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Telangana youth shot dead in US

Khammam: A youth from Khammam was shot dead in Chicago in the US on Friday.

The deceased, N Sai Teja (22) went to the US four months ago to study MS in Concordia University, Wisconsin. He said to have been working in a mall for the past few days and on Friday night assailants shot him dead at the mall after grabbing money from him.

His parents Nookarapu Koteswar Rao and Vani live at Raparathi Nagar in Khammam city. A pall of gloom descended at Teja's residence here as his friends and relatives reached the home to console his parents. Tags Chicago Concordia University Indian student shot dead Khammam

Metro styled seating in RTC electric buses

Hyderabad: Commute in city buses the metro train way. As a part of accommodating more patrons and sustaining the corporation's revenue, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC), is now making changes in the seating arrangements of a few newly introduced non-air conditioned electric buses operating in the city limits, similar to that in metro trains. Ever since the 'Maha Lakshmi' free travel facility for women was introduced by the State government, there has been a whopping response from women travellers, leading to the buses running with full occupancy across the State. This has resulted in the need for more space and seats in the buses to accommodate as many travellers as possible. As part of it, recently, RTC authorities have on a pilot basis removed the grills which were earlier fixed to separate women and men travellers in some buses. Instead, new seats were fixed in those places for the convenience of passengers.

Telangana Government Announces Loan Waiver for 3 Lakh Farmers



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Hyderabad: To relieve farmers in Telangana, the state government has announced the disbursement of loan waivers under the fourth phase of the loan waiver scheme. Today, 3 lakh farmers will benefit from this initiative, with the government releasing a total of ₹3,000 crore to clear their dues. This move is expected to bring much-needed relief to the farming community across the state.

The announcement comes as the state prepares for the grand culmination of the Palamuru Festival, a major event celebrating the region's agricultural achievements. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is scheduled to attend the public meeting at the event, where he will address the farmers and other stakeholders. The loan waiver initiative, which has been implemented in phases, is part of the government's commitment to support farmers and alleviate their financial burdens. With today's disbursement, the total number of farmers who have received loan waivers in Telangana is expected to cross 3 million, a significant step in the state's efforts to boost agricultural growth and prosperity.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's participation in the Palamuru Festival is also being seen as a moment to strengthen the government's ties with the farming community, with promises of continued support and development initiatives for the agricultural sector in the future. The government has expressed confidence that these efforts will improve the financial stability of farmers, reduce the burden of debt, and contribute to the overall economic growth of the state.

Revanth Reddy has no right to organise "Rythu Panduga", says Satish Reddy

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Hyderabad: Accusing Congress government of deceiving farmers, BRS Social Media Convenor Y Satish Reddy said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy should apologize for not fulfilling promises made to the farmers. Stating that the Congress government had no moral right to celebrate "Rythu Panduga", Satish Reddy said the Congress had failed in fulfilling promises made to farmers during the assembly polls, hence, it had no right to celebrate the event. "Revanth Reddy's government is the only government in the country which has cheated farmers to a tune of Rs. 63,000 crore in a year. CM's claim of spending Rs. 54,000 crore for the welfare of farmers is misleading and far from the truth," he said. The Chief Minister promised to provide Rs. 15,000 per acre crop insurance to farmers, but so far he had not taken any step in that direction, he said, adding that he even failed to provide incentives to farm labourers. "CM even failed to procure paddy at MSP. He has cheated farmers to come to power. His claims about releasing funds for farmer welfare is false," he said.

ECI reiterates transparency in Maharashtra polls; invites Congress for meeting on December 3

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

The Election Commission of India on Saturday (November 30, 2024) asserted that a transparent process had been followed as far as Maharashtra Assembly polls were concerned even as it assured the Congress of a review of all their legitimate concerns and invited the party for a meeting on December 3. On Friday (November 29, 2024), the Congress had raised "serious and grave inconsistencies" which it said were being revealed in the data relating to the polling and counting processes for the recently-concluded Assembly elections.

The Congress' chief allegations pertained to "Arbitrary deletion of voters and subsequent addition of over 10,000 voters in each constituency from the final voter lists" and "inexplicable increase in voting percentages from 5 pm to the final voter percentage declared by the EC at 11:30 pm on the day of polling." In an "urgent memorandum" submitted to the commission, the party also urged it to grant an "urgent in-person hearing" to raise all its issues in detail.

In an interim response to the Congress complaint on Saturday (November 30, 2024), the poll body reiterated that a transparent process was followed with involvement of candidates and their agents at every stage. The commission though still assured the party of further review of all its legitimate concerns. Regarding voter turnout data issue raised by the party, the ECI asserted that there was no discrepancy in the data which is available with all candidates polling station wise and is verifiable.

Revanth Reddy recalls last year's voting day, says farmers voted for change

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Revanth Reddy reminisced about the momentous decision made by a farmer who, on this very day last year, chose to vote for "change" at the polling booth. This vote, he asserted, has not only altered the farmer's life but has also rewritten history for the agricultural community. Reddy highlighted a series of initiatives implemented to support farmers, which include:- A simultaneous loan waiver amounting to Rs 2 lakh An



allocation of Rs 7,625 crore as assurance for farmers. A bonus of Rs 500 per quintal for grain producers. Provision of free electricity worth Rs 10,444

crore. An expansive Rs 1,433 crore dedicated to farmer insurance. Rs 95 crore set aside for compensation due to crop losses. Investments of Rs 10,547

crore in grain purchases. In total, these initiatives have injected Rs 54,000 crore into the agricultural sector, symbolising a festival of hope and prosperity for farmers across the region. "This is not merely a figure," Reddy emphasised, "but a reflection of the profound trust that farmers have placed in us." As the state celebrates this remarkable progress, Reddy called upon everyone to come together to share in the farmers' festival, culminating in a collective gathering in Palamuru.

Telangana's once pro-active government now specialises in 'U' turns



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Hyderabad: Telangana was once praised by world leaders for having a pro-active, fast moving (remember Foxconn Chairman Young Liu's 'Telangana Speed' remark) and foresighted government. Those were the days when the BRS was at the helm. That image, however, is fast crumbling. The Congress dispensation in the State now appears to be fast building a dubious recognition for flip flop decisions over different issues. One step forward, two steps backward has been the functioning style that is becoming all the more identifiable with the Congress as it completes one year in power.

Right from the decision to reject the Rs.100 crore donation from the Adani Group, to the retracted orders on assessment of Class 10 students, the 'U' turn on decisions taken by the State government in the last one week alone reflects the state of governance in Telangana. On Tuesday, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the State government has decided to turn down the Rs.100 crore donations for Skills University announced by Adani Group. This was after earlier defending the investments and donation from Adani Group.

10-20% reduction in input cost for farmers

- Reducing Carbon Foot prints – Redeeming the Carbon Credits
- Aclimate-smart Agriculture project by NABARD in Warangal cluster.

Sri. Uday Bhaskar, CGM, NABARD, R.O, Hyderabad has inaugurated the program on 28.11.2024 at FARS, Warangal.

A step towards climate resilient agriculture through FPOs sanctioned by CGM, NABARD, R.O., Hyderabad

- With a view to promote climate resilient agriculture practices, NABARD, R.O, Telangana has sanctioned a pilot Project under CCF-ID, covers 1500 paddy farmers of 3FPOs, formed under PoDF, in Warangal and Hanumakonda Districts .

- The Adapted technology in the project, "promotion of alternate wetting and drying" (AWD) methods in paddy cultivation.

- The Project is implemented by Pothana Educational Society with the assistance of NABARD and CCX, PVT, Hyderabad for a period of 2 years.

= Amount of Rs.45,04,000.00 (Forty Five Lakhs Four Thousand only) approved by NABARD as total financial outlay, in which NABARD grant is Rs. 26,97,000/- (Twenty Six Lakhs Ninety Seven Thousand) remaining of Rs. 18,07,000/- (Eighteen Lakhs Seven Thousand only) shall be contributed by FPOs / PIA& CCX.

