## INDIAN CHRONICIA

#### ESI dispensary cum branch office set up in Khammam

inaugurated the ESI dispensary cum branch office (DCBO) here on Wednesday.

The DCBO was located at the BSNL building, Raparthi Nagar vegetable market road in the city. Setting up the dispensary cum branch office here would help to provide medical, sickness, maternity, accidental, permanent disability and dependent benefits to the ESI insured persons of Khammam and Kothagudem districts, said an official release.

#### Nagaraju takes charge as Power Grid Southern Region Transmission System-1 Executive Director

Hyderabad: A Nagaraju on Wednesday took charge as Executive Director of Power Grid Southern Region Transmission System-1 (SRTS-I). Prior to assuming charge of SRTS-1, Nagaraju worked as Executive Director (ESMD & CSR) at Power Grid Corporate Office, Gurugram. Southern Region Transmission System-1 has substations and projects in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and some parts of Karnataka.

An electrical engineering graduate from Osmania University, Nagaraju started his career as an engineer trainee in NTPC in 1986 and joined Power Grid as an engineer in 1991.

#### KTR warns against changes to Telangana Thalli statue design



GNS News Agency, Dec 4 Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao has strongly opposed any attempt to alter the design of the Telangana Thalli statue, proposed to be installed in the State Secretariat on December 9. He warned Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy against making any changes in the design, which holds sentimental and historic value for the people of Telangana. Speaking after inaugurating a book exhibition as part of the Deeksha Diwas celebrations at Telangana Bhavan on Wednesday, Rama Rao pointed out that former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, despite leading the BJP to power, did not alter the design of Bharat Matha unveiled by Indira Gandhi. Similarly, designs of Telugu Thalli and Kannada Matha have remained unchanged irrespective of change in political leadership."I urge Chief Minister Revanth Reddy not to change the Telangana Thalli design due to his animosity towards former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao or attempts to erase his legacy. History and the people of Telangana will not forgive such a mistake," he warned. He vowed that if the BRS returns to power in four years, they would restore Telangana Thalli's statue to its rightful place, replacing the statue of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, opposite Dr BR Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat. The BRS working president emphasised the importance of preserving Telangana's culture and history through literature, arts, and songs. Announcing plans to host an annual 11-day literary and cultural festival from November 29 to December 9 from next year, he revealed that two committees comprising writers, experts, historians, poets, singers and will be constituted to organise the event or behalf of the BRS. Apart from Hyderabad, the festival will also take place in headquarters of erstwhile districts including Warangal, Karimnagar, and Nalgonda among others. He urged writers and poets to document Telangana's history and the statehood movement for future generations. "If lions do not document their legacy, hunters' stories will become history," he remarked, stressing the urgency of preserving Telangana's narrative and educate future generations. Explaining efforts of the BRS giving priority to Telangana's identity rather than political leadership, he said during its decade-long rule, festivals like Bathukamma and Bonalu were celebrated officially. Irrigation projects were named after local deities instead of political leaders, reflecting the party's commitment to honouring Telangana's heritage, he added.

#### Gadwal MLA Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy Appeals to CM Revanth Reddy for Resolving Key Constituency Issues



Gadwal: Gadwal MLA Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the CM Camp Office in Hyderabad to discuss and bring attention to several pending issues in the Gadwal constituency.

The MLA urged the CM to expedite the release of pending shift-in-charges for residents of Nettampadu village. He emphasized that those who have not yet received their shift-in-charges should be prioritized. Additionally, the MLA requested the release of necessary government funds to help the affected villagers construct homes with all facilities at the R&R (Rehabilitation and Resettlement) center.

The MLA appealed to the CM to extend the eligibility for the CM Relief Fund to cover residents of Gadwal constituency who receive treatment in nearby hospitals located in Andhra Pradesh (Kurnool) and Karnataka (Raichur). This move would ensure financial support for patients receiving treatment in these neighboring states

Shri Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy emphasized the need for advanced medical facilities and technology at the Gadwal District Medical College.

#### Telangana Partners with Google to Establish Cybersecurity Hub in Hyd

GNS News Agency

Hyderabad:

Telangana government has announced a significant partnership with Google to establish India's first Google Safety Engineering Centre (GSEC) in Hyderabad. This will be the first facility of its kind in the Asia Pacific region outside Tokyo and only the fifth globally, joining centers in Dublin, Munich, Malaga, and Tokyo.The GSEC in Hyderabad will serve as a specialized hub for cybersecurity, focusing on developing security and safety solutions tailored to Indian and global challenges. The center will facilitate advanced research, Aldriven security tools, and collaborations among experts, contributing to skill development, employment, and cybersecurity innovation in India. Telangana Se-InvestmentAfter Google an-

Global nounced plans to establish a GSEC in India during the Google for India 2024 con-



tered the competition to secure the investment. Telangana emerged as the chosen location following Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to Google's Global Headquarters in August. The CM and Industries Minister Dr. D. Sridhar Babu presented Hyderabad's potential as a technological and innovation hub, successfully persuading Google to invest in the city. The GSEC will focus on developing secure online solutions, fostering partnerships with academic institutions, and addressing challenges in cybersecurity. It will also generate thousands of direct

ties. Hyderabad, already hosting major tech firms like Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, and Meta, continues to strengthen its position as a global IT hub with this addition. "This partnership underscores Hyderabad's role as a leading center for technology cybersecurity. The collaboration will contribute to digital safety and bolster Telangana's position in the

global technology landscape," said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.The Telangana government and Google are also exploring further collaborations, including establishing a Cloud ment system powered by Google technologies, and initiatives to enhance the education system and startup ecosystem. The GSEC aligns with

Telangana's broader vision of technological growth, skill enhancement, and innovation. It will integrate with initiatives like T-Fiber, aimed at connecting rural households across the state. Google's involvement will support these efforts by ensuring rodigital safety measures. Google's Chief Information Officer, Royal Hansen, expressed optimism about the partnership, stating, "Hyderabad has the potential to become a global hub for safety engineering, and this collaboration opens doors to future initiatives that address cybersecurity challenges."The partnership with Google marks a major step in Telangana's journey toward becoming a leader in technology and innovation, with Hyderabad set to play a pivotal role in shaping global cybersecurity standards.

#### PM Modi extends wishes on Navy Day, salutes maritime heroes



GNS News Agency, Dec 4 New Delhi: On the occasion of Navy Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed his admiration and gratitude towards the Indian Navy, highlighting their pivotal role in safeguarding the nation's maritime interests. In a post shared on the social media platform X, the Prime Minister lauded the unwavering dedication and courage of the naval forces. On Navy Day, we salute the valiant personnel of the Indian Navy who protect our seas with unmatched courage and dedication. Their commitment ensures the safety, security and prosperity of our nation. "On Navy Day, we salute the valiant personnel of the Indian Navy who protect our seas with unmatched courage and dedication. Their commitment ensures the safety, security, and prosperity of our nation. We also take great pride in India's rich maritime history," PM Modi wrote. Emphasising the strategic importance of maritime strength, PM Modi quoted the ancient Sanskrit phrase, "Jalmev Yasya, Balmev Tasya (Who keeps control of the ocean is the most powerful)." He further added "Today, we salute our beroes who sacrificed ther added, "Today, we salute our heroes who sacrificed their lives for this nation's soil. The Indian Navy provides protection and guards our seas and coastal areas. Our Indian Navy has contributed significantly to many historic events, be it the Goa Liberation Movement or the 1971 India-Pakistan war."The Prime Minister also underscored the Navy's role in humanitarian efforts, saying, "The Indian Navy has contributed to social causes, often stepping in to save humanity in times of crisis."In a video message shared on X, PM Modi also mentioned the poetic phrase which according to him is said for the Indian navy, "Chalo nayi misaal ho, badho naya kamaal ho, jhuko nahi, ruko nahi, badhe chalo, badhe chalo (Let's set new examples, stride to new heights, don't bow down. don't stop, keep moving forward)." Praising the bravery of the naval forces, he added, "Every Indian is filled with energy with your roar, I extend my special wishes to all the members of the Indian Navy."Defence Minister Rajnath Singh also extended his wishes saying, "As the country celebrates the Navy Day today, I extend my greetings and warm wishes to all Indian Navy personnel and

#### and indirect job opportuni-Holiday declared for schools, colleges in Villupuram, Cuddalore



GNS News Agency, Dec 4:Chennai: A holiday has been declared for schools and colleges on Wednesday in Tamil Nadu's Villupuram and three panchayat unions of the Cuddalore district due to heavy rainfall and flooding along the banks of the Thenpennai River, where the water level has yet to recede. In Puducherry, 22 schools are currently operating as relief camps to accommodate those affected by recent flooding caused by Cyclone Fengal. However, all other schools and colleges in the region will function as

A flood alert has been issued to residents along the banks of the Cauvery River. The inflow to Hogenakkal surged from 5,500 cusecs on Monday to 30,000 cusecs by Tuesday at 4 p.m., following heavy rain in the catchment areas.In Tamil Nadu's Dharmapuri, Collector K. Shanthi has ordered the suspension of coracle services and bathing activities at Hogenakkal Falls. Residents along the Cauvery riverbanks have been advised to move to safer areas. Joint

teams comprising fire and rescue personnel, police, and revenue department authorities were patrolling the area to prevent people from entering the river for bathing or washing clothes. The water level in Mettur Dam in Salem is expected to rise steadily in the coming days. On Monday, the inflow into the dam was 7,414 cusecs, which increased to 9,246 cusecs by Tuesday morning. The dam's water storage level also rose slightly, from 110.93 feet on Monday to 111.39 feet on Tuesday. Despite the widespread rainfall, the water released from the dam has been kept low, with 1,000 cusecs for Delta irrigation and 300 cusecs for canal irrigation. Since October 1, Tamil Nadu has received nearly 43 cm of rainfall this season, compared to the average of 36 cm. The intense rainfall from Cyclone Fengal over the past two days has significantly reduced rain deficits across

Villupuram and Krishnagiri districts have recorded a surplus of 74 per cent and 78 per cent, respectively, in seasonal rainfall as of Tuesday (December 3). The impact of Cyclone Fengal has been severe. In Tamil Nadu, 12 lives were lost in rain-related calamities. A total of 2,11,139 hectares of agricultural and horticultural land were inundated., 1,649 km of electric conductors, 23664 electric poles, and 997 transformers were damaged, 9576 km of roads, 1847 culverts, and 417 tanks sustained damage, as per the reports. The heavy rain has displaced large populations, affecting around 69 lakh families. Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai, and Kallakurichi districts received over 50 cm of rainfall in a single day, equivalent to an entire season's average, causing severe flooding and extensive damage to infrastructure

#### 'Maha' suspense over: Fadnavis is new Maharashtra CM, to take oath on Thursday

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Mumbai: The wait was over after 132 party legislators and five Independents supporting BJP on Wednesday unanimously elected Devendra Fadnavis as the legislature party leader. With this, he is set to take oath for the third time as the Maharashtra Chief Minister at a grand ceremony on Thursday.Fadnavis' name was proposed by former Ministers Chandrakant Patil and Sudhir Mungantiwar and it was seconded by a host of legislators, including the Mumbai unit chief Ashish Shelar. The announcement of Fadnavis' election was made by the party observer and former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, who was accompanied by the co-observer and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.Immediately after his announcements, legislators raised slogans like "Maharashtracha Mukhyamantri Kaisa Ho, Devendra Fadnavis Jaisa Ho".

Strategy unit chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule in his welcome address thanked the 14 crore people of Maharashtra for their overwhelming support given to BJP and Mahayuti in the just concluded state Assembly elections. "Today is a historical day as the legislature party group leader will be elected. The Mahayuti government will increase the pace of Maharashtra's development," he said. Thereafter, Rupani declared the election process and called upon the legislators to propose and second the names of the legislature party group leader. Chandrakant Patil and Sudhir Mungantiwar proposed Devendra Fadnavis' name



amid slogan shouting from the legislators. Fadnavis' name was seconded by legislators, including Pankaja Munde, Praveen Darekar, Ravindra Chavan and Meghana Bordikar.

After that Rupani asked the legislators whether anvone wanted to recommend another name. Legislators said no and thereafter Rupani announced that Fadnavis has been unanimously elected as the legislature party group leader. Fadnavis was felicitated by the core committee leaders and senior leaders, including party Secretary Shiv Prakash and General Secretary Vinod Tawde. Earlier, the state core committee met and unanimously zeroed in on Fadnavis' name as the legislature party group leader. In her speech, FM Sitharaman said the unprecedented and unexpected mandate in the state legislature is to take forward the Viksit

#### Telangana experiences 5.3-magnitude earthquake for first time in 55 years



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Hyderabad: It's more than half a century later that parts of Telangana experienced an earthquake of 5.3 magnitude on the Richters Scale, which occurred on Wednesday at 7.27 am in Mulugu with Medaram as the epicentre. Head (retd) of Seismology, Hyderabad-based National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Dr Sri Nagesh said: "It was in 1969 that an earthquake of the same magnitude hit the Bhadrachalam region. The seismology division of NGRI has been for the past few decades closely monitoring seismic activity along the Bhadrachalam-Medaram section because it falls under the seismic zone 3. For the past decade or so, this region has been frequently jolted by earthquakes of magnitude 2-4. This is for the first time that a 5.3-magnitude quake took place after 1969," he said.

#### BJP condemns assassination bid on Sukhbir Singh Badal

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Wednesday (December 4, 2024) condemned the assassination attempt on Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) chief Sukhbir Singh Badal and criticised the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab for its "failure to maintain law and order" in the State.At a press conference, BJP MP and spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said Punjab's financial condition and law and order situation deteriorated considerably after the AAP came to power there, attributing it to an ongoing "internal rift" in the party.

### Indian Chronicle

English Daily

#### Cost of freebies

BOTH Punjab and Himachal Pradesh are reeling under severe financial stress, a crisis stemming from populist promises made during electoral campaigns. In Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) commitment to provide 300 units of electricity free of cost to the consumers has resulted in a subsidy bill of over Rs 20,000 crore or the current financial year. Himachal, where the Congress is in power, revived the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), adding a significant burden to an already strained exchequer.

Punjab's predicament is worsened by delayed subidy payments, with the pending bill crossing Rs 4,500 rore. The Punjab State Power Corporation Limited is truggling with a dip in collection efficiency, dropping from 106% to 73%, and soaring transmission losses. Attempts o raise revenue, including recovering dues from defaulters and government departments, have yielded little reief. With the state nearing its borrowing limit, the sustainability of the free electricity scheme is under quesion. Himachal Pradesh faces a similar plight. The restoation of OPS has inflated the state's financial obligations equiring Rs 2,000 crore monthly to meet salary and pension commitments. Exhausting its loan limit of Rs 6,200 rore, the state is now relying on future borrowings to nanage day-to-day expenses. The situation is set to vorsen as the Centre's revenue deficit grant is expected o be halved next fiscal year.Both states accuse the BJPed Centre of withholding funds and showing a discriminaory attitude. Himachal's exclusion from the Special Assistance for Capital Investment Scheme has sparked a olitical outcry, while Punjab alleges bias in the allocation of development funds. However, the root cause lies in unsustainable fiscal policies driven by electoral populism. As state governments grapple with mounting debt and shrinking revenues

## Why officials here report frequent seizures of 'floating gold' or ambergris



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

In 2020, when the police and forest officials in Pune made multiple seizures of ambergris —often mistakenly referred to as 'whale vomit'— they were puzzled. The authorities mainly struggled to determine one thing – why were these odd-looking lumps, purchased from fishermen in coastal regions and sought after by the perfume industry, being brought to Pune?Depending on its quality, ambergris can fetch anywhere between Rs 1-2 crore per kilogram in illegal international markets, earning the moniker 'floating gold.' As the probe progressed and investigators established confidential channels of information, leading to more frequent and larger busts, a clearer picture began to emerge

quent and larger busts, a clearer picture began to emerge.

