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Basar temple earns over Rs 1 cr income in 89 days

Nirmal: The famed Sri Gnana Saraswathi Devasthanam of Basar registered an income of Rs 1.03 crore for a period of 89 days. Counting of hundials was held on the premises of the shrine on Tuesday. The executive officer of the temple Vijayarao said that the temple earned an income of Rs 1,00,30,657, mixed gold ornaments weighing 143 grams, 4.250 kilograms of mixed silver ornaments and 147 foreign currency notes by way of offerings by devotees from August 28 to November 25. The counting was conducted in presence of the EO, chairman of the governing council of the temple Sharath Pathak and endowments department's inspector M Raja Mouli and Basar police.

Old City Metro Rail works to start in January first week

Hyderabad: The land acquisition process for the Old City Metro Rail between MG Bus Stand and Chandrayangutta, a stretch measuring 7.5 kilometers is underway on a war footing and by first week of January, 2025, the preliminary works related to the construction will be underway, Managing Director (MD), HMRL, NVS Reddy on Tuesday said. The demolition of properties that have been identified will begin in the fourth week of December, 2024. Over 1100 properties will be affected in the road widening and station construction works and all the heritage and religious structures on the route will be safely preserved. Sketches of the 800 properties, out of the 1100 identified, have already been sent to the Collector, the MD while interacting with press persons on Tuesday said.

Every terror outfit challenging India's security will be dealt with strongly: PM Modi on 26/11 attacks



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday recalled the 26/11 terrorist attacks and reiterated that every terrorist organisation challenging India's security will be dealt with a befitting reply. Addressing the Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, PM Modi said "We cannot forget that it is the anniversary of the 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai". In his speech, the Prime Minister paid his respects to the people who lost lives in the

2008 Mumbai attacks. "I reiterate the resolve of the country that every terrorist organisation challenging India's security will be dealt with a befitting reply," said the PM.

PM Modi said that the 75th Constitution Day is a subject matter of "immense pride" for the nation and he bows down to the Constitution and all members of the Constituent Assembly. The PM was addressing the Constitution Day celebrations at the apex court, where he will also release the Annual Report of the Indian Judiciary (2023-24). Constitution Day of India, also known as Samvidhan Divas, is celebrated on November 26 every year to celebrate the adoption of the Indian Constitution. On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted the Constitution, which later came into effect on January 26, 1950. The Constitution, which serves as the supreme law of the land, outlines the structure of governance, the distribution of power, and the fundamental rights of citizens. Constitution Day was officially recognised in 2015 by the Union government, with the aim to spread awareness about the Constitution's importance, promote constitutional values among citizens and encourage them to reflect on the values of democracy, justice, equality, and liberty that it upholds.

'When you lose, EVMs are tampered with; when you win, EVMs are fine', SC dismisses PIL



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking directions to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to introduce ballot paper in place of EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines). A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and P.B. Varale rejected the prayer to return to the ballot system due to the alleged manipulability of EVMs. "When you lose, EVMs are tampered with; when you win, EVMs are fine," remarked the apex court, when the petitioner referred to the statements made by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and his predecessor Jagan Mohan Reddy on EVMs. It said, "When Chandrababu Naidu or Mr Reddy lost, they say that EVMs can be tampered with; when they win, they don't say anything. We are dismissing this. This is not the place where you argue all of this." Earlier in March, the Supreme Court had refused to entertain a similar PIL seeking directions to conduct the Lok Sabha polls through ballot paper. "How many petitions shall we entertain? We cannot go by assumptions. Every method has its plus and minus points. We cannot entertain this," it told the petitioner, the General Secretary of the Congress' Mathura District Committee.

In her plea, the petitioner-in-person Nandini Sharma said that "concerns of the Opposition parties about the EVMs must be first addressed by holding elections via ballot paper, in place of acting at the pleasure of ruling BJP." Nandini Sharma prayed to set aside Section 61A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 empowering the ECI to conduct elections through EVMs. "The extra love and support of the ruling party towards EVMs creates doubts

about the functioning of the EVM machines because the election results are supposed to remain the same, irrespective of EVMs or ballot paper," the PIL had contended. In April this year, rejecting a batch of petitions seeking mandatory cross-verification of the votes cast with Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips, the top court said that raising repeated and persistent doubts on EVMs, even without supporting evidence, can have the contrarian impact of creating distrust and can reduce citizen participation and confidence in elections. In his verdict, Justice Sanjiv Khanna (the incumbent CJI) said, "The suspicion that the EVMs can be configured or manipulated for the repeated or wrong recording of the vote(s) to favour a particular candidate should be rejected." "We acknowledge the right of voters to question the working of EVMs, which are but an electronic device that has a direct impact on election results. However, it is also necessary to exercise care and caution when we raise aspersions on the integrity of the electoral process. Repeated and persistent doubts and despair, even without supporting evidence, can have the contrarian impact of creating distrust. This can reduce citizen participation and confidence in elections, essential for a healthy and robust democracy." The apex court had said that while it acknowledges the fundamental right of voters to ensure their vote is accurately recorded and counted, the same cannot be equated with the right to 100 per cent counting of VVPAT slips, or a right to physical access to the VVPAT slips, which the voter should be permitted to put in the drop box. It added that giving physical access to VVPAT slips to voters is "problematic and impractical", and will lead to misuse, malpractices and disputes. Saying that the weakness of the ballot paper system is well-known and documented, it rejected the submission to return to the ballot paper system as "foible and unsound". "We would be undoing electoral reforms by directing reintroduction of the ballot papers. EVMs offer significant advantages. They have effectively eliminated booth capturing by restricting the rate of vote casting to four votes per minute, thereby prolonging the time needed and thus checking the insertion of bogus votes. EVMs have eliminated invalid votes, which were a major issue with paper ballots and had often sparked disputes during the counting process. Furthermore, EVMs reduce paper usage and alleviate logistical challenges. Finally, they provide administrative convenience by expediting the counting process and minimising errors," the SC said.

Constitution, a powerful protector of vulnerable sections: Rahul Gandhi

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

New Delhi: Marking the 75th Constitution Day on Tuesday, Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi emphasised the Constitution's role in safeguarding the rights of the poorest and remarked that it is a powerful tool to protect vulnerable sections of the society. Taking to social media platform X, he highlighted the foundational principles of justice, equality, and dignity enshrined in the Constitution.

"The basic spirit of our Constitution is that justice and rights should be equal for all. Everyone should have the opportunity to live with self-respect. The Constitution is a powerful tool to protect the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society," Rahul Gandhi wrote in a post. He further stated, "The stronger it is, the stronger our country will be. On this day, while paying homage to the freedom fighters, martyrs, and every member of the Constituent Assembly who nurtured the idea of the Constitution, I reiterate my resolve to protect it." Congress General Secretary and Member of Parliament from Wayanad, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, also shared a heartfelt message, urging citizens to pledge to safeguard the Constitution at all costs. "Today marks the 75th year of the implementation of our Constitution. Our freedom fighters and great men together created a Constitution that ensured freedom, equality, fraternity and justice for crores of Indians. Our



Constitution is the protective shield for crores of Indians that gives them every kind of right," she shared this in a post on X. "Happy Constitution Day to all countrymen. Salute to the great ancestors, martyrs, revolutionaries and each member of the Constituent Assembly. This democracy and constitution, which we got from their tireless hard work and sacrifices, is our pride. Let us take a pledge that we will protect it at all costs," she added. Constitution Day, also known as Samvidhan Divas, is celebrated annually to commemorate the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1949, which came into effect on January 26, 1950.

DPRs for 5 new Metro Corridors in Hyderabad ready, sent to Govt of India



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Hyderabad: The preparation of the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for the proposed five new corridors under phase-II of Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR), with a length of 76.4 kilometers and 54 stations, have been completed and submitted to Government of India (GoI) on November 4, 2024, MD, HMR, NVS Reddy on Tuesday said. The five new corridors include Nagole-Shamshabad (Airport corridor), Raidurg-Kokapet Neopolis, MGBS-Chandrayangutta (old city corridor), Miyapur- Patancheru and LB Nagar-Hayathnagar. The proposed sixth corridor of 40 kilometer stretch i.e. RGIA-fourth city (Skill University) has been delinked/ separated from the five new corridors. The reason for the non-inclusion of Paradise-Kandlakoya/Medchal and JBS-Thumukunta/Shamirpet corridor in the initial phase-II is due to Government of India's condition of availability of 90 percent Right of Way, the HMR officials said. While the five new corridors will add a total of 76.4 kilometers, they total outlay to take-up construction of the phase-II is Rs 24,269 crore. The separate 6th corridor between RGIA-fourth city (Skill University) will be of 40 kilometres. HMR achieves 63.40 crore cumulative ridership

In a record of sorts, in the last seven years, the Hyderabad metro has achieved a cumulative ridership of 63.40 crore passengers, which reflects how commuters in the State's Capital have embraced the public transport service. This year on August 14, the Hyderabad metro also achieved its highest single-day ridership record with 5.3 lakh passengers travelling across its three corridors including Miyapur-LB Nagar, JBS-MGBS and Nagole-Raidurg. The largest metro rail project in PPP mode, the average per day ridership has now stabilized to around 5 lakh passengers

using the facility for their daily commute. Once the upcoming new corridors under phase-II are completed, by 2028, the average per day commute of passengers in Hyderabad will be around 7, 9, 000, MD, Hyderabad Metro Rail, NVS Reddy on Tuesday said.

J&K celebrates Constitution Day first time since 1950

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is celebrating the 'Samvidhan Divas' on Tuesday for the first time since 1950 when the country's Constitution was adopted by Parliament. The government has issued instructions for the grand celebrations of Constitution Day. "Considering the significance of the completion of 75 years of adoption of the Constitution, the day is being celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm to reiterate the core values enshrined in the Constitution of India and motivate citizens to take their rightful role in the campaign. This year holds special significance as it commemorates 75 years of the 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhimaan', officials said. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha will lead the Constitution Day celebrations in Jammu and Kashmir. The main event will feature a Preamble reading ceremony at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar. Under the theme 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhimaan', similar ceremonies will be held across Jammu and Kashmir in government offices, PSUs, educational institutions, and rural areas. Photographs of the events are to be uploaded to the dedicated website www.constitution75.com, and participants can stay updated on related activities through the MyGov web portal. The General Administration Department (GAD) has directed all divisional commissioners, department heads, deputy commissioners, and PSU managing directors to ensure the successful organisation of these ceremonies across their respective locations. As Constitution Day is being celebrated, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh has ordered the reading of the Preamble. 26th November is celebrated as Constitution Day... The available senior Hon'ble Judge at each wing of the High Court will lead the reading of the Preamble to the Constitution, whereas, the Principal District Judges shall lead the reading of the Pream

BRS condemns Congress government over Gurukul student deaths, repressive actions

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Hyderabad: BRS condemned the Congress government over its gross negligence in addressing the alarming spate of deaths of 48 students in Gurukul schools. The party working president KT Rama Rao lambasted the government for its failure to act, particularly over the death of Sailaja, a student from Wankidi village, who succumbed after battling food poisoning for 20 days. Speaking at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday, Rama Rao found fault with the State government for erecting barricades and restricting the people from attending the funeral of the young student at her village in Wankidi mandal. He condemned the house arrests of leaders like MLA Kova Lakshmi, Anil Jadav, Johnson Naik and others who attempted to attend the funeral and console the bereaved family. "What governance is this - illegal detentions, media blockades, and internet shutdowns? This is not democracy; it's tyranny," he said.

The BRS working president slammed Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for not conducting a single review on student deaths or the condition of residential welfare schools. He condemned the house arrests of leaders like MLA Kova Lakshmi and others who attempted to console the bereaved families. He dubbed the deaths of 48 students as murders committed by the Congress government due to sheer negligence. He vowed that the BRS will raise the issue in the upcoming Assembly session and corner the State govern-



ment over its inaction. He also urged students not to take any hasty steps in case of any trouble and instead, suggested them to stay strong. He assured necessary support on behalf of BRS, if any student requires treatment at a private hospital. Former Minister T Harish Rao termed the Congress government's actions a "violation of constitutional principles" and accusing it of silencing public representatives and the media. He said the questioning voices are being intimidated by the Congress government based on the false charges. MLC K Kavitha also stated that the death of Sailaja due to food poisoning exposes the government's failure. Revanth Reddy's administration embodies dictatorial tendencies," she added.

Ek Nath Shinde meets Governor, resigns as Maharashtra Chief Minister

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday morning met Governor CP Radhakrishnan here and tendered his resignation following the results of the Assembly elections. The Governor asked Shinde to act as a caretaker Chief Minister till the new Chief Minister is sworn in, as suspense continues over who would be the ruling Mahayuti coalition's choice for the post following its landslide victory.

Shinde was accompanied by deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar as he visited the Raj Bhavan. The term of the outgoing Maharashtra Assembly ends on November 26. Deepak Kesarkar, who served as a Minister in the Eknath Shinde cabinet, told reporters, "The chief minister has tendered his resignation. The governor has asked him to act as a caretaker Chief Minister." To a question, Kesarkar said the new government will be sworn in at the earliest.

Despite the Mahayuti alliance of the BJP, Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP securing a massive victory, winning 230 seats in the 288-member assembly, consensus has eluded the ruling combine's leaders so far on who should be the next CM. When asked who will be the next CM, Kesarkar said, "Every political worker desires that



Governor asks Shinde to act as a caretaker CM till the new Chief Minister is sworn in, as suspense continues over who would be Mahayuti coalition's choice for post

the CM should from his or her party, but whatever decision Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah take will be acceptable to all of us." "Shinde has told the senior leaders (apparent reference to Modi and Shah) that whatever decision they take is acceptable to him," the Shiv Sena leader added.

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Guiding the way

DISCIPLINE in India is undergoing a transformative shift. In Faridkot, Punjab, a group of rowdy students, who allegedly endangered police officers during a clash recently, were met with an unusual punishment: a week of assisting the traffic police for two hours daily after school. This innovative disciplinary approach aims to teach civic responsibility while deterring future misconduct. In Brinagar, a tragic car accident involving underage drivers in mid-November led to a crackdown on violations. The authorities seized vehicles and implemented stricter licensing policies while counselling parents and students to address the root causes of rash behaviour. This holistic tactic underscores the need for behavioural reform rather than mere retribution. In schools, innovative methods are gaining ground. For example, rowdy students in JP schools are assigned such tasks as organising books or assisting peers. Meanwhile, creative punishments like rewriting lessons or engaging in debates channel energy constructively and emphasize growth over reprimand. Discipline should not be about just imposing consequences but also guiding young minds toward self-awareness and societal contribution. Restorative justice, community service and counselling are replacing outdated corporal punishment, which often leaves emotional scars. Nevertheless, these reforms require collective commitment. Policymakers must institutionalise such practices, educators must adopt empathetic approaches and parents must support these efforts. Experts from NIMHANS (National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences) have stressed the importance of balancing love and limits at home to complement school-based initiatives. Constructive discipline reflects the society's recognition that youth's missteps often stem from immaturity, not malice. By transforming mistakes into learning experiences.

100 Feet Road in Bengaluru's Indiranagar tops Asia Pacific region for retail rental growth



The rental surge in Indiranagar is part of a larger trend of escalating retail rents across India. "Whilst reporting relatively more modest uplifts, MG Road in Pune, Anna Nagar in Chennai, Fort/Fountain in Mumbai, and Park Street in Kolkata all recorded annual rent growth over 10%. Rent growth across the 16 locations tracked across India averaged a 9% increase YOY," the report states.

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Bengaluru's Indiranagar has made a mark on the global retail real estate map with its 100 Feet Road emerging as the number one high street with the highest rental growth in the Asia Pacific region in 2024, according to the latest Cushman & Wakefield 'Main Streets Across the World' report. The upmarket neighborhood recorded an annual rental increase of 32 percent year on year (YOY). "The Indian economy has been the strongest major economy in the world this year, a trend reflected in its robust rental growth performance. Indiranagar 100 Feet Road in Bengaluru leads the region, reporting rental growth of 32% YOY [year over year]," the report states.