Benefits of the project

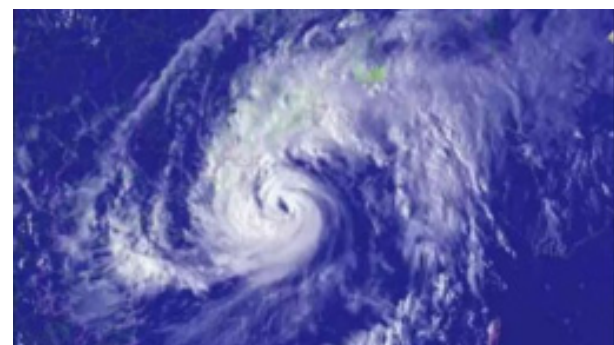
- **Achieving below Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs):**
- No 1 Poverty
- No8 Decent work and economic Growth
- No12 Responsible Consumption and Production
- No13 Climate Action.
- No 17 Partnership For The Goals
- Reduce up to 30% fuel & labour cost for water pumping.
- Reduce pest and disease Epidemic.



- Increase vigorous root system.
- Reduce 25-30% methane emissions
- Reduction of 5-6 tCO₂ e/Ha per annum, considering both Rabi and Kharif seasons.
- Water conservation up to 30%
- Incentives to small and marginal farmers through carbon credits.
- 10-20% reduction in input cost for farmers

The Programme is attended by Uday Bhaskar, CGM, NABARD, R.O, Hyderabad. L Chandrasekher, AGM, NABARD, Warangal Cluster. T Ravi, AGM, NABARD, Warangal. Sri. Ravinder Singh, DAO of Hanumakonda Districts. Anuradha, DAO of Warangal District. Dr. Hrishikesh Mahadev, Director, CCX Hyd. G Venkat Reddy, Pothana Educationa Society NGO President & G.Devender & B Prashanth District Co Ordinators. Directors of FPOs & share holders of FPOs attended the program.

Cyclone Fengal expected to impact Telangana with heavy rains and Thunderstorms



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning regarding the imminent impact of Cyclone Fengal, which is set to cross the Bay of Bengal coast today. The cyclone is predicted to affect several regions in Telangana, with the likelihood of scattered rains accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning in various districts over the weekend. The IMD forecasts that certain areas in Telangana will experience heavy rainfall and gusty winds today, particularly in the districts of Mulugu, Bhadradi, Khammam, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Nalgonda, Warangal, and Hanmakonda. These weather conditions are expected to persist into Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. A broader range of districts is on alert for rain on Sunday and Monday, including Karimnagar, Peddapalli, Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Jangaon, Siddipet, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri, and Hyderabad, among others. The IMD has issued a yellow alert for these regions, cautioning residents to remain vigilant as the weather conditions develop. In addition, the IMD reported that this weather pattern may lead to heavy rainfall as November comes to a close. Cyclone Fengal is currently moving northwest at a speed of 15 km/h and is projected to make landfall between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram along the Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts after the afternoon of November 30. As it approaches the coastline, winds are expected to reach speeds of 70 to 30 kilometers per hour. In light of the cyclone's trajectory, heavy to very heavy rain is anticipated in the Rayalaseema and Coastal Andhra regions, with localized downpours likely in certain areas. Residents are urged to take necessary precautions as the cyclone draws near.

Stop atrocities on Hindus immediately, release ISKCON monk from jail: RSS to Bangladesh interim govt



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) on Saturday (November 30, 2024) appealed to the Bangladesh interim government to ensure the atrocities on the Hindus are stopped and ISKCON monk Chinmoy Krishna Das is released from jail immediately. RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale in a statement also appealed to the Indian government to continue its efforts to stop the atrocities on the Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh and take necessary steps to build global opinion in its support "as soon as possible". "The attacks, murders, looting, arson as well as inhuman atrocities by Islamic fundamentalists on Hindus, women and all other minorities in Bangladesh are extremely worrying and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh condemns this," he said. Instead of stopping this, the present Bangladesh government and other agencies are only silent spectators, Hosabale said. "Out of helplessness, a new phase of injustice and atrocities seems to be emerging against the Hindus of Bangladesh to suppress the voice raised by them in a democratic way for self-defense," the RSS general secretary said. "It is unjust for the Bangladesh government to send ISKCON monk Chinmoy Krishna Das, who is leading the Hindus in such peaceful demonstrations, to jail," he added. Bangladesh Police earlier on Monday arrested International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) monk Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari from the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport area in Dhaka while he was travelling to Chittagong. "The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh appeals to the Bangladesh government to ensure that the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh stop immediately and release Shri Chinmoy Krishna Das from imprisonment," Hosabale said. "The RSS also appeals to the Indian government to continue its efforts to stop the atrocities on Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh and take necessary steps as soon as possible to build global opinion in its support," he added. At this crucial time, the RSS general secretary said, India and the global community and institutions should stand with the victims of Bangladesh and express their support.

Ex-police officer held guilty of disappearance of his son-in-law



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

A local court Thursday held a former Punjab Police officer guilty of disappearance of his son-in-law. The court will pronounce the quantum of sentence. The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Baljinder Singh Sra held former Punjab Police Inspector Jagvir Singh guilty of kidnapping and forgery. On July 4, 2010, in the area of Phase XI, accused Jagvir Singh had allegedly abducted

Gurdeep Singh, his son-in-law, so that he may be murdered or be put in danger of being murdered and since then no body has heard anything about him. At the time of the disappearance of Gurdeep Singh, Jagvir Singh was posted as the Station House Officer (SHO) at Julkan police station in Patiala.

Initially, a case was registered against Jagvir Singh under sections 364 (kidnapping) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Later, the charges were amended and sections 465 (forgery), 466 (forgery of documents and electronic records), 468 (forgery of valuable security), 471 (using as genuine a forged document) and 474 (possessing a forged document or electronic record with the intent to use it as genuine). The challan presented by the police revealed that during the period at Julkan police station in Patiala district, Jagvir Singh with an intention to create false evidence to save himself from legal punishment, had got inserted some lines in the daily dairy report (DDR) regarding his departure and arrival at Julkan police station. The said insertion was proved to be forged and fabricated by the report of CFSL, Chandigarh.

RDF release plea pending in SC, Punjab opens talks channel with Centre — with a climbdown

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

The Punjab government has decided to open a channel with the Union government to seek release of an interim amount of Rs 5,400 crore, pending with Centre on account of Rural Development Fee (RDF) and against paddy procurement that concluded recently. This comes even as it waits for the Supreme Court to hear its interim plea seeking release of over Rs 1,000 crore urgently by the Centre against the RDF.

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema reached Delhi where he will meet Union Food Minister Pralhad Joshi and discuss the issue. Sources said the government has now decided to seek an interim amount from the Centre had made it clear that it will only pay RDF at 2 per cent instead of 3 per cent, as is being levied by the state. Punjab levies RDF on foodgrain it procures for central pool. However, for the past three years, the Centre has been withholding the amount saying it can only pay 2 per cent, RDF, a proposal that the state had earlier refused. At the time in 2023 when state moved the Supreme Court alleging non-release of the RDF and withholding a portion of the market fee, Centre owed it Rs 4,200 crore. The pending RDF has now ballooned to Rs 6,767 crore. An additional amount of Rs 1300 crore has been added on account of procurement of paddy, taking the total amount to Rs 8,000 crore. "We have decided to ask the Centre to pay some amount. They have already offered to pay us 2 per cent. By that measure, we deserve to get at least Rs 5,400 crore out of the total Rs 8,000 crore. Our Mandi Board is short of funds. It needs money for maintenance of the grain markets and the link roads. If the state gets some money, we can start some works," said an official. The official added that the state will continue its legal fight in the top court for its rightful 3 per cent RDF.

The Supreme Court had first listed the state's plea for a hearing on September 2 and later on September 19. However, it was not heard. Advocate General Gurinder Singh had then said, "We have pleaded that the Centre is liable to pay us RDF. The suit determination may take time. The RDF is a committed liability and at least Rs 1,000 should be credited immediately". In its plea, Punjab has said that



Centre is obliged to pay the fee which is constitutionally levied by the state. The mere fact that this fee is being paid in respect of acquisition, which the state is carrying out for the Centre, does not in any way change this underlying constitutional/ legal position. It has contended that the Centre's actions are also in violation of the Modified Fixation Principles that recognize the autonomy of the state to determine the fees to be levied and subsequently reimbursed with by the defendant (Union government of India).