What is ambergris and why is it so expensive?

Ambergris, which means grey amber in French, is a waxy substance that forms in the digestive tract of the protected sperm whale species. While it is incorrectly referred to as 'whale vomit', it is believed to be produced in the gastrointestinal tract of some sperm whales for the passage of hard and sharp objects that are ingested when these mammals eat large quantities of marine species. Ambergris is said to be passed like faeces and has a powerful combination of faecal and marine odour. Freshly passed ambergris is light yellowish in colour and very fatty, but as it ages it turns waxy and becomes reddish-brown, sometimes with shades of grey and black. It eventually attains a mild, earthy, sweet smell but would still have a mild marine odour.

Officials say that ambergris is much in demand and commands high prices in the international market because it is extremely rare. Traditionally, ambergris is used to produce perfumes that have notes of musk. These products are sold at very high prices. While there are records of it being used to flavour food, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco in some cultures in the past, it is rarely used for these purposes at present. Ambergris is a tradeable commodity, with limitations, in several countries even as countries like the USA, Australia and India have banned its possession and trade. In the Indian context, sperm whales are a protected species under Schedule 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act, and possession or trade of any of its byproducts, including ambergris and its byproducts, is illegal. Major ambergris seizures in PuneIn the last week of November this year, Forest Department officials in Pune arrested two people from a hotel in Haveli taluka for possessing ambergris and blackbuck horns.In September 2023, Pune City police seized over 5 kg of ambergris - worth Rs 5 crore - from a person in the Deccan Gymkhana area. In November 2022, they arrested five people and recovered 5 kg of ambergris from them.In December 2021, the Crime Branch of the Pimpri Chinchwad police arrested two suspects and seized around 550 grams of high-grade ambergris worth over Rs 1.1 crore in the illegal market. In August that year, Pune Forest Department officials arrested six people and seized from them 3 kg of the contraband, worth Rs 3 crore. Pune as a transit point for smugglingInvestigations by both the police and forest department officials have revealed that the ambergris seized was only passing through Pune. "Multiple investigations revealed that ambergris is found by fishermen in coastal regions. While the fishing communities know its value, they have no way of finding a buyer who will pay the right amount," said a forest department official. "So they sell it to some traders or businessmen in the coastal area who can find a buyer. In all the cases we have seen till now, the ambergris was moved by a businessman, trader or hotel owners from the coastal areas of Maharashtra or Karnataka," the official added. A police officer, who was part of one such investigation into the seizure of ambergris, said, "While in most cases we could trace the backward linkages of the ambergris seized, there were very little clues as to the forward linkages.

# Karnataka HC clarifies arrest information requirements, says written grounds not a must in all cases



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Karnataka HCThe high court, however, added that everyone being arrested without a warrant must be informed of the grounds of arrest as mandated by section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Karnataka High Court has held the arrest of a man accused in several cases of land grab in Bengaluru as being legally valid under the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) and the Indian Penal Code and refused to quash a criminal case. John Moses, 56, approached the court stating that his arrest by the Criminal Investigation Department of the police under charges of organised crime and cheating on July 21 was illegal since he had not been provided with written reasons for his arrest "as mandated by the Supreme Court". John Moses argued in the court that the police had violated conditions laid down by the Supreme Court in the Prevention of Money Laundering cases against Arvind Kejriwal, Prabir Puryakastha and Pankaj Bansal that the detailed grounds of arrest must be provided to a person who is being placed

The high court, however, ruled that information as mandated under section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code would suffice in cases involving KCOCA offences or Indian Penal Code offences and that written grounds of arrest would be necessary in terrorism, money laundering and preventive detention cases. "In my considered view, the information of grounds of arrest as is indicated to the petitioner in the case at hand would suffice and it would not vitiate the arrest and result in enlargement on grant of bail or interim bail," the high court ruled on November 28.

"The Apex Court holds it mandatory in the aforesaid three cases owing to the fact that enlargement of an ac-

cused for the offences under the UAPA and PMLA on grant of bail is extremely limited. The burden to prove that he is not guilty begins at the threshold. It is in fact a reverse burden on the accused. It is, therefore, in such cases the grounds of arrest should be informed to the accused," the high court observed. "If what is held by the Apex Court in the aforementioned judgment is considered qua the facts obtaining in the case at hand, what would unmistakably emerge is what is ingrained in the CrPC, qua Section 50, should necessarily be followed and the information of grounds of arrest in the manner in which the Apex Court has held in Pankaj Bansal, Prabir Puryakashta or even Arvind Kejriwal would not become applicable to the offences under the KCOCA or the IPC or any arrest under any penal law except in cases of preventive detention," the high court ruled.

The high court, however, added that everyone being arrested without a warrant must be informed of the grounds of arrest as mandated by section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code. "However, it is made clear that Section 50 of the CrPC must necessarily be followed and information or grounds of arrest as is done in the case at hand must necessarily be indicated to every accused who is to be arrested under the general law," the court observed. "If the arrest is under PMLA or UAPA, what the Apex Court in the aforequoted Judgments laid down would straight away become applicable and non-divulgence would vitiate the arrest," the court ruled. John Moses is accused of being leading a gang that obtained "fake decrees" from small-causes courts to illegally grab properties for several years before the gang was busted in 2020 on the intervention of the high court. The gang created fictitious rental disputes between a "fake owner" and a "fake tenant" and filed fake suits in courts to obtain fake decrees for land ownership without the original owners being parties to the fake suits or even being aware of the cases. The CID invoked the KCOCA against John Moses and his accomplices in July and stated that the gang had been "siphoning off the properties of innocent people in Bangalore city and surrounding areas by creating fake documents and filing cases in courts using fictitious persons". "The case was handed over to the CID for further investigation and during the course of investigation many similar crimes were uncovered and more than 100 cases were registered. In all these cases, the activities of John Moses and his accomplices have been revealed," the CID

# What is Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act, set for amendment in Assembly's winter session?

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has decided to amend the Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act 1972 to address a request from Radha Soami Satsang Beas (RSSB), an influential religious and spiritual organisation, to transfer the Bhota Charitable Hospital to its sister organisation, the Maharaja Jagat Singh Medical Relief Society (MJSMRS), in Hamirpur district. Sukhu instructed the law and revenue departments on Sunday to draft the amended Act, which will be presented for approval in the Assembly on the first day of its winter session beginning on December 18 in Dharamshala.

What is the Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act?

The Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act 1972 was enacted during the tenure of Himachal Pradesh's first chief minister, Y S Parmar, to protect the interests of the residents after the state's formation on January 25, 1971. The Act aims to prevent land from being taken away from local residents and regulates the maximum amount of land that can be owned by an individual, family, or entity. Upon implementation, many individuals, including royal families from erstwhile princely estates, had to donate surplus land to comply with the Act's provisions. Since 1972, the Act has been amended multiple times to meet the demands of local residents, industry expansion, horticulture, and government bodies. In 2023, the Act was amended to grant equal property rights to daughters, allowing them to inherit an additional 150 bighas of land beyond inherited property. The Act comprises 28 sections.

Why is Hamirpur's Bhota Charitable Hospital being sought to be transferred?

Radha Soami Satsang Beas (RSSB) is a religious organisation based on spiritual values. Established in 1891, its headquarters are at Beas in Punjab's Amritsar district, and it operates in 90 countries. The Bhota Charitable Hospital in Hamirpur, a 75-bed facility spread over 44 acres, is the only medical facility directly managed by RSSB. All other medical facilities associated with RSSB, including hospitals and dispensaries, are managed by its sister organisation, the MJSMRS, a registered society also headquartered in Beas. According to Advocate-General Anup Kumar Rattan, who recently met RSSB and MJSMRS representatives, RSSB expressed its inability to manage the hospital, citing its nature as a religious and spiritual organisation. They stated that the MJSMRS, which exclusively handles RSSB's medical facilities, is better suited to manage the hospital. However, legal restrictions under the Himachal Pradesh Ceiling on Land Holdings Act 1972 currently prevent the transfer. Reports suggest that RSSB may also want to avoid GST on medical equipment purchases by transferring the hospital to the MJSMRS, but the advocate-general declined to confirm this.

What is relevance of section 5(i) of HP Ceiling on Land

Holdings Act? Section 5 of the Act pertains to exemptions and lists entities excluded from its provisions, including government bodies, cooperative societies, banks, tea estates, local authorities, industrial undertakings, and hydropower projects (clauses a-h). Religious and spiritual bodies like RSSB are covered under clause (i), which states, "Lands belonging to religious or spiritual bodies or organizations propagating moral or secular teachings, including eradication of casteism, alcoholism, and drug addiction, shall be exempt, provided such lands and structures are used solely for their intended purposes and are not transferred by sale, lease, gift, will, or any other means. Any contravention will result in the land and structures vesting in the State Government, free of encumbrances." The Act was amended in 2000. 2003, 2012, and 2017 to accommodate demands from various religious and spiritual organisations. Advocate-General Anup Kumar Rattan said the amendment would be made in section 5 (i) of the Act



Will the amendment pass? Will Sukhu government face

The draft amendment will be presented in the Assembly's four-day winter session starting on December 18 in Dharamshala. Insiders believe it will pass without opposition for two reasons. First: The Congress holds a majority with 40 MLAs in the 68-member House. Second: the main Opposition BJP has supported RSSB's demand to transfer the hospital to the MJSMRS. A Congress MLA, speaking anonymously, said, "When the Opposition does not oppose a move, it usually abstains from the proceedings." RSSB has a significant following in Himachal Pradesh, further discouraging political opposition. It has lakhs of followers particularly in the lower belt of the state, which includes the areas of Kangra, Hamirpur, Mandi, Una and Bilaspur, except for a few areas of upper Himachal Pradesh. In November 2022, just ahead of the Assembly polls, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the RSSB headquarters and met its head, Baba Gurinder Singh Dhillon, in Amritsar. Once the amendment passes in the House, it will be sent to the governor for his assent.

How is it linked to section 118 of Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and Land Reforms Act?Section 118 of the HP Tenancy and Land Reforms Act 1972 restricts land transfers to non-agriculturists in the state. Though the amendment to the HP Ceiling on Land Holdings Act will address some Delhi HC seeks ED response in Manish Sisodia's plea challenging cognisance of chargesheet without prior sanction



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

The Delhi High Court on Monday sought the Enforce Directorate (ED)'s response to a plea by former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia. Sisodia is challenging the cognisance taken by the trial court of the ED chargesheet in the alleged liquor policy scam minus prior sanction to prosecute. Senior advocate Vikram Chaudhari, appearing for Sisodia before the court of Justice Manoj Ohri, emphasised that ED must make a statement before the court if it has prior sanction to prosecute. ED, through its counsel Zoheb Hossain, however, sought time to respond because Additional Solicitor General (ASG) S V Raju would appear in the case and he was unavailable on Monday.

Justice Ohri, noting that the Supreme Court's Bibhu Prasad Acharya judgment of November 6 specifies that "trial court cannot move further without sanction (to prosecute)", issued notice to ED and kept the matter for December 20.On November 6, the Supreme Court held that Section 197(1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which requires prior sanction to prosecute public servants in discharge of their duty, will also apply to alleged offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering (PMLA) Act. Former Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal also has a plea pending before the high court, similarly challenging the cognisance taken of the ED chargesheet by the trial court in the absence of prior sanction to prosecute. Kejriwal's plea will also be heard on December 20. In addition to the AAP leaders, Congress leader P Chidambaram had challenged the trial court's cognisance of the ED chargesheet under PMLA charges without prior sanction. In his plea, Sisodia is seeking that the HC set aside the trial court's order taking cognisance of the chargesheet as it was taken without sanction to prosecute while he was a

## Monks protest at Indo-Bangla border over release of Hindu spiritual leader

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Over 1,000 monks from across West Bengal are taking part in a demonstration at the Petrapole border in North 24 Parganas on Monday to protest against the attacks on minority Hindus in Bangladesh, and the release of arrested spiritual leader Chinmoy Krishna Das in the neighboring country. The monks, under the banner of the Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti, started arriving in the morning at the protest site, about 800 meters from the Petrapole border checkpost. West Bengal BJP leaders, led by Leader of Opposition in the assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, have also announced an agitation program at Petrapole border on Wednesday over the Bangladesh issue.

"We will form a human chain and protest to convey our message of peace to the Indian government and the of atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh," said a monk, after reaching the Petrapole border.Swami Paramatmananda, president of the Bengal chapter of the Akhil Bharatiya Sant Samiti, had said on Sunday that the agitation will continue at the Petrapole border "until the Bangladesh government takes action to stop attacks on Hindus and temples". The International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) has been organizing prayer meetings and kirtans at its Albert Road center in Kolkata for the last few days, demanding the release of Das and expressing concern over the plight of religious minorities in the neighboring nation. Bangladesh's minority Hindus, which constitute about 8 percent of the 170 million population, have reportedly faced over 200 attacks in 50-odd districts since the fall of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5.Das, a Hindu spiritual leader, was arrested in Bangladesh in a sedition case. He was denied bail by a court, triggering protests by community members in various locations, including the capital Dhaka, and the port city of Chattogram. Meanwhile, cargo movement at the Petrapole border remained normal on Monday, officials said. "On average, 400 trucks are going to the Benapole border (Bangladesh), and around 150 trucks are entering India. Additionally, 5,000-6,000 people are crossing the border daily, though this number is down from the usual 7,000-8,000," a senior official said.

#### No more "sidelined": Ashok Khemka Haryana's transport secretary

In a major administrative shake-up, the Haryana Government Sunday transferred or posted 44 IAS officers, including Sumita Misra and Ashok Khemka. In the order issued late Sunday, the Haryana government appointed 1990batch IAS officer Sumita Misra as the additional chief secretary (home) in place of Anurag Rastogi, who has been posted as additional chief secretary (revenue). Taking senior Indian Administrative Service officer Ashok Khemka out of a "sidelined" assignment, the Haryana government posted him as the additional chief secretary (transport). The 1991-batch IAS officer. Khemka was looking after the printing and stationery department as additional chief secretary till now. With the posting of Khemka as the transport secretary, a 1994-batch IPS officer Navdeep Singh Virk has been relieved from this assignment. A 2021-batch IAS officer Nisha will be the new deputy commissioner (DC) of Panchkula. While 1990-batch IAS officer Anand Mohan Sharan has been posted as additional chief secretary (forests), 1991-batch IAS officer Vineet Garg will look after the higher education department. Another 1991-batch IAS officer A K Singh will look after the important department of town and country planning as its additional chief secretary and 1995-batch IAS officer D Suresh will be the principal secretary (industries and commerce). Principal Secretary (Fisheries) Rajeev Ranjan will now also look after the labour department Amit Kumar Agrawal, a 2003-batch IAS officer



will take charge of the panchayats and public relations department, 2004-batch IAS officer Ashima Brar will look after the excise and taxation department, and C G Rajini Kaanthan will be the new transport commissioner of Haryana. P C Meena, a 2004 batch IAS officer, was posted as the commissioner of the Ambala division and A Sreenivas as the commissioner of Hisar range. Rohtak division commissioner Sanjeev Verma was posted as the director general of the sports department and Hisar division commissioner Geeta Bharti is now the secretary, home-I and home-II in the state home department.