The rental surge in Indiranagar is part of a larger trend of escalating retail rents across India. "Whilst reporting relatively more modest uplifts, MG Road in Pune, Anna Nagar in Chennai, Fort/Fountain in Mumbai, and Park Street in Kolkata all recorded annual rent growth over 10%. Rent growth across the 16 locations tracked across India averaged a 9% increase YOY," the report states. The report also shows that 100 Feet Road recorded an average rental figure of Rs 330 per sq ft per month. However, Brigade Road and Vittal Mallya Road in Bengaluru recorded a much higher rental figure of Rs 400 and Rs 380 per sq ft per month, respectively.

Indiranagar's burgeoning reputation as a premier retail hub is driven by its eclectic mix of luxury boutiques, fine dining restaurants, and vibrant cafes, coupled with its strategic location in Bengaluru's affluent eastern corridor. The high street's proximity to tech parks, upscale residential housing, and metro connectivity has helped Indiranagar position itself as a leading global retail space in the Asia Pacific region. Several factors contribute to Indiranagar's retail rental growth. Its 100 Feet Road boasts a unique tenant mix, blending global luxury brands, boutique stores, trendy cafes, and entertainment hubs, making it a lifestyle and shopping destination.

Buyers are seeking larger, more spacious living environments that offer top-tier facilities, all within a well-designed, safe community that enhances the overall quality of life, says real estate experts. "The demand for luxury homes in Indiranagar is being driven by a shift in consumer preferences. Buyers are no longer looking for just a place to live—they seek a holistic living experience that combines convenience with a high standard of living. There is a growing inclination towards developments that allow residents to live, work, and unwind seamlessly, without the need for excessive travel. Furthermore, Indiranagar's unmatched connectivity to major business districts, entertainment hubs, and social hotspots makes it even more desirable," says Ajay Singh, Senior Vice-President, Sales and Sourcing, at Century Real Estate. Singh said that 50 percent of Phase 1 of the company's ultra-luxury property, Codename Built Rare, was sold out during the pre-launch phase itself. "(It) is a testament to Indiranagar's growing stature among discerning buyers who seek a sophisticated lifestyle in one of the city's most vibrant neighborhoods," he said. While Indiranagar outpaced global hotspots in terms of rental growth, other Indian high streets, such as Linking Road in Mumbai and Connaught Place in Delhi, also featured prominently in the report.

People reposed trust in PM Modi, mandate against MVA's polarisation attempts and fake narratives: Devendra Fadnavis



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

The people of Maharashtra have once again reposed their trust in the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who had given a clarification call of "ek hain toh safe hain (united we are safe)," said Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday after the Mahayuti alliance looked on course to retain power by winning more than 200 seats in Maharashtra Assembly election results. According to the latest updates from the Election Commission of India (ECI), the Mahayuti alliance of the BJP, Shiv Sena, and

Nationalist Congress Party was leading in 235 seats. The BJP itself was poised for a historic victory, having secured six seats and holding a lead in 129 seats so far.

Speaking to the media in Mumbai, Fadnavis said, "The overwhelming mandate in favour of Mahayuti demonstrates that voters have rejected the divisive politics of the (Opposition) Maha Vikas Aghadi, which attempted to polarise society along caste and religious lines using false narratives. In contrast, the people have chosen Mahayuti, which has presented a strong united front." Fadnavis said the people gave the Opposition MVA of the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) "a befitting reply" by rejecting it and voting profusely in favour of Mahayuti. Fadnavis expressed special thanks to women voters and said, "Their wholehearted support and votes yielded a positive outcome. I thank ladies (beloved sisters) and lakha bhai (beloved brothers) who chose Mahayuti." "All nationalist organisations, saints and seers, who played a crucial role in raising awareness in remote villages, hamlets and tribal belts deserved acknowledgement for their contribution," Fadnavis said. Amid the buzz surrounding who would become the chief minister, Fadnavis clarified that there was no disagreement concerning the top post within the Mahayuti alliance.

In 6 months, Congress sees its vote share down by 6% and BJP by 1%; biggest winner is Ajit Pawar's NCP

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Between the Lok Sabha election held in April and the Maharashtra Assembly polls in November, the Congress party saw its vote share decrease by more than 6 per cent. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) also saw a slight decline in its vote share with the NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) managing to keep its vote share almost intact. The biggest gain in terms of vote share was made by the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Ajit Pawar with an increase from 3.60 per cent in the Lok Sabha elections to 10.56 per cent in the Assembly polls. As of 1 pm on Saturday, the vote share of the Congress in the Maharashtra Assembly elections stood at 10.88 per cent with the party winning just 19 seats. During the Lok Sabha elections, Congress won 13 seats and cornered 16.92 per cent of the total votes. The BJP, on its part, won or was leading in 127 seats with a vote share of 25.32 per cent. The BJP won 9 seats with a vote share of 26.18 per cent in the Lok Sabha elections 2024.

The NCP led by Sharad Pawar had the best strike rate during the Lok Sabha elections, winning 8 of the 10 seats it contested with a vote share of 10.27 per cent. In the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the party won 13 seats, with a vote percentage of 11.67 per cent. The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, which won 7 Lok Sabha seats with a vote share of 12.95 per cent, is poised to make history by winning 54 seats with a vote share of 12.50 per cent. The Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) won 9 Lok Sabha seats with a vote share of 16.72 per cent, and got 12



seats with a vote share of 10.74 per cent in the Maharashtra Assembly elections. The decline in Congress's vote share and gain in the NCP (SP)'s vote share is perhaps the reason behind the spectacular win of the BJP-led Mahayuti in Maharashtra. In Lok Sabha elections, Congress managed to get the support from almost all caste and religious groups. However, this support seems to have been eroded during the last few months. The much talked about Maratha versus OBC consolidation has also not happened in the state. Overall, most of the votes of the Congress and other MVA partners have been transferred to the Mahayuti, especially Ajit's Pawar NCP and the Shiv Sena of Shinde. Smaller parties like the Vanchit Bahujan Aaghadi (VBA) and Swabhimani Paksha have also failed to keep their vote bank intact and saw a decline in their vote share in the Maharashtra Assembly elections 2024.

Delhi air quality slips back to 'severe' after respite; average AQI is 427



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

The Delhi pollutionThe Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) said the air quality is likely to be 'very poor' from Sunday to Tuesday. In the subsequent six days, this trend is expected to continue. The air quality in Delhi slipped back to the 'severe' category on Saturday morning after having shown slight improvement earlier. At 11 am, the average air quality index (AQI) in the National Capital was 427. A day before, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) reported in its 4 pm bulletin that the air quality was in the 'very poor' category at 397. The air quality, however, continued to worsen and by 6 am on Saturday an average AQI of 422 was reported in the capital.

Barring, a few stations such as Sri Aurobindo Marg, Sonia Vihar, Pusa, IHBAS Dilshad Garden and Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, all other 26 air quality monitoring stations with functional data remain in the 'severe' zone. The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) said the air quality is likely to be 'very poor' from Sunday to Tuesday. In the subsequent six days, this trend is expected to continue, it added. The average particulate matter pollution also saw a gradual increase since Friday evening. According to CPCB, the average PM2.5 level was 212.5 micrograms per cubic metre at 11 am on Saturday. However, at the same time on Friday, it was 178.6 micrograms per cubic metre. It rose to 200 micrograms per cubic metre with calm winds by 8 pm on Friday. Calm winds continue to prevail in Delhi as of Saturday noon, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD). An average wind speed below 10 kmph is unfavourable for the dispersal of pollutants, as per the CPCB. A dip in temperatures and fog intensification also keep the pollutants trapped in the atmosphere. The minimum temperature on Saturday was near normal at 11.4 degrees Celsius. Shallow to moderate fog prevailed in the capital on Saturday morning. Safdarjung reported a minimum visibility of 300 metres as of 6.30 am, while the visibility was 800 metres at Palam. Dense fog conditions are on the forecast on Sunday. After which, till November 27, moderate fog conditions are expected to prevail.

Karnataka man installs detonator in hair dryer to kill girlfriend's neighbour; arrested

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

The police in Ilkal of Karnataka's Bagalkot district said Friday they have arrested a man who sent a rigged hair dryer to kill the neighbour of a woman he was in a relationship with but ended up injuring his girlfriend. The Ilkal police said they have arrested Siddappa Sheelavant, a resident of the Kurtageri village in the state's Koppal district, who sent the hair dryer with a detonator planted inside to the neighbour of Basavarajeshwari. They said Sheelavant and Basavarajeshwari were in a relationship. Basavarajeshwari Yarnal, the widow of an Indian Army soldier, opened the packet on November 16, with the hair dryer sent to her neighbour Shashikala, and when she switched it on, the detonator activated leading to the blast. Basavarajeshwari lost her fingers on both her hands in the blast, and was shifted to a nearby hospital where she is being treated. The Ilkal police, who received the information about the blast, visited the spot and checked the hair dryer. During their investigation, the police found Sheelavant sent the device, and as their probe progressed, the police said they discovered Sheelavant's 'master plan'. A police officer said Sheelavant and Basavarajeshwari were in a relationship for years, and continued it after her husband's death. When Shashikala learned about their relationship, she advised Basavarajeshwari to end it. Angered by her intervention, Sheelavant decided to eliminate Shashikala. The police officer said Sheelavant, who worked at a granite company,

knew how to handle explosives, and used this expertise to rig a detonator, commonly used for quarrying, into the hair dryer. The parcel was sent to Shashikala with the "malicious intent" to kill her, said the officer. A police officer, who is part of the investigation, said Sheelavant bought the hair dryer from a shop in Ilkal for Rs 500. Siddappa made it look like it was sent from Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. Amarnath Reddy, Superintendent of Police, Bagalkot, confirmed to the media that their investigation revealed the explosive's deliberate placement in the hair dryer. Initially, they suspected an electrical fault, but the probe uncovered Sheelavant's plan, said Reddy. "On November 15, the parcel containing the booby-trapped hair dryer was delivered to Shashikala's address. However, she was unavailable and requested her neighbour, Basavarajeshwari, to collect and open the package. Upon switching on the dryer, it exploded, severely injuring her hands, and causing permanent damage," said Reddy. Speaking to reporters, Basavarajeshwari said she collected the package after Shashikala asked her to do so. "She had not ordered any parcel but asked me to collect it when she received the message. Though the package was sent in her name, she did not know the sender. Out of curiosity, I opened it the next day and switched it on. There was a huge noise during the explosion," she added. A police officer said Basavarajeshwari and Shashikala were both married to soldiers, who had died.

HPTDC still faces tremors of 2017 Gudiya rape and murder



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

The infamous Gudiya rape and murder case rocked Himachal Pradesh in 2017. But its tremors are still being felt by the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC), whose properties hosted the CBI teams which probed the case. The investigating agency owes Rs 21.96 lakh to the corporation. The CBI, which was handed over the probe into the case by the Himachal Pradesh High Court, has refused to clear the dues. During the investigation of the case, multiple CBI teams stayed at HPTDC-operated hotels on various occasions.

"Several letters were exchanged with the CBI, which refused to pay the dues, arguing that the agency was entrusted with the investigation by the high court. It claimed that the state government should bear these costs, as the accommodations and logistics were arranged for the investigation," a source said. The last communication with the CBI, dated December 21, 2023, reiterates their stance of declining the payment. The CBI is one of the many defaulting Central government departments. "Apart from the CBI which owes Rs 21.96 lakh to HPTDC, another Central government department owes approximately Rs 18 lakh," the source said.

When contacted, HPTDC managing director Rajiv Kumar said, "The corporation will soon apprise the honourable high court of these institutions." In all, the corporation is owed Rs 5.19 crore from various entities — Rs 4.13 crore from Himachal Pradesh government departments and Rs 1.06 crore from private individuals as of August 31, 2024. However, the corporation currently owes Rs 35.13 crore to its retired employees. These dues comprise pending arrears, gratuities, dearness allowances and other pension benefits. Following the court scrutiny regarding the dues, the corporation managed to recover Rs 2.69 crore by November 17 — Rs 2.07 crore from state government departments and Rs 62.03 lakh from private individuals. Efforts to recover the remaining Rs 2.50 crore are on. MD Kumar said, "We are recovering dues from government departments and private individuals. Over the past nine years, we have cleared approximately Rs 65 crore of the Rs 99 crore owed to retired employees. However, Rs 35 crore is pending." The matter came to light after retired HPTDC employee Jai Krishan Mehta approached the high court in 2023, demanding the release of dues for retired employees. The HPTDC operates 56 hotels throughout the state. On November 19, Justice Ajay Mohan Goel of the High Court had ordered the closure of 18 of them. Later, the court modified its earlier order allowing the corporation to operate nine hotels out of 18 till March 31, 2025.

'Ek hai toh safe hai': Devendra Fadnavis's first remark after Mahayuti's Maharashtra win

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

With the Mahayuti alliance, comprising the BJP, Eknath Shinde faction of Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP, all set to retain power in Maharashtra, senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis hailed the performance, saying "ek hai toh safe hai". In a post on X in Hindi, the Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister said: "Ek Hain toh Safe hain, 'Modi hain toh Mumkin hain.'" "Ek hai toh safe hai (together, we are safe)" has been a slogan that was popularised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his campaign in Maharashtra, using it first during a rally on November 8. The PM's pitch signalled that in the face of the Congress's attacks that it posed a threat to the Constitution and reservation, the BJP was sticking to its project of welding the social justice politics of "Mandal" with "Kamandal" that stands for the politics of constructing a Hindu identity across upper castes, OBCs, SCs, and STs. With counting still on, the Mahayuti alliance is currently leading on 226 seats. The BJP itself made an impressive march by crossing the century mark — with wins and leads in 124 seats — with the Mahayuti's sweep showing the extent to which the ruling combine turned the tide to its favour.

Delhi Police constable stabbed to death while on duty in Govindpuri

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Police officers confirmed that a case has been registered, and they are investigating the matter. Police officers confirmed that a case has been registered, and they are investigating the matter.



According to the Delhi Police, Constable Kiran Pal, who was stationed at the Govindpuri Police Station, was discovered with stab wounds in a lane. Police officers confirmed that a case has been registered, and they are investigating the matter.

The police are going through CCTV footage from the area to identify potential suspects and piece together the sequence of events leading up to the attack, said officers. The motive behind the attack remains unclear at this stage. Authorities are exploring various possibilities, including personal enmity and robbery.

In Chabbewal, AAP secures resounding victory, gets highest ever vote share of 60.9%



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Saturday clinched the Chabbewal Assembly bypolls on expected line, with a significant margin and highest-ever vote share, delivering a morale boost to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann. The AAP's candidate Dr Ishank Kumar decisively defeated Congress's Ranjit Kumar by a margin of 28,690 votes. Dr Ishank secured 51,904 votes, compared to Ranjit's 23,214 votes, while BJP candidate Sohan Singh Thandal managed only 8,692 votes. After his win, Dr Ishank expressed gratitude to the voters. "I am deeply thankful to the people who have placed their trust in me. Now, it is my responsibility to repay that trust with dedicated service," he said. Dr Ishank got 60.9 per cent vote share of the total polled votes at 85,177. Only 53.43 per cent of voting took place, the lowest since 1977 barring 1992 when the SAD boycotted the elections during the peak terrorism period, in the Chabbewal Assembly seat. Dr Ishank Kumar maintained a consistent lead throughout all 15 rounds of vote counting. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal campaigned for Dr Ishank Kumar, and emphasised with an AAP MP already representing Hoshiarpur, electing the party's candidate would ensure unmatched development in the region.