The suit says that Punjab will suffer if Centre is allowed to discontinue the payment of the market fees and the statutory fee, at the rate determined by state. The reduction of the statutory charges at this stage would adversely affect the rural infrastructure and economy. Further, the Punjab State Agricultural Marketing Board/ Punjab Development Board will not be able to pay the loans/ liabilities created for development of rural infrastructure in respect of the outstanding payments accrued on account of the market fees and RDF. "Thus, there exists a dispute, involving questions of law and fact, between the plaintiff state and the defendant Union of India, regarding the encroachment of jurisdiction and encroachment of legal rights as a state. Hence, this original suit under Article 131 of the Constitution of India is being preferred," the suit said. Earlier, the state had climbed down from its stand on seeking money under National Health Mission by agreeing to change facade of half of its Aam Aadmi Clinics as per the centre's directions. It had also agreed to sign up for PM-Shri scheme for schools.

Punjab and Haryana HC stays proceedings against former DGP Saini in a disappearance case

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed further proceedings against former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini in connection with the murder-disappearance case of Balwant Singh Multani. The HC is hearing a petition filed by Saini, seeking quashing of the FIR no. 77 registered on May 6, 2020, against former Punjab DGP Saini and six other policemen in connection with the disappearance of Balwant Singh Multani, who was a junior engineer with the Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Corporation at Police Station, Mataur. The bench of Justice Anoop Chitkara which is hearing the matter asked the state of Punjab to file its reply by November 30, 2024. The counsel for the petitioner was also asked to file parasuicide counter to the reply by next date of hearing, which is December 10. Justice Chitkara observed that "the arguments qua charges shall not be heard till the pendency of the present petition. Further proceedings beyond the stage of cognisance shall remain stayed". The bench, however, clarified that "there is no stay of committal proceedings".

As per reports, Balwant was allegedly picked up by the Chandigarh Police after a bomb attack on Saini, who was then the SSP in Chandigarh in 1991. Saini escaped the assassination. However, three security personnel were killed and several were injured. The son of a then serving



IAS officer Darshan Singh Multani, Balwant continues to be missing and his family suspects he was eliminated.

As per Saini's petition, Balwant had escaped the custody after arrest in 1991, and has been declared a proclaimed offender (PO) in 1993. Amid allegations that Balwant was falsely implicated and tortured at the behest of Saini, a Punjab and Haryana High Court bench in 2007 had directed the CBI to conduct a probe. However, the CBI's FIR was quashed by the Supreme Court in 2011. Then, in May 2020, on the complaint of Palwinder Singh, a fresh FIR was registered against Saini and other policemen.

Arrest of monk Chinmoy Krishna Das: Hindu group protests in Kolkata, seek protection for minorities in Bangladesh

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Chinmoy Krishna Das arrested, Bangladesh Hindu monk, Bangladesh Hindu monk arrested, Bangladesh, chinmoy Krishna Das, India Bangladesh relations, Bangladesh Hindu minorities, atrocities on minorities, Bangladesh violence, ISKCON, Indian express Members of Bongiya Hindu Jagaran Mancha during a protest march in Kolkata

Members of Bongiya Hindu Jagaran Mancha on Thursday organised a protest march to the office of Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata protesting atrocities on the Hindu community and arrest of spiritual leader Chinmoy Krishna Das in the neighbouring country. The Kolkata Police put up five barricades to prevent the entry of protesters into the Embassy office at Beckbagan in south Kolkata. However, a scuffle broke out near Beckbagan when some protestors attempted to break through the barricades, but were prevented by a large police force. A policeman was injured during the clash. A five-member delegation, which was granted permission to enter the Bangladesh Embassy, submitted a memorandum demanding the unconditional release of Chinmoy Das as well as

the protection of religious minorities. Demanding the release of the jailed Chinmoy Krishna Das, a protest kirtan was held at the Albert Road centre of ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness). "Through the kirtan, we want to give the message to the minorities in Bangladesh that we have not forgotten them and they are in our thoughts," ISKCON spokesperson Radharamn Das said. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressed the situation in the state Assembly and said that she had spoken to ISKCON twice regarding the matter. She emphasized that the issue involved two countries and expressed her support for the decisions made by the central government. Meanwhile, BJP leader Dilip Ghosh said, "Bangladesh's future will be like Afghanistan. The centre is monitoring the situation there. Those who loot the President and PM house, who can control them. Bangladesh is our neighbour... we pray for peace. We want that Hindu minorities to be protected there..." Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury criticized the silence on Bangladesh issues, drawing a parallel with the widespread condemnation of violence in Palestine. "Don't we talk about Palestine? May the violence in Bangladesh come to an end and may there be peace, Why can't we just say so?" he said.

A cat named Eva makes history at Cochin airport, after hopping on a flight from Doha



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Eva the cat was a VIP at Cochin International Airport on Thursday, becoming the first pet to have flown into the airport from abroad in its 25 years of commercial operations. One-year-old Eva's arrival from Qatar was made possible after the Cochin airport recently acquired the Animal Quarantine and Certification Services (AQCS) certification, becoming only the seventh airport in the country that can receive pets from abroad. The cat was brought from Doha by K A Ramachandran, who has moved back to Kerala after spending 34 years in Qatar. An automobile mechanic by profession, Ramachandran said his son Rineesh, who is also employed in Doha, insisted that he take Eva along on his return. "She was found abandoned near our apartment in Doha a year ago. I took the kitten to my flat and nurtured it. Soon, she became a member of my flat, where she remained in my room. She eats only cooked fish and chicken. Veterinary doctors believe that Eva belongs to a Turkish breed. When I decided to return to Kerala, I could not leave Eva orphaned again in Doha," he said. The

cat did not require quarantine, neither in Doha nor in Kochi, as it had all the required documents and vaccination certificates, Ramachandran said. The cat did not require quarantine, neither in Doha nor in Kochi, as it had all the required documents and vaccination certificates, Ramachandran said. Arduous process Ramachandran, a native of Chelakkara in Thrissur district, said the process of bringing a pet from abroad is an arduous one.

After a veterinary doctor examined Eva, it was issued a pet passport with all its details, including age, which was marked as one year and three months. Then, an application was submitted with the airlines — Air India, in Eva's case — with copies of vaccination certificates, health certificate, the owner's flight ticket, and passport. All the documents from the vets have only seven days' validity before the stipulated day of travel, Ramachandran explained. Besides, a no-objection certificate has to be obtained from Animal Quarantine and Certification Services under the Union Ministry of Animal Husbandry in order to bring a pet to India, he said.

Ramachandran said he had to pay 340 Qatari Riyals — a price that depends on the weight of the pet (3 kg in Eva's case) and its bag (2 kg) Ramachandran said he had to pay 340 Qatari Riyals — a price that depends on the weight of the pet (3 kg in Eva's case) and its bag (2 kg) While the cat did not require a flight ticket of its own, Ramachandran said he had to pay 340 Qatari Riyals — a price that depends on the weight of the pet (3 kg in Eva's case) and its bag (2 kg) — to take it with him in the plane. The bag with the cat was kept under his seat, he said. The cat did not require quarantine, neither in Doha nor in Kochi, as it had all the required documents and vaccination certificates, Ramachandran said. "At Cochin airport, Eva's arrival was a big excitement for everyone. Customs clearance and other processes were hassle-free. I never knew that my cat's arrival was going to make history at the airport," he said.