## Bengaluru Rural police file 1,200-page chargesheet against 17 Pakistan nationals for living illegally in India



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Months after the Bengaluru Rural police arrested 17 Pakistan nationals, who were illegally living in Karnataka under Hindu names, officers said Monday they have filed a chargesheet before a court stating they forged documents to live in the country. A police officer said they have filed the 1,200-page chargesheet and charged the accused with cheating, forgery, and violating the rules of the Passport

On September 29, the Jigani police arrested Rashid Ali Siddiqui, his wife Ayesha, and her parents Hanif Mohammed and Rubina, who had been living in India illegally since 2014. After their arrest, they told the police they were linked to the Mehdi Foundation International (MFI), for

which they faced persecution in Pakistan. MFI is an organisation that promotes the philosophy associated with the teachings of Pakistani spiritual leader Gohar Shahi. Following that, the police arrested 13 others most of whom had been living in Bengaluru's Peenya and Jigani, on the outskirts of the city.

Parvez Ahmed alias Farvez, a native of Uttar Pradesh who lived in Mumbai, was arrested by the Jigani police on October 5. The police said Ahmed, who is also associated with MFI, played a key role in providing documents to Pakistan nationals to settle in the country. Earlier, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) stayed in Bengaluru to investigate the motive of the accused, and collected the data about their background. The accused had applied for bail before the court but their pleas were rejected. A police officer, who is a part of the probe, said the accused were not part of any unlawful activity or conspiring against the country besides their illegal entry to India. "They are members of Mehdi Foundation International (MFI), an organisation that promotes Goharian philosophy, associated with the teachings of Pakistani spiritual leader Riaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi. Most of them are facing religious persecution in Pakistan and fear that they will be killed if they are deported to Pakistan. They are ready to stay in Indian prisons till their death or seek refuge in any other non-Muslim nations. We have also written to the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer (FRRO) for their intervention," the of-

### Bengal CM Mamata calls for UN peacekeeping forces in Bangladesh to ensure security of people

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Expressing concern over the recent political turmoil in Bangladesh, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday urged the Centre to ask the United Nations to send its peacekeeping forces to the country. Speaking at the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, Banerjee called for the forces to be deployed in Bangladesh in order to ensure security for people of every religion, caste and creed.

"The recent situation in Bangladesh is quite alarming. I would request the central government to urge the United Nation to arrange for peacekeeping forces... Security should be ensured for all irrespective of religion, caste and creed. Many relatives of the people of this state live in Bangladesh. Stop torturing them. We should show our solidarity from this platform (the assembly)," Banerjee said during her speech on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which was recently introduced by the Centre. Banerjee also demanded a statement on this issue in the Parliament, either from Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Foreign Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. "If the Prime Minister has any problem, the Foreign Affairs Minister can give a statement. Here, one political party is doing a rally every day, but they should know, this is a foreign affair. We can't say anything on this issue," Banerjee added. However, Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly and BJP leader Suvendu



she was "avoiding responsibility".

"A few days ago, during the anti-quota movement in Bangladesh, when the Hasina government was carrying out repression, the Chief Minister said, "Those who will be tortured will get shelter here." She did not say anything about foreign affairs then. Now if Hindus are affected, why are they putting the onus on the central government?" Adhikari questioned. He further added, "Today, when Hindus are being persecuted all over the world, the anger of Hindus is increasing in the soil of Bengal also. Mamata Banerjee's party is also growing discontent over this issue. In this situation, the Chief Minister is trying to put all the responsibility on the Centre only to avoid responsibility."

### BJP women's wing leader in Surat dies by suicide

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

BJP leader and president of the party's women's wing in the Althan ward of Surat, Dipika Patel, died by suicide at her house. Police said that before her death, she spoke to the BJP corporator of Sachin ward around 10 to 15 times. Patel (34), a resident of the Bhimrad area in Althan ward and mother of three, died on Sunday afternoon in her bedroom. Her children were in the downstairs hall of her house while her husband Haresh was busy working in an agricultural field.

Dipika's friend and BJP corporator Chirag Solanki, who purportedly was the last person to speak to her, reached her house and inquired about her to the children who were on the ground floor. When he knocked on her bedroom door, there was no response. Solanki broke open the door. One of the children called Harish, who immediately rushed to the spot after learning about the incident, said Surat police. Solanki called up a doctor, who found her unconscious, and an Althan police constable — both friends who took Dipika to the New Civil Hospital (NCH) on the doctor's advice. Doctors declared her dead on arrival. Police rushed to the hospital and later to the house to find out if she had left a suicide note. Police seized her two mobile phones and found several photos, but some chats were missing, they said. They sent it to the Forensic Science Laboratory to retrieve the deleted data. Althan police lodged an accidental death case and have started a probe. Speaking to The Indian Express, deputy commissioner of police zone 4 Vijaysinh Gurjar said, "The post-mortem was carried out and it was confirmed that she committed suicide by hang-



ing. We found that she was financially quite sound and she even had a good relationship with her husband, children, and in-laws. She was a housewife but was active in politics. We are trying to find out the reason behind her taking such a drastic step of ending her life."

Police officials involved in the investigations team said that the victim had on Sunday till 1.30 pm spoke to Solanki on call 15 times. Police said that her regular phone records history shows that she was in constant touch with Solanki — they used to call each other 20 to 25 times a day. Police have started questioning Solanki. A BJP leader said, "Dipika Patel joined the BJP around five years ago, and in the last couple of years, she was made BJP women wing president of ward no 30, Althan. She was an active member of the party and participated in all meetings." The incident sent shockwaves in the Surat BJP, who were seen discussing the issue

### Telangana constable 'hacked to death by her brother' while on call with husband in suspected honour killing

A 28-year-old police constable in Telangana was hacked to death on Monday allegedly by her brother, who attacked her while she was on the phone with her husband, police said. Police suspect the incident was a case of honour killing. There was also a property dispute between the woman and her brother, and this angle is also being looked into, police said. The incident took place Monday morning near Ibrahimpatnam in Telangana's Ranga Reddy district, on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The constable, S Nagamani, had married Srikant, who is from a different caste, on November 21 at Yadagirigutta. According to police, Nagamani's family was vehemently opposed to the relationship and her brother, Parmesh, had warned the couple of dire consequences. "Parmesh and the family were called to the police station and they were given counselling to accept the marriage and not create any problems for the couple," a police officer said. However, Srikant alleged that Parmesh issued threats right after the police counselling. Over the weekend, the couple, who live in Hyderabad, had gone to Srikant's house in Ibrahimpatnam.

he called up Nagamani to check whether she had left, too. During that call, Nagamani told her husband that her brother was attacking her, after which the call got disconnected, police said. "On her way to work, when she reached Raipole, Parmesh, who was driving a car, chased and hit her scooter from behind, causing her to fall on the road. He hacked her to death with an axe," a police officer said. Nagamani was posted at Hayatnagar police station. By the time Srikant reached the spot, Nagamani was dead. Parmesh surrendered to the police a few minutes after the murder. According to police, Nagamani and her brother were also in a dispute over their ancestral property. "About 15 days ago, she married one Srikant of Rayapolu village. They had come here for a holiday from Hayatnagar, where they live. In the morning, she was going to duty, when a speeding car rammed her scooter from behind and the driver then hacked her to death with a machete. The suspicion is on her brother and the matter seems to be family related. Further investigation will proceed after her brother is detained," Inspector Bollam Satyanarayana of Ibrahimpatnam police said.Nagamani sustained multiple stabs and succumbed to injuries at the spot.DCP Maheshwaram told

### In Mahayuti alliance meetings, Amit Shah plays role of judge, not party leader: Sudhir Mungantiwar



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has always ensured fair play without any partisanship or prejudice when it comes to dealing with alliance partners in a coalition, senior BJP leader and Maharashtra Cabinet Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar asserted even as the process of new government formation was underway in the state. The Mahayuti registered a comprehensive win in the recently held Assembly polls, securing 235 seats in the 288-member House. Speaking at an Idea Exchange session with The Indian Express in Mumbai, Mungantiwar said Amit Shah would ensure justice for everybody in the coalition. The BJP emerged victorious in 132 Assembly seats and the Shiv Sena and NCP bagged 57 and 41 seats, respectively.

"When Amit Shah-ji heads a meeting, he plays the role of a judge and is not there as a party leader. He will hear everyone out and decide. I don't think anyone will remain adamant after a decision is taken. It is okay to make a request but it is not okay to remain adamant. All three leaders (Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde, NCP's Ajit Pawar and BJP's Devendra Fadnavis) love and respect Shah-ji. People do make requests and Shah-ji will decide based on logic. It is not true that Shinde is insisting on the home ministry." Mungantiwar said.

On speculations that caretaker Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is sulking, Mungantiwar, who is the Minister for Forests, Cultural Affairs and Fisheries, said, "There is no unhappiness. The day Shinde became CM, he knew he had to go one day. Who is permanent?" Mungantiwar stated that

the BJP has always been mindful of coalition dharma, accommodating alliance partners in the government even if the party gets the people's mandate on its own. The BJP does not believe in political assertions or playing the big brother role, instead it goes out of its way to value alliance partners, he said. "We are committed to our alliance partners. When you form a friendship, you don't weigh it in terms of profit and loss. We worked together, so we should share power together. Just because one is forming the government because it is capable does not mean one should leave friends. Had we got fewer seats (than the other alliances), how would we have felt if our friends left us? No party will progress with such a thinking. We didn't think like that even in Bihar. When you decide (to be in alliance), words have some worth," Mungantiwar explained.

The former BJP state president dismissed the hue and cry raised by the Opposition over what it claimed was an inordinate delay in the formation of the new government despite the Mahayuti getting a huge mandate. He cited several instances in the past when the process of government formation took 15 days to over a month.

"In the last 20 years, this is going to be the first government that will be formed so quickly. In 2004, it took 15 days. In 2014, it was formed in 11 days. In 2019, Uddhav Thackeray was sworn in after over a month of the election results being declared," he said. While ruling out the possibility of an alliance with estranged partner Shiv Sena (UBT) led by Uddhav Thackeray who parted ways with the BJP after the 2019 Assembly polls to form a government with the Congress and the undivided Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), Mungantiwar indicated that the right wing was unlikely to forgive them so easily. "Will we ever partner with Uddhav Thackeray? Ask me this question in the next life. He abused Modi and Shah. It is not possible."The minister attributed the BJP-led Mahayuti's landslide win in the Assembly polls to its flagship Ladki Bahin scheme, which offers Rs 1,500 per month to every woman aged 21 to 65 with an annual family income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh.Mungantiwar, who was the chairman of the poll manifesto committee, said, "We will keep our promise to raise the grant under the Ladki Bahin Yojana from Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,100. It is our poll manifesto promise. If we don't, we will be criticised across the nation.'

### Delhi airport launches special enclosures for passengers of delayed or cancelled flights

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

To enhance passenger convenience and streamline operations during delays caused by fog, weather, or technical issues, Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has introduced special enclosures across its three terminals. These enclosures at the Indira Gandhi International Airport will expedite the processing of passengers whose flights are delayed by over three hours or cancelled. Ranging from 250 to 450 square metres, these enclosures will be able to hold between 55 and 120 passengers at a time

"These enclosures will be located at the Bus Boarding Gates and certain aerobridges in Terminal 3, the transfer area in Terminal 2, and the bus boarding gate in Terminal 1. The facilities will serve both domestic and international passengers," said a DIAL spokesperson. Recognising the challenges posed by weather and operational disruptions, the government has relaxed security protocols, allowing passengers from affected flights to disembark and return to the terminal, said DIAL officials. The initiative also prioritises security, with Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel stationed in the enclosures to screen passengers



and ensure seamless reintegration into the security hold area. Airline staff escorting passengers from delayed flights are the only people permitted within the enclosures, and private security agencies are tasked with document verification. This arrangement eliminates the need for passengers to undergo the standard security process, which previously involved being routed through arrival and transfer areas before re-entering the SHA. By allowing direct access via reverse entry points, the processing time for affected passengers has been reduced from over two hours to just a few minutes, said officials.

### Cloudy skies, slight dip in temperatures in West Bengal over the next few days

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

West Bengal is currently experiencing cloudy skies and mild temperatures, which may witness a slight dip in the coming days, owing to the influence of cyclone Fengal. The Alipore Meteorological Department Monday reported a minimum temperature of 20 degrees Celsius in Kolkata, which is 3.4 degrees above normal. According to an official, "the maximum temperature in Kolkata may drop to 17 degrees" by the end of this week.

"Due to (recent cyclonic influence), the sky of south Bengal is cloudy even today," said the meteorologist. "After two days, the temperature is expected to drop by two to three degrees. The temperature may drop by up to two degrees this week. The sky in Kolkata may remain partly cloudy for the next few days."The minimum temperature in Kolkata on Sunday was 19.1 degrees Celsius. "The temperature may remain the same on Monday," the meteorologist added. While winter has officially subsided, the region is still experiencing the effects of the recent cold snap. "Winter has subsided, bringing with it light to moderate morning fog," the meteorologist explained. "Even though the day is getting longer, the sun is not visible like that. The sky is cloudy all day."However, "the situation will improve in the



next 2-3 days", the meteorologist assured. Fog is very likely to occur in Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, North Dinajpur, and Maldah in North Bengal, as well as in West Burdwan, West Midnapore, Bankura, and Purulia in South Bengal. The weather agency indicated that night temperatures in South Bengal districts are not expected to significantly change over the next five days. Additionally, no rainfall has been predicted for any part of the state. Dry weather is expected to prevail in all districts of South Bengal, including Kolkata, until December 6.

### UPSC educator Avadh Ojha joins AAP ahead of Delhi Assembly polls in presence of Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia

GNS News Agency, Dec 4With the Delhi Assembly elections approaching, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) welcomed a new member on Monday: Avadh Ojha, a renowned Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) educator and motivational speaker who also runs a YouTube channel with over 9 lakh followers. During the induction ceremony, AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal welcomed Ojha into the party by presenting him with the party scarf and cap. Highlighting Ojha's credentials, Kejriwal remarked, "Avadh Ojha ji is a well-known name in the field of education in this country who has inspired millions. With his joining, the party will grow stronger, and the education sector will benefit immensely. Our effort has always been to bring individuals excelling in areas like education and health into politics to maximise their impact."

Ojha, addressing the gathering, reiterated his commitment to education. "First, I thank the AAP and its leaders for this opportunity to work on education through politics.

Education is the soul of the family, society, and nation. To-

day, as I step into politics, I want to emphasise that if given a choice between politics and education, I would choose education. My aim is to leverage this role to spread education more widely," he said.

When asked about his potential candidacy in the upcoming elections, Ojha said, "Now, as a party member, I will follow whatever orders the party gives."

Former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said, "Avadh Ojha, the teacher of crores of youth, is sitting with us today. I am personally very encouraged by his joining. He has transformed the lives of countless young people, particularly through online platforms. With his addition, the education system in this country will see significant progress."Former Congress MLAs Veer Singh Dhingan and Somesh Shoukeen, along with Zubair Chaudhary, the son of former Congress MLA Mateen Ahmad, have recently joined the AAP in Delhi. Other notable newcomers include former BJP MLAs Brahm Singh Tanwar and Anil Jha, as well as former BJP councillor B B Tyagi.