Although this was Dr Ishank's first election, he is not new to politics. For over a decade, he has been actively involved in campaigning for his father, and is well-acquainted with the constituency's issues. Dr Ishank also benefited from the goodwill generated by his father's work in the area over the past two elections. Two-way contest in Chabbewal. The contest in Chabbewal was primarily a two-way battle between AAP and Congress, as the BJP has minimal influence in this rural constituency, and the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chose to stay out of the race. Three Independent candidates contested the

bypolls alongside those from the three major political parties. Collectively, the Independents secured fewer votes than the NOTA (None of the Above) option, under which 884 votes were polled. In the past, in 1977 and 1980 when the SAD's Kartar Singh got 58.63 per cent and 55.90 per cent vote share, respectively, which was the highest ever. Until 2007, the Assembly constituency was known as Mahilpur and after delimitation it became Chabbewal. The Chabbewal seat was won by the Congress party in the 2017 and 2022 Assembly elections when Dr Raj Kumar Chabbewal, father of Dr Ishank, contested and won. However, Dr Raj Kumar defected to the AAP before the recent Lok Sabha elections, prompting the by-election. He then contested from the Hoshiarpur Lok Sabha seat on an AAP ticket and emerged victorious. In the Lok Sabha elections, the AAP performed strongly in the Chabbewal Assembly segment of the Hoshiarpur parliamentary seat, maintaining a lead over Congress and the SAD.

For Congress candidate Advocate Ranjit Kumar, with over two decades of political experience, this was his second election, having earlier contested the 2024 Lok Sabha polls from Hoshiarpur as a Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) candidate. Kumar, the Hoshiarpur District Bar Association president, was hoping to get BSP votes. Kumar was perceived as an outsider in the Chabbewal constituency, as he had never been actively involved in local affairs. This perception was compounded by opposition from local Congress leaders who were working in the area and were hoping to secure the party ticket themselves. Kumar began his political career with the BSP in 2002, becoming its state general secretary in 2020. He also served as a nominated member of the Bar Council of Punjab, Haryana, and Chandigarh, and is a trustee of the Ambedkar Bhawan Trust, Jalandhar. His nomination as the BSP candidate for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections came as a surprise due to last-minute changes in the party's candidate list. For the Chabbewal bypolls, he quietly joined Congress and secured the ticket, outpacing other hopefuls such as Kulvinder Singh Rasulpuri. Kumar's campaign centred on tackling drug abuse, improving law and order, and criticising the ruling AAP government for its alleged failures. On the other hand, the BJP's Sohan Singh Thandal is a seasoned politician and former SAD minister. However, his chances in the bypolls were considered slim, as Chabbewal is a predominantly rural constituency where the BJP has a negligible base, though SAD had historically been strong. Thandal served as a four-time MLA from Chabbewal between 1997 and 2012 and contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections as a SAD candidate from Hoshiarpur. He recently switched to the BJP ahead of the Chabbewal bypolls. During his campaign, Thandal criticised the ruling AAP government for its alleged inability to address farmers' issues and highlighted poor law and order under its administration. He also pointed to a lack of meaningful development in the state.

UP govt to hold roadshows in Indian cities, abroad to promote Maha Kumbh



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Friday approved a proposal to hold "grand roadshows" in major cities across India and abroad to promote the Maha Kumbh-2025. In a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Cabinet also approved several key proposals, including sanctioning the purchase of 220 vehicles for the Maha Kumbh preparations which are underway. The Maha Kumbh will take place in Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26.

Addressing the media, Cabinet Minister AK Sharma said the roadshows, led by ministers, will be held to gener-

ate global awareness and participation in the event. In India, the roadshows will be held in cities such as New Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Jaipur, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Guwahati, Dehradun, Bhopal, Chandigarh, and Patna, he said. Abroad, the roadshows are planned in Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia, Mauritius, and other countries, the minister added. The Department of Urban Development will cover the costs, estimated at Rs 20-25 lakh per city, it is learnt. Industry bodies like the FICCI and CII will also partner in the initiative. Sharma also announced the Cabinet's approval for purchasing 220 vehicles to support the Mahakumbh preparations, with an allocated budget of Rs 27.48 crore. This includes 40 Mahindra Bolero Neos, 160 Bolero B6BSVI models, and 20 buses. Besides, the Cabinet approved the detailed project report (DPR) for the proposed extension of the Noida Metro's Aqua Line corridor from Sector 51 to Greater Noida Knowledge Park V, officials said. Meanwhile, during an event in Lucknow to distribute appointment letters to 701 forest guards, including 140 women, selected by the Uttar Pradesh Subordinate Services Selection Commission (UPSSSC), Adityanath said the challenge of global warming is the fall-out of following the path of unplanned and unscientific development, he claimed.

Gujarat Congress seeks JPC probe into bribery charges against Adani Group



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Gujarat Congress president Shaktisinh Gohil on Friday demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe against the Adani Group into the allegations of bribery and fraud levelled by the US Department of Justice. Gohil, a Rajya Sabha MP, also demanded a CBI investigation under the monitoring of a sitting Supreme Court

judge into the allegations. "If the US agencies can investigate and file a case in court against the Adani Group, then why can Indian agencies not do it?" he asked in a press conference. "Let us think that the allegations are wrong. But when there are allegations of corruption, why is there no probe in India? They take no time in probing the opposition leaders," he said. "We demand a JPC probe into the allegations of bribery which runs into crores of rupees. The money was paid in India and it should be investigated in the country. Action should be taken against the persons concerned," the Congress leader said.

The CBI should also probe the charges under direct monitoring of a sitting Supreme Court judge, Gohil said. Gautam Adani and seven others, including his nephew Sagar, have been charged by the US Department of Justice with paying bribes to unidentified officials of state governments in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to buy expensive solar power, potentially earning more than USD 2 billion in profit over 20 years. Adani Group, however, have denied the charges saying the allegations by the US prosecutors are "baseless" and the conglomerate is "compliant with all laws".

Union Minister, Mayor to inaugurate 19 municipal school buildings in Surat

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

In the presence of Union Jal Shakti Minister C R Paatil, Surat Mayor Daxesh Mawani will lay the foundation stone for construction of new buildings of 19 primary schools, being built at a cost of Rs 45.20 crore, in Surat city and district on Sunday. The new buildings will be multi-storied ones, compared to the traditional single-storey structure, to accommodate more students. The areas where the new schools will come up are Rander zone with five schools; Udhna A and Katargam with four schools each; Varachha B zone with two schools; and Varachha A zone, Athwa, Udhna B and Central Zone with one school each. Sources in Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) said that once the schools get ready, more students will get the benefit of studying in Gujarati, Marathi, Hindi, Urdu, Odia, and English mediums. The sources further said the SMC had sent a proposal of 19 schools, which are over 20 to 40 years old, with their structure weak and posing risk to students, to the state government. The proposal was approved and grants allotted under Samagra Siksha. Administrative officer of Muni-



pal School Board, Surat, Mehul Patel said, "Presently, there are over 1.91 lakh students studying in 359 schools in Surat. The work on 19 schools will be completed before next Diwali. For now, students of these schools have been shifted to other nearby municipal schools... This year, we have 15,000 additional students. Many of the students have moved from private schools to municipal schools in Surat."

2 men linked to Kala Jathedi gang arrested in Delhi's Gokulpuri petrol pump firing case

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Two men linked to the Kala Jathedi gang were arrested on Friday for their alleged involvement in the incident where four men on two motorcycles opened fire at a petrol pump in Delhi's Gokulpuri on November 15, injuring an employee, the Delhi Police said. Two of the four alleged shooters were arrested earlier this week. The police identified the accused as Abhishek Kumar aka Harshu, 22, and Vikrant Kumar aka Vicky, 23, residents of Johripur Extension in Delhi. Officials said they were arrested after the police received information that the accused would visit Khichripur village. Vicky worked as a recovery agent in Johripur and used to run a parking lot on a plot he owned till 2022, the police said. He has been booked in four cases on several charges, including attempt to murder, the police added.

"Harshu met Jathedi last year and he introduced him to a man named Johnny. On November 15, Johnny asked Harshu to go to the Loni bus depot and meet his associates, Ankit and Deepak. Harshu took his friend Vicky and Ankit and Deepak handed them a Splendor bike and two pistols. Ankit and Deepak had an Apache bike along with



pistols and the four went to the petrol pump," Amit Kaushik, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell/TYR), said. Two .32-bore pistols and the Splendor bike have been recovered, the police said. On November 15, four men on two motorcycles opened fire at a petrol pump in the Gokulpuri area at around 10.30 pm, the police said. The petrol pump supervisor sustained injuries caused by broken glass pieces after the accused fired 16 rounds of bullets at his cabin, they added.

Eye on 2027 Assembly polls, Congress plans outreach for Dalits, OBCs & minorities



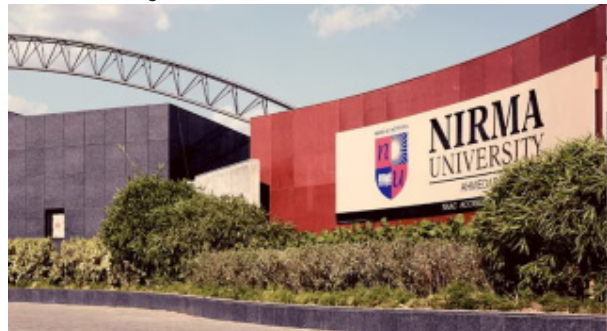
GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Congress While the Samajwadi Party has been claiming that it got support of Dalits along with backwards and minorities because of its call for "PDA" formula during Lok Sabha elections, both the Congress and the SP wanted to see whether the formula continues to work beyond Lok Sabha polls as well. After the bypoll results on nine Assembly seats in the state are announced on Saturday, the Congress is preparing to launch an extensive outreach programme among Dalits, OBCs and minority communities and also undertake a revamp of its frontal organisations. Having opted out of this bypoll and leaving it for the Samajwadi Party (SP) to contest, the Congress, whose leaders have been claiming that Dalit votes shifted to the INDIA alliance in Uttar Pradesh, has begun the exercise with appointment of the party's MP from Barabanki and young Dalit face Tanuj Punia as the chairman of its SC wing.

"Tanuj can carry forward the experience of his father and former MP P L Punia, who has extensively worked among Dalits of the state. Moreover, he is young and energetic and can become the voice of Dalits in the state. Soon, we will begin an extensive outreach initiative," claimed a senior Party leader. He added that the party is preparing for a revamp of its minority wing as well as its chief, Shehnawaz Alam, has been given a bigger responsibility as AICC secretary and co-in-charge of neighbouring Bihar. The OBC wing of the state unit is also set for a revamp soon, keeping the 2027 Assembly elections in mind. While the Samajwadi

Party has been claiming that it got support of Dalits along with backwards and minorities because of its call for "PDA" formula during Lok Sabha elections, both the Congress and the SP wanted to see whether the formula continues to work beyond Lok Sabha polls as well. Even as leaders in both the parties claim that neither would take any step that might lead to the breaking of the alliance, despite the best of efforts, it has been difficult for both the parties to reach a common consensus on seat sharing be it in Uttar Pradesh or other states. Thus, the Congress wants to be ready on ground beforehand among the three communities so that it does not have to face a similar situation in the 2027 Assembly polls.

Ahmedabad's Nirma varsity confers degrees on 2,780 students



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Nirma University, Ahmedabad, conferred degrees on 2,780 students, including 1,884 undergraduate, 861 post-graduate, and 35 doctoral students, at its 33rd annual convocation on Friday. Among the graduates, 1,799 were male and 981 were female. A total of 66 medals were awarded to 56 students, including 30 women and 26 men, recognising their exceptional academic performance. In his address, Sanjib Kumar Behera, Executive Director and State Head of Indian Oil Corporation Limited,

Gujarat GST dept detects tax evasion worth Rs 3.53 cr by tobacco, battery traders

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

GST The largest amount of evasion was found from four tobacco dealers based in Waghai in the Dangs district. The Gujarat State Goods and Services Tax (SGST) Department on Friday said it had detected tax evasion to the tune of Rs 3.53 crore from B2C (business to consumer) traders in the tobacco and battery industries, resulting from sales without the issuance of invoices (bills). A statement from the office of Chief Commissioner of State GST on Friday stated that the evasion came to light after raids conducted across three districts of Gujarat — Ahmedabad, Nadiad and the Dangs — on November 16. The largest amount of evasion was found from four tobacco dealers based in Waghai in the Dangs district. The department said that a large amount of unaccounted stock as well as unaccounted sales was uncovered during probe. The total tax evasion detected was around Rs 2.08 crore. "From the investigation in Nadiad, it emerged that the firm had allegedly indulged in tax evasion by concealing sales and underreporting its tax liability... The total tax liability detected was in excess of Rs 53 lakh," according to the



statement. The investigation on the two battery dealers in Ahmedabad revealed that these firms had been allegedly importing batteries and selling them locally without invoices to evade taxation. During the operation, unaccounted stock and sales were found, resulting in a total tax liability in excess of Rs 92 lakh. The SGST statement said, "Appropriate legal action to protect and realise government revenue is being pursued vigorously by State Tax Department."

SC notice to Gyanvapi mosque panel on plea for survey of 'shivling' area

Gyanvapi On May 16, 2022, during a court-ordered survey of the Gyanvapi premises, a structure found in the wazukhana (ablution pond) area was claimed to be a "shivling" by the Hindu side whereas the Muslim party claimed it to be a "fountain". The Supreme Court on Friday sought the response from the Gyanvapi mosque committee in Varanasi on a plea filed by the Hindu side for conducting an ASI survey of the sealed area of the mosque where a "shivling" was purportedly found in May, 2022. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan issued notice to the Committee of Management Anjuman Intezamia Masjid and sought its reply within two weeks on a plea filed by the Hindu side. On May 16, 2022, during a court-

ordered survey of the Gyanvapi premises, a structure found in the wazukhana (ablution pond) area was claimed to be a "shivling" by the Hindu side whereas the Muslim party claimed it to be a "fountain".

Senior advocate Shyam Divan, along with advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the Hindu side, said they had filed an application to consolidate all suits and transfer it from Varanasi district court to the Allahabad High Court. Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the mosque management committee, contended the appeal filed by Masjid committee questioning the maintainability of the suits as barred by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991 should be heard on an urgent basis.

Huge protests in Montreal amid Nato meet, cars burnt, Netanyahu effigy set ablaze



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

The protests unfolded as NATO delegates convened in the city for a high-level summit. At least four people were arrested in connection with the violence so far. Massive protests broke out on the streets of Montreal as anti-Israel and anti-NATO demonstrators smashed windows, clashed with police, and burned vehicles and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's effigy in the Canadian city. At least four people were arrested in connection with the violence till now. The protests unfolded as NATO delegates convened in the city for a high-level summit. Over 85,000 Quebec students strike for #Gaza, call for intifada and final solution. The summit, scheduled to be held from November

22 to 25, brought together representatives from NATO member states and partners to discuss Ukraine, climate change, and the alliance's future. The protest coincided with the second day of city-wide student-led protests in support of Palestine.

Protesters first gathered at Mile-Parc downtown at 4:30 pm, according to Montreal police spokesperson Manuel Couture, The Montreal Gazette reported. They marched toward the Quartier des Spectacles, where another group joined them near Place des Arts an hour later. By 6:10 pm, tensions reached a boiling point as protesters set fire to an effigy of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Objects, including small explosives and metal projectiles, were thrown at police officers. By 6:40 pm, shop windows were shattered near St-Urbain Street and René-Lévesque Boulevard, while two vehicles were set ablaze by the angry mob. Police responded with chemical irritants and crowd-control tactics. At least four people were arrested on charges of assaulting police and obstructing their work. The crowd was dispersed by 7 pm. Over 85,000 Quebec students strike for #Gaza, call for intifada and final solution. The unrest followed Thursday's confrontations at Concordia University, where pro-Palestinian protesters clashed with pro-Israel counter-demonstrators. Events like these are a reminder that "when the pot boils over, someone gets burned."