Her minister vows to defy Bill: 'Won't allow it to be implemented'

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Jamiat-e-Ulema, Siddiqullah Chowdhury, Waqf (Amendment) Bill, Waqf Bill, Kolkata news, West Bengal news, Indian express, current affairs Minister Siddiqullah Chowdhury addresses a rally against the Waqf Amendment Bill, organised by Jamiat-e-Ulema, in Kolkata. The West Bengal Jamiat-e-Ulema held a rally at Esplanade in Kolkata on Thursday, where senior state Minister Siddiqullah Chowdhury said that they will "not allow" the implementation of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. "Today, when the Assembly winter session is on, three lakh people have gathered here... we have created history in the heart of the city by doing a peaceful protest by the Muslim community in such large numbers... if we do not listen to their cries, who will," said Chowdhury, the state's Mass Education Extension and Library Services Minister. He alleged that the bill has been drafted as a conspiracy by the BJP to take control of the Waqf board, with an "intention to kill the basic fundamental rights of Muslims."

The Manteshwar MLA's voice echoed through the crowd, "If the central government forcibly passes this bill, we will fearlessly demonstrate our unwavering resolve. This



is not a moment for political distractions. We stand at a critical juncture, fighting for our very existence." "Let's consider Furfura Sharif, where masjids own numerous properties. If masjids can hold property, why should there be questions about Waqf properties? This statement underscores the belief that Waqf is an essential part of religious practice and should not be politicised," he said. The proposed Waqf (Amendment) Bill has ignited a political firestorm, with leaders from various parties expressing concerns over its potential impact on religious institutions and property rights.

Probing spike in health scheme expenses amid RG Kar protests: CM Mamata Banerjee

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said that there was a surge in expenses under the Swasthya Sathi scheme across the state during the protests against the rape-murder of a junior woman doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, in Kolkata, prompting the government to probe into the matter. The state government will take action against protesting doctors who availed 'Swasthya Sathi' money, during the RG Kar protest, the chief minister said during the Question Hour session in the Assembly. "At that time (during the RG Kar protests), there was a surge in the expenditure under the Swasthya Sathi scheme. We are conducting an enquiry. The culprits will be punished," Banerjee said.

Swasthya Sathi scheme is a health insurance programme of the state government for secondary and tertiary care up to Rs 5 lakh per annum per family. Reportedly, a survey has revealed that during the junior doctors' protests over the RG Kar rape and murder, there was a significant surge in the state's spending on patient treatment under the Swasthya Sathi scheme in private hospitals. During the Assembly session on Thursday, TMC MLA Samir Jana asked whether the state government spent more money into the 'Swasthya Sathi' scheme during the RG Kar protest, to which the Chief Minister, who also holds the state health portfolio, said, "We had spent lots of money during that time. We can't say anything as the RG Kar issue is subjudice. That time many did treatment taking money from Swasthya Sathi. We investigated that. We are now double checking who were misusing the money. We



will punish those who misused people's money."

Additionally, Minister of State of Health Chandrima Bhattacharya briefed the Assembly that the state government spent Rs 2,684 crore during 2023-24 financial year in the Swasthya Sathi scheme and that 21,27,249 families benefitted from the scheme. Bhattacharya underlined that the number of families who have received help from the scheme increased to 80,25,876 till October 31, and that the government spent Rs 10,719 crore. Meanwhile, expressing concern over the online tablet fraud, in which funds were siphoned from government allocations meant for student tablets the CM said that investigation is on and police are searching for the main accused in the case. "We have already arrested several persons who did this. Police are now searching for the kingpin of this scam. No one will be spared. We will take strong action against these culprits," the CM said.

Adityanath gov't orders judicial probe in Sambhal violence, report in 2 months

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

UP orders judicial probe into Sunday's violence, seeks report in two months Police personnel stand guard near the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal. Four days after violence in Sambhal town over the survey of a Mughal-era mosque that led to the death of four persons, the Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday ordered a judicial inquiry into the incident. The order issued by Governor Anandiben Patel said the three-member judicial probe committee would comprise High Court Justice (retired) Devendra Kumar Arora, retired IAS Amit Mohan Prasad, and retired IPS Arvind Kumar Jain. The committee has been asked to complete the probe and submit its report within two months. The order stated that the committee would probe and submit a report to the government under the following points: "To probe if the incident occurred suddenly on November 24 or was the result following a planned criminal conspiracy."

So far, police have arrested 31 people and registered seven FIRs in connection with the violence on November 24. Among those named as accused are Samajwadi Party MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq, local Samajwadi Party MLA Iqbal



Mehmood's son Sohail Iqbal, and 2,750 unidentified individuals. On Thursday, police held flag marches in areas near the Shahi Jama Masjid, a day before the Friday prayers, with top officials saying watertight security has been put in place to prevent untoward incidents. Additionally, Friday's court hearing on the matter has led to security being further tightened. Most of the shops opened for the first time on Thursday since last Sunday's violence over a court-ordered survey of the mosque. "

'Spurious' drugs in Delhi hospitals: Panel gives clean chit year after L-G sought CBI probe



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Nearly a year after Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) V K Saxena recommended a CBI probe into the procurement and supply of allegedly "spurious" and "substandard" drugs in Delhi's government hospitals and mohalla clinics, an internal inquiry committee of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has found "no wrongdoing" under the provision of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, on the part of Central Procurement Agency (CPA) and DGHS officials, government officials, vendors and firms. As per a report submitted by Rajiv Bhargava, Assistant Drug Controller, Drugs Control Department, to the DGHS committee, teams from the Vigilance and Drug Control Departments had visited government hospitals across Delhi between July 24 and 26 this year to collect 43 samples, which were sent to government and private laboratories for testing. The report states that these drug samples were not found to be "substandard" or "spurious", as alleged in a complaint to the Delhi government's Vigilance Department.

An anonymous complaint to the CBI against "substandard" or "spurious" medicines had hit the supply of drugs like Amlodipine (for blood pressure), Sodium Valproate (for epilepsy and bipolar disorders), Leveteracetam (for seizures), Pantoprazole (for acid reflux and heartburn), Cephalalexin (for respiratory infections) and Dexamethasone (inflammation) at Delhi government hospitals and mohalla clinics. Spurious drugs are products that imitate others, mostly popular brands, and may not contain the active ingredient or the correct chemical composition required to treat a disease. Vendors supplying these drugs were also blacklisted following the complaint.

* Of 43 samples (including those of Amlodipine, Sodium Valproate, Leveteracetam, Pantoprazole, Cephalalexin and Dexamethasone) collected by it, six were found to be

"not of standard quality" by either private or government laboratories, or both. The DGHS report states that "as per Section IV, general and special conditions of the tender reference, 'not of standard quality' is not a criminal act as per the tender conditions as well as the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940".

* Reports from government laboratories found issues with related substances in Amlodipine and Leveteracetam. Sources in the Delhi Health Department said, "In the purification stage of manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients, impurities are removed or it is ensured that they are either minimised and within permissible limits, so that they are not harmful or not present at all."* Pantoprazole, Sodium Valproate, Dexamethasone and Cephalalexin tablets did not comply with the standards for dissolution (the time taken by a drug to dissolve in the body). A Delhi Health Department official said, "Each tablet and formulation (like coated, uncoated, chewable and capsules) has a different dissolution time. Prescribed standards for each tablet and formulation is passed by the Drug Control Department every time it gives a nod to a medicine."*The DGHS had submitted its inquiry report to the L-G, Delhi Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Health, on October 10. The report will now be sent to the Vigilance Department and the CBI. During its investigation, the Vigilance Department had conducted interviews with three former heads of the CPA (which procures drugs and surgical items for all Delhi government hospitals, mohalla clinics and dispensaries), the DGHS head and vendors.

The internal inquiry committee report states that the former CPA heads had said during their interviews that none of the firms were ever blacklisted as per tender conditions, as was alleged earlier. The report said, "One of the vendors has not supplied any drugs to the CPA in the last 10 years."*Recommending the acceptance of the closure report against the blacklisted vendor firms, the report submitted that the anonymous complaint to the CBI was "purely based on either professional rivalry or vested interests to falsely implicate vendor firms for reasons best known to them". In his letter to the Vigilance Department on August 28 this year, CBI's Superintendent of Police Rajiv Kumar had sought an action taken report from the Delhi Health Department. The letter had also stated that a high-level board set up by the Delhi government had raided hospitals and the CPA, and found a supply of "substandard" surgical items and "spurious" drugs. In its reply, the Vigilance Department had stated that it was unaware of such a raid by a high-level board.