On Monday morning, Srikanth left for work, and later

# Bombay HC restrains Pune eatery from using 'Burger King' name pending US firm's plea, stays trial court order



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Burger Kingln an order passed earlier this year, Pune district court judge Sunil Vedpathak had said that the eatery had been using the name since 1992, and was the prior user of the trademark in question in India. The Bombay High Court on Monday continued the interim relief granted by a trial court and restrained a Pune-based burger joint from using the name 'Burger King' pending disposal of an appeal filed by the US-based international burger brand claiming trademark infringement. This means that the eatery cannot revert to its popular name until further orders as the high court has stayed the effect and implementation of the July 16 Pune court order that dismissed the US-based firm's trademark infringement suit. The high court, pending appeal, also restrained the Pune eatery and others from infringing Burger King's well-known trademark.

The multinational fast-food corporation has sued the eatery named 'Burger King' located on East Street, Pune which is owned by Anahita Irani and Shapoor Irani, claiming infringement of trademark laws. Following the pending legal proceedings, the Pune joint began to call itself 'Burger'. A bench of Justices Atul S Chandurkar and Rajesh S Patil noted that the division bench of the high court will be the "last fact-finding court in the matter and entire evidence

will be looked into". Therefore, it added that the interim relief granted by the trial court to the international chain was required to be continued. However, it clarified that its order was limited to a present interim application by the US-based firm and asked the parties to preserve their records of business for the last ten years for the court's perusal. The court also admitted the firm's appeal and expedited its hearing.

On August 26, the high court had passed an ad interim order and restrained the Pune-based eatery from using the name, pending the company's interim application. It had continued the January 20, 2012 interim order of the Pune court till further orders "without prejudice to rights and contentions" of parties. In an order passed earlier this year, Pune district court judge Sunil Vedpathak had said that the eatery had been using the name since 1992, and was the prior user of the trademark in question in India, much before the US company started doing business in the country and therefore, it had not violated the trademark.

Advocate Abhijit Sarwate, appearing for the Pune eatery, had argued that the place has been famous in the city since the 1990s. The eatery's owners had sought an urgent hearing claiming that they had suffered for over a decade. However, the corporation, in its appeal through advocate Hiren Kamod, had sought an interim injunction against the Pune joint till the final disposal of the case. It had claimed that there are over 400 Burger King joints in the country and six of these are in Pune. The appeal had claimed that the use of the name 'Burger King' by the Pune joint was causing the company losses, besides harm to its goodwill and reputation. The firm had claimed that it started selling burgers under the 'Burger King' name in 1954 and had filed a suit in a trial court in 2011 seeking prohibitory injunction against the use of the trademark by the Pune eatery. The US-based multinational corporation had said it discovered that a restaurant by the same name was operating in Pune in 2009, after which it immediately sent a cease-and-desist notice in June that year.

### Minor boy apprehended for stabbing mother's live-in-partner in Outer North Delhi

The Delhi Police on Sunday apprehended a minor boy for allegedly stabbing his mother's live-in partner in Outer North Delhi the previous day. The incident came to light when the police control room got a call from Shahbad Daulatpur on Saturday. Upon reaching the location, the police found that a man had sustained a few stab wounds and had already been shifted to Maharishi Valmiki Hospital. Upon reaching the hospital, they learned that the man had been referred to Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital for further treatment. At BSA Hospital, he was found undergoing treatment and was unconscious.

The police said an eyewitness provided a detailed account of the events. "The eyewitness stated that the man was in a live-in relationship with a divorced woman. Her son had repeatedly objected to the relationship and issued warnings to the man. On Saturday, the minor boy visited his shop, confronted him, and stabbed him after they had quarrelled," said Nidhin Valsan, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Outer North Delhi.Based on the eyewitness testi-



mony, a case was registered for an attempt to murder. The police said the juvenile was apprehended within eight hours of the incident. Preliminary inquiries revealed that he was previously involved in another criminal case. Authorities have filed an application to the court concerned, requesting that the minor boy be tried as an adult.

# 'They are all scared': over 63 monks with valid visas stopped from entering India from Bangladesh, says Iskcon



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

More than 63 monks were stopped at Benapole land port in Bangladesh over the weekend and not allowed to enter India, claimed a spokesperson of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Iskcon) in Kolkata. Meanwhile, all eyes are on Bangladesh's top court where Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das is scheduled to be produced Monday. Das, a leader of the Sammilito Sanatani Jagaron Jot, was arrested on November 25 by the Bangladesh Police. The next day, he was denied bail by a court in Chittagong and sent to jail in connection with a

While speaking to The Indian Express, Radharamn Das said, "We got news that 63 or even more brahmacharis came to the Benapol border on the Bangladesh side on Saturday and Sunday. They all had valid visas and wanted to enter India. However, Bangladesh authorities told them that India was not safe for them and didn't allow them to enter India". "Why is this? People with valid visas are being allowed to enter India from Bangladesh and vice versa. After

continuing atrocities on minorities and our monks and brahmacharis, they are all scared and are in panic. Some of them had visas and wanted to come to India. We are praying for all," added Das, vice-president, Iskcon, Kolkata. "We are also praying for Chinmoy Krishna Das who will be produced in a court once again today," he said.

According to Iskcon, 54 monks arrived at Benapole, a land port in Bangladesh, on Saturday and nine others until Sunday afternoon. Das also posted on his X handle about Bangladesh stopping the Iskcon monks from crossing into India. "They had all valid Indian Visa and other documents. But Bangladeshi Border Police said that Bangladeshi Intelligence has told them not to allow them to enter India. Already 4 of our Brahmacharis they have arrested & now not allowing other Brahmacharis to travel to India. Please pray," Das posted.

The Bangladesh government is yet to react on the fresh allegations levelled by Iskcon. Bangladesh said earlier that the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Dad had been "misconstrued", adding that his arrest was based on specific charges and that there has been no systematic attack on minorities in the country. Das, who has been organising multiple rallies in Bangladesh to condemn alleged atrocities against minorities, was arrested on November 25 for alleged "treason". Iskcon has also said two monks, who went to give medicines to Chinmoy Krishna Das in jail were also arrested last Friday. On Friday, a Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson said India has conveyed its concern over the attacks on Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh and pressed for a "fair and transparent trial" for Chinmoy Krishna Das.Iskcon has said Das "does not represent" them in Bangladesh, and that he was expelled in September this year for violating its rules.

### Suspecting her of having an affair, Kanpur trader kills wife and her mother who tried to intervene: Police

A 52-year-old trader allegedly murdered his wife in Kanpur on Sunday night over suspicions of an extramarital affair and then killed his mother-in-law, who had tried to intervene, police said. Police identified the accused as Joseph Peter, who had married Kamini, 39, in 2017. The couple had no children. According to police, the accused confessed to the crime and claimed that he had repeatedly tried to convince his wife to cut ties with a young man that he alleged she frequently spoke to. On Sunday night, an argument broke out between Joseph and Kamini after he objected to her speaking with the man. Enraged, the accused attacked her with a sharp-edged weapon. When her mother tried to intervene, he attacked her as well," said a police

officer.

"The accused was arrested and produced before a local court in Kanpur, which sent him to jail," said Assistant Commissioner of Police, Kanpur, Rajesh Kumar Srivastava. According to police, they received a call at the control room on Sunday night about a man allegedly assaulting his wife and mother-in-law at a house in Friend's Colony, with screams heard from inside. A police team rushed to the location and found the main door locked from the inside. Despite repeated knocking, no one opened the door, prompting the police to break it open. On entering the house, police found the victim lying on the floor, and the accused sitting on the bed, officers said.

### Women gather on Pune roads at night with a message: 'Streets belong to us too'



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

"I saw the 'Meri Raatein, Meri Sadakein' banner while passing by J M Road and knew I had to join in. When I did, saw women singing songs, talking about the contribution of women in the freedom struggle and creation of the Constitution. They were speaking on violence against women. It encouraged me and so I went forward to share an experience of how I had rebuked a man taking video of my female friend while travelling in a bus," she said. Alka Joshi, of Abhivyakti, a women's group, explains the reason behind this movement. Pune "We have been part of the protests, agitations to condemn crime against women.", said Shraddha R R, an activist and co-ordinator of the movement. "This year marks the 12th year of the horrific Nirbhaya incident of December 16, 2012. So we decided to raise our voices against such incidents by hitting the streets 12 times during the 12 weeks from September 21 to December 16, one night every week, without fear, " she said. Joshi said that taking inspiration from a similar initiative by a group in Uttar Pradesh, various organisations in Maharashtra came together under the banner of "Mahila Jagar Samiti" and started "Meri Raatein, Meri Sadakein!" in Pune and other locations too, with a message to the women: "As the evening falls, even the streets start to discriminate. At night, they belong to men. The time has come for us to assert that these streets belong to us as much as to men."

"During the first gathering on September 21, over 150 women gathered from 9 pm to 11 pm on the footpath near the statue of social reformer Savatribai Phule on the Sarasbaug road. The participation of young girls was overwhelming," said Ranjana Pasalkar.Similarly, on the night of

September 28, women gathered on the road at the Teen Hatti Chowk in Dhankawadi, between 9 pm and 11 pm and prepared posters, paintings for Rajmata Jijau, mother of Maratha warrior Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.A musical programme was organised on Koregaon Park street on the night of October 6, during Navratri.Shraddha R R, an activist and co-ordinator of the movement, said, "We have been part of the protests, agitations to condemn crime against women. At the same time it is also important to give a message that women are strong. Hence we gather on the streets and the footpaths during the night hours and talk freely, laugh, dance and sing without any fear." "It is not just about the Nirbhaya case. Be it the Kolkata rape and murder case, the Badlapur sexual abuse incident and also the shocking gang rape of a woman at the Bopdev Ghat in Pune on the night of October 3, which was during period we were gathering for 'Meri Raatein, Meri Sadakein' programmes... We see cases of women facing harassment at streets, schools, colleges, bus, market, home, workplaces. We stand on the streets and speak about it freely," said Jivika Uthada of Vichardhan

On the night of October 19, due to heavy rain, women gathered at the Kelkar hall on Tilak Road to watch women centric movies of late actor Smita Patil. Then, Alka Joshi said that information about the ongoing street programmes was also shared with Olympian wrestler-turned-politician Vinesh Phogat, who was in Pune recently for an election rally. Further, on November 30, women gathered on the J M Road footpath between 8 pm and 10 pm. An exhibition of posters giving information about brave women like Rani Lakshmibai and others were displayed on the footpath.A group of female artists performed revolutionary songs on the street. "Every programme concludes with an oath that 'I would not tolerate violence against women'...", said Vishal Bagul of Lokayat. "While the event mainly aimed at involving girls and women, participation of men was also welcome. Men too are taking part in the street programmes,' said a participant Sangita Patane. Activists of the "Mahila Jagar Samiti" said the street gatherings would continue and the last event would take place on the night of December 15, the preparations for which are going on.

### Medicine that lowers chances of HIV infection found safe among MSM, transgender women

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

"The use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) can lower one's chances of getting HIV from sex. We found PrEP to be acceptable and safe among MSM and TGW in the project," Dr Seema Sahay, scientist, ICMR-NITVAR said. "The use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) can lower one's chances of getting HIV from sex. We found PrEP to be acceptable and safe among MSM and TGW in the project," Dr Seema Sahay, scientist, ICMR-NITVAR said. A medicine that reduces chances of acquiring HIV infection, (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) was found to be acceptable and safe among Men Having Sex with Men (MSM) and Transgender Women (TGW), according to a demonstration project by Pune based Indian Council of Medical Research- National Institute of Translational Virology and AIDS Research.

"The use of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) can lower one's chances of getting HIV from sex. We found PrEP to be acceptable and safe among MSM and TGW in the project," Dr Seema Sahay, scientist, ICMR-NITVAR said.India has successfully reduced HIV incidence with a 66 percent decline since 2000. However, control among MSM and TGW remains a challenge. Till date there are no studies to evaluate the feasibility of oral PrEP among MSM and TGW in India. Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), an oral biomedical HIV prevention, has revolutionised HIV prevention efforts worldwide. This preventive strategy is particularly recommended for individuals in high-risk groups who are not living with HIV but are at increased exposure risk for HIV, such as female sex workers, Men Having Sex with Men (MSM) and Transgender Women (TGW). "Despite the proven efficacy studies, real-world challenges of PrEP remain unknown in India," study research scientists said. Hence they undertook the first demonstration project among Men Having Sex with Men (MSM) and Transgender Women (TGW) in India to understand the feasibility of delivering PrEP through clinic and community-based service delivery models.Dr Sahay, who led this project, stated that a total of 650 MSM and TGW were enrolled at Pune, Maharashtra and Jalandhar, Punjab sites. Each participant was followed up for 12 months after PrEP prescription by a healthcare



"The use of PrEP can lower one's chances of getting HIV from sex. We found PrEP to be acceptable and safe among MSM and TGW in the project. As a key component of comprehensive HIV prevention efforts, PrEP works alongside measures such as regular HIV testing and consistent condom use. With advancements like long-acting injectable formulations on the horizon, PrEP is poised to play an even more significant role in reducing the spread of HIV worldwide," Dr Sahay said. In 2023, around 5.4 million of 39.9 million people living with HIV worldwide - one in seven - were not aware of their status. At the same time 9.3 million - nearly one in four were not receiving life-saving treatment.Dr Ishwar Gilada, President Emeritus, AIDS Society of India, pointed out that India is home to an estimated 2.54 million people living with HIV (PLHIV), making it one of the most affected countries. "Globally at rank three after South Africa and Nigeria. Efforts by NGOs and National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) have resulted in a 48 per cent decline in new infections between 2010 and 2021. Yet, with nearly 68,000 new infections annually, awareness and early intervention remain critical to achieving a future free of HIV," Dr Gilada pointed out. Experts have said that despite significant advancements in long-acting PrEP and treatment, these technologies are largely out of reach in low and middle-income countries. High drug prices, restrictive licencing and limited manufacturing capabilities are likely to hinder the rollout of long acting PrEP products, IAS experts have said.

### Khaira asks Speaker to table private member bill on non-Punjabi residents of state at the earliest

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Senior Congress leader Sukhpal Singh Khaira has written to Vidhan Sabha Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan stating his private member bill seeking a law like the HP Tenancy and Land Reforms Act 1972, to be introduced in Punjab to ban all non Punjabi's from becoming permanent residents of Punjab, is being deliberately delayed. Addressing a press conference on Sunday, Khaira said he submitted the bill to the Speaker in January 2023 to be introduced in the Vidhan Sabha for discussion. He said that instead of introducing the bill, the Speaker informed him in June 2023 that he has sent the proposed bill to the Department of Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management with regards to the "financial aspects involved in the bill"."I am shocked and surprised that the AAP government is purposely delaying the bill on frivolous grounds as there are no financial implications involved in the implementation of this bill as the bill if made a law will only generate revenue for the state and by no means will incure any financial

He added that despite a reminder from Speaker's office dated September 29, 2023 to the Revenue Department there has been no decision on the said bill. "The biggest threat and challenge due to non implementation of this bill is the fast changing demographic situation of Punjab. Needless to mention, approximately 80 lakh Punjabi's have migrated to different parts of world during the last few decades and a very very large chunk of non Punjabi population has settled permanently in Punjab and if this random settlement of non Punjabi population continues at this speed, Punjabi's and Sikhs will become a minority in their own state in the times to come," said Khaira.