Trump's return to power: What it means for foreign corrupt practices act and Gautam Adani

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Donald Trump's return could reshape the enforcement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). This shift comes as Indian tycoon Gautam Adani faces U.S. bribery charges, making his case a key test of America's anti-corruption resolve. The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), a cornerstone of the United States' fight against international corruption, may see a seismic shift in enforcement and focus if Donald Trump returns to the Oval Office. This landmark legislation, passed in 1977, prohibits U.S.-connected entities from offering bribes to foreign officials. Yet, Trump's complicated history with the FCPA raises questions about how aggressively it might be enforced in his administration, particularly in light of high-profile cases like the indictment of Gautam Adani, one of India's wealthiest tycoons. When Trump first took office in 2017, sceptics feared he would soften FCPA enforcement. In a 2012 CNBC appearance, Trump famously called the FCPA a "horrible law," lamenting that it placed U.S. companies at a "huge disadvantage" globally. However, his administration surprised many by ramping up anti-corruption efforts. The Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) aggressively pursued FCPA violations during Trump's first term, bolstering resources for investigations and doubling the number of prosecutors in the anti-corruption unit. High-profile cases during that time demonstrated that fears of lax enforcement were largely unfounded. Now, Trump's return introduces fresh uncertainty. While his past administration adhered to international anti-corruption obligations, some experts have cautioned that this time could be different. They say that the FCPA could be "weaponised," potentially used selectively to target adversaries or to achieve political ends.

The indictment of Gautam Adani by a U.S. federal court comes at a critical juncture. Arrest warrants were issued for Adani and his nephew, Sagar Adani, after a New York grand jury charged them with bribing Indian officials to secure lucrative solar energy contracts. The indictment alleges \$265 million in bribes, which the DOJ claims were used to manipulate markets and defraud U.S. investors. Lisa H. Miller, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the DOJ's Criminal Division, described the case as emblematic of the FCPA's mission to root out corruption that distorts global markets and harms American stakeholders. For the Adani Group, which has dismissed the allegations as "baseless,"



the case poses a direct challenge to its reputation and global operations. With Trump's potential return to power, the handling of this case could set the tone for how his administration addresses global corruption. If the FCPA is enforced selectively or strategically, as some fear, it might not bode well for cases involving politically sensitive actors or nations.

The Adani case underscores the interconnected nature of anti-corruption enforcement. While the FCPA remains a key tool, other nations, including the UK, France, and Brazil, have introduced their own robust anti-bribery laws. The DOJ has increasingly collaborated with international counterparts to pursue cross-border corruption cases, ensuring that U.S. enforcement aligns with global standards. Even as Trump criticised the FCPA for putting U.S. companies at a disadvantage, proponents argue that it levels the playing field by deterring corrupt practices. This perspective was echoed by Trump's former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who reportedly convinced the then-president of the law's value. For Gautam Adani, the stakes are higher than ever. A Trump administration that aggressively enforces the FCPA could result in severe penalties for the Adani Group and its executives if the charges are upheld. Conversely, a more lenient or strategically driven approach could allow the case to falter, potentially emboldening other global actors to engage in corrupt practices without fear of repercussions. The outcome of this case will also have wider ramifications for India-U.S. relations. Adani's close ties to Indian political elites, including allegations of favouritism in government contracts, could complicate diplomatic dynamics.

Children of Gaza: Surviving hunger, fear, and loss in the midst of conflict

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

The ongoing conflict in Gaza has turned everyday life into a relentless battle for survival, with children bearing the brunt of this human tragedy. Stripped of their homes, schools, and a sense of normalcy, these young souls navigate a grim reality where the basic need for food has become an elusive luxury. Hunger gnaws at their frail bodies, and the constant threat of violence has robbed them of laughter, safety, and dreams. This photo feature offers an insight into their world through 10 heart-wrenching photographs, each one bearing witness to their endurance amidst the ruins of war. These images reveal not just the desperation and deprivation, but also the quiet grit of children who have been forced to grow up too soon. From chaotic food queues to moments of heartbreaking vulnerability, their stories unfold, urging the world to look beyond the statistics and see the faces behind the crisis. In Khan Younis, adults and children gather in desperation around a charity kitchen. The hunger crisis has left families reliant on these food distributions. Children stand alongside their parents, their expressions a mix of hope and exhaustion. Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, as the Israel-Gaza conflict continues, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. A little girl in Deir al-Balah queues patiently for food. Her deep, hopeful eyes betray her innocence, quietly imploring for relief in a world that has robbed her of her childhood.)

Young boys and girls hold out empty vessels, their arms extended as they wait for their share of food. The empty containers symbolise their hunger and the scarcity that defines their everyday lives. Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, as the Israel-Gaza conflict continues, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. Children bring makeshift containers to collect food. As steaming hot meals are poured into these vessels, they struggle to avoid the heat while ensuring they do not miss their chance to eat. From a bird's-eye view, a chaotic scene unfolds as a mixed crowd of men, women, and children rushes to secure food. The urgency reflects the depth of the crisis, as survival becomes a collective struggle. A young boy, balancing bread in his mouth and soup in his pot, walks carefully through the crowd. His small frame and determined stride underline the heavy burden these children carry in a fight for sustenance. A Palestinian boy carries bread and a pot with soup received at a volunteer food distribution point, in Gaza. (AFP) In Deir

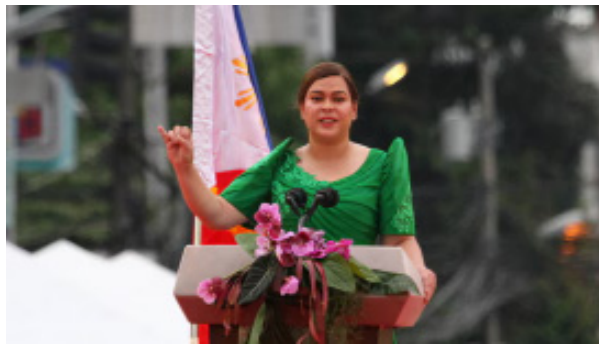


In the face of unimaginable hardship, children in Gaza endure a reality where survival takes precedence over innocence, their resilience a poignant reminder of the human cost of war.

al-Balah, young girls with gloomy faces sit in silence. Their teary eyes and defeated expressions tell the story of emotional exhaustion and the psychological toll of war. A boy rests on a wheelchair, patiently waiting for his turn to receive food. His frail posture speaks of physical challenges compounded by the hardships of displacement and hunger. In a makeshift tent, a displaced Palestinian man, Khalil Al-Shannar, shares water and dry bread with a child. The scene is one of quiet resilience, as families make do with the little they have to keep their children alive.

Displaced Palestinian man Khalil Al-Shannar gives water to a child in a tent where he shelters, amid the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, in Deir Al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip. In a chaotic food queue, a young girl is crushed by the crowd. Her tears and cries reveal not only her hunger but also the physical and emotional pain of being caught in an unending struggle for survival. Palestinians gather to receive food cooked by a charity kitchen, amid a hunger crisis, as the Israel-Gaza conflict continues, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. The war began on October 7, 2023, when Hamas gunmen attacked Israeli communities, killing approximately 1,200 people and taking 253 hostages, according to Israeli reports. In response, Israel's military campaign has devastated much of Gaza, resulting in the deaths of around 43,500 Palestinians, as reported by Gaza health officials.

Philippine VP Sara Duterte makes big statement. She says, 'If I die...'



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

The assassination threat came after the House of Representatives decided to detain VP Sara Duterte's Chief of Staff Zuleika Lopez. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has received an assassination threat from none other than his own deputy. The East Asian country's Vice President Sara Duterte said that she already has an assassin in place for the President, his wife and the Speaker of the House of Representatives if she is somehow herself killed. Duterte warned that it shouldn't be taken as a joke. "Don't worry about my security because I've talked with somebody. I said, 'If I'm killed, you'll kill BBM, Liza Araneta and Martin Romualdez. No joke, no joke,'" the Vice President

said, according to the Associated Press. "I've given my order, 'If I die, don't stop until you've killed them.' And he said, 'Yes,'" Duterte added.

What caused it?

Though Marcos and Duterte ran together in the May 2022 elections, they soon fell out over different approaches to policies on China and the South China Sea. She resigned from the Cabinet, where she held the post of Education Secretary. The daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte became a vocal critic of the President and his administration, accusing them of incompetence and corruption. Accusations have also been made that the President is persecuting the Duterte family. The assassination threat came after the House of Representatives decided to detain Duterte's Chief of Staff Zuleika Lopez. Lopez was accused of obstruction in a congressional inquiry into the alleged misuse of power by the Vice President. She was later transferred to a hospital after falling ill. The Presidential Security Command has boosted Marcos' security and said that the threat was being perceived as a 'national security issue.' It remains to be seen what action will be taken by the President against his own deputy. Under the Philippine Penal Code, such public remarks may constitute a crime of threatening to inflict a wrong on a person or his family and are punishable by a jail term and fine.

Javier Milei, Argentina President who 'chainsawed' his Federal Bureaucracy, issues major advice to Elon Musk

Javier Milei gave advice to Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy, who would head the newly established Department of Government Efficiency. Javier Milei, the President of Argentina, became the first political figure to meet with Donald Trump after his resounding presidential election victory, snapping pictures, and mingling with US senators at Mar-a-Lago. During his brief US visit, the self-described "anarcho-capitalist" Milei held talks with podcaster Lex Fridman.

Fridman's audience has several young American men who backed Trump's comeback to the White House. During the interview, he questioned Milei about his contentious "chainsaw" plan to cut federal expenditure and revive Argentina's economy. The Argentine President gave advice to Tesla CEO Elon Musk and Biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, who would head the newly established Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), an idea that was partially influenced by Milei's own attempts to reduce government waste. "My advice is to go all the way," Milei suggested. "Just cut to the chase, push it to the limit, and never give up. Stay on guard," he added.

The DOGE will be tasked with an aim to reduce inefficiencies in government operations. Musk asserted that the department will eliminate \$2 trillion in federal waste, or about a third of the \$6.75 trillion US budget, which Trump announced as a key component of his economic strategy. However, no economist thinks this amount can be reached without significantly lowering the national debt and the costs of servicing that debt, Newsweek reported. Here's how Milei's policies have impacted Argentina. Milei has imposed massive budget cutbacks in Argentina as president, dismantling half of the nation's 18 ministries, firing tens of



thousands of public servants, and cutting government spending by a staggering 31 percent in his first ten months in office. He underlined the work of his Ministry of Deregulation, which removes one to five economic barriers each day. "We have a team removing laws that hinder the economy," the Argentine President told Fridman. Milei's administration has so far lowered public university budgets by thirty percent, deregulated bus and air travel, eliminated rent controls, streamlined divorce procedures, required state healthcare providers to utilize less expensive generic medications, and expedited the implementation of contracts in US dollars.

In the last six months, Milei's "shock therapy" has forced roughly 5.5 million people to live in poverty, with cutting down over 70 percent of teachers' salaries. Speaking to Fridman, Milei justified his actions, blaming the previous government, which ruled for 40 years, for Argentina's poverty. "We did not create poverty. Poverty was inherited. What we did was to reveal it," he asserted.

Donald Trump announces seven picks in series of high-profile appointments; Who are they?

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Donald Trump announced a number of fresh nominations for high-level positions in his administration, including another Fox News contributor. Donald Trump announced a number of fresh nominations for high-level positions in his administration, including another Fox News contributor and a key architect of Project 2025. The President-elect has already suffered a setback this week when Matt Gaetz, his choice for the position of US attorney general, pulled out his name from consideration following intense criticism and accusations of sexual misconduct. Trump instantly named former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi as his second choice, a move that was widely praised and supported. He went on to announce a number of new candidates on Friday, including the head of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the HUD, Treasury, and Labor secretaries, as well as the Surgeon General. Here's a full list: Scott Turner: Trump has tapped Scott Turner to head the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In a statement, Trump hailed Turner for "helping to lead an Unprecedented Effort that Transformed our Country's most distressed communities" as he served as the first executive director of the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council during his first term. Marty Makary: Trump named author and Johns Hopkins surgeon Marty Makary, who opposed COVID-19 lockdowns, to lead the US Food and Drug Administration. Makary would supervise the FDA's \$7 billion spending and report to the health secretary if his nomination gets confirmed by the Senate. The organisation is in charge of \$3.6 trillion worth of medical, food, and tobacco items, including about 20,000 prescription medications. Under Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s direction, Makary will work to appropriately assess hazardous substances contaminating the US' food supply as well as medications and biologics administered to the children in order to ultimately address the Childhood Chronic Disease Epidemic, Trump stated. Dave Weldon: Former Florida Con-



gressman Dr. Dave Weldon will lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as its director. According to Trump, Weldon is a "respected conservative leader on fiscal and social issues." Dr. Janette Neshewat: Trump picked Dr. Janette Neshewat for surgeon general. Being a medical contributor to Fox News, the president-elect called the doctor, "a fierce advocate and strong communicator for preventive medicine and public health." Lori Chavez-DeRemer: Trump has announced Oregon Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer as his labor secretary. "Lori has worked tirelessly with both Business and Labor to build America's workforce, and support the hardworking men and women of America," the President-elect said. Russell Vought: Trump chose Russell Vought to be the head of the Office of Management and Budget. Trump described him as "aggressive cost cutter and deregulator."

"We will restore fiscal sanity to our Nation, and unleash the American People to new levels of Prosperity and Ingenuity. I look forward to working with you again, Russ," Trump wrote in his statement. Vought, who held the same position for months during the end of Trump's first term, is also associated with Project 2025. Scott Bessent: Trump has named billionaire Scott Bessent as Treasury Secretary. He gave Trump economic policy advice.

Israeli strikes hit central Beirut, residential tower targetted, 4 killed: Report

A powerful Israeli airstrike targeted central Beirut early on Saturday, security sources said, shaking the Lebanese capital as Israel pressed its offensive against the Iran-backed Hezbollah group. At least four people were killed and 33 injured in the strike as Israeli warplanes hit an eight-storey residential building with five missiles located in the Basta region, Lebanese media reported. Several powerful blasts shook Beirut at around 4 am (0200 GMT), Reuters witnesses said. At least four rockets were fired in the attack, two security sources said. Sirens could be heard as ambulances raced to the scene of the blast in Beirut's Basta neighbourhood.

Footage broadcast by Lebanon's Al Jazeera showed at least one destroyed building and several others badly damaged around it. It marked the fourth Israeli airstrike this week targeting a central area of Beirut. On Sunday, an Israeli airstrike killed a senior Hezbollah media official in the Ras al-Nabaa district. Israel launched a major offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon in September, following nearly a year of cross-border hostilities ignited by the Gaza war, pounding wide areas of Lebanon with airstrikes and sending troops into the south. The conflict began when Hezbollah opened fire in solidarity with its Palestinian ally Hamas after it launched the October 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel.

COP29 U.N. Summit: Civil society protests against climate finance proposal, calls for 'no deal' over 'bad deal'



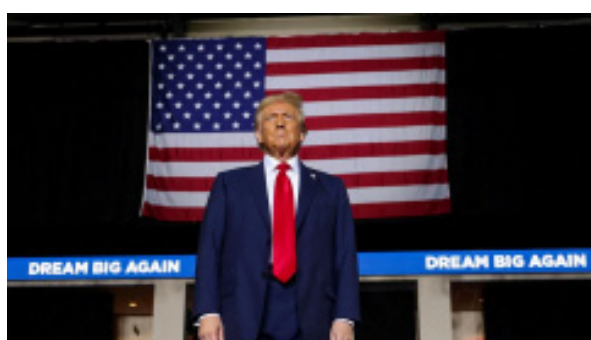
GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Civil society members staged a silent march at the U.N. climate summit, condemning the developed nations' proposal to increase annual climate finance to a meagre \$250 billion by 2035. They called on the developing world to reject what they described as an "insulting" and "unjust" deal. With their arms crossed in defiance, protesters walked silently through the summit venue, where chanting is prohibited. "We urge you to stand up for the people of the Global South, and we insist: no deal in Baku is better than a bad deal, and this is a very, very bad deal because of the intransigence of developed countries," said Climate Action

Network (CAN), a global coalition of more than 1,900 civil society organisations, in a letter to G77 and China, the largest bloc of developing nations. The letter urged negotiators to abandon weak agreements, saying, "If nothing sufficiently strong is forthcoming at this COP, we urge you to walk away from the table to fight another day, and we will fight the same fight." Shailendra Yashwant, senior advisor at CAN South Asia, denounced the proposal, saying, "The NCOG (New Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance) number of \$250 billion in the latest ministerial text is not a joke, it's an insult to the people of the Global South salvaging their belongings and trying to rebuild their lives from floods, heatwaves, cyclones, landslides or forest fires and other climate change-induced disasters." Harjeet Singh, Global Engagement Director for the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, called the proposal "a disgrace".