DDA amends re-development of slum cluster plan: Taller buildings, more area for commercial works

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

DDA, Delhi Development Authority (DDA), Delhi slum cluster plan, slum cluster plan, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairsThe approved proposal will now be sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India for final notification. Changes in Delhi's in-situ redevelopment of slum cluster plan, which will give developers the ability to build taller buildings and give them more leeway to sell houses and build commercial spaces has been passed by the Delhi Development Authority. L-G House officials said that the most significant was the ability to club jhuggi clusters spread out over an area of 5 kilometres so that the residents can be accommodated in one section and commercial or remunerative activities, such as selling houses could be carried out in the rest of the areas. The modification in policy will allow projects to be more viable and more players could come forward for in-situ slum projects and thereby more houses could be built, officials said. The move comes ahead of the Assembly elections due in Delhi early next year.

The changes include increasing the Floor Area Ratio to 500, which means that the buildings can be taller, for residential and remunerative components in the in-situ rehabilitation projects on plots measuring 2,000 square metres and more. Earlier, the FAR was 300 for the commercial component and 400 for the residential component. As per



officials, earlier, only 40% of the plot area could be used for commercial and remunerative activities. This has now been increased to 60%. "This decision will ensure more number of dwelling units for the slum dwellers as well as more commercial space to make the project financially viable for the developers. This will also ensure that 100 per cent of the beneficiaries (slum dwellers) will be accommodated in-situ," officials said. "The changes mean that the city's landscape will change. More housing will open up for people from all walks of life without displacing slum residents," the official said. The approved proposal will now be sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India for final notification.

CM Atishi tells officials to find a way to adopt Ayushman Bharat scheme, continue state's own free healthcare model

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

A day after the Delhi High Court expressed "shock" at the Delhi government's refusal to implement the Ayushman Bharat insurance scheme, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi said the health department has been directed to find a way to adopt the scheme without withdrawing its free healthcare facilities. This is the first time that the Delhi government has softened its stand regarding the implementation of the scheme. Delhi and West Bengal are the two states/Union Territories that are yet to adopt the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). Odisha is in the process of adopting it. As per the scheme, low-income families are offered cashless hospitalisation coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family, per year. Earlier this year, the scheme was expanded to offer universal coverage up to Rs 5 lakh all people aged over 70. In October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said that he was prevented from serving the older people of these two states as they were not adopting the scheme owing to "politics". Responding to a question, Atishi said the Delhi government was ready to implement the scheme but there were "contradictions and problems" in implementation. "These problems arise because the Delhi government is already providing comprehensive free medical facilities in its hospitals. The exclusions under Ayushman Bharat do not align with this system. The government does not want to take away free medical care from anyone. Therefore, directions have been issued to the Health Department to devise a mechanism that ensures no one in Delhi is deprived of the free healthcare services they currently receive while also incorporating the benefits of Ayushman Bharat," she said.

The High Court made its observations while hearing the plea by the seven BJP MPs from Delhi against the "arbitrary" decision to not adopt the scheme. The party has also made the exclusion a part of its election campaign, where it has promised that if voted into power, the scheme will be the first one to be implemented. Speaking about the contradictions, Atishi said, "For example, if you visit any hospital run by the Delhi government, all treatment is provided free of cost. Consultations, medicines, pre-surgical and post-surgical care, hospitalisation, rooms, and food —

everything is offered without any charge. This applies to every patient without exception. On the other hand, Ayushman Bharat has a limited number of categories. If you are a rag picker, cobbler, or belong to one of the 10-12 specific categories, you are eligible for health insurance under Ayushman Bharat." She added, "Moreover, Ayushman Bharat has several exclusions. For instance, if a person owns a refrigerator, they are not eligible for insurance under the scheme. Similarly, if someone owns a two-wheeler, three-wheeler, or four-wheeler, they cannot benefit from it. Those with a 'pakka' house are also excluded from taking advantage of Ayushman Bharat." Under the Delhi government's own schemes, if waiting time for tests and surgeries is too long the patients can go to private hospitals and laboratories, with the government footing the bill. It also has a scheme for accident victims, where they can be taken to any private hospital and treated for free. As per data shared by the Delhi government, in 2023-24, 2.42 lakh people availed the free diagnostic test facility; 7,036 got surgeries done at private hospitals for free and 7,314 were treated at private hospitals under the accident victim scheme. Atishi also questioned the capping of the insurance amount at Rs 5 lakh. "If a family member falls ill and incurs medical expenses of Rs 10 lakh, they will have to pay Rs 5 lakh from their pocket. Moreover, if another family member falls ill afterward, they cannot claim any further benefits under Ayushman Bharat. In contrast, the Delhi government hospitals currently provide treatment for free regardless of the cost, whether it is Rs 5 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, or even Rs 50 lakh," she said. Earlier in the day, the High Court had issued notice to the government and its health department in a PIL seeking implementation of Ayushman Bharat scheme under the PMJAY in the Capital. The PIL has been moved by the seven sitting BJP MPs of Delhi, including MP and senior advocate Bansuri Swaraj who argued the matter before the court of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora, Thursday. The petitioners sought the court's direction to the Delhi government, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Union Health Ministry to take all necessary steps to ensure that the residents of Delhi are provided access to healthcare under the scheme.

Panic after low-intensity blast in Rohini, 1 injured



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Rohini blast, Prashanth Vihar blast, CRPF school, delhi explosion, rohini explosion, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs Security personnel inspect the site near PVR Cinemas at Prashanth Vihar area on Thursday. Gajendra Yadav A low-intensity explosion took place on Thursday morning in Rohini's Prashanth Vihar area, leaving one person injured and triggering panic among residents. The blast took place in front of a sweet shop near a park, only around 500 metres away from a CRPF school where a high-intensity explosion, which is still unsolved, took place nearly 40 days ago. Initial investigation revealed that a tempo driver, who was injured in Thursday's blast, was smoking near the garbage area where he dropped four bidi butts prior to the explosion. The blast happened just 100 metres away from the Crime Branch office, with St Margaret High School, PVR Cinemas and MCD office in its around 200 metre radius. According to the Delhi police, they received a call around 11.41 am Thursday informing them about an explosion in a white powder-like substance at Vir Savarkar Park. Fire department officials said they were informed about a blast around 11.48 am following which four fire tenders were

rushed to the location. CCTV footage showed that a blast occurred at 11.33 am, triggering the alarm of a Honda car parked nearby.

The driver, Chetan, 27, was near the tempo at the time of the blast. "Initial probe has revealed that he was sitting in his tempo and smoking bidi. He dumped three bidi butts and an explosion took place when he dumped the fourth bidi butt. He received minor injuries. After questioning locals, it was revealed that around 8-10 days ago, someone had dumped some garbage material near the park... Forensic experts informed the police that they have found similar materials from both (current and previous blast) spots... They are chemical materials, but not explosive materials," a source said. A team of NIA also visited the spot and joined the investigation with the Delhi Police.

According to investigators, the October 20 explosion is also suspected to have been caused by burning cigarette butts — thrown by a man walking his dog — coming in contact with industrial waste dumped in the garbage. Based on circumstantial evidence, Delhi Police and other central intelligence agencies probing the blast have not found any "terror angle" yet. Police are yet to receive a final forensic examination report of the blast material from the NSG and FSL. Various teams from the fire department, NSG bomb squad, crime, forensics as well as local police inspected the spot Thursday. Kalpana Sharma, the owner of Chetan's tempo, said it was a very loud explosion that rocked the otherwise quiet neighbourhood. "Our tempo had broken down; so, we sent it to a mechanic. The tempo came back around 11 am. He was going to take the tempo to deliver bread to shops. Around 11:30 am, we heard a huge blast. Me and my son came out running and saw that Chetan was bleeding. The smoke almost choked us, and was all over the colony. Our neighbour called the police, and they took him to hospital," said Kalpana.