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Giving the recent example of village Jagatpura in



Mohali where seven to eight thousand non Punjabi's have become voters compared to only one thousand Punjabi voters, Khaira said this fast changing demographic situation is threatening the mother tongue Punjabi, as well as culture, heritage, religious and social values of Punjab. "The unregistered unverified non Punjabi population is also affecting the law and order of our state with a massive increase in crime like the killing of two Punjabi youth in Village Kumbran in Mohali district recently. In the absence of a law like Himachal Pradesh, most of our government jobs are being taken by non Punjabi youth of Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi etc. creating a sense of more frustration amongst our youth," Khaira says in his letter. Khaira said he wants to clarify that no one is against any non Punjabi willing to earn a livelihood in Punjab as they have been doing for the last many decades during the paddy season or other job opportunities. "But if someone want to settle permanently in Punjab, they must fulfil legal conditions like Himachal Pradesh etc. and now even the BJP ruled state of Uttarakhand," he said.

Ranga Reddy THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2024 **INDIAN CHRONICLE** 

#### Woman forced to pay 2 lakh as fine for taking more than 5 minutes to pay parking fee



A woman in UK has been charged ?2 lakh (£1,906) after she took longer than five minutes to pay after parking her car in Derby. Rosey Hudson claimed she was unable to pay due to poor signal on her phone. She said she had to walk around to get to a serviceable area but by then Excel Parking Ltd had sent her 10 parking charge notices. The car park said that anyone who parks in the lot has to pay within five minutes. Build cutting-edge AI solutions with MIT's expert-led program Start Now'Was trying to get phone reception'Hudson said the five-minute payment rule is "totally unreasonable"."I haven't got children but I can imagine a busy mum trying to sort her kids out, trying to pay for something when there's no signal here, and the machine being out of order," she told the BBC.

Hudson said she started using the Copeland Street

car park in February 2023 and when she tried to pay the parking machine was "out of order", so she tried to pay using a phone app. "I was trying to get reception and wasn't able to, so I got my wi-fi within the store, and paid online through their app," she said. She did the same thing each day and paid the full parking fee daily but one day she received a notice. It asked her to pay £100 within 28 days. "I rang the company and explained the situation, and they basically said 'you have to pay it. So to keep them off my back I did pay the initial parking fine," she said.

'It is the driver's responsibility'However, she received nine more notices like that which were all for £100 along with a "debt recovery" charge and an interest of 8% per annum. In a statement, an Excel Parking spokesperson said: "The signage at the car park made it clear that it was 'Pay on Entry' and that there was a maximum period of five minutes to purchase the parking tariff. This is one of the specific terms and conditions for use of the car park. It is the driver's responsibility to read and understand the terms. It seems that Miss Hudson is the author of her own misfortune."When asked why they ask drivers to pay within five minutes, and the company said this was "to mitigate against abuse from motorists who simply use the car park to drop off and pick up passengers from adjacent retailers". The parking also claimed the woman took "between 14 and 190 minutes to purchase each parking tariff by phone, an average of almost one hour". The case will now be heard in court within six months.

#### Who is Ketaki Vaidya? Oracle product manager from Hyderabad opens up about her 'very smooth transition' to US

After five years of serving as an employee in Oracle's office, in Hyderabad, India, Ketaki Vaidya felt a need for change. Being a software engineer, working in Silicon Valley had been her for a long time. Thus, in 2022 she planned to move to California and since has been transferred to Seattle. She recently revealed how the seven years at Oracle unfolded into two job promotions, a change of career and an international transfer. Her first step after her college at Oracle's Hyderabad, India was to understand what her team required from her than just focusing on the supervisor's needs. Vaidya said, "Managers always take 360-degree feedback, and they go around the entire team and talk to the entire team to get a sense of what your work is like. When you keep your team happy, you automatically keep your supervisor happy," as reported by Business Insider. She had also planned regular check-ins with her manager to get feedback on her work and expressed her aspirations about working with specific software. This ensured that her manager looped her in when tasks of her interest emerged in the workspace. Vaidya earned 9,00,000 INR or \$10,700 annually. A couple of years later, Vaidya was promoted to the position of software engineer from associate software engineer. She revealed that she followed female idols who served as a reminder to credit herself for the work as well and not just the team. She also ensured that she was vocal about her growth as well as her next promotions with her manager. Moreover, she documented all her achievements.

Vaidya said, "They knew that I was very invested in my career, and then my managers would really help me all around the year to get better projects." She was paid 1.2 million rupees, or \$14,200 annually under this role. The next promotion opportunity presented itself after four years where the software engineer was promoted to the position of senior software engineer and team lead. Her team included seven people. At the end of her projects, Vaidya took steps to showcase her work to leadership, such as sharing her insights with the team via the group chat. Additionally, she meticulously worked on her annual appraisal documents, revising them multiple times to ensure they accurately reflected her contributions. She divulged, "I've seen that a lot of people don't take that very seriously, but it's something



that goes into the system. That's going to be taken into account every time you move up the ladder." This role earned her 2 million Indian rupees, or about \$24,000 annually.

As she moved up the ladder, Vaidya felt a pull towards product management. Thus, she utilised her free time during the pandemic to research what jobs with more business strategy would look like. She revealed, "I set up 15minute sessions with about 200 people on LinkedIn to understand what this field was. The more I talked to people, the more I realized it was something that I wanted to do. "When she felt that she was lacking the required skill set, she applied for a master's course in the US to gain a better understanding of the global work culture. However, when she tried to resign, Oracle "didn't want to let me go," she said. Since her role was crucial to releasing a product, the company offered a product management role in the US, instead. She negotiated a higher salary, considering the significantly increased cost of living in the US, despite Oracle shouldering substantial expenses, including her visa fees. Vaidya shared, "You can't let the excitement show in the conversations that you're having with your hiring gather data about salaries and had conversations with people who had made similar shifts in their careers prior to her. She said, "I was being given this offer for the credibility that I had built in the organization. I felt like I had an upper hand in negotiating. I was much more confident in asking for the things that I deserve — so it ended up being a very

#### House Republicans brand Joe Biden 'liar' for pardoning 'criminal' son Hunter

House Republicans have branded Joe Biden a "liar" for pardoning his son Hunter. Following his shock move on Sunday, GOP lawmakers criticised the president for breaking his promise not to interfere in the 54vear-old's criminal lawsuits. President-elect Donald Trump called the full and unconditional pardon of Hunter, who was convicted of multiple felony charges, a "miscarriage justice."Republicans, including the future president, swiftly called out Biden after he pardoned Hunter of all "offenses against the United States which he has committed or may have committed or taken part in during the period from January 1, 2014 through December 1, 2024." (Read More: What were the charges against Hunter Biden before the presidential pardon?)In the wake of the pardon, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene issued a scathing statement against Biden and his son on X, formerly Twitter. "Hunter Biden broke gun laws, he broke the FARA Act, and worst of all, he broke the Mann Act by sex trafficking women across the country. This pardon is Joe Biden's admission that Hunter is a

criminal."Branding Biden a

"liar and a hypocrite, all the

way to the end," Greene



added, "Biden tried to throw President Trump's sons in jail, but he lets his son off free even though he's a convict. His FBI and DOJ raided Barron's bedroom and Melania's closet at Mar-a-Lago." Iowa Sen. Chuck Grassley echoed similar sentiments, tweeting, "I'm shocked Pres Biden pardoned his son Hunter bc he said many many times he wouldn't & I believed him Shame on me."Rep. James Comer also issued a statement on Hunter's pardoning that reads, "Joe Biden has lied from start to finish about his family's corrupt influence ing that his father "will go peddling activities. Not only down as one of the most has he falsely claimed that corrupt presidents in Amerihe never met with his son's

foreign business associates

and that his son did nothing

wrong, but he also lied when he said he would not pardon Hunter Biden.""The charges Hunter faced were just the tip of the iceberg in the blatant corruption that President Biden and the Biden Crime Family have lied about to the American people. It's unfortunate that, rather than come clean about their decades of wrongdoing, President Biden and his family continue to do everything they can to avoid accountability," the chair of the House Over-Committee added.Arizona Rep. Andy Biggs slammed the younger Biden as "a criminal," add-

can history." The criticism of

Biden's pardoning of his son

was not limited to Republicans as Democratic Governor of Colorado Jared Polis said, "While as a father I cerunderstand tainly President@JoeBiden's natural desire to help his son by pardoning him, I am disappointed that he put his family ahead of the country." This is a bad precedent that could be abused by later Presidents and will sadly tarnish his reputation. When you become President, your role is Pater familias of the nation. Hunter brought the legal trouble he faced on himself, and one can sympathize with his struggles while also acknowledging that no one is above the law, not a President and not a President's son," Polis added

#### Trump's WH chef dishes on Presidentelect's McDonald's habit, reveals what will be his 'first meal' after taking office



Donald Trump's former Chef Chef Andre Rush has spilled tea about the President-elect's McDonald's habit at the White House, as well as what will be his first meal upon his comeback in January. Before Trump takes office for a second term, the celebrity chef has persuaded him to stop eating burgers and drinking Diet Coke. Build cutting-edge Al solutions with MIT's expert-led program Start NowSpeaking about Trump's unhealthy appetites and love for fast food, the military veteran turned cook told TMZ, "It's up to the kitchen staff to get creative when it comes to meals - basically, tricking him into eating healthier via tasty dishes."In another interview with The Sun, Rush outlined what efforts Trump should be making to get into shape both mentally and physically. He then recalled how Trump once ordered enough Big Macs, Filet-o-Fish, and McDonald's Quarter Pounders for a football team for a State Dinner. "[You] can't get McDonald's at the White House because it's the White House - no one can bring it inside," the renowned chef stated. Trump prefers junk food due to fear of...Trump is well-known for preferring fast-food restaurants McDonald's because he fears getting poisoned. According to the Mirror, he feels these meals are safer than other food items since they are prepared in ad-

During his first term, Trump allegedly maintained his privacy by locking himself away from his wife Melania and the Secret Service at night so he could eat hamburgers. Melania would never be spotted eating the same food as Trump, according to Rush, because "she may be on her diet, or have a diet, or he may be on the fly and on the run, and stuff just happens that way."Rush, though, advised the President-elect to eat fast food "sparingly" and make certain changes to keep healthy for the position on his return to the White House."I would say to him, especially eight years later and at age of 78, is just stop for a second, dictate your meals, get what your dietitian, whatnot, and say, 'Hey, I'll incorporate some healthy meals into my diet'," he said. Starting from 1997, Rush served as a chef in the White House under Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump.

What meal Trump would prefer on first day of WH?

Chef Rush describes the first meal of a president in the White House as "a very big deal". Having prepared Trump's first lunch in 2017, he believes the Republican will not deviate from his usual custom. "He's [either] going to stay on the road and say, 'Hey, I'm going to eat my favorite foods and I'm not letting anybody change me," Chef Rush stated. "But me personally, I think he'll probably just stay to what he believes in and maybe have a burger," he added.

#### Pakistan's anti-terrorism court sends Imran Khan on 14-day judicial remand in connection with seven new cases

An anti-terrorism court on Monday (December 2, 2024) sent former prime minister Imran Khan on a 14-day judicial remand in connection with seven cases related to the recent protests by his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party.Mr. Khan, 72, was presented before the anti-terrorism court judge at Adiala jail, where he has been incarcerated for months, after the completion of a six-day police remand in a separate case about his party's September 28 protest in Rawalpindi

Judge Amjad Ali Shah presided over the hearing, during which the court approved Khan's judicial remand in the New Town police station case, as well as in six other cases. The judge rejected a police request for physical remand in six other cases registered between September 28 and October 5. He ordered that Mr. Khan should be sent to jail on judicial remand. The former premier was arrested in six cases related to the protests by his party. Seven cases, including the New Town case, had been registered against him for the protests on September 28, October 4, and October 5. The new cases have been registered against Mr. Khan in various police stations for giving calls of protests that resulted in violent incidents.Mr. Khan's party launched a protest on November 24 to give a sit-in at D-Chowk in Islamabad's Red Zone, where most government buildings are located. The protest, which turned violent, left some security personnel and civilians dead. The protest was pro-



moted by Mr. Khan who on November 13 issued a "fina call" for nationwide protests, demanding the restoration of the PTI's electoral mandate, the release of detained party members, and the reversal of the 26th Amendment, which he said had strengthened a "dictatorial regime".

So far, he has not been arrested in the latest 28 cases related to the November 24 protest.Mr. Khan was arrested by the Rawalpindi police in the New Town police after he was granted bail in the second Toshakhana case last month. Dozens of cases have been registered against him since his government fell in April 2022 due to a no-confidence vote.

#### Dozens, including children, killed in stampede following clashes at a Guinea football match

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Dozens of soccer fans, including children, were killed in a stampede and as security forces tried to quell clashes during a soccer match at a crowded stadium in southern Guinea's largest city, according to local media and a coalition of political parties. The stampede broke out on Sunday (December 2, 2024) afternoon at the Nzerekore city during the final of a local tournament between the Labe and Nzerekore teams in honor of Guinea's military leader, Mamadi Doumbouya, Guinea's Prime Minister Amadou Oury Bah said on the X platform.

"During the stampede, victims were recorded," Bah said, without being specific about the number of those killed. The regional authorities are working to restore calm in the area, he added. A coalition of political parties known as the National Alliance for Alternation and Democracy said in a statement that the stampede resulted in dozens of deaths and injuries. Local media reported that security forces tried to use teargas to restore calm after the chaos that followed a disputed penalty. "This [the disputed penalty] angered supporters who threw stones. This is how the security services used tear gas," the local Media Guinea reported. It said several of those killed were children while some of the injured being treated at a regional hospital are in critical condition. Videos that appeared to be from the scene showed a section of the stadium shouting and protesting the refereeing before the clashes broke out as fans poured onto the

People were running as they tried to escape from the



stadium, many of them jumping the high fence. Videos also showed many people lying on the floor in what looked like a hospital as a crowd gathered nearby, some assisting the wounded. The National Alliance for Alternation and Democracy coalition called for an investigation. It said the tournament was organized to drum support for the "illegal and inappropriate" political ambition of the military leader. Guinea has been led by the military since soldiers ousted President Alpha Conde in 2021. It is one of a growing number of West African countries, including Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, where the military has taken power and delayed a return to civilian rule. Doumbouya overran the president three years ago, saying he was preventing the country from slipping into chaos and chastised the previous government for broken promises. He has, however, been criticized for not meeting the expectations that he raised.

#### Indian bus headed to Kolkata attacked in Bangladesh, alleges Tripura Minister

Agartala: Tripura's Transport Minister Sushanta Chowdhury alleged that a bus on the way to Kolkata from Agartala was attacked in Bangladesh. The incident happened on Bishwa Road in Bangladesh's Brahmanbaria district, he said."A Sahyamoli Paribahan bus on the way from Tripura to Kolkata was attacked in Bangladesh's Brahmanbaria Bishwa Road. The incident terrified Indian passengers on the bus. The bus was maintaining its lane when a truck intentionally hit it. At this point, an autorickshaw came in front of the bus, and the bus and the auto-rickshaw collided," Chowdhury said in a post on Facebook on Saturday, sharing photos of the bus. "Following this incident, locals started threatening Indian passengers on the bus. They also raised anti-India slogans and hurled expletives at the Indian passengers, giving them life threats. I strongly condemn

the incident and urged the administration of the neighbouring country to ensure the safety of Indian passengers," he added.Buses operate between Kolkata and Agartala via Dhaka as it cuts the distance by more than half. It is cheaper than travelling by flight and shorter than travelling by train via Assam, which usually takes over 30 hours. Chief Minister Manik Saha said he received the information about the attack on the bus and was trying to gather more input on it."I have got information about a Kolkata-bound bus carrying passengers from Agartala coming under attack on Bishwa Road in Brahmanbaria on Saturday. I am trying to gather concrete information on the matter," he said. Voicing concern over attacks on minority Hindus in the neighbouring

### Windfall gains tax on domestic crude production, export of petrol, diesel, ATF scrapped



Almost two-and-half years after it was introduced, the government has finally withdrawn windfall gains tax on domestic production of crude oil and export of diesel, petrol, and aviation turbine fuel (ATF). The Finance Ministry notifications for removal of the windfall tax—special additional excise duty (SAED) on production of crude and export of ATF, and road and infrastructure cess (RIC) on export of petrol and diesel-with immediate effect were laid in the Parliament on Monday. Lately, not much revenue was getting generated by the windfall gains tax. In fact, the levies are currently nil. This is mainly due to significant softening in prices of crude oil and the three major fuels in the international market. The enabling provisions to impose the levy. however, continued to be in place. With Monday's move, the government has effectively withdrawn those provisions as well, sources indicated. The industry had also raised concerns about the continuation of the levy, sources said.