He said, "Developed countries are fully aware of the cost of climate action, which is running into trillions of dollars annually. Yet they had the audacity to offer this paltry amount." Renowned activist Greta Thunberg also slammed the draft text on climate finance, calling it "a complete disaster" and a "death sentence" for millions already vulnerable to the climate crisis. At the U.N. climate conference in Baku, countries are required to reach an agreement on a new climate finance package to help developing countries cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the warming world. The summit was scheduled to conclude on Friday (November 22, 2024) but spilt into overtime as developed nations only presented a concrete climate finance figure in the closing hours. The \$250 billion amount they have offered is a far cry from the trillions required to tackle the escalating climate emergency. Developing nations have been demanding at least \$1.3 trillion annually -- 13 times the \$100 billion pledged in 2009 -- starting in 2025 to address their escalating climate challenges. They have said that a significant portion of this \$1.3 trillion should come directly in public funding from developed countries.

U.S. President-elect Trump taps Bessent as Treasury Secretary, Chavez-DeRemer as Labor Secretary and Dr Nesheiwat as Surgeon General



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

President-elect Donald Trump has announced that he will nominate well-known international investor Scott Bessent for Treasury Secretary, Congresswoman Lori Chavez-DeRemer for Labor Secretary, and Dr. Janette Nesheiwat as the next Surgeon General of the U.S. Making a slew of announcements for top administrative positions on Friday (November 23, 2024), Mr. Trump appointed Alex Wong as Principal Deputy National Security Advisor and Dr Sebastian Gorka as Senior Director for Counterterrorism.

Former Congressman Dr. Dave Weldon has been nominated to serve as Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Marty Makary for FDA (Food and Drug Administration) Commissioner, and Scott Turner as Housing and Urban Development Secretary. Russell Thurlow Vought has been appointed Director of the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). All the appointments would come into effect on January 20, 2025, when Mr. Trump would be sworn in as the 47th president of the U.S. The nominations need to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate before the nominees are sworn in to their respective positions.

Talking about his Treasury nomination, Mr. Trump said, "Scott is widely respected as one of the world's foremost international investors and geopolitical and economic strategists. Scott's story is that of the American Dream." Bessent is an American investor, philanthropist, and educator. He is the Founder and CEO of Key Square Group. "On the eve of our great country's 250th Anniversary, he will help me usher in a new Golden Age for the United States as we fortify our position as the world's leading economy, centre of innovation and entrepreneurialism, and destination for capital, while always, and without question, maintaining the U.S. Dollar as the Reserve Currency of the World," he said.

"Unlike in past Administrations, we will ensure that no Americans will be left behind in the next and greatest economic boom, and Scott will lead that effort for me and the great people of the United States of America," he added. Mr. Trump said Congresswoman Chavez-DeRemer's strong support from both the business and labour communities would ensure that the Labor Department can unite Americans of all backgrounds behind the "agenda for unpre-

cedented national success - Making America Richer, Wealthier, Stronger and more Prosperous than ever before!" Dr. Nesheiwat is a fierce advocate and strong communicator for preventive medicine and public health. She is committed to ensuring that Americans have access to affordable, quality healthcare, and believes in empowering individuals to take charge of their health to live longer, healthier lives." Mr. Trump said about his Surgeon General nominee Alex Wong served during his first term as the Deputy Special Representative for North Korea and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of State. He was also Trump's nominee in the first term for U.S. Ambassador for Special Political Affairs at the United Nations. As Deputy Special Representative for North Korea, he helped negotiate Mr. Trump's Summit with North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un. Alex also led the State Department's efforts to implement the Free and Open Indo-Pacific Strategy. "Dr. Sebastian Gorka will be returning to the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counterterrorism," Mr. Trump said.

"Since 2015, Dr. Gorka has been a tireless advocate for the America First Agenda and the MAGA Movement, serving previously as Strategist to the President in the first Trump Administration," Mr. Trump said. Americans have lost trust in the CDC and in the federal health authorities, Trump said, alleging that these have engaged in censorship, data manipulation, and misinformation. "Given the current chronic health crisis in our country, the CDC must step up and correct past errors to focus on the prevention of disease," said the President-Elect. "In addition to being a Medical Doctor for 40 years and an Army veteran, Dave has been a respected conservative leader on fiscal and social issues and served on the Labor/HHS Appropriations Subcommittee, working for Accountability on HHS and CDC Policy and Budgeting," Mr. Trump said. Observing that the FDA has lost the trust of Americans and the sight of its primary goal as a regulator, Mr. Trump said the agency needs Marty Makary as Commissioner. "FDA has lost the trust of Americans and has lost sight of its primary goal as a regulator. The agency needs Dr. Marty Makary, a highly respected Johns Hopkins Surgical Oncologist and Health Policy Expert, to course-correct and refocus the agency," he said. "Dr. Makary has been a pioneer in the fields of public health, cancer care, and surgery and a tireless voice for vulnerable populations. He is the recipient of the Nobility in Science Award from the National Pancreas Foundation and numerous teaching awards," Mr. Trump said. Dr. Makary currently leads the evidence-based medicine and Public Policy Research Group at Johns Hopkins, he added. Mr. Trump's nominee for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Scott Turner is an NFL Veteran who, during his first term, served as the First Executive Director of the White House Opportunity and Revitalisation Council (WHORC), helping to lead an "unprecedented effort" that transformed the most distressed communities.

charges Israeli officials deny. In his comments Friday, Mr. Orban, a close Netanyahu ally, called the arrest warrant "outrageously impudent" and "cynical." He said he would invite Mr. Netanyahu to Hungary later Friday and vowed to disregard the warrant if the invitation is accepted. "We will defy this decision, and it will have no consequences for him," Mr. Orban said. Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto earlier criticised the ICC's warrant as "absurd." Israel and its top ally, the United States, are not members of the court. But other Israeli allies, including some of its close European friends, are put in an awkward position by the warrants. Several, including France, welcomed the court's decision and signalled they might arrest Mr. Netanyahu if he visited. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said President Joe Biden's administration was "deeply concerned by the prosecutor's rush to seek arrest warrants and the troubling process errors that led to this decision." Mr. Netanyahu on Friday praised Hungary for its stance on the warrant, saying in a statement: "Against the shameful weakness of those who stood by the outrageous decision against the right of the State of Israel to defend itself.

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban on Friday denounced the International Criminal Court's issuing of an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying he would defy it by inviting him to Hungary. In comments to state radio, Mr. Orban accused the International Criminal Court (ICC), the world's top war crimes court based in The Hague, of "interfering in an ongoing conflict for political purposes," saying the decision to issue the warrant for Mr. Netanyahu over his conduct of the war in Gaza undermined international law and escalated tensions. Member countries of the ICC, such as Hungary, are required to detain suspects facing a warrant if they set foot on their soil, but the court has no way to enforce that. The ICC issued the arrest warrant on Thursday for Mr. Netanyahu as well as for his former defence minister and Hamas' military chief, accusing them of crimes against humanity in connection with the 13-month war in Gaza. The warrants said there was reason to believe Mr. Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant used "starvation as a method of warfare" by restricting humanitarian aid and intentionally targeted civilians in Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza --

Israeli strikes kill dozens in Gaza over 48 hours, damage hospital in north, Palestinian medics say



CAIRO, GNS News Agency, Nov 26 Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip have killed at least 120 Palestinians over the last 48 hours and hit a hospital on the northern edge of the enclave, wounding medical staff and damaging equipment, Palestinian medics said on Saturday. Among the dead were seven members of one family whose house was hit overnight in the Zeitoun suburb of Gaza City, the health officials said. The rest were killed in separate Israeli strikes in central and southern Gaza. At the same time, Israeli forces deepened their incursion and bombardment of the northern edge of the enclave, their main offensive since early last month.

Israel's military says it aims to prevent Hamas fighters from waging attacks and regrouping in the area. Local residents say they fear the aim is to permanently depopulate a strip of territory as a buffer zone, which Israel denies. At Kamal Adwan Hospital, one of three medical facilities on

the northern edge of Gaza that is barely operational, director Hussam Abu Safiya said the ongoing Israeli bombardment appeared aimed at forcing hospital staff to evacuate - something they have refused since the incursion began. "Yesterday (Friday), from the afternoon until midnight, the bombardment directly targeted the entrance to the emergency and reception area several times," he said in a statement, adding that 12 staff members including doctors and nurses were injured. The strike also caused significant damage that disrupted the electrical generator, oxygen supply network and water supply, he added. Asked to comment on Abu Safiya's statement, the Israeli military said that following an initial review it was "not aware of a strike in the area of the Kamal Adwan Hospital".

"The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) ... is doing everything possible to avoid causing harm to civilians," it added. Israel says Hamas uses hospitals and civilians as human shields, and has made public videos and photos to support that claim. Hamas rejects the allegations and says it does not use the civilian population or facilities for military purposes. Israel's 13-month campaign in Gaza has killed more than 44,000 people and displaced nearly all the enclave's population at least once, according to Gaza officials. The war was launched in response to an attack by Hamas-led fighters who killed 1,200 people and captured more than 250 hostages in Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, according to Israeli tallies. Months of attempts to negotiate a ceasefire have yielded scant progress and negotiations are now on hold, with mediator Qatar having suspended its efforts until the sides are prepared to make concessions. Hamas wants a deal that ends the war, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said the war can end only once Hamas is eradicated.

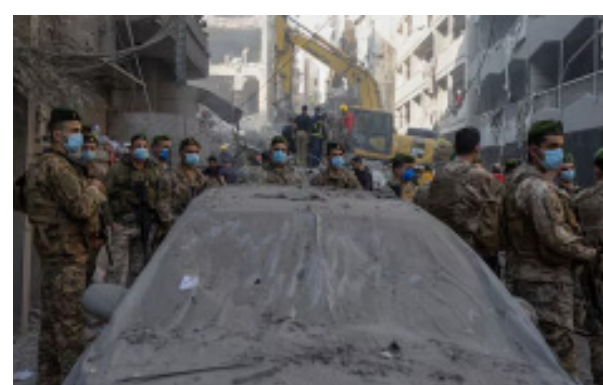
Powerful Israeli airstrike in central Beirut kills 11, Lebanese health ministry says

BEIRUT, GNS News Agency, Nov 26. A powerful airstrike killed 11 people in central Beirut on Saturday, the health ministry said, shaking the capital as Israel pressed its offensive against the Iran-backed Hezbollah group. An eight-story building was struck with four missiles, including bunker-penetrating types designed to hit underground targets, said a Lebanese security source. Israel has used bunker-busting weapons to kill senior Hezbollah figures, including its veteran leader Hassan Nasrallah in a strike on southern Beirut in September. Saturday's blasts shook the capital at around 4 a.m. (0200 GMT) and left a deep crater. Beirut smelled strongly of explosives for hours afterwards. Rescuers searched through rubble, in an area of the city known for its antique shops.

It was the fourth Israeli airstrike this week targeting a central area of Beirut, in contrast to the bulk of Israel's attacks on the capital region, which have hit the Hezbollah-controlled southern suburbs. On Sunday an Israeli airstrike killed a Hezbollah media official in the Ras al-Nabaa district of central Beirut. The Israeli air force also struck Hezbollah targets in the southern suburbs of Beirut, the group's stronghold, the Israeli military said. In a statement on actions on Saturday, it did not mention the strike on central Beirut. It accused Hezbollah of embedding its infrastructure in civilian areas and using the population as human shields, allegations the group denies.

HOSPITALISED DAUGHTER man whose family was hurt in the strike in central Beirut tried to comfort a traumatized woman outside a hospital. Car windows were shattered. "There was dust and wrecked houses, people running and screaming, they were running, my wife is in hospital, my daughter is in hospital, my aunt is in the hospital," said the man, Nemir Zakariya, who held up a picture of his daughter. "This is the little one, and my son also got hurt - this is my daughter, she is in the American University (of Beirut Medical Centre), this is what happened."

Separately, at least five people were killed and two wounded in an Israeli strike on Roum village in southern Lebanon on Saturday, according to the Lebanese state



news agency. Israel launched a major offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon in September, following nearly a year of cross-border hostilities ignited by the Gaza war, pounding wide areas of Lebanon with airstrikes and sending troops into the south. Israeli strikes killed at least 62 people and injured 111 in Lebanon on Thursday, bringing the toll since October 2023 to 3,645 dead and 15,355 injured, Lebanon's health ministry said. The figures do not distinguish between combatants and civilians. Hezbollah and the Lebanese government accuse Israel of indiscriminate bombing that kills civilians. Israel denies the allegation and says it takes numerous steps to avoid the deaths of civilians. Hezbollah strikes in the same period have killed more than 100 people in northern Israel and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. They include more than 70 soldiers killed in strikes in northern Israel and the Golan Heights and in combat in southern Lebanon, according to Israel. The conflict began when Hezbollah, Tehran's most important ally in the region, opened fire in solidarity with its Palestinian ally Hamas after it launched the Oct. 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel. A U.S. mediator travelled to Lebanon and Israel this week in an effort to secure a ceasefire. The envoy, Amos Hochstein, indicated progress had been made after meetings in Beirut, before going to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz.

Rich countries boost COP29 climate finance offer as developing nations seethe

BAKU, GNS News Agency, Nov 26. The European Union, U.S. and other wealthy countries at the COP29 summit have agreed to raise their offer of climate funding to \$300 billion per year by 2035 to help developing nations grapple with climate change, sources told Reuters on Saturday, after a previous proposal was dismissed as insultingly low. The summit had been due to finish on Friday but ran into overtime as negotiators from nearly 200 countries - who must adopt the deal by consensus - tried to reach agreement on a climate funding plan for the next decade.

A \$250 billion proposal for a deal, drafted by Azerbaijan's COP29 presidency on Friday, was deemed woefully insufficient by developing countries. It was not clear if the wealthy countries' revised position had been formally communicated to developing countries at the gathering in the Azerbaijan capital Baku, and whether it would be enough to win their support. The COP29 talks have laid bare the divisions between wealthy governments constrained by tight domestic budgets and developing nations reeling from the soaring costs of storms, floods and droughts fuelled by climate change. Past failures to meet climate finance obligations have also made developing countries mistrustful of new promises. The new goal is intended to replace developed countries' previous commitment to provide \$100 billion in climate finance for poorer nations per year by 2020. That goal was met two years late, in 2022, and expires in 2025. Five sources with knowledge of the closed-door discussions said the EU had agreed it could accept the higher number of \$300 billion a year. Two of the sources said the United States, Australia and Britain were also on board. A European Commission spokesperson and an Australian government spokesperson both declined to comment on the negotiations. The U.S. delegation at COP29 and the UK energy ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment. With no formal update yet of the deal draft from the COP29 presidency, the mood was tense among negotiating groups. "There is no clarity on the way forward. There is no clarity on the political will that we need to get out of this," said Panama's lead negotiator, Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez. Three negotiators described the mood in the room as angry. Sierra Leone's environment minister, Abdulai Jiwoh, declined to comment on the \$300 billion figure, saying: "We're still working on the number with other parties." Marina Silva, Brazil's minister of the environment and climate change, had said on Friday that the Amazon rainforest nation - which is set to host next year's COP30



climate summit - was pushing for \$390 billion annually from developed countries by 2035. "We cannot leave Baku without a decision that lives up to the challenge we are facing," she said via a translator. "We need to reach \$300 billion by 2030, then \$390 billion by 2035 so we can achieve this goal." Delegates were awaiting a new draft text of the deal after negotiators worked through the night to bridge wide gaps in their positions. Any deal would require agreement on more than just the headline amount. Negotiators have worked throughout the two-week summit to address other critical questions on the target, including who is asked to contribute and how much of the funding is on a grant basis, rather than provided as loans. The roster of countries required to contribute - about two dozen industrialised countries, including the U.S., European nations and Canada - dates back to a list decided during U.N. climate talks in 1992. European governments have demanded others join them in paying in, including China, the world's second-biggest economy, and oil-rich Gulf states. Donald Trump's U.S. presidential election victory this month cast a cloud over the Baku talks. Trump, who takes office in January, has promised to again remove the U.S. from international climate cooperation, so negotiators from other wealthy nations expect that under his administration the world's largest economy will not pay into the climate finance goal. A broader goal of raising \$1.3 trillion in climate finance annually by 2035 - which would include funding from all public and private sources and which economists say matches the sum needed - was included in the draft deal published on Friday.