Delhi Japanese Encephalitis case yet to be confirmed

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Delhi Japanese Encephalitis, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs "Keeping in view the above, all DHOs and Epidemiologists are directed to intensify Vector control measures, including larval source reduction and community-based initiatives such as awareness campaigns for prevention and control of JE," the order said. Sources said the order issued on Wednesday was put in haste. A day after the Delhi Municipal Corporation reported a case of Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV), officials on Thursday said that it is still a suspected case and has not been confirmed so far.

MCD spokesperson Amit Kumar said that it is not a confirmed case and to be on the safe side, the MCD has asked the director of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) to look into the matter. "There is nothing to be concerned about or panic as Delhi does not have the congenial climatic condition for Japanese Encephalitis," he said, adding that a letter has been written to the Union Health Ministry to get the scientist of NVBDCP look into the matter. On Thursday, MCD Additional Medical



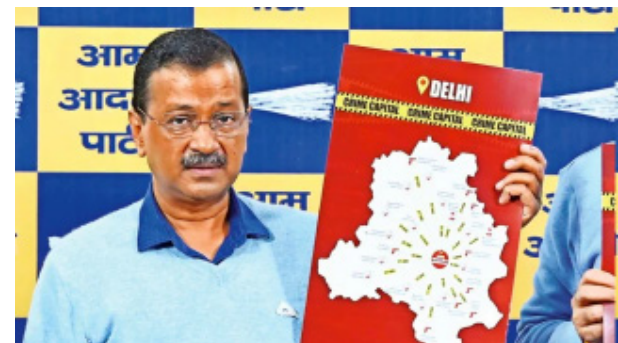
Health officer, Vector Borne Disease, in an order said that a case of Japanese Encephalitis was reported from South West Delhi's Bindapur area. "Keeping in view the above, all DHOs and Epidemiologists are directed to intensify Vector control measures, including larval source reduction and community-based initiatives such as awareness campaigns for prevention and control of JE," the order said. Sources said the order issued on Wednesday was put in haste.

Shah failing to ensure safety in Capital, says Kejriwal; BJP hits back

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Former Delhi chief minister and AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal Thursday accused the BJP-led central government and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of failing to ensure public safety in the Capital. However, BJP said Kejriwal was trying to divert attention from the AAP government's failures. Releasing a "Crime Map of Delhi" at a press conference, Kejriwal said, "This map of Delhi shows that Amit Shah has failed to provide security even within a radius of 30 km from his home. Where should people go for security?"

Alleging that the law and order situation in Delhi has worsened significantly over the past year and a half, the AAP chief stated that gang wars and shootouts are resurfacing in Delhi, reminiscent of the kind seen in Mumbai during the 1990s when the underworld had a stronghold there. "A sharp rise in crimes across the city, with the system appearing to have completely collapsed. Murders have become frequent, businesspersons are being targeted with extortion calls, and incidents of harassment, eve-teasing, rape, gang rapes, and murders of women are surging across the capital, he said. "Delhi is not just unsafe but is being labeled as the most unsafe capital in the world... In 2022 alone, 501 murders were recorded, the highest in recent years. In the past three months alone, gang wars in the Jamuna Paar region have claimed the lives of 20 people. The situation has become extremely dire, and people are living in constant fear and terror," he said. He said he is fulfilling the responsibilities, such as developing Delhi, providing education, 24 hours electricity, etc, assigned to him by the people. "It is Amit Shah's duty to ensure the safety of



Delhi and to maintain law and order in the city. But today, with great regret, I must say that Amit Shah has completely failed in this responsibility over the past decade... The situation has become so dire that people are now calling Delhi the rape capital of the world, the gangster capital, or even the 'most dangerous capital...' said Kejriwal. He also alleged that BJP workers stopped him from meeting the victim in Nangloi who was shot recently. Further, he said, BJP gave the slogan 'Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao', but has "not been able to protect our daughters". Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva hit back at Kejriwal and AAP. "Kejriwal raised questions on Delhi's law and order, even though he knows that most of the crime cases in Delhi are solved by the Delhi Police within 24-48 hours with the arrest of the criminals... Nevertheless, Kejriwal tries to divert public attention from his government's failures by exaggerating crime cases, but the people of Delhi know the truth, understand it, and will not fall for his false propaganda".

'When he called me mother... I was moved to tears': Ghaziabad woman reunited with kidnapped son after 30 years

When 58-year-old Leelavati received a message from Khoda police station in Ghaziabad on Tuesday, telling her they had found her son, she wasn't too excited. Over the last 31 years, she has received over seven such calls from the police, only to return disappointed. Her son Bhim Singh was nine, she says, when he was kidnapped in broad daylight. "I thought it would be a repeat of what happened many times earlier," she recalls. "The police will bring a man in front of me and ask me to identify if he is my son. Every time they called me, I told them (policemen) about the marks on my son's body. The marks never matched and I would return disappointed." However, a small spark of hope remained. "I hardly had any hope of reuniting with my missing son... but then I kept telling myself, 'what if they had found him?'" she says. "I had to go." Inside Khoda police station, Leelavati covered her head with her blue saree as soon as a man appeared. "He looked at me and shouted... this is my mother," she recalls. "I was a bit surprised and didn't believe him. But when he called me mother again, I was moved to tears," she says. There was another surprise for her though. She gave the policemen details of the

marks on her missing son's body and when they checked, her description matched. "He was indeed my son".

The tragic tale of this family, staying in a single-room house on the terrace of a two-storeyed building in Gali no. 6 of Ghaziabad's Shaheed Nagar, began on September 8, 1993. Bhim, then around 9 years old, was returning from DBS Public school along with his two older sisters, Rajo and Santosh. Bhim remembers that day vividly. "I remember asking my sister, Rajo, to buy me an umbrella while we were on our way back home. She didn't want to and we were arguing," he recalls. "Suddenly, a few men encircled me. They picked me up, pushed me into an auto (rickshaw) and drove away". For Santosh (45) and Rajo (43), that moment is etched in their memory. "He was wearing a white shirt and light blue trousers. We were minutes away from our home, when a group of unknown men took him away," recalls Santosh. At that time, Rajo and Santosh were 14 and 12 years old respectively. Bhim also had a younger sister, Hema, who was less than a year old at the time. The sisters say they ran back to their home and informed their mother.

Sheikh Hasina slams Hindu monk's arrest in Bangladesh: Anarchist activities



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India following violent student protests in August, condemned the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das and demanded his immediate release. She also flagged attacks on mosques, shrines, churches in recent months. Deposed Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday condemned the murder of a lawyer in Chittagong and the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das, demanding his immediate release. Hasina, who fled to India following violent student protests in August, said several opposition leaders and students were being assaulted and arrested, and called for an end to such "anarchist activities". "A top leader of the Sanatan religious community has been unjustly arrested. He must be released immediately. A temple has been burnt in Chittagong. Previously, mosques, shrines, churches, monasteries and homes of the Ahmadiyya community were attacked, vandalised and looted and set on fire. Religious freedom and security of life and property of people of all communities should be ensured," Hasina said in a statement released by her Awami League. On Tuesday, a lawyer, identified as assistant public prosecutor Saiful Islam, was killed during violent clashes between the security forces and followers of Chinmoy Krishna Das, the police said. The protest broke out after Das was denied bail by the Chittagong court in a

sedition case.

Calling for justice, she said, "I am expressing strong protest against this murder. Those involved in this murder will have to be found and punished quickly." Sheikh Hasina accused the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government, which she described as having unconstitutionally seized power, of failing to protect human rights. "Human rights have been severely violated through this incident," she said. "A lawyer had gone to fulfil his professional duties, and he was beaten to death in this manner. They are terrorists. Whoever they are, they will be punished," she added.