These levies were first imposed on July 1, 2022 due

to the surge in global oil and fuel prices in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As the price of crude oil produced in India is benchmarked to international prices, domestic oil prices also went through the roof. At the same time, margins on fuels were a lot more lucrative in other markets, incentivising refiners, particularly private sector players, to export fuels. This had resulted in fuel supply disruptions in some parts of the country. Apart from taking a share of windfall profits of oil producers and fuel exporters to partly soften the blow of duty cuts on domestic petrol and diesel sales, the government also wanted to ensure enough fuel supply to meet domestic demand through these taxes. The levies were reviewed on a fortnightly basis by the Finance Ministry based on crude oil and fuel prices in the international market.

With the international crude oil and fuel market nowhere as volatile as it was in the initial months of the Ukraine war, and the domestic fuel supplies stable and robust, the windfall gains tax collection has seen a steady decline over the past two-and-a-half years. The windfall gains tax mop-up was around Rs 25,000 crore in 2022-23 (FY23), around Rs 13,000 crore in FY24, and around Rs 6,000 crore so far in FY25. While the levy on petrol exports has been zero since July 20, 2022, on diesel exports, it has been nil since March 1, 2024. On ATF exports, windfall gains tax was reduced to nil from January 2, 2024, while on domestic oil production, the levy was brought down to zero from September 18, 2024. When the windfall gains tax was first imposed, it translated to a levy of about \$40 per barrel on domestic crude oil production, as crude oil prices were well over \$100 per barrel at the time

### Skoda Kylaq booking open today: 5 things you need to know about new SUV in Indian market

Skoda Auto India has officially opened bookings for its much-anticipated SUV, Skoda Kylaq, starting today, December 2, 2024. First unveiled on November 6, the Kylaq marks Skoda's ambitious entry into the competitive sub-4-metre SUV segment in India. The Skoda Kylaq was announced earlier this year in February, signalling the brand's intent to strengthen its presence in India. After teasing a camouflaged prototype in October, the SUV made its global debut last month, and bookings are now live.

According to Klaus Zellmer, CEO of Skoda Auto, the Kylaq is a pivotal model for the Indian market: "The Skoda Kylaq is our first sub-4-metre SUV, designed in India for India. As the world's third-largest car market, India plays a vital role in our growth plans. With its Modern Solid design language and extensive features, the Kylaq is a gamechanger in this segment." With SUVs accounting for 50% of vehicle sales in India, the Kylaq aims to capture the growing demand for compact, feature-rich SUVs. Designed specifically for the Indian market, it blends affordability with advanced features, making it a strong contender in its segment.5 things to know about Skoda KylaqSpacious Boot Space: The Kylaq offers segment-leading boot space of 446 litres, ensuring plenty of room for your travel and everyday needs. Advanced Safety Features: Equipped with over 25 standard safety features, the Kylaq sets new benchmarks in its segment. Key highlights include: Engine: The Kylaq is



powered by a 1.0-litre TSI engine delivering 114 bhp and 178 Nm of torque. Transmission options include a 6-speed manual and a 6-speed torque converter automatic, catering to both driving purists and comfort-seekers. Competitive Pricing: Starting at just ?7,89,000 (Ex-Showroom), the Kylaq positions itself as a budget-friendly yet feature-rich entry into Skoda's lineup. Modern Design and Interiors: The Kylaq embodies Skoda's signature design language with a split headlight setup, butterfly grille, and bold aesthetics. Inside, the dual-tone cabin features a 10.1-inch touchscreen infotainment system, an 8-inch digital instrument cluster, and premium amenities like automatic climate control and rear AC yents

### Indian passengers stranded at Kuwait airport depart for Manchester

Several Indian passengers of a Manchester-bound Gulf Air flight were stranded at the Kuwait airport for nearly 20 hours and were flown out of the city to their destination on Monday morning. The Gulf Air flight from Bahrain to Manchester was diverted to Kuwait due to a technical glitch. Gulf Air GF5 took off from Bahrain at 2.05 am local time on December 1 but a snag forced the plane to land in Kuwait at 4:01 am, as per reports.

With several passengers complaining that they had been stranded at the airport for many hours, the Indian embassy in Kuwait took up the matter with Gulf Air, according to social media posts. In a series of posts on X, the embassy said its team reached the airport to assist the passengers and coordinate with the airline. Passengers were accommodated in two airport lounges. Food and water were made available for the stranded passengers at the lounges, as per the embassy. "Gulf Air flight to Manchester finally departed at 0434 hours today carrying stranded In-



dian passengers among others. The embassy team was on the ground till the flight departed," the embassy said in a post. A stranded passenger, on Sunday, took to X, alleging that Indian passengers were left without help.

### Rupee trades in narrow range against US dollar in early trade



rupee, dollar, business news, indian expressThe Indian rupee opened flat but weakened by 2 paise against the US dollar due to negative domestic equities and disappointing data. Rupee opened on a flat note and rose just 2 paise from its all-time low level to 84.58 against the US dollar in morning trade on Monday, on disappointing macroeconomic data and a negative trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said Asian currencies like CNH, KRW and IDR were down after Trump Rhetoric on BRICs currency. Besides, the broad strength of the American currency and unabated foreign portfolio outflows further dented investor sentiments.President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday threatened a 100 per cent tariff on the BRIC bloc of nations if they act to undermine the US dollar. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.59 and moved in a tight range and touched 84.58 against the greenback, registering a gain of just 2 paise over its previous close. In initial trade it also revisited its all-time low of 84.60 against US dollar. On Friday, the rupee plunged 13 paise to settle at a fresh all-time low of 84.60 against US dollar. The dollar

index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a

basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.52 per cent at 106.28.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, surged by 0.57 per cent to USD 72.25 per barrel in futures trade.

"With Trump indicating a 100 per cent tariffs on a separate BRICS currency along with a slowing GDP growth India's rupee showed a weakening opening this morning. Markets look to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as to at which level it will continue to support the currency," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP.India's forex reserves dropped USD 1.31 billion to USD 656.582 billion for the week ended November 22, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

The reserves had dropped a record USD 17.761 billion to USD 657.892 billion in the previous reporting week ending November 15.On the domestic macroeconomic front, the latest government data released on Friday showed India's economic growth slowed to near two-year low of 5.4 per cent in the July-September quarter of this fiscal due to poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors as well as weak consumption. A weak opening on domestic bourses also weighed on the local unit. The 30-share benchmark index Sensex was trading 343.00 points, or 0.43 per cent lower, to 79,459.79 points. The Nifty fell 106.65 points, or 0.44 per cent, to 24,024.45 points. Meanwhile, the central government's fiscal deficit at the end of the first seven months of the current financial year touched 46.5 per cent of the full-year target. The deficit stood at 45 per cent of the budget estimates in the corresponding period of 2023-24. Traders said the persistent selling pressure by foreign funds added further strain on the currency. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) were net sellers in the capital markets on Friday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 4,383.55 crore, according to exchange data.

### Kharif procurement: Govt departments call for reforms beyond MSP hike to tackle agri concerns



dations, a five-year plan for oilseeds to supply-side bottlenecks in procurement, two key financial departments, a top government think tank and a department responsible for most of the procurement in the country wrote to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, expressing concerns before the Cabinet meeting this June to clear the proposal to hike the minimum support price (MSP) of kharif crops for marketing season 2024-25, an RTI filed by shows. While the departments did not directly oppose the hike in the MSP, the documents show, they gave varying suggestions to look beyond the MSP to provide remunerative prices to the farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture did not agree to the suggestion on oilseeds, but it took note of the situation and proposed a maximum hike for oilseeds. The procurement of kharif crops commenced on October 1 in line with the Cabinet decision dated June 19 which increased the MSP of 14 kharif crops such as paddy, jowar, bajra, ragi, maize, tur/arhar, moong, urad, groundnut, sunflower seed, soyabean, sesamum, nigerseed and cotton. The maximum increase over the previous year was 12.70 per cent for nigerseed in oilseeds, 11.50 per cent for ragi in cereals and 7.90 per cent for tur in pulses.

Look beyond MSP hikeThe documents accessed by The Indian Express show that the two financial departments i.e the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) & Department of Expenditure (DOE) and Niti Aayog primarily focused on non-price recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), an Agriculture Ministry body which recommends MSP hike every season, and apparently opined that the government should focus on the schemes other than MSP. It also raised concerns over supply-side bottlenecks in procurement. Non-price policy recommendations aim to achieve a long-term and multidimensional solution to the agrarian crisis. As part of Inter-Ministerial consultation on MSP hike, DEA and DOE wrote that special schemes that are focussed on productivity enhancement, push towards atmanirbharta in pulses and oilseeds, crop diversification, micro-irrigation, empower farmers with solar power etc., which comes under non-price recommendations, are supported "in-principle". However, these special schemes may be routed through the appraisal mechanism of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) on financial outlays, said the departments.

"While supporting the recommendations, this ministry feels that the price increase in crops should be accompanied by implementation of key non-price recommendations also ... Supply- side bottlenecks such as storage, warehouse infrastructure and transportation need to be addressed in mission mode," reads the letter of the departments dated May 16, 2024. In response before the Cabinet on this, the Ministry of Agriculture said that issues related to non-price recommendations will be dealt with separately by the department concerned. Niti Aayog also stressed on non-price recommendation and said that Shree Anna (promotion for production and consumption of nutri-cereals/millets), push towards pulses and oilseed should be given due priority and close monitoring by the department. "The price policy should be able to maintain inter-crop price parity and ensure rational utilisation of inputs and natural resources. It should enhance diversification to meet the growing food and nutritional security," reads Niti Aayog's letter dated May 3, 2024. In response to this, the Ministry of Agriculture said, ...to encourage crop diversification towards oilseeds and pulses, the highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year is proposed for these crops viz. Nigerseed by Rs 983 per qtl., sesamum by Rs 632 per qtl., tur by Rs 550 per qtl., sunflower seed by Rs 420 per qtl. And that of urad by Rs 450 per qtl."While the maximum increase in MSP was proposed for oilseeds, the Department of Food & Public Distribution (DoFPD), which procures paddy, wheat and coarse grains, said that the hike has not resulted in required increase in domestic production and country needs a longterm MSP policy for oilseeds. It further said that even though an increase in production of oilseeds is estimated for 2023-24, the country will have to rely on imports to meet its requirement for edible oils. "CACP fixes the MSP on oilseeds on a seasonal basis. Although it helps in ensuring a remunerative price to the farmers, it has not delivered the required result by means of increase in domestic production. It may be helpful if a long term MSP policy, preferably for the next 5 years, is in place so that farmers know what they will get in future for their crops and may accordingly take an informed decision," said the department in its letter dated May 24, 2024.

However, the Ministry of Agriculture rejected the suggestion and said that long-term MSP policy was not viable. "While recommending MSP, CACP considers estimated cost of production, ongoing demand and supply situation and inter-crop parity in returns, terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture sector, rational utilization of land, water and other production resources. Therefore, long term MSP policy is not viable," said the Agriculture Ministry in its response before the Cabinet. Oilseeds are primarily used for oil, food, feed and industrial applications. However, despite domestic production, approximately 60 per cent of India's edible oil demand, is fulfilled through imports. Need better infra and technology

Along with DOE, DEA and Niti Aayog, DoFPD also sought implementation of other Non-price recommendations and said that warehouses/storage infrastructure constructed under any government scheme/Agriculture infrastructure should mandatorily be WDRA (Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority) registered. "It will help to ensure e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehouse Receipt) based pledge finance. The warehouse/storage infrastructure may be declared/notified as deemed sub-market yards under state APMC act so that the logistics cost incurred on procurement can be reduced and agri commodities can be procured at a less logistic cost," reads the letter. Similarly, the DEA and DOE said that technology upgradation in cultivation, R&D and mechanisation of farming needs to be focused upon to improve agricultural productivity.

"Improvement in marketing platforms for small and marginal farmers by promoting and strengthening FPOs (Farmer Produce Organizations), cooperatives and self-help groups (SHGs) needs priority," reads the letter further.In response to these, the Ministry of Agriculture said that it is implementing Agri Infra Fund (AIF) to address the existing infrastructure gaps and mobilise investment in agricultural infrastructure. It further said that the Sub-Mission in Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is being implemented for creating high-tech farm equipment. Regarding marketing platforms, the ministry said that it is implementing the Marketing Research and Information Network, a sub-scheme of Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), to link important agricultural produce markets spread all over the country. The Ministry has estimated to procure around 828 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of 14 agricultural produce this kharif season, out of which expected procurement of Paddy alone is 806 LMT. However, the fact is that the procurement of Rice, which recorded a continuous increase from 31.8 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 60.2 million tonnes in 2020-21, witnessed a decline during the last three seasons. The increase in MSP for paddy this season is 5.40 per cent (Rs. 117 per quintal) as the cost of production went up by 5.4 per cent over last year.

#### 'I had a paralysed face for over a year': Chhavi Hussein opens up about a Botox mishap

In a conversation with venereologist Dr Agni Kumar Bose on her podcast, she revealed, "This was the first time I ever got a needle done to the face... I'm not scared of pain, I'm not scared of needles. My pain threshold, I believe, is very high. But it was something I was not anticipating."She revealed that a slight movement during the procedure caused the botox to be injected in the wrong spot. "Main thodi hili, aur unka haath thoda hila (So I moved a little, and their hand moved a little)... and the Botox went in the wrong place. And I had a paralysed face for over a year. As an actor, it was a very, very tough phase for me," she said.