Rural uptick but urban areas new points of concern in GDP growth



Incipient signs of softening consumption demand, especially in urban areas, reflected in multiple high-frequency indicators and corroborated by the earnings guidance of consumer goods companies, have raised concerns about a weakening of the growth momentum in the Indian economy. While rural demand is seeing an uptick, high food inflation and a moderation in credit growth are possible headwinds that could slow down growth in the second quarter of 2024-25.

Companies in the fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sector have already pointed out some early signs. Top executives at Tata Consumer Products Ltd have flagged concerns over "softness" in urban demand while those at Nestle India pointed to mega cities and metros as pressure points, and blamed the indications of "muted demand" partly on high food inflation. Carmakers are pointing to worries on demand for the sector that has largely bucked India's consumption downturn so far, blaming it on heavy rains and the election-induced slowdown. All of this could have repercussions for India's growth story going forward. The sequential decline in underlying growth momentum is discernible. For Nomura India, the growth glass "looks half empty", with its latest coincident activity index — a composite index covering consumption, investment and the external sector — pointing to slower GDP growth in the second quarter of 2024-25 compared with the first quarter. In the first quarter, GDP growth had already moderated to around 6.7 per cent from 7.8 per cent in the previous quarter. During the second quarter of July-September, this could moderate even further to around 6.5 per cent (much lower than RBI's projected 7 per cent) amid a slowdown in investment and industrial activity that could compound the slowdown in discretionary consumption sector, especially in urban centres, that Nestle and Tata Consumer are alluding to. "Real wage growth for rural agricultural and non-agricultural workers is providing some support to consumption growth. In the urban areas, new demand is not there. It's mostly status quo as urban consumers have broadly consumed a lot in the post-Covid phase and exhausted the pent-up demand," Devendra Kumar Pant, Chief Economist, India Ratings and Research said. According to the Finance Ministry's economic review for September, rural demand continues to improve, as reflected in increasing fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) volume sales and a rise in three-wheeler and tractor sales. However, urban demand appears to moderate due to softening consumer sentiments, limited footfall due to above-normal rainfall, and seasonal periods during which people tend to refrain from new purchases, the Ministry said.

Broader data sets clearly point to this: Corporate sector's growth rates in revenue and profits have taken a beating if the initial trends from the financial results of listed companies for the quarter ended September 2024 are any indication, with the growth rate in net profit of 197 companies down to 6.1 per cent at Rs 83,007 crore in Q2 of 2024-25 as against 27.4 per cent (Rs 78,224 crore) in the same period of last year largely on account of a rise in expenses and input costs in the second quarter, according to data compiled by Bank of Baroda Research. The picture weakens further if the 10 banks in the sample are excluded. Rating firm Crisil said revenue growth of 5-7 per cent for Q2 is likely to be the slowest in the last 16 quarters. Companies are also scaling down their salary outlays. Real salary and wage expenditure growth of listed non-financial corporates — a proxy for real urban wages — has moderated to 0.8 per cent in Q2 FY25 from 1.2 per cent in Q1 FY25, and is down from 2.5 per cent in FY24 and 10.8 per cent in FY23, Nomura said. Adding to these stress signals are worries about high

food inflation. The RBI has indicated that food inflation continues to be a worry and that it could be risky to talk about cutting rates at this point in time. "At this stage of the economic cycle, having come so far, we cannot risk another bout of inflation. The best approach now would be to remain flexible and wait for more evidence of inflation aligning durably with the target," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das wrote in the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held from October 7-9.

The other problem is on the external front, where protectionist measures in the US and sluggish demand in western Europe do not promise much for India's already struggling exports. During the annual meetings of IMF-World Bank in Washington last week, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the output-inflation tradeoff globally has worsened and cooling may slow down the economic momentum — which necessitates continuous data-driven policy adjustments to monitor spillovers. Speaking on the Indian economy at an event organised by the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington on Friday, Das remained upbeat and said that improving domestic demand, lower input costs and a supportive policy environment continue to spur manufacturing activity, while the services sector is displaying strong growth. "The growth outlook reflects the underlying strength of India's macro-fundamentals, with domestic drivers — private consumption and investment — playing a major role," the central bank governor said, adding that the government's thrust on capex and healthy balance sheets of banks and corporates are expected to support private investment and that private consumption appears to be on track for a strong improvement due to the favourable agricultural outlook and the pickup in rural demand. So while the lead indicators point to a moderation in growth, certain components of growth, including government spending that had dipped during the election months, could see a pick up in the coming quarters. During April-August, central government expenditure stood at Rs 16.52 lakh crore, down 1.2 per cent from the corresponding period a year ago. Higher government spending along with efforts to bring down inflation could help India's growth in the second half of this year.

Government spending is likely to pick up as that is overdue, but the continuing moderation in credit growth, particularly consumer credit growth means constraint in terms of discretionary activity could continue. That's already reflective on the urban demand side. And on whether private capex is picking up, whether it is broadening out, with demand continuing to be soft, the changes of a pickup, especially a broad-based one, are unlikely. The positives going forward include the festive season demand, and to what extent discounts help boost consumer activity. It would also be crucial to see to what extent government capex picks up and if rural demand will hold. The Finance Ministry has flagged the need to watch the demand conditions at the margin. Citing data from Nielsen IQ, the Ministry said rural demand has strengthened in H1 of FY25, with improvement seen in rising FMCG sales of 5.2 per cent (volume growth) in Q1 FY25 as against 4 per cent seen in the year-ago period. There has also been a pickup in auto sales in rural areas by around 2 per cent in H1 FY24, with a significant increase in three-wheelers (7.4 per cent) and passenger vehicles (4.9 per cent) sales. In urban areas, however, volume growth in FMCG sales has slowed to 2.8 per cent in Q1 in FY25 from 10.1 per cent in Q1 FY24. Auto sales declined by 2.3 per cent in H1 of FY25, mainly due to lower sales in Q2 FY25 in urban areas. Housing sales and launches have also dipped in Q2 FY25, the Ministry said. Going ahead, a further monetary easing by the US Fed post-elections are expected to boost India's capital inflows, experts said. A higher real wage growth and above-normal monsoon also augur well for consumption growth going ahead. There is a distinct possibility that government expenditure will be the biggest driver for overall economic recovery, especially if one were to consider the run rate so far and factor in the budget forecast assuming an implied growth in capital expenditure from September to March 25 should be around 40 per cent year on year. Given the contraction seen in April-August, there has to be a big improvement. Revenue expenditures from the government side should also see an improvement, which could have some impact.

Adani bribe-linked company in IPR tangle in US, could impact \$10 bn American investment plan

Adani Green Energy, which is at the centre of alleged bribery charges involving funds raised from American investors, is also facing accusations of intellectual property rights (IPR) violations related to the sale of solar cells, modules, and panels in the US, according to a notice issued by the US International Trade Commission (USITC) on October 1. The USITC investigates unfair trade practices.

The Commission had received a complaint against two Adani firms: Adani Solar USA Inc., based in Irving, Texas, and India-based Adani Green Energy Ltd., among others, for allegedly violating Section 337 of the US Tariff Act of 1930. This section enables the US to investigate whether imported goods infringe US intellectual property rights and, if so, to prohibit their entry into the country. The order comes at a time when India's exports of solar products to the US are on the rise. This trend coincided with tariffs imposed by the Trump administration in 2018 on Chinese-made solar cells and panels, which created export opportunities for competitors, including India. Official US trade data shows that prior to 2018, the US did not import solar panels from India. However, following the tariffs on Chinese solar products, American imports from India soared, reaching \$2.3 billion last year. According to Reuters, in the second quarter of 2024, India accounted for 11 per cent of US panel imports, more than double its share in the previous quarter. This is not the first time Indian solar panels have faced scrutiny in the US. Earlier this year, in August, Indian solar products were blocked. A trade attorney with Wiley Rein LLP told Reuters that the detention of Indian products was due to solar cells for Indian panels exported to the US being sourced from China. The US has expanded the scope of its scrutiny of solar items entering the country.

If Adani Green Energy is found to have violated Section 337, the USITC may issue an exclusion order to block the importation of infringing goods into the US. While a limited exclusion order would apply to products named in the case, a general exclusion order could block all infringing products. Notably, the Commission has the authority to refer the matter to the US Department of Justice (DOJ) for criminal investigation if fraud or other illegal activities are suspected. The USITC order stated that the complaint was filed by the China-based photovoltaics company Trina Solar Co., Ltd., and Trina Solar US Manufacturing Module 1, LLC. "The matter is sub judice and is part of broader efforts in the US to scrutinise Adani businesses. However, as far as Section 337 of the US Tariff Act of 1930 is concerned,

the US is trying to block solar product imports. Previously, Chinese exports were under scrutiny, and they were blocked. All of this is part of the US effort to promote domestic manufacturing," said a person familiar with the development.

As part of a major push towards clean energy production in the US, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was passed in August 2022. This Act directs nearly \$400 billion in federal funding towards clean energy, aiming to significantly lower carbon emissions by 2030 and boost American competitiveness in the sector. The latest case could impact Adani Green Energy's aim to expand its US operations as part of the group's \$10 billion investment in American energy and infrastructure projects. The company is also central to efforts by India and the US to de-risk the renewable energy supply chain and reduce reliance on Chinese components and technology. In a social media post on 13 November, Gautam Adani, Chairman and Founder of the Adani Group had said: "As the partnership between India and the United States deepens, the Adani Group is committed to leveraging its global expertise and investing \$10 billion in US energy security and resilient infrastructure projects, aiming to create up to 15,000 jobs." "The complaint alleges violations of Section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain TopCon solar cells, modules, panels, components thereof, and products containing the same. The complaint names the following as respondents: Runergy USA Inc. of Pleasanton, CA; Runergy Alabama Inc. of Huntsville, AL; Jiangsu Runergy New Energy Technology Co., Ltd. of China; Adani Solar USA Inc. of Irving, TX; and Adani Green Energy Ltd. of India," the order stated. On November 21, Adani Green Energy announced that it had decided to pause its proposed \$600 million dollar-denominated bond issuance in light of recent bribery charges filed by US federal prosecutors against key Adani Group executives, including Gautam Adani. This followed criminal and civil cases brought by the US Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) respectively against Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani, and Vneet S Jaain for their alleged roles in a \$250 million bribery scheme to secure solar energy contracts in India. US laws, particularly the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), prohibit certain individuals and entities from making payments to foreign government officials to obtain or retain business.

Why extreme heat can trigger headaches



Summer's warmth can be delightful, but the scorching heat can also bring an unwelcome guest—headaches. Let's understand why extreme heat can trigger these painful episodes. According to Dr Rajeev Gupta, Director of Internal Medicine at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, exposure to extreme heat can lead to dehydration and electrolyte imbalances, both well-known culprits for headaches. "As our bodies lose fluids through sweating, it disrupts the delicate balance of electrolytes crucial for various functions, including brain function. This disruption can manifest as a throbbing headache," he explained. Heat and your blood vessels Heat doesn't just affect hydration; it can also impact your blood vessels. Dr Gupta explains that heat can cause dilation of blood vessels in the brain, contributing to headache symptoms. Imagine your brain like a complex network of pipes. When these pipes expand excessively due to heat, it can lead to pain. The stress heat puts on your body, including

increased sweating and rising core temperatures, can also trigger headaches. This stress can manifest as tension headaches or even migraines in more susceptible people. So, while you might be enjoying a sunny day, your body is working overtime to cope, and a headache might be its way of signaling distress, said Dr Gupta. Experiencing headaches every day during the summer heat is a cause for concern, according to Dr Gupta. It suggests that your body is constantly under stress from the heat, potentially leading to chronic dehydration, electrolyte imbalances, and even vascular changes in the brain. Daily headaches significantly impact your quality of life and might indicate underlying health issues that require medical attention. Beat the heat, beat the headache Dr Gupta offers valuable advice to prevent and alleviate heat-induced headaches: Hydration is Key: Drink plenty of cool fluids throughout the day to stay hydrated. Water is your best friend, but electrolyte-rich beverages can also be helpful.

Seek Shade and Cool Down: Avoid prolonged exposure to direct sunlight. Find shade, take breaks in air-conditioned spaces, or use fans to cool down your body. Sleep and Relaxation: Ensure proper sleep hygiene and adequate rest. A well-rested body is better equipped to handle heat stress. Ditch the Dehydrating Drinks: Avoid excessive alcohol and caffeine, as these can contribute to dehydration and worsen headaches. Protect Your Eyes: Wear sunglasses to reduce glare and minimize eye strain, which can also contribute to headaches. Prevention is the best medicine. By incorporating these tips into your summer routine, you can significantly reduce your chances of getting a headache from the heat.

Kim Kardashian's trainer shares tips to transform your body in just 5 minutes



Forget the intimidation! Celebrity trainer Senada Greca, who works with stars like Miranda Kerr, Kim Kardashian, and Bebe Rexha, is here to debunk the myth that fitness requires hours of sweat. Senada emphasises the power of small, consistent steps, advocating for starting with just five minutes of exercise a day. According to what Senada said on The Jay Shetty podcast, the key lies in habit formation. Dr Imraan Khan (PT), Consultant Head Physiotherapist at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mira Road, agrees that consistency is crucial. "Being consistent about your exercise routine can make it easier to achieve your fitness goals," he says. When you actively make working out a regular part of your day, it becomes a daily habit, leading to positive results over time.

Senada acknowledges initial skepticism: "People often think 'what's the point?' But those five minutes are all about building a habit," she explains. "Fitness isn't a sprint; it's a lifelong marathon. You want to be active consistently, and five minutes daily is a great starting point." She emphasizes the gradual nature of progress. "You might not see immediate results, but that's okay. Five minutes a day for a week, then ten minutes the next — small, consistent steps lead to lasting change and make fitness more accessible for everyone." Dr Khan also cautions that a toned figure requires a holistic approach. "Reaching a toned figure involves

collective efforts," he explains. This includes: Healthy and Wise Food Choices: A balanced diet fuels your body for exercise and recovery. Variety in Workouts: Don't get stuck in a rut! Mix up your routine with different exercises to target various muscle groups and prevent plateaus. Rest and Recovery:

Give your muscles time to repair and rebuild after exercise. Hydration: Drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay hydrated and support muscle function. While five minutes a day won't magically sculpt a toned physique, it's a great starting point to build the habit of consistent exercise. This habit, combined with the other factors mentioned above, can lead to significant health and fitness improvements. Building the habit: Exercises for your 5-minute routine Dr Khan suggests incorporating a variety of exercises into your five-minute routine, such as:

Cardio: Jogging, jumping jacks, high-knee raises Strength Training: Squats, planks, lunges, push-ups (modified versions can be done on your knees), sit-ups, side plank Other Activities: Burpees, mountain climbers, skipping, tricep dips, spot jogging, bicycle crunches, boxing Remember, consistency is key. Start with five minutes a day and gradually increase the duration and intensity of your workouts as your fitness improves.