She warned the government of consequences if justice is not served. "If the government, which has unconstitutionally seized power, fails to punish these terrorists, then it will also have to face punishment for violating human rights," she said. Sheikh Hasina urged citizens to unite against violence and insecurity. "I appeal to the countrymen; everyone should stand against this kind of terror. Stand united," she said. "It is important to ensure the safety of life and property of common people. The present power grabbers are showing failure in every field." Sheikh Hasina further criticised the government for its handling of security and law enforcement. "After killing countless Awami League leaders, students, and public and law enforcement officers, terrorism is done through assault, case, and arrest," she said. "I strongly condemn and protest against the plaintiff's actions." On Monday, the police arrested Das from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport as he was about to travel to Chattogram to join a rally. Chinmoy Das' arrest has also ignited a diplomatic rift between India and Bangladesh. The government on Tuesday condemned the attacks on minorities who had gathered to protest Das' arrest. "We have shown with deep concern the arrest and denial of bail to Shri Chinmoy Krishna Das," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. Chinmoy Das' arrest has triggered massive protests from the Hindu community, which has faced over 200 attacks since the fall of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5.

Texas to offer 1,400-acre ranch for Trump's immigrants' detention centre

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Texas this week unveiled a 1,400-acre ranch and offered it for the Donald Trump-planned detention centre for illegal immigrants. The Texan initiative is named after a 12-year-old girl who was killed by two illegal immigrants from Venezuela. Migrants headed towards the US-Mexico border. President-elect Donald Trump has been clear about clamping down on illegal immigrants.

The Texas General Land Office has unveiled its newly acquired 1,400-acre ranch in Starr County near the US-Mexico border. This will be offered as a site for a detention centre, a part of Donald Trump's presidential campaign to clamp down on illegal immigrants. The 1,400 acre ranch was purchased in October for \$3.82 million and was unveiled this week. Texas has been at the centre of the American anti-immigration debate and its Republican Governor Greg Abbott waged a war against President Joe Biden over the Democrat's immigration policies. Trump's incoming border tsar Tom Homan has confirmed the use of the Texas ranch as a detention facility. The Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham had earlier said the state was looking to identify additional land to aid the federal effort, according to the Dallas Morning News. "If the Trump administration thinks it'll be helpful, we want to be good partners with them," Buckingham said during a press conference at the ranch in Starr County, reported the Dallas Morning News. This General Land Office has more than 13 million acre of land under it, Buckingham added. The Starr County ranch is on the outskirts of Rio Grande City, a town of about 15,000 people, in Texas. The effort by the Texas government is called the Jocelyn Initiative. It is named after Jocelyn Nungaray, a 12-year-old girl from Houston who was killed by two illegal Venezuelan immigrants in June. The two have been charged with murder and sexual assault.

"We will continue to fight to ensure that our state remains a beacon of hope, justice and dignity for all who call Texas home," Buckingham said, reported the Dallas Morning News. The state recently bought the land along the US-Mexico border in the Rio Grande Valley and announced plans to build a border wall on it. The previous owner had



refused to allow the state to build a border wall on the property. On Tuesday, Buckingham criticised the former owner, claiming that blocking the wall had led to increased drug trafficking and illegal crossings into Texas.

The ranch, located near the Rio Grande City, will host a 1.5-mile (2.4 kilometre) stretch of border wall that was built under Republican Governor Greg Abbott in 2021 on that land. Buckingham said with the recent purchase, the state has created another easement for more border wall construction. The wall, set to be completed within the next week as part of Operation Lone Star, Governor Greg Abbott's immigration crackdown, according to the Dallas Morning News. About a dozen Texas House lawmakers and US Representative Chip Roy joined Buckingham at the news conference. Buckingham assured the public that her agency is not actively seeking to buy additional land but is focused on supporting federal border security efforts.

Speaking on Fox News, Tom Homan noted the facilities could be temporary or permanent, depending on the needs of the federal government. On November 26, Governor Abbott and Homan greeted Texas National Guard soldiers and Department of Public Safety (DPS) troopers in Edinburg, praising their efforts in immigration enforcement. "This mission that you're on right now is on your homeland... to preserve the safety and sovereignty and security of your very own state," Abbott told the soldiers, portraying the border situation as an "unprecedented threat".

Use of Punjabi for sex assaults in Canada helps police nab Indian-origin suspect

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Peel Police cracked three cases of sexual assault within a week and arrested an Indian-origin man, Arshdeep Singh, for the crime in Brampton, Canada. What helped police crack the case was the use of Punjabi by the 22-year-old, who posed as a cab driver, to lure the women into his vehicle. A 22-year-old Indian-origin man from Brampton, Canada, has been arrested and charged in connection with sexually assaulting three women earlier in November. The suspect, Arshdeep Singh, who spoke Punjabi to the victims in all three incidents, according to Peel Police, has been charged with kidnapping, sexual assault, sexual assault with a weapon, sexual assault by strangulation, robbery, and uttering threats.

Singh was held for a bail hearing and appeared in the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton. The sex assaults occurred in the Brampton and Vaughan areas on November 8 and November 16, 2024. In each case, the suspect, driving a black 4-door sedan, "purported to be a rideshare operator" before luring the victims into his car and sexually assaulting them. The first attack took place on November 8, at approximately 7 am. The victim was waiting at a bus stop near Countryside Drive and Bramalea Road in Brampton when the suspect, in his black sedan, offered her a ride. She was then driven to Highway 27 and Nashville Road in Vaughan, where she was sexually assaulted, Peel Police said in a press release. Within an hour, he approached another woman waiting at a bus stop near Goreridge Crescent and Via Romano Way in Brampton. The suspect feigned to be a rideshare driver again. The victim was driven to a remote area near Highway 50 and Gore Road in Brampton, where she was sexually assaulted.

The third incident of sexual assault took place on November 16. The third survivor was attacked near Airport Road and Humberwest Parkway in Brampton. She, too, was offered a ride by a man driving a newer model sedan. The survivor was then taken to Countryside Drive, just west of Airport Road, where the assault occurred. Peel Regional Police worked on the belief that the same individual was



responsible for all three attacks. The suspect's use of Punjabi language during the incidents helped law enforcement narrow down on the suspect and arrest Arshdeep Singh.

Lonely tigers in Kawal Reserve: roads, projects keep mates 120 km apart

Adilabad: It is mating season for tigers. But are tigers able to find mates in the forests of erstwhile Adilabad district, which has one of the country's largest reserves, the Kawal Tiger Reserve? Latest instances indicate the answer is a firm 'no'. Forest department sources said a female tiger was searching for a male companion in the forests of Kerameri mandal in Asifabad division for over two months. On the other hand, a male tiger titled K8 was searching for a tigress in the forests of Penchikalpet mandal in Kagaznagar division for quite a long time. They were about 120 kilometres away from each other. This female and male tiger may not meet each other too, as several road and irrigation projects in between their locations are obstacles.

Sunita Williams to celebrate Thanksgiving in space; Shares her plans in video message from ISS



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

New Delhi: Indian-origin NASA astronaut Sunita Williams is set to celebrate Thanksgiving in space with 'smoked turkey, and mashed potatoes.' Thanksgiving is observed every year in the US on the fourth Thursday of November to honour the blessings and harvest of the year. "Our Crew up here just wanted to say Happy Thanksgiving to all our friends and family who are down on Earth and everyone who is supporting us," Williams said in a video message, shared by NASA on Wednesday. The astronauts shared that NASA has provided them with food items like butternut squash, apples, sardines, and smoked turkey for the

occasion. In a recent interview with NBC News, Williams shared her plans of celebrating the day, along with other astronauts — Butch Wilmore, Nick Hague and Aleksandr Gorbunov — aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

The plans include watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and a lavish feast with 'some smoked turkey, some cranberry, apple cobbler, green beans and mushrooms and mashed potatoes.' In June Williams and Butch Wilmore became the first to ride the much-delayed Starliner, developed by Boeing. What began as an eight-day sojourn on the International Space Station (ISS) has now extended to eight months in space for Williams and Wilmore as the faulty Starliner was declared unfit for human travel by NASA. While Starliner is back on Earth unharmed, Williams is expected to return to Earth onboard a SpaceX Dragon capsule in February 2025. Amid concerns for their prolonged stay in space, NASA recently said that both Williams and Wilmore 'are safe aboard the space station.' Williams also said that she is 'feeling good, working out, and eating right,' amid claims of her weight loss in space. The Indian-Origin astronaut also celebrated Diwali "from 260 miles above the earth on the ISS". According to NASA, 'Sunita has spent a cumulative total of 322 days in space', and she is the second woman astronaut with the highest number of spacewalks.