Botox, often seen as a quick fix for wrinkles and fine lines, is generally considered safe when performed by trained professionals. However, as Mittal's experience shows, even small mistakes can have lasting consequences. Dr Gunasekar Vuppalapati, senior aesthetic, reconstructive, plastic surgeon at GVG Invivo Hospital, tells indianexpress.com, "Botox (botulinum toxin type A) is a neurotoxin that temporarily blocks nerve signals to the muscles where it is injected. By inhibiting the release of acetylcholine, it prevents muscle contractions, reducing the appearance of wrinkles and fine lines. Botox is also used therapeutically for conditions like migraines, hyperhidrosis, and muscle spasms." Why movement during injection can cause issues, according to the plastic surgeonMisplacement of Botox: Movement during the procedure can cause the needle to target the wrong muscle or allow the Botox to spread to unintended areas. For instance, if Botox, meant for the forehead muscles, migrates to the eyelid muscles, it can cause ptosis (droopy eyelid). Inaccurate Dosing: Slight movements can lead to uneven distribution of the toxin, resulting in asymmetry or incomplete results. Increased Risk of Migration: Movement immediately after the procedure can displace the toxin, potentially affecting nearby muscles and causing complications like facial paralysis. If Botox is not injected evenly or in the correct muscles, it can result in uneven facial expressions If Botox is not injected evenly or in the correct muscles, it can result in uneven facial expressions (Source: Freepik)But, what are the risks?Dr Vuppalapati lists the common side effects and risks of getting Botox:

Bruising and Swelling: Minor bruising or swelling at the injection site is the most common side effect and usually resolves within a few days. Asymmetry: If Botox is not injected evenly or in the correct muscles, it can result in uneven facial expressions, such as a droopy eyelid or a lopsided smile. Facial Paralysis: In rare cases, Botox can spread to unintended muscles, causing temporary paralysis, as seen in Chhavi's case. Headaches or Flu-like Symptoms: Some individuals experience mild headaches or flu-



like symptoms after the procedure. Allergic Reactions: Though rare, Botox can cause itching, rashes, or other allergic reactions. Difficulty Swallowing or Speaking: When Botox migrates near the throat or vocal cords, it can temporarily interfere with these functions. How to avoid these risksDr Vuppalapati shares the following tips: Choose a Qualified Practitioner: Ensure the injector is a certified dermatologist or plastic surgeon with extensive experience in facial anatomy. Communicate Clearly: Discuss your medical history, allergies, and expectations with your practitioner. Stay Still During the Procedure: Movement during injection can lead to misplacement of the Botox. Follow Aftercare Instructions: To prevent Botox migration, avoid rubbing the treated area, lying down for several hours, or engaging in strenuous activities immediately after the procedure.

### VR headset to detect defects in the eye

Hyderabad: Remember eye specialists swinging a small torchlight between the two eyes to detect defects in the black portion of the eye (pupils)? While such a traditional method totally depends on the doctor's judgment and surroundings, a group of researchers from Hyderabad have now come-up with a fool-proof Virtual Reality (VR) based headset called as VR headset-pupillometer to detect defects in the pupil. The VR headset not only reduces the need for torchlight, but also enables the eye specialists even in remote locations to diagnose optic neuropathies, disorders that arise from a damaged optic nerve, more accurately and efficiently. The results of a pilot study, utilizing the VR headset, developed by researchers from Hyderabad-based L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI), were published 'Frontiers of Ophthalmology (September, 2024), demonstrated the ability of the device in accurate diagnosis.

### Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas twin in black for their wedding anniversary dinner.



Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Nick Jonas marked their sixth wedding anniversary on December 1. The couple celebrated the special day by stepping out for a date night in New York on Sunday. They were spotted twinning in black for the romantic dinner. While Priyanka donned a winter staple – mini dress, statement boots, and a leather jacket,

Nick on the other hand, wore a jacket, polo shirt, and pants with black shoes.

The duo was exuding charm as they walked in NYC's midtown neighbourhood. A fan page shared photos of Priyanka and Nick from the evening. In one of the pictures, they can be seen holding hands while walking towards their vehicle. In addition, PeeCee was also snapped posing for the paps before entering the car.

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas keep sharing glimpses of their family celebrations on social media. Just a few days ago, Priyanka treated fans with pictures from their Thanksgiving on Instagram. In one of the photos, Nick is seen kissing their little daughter Malti Marie Chopra Jonas. It also had pictures of a Thanksgiving spread, with turkey, pie, cookies and other delicious treats. Along with the post, Priyanka wrote, "So grateful for the life we're building together. With tremendous gratitude in my heart, I'd like to thank everyone that has been in my corner all these years. It's so important for a person to have champions and I'm very lucky to have always had that. May you all be surrounded by love and loved ones. Happy thanksgiving to everyone celebrating." Priyanka Chopra Jonas and Nick Jonas tied the knot on December 1, 2018, in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. The two welcomed Malti via surrogacy in 2022. On the professional front, Priyanka has Heads Of State, The Bluff and the second season of Citadel in the pipeline.

### Abhishek Bachchan advises 'do as your wife says' in a viral video: 'All married men have to do that'.

Abhishek Bachchan recently attended an award event where the actor had a fun banter with the event's host. The actor was asked about his acclaimed performances in his past few films, while replying to which the actor humorously touched upon his experiences in marriage. During the award show, Abhishek Bachchan was asked how he manages to consistently deliver stellar performances. Replying to this, the actor credited the trusting guidance of his directors. He said, "It's very simple. It's got nothing to do with us. We just do what the director tells us to do. Chup chap kaam karke ghar aajate hai (We quietly work and return home)."

The host playfully compared this to following wife's instructions. The actor agreed to the host and said, "Yes. All married men have to do that... do as your wife says."Lately, during the promotions of his film, I want to Talk., Abhishek Bachchan often talked about his wife and daughter at several interviews.

In one such interview with The Hindu, Abhishek Bachchan thanked his wife Aishwarya Rai Bachchan for always being available for their daughter Aaradhya. He said, "In my household, I'm lucky I get to go out and make movies but I know that Aishwarya is at home with Aaradhya and I thank her immensely for that but I don't think the kids look at it that way. They don't look at you as a third person, they look at you as the first person."The actor was recently seen celebrating his daughter Aaradhya's birthday. While



he seemed to have missed his daughter's birthday due to busy schedule, a video shared by the event management company showed the actor being present at Aaradhya's birthday. In the video shared by the event management team, Abhishek can be seen thanking the team for making his daughter's birthday special. Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan tied the knot in 2007. In 2011, they welcomed their daughter Aaradhya Bachchan.

#### Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah producer Asit Kumarr Modi responds to Palak Sindhwani's allegations of mistreatment and unpaid dues

After actor Palak Sindhwani, known for playing Sonu Bhide in Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah, accused the show's makers of mental harassment and non-payment of dues, producer Asit Kumarr Modi has addressed her claims. In a recent interview, Asit dismissed Palak's accusations, stating that 'every artist gets paid on time' and is given adequate leave. Speaking to Times of India, Asit said it was unfair for Palak to raise concerns after quitting the show. "If people had shared their concerns before leaving, I would have understood," he said. Reiterating his stance on timely payments, he said, "Every artist who has worked with us has been paid on time. Some actors have been with us for 16 years, and they've never faced any problems," he shared.

Asit also revealed that he is handling Palak's accusations legally. He explained that the show maintains strict rules to ensure discipline on set, which includes restrictions on cast members taking up other projects due to the demanding schedule of shooting 26 episodes a month. He said, "We have to maintain discipline on the sets. If you are already working with an organisation, will you be allowed to do other work also, no right? Similarly, we also have certain rules as we have 26 episodes to shoot every month."

He added, "But after working on a show for 5-6 years and then making such allegations, it's hurtful. If the environment on our sets was truly hostile, no one would be able to work there for more than a year." He cited examples of numerous actors, technicians, and crew members who have been associated with the show for years without complaints.

Earlier, Palak Sindhwani alleged mistreatment and threats from the show's makers. She claimed she was



treated unfairly after expressing her wish to leave the show. According to Palak, the makers accused her of breaching her contract and even threatened her to delete her Instagram account. She further alleged that despite informing them about her ill health, she was forced to shoot for 12 hours. Palak also released a statement accusing the production team of withholding Rs 21 lakh in dues. She claimed the working environment on set was toxic, citing instances of verbal mistreatment and a lack of consideration for her well-being. Palak's isn't the first actor to allege mental harassment against the show's makers. Previously, actor Jennifer Mistry had filed a police complaint against Asit, accusing him of harassment. Shailesh Lodha, who portrayed the iconic character of Mr Mehta for several years, took legal action against Modi, alleging non-payment of his dues.

### Sitara Ghattamaneni leads Telugu star kids brigade at event, shares photos with international pop star

India is one of the fastest growing destinations for popular international artistes, and Mumbai was witness to one such event last weekend. Popular singer Dua Lipa performed at her second concert in the country, and fans thronged the city to attend the event. This fandom also included the kids of some of the biggest names of Indian cinema.

ema.

One such group included Sitara Ghattamaneni, daughter of actor Mahesh Babu, Sukriti Veni, the daughter of Pushpa director Sukumar, and Aadhya, the daughter of Varisu director Vamshi Paidipally. Sitara shared a photo of Dua Lipa with her group of friends,

aSingapore



#### Haseen Dillruba actor Harshvardhan Rane suspects co-star Vikrant Massey's 'retirement' may be a PR move; Dia Mirza voices support



While many expressed sadness over Vikrant Massey's retirement, some speculated that it might only be a temporary break. Some others, meanwhile, suggested that it could be a promotional strategy. Actors Harshvardhan Rane and Dia Mirza react to Vikrant Massey's 'retirement' announcement. Vikrant Massey's fans and moviegoers in general were left stunned on Monday when the actor announced his retirement from cinema at the age of 37. Taking to social media, Vikrant — who achieved widespread recognition for his performance in director Vidhu Vinod Chopra's 12th Fail — revealed that he plans to step away from acting after completing one final film.

While many expressed sadness over his decision, especially as he is finally receiving long-overdue acclaim, some speculated that it might only be a temporary break rather than a full retirement. Others, however, viewed the announcement with scepticism, suggesting it could be a promotional strategy tied to a brand or upcoming project. Vikrant's Haseen Dillruba co-star Harshvardhan Rane also weighed in on the matter, describing the news as potentially "a PR activity." He also expressed hope that even if the news is true, Vikrant gets back to making films like Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan. "He is a man with a clear and centered thought process. I respect his work ethic and look up to his acting process on Haseen Dillruba's shoot.

Hope he gets back to making films like Aamir Khan sir also did after making a similar announcement. These are great artistes and our country needs their presence in our cinema. I'm praying this is just some PR activity forced on him by some filmmaker," Harshvardhan told Bollywood Bubble. Early on Monday morning, Vikrant posted an emotional note on social media, explaining his decision to step back. He wrote: "Hello, The last few years and beyond have been phenomenal. I thank each and every one of you for your indelible support. But as I move forward, I realise it's time to recalibrate and go back home. As a husband, father and a son. And also as an actor. So coming 2025, we would meet each other for one last time. Until time deems right. Last 2 movies and many a years of memories. Thank you again. For everything and everything in between. Forever indebted!"

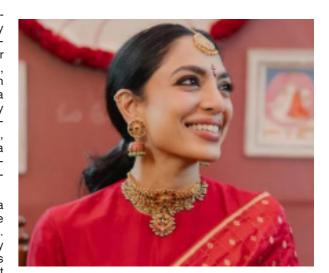
The post prompted a wave of reactions from colleagues and fans. Actor Dia Mirza expressed her support, commenting, "Breaks are best?? you'll be even more amazing on the other side????." British actor-model Sapna Pabbi, known for her work in the series United Kacche and Never Kiss Your Best Friend season 2, wrote, "I hear you, I see you, I feel you. Congrats on finding and surrendering to purpose and dharma. More power to you. You are an inspiration @vikrantmassey??."

While Khel Khel Mein star Bhumi Pednekar and Rustom actor Esha Gupta dropped hearts in the comment section, Akansha Ranjan Kapoor, known for her role in Monica, O My Darling (2022), wrote, "What????? No ?? you are one of the very few real actors we have left!!!!!! ??" Vikrant's The Sabarmati Report co-star Raashii Khanna expressed shock over the news and commented, "What? No!"ICYMI | Priyanka Chopra's brother Siddharth is 'struggling everyday' after becoming 'collateral damage' to her success, says mom MadhuAn industry outsider who began his career in television, Vikrant made his film debut in director Vikramaditya Motwane's Sonakshi Sinha and Ranveer Singh-starrer Lootera (2013). He later starred in acclaimed films such as Dil Dhadakne Do (2015), A Death in the Gunj (2017), Lipstick Under My Burkha (2017) Chhapaak (2020), Haseen Dillruba (2021), Forensic (2022) and Sector 36 (2024). Vikrant was last seen in the political drama The Sabarmati Report (2024), which sparked controversy and was criticised by many as propaganda.

### Sobhita Dhulipala shares photos from 'Pelli Kuthuru' ceremony ahead of wedding with Naga Chaitanya

With just a couple of days left for the big Telugu wedding of actors Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala, they are being part of one ritual after another giving an opportunity to fans to see the wedding revelry. After photos of their haldi ceremony became the talk of the town recently, Sobhita shared images of the 'pelli kuthuru' ceremony on her social media accounts. The 'pelli kuthuru' ceremony, a pre-wedding ritual that focusses on the bride's side as they shower their blessings on the to-be-bride. The beautiful photos from the ceremony feature Sobhita, her sister Samanta, and her brother-in-law Sahil Gupta. In the photos, Sobhita is seen wearing a red-and-gold sari and matching accessories. The couple who got engaged on August 8 after a 2-year courtship are set to tie the knot on December 4.

The wedding of Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala is set to happen at Annapurna Studios, established by the former's legendary grandfather Akkineni Nageswara Rao. Almost 400 guests are expected to attend the ceremony on Wednesday. Meanwhile, it was raining happy occasions at the Akkineni household as it was recently revealed that Akhil Akkineni, the son of Nagarjuna and Amala Akkineni, was engaged to Zainab Ravdjee. The engagement happened in an intimate ceremony on November 26. On the



work front, Naga Chaitanya is currently awaiting the release of Thandel, which stars Sai Pallavi as the other lead. Sobhita was last seen in Love. Sitara

# Priyanka Chopra's uncle forbid her from participating in Miss India, put one condition: 'Girls from our family...'



Priyanka Chopra's mother, Dr Madhu Chopra, has never shied away from talking about her daughter, career, and the past challenges that they had to overcome as a family. Priyanka, who won Miss India title in the year 2000 and was later crowned Miss World, had to go through a lot of hardships to achieve her goal. In a recent interview on the Something Bigger Show, Madhu revealed that she had to quit her medical practice for PeeCee's career because of her husband's patriarchal family. Recalling the difficult period of convincing her husband, late Ashok Chopra, to send Priyanka to Mumbai for Miss India, she shared, "Priyanka was studying in 12th standard and was about to give her board exams, so telling her dad and convincing him to say yes during her gap year was another task. Both the kids came and kept asking him. He said, 'Boards are not easy, let her study, don't bring in all these distractions'. After that, children were disappointed so they went downstairs to their bedroom." Madhu continued, "Then I asked him, 'How many people in this country get this opportunity?' She is in the gap year and this is an opportunity that has come out of nowhere. Its just a matter of a week max. So, he said okay. And then she won, one after the other, then she also got selected for Miss India.

She further revealed that it was an even a bigger task to convince her husband's older brother for the same. "He was like the patriarch of the family. We went to his place and told him everything, then I told him that she has to go to Bombay for the training. He was absolutely against it. He said, 'You people are putting ideas into your child's head. Girls from our family don't do this'. We heard a lot, Priyanka cried a lot. She thought bade papa would melt but he said no. Then, I spoke to his wife and said, 'Again the same thing. Its an opportunity, its not like she is going away from home. If she makes it, fine, if she doesn't, she goes back to school. There is no pressure on her'." "Next morning, he sat me down and said that she can go but you have to forget your medical practice and you will be there with her every minute. You will go to Bombay with her, I said okay and promised. My husband also said that I will work for the two of us, I will take care of the practice," Madhu added. Eventually, her mum became her travelling partner. "I was with her for 5-6 years after winning. I used to travel with her everywhere, every shoot, even in Bombay or anywhere in India. Then I stopped going to India shoots, I would

## Time to 'recalibrate': Vikrant Massey announces break from films

New Delhi: In a rare instance of an actor announcing that he's taking a break from films, '12th Fail' star Vikrant Massey on Monday announced that it was time for him to "recalibrate" and go back home. The announcement comes weeks after the release of his latest movie 'The Sabarmati Report' on the aftermath of the Godhra train burning of 2002. He said during promotions of the film, which released on November 15, that he had received death threats on social media but is not worried as it is "purely based on facts".

