their campaign with Sharma coming back and whatever else. So I'll stick with it (3-1 verdict in favour of Australia)," Ponting said on ICC Review.

In the absence of Rohit, pacer Jasprit Bumrah will lead India in the first Test of the Border Gavaskar Trophy in Perth that begins on Friday. Ponting, the highest run-scorer in BGT for Australia, feels India has the right balance despite the recent home whitewash against New Zealand. Ponting believes India is prepared to take on Australia despite Rohit's absence. "India will be pretty certain of what team they're going to play (in Perth). They've known for a while that Rohit probably wasn't going to be here. They've probably known for a while that Bumrah was going to be captain. So they've probably known what holes they've needed to fill. So they'll be reasonably settled," he said. As per the stat book India

have dominated the BGT series in recent times, emerging victorious on the last four occasions. Ponting reckons the results might not follow the same pattern this time. "(Marnus) Labuschagne and (Steve) Smith need to make runs for Australia. And their bowling attack obviously is as good as anyone's in the world. So I'll stick with my 3-1 Australia prediction."

The challenges that Pep Guardiola faces after signing a new deal at Manchester City

After much speculation about his future, Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has finally penned a new one-year deal with the Premier League defending champions, taking him through the summer of 2026.

The new deal means that he will complete a decade at the English giants, having joined City in 2016 and having won a stunning 18 trophies so far, including six Premier League titles, two FA Cups, and a Champions League. Till 2026 however, Guardiola is set to face one of the most challenging times as a manager, having to deal with a range of issues from a bad run of form to the club facing the Premier League's 115 charges for alleged breaches of financial rules. Here's a look at some of the challenges the Spaniard faces: Manchester City are defending themselves against more than 100 charges brought by the Premier League. City deny all allegations. If the -champions are found guilty then, depending on the severity of the verdict, one potential sanction is demotion from the top division.

Gavaskar believes CSK, RCB to go for KL Rahul in IPL auction



GNS News Agency, Nov 23

New Delhi: After being released by the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), former India captain Sunil Gavaskar believes that Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) would target wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul in the upcoming IPL 2025 mega auction. LSG snubbed their captain Rahul and retained Nicholas Pooran, Ravi Bishnoi, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan and Ayush Badoni in the squad. On the other hand, RCB and CSK retained three (Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar and Yash Dayal) and five players (Ruturaj Gaikwad, Matheesha Pathirana, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja and MS Dhoni), respectively. Both southern franchises will head into the auction with a bank of Rs 83 crore (RCB) and Rs 55 crore (CSK) to fill 22 and 20 spots, respectively.

"I do believe that the two south franchises, Bengaluru as well as Chennai, will go for KL Rahul. Maybe even Hyderabad will go, but Bangalore is of course KL Rahul's hometown. So clearly I think he will be enthused, he will

be encouraged, he will want to play in front of his home crowd. So Bengaluru might go for KL Rahul," Gavaskar said on Star Sports. Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar, speaking on the auction, discussed the potential future of David Warner, a global superstar known for his powerful hitting. He said, "It's been a few years since David Warner's performances have been great. But he is still a great player. When Devon Conway was released in CSK, I'm sure they will buy him back. They are quite influenced by Rachid Ravindra as well. I don't think they will be interested in bringing David Warner into their plans. I don't think David Warner can fit in CSK."

Manjrekar also analysed why Punjab Kings might have released Arshdeep Singh and how they could still retain him. He said, "I believe that they have released a lot of players so that they get some freedom. And the core of the team and the combination of the team should change completely. But they will definitely be interested in Arshdeep Singh. I believe there is a slight difference in today's Arshdeep Singh and 5 years ago's Arshdeep Singh. But he can still give you a wicket with a new ball. And you can still expect from him in the slog overs as well. So although Punjab Kings have released him, they will definitely be after Arshdeep in the mega auctions." Manjrekar further addressed Mohammed Shami's recent injury issues and their impact on the auction. "There will definitely be interest from teams, but given Shami's injury history—and this recent one took a significant amount of time to recover—there's always a concern about a potential breakdown during the season. If a franchise invests heavily and then loses him mid-season, their options become limited. This concern might lead to a drop in his price tag," he said.

India show promise but settle for draw against Malaysia

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

Hyderabad: India and Malaysia played out a 1-1 draw in a FIFA International Friendly at the GMC Balyogi Athletic Stadium, Hyderabad, on Monday. Despite a valiant performance, head coach Manolo Marquez's search for his first win with the national team remains elusive. Malaysia struck first in the 19th minute when Paulo Josue capitalised on a defensive error, while India equalised through defender Rahul Bheke's header in the 39th minute. The match saw over 15,000 spectators witness moments of brilliance, resilience, and a few nervy errors.

India started brightly, asserting their intentions within six minutes. Midfielder Lalengmawia Ralte's powerful effort from outside the box missed the target. Forward Irfan Yadwad, making his senior national debut after a stellar stint with Chennaiyin FC, spearheaded the attack. His pressing unsettled the Malaysian defence early on, and long balls aimed at him caused frequent problems. In the 15th minute, left-back Naorem Roshan Singh delivered a teasing cross into the six-yard box, but Irfan narrowly missed connecting. At the other end, centre-back Anwar Ali's crucial block in the 17th minute denied Sergio Agüero (not to be confused with the Manchester City legend) a golden chance.

The breakthrough came in the 19th minute, silencing the home crowd. A Malaysian clearance caught the Indian defence off-guard, with Gurpreet Singh Sandhu rushing off his line but misjudging his jump. Josue calmly collected the loose ball and slotted into an empty net. Manolo looked visibly frustrated as India, despite their dominance, conceded a cheap goal. India continued to look threatening on set pieces but struggled to find the finishing touch. Malaysia's captain Dion Cools held firm, keeping Indian forwards Farukh Choudhary and Irfan under control. However, the equaliser came in the 39th minute. Brandon Fernandes delivered a perfectly measured corner, and Rahul Bheke's towering header ignited celebrations in the stands. India kept up the pressure with a flurry of set pieces but couldn't add



to their tally before halftime, leaving the score 1-1. The second half began with India continuing to dominate possession. Irfan, growing in confidence, unleashed a powerful shot from outside the box in the 53rd minute, narrowly missing the target. His tireless work rate and athleticism were praise worthy. Farukh and Lallianzuala Chhangte added dynamism with their sharp movements, creating chances inside the Malaysian penalty area. Malaysia, however, came alive in the 69th minute. Substitute Muhammad Safawi Bin Rasid attempted an audacious bicycle kick from a set-piece, missing the target but earning admiration for his creativity. The introduction of forward Fergus Tierney added more bite to Malaysia's attack, and India's defence faced a few nervy moments. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, whose earlier misjudgment had led to Malaysia's goal, caused further anxiety with uncertain decision-making. However, he redeemed himself with a crucial fingertip save in stoppage time. Tierney's fierce strike rattled the post, and Rasid's rebound effort was palmed away by Gurpreet to preserve the draw. Encouragingly, Manolo handed senior debuts to four players: Irfan, Jithin MS, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, and Vibin Mohanan. India displayed creativity, and determination but ended the year winless, leaving much work ahead for the Blue Tigers. While the search for a victory continues, the draw provided plenty of positives to build on for Manolo and his team.

Athletics Federation of India among six finalists nominated for WA award

GNS News Agency, Nov 23

The Indian Federation, headed by Adille Summariwala, is among the six shortlisted federations for the 2024 World Athletics award. (AFI) The Indian Federation, headed by Adille Summariwala, is among the six shortlisted federations for the 2024 World Athletics award. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) of late has been under fire for the rising dope cases and age frauds on the domestic circuit but that hasn't deterred the World Athletics (WA) from including it in the finalists for the 2024 Member Federations Award. The Indian Federation, headed by Adille Summariwala, is among the six shortlisted federations for the 2024 award that features athletics federations from Ghana, Paraguay, Portugal, the Solomon Islands and the United States of America. The World Athletics, in a media release, highlighted India's progress in coaches' education and kids' athletics programme. "The Athletics Federation of India further developed its Coaches Education Program in 2024. Offering three progressive courses, the program is designed to elevate the quality of athletics coaching across the country. Since its



launch, more than 3000 coaches have completed the AFI Pre Level 1 course, making a significant impact on grassroots coaching," the world body said. "The AFI is also working to broaden the reach of its Kids' Athletics program. Notably, its U14 program has seen significant success, with more than 4000 annual participants and the introduction of Kids Javelin," World Athletics added. The winner will be announced on World Athletics' platforms, as part of the World Athletics Awards 2024.

Always advocated for pacers being captains, they are tactically better

On the eve of the start of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, India's stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah said he "has always advocated for pacers being captains" and that "they are tactically better". India and Australia are set to kick off the series with the Perth Test on Friday. For the first time in the history of the rivalry, two fast bowlers Jasprit Bumrah and Pat Cummins are set to captain the sides. Speaking at the pre-match press conference, both welcomed the decision to hand the captaincy to the pacers and hoped that the tradition would carry on. "I have always advocated for pacers being captains. They are tactically better. Pat (Cummins) has done a phenomenal job. There are a lot of models in the past as well. Kapil Dev and a lot of other captains in the past. Hopefully, a start of a new tradition," Bumrah

said. Cummins said it's always good to see a pacer being the captain. The pacer, who became Australia's first-ever fast bowling captain has seen incredible highs with the team winning the ODI World Cup and the World Test Championship. "Yeah, great to see. Should happen more. The New Zealand series last year was good with Tim Southee as captain as well. Yeah, I don't think it really changes too much. It's one of those rare things. Looking forward to seeing how he goes about his work out there, but as a fan of fast bowling, it's always good to see," Cummins said. India arrived in Australia after a shocking 3-0 series whitewash against New Zealand, but Bumrah believes that series loss will matter little when the action begins Down Under.