Trump transition says Cabinet picks, appointees were targeted by bomb threats, swatting attacks

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

New York: Several of President-elect Donald Trump's Cabinet picks and appointees have been targeted by bomb threats and "swatting attacks," Trump's transition said Wednesday. "Last night and this morning, several of President Trump's Cabinet nominees and Administration appointees were targeted in violent, unAmerican threats to their lives and those who live with them," Trump transition spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said in a statement. She said the attacks "ranged from bomb threats to 'swatting.' In response, law enforcement and other authorities acted quickly to ensure the safety of those who were targeted. President Trump and the entire Transition team are grateful for their swift action." Swatting entails generating an emergency law enforcement response against a target victim under false pretenses. The FBI said in a statement that it is "aware of numerous bomb threats and swatting incidents targeting incoming administration nominees and appointees, and we are working with our law enforcement partners. We take all potential threats seriously, and as always, encourage members of the public to immediately report anything they consider suspicious to law enforcement." Among those targeted was New York Rep. Elise Stefanik, Trump's pick to serve as the next ambassador to the United Nations. Her office said that, Wednesday morning, she, her husband, and their 3-year-old son were driving home from Washington for Thanksgiving when they were informed of a bomb threat to their residence in Saratoga County. New York State, County law enforcement, and U.S. Capitol Police responded immediately with the highest levels of professionalism," her office said in a statement. "We are incredibly appreciative of the extraordinary dedication of law enforcement officers who keep our communities safe 24/7.

"In Florida, meanwhile, the Okaloosa County sheriff's office said in an advisory posted on Facebook that it "re-



ceived notification of a bomb threat referencing former Congressman Matt Gaetz's supposed mailbox at a home in the Niceville area around 9 a.m. this morning." While a family member resides at the address, they said "former Congressman Gaetz is NOT a resident." The mailbox however was cleared and no devices were located. The immediate area was also searched with negative results. Gaetz was Trump's initial pick to serve as attorney general, but he withdrew from consideration amid allegations that he paid women for sex and slept with underage women. Gaetz has vehemently denied any wrongdoing and said last year that a Justice Department investigation into sex trafficking allegations involving underage girls had ended with no federal charges against him. The threats follow a political campaign marked by unusual violence. In July, a gunman opened fire at a Trump rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, grazing the then-candidate in the ear with a bullet and killing one of his supporters. The U.S. Secret Service later thwarted a subsequent assassination attempt at Trump's West Palm Beach, Florida, golf course when an agent spotted the barrel of a gun poking through a perimeter fence while Trump was golfing.

Israel alleges ceasefire violation by Hezbollah day after truce, fires on Lebanon

The Israeli military said the ceasefire was violated after what it called suspects, some in vehicles, arrived at several areas in the southern zone. The rubble and debris from damaged buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs, on the second day of the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, Lebanon.

Israel said on Thursday that its ceasefire with Hezbollah was breached hours after Lebanese security sources said Israeli tanks attacked six areas of southern Lebanon, calling into question a truce reached after more than a year of fighting. A ceasefire between Israel and the Lebanese armed group Hezbollah took effect on Wednesday under a deal brokered by the US and France, intended to allow people in both countries to start returning to homes in border areas shattered by 14 months of fighting. The Israeli military said the ceasefire was violated after what it called suspects, some in vehicles, arrived at several areas in the southern zone. Hezbollah lawmaker Hassan Fadlallah accused Israel of attacking people returning to their villages in south Lebanon. The Israeli military has urged residents of towns along the border strip not to return yet for their own safety. Israeli tank fire hit six areas within that border strip on Thursday morning, striking Markaba, Wazzani and Kfaroucha, Khayam, Taybe and the agricultural plains around Marjayoun, state media and Lebanese security sources said. All of the areas lie within two kilometres of the Blue Line demarcating the border between Lebanon and Israel. One of the security sources said two people were wounded in Markaba. Lebanese families displaced from their homes near the southern border have tried to return to check on their properties. But Israeli troops remain stationed within Lebanese territory in towns along the border and Reuters reporters heard surveillance drones flying over parts of southern Lebanon. There was no immediate comment on



the tank rounds from Iran-backed Hezbollah or Israel, who had been fighting for over a year in parallel with the Gaza war. The agreement, a rare diplomatic feat in a region racked by conflict, ended the deadliest confrontation between Israel and the Hezbollah militant group in years. But Israel is still fighting its other arch foe, the Palestinian militant group Hamas, in the Gaza Strip. Under the ceasefire terms, Israeli forces can take up to 60 days to withdraw from southern Lebanon but neither side can launch offensive operations. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had instructed the military not to allow residents back to villages near the border. Lebanon's speaker of parliament Nabih Berri, the top interlocutor for Lebanon in negotiating the deal, had said on Wednesday that residents could return home. Hezbollah has said its fighters "remain fully equipped to deal with the aspirations and assaults of the Israeli enemy." Its forces will monitor Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon "with their hands on the trigger". The group has been weakened by casualties and the killing of its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and other commanders by Israel.

Musk takes dig at US, hails India for counting '640 million votes in 1 day'

Washington: Taking a dig at the the United States, Tesla CEO Elon Musk applauded the Indian electoral system after vote counting for two State Assembly elections and by-elections were concluded in a single day. "India counted 640 million votes in 1 day. California is still counting votes," wrote Musk on X, while sharing a screenshot of an article on Indian election vote counting. Musk was responding to an X post that shared a news article with the headline "How India Counted 640 Million Votes in a Day". The post was captioned "Meanwhile in India, where cheating isn't the primary goal of their elections". Musk responded to another post on X which said, "India counted 640 million votes in a single day. California is still counting 15 million votes — 18 days later." Over two weeks have passed, however, California is yet to count over 3,00,000 ballots, re-

ports said. It's been weeks now since Donald Trump was declared the winner of the US elections and the President-elect of the US. California is the most populous state in the US with nearly 39 million residents. It saw the participation of at least 16 million voters in the November 5 polls. However, it has been among the slowest States to tally and report election results in recent years. The delay is primarily because of its vast size and predominance of mail-in voting. According to election officials, it could take weeks to call the poll, as was the case in the 2020 presidential election. California's elections largely rely on mail-in voting which requires more time and effort to process as compared to in-person voting. Each mail-in ballot has to undergo individual validation and processing, a process that takes longer than simply scanning ballots at polling stations.

Boeing strike, production slowdown delaying aircraft deliveries to Air India group



tor Campbell Wilson said. As part of its mega order for 470 aircraft placed last year with Airbus and Boeing, the Air India group had ordered 220 Boeing planes — 190 narrow-body 737 MAX planes, 20 wide-body 787 planes, and 10 wide-body 777X aircraft. Of the 190 737 MAX planes, 50 were white-tails — aircraft made for other airlines but transferred to the Air India group due to cancellation of the original order — and the other 140 were to be line-fit planes. So far, 35 of the 50 white-tails have been delivered to the group's low-cost airline Air India Express, with the remaining planes delayed.

Delivery of new aircraft is a key aspect of Air India group's fleet and network expansion plans. Slower-than-expected aircraft deliveries could slow down the airline group's growth plans. The Air India group, which currently has a collective fleet of 300 aircraft, plans to grow it to 400 planes by 2027. 100 new aircraft inducted in past 18 months in the past 18 months or so, the airline group has inducted 100 new aircraft. Over the last year, it inducted a new aircraft every six days on average, and the trend is likely to continue for a few months. "Certainly, I think (delay of) six months is reasonable for some aircraft but then there is a whole backlog that they (Boeing) are going to have to work through. So, the impact could last, I don't know how long, but it could be reasonable (amount of time)," Wilson said. With regard to the wide-body 787 aircraft, which are not manufactured at Boeing facilities hit by the strike, Wilson said that the industry-wide supply chain-related challenges persist. "That (