Massey, who recently garnered success and acclaim with 2023's '12th Fail' and the recent Netflix movie 'Sector 26', thanked fans for their "phenomenal" support in the last

#### Team man Jasprit Bumrah can be India's longterm captaincy option: Cheteshwar Pujara



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

India cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara has called fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah to be India's long-term captaincy option. Notably, Bumrah recently led India in the first Test in Perth and inspired the team to a massive 295-run win. The fast bowler was also adjudged Player of the Match for registering figures of 8/72 as he got India off to a perfect start in the absence of Rohit Sharma. The speedster won't be seen captaining the team in the second Test with the return of Rohit Sharma. However, Cheteshwar Pujara has been mighty impressed by Bumrah and even pitched his

case for being a long term India skipper. "He is (a viable long-term captaincy option) with any doubt. The way he has showed that in difficult circumstances when we had a tough series at home and when you are playing a first Test match in Australia and to put up a show like that," Further speaking ahead, Pujara called Bumrah a team man who never talks about himself and praises all his teammates. I think he has the capability of leading the team and he's a team's man: Pujara

"I think he has the capability of leading the team and he's a team's man. You look at him he never only talks about himself, he talks about the team, the other players. What advice he would give," he added. Following his Player of the Match award in the series opener, Bumrah has gone inside the heads of the Australian batters. The 30-year-old has a phenomenal record down under having 40 wickets to his name from eight matches at an average of 18.80 and an economy of 2.46 with two five wicket hauls. The speedster will be raring to go in the second Test which will be a day/night affair with the pink ball which assists the seam bowlers massively. Hence, the India vice captain will be eagerly looking forward to unleash his menacing pace on the Australian batters in the upcoming fixture.

#### Mehidy Hasan named Bangladesh captain for West Indies ODIs, no Shakib Al Hasan

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Mehidy Hasan Miraz will lead Bangladesh in their ODI series against West Indies after Najmul Hossain Shanto failed to recover from a groin injury. Mehidy recently led the Tigers in the two-match Test series against the Caribbean team and is set to take charge of the Tigers in the 50-over format .Left-handed batter Afif Hossain Dhrubo has earned a recall to the ODI team after a year. The 25-year-old last played international cricket on the tour of New Zealand last year. Zakir Hasan, who was a part of the ODI series against Afghanistan, has retained his place in the team. Nahid Rana, who was impressive on his ODI debut against Afghanistan, kept his spot in the team. Towhid Hridoy, in the meantime, could not find a place in the squad due to an injury to his right groin. The BCB medical team will assess his injury after he returns from a two-week rest period. "Hridoy had complained of pain in his right groin region and subsequent investigations have confirmed the presence of a medical condition. He has been advised to rest, and we will reassess him in two weeks to determine his readiness to play," BCB Sports Physician Monzur Hossain Chowdhury said in a press release.

Shakib Al Hasan remains to be absent from the Bangladesh team after he last played for the Tigers on the tour of India. The all-rounder also couldn't take part in his farewell Test in Mirpur against South Africa due to the political tensions in Bangladesh.Faruque Ahmed, the BCB presi-



dent, however, said that Shakib is still more than capable of playing for Bangladesh at the highest level. But he also mentioned that the Magura-born cricketer needs to sort out his issues over security concerns."As for Shakib Al Hasan, I cannot provide a definitive answer. I want him to play, but his absence is not related to the cricket board. The reasons preventing his participation involve law enforcement and the court. It's not easy for me to address this," Faruque said. "If the issue is resolved, I still believe Shakib has the ability to play for the national team, Faruque added.Bangladesh ODI squad for West Indies ODIsMehidy Hasan Miraz (Captain), Litton Kumer Das (WK), Tanzid Hasan Tamim, Soumya Sarkar, Parvez Hossain Emon, Mahmudullah Riyad, Jaker Ali Anik, Afif Hossain Dhrubo, Rishad Hossain, Nasum Ahmed, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Shoriful Islam, Tanzim Hasan

### Manchester City has character to come out of rough patch: Ruben Dias

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Manchester City's Ruben Dias remains optimistic despite a 2-0 defeat to Liverpool, marking their fourth consecutive Premier League loss. The team aims to bounce back as they prepare to face Nottingham Forest.Manchester City defender Ruben Dias expressed confidence in the team's ability to overcome their current slump after the defending champions suffered their fourth consecutive Premier League loss, a 2-0 defeat to Liverpool at Anfield on Sunday. Goals from Cody Gakpo and Mohamed Salah secured victory for the league leaders, leaving City fifth in the standings, 11 points adrift of Arne Slot's Liverpool.

The defeat marked City's first four-game losing streak in the league since 2008 and extended their winless run across all competitions to seven matches. This dismal period includes six losses and a dramatic 3-3 draw at home to Feyenoord in the Champions League. Defensive vulnerabilities have been a significant factor, with City conceding 19 goals during the streak, including four-goal defeats against Tottenham Hotspur and Sporting CP. This defensive frailty is in stark contrast to their earlier form, when they allowed just 11 goals in their first 14 games of the season. Despite the poor run, Dias emphasized the team's resilience and character, expressing optimism that City could bounce back from this challenging phase."I will not talk about the little details but focus on the bigger picture," said Dias, who was at fault in the lead up to Liverpool's second."That is, even though it was a difficult moment I did



see a lot of character and I did see the fans behind us and that is the only way we are going to go through it."

Dias feels that City will need to be versatile, adapt and keep on moving forward despite the injuries in their squad at the moment."This is just part of our legacy. We have won so much and still we are where we are and this happens," Dias added. "We have been able to be versatile, adapt and keep on moving forward and thinking one game at a time... That is what we need to get back to. "City will be aiming to get back to winning ways as they host Nottingham Forest on December 4 at the Etihad stadium. Guardiola's side are currently 5th on the Premier League points table at the moment.

### Michael Vaughan blasts Darren Lehmann for 'Joe Root not an all-time great' remark

GNS News Agency, Dec 4,Former England captain Michael Vaughan has lashed out at Darren Lehmann for his comments about Joe Root. Lehmann refrained from calling Root an all time great as he doesn't have a century in Australia. Former England captain Michael Vaughan has lashed out at former Australia batter Darren Lehmann for his remarks against England batter Joe Root. Notably, Lehmann recently said that Root isn't an all-time great as he doesn't have a century in Australia. The former Australia head coach rated Virat Kohli and Steve Smith above him as they have centuries all over the world. However, the comments didn't go down well with Vaughan who came up with a firing response against Lehmann terming his comments as nonsense and mentioned how Root is about to surpass Sachin Tendulkar's record.

"What a load of nonsense. We're talking about a player that could quite easily – if he stays fit and that back stays strong – surpass Sachin Tendulkar in a few years," Vaughan said on SEN Mornings. Further speaking ahead, Vaughan said Root will come to haunt Lehmann in Australia next year during the Ashes. "Just because he's not got a hundred here in Australia, this isn't the be-all and end-all. You'd like to come here, and score runs. But he'll come next year in the way that he's playing in this England side now at four – playing the Joe Root way rather than the Bazball way – I've got a sneaky feeling that might come back to haunt Darren



next year. He might get a couple of hundreds next year and the way that England are playing, particularly against this Kookaburra ball, I think it's going to be a great contest," said Vaughan. Joe Root's record in Australia Root doesn't have a century in Australia in 27 innings and has scored 892 runs at an average of 35.68 with nine half centuries. However the star batter has been in sensational form since 2021 and has become England's all time leading run scorer and century maker in Tests. He currently ranks on the fifth spot in the list of leading run scorers in Test cricket and just 3144 runs away from matching Sachin Tendulkar at the top and become the all-time highest run scorer of the format.

# A former Rugby League chairman and grade cricketer: Meet Todd Greenberg, the man set to be Cricket Australia's new CEO technology The Bunker and it was introduced in NRL with the control of the contro



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Todd Greenberg Cricket Australia CEOGreenberg, a former grade-level cricketer in Sydney, had worked with Cricket New South Wales before making his move to Australia's National Rugby League where he worked first as the chief executive of Canterbury Bulldogs and then became the league's CEO replacing David Smith in 2016. (File and Cricket Australia X)While Cricket Australia's CEO Nick Hockley five-year tenure as Cricket Australia CEO comes to end in March next year, the Australian cricket board is set to unveil former National Rugby League Chief Executive Todd Greenberg as its next CEO. According to Sydney Morning Herald, 53-year-old Greenberg will be Cricket Australia's next CEO after edging out two other candidates after an interview stage run by global recruiting firm Spencer Stuart.

Greenberg, a former grade-level cricketer in Sydney, had worked with Cricket New South Wales before making his move to Australia's National Rugby League where he worked first as the chief executive of Canterbury Bulldogs and then became the league's CEO replacing David Smith in 2016. During his four-year tenure at National Rugby League, Greenberg saw his share of controversies with the first being NRL side Parramatta Eels salary cap scandal which saw the club breaching the NRL Salary Cap for more than five years including breaching the salary cap by more than 5,70,000 dollars in 2016 resulting in a 1 million dollars fine by Greenberg and stripping the team of 12 points.

The official was also involved earlier with a referring

technology The Bunker and it was introduced in NRL with his appointment as chief executive and the Sydney native would defend the decision as reported by Fox Sports. He also drew criticism from the conservatives over the NRL decision to book US Rapper Macklemore to perform the anthem 'Same love', supporting marriage equality in Australia.

But his biggest challenge came in 2019-202 when Covid-19 meant the NRL season being suspended and broadcaster Nine calling out the CEO for squandering millions of dollars as per Fox Sports. In 2021, Greenberg became the Australian Cricketers' Association chief and had termed the allegations of player power role in sacking of Australian coach Justin Langar as not true.

"I don't subscribe to the theme of player power haven't seen that and I certainly don't feel that in cricket. The players should have a view, and they should be able to provide honest and open feedback. But ultimately we also understand our place. It's not our decision to make, we're just part of a bigger set of stakeholders. I know they've spoken to a number of our players, which is good, because players should have a view. But ultimately the players don't make the sole decision on these things. They're able to provide some feedback and ultimately these are decisions for the CA board," Greenberg had told Sydney Morning Herald at that time. Greenberg was also instrumental in getting a MOU for 66 percent increase in payments for professional female cricketers and 26 percent increase for professional players overall with Cricket Australia in 2023. While Hockley, who was made the interim chief executive of Cricket Australia in June 2020, ran the board for more than four years His tenure too was not short of controversies with his tenure seeing Langar departure as coach and resignation of then Australian men's captain Tim Paine after his explicit messages exchange with a Cricket Tasmania became public according to The Guardian. The coach transition, and also Tim's situation, they've really been the hardest, because I had such admiration and respect [for them], and also they've just been in really difficult situations. The former, we've had to make some tough decisions, but then the latter, where someone that you've worked really, really closely with is having a difficult time, that's been the hardest part." Hockley had told The Guardian in August this year.

# 'Until now this is the last City game I will play for Liverpool': Mohamed Salah speaks out on contract situation

GNS News Agency, Dec 4

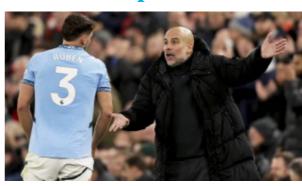
Mohamed Salah contract situation Liverpool Manchester CityLiverpool's Mohamed Salah runs celebrating after scoring his side's second goal from the penalty spot during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, England, Mohamed Salah once again spoke out about his contract situation after Liverpool's 2-0 win against Manchester City at Anfield on Sunday, saying that while he was playing the match, in his mind, this was the last time he was playing the defending champions at the Reds home ground.

"Honestly it's in my head. Until now this is the last City game I will play for Liverpool so I was just going to enjoy it. The atmosphere was incredible so I will enjoy every second here. Hopefully we just win the league and will see what will happen," Salah said to Sky Sports. This is the second time in two weeks the Egyptian winger has spoken out about his contract situation, having first done so in the 3-2 win against Southampton in November. "Well, we are almost in December and I haven't received any offers yet to stay in the club. I'm probably more out than in," the 32-year-old had said. He added: "You know I have been in the club for



many years. There is no club like this. But in the end it is not in my hands. As I said before, it is December and I haven't received anything yet about my future."As of now Salah remains within reach of a contract with Liverpool but in another few weeks, the club legend will be able to negotiate contracts with other teams for next season. A pre-season contract signed in January will mean that Liverpool would then be unable to hold onto their star player. Salah is reportedly on a salary of 350,000 pounds a week, a number usually reserved for the league's world-class players.

#### 'I did see a lot of character': Manchester City's Ruben Dias hopeful of turnaround after Liverpool loss



GNS News Agency, Dec 4

Ruben Dias Manchester City turnaroundManchester City's head coach Pep Guardiola speaks to Manchester City's Ruben Dias after Liverpool scored their second goal during the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield Stadium, Liverpool, England,Manchester City defender Ruben Dias said the club will bounce back from their rough patch due to the strength in their character.

"I will not talk about the little details but focus on the bigger picture. That is, even though it was a difficult moment I did see a lot of character and I did see the fans behind us and that is the only way we are going to go through it," Dias said after City's 2-0 loss to Liverpool, their 4th straight Premier League defeat since 2008. "This is just part of our legacy. We have won so much and still we are where we are and this happens. We have been able to be versatile, adapt and keep on moving forward and thinking one game at a time... That is what we need to get back to," he added.In the Liverpool match, strikes from Cody Gakpo and Mohamed Salah gave the leaders the win at Anfield an left defending champions City 11 points behind Arne Slot's side in fifth place.

The Pep Guardiola-led side are winless in their last seven matches in all competitions, a run that includes six defeats and a 3-3 draw at home against Feyenoord in the

Champions League. They have conceded 19 goals during the winless streak, shipping four in matches against Tottenham Hotspur and Sporting. Prior to the slump they had conceded 11 in 14 games. City, who have won six of the last seven Premier League titles, have been hit hard by injuries to key players such as Rodri, Mateo Kovacic and John Stones but manager Pep Guardiola has been able to guide the side through injury crises in previous seasons.

## India beat PM's XI in pink-ball game; Rohit bats at No 4, keeps people guessing

Canberra: Shubman Gill dispelled all doubts about his thumb injury with a stylish fifty even as skipper Rohit Sharma kept cards close to his chest by coming in at No. 4 in India's curtailed pink-ball warm-up game against Prime Minister's XI here. The visitors won the match by six wickets. It, however, remains to be seen if the Indian captain would come out to open in the second Test against Australia, starting Friday in Adelaide. It was a 46-overs-a-side affair, which India won by chasing down an easy target of 241 in 42.5 overs, but they carried on batting till the end of the final over. For Australia, Test hopeful Sam Konstas' 107 off 97 balls went in vain. The Indian team management was tactical in its choices as Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah decided on facing each other at the nets rather than providing data to the Aussie think-tank. Interestingly, Ravichandran Ashwin, who didn't play the Perth Test, was seen at the nets, mostly bowling to Kohli. Ashwin had a four-wicket haul in the last Pink-ball Test in Adelaide in 2020-21. Ravindra Jadeja, however, got a few overs and also batted for some time. Rohit persisted with the opening combination of Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul, dropping himself down to number four.

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