'I'm a Pilates enthusiast': Khushi Kapoor opens up about fitness, fashion and beauty regimen

Khushi Kapoor is carving a niche for herself in the fashion space with her sharp sense of style and girl next door charm. Though just one film old, she's been making headlines for walking the ramp for India's ace designers and couturiers. In a candid conversation with Harper's Bazaar India, The Archies actor opened up about her approach to fitness, fashion, and beauty. A self-proclaimed Pilates enthusiast, Kapoor also incorporates occasional weight training into her fitness regimen. "Fitness boosts my mood," she said. Akshay, managing director at FitClub, said, "Pilates focuses heavily on core muscles, essential for stability and balance. A strong core reduces the risk of injury and enhances performance in other exercises like weightlifting or running." With her skin and nails often taking a toll during shoots, Kapoor said she opts for a minimalist beauty routine during downtime. She regularly oils her hair at night and



gets hair spas to avoid any kind of heat damage. "I moisturise, use a good SPF on my face, and never forget to double cleanse," Kapoor said. Kapoor, who portrayed Betty Cooper in The Archies, revealed her passion for fashion. "Fashion is something I've always loved and had an interest in," she said. She enjoys experimenting with silhouettes and styles, tailoring her outfits to her mood, the brand, and the occasion. "I definitely dress

based on my mood, the brand, and the brief. It's just fun to play around with different silhouettes and styles," she said. As someone who describes herself as shy, Kapoor said, "I've somehow always gravitated towards dressing a certain way because that's what makes me feel confident. It would definitely make me feel better to go out and do events and red carpets by myself if I felt confident in what I'm wearing." "Speaking about her support system and importance of female friendships in life, Kapoor said that she identifies as a "girl's girl". She adores her girlfriends and said that "girl time is like therapy". "All my girls I've known for years, so they are more like sisters to me. We always seek each other's opinions on things, get ready together, borrow clothes, and then of course occasionally, have a good cry together and vent about life," Kapoor said.

Vidhu Vinod Chopra 'screamed' at Naseeruddin Shah's friend, argument caused actor to walk out of Parinda: 'You shut up, you know nothing'

Filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra recently reflected on his hot and cold relationship with veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah. He said that Shah quit his film Parinda after getting into an argument with him, after complaining about Jackie Shroff's skills. Chopra said that back then, he used to be quite hot-tempered himself, and didn't hold back on expressing his true feelings.

At the International Film Festival of India recently, he was asked about his fight with Shah. The filmmaker replied with a laugh, "The fight was simple. There were two characters, Kishan and Karan. Kishan was the character played by Jackie, the character I wanted Naseer to play. But some of his well wishers told him that he doesn't have a heroine, which means that he doesn't have a lady love. I said that he's a loner, he can't have a (romantic interest)."

Chopra continued, "The well wisher told him that Anil Kapoor has a girl. Actually, it was a conceptual (disagreement). That time, I used to lose my temper. I really screamed at that well wisher, saying, 'You know nothing about cinema, you just shut up'. And he didn't like that. He said, 'You cannot say shut up to my well wisher, I can do anything'. I love him still, he loves me still, but this is how Jackie came into the film." In an interview with PTI, filmmaker Sudhir Mishra corroborated Chopra's comments about the relationship he shares with Shah. "Naseer and Vinod have the most complex relationship in the world. They can't live with each other, they can't live without each other. I've seen them get into fist fights. I've come in between them and got hit too!"

Chopra said that Naseer walked out of the film, and challenged him to make an actor as 'wooden' as Jackie act. "Everybody called Jackie the wooden actor. He was always told, and I was told that you cannot make Jackie Shroff act... by Naseer actually. Naseer was supposed to be in the film. We had a fight, he said 'I won't do it'. I said



okay. He said, 'If you are a great director make Jackie Shroff act'. And I was very angry and very young. I said 'You watch it, I will do it', he recalled. Chopra also got into a violent argument with Nana Patekar while working on Parinda. Appearing on the singing reality show Sa Re Ga Ma Pa, Chopra said, "We'd been shooting all day, and it was late in the evening. Nana declared that he was too tired to continue and that he was going home. I told him, 'Sure, you pay for the overheads then'. He started swearing at me, I swore back, and in the scuffle, I tore his kurta. The cops on set said, 'We're here to protect you, and you're fighting among yourselves'."

Sonam Kapoor's mother showed her a picture of Kajol's unibrow when people mocked her facial hair: 'She's Anil Kapoor's daughter'



Actor Sonam Kapoor, who is planning on making a comeback to the film industry after spending a few years out of action raising her son, reflected on the difficulties that she faced when she was starting out. The daughter of Anil

Kapoor, a star in his own right, Sonam said that she worked consistently for two decades before deciding to take a break. But just a year before she was hired by director Sanjay Leela Bhansali to star in her debut film Saawariya, she was dealing with a medical issue that greatly affected her appearance and self-confidence. Appearing on Barkha Dutt's Mojo Story, Sonam was asked about this phase in her teenage, and she said, "I had something called PCOS. They used to call it PCOD, but they've changed it now. Because of that, I had multiple hormonal issues. So, I put on weight when I was 16 years old, which is when you're supposed to be your 'prettiest'. I had facial hair, I broke out in acne, and I had people tell me, 'She's Anil Kapoor's daughter'. I was traumatised." Sonam said that her mother came up with a technique to make her feel more comfortable in her skin. She said, "At that time, I remember Kajol had a unibrow. She never did her eyebrows. She had hairline hair, and I remember my mom showing me Kajol's picture, and she was like, 'Look at her, she's the biggest heroine right now.' I remember seeing her and feeling motivated. The next year, when I was 17, I was discovered by Sanjay Leela Bhansali."

Sonam made her debut with Saawariya, which didn't work at the box office. But she bounced back with a string of hits, and has appeared in blockbusters such as Prem Ratan Dhan Payo, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, Sanju, and more. She received critical acclaim for her central performance in the film Neerja. Her last release was Blind, which debuted directly on Jio Cinema. She said that she's signed two projects which will be announced when the time is right.

AR Rahman threatens legal action against social media 'hatemongers' coming up with 'imaginary stories' about his divorce from Saira Banu

Composer AR Rahman, who recently announced his separation from his wife of nearly three decades, Saira Banu, has issued a cease and desist notice to YouTubers and other social media commentators, allegedly fabricating details about the split. Via his legal representatives, Rahman shared his new statement on social media on Saturday. The eight-point letter, addressed to social media platforms such as Facebook and X, called out 'busy bodies' on YouTube for coming up with 'imaginary stories' that are allegedly causing hurt to Rahman and his family.

Rahman asked the 'hatemongers' to remove the objectionable content, failing which he will be compelled to take legal action against them. His lawyer's statement read, "1. My client few days back informed through his X (twitter) about the dissolution of the marriage. 2. It must also be informed even the leading newspapers carried the news as well as the joint statement of the couple citing emotional strain as the reason for their decision. My client had received overwhelming messages from all well-wishers expressing their sorrow and support at this hour of crisis. 3. While it is so that it is noticed some of the social media platforms and several you-tubers have started a series of calumny and defamatory write-ups about the same with their own concocted and fertile imaginary stories on their private life. There were also interviews by some busy bodies about their own perspective on the failure of their marriage life. It is unnecessary to reproduce each one of the statements that was spread across the social-media platform which is intended to spread knowledge and awareness."

The next section of the statement noted the harm that such imaginary stories are doing to Rahman's reputation. "4. My client instructs me to inform that there is no iota of truth in any of the programs, interviews attributing obscene contents thereby intending to harm the reputation of my client and also intended to be hurtful to his family. This only shows the social media persons who intend to harm the reputation of my client are being content starved for their productions and are inventing highly imaginary and false stories to defame my client merely for their cheap short lived publicity. 5. The operators of such platforms running the social media must also realize that these stage-man-

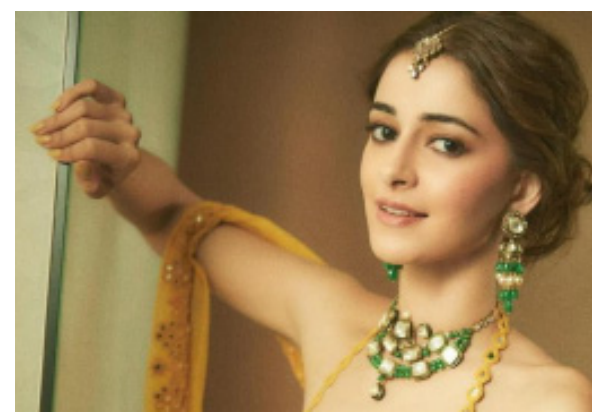


aged publications are motivated and are also against the norms evolved by one of them which deals with abuse / harassment wherein the subscribers are warned that they may not share abusive content, engage in the targeted harassment of someone, or incite other people to do so. 6. My client informs the hatemongers and sharers of abusive contents to remove the objectionable content within the next one hour and a maximum time duration of 24 hours, he will be advised to file appropriate criminal defamation case under Section 356 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and in such an event the offenders are liable to be punished with an imprisonment of two years, with or without fine as the court may determine under Section 356 (2) of the said Act." The lawyer noted that Rahman has instructed legal action to be taken against those who fail to comply. "7. My client has instructed me to file an appropriate defamation suit against anyone who has contributed to such false content to any media in an appropriate civil court as well as to get a prior restraint on any such publication by any media platform. 8. This notice is specifically addressed to individuals and entities operating on platforms including, but not limited to, YouTube, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, Facebook, and online news portals. Non-compliance will result in legal action at your own cost and peril." Rahman had announced his divorce on social media, with the following statement, "We had hoped to reach the grand thirty, but all things, it seems, carry an unseen end."

Ananya Panday addresses bullying, cheating rumours that were spread about her by supposed schoolmate: 'They made a fake account'

Actor Ananya Panday looked back on the emotional difficulties that she experienced in the first year of her journey in the film industry. In an interview, she recalled the stories that were spread about her on social media, and the questions that were raised about the veracity of her academic achievements. Ananya had revealed that she'd gotten admission into several prestigious universities in the United States, but had chosen to pursue her dream of becoming an actor when she was offered a role in Student of the Year 2. Appearing on Barkha Dutt's Mojo Story, Ananya opened up about her initial experiences with social media, and said, "When I was in school, social media had just started. I was called all sorts of things, like hunchback, flat screen, chicken legs... That was in school, we were in our bubble. Now, because of social media, the smallest voice can be amplified. It did affect my self-confidence, it still does today. Self-love is a journey, not the destination." Ananya said that the first time she realised that everybody faces criticism is when her younger sister Rysa raised objections about being tagged on Instagram. She said, "I'm an actress. I'm in a position of power. Sometimes I have to be on social media even if I don't want to be on social media. Some days I definitely don't want to be on social media. But I also saw the impact on my younger sister Rysa. She's not an actor and has no plans of becoming one, but every time we posted a picture of her, she would say, 'Don't tag me, because people follow me and message me nasty things'."

Recalling when somebody spread rumours about her online, Ananya said, "When I had just started out, in my first year, someone made a fake account on Instagram and they started writing that they were in school with me and I was like this and like that, and I had lied about my education..."



And at first, I was like, 'No one is going to believe that'. But people did believe it. And then, when it spun out of control, that really upset me."

The incident in question happened when someone claiming to be Ananya's schoolmate posted on social media that she was a bully to kids from regular households and accused her of cheating on her boyfriends. In an Instagram post, Ananya had defended the authenticity of her academic achievements, writing, "As for the people who have been trying to pull me down with these accusations, I would like to send you all lots of love, peace and positivity. And would also like to say that even though they're claiming to be my classmates (nameless and faceless) - I'm sure they aren't because I've grown up with the people I went to school with and they would never do something like that."

Javed Akhtar compares people who made Animal to 'perverts': 'Vulgarity has found acceptance in middle class'

Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal drew a lot of criticism from lyric writer Javed Akhtar when it released in 2023. Not just Javed, many others criticised the film for being excessively violent and misogynistic. Javed had previously said that the success of films like Animal was a "dangerous trend" and now

the chatter around it isn't coming to rest. Despite facing a lot of criticism, the film, starring Ranbir Kapoor in the lead role, emerged to be the biggest hits of 2023. After the film's release, many people from the industry expressed disappointment in his way of handling themes of feminism and toxic masculinity in the film. Earlier this year, lyricist-screenwriter Javed Akhtar called Animal becoming a super hit, a 'dangerous' trend. And now, his statements came to light again in a recent interview with Barkha Dutt's Mojo Story, where he clarified that he was actually calling out the audience and their choices in today's world.

Javed was asked about how much the industry has changed in how they show women, with misogynistic films like Animal coming out successful. He said, "Societies don't move in a linear manner. So many things keep happening together. However, just like how these are many sub plots in stories, there is also a main theme. We have to see what's the main theme. All these are sub plots, some are good, some are bad. It's not like the whole society changes together completely. Some people take very small and hesitant steps, while others move faster. Animal also exists." When he was asked why the film succeeded, he said, "The title tells you why. The title is self explanatory." He then clarified that he did not express his opinion on Ani-



mal, but on the audience that appreciated it. "I didn't express my opinion on Animal, I spoke about the audience that watched it. If 15 people have made a film with the wrong values, if 10-12 people make obscene songs, that's not the problem. If 15 people are perverts among the 140 crore population, it doesn't matter. When that thing goes on the market and becomes a superhit, that's the problem." He also mentioned that vulgarity is being normalised in the society now, something that didn't exist years ago - "There were vulgar songs in the 1920-30s as well, but they did not find general acceptance in households. Vulgarity wasn't invented in the last ten years, it has existed since forever. However, there wasn't an acceptance in the middle class for such vulgarity, which exists now," he said.

Imtiaz Ali clarifies controversial comments about women's safety, says 'acts of a few give bad name to hundreds of well-mannered men'

Filmmaker Imtiaz Ali offered a clarification for comments that he recently made about women's safety at the International Film Festival of India. During a panel discussion, the celebrated director had claimed that the film industry in Mumbai is 'a very safe space for women'. Several people questioned his qualifications to comment about women's safety issues, and pointed out the scores of allegations that women in the film industry have made about being harassed and assaulted. Producer Vinta Nanda, who was a prominent voice during the #MeToo movement some years ago, accused him of trying to 'whitewash' the truth. In an Instagram Story, Imtiaz wrote, "Uh oh there seems to be a misunderstanding that I must clarify. I haven't denied or disputed the tons of harassment cases that Vinta ji and many other friends have spoken about; in fact these incidents are deeply disturbing and must be dealt with severely and consistently." "I was pointing out that it is doubly frustrating that the entire film industry, all those hundreds of men on every set who are otherwise remarkably well-mannered, get a bad name for the acts of a few. Of course, terrible things have happened and continue to happen and they are shameful - as an industry and nation, we should have a zero-tolerance policy towards them. We have to uphold our honour together and regardless of gender," he added. At his IFFI panel, Imtiaz had said some days ago, "The film industry in Bombay is remarkable for the way it treats its women and I, as a man, have noticed this. If there are 200 people working in a unit, it is a very safe space for women." He chose to corroborate his point by narrating an instance of harassment on one of his sets. "There have been three times in my entire life that I've sent people (crew members) back, from different places, from different sets. I am happy that it's only three. I remember once it happened on the sets of Highway. We were shooting on the rural highway with Randeep and Alia and there were no proper vanity vans back in 2013. Alia had to change, go for nature's call in different, unusual places. Once I had to send this guy back from the set when he was trying to be around her during that time. So yes, it did happen with me as a filmmaker thrice, but not anymore. Times have changed, changed drastically. Actresses are really safe on the sets. It's not like that anymore," Imtiaz said. In her criticism, posted on social media, Vinta Nanda had written, "Imtiaz Ali should stop pontificating about what women face in the entertainment industry. Naturally, a Kareena Kapoor is safe because



she is privileged. And, he surely must know that the casting couch exists! Why has IFFI Goa selected him to speak on behalf of women? Is it to whitewash the truth? If men like him had the courtesy to abstain from speaking on a subject they have no experience about, one will believe that change is indeed taking place."

Mohini Dey breaks silence on AR Rahman link-up rumors: 'Respect my privacy'

Mumbai: As the controversy around the divorce of the Grammy and Oscar-winning music composer A. R. Rahman, and rumours of his alleged link to his bassist Mohini Dey continue to swirl, the latter has now reacted to the controversy, and has requested for privacy. Mohini recently took to the Stories section of her Instagram, and shared a note in which she slammed the "absolute BS" that has been making rounds. She wrote, "I've been getting a humongous amount of requests for interviews and I know exactly what it's about, so I have to respectfully turn each one down because I am not interested in fueling ABSOLUTE BS."

In Rishabh Pant, franchises have a chance to acquire their own MS Dhoni



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

With a playful smile, on a chilly December Delhi evening at the start of his career, Rishabh Pant admitted that the MS Dhoni comparisons annoyed him. "When I hear this, I sometimes feel people are making fun of me. He is my idol and I feel happy when people compare me with Mahi bhai. But I am just a kid, and feel uncomfortable," he would say.

Nearly a decade later, the Dhoni shadow not only stalks him, but has assumed an even thicker form. So much so that the world sees Dhoni in Pant. There is the disarming backstory of migration, from a small town in Uttarakhand (both) to Ranchi and Delhi. Their batting is irresistibly unorthodox. For Dhoni's helicopter whirl, Pant has the falling flick. They keep wicket in pragmatic rather than orthodox manners. If Dhoni epitomised the modern batsman and the modern game, Pant symbolises the post-modern batsman and the post-modern game. Both smile winsomely, presenting a cheerful demeanour, endearing them to the masses, oozing boy-next-door charms. Their swashbuckling batting have rung in some of the most magnificent moments in Indian cricket. Both are brands, their faces adorn a thousand billboards. They boost TRPs, generate ad revenue and fan worship. In the IPL mega auction, thus, several franchises would look to recreate the Dhoni magic through Pant. Needless to say, he could provoke a heated bidding war in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah and could potentially walk away as the most expensive player in the league. The reasons are compelling. Pant is young but proven, his peak years ahead of him. In current form, he is India's most destructive batsman; he can bat anywhere in the order, can win games and tournaments from the brink, can perform the impossible, and radiates an aura. He could be to the franchise that pockets him what Dhoni is to Chennai Super Kings: a figurehead, an emotion, the pulse. Dhoni's franchise itself could see him as the next Dhoni. Seventeen auctions on, Dhoni remains the ultimate acquisition of all time. In the first auction, only CSK could afford him because the rest had exhausted a bulk of their funds on city-based icon players. How the story unfolded is adequately documented. Dhoni is (along with Rohit Sharma) the most successful

captain, he helped Chennai Super Kings forge an identity like no other team; he made CSK the most followed team in the league; he tore the initial perception that cities will identify with only cricketing icons raised among them. Not even Rohit or Virat Kohli could build an emotional connect, an unadulterated love, regardless of the outcome of matches, like Dhoni with the masses. Pant, perhaps, could.

Yet for all the similarities, Pant is not quite Dhoni in certain facets, just as Dhoni is not quite Pant in certain aspects. Pant's captaincy is still a study in progress. Though he was touted as a future Test captain, his stint with Delhi Capitals illustrated that he is not as natural a leader as Dhoni is. When CSK acquired Dhoni, he had already claimed the T20 World Cup, already displaying the virtues that would make him one of the finest white-ball captains in the world. Pant is inspirational, has the wits and smarts of Dhoni, but at times looked shackled in his DC tenure. So much so that joylessness echoed in his batting too. His batting in T20s too has doubters. There are no qualms about his blooming greatness in the longest format, where he could brag he has surpassed Dhoni. It's a different situation in white-ball forms. His undisputed gifts, his joie de vivre, his knack of raising a storm in crises, have manifested in only fits and flashes. It has been more a case of franchises unable to slot him at a spot where he could maximise his redoubtable talents than him unable to find his Zen. Besides, franchises would be skeptical of his fitness levels post his accident, even though his return has been largely smooth. But the rewards far outweigh the potential risks. Even more so when the generation of Virat and Rohit, 36 and 37 respectively, is quietly fading. The seasons of Dhoni, now 43, too are numbered. The next era is knocking on the doors. The interweavers have not unfathomably mustered the fanfare.

Not because of a shortage of heroes. Jasprit Bumrah is India's greatest-ever match-winner. But he is not a hero of the masses. For all the unique thrills of watching him, Bumrah is still an arthouse joy. Hardik Pandya has too much pantomime villainy in him to win blind devotion of the billions. Suryakumar Yadav is a late-blooming superstar, is already 34, and not an investment for the future. Among Pant's generation, Shubman Gill is likeable but elusive; Yashasvi Jaiswal is still at the nascence of his career. Pant not only has a more impressive body of work than both and the fabled X-factor but also that undefinable extra ingredient. That power of being an identity – what Dhoni has been to CSK since 2008. To have a Dhoni of their own has been a futile but persistent pursuit of all franchises since 2009. Millions were splurged in the unrealistic ambition. They tried to sculpt a Dhoni out of every flavour of the season, from Gautam Gambhir and Yuvraj Singh to KL Rahul and Hardik Pandya. No one though bears as much resemblance with Dhoni as Pant. The comparisons could stifle Pant still, but in him, his suitors in Jeddah would see an MS Dhoni.

Here's how the vocal Australian media turned the heat on their team, coach as India extend dominance

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

IND vs AUS: Australia coach Andrew McDonald had to face tough questions on behalf of his side in Perth on Saturday. (AP) IND vs AUS: Australia coach Andrew McDonald had to face tough questions on behalf of his side in Perth The first two sessions of the Perth Test in the Border Gavaskar Trophy were owned by Australia. But the game would turnaround so stunningly in the next couple of hours on Friday evening and a couple of sessions on Saturday, which has seemingly made the local Australian media almost turn hostile against its team. It's not sure what Australia's head coach Andrew McDonald anticipated when he walked in for the media interaction, but he had to face up to a barrage of questions criticising the team. "Andrew, do you think having Dan Vettori here would have made a difference today?" (Vettori was cleared to attend the IPL auction.) "Greg Blewett [Former Australian opener] on commentary said that the body language in the middle session was unacceptable in his words, is that a fair call and what do you make of that?" "There's been criticism about Marnus Labuschagne's innings yesterday, where do you think he's at the moment?" "What was your takeaway from that first-day collapse of your top order?"

He said Vettori "continues to be with us" but the questioner wouldn't let that one go. "So, he is sending you suggestions from there, how does that work?" McDonald admitted that there hasn't been on-going communication with



Vettori but he was talking about the "preparation, planning" leading into the game. As for Blewett's observations about "unacceptable" body language, McDonald didn't bat an eyelid: "No, I didn't notice that". And he batted for his under-fire middle-order batsman Labuschagne, who had made a laborious 52-ball 2 in the first innings, saying that he will "hit the nets, work on his game" and that there is "no doubt that he can learn from his first innings". The mercury was rising in the room, or so it seemed during that short phase, but if it bothered him, McDonald didn't show it much to his credit. It's interesting though that how a couple of hours can utterly change perceptions of a team that looked all-dominant then, and had former players and their media talking them up on TV and Radio.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar becomes first Indian pacer to record 300 T20 wickets during SMAT 2024

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

SMAT 2024: Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the first Indian pacer to record 300 T20 wickets on Saturday. (Reuters) SMAT 2024: Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the first Indian pacer to record 300 T20 wickets. Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the first India pacer to complete 300 T20 wickets during Uttar Pradesh's opening Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy match against Delhi at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai featuring in his first major competitive game since the IPL 2024 season, Bhuvneshwar reached the feat with his first wicket for UP in the match, dismissing Delhi opener Yash Dhill for six in his second over. The 34-year-old seamer is also captaining the Uttar Pradesh side in the tournament. Bhuvneshwar eclipsed India's stand-in Test captain Jasprit Bumrah to become the first pacer from the country to reach the milestone of 300 T20 wickets. Only spinners Yuzvendra Chahal (354), Piyush Chawla (314) and R Ashwin (310) have picked up more wickets than Bhuvneshwar in the T20 format among Indians. 90 of Bhuvneshwar's career wickets have come in national colours between 2012 and 2022, making him the second-highest wicket-taking pacer for India. The swing king from Meerut made his T20 debut in a Champions League T20 game in 2009 for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. He went wicketless in his maiden outing, conceding 31 runs in four overs against Delhi Daredevils. In 176 games, Bhuvneshwar has racked up 181 wickets, making him the most successful seamer in the tournament's history. Bhuvneshwar was released by the SunRisers Hyderabad after 10 years last month, ahead of Sunday's IPL 2025 mega auction in Jeddah. Bhuvneshwar is listed at a base price of INR 2 crore in the auction pool. Bhuvneshwar holds the distinction of becoming the first



India pacer to record five-wicket hauls in all three formats. He last featured for India in a T20I in November 2022.

Harshit Rana reveals Gautam Gambhir advice before Perth debut

Indian pacer Harshit Rana has credited coach Gautam Gambhir for making a good start to his Test career and thanked him for the kind of support that he has shown towards the youngster. Harshit revealed the advice he got from the India coach as he was waiting in the wings for his chance. "Gautam Gambhir is someone who always backs you. He just told me that whenever you get a chance to play, just remember that you are representing the people back home.

Harshit Rana reveals 'Mai ro pada (I cried)' when he had to give speech on debut in team environment



GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Harshit Rana made his debut in Perth in the first Test against Australia. The youngster bumbled through the crease, bowled at a brisk pace, and troubled the Australian batters with his accurate lines and lengths through his spell. He was rewarded with three wickets for his hard work. "Yes, I couldn't sleep until very late before my debut. But in the morning, I won't say there were any (nervous) flutters. But the flutter was there a day before that when I had to make a speech in a team environment

when I was told I would be making my debut. I broke down. Mein ro pada (I cried)," said Rana at the end of Day 2 to the Press. "As a kid, I would get up early in the morning with my papa to watch cricket in Australia. Yeh mere liye bahut badi baat hai (to play here is a big thing for me)," he added. Out of the three wickets, Rana's first wicket was a pearler and most importantly it was the wicket of India's boogiemane Travis Head who just started to counterpunch after Australia was reduced to 19/3. The ball pitched on the middle and off-stump moved subtly off the seam to hit the top of Head's off-stump. "The plan for Travis's head was to keep it stumps. And when it moved away, it worked," Rana would reveal. "Jassi bhai (Jasprit Bumrah) kept telling me what to do and Virat bhai also gave advice. It was all very helpful," Rana said. Scoring only 150 runs in the first innings India was behind the game. However, stand-in skipper Bumrah delivered a fiery spell picking three early wickets and eventually ending up with his seventh five-wicket haul to bundle out Australia for 104 runs. However, once the hosts were all out Indian openers Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul put on 172 runs. "Today the pitch did get better for batting in the morning. We are not thinking about any target. Just want to keep batting," Rana said.

'You're coming too slow': Yashasvi Jaiswal exchanges words with Mitchell Starc

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

Australia's Mitchell Starc (left) and India's Yashasvi Jaiswal smile as they have a chat on the second day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth, Australia, Saturday. (AP) Australia's Mitchell Starc (left) and India's Yashasvi Jaiswal smile as they have a chat on the second day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth, Australia. If it was Shubman Gill in Dharamshala who riled up England legend James Anderson by asking "When is he planning to retire," it was Yashasvi Jaiswal who sledged Australian speedster Mitchell Starc on Day 2 of the Perth Test for "bowling slow." "The cheat sheets would have said don't get too straight to this young bloke or you will go the distance," O'Keeffe said on commentary. "This is a terrific cricket shot. Starc got a little too straight, and he is one of the best whippers in world cricket. Fantastic cricket from Jaiswal." Former England captain Michael Vaughan predicted that the shot would fire Starc up. "He is just working with the angle, and it's a beautiful pick-up," Vaughan said. "It's a big boundary out there, one bounce four. This could turn into a bit of chin music. I've seen Mitchell Starc bowl some explosive spells bowling the short stuff. But they need to change something



up." Next ball, Starc cranked up at 141 kph and beat Jaiswal for pace as he attempted a drive. Jaiswal followed it with a textbook backfoot defense, and then exchanged words. "It's coming too slow," Jaiswal told Starc. Starc walked back to his bowling mark with a wry smile on his face and cranked up 145 kph to finish his over. Jaiswal left the ball alone, and the duo shared a smile. In the first session, Mitchell Starc was involved in a banter with his Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) teammate. "I bowl a lot faster than you. And I've got a long memory," Starc told Rana after he swayed away from a bouncer.

Why the batting average in Australia has dropped since the change of Kookaburra balls in 2020?

GNS News Agency, Nov 26

India's captain Jasprit Bumrah collects the ball as he prepares to bowl on the second day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth. (AP) India's captain Jasprit Bumrah collects the ball as he prepares to bowl on the second day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth. (AP) In the last over of the opening day in Perth, former England captain Michael Vaughan pointed out how the Kookaburra was still shiny despite the 27 overs India bowled in Australia's first innings. "It has not lost the shine. We can still the logo," Vaughan had said on FOX Cricket. With 17 wickets falling on the first day, eyebrows were raised and an incredible stat suggested that the batting average in Australia has dipped to 34 from 44 after the change of the Kookaburra balls in 2020. "I think it was from 2016 to 2020, when the Australian batting average was 44. And then since the change of the Kookaburra ball, the sort of higher seam and the extra lacquer, the average has come down to 34. Big change," Greg Blewett had said on 7Cricket.

What changed in the Kookaburra balls?

James Brayshaw has explained behind the reason why the Kookaburra ball is behaving in such a way now. "They changed it about four years ago, put the extra lacquer on it and improved the stitching. And I think the ball's been much improved since then," said



Brayshaw. "But the batting averages in this country have dropped by 10 across the board since then, in the four years. So add that to some more souped up pitches and batting's become a lot more difficult." What is lacquer?

Former Australia opener Aaron Finch explains what does the extra lacquer does. "For the people at home, what the extra layer of lacquer does on the ball is it just keeps it harder for a little bit longer," said Finch. "So in the past, there's been criticism that the ball goes soft really quick, particularly on hard Australian surfaces. So what it does now is with that extra layer, it just is another layer of protection. It shines up a lot better. There's also something about it that helps it swing a little bit more consistently. So yeah, I think it's been really good since I've retired."

Jasprit Bumrah playing on the minds of Australian batters? Andrew McDonald reveals

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald revealed that they're focussed on all Indian bowlers and not just Jasprit Bumrah after his menacing spell in the 1st innings of the first Test in Perth. Australia head coach Andrew McDonald has indirectly brushed off major concerns for his team's batters against stand-in India skipper Jasprit Bumrah after his menacing spell on Day 1 of the 1st Test in Perth. Notably, Bumrah picked his 11th five wicket haul of his Test career as he registered figures of 5/30 in 18 overs during the first innings. Courtesy of his spell, India managed to bundle out Australia for 104 in the first innings and managed to take a 46-run lead. Following the end of the day's play, Andrew McDonald was asked about the difference in the nature of the pitch on the first two days. The Australian coach said that both bowling units were exceptional on Day 1 and also mentioned that they need to work on a method



to combat all of Indian seamers and not just Bumrah in the second innings. "I think both batting units, if you want to call a collision, it was difficult. I thought our bowlers were exceptional. I thought theirs were equally as exceptional so it was a tough day for batting yesterday. So, as I said, it looks slightly different in the second innings. And, there's no doubt, you

know, we've got to get to work on what that method is to combat all of their bowlers, not just Jasprit Bumrah, if that's where you're sort of referring to," said McDonald in the press conference. India on top at stumps on Day 2 Bumrah has a phenomenal record against Australia, having scalped 37 wickets from eight matches at an average of 19.18 with two five-wicket

hauls. He played a key role in India's first ever Test series win in Australia in 2018-19 as he finished as the joint highest wicket taker with 18 scalps to his name. Australia vs India 1st Test Day 2 Highlights Meanwhile, India completely dominated Australia on Day 2 of the first Test after Bumrah completed his five wicket haul to bundle out Australia for in the first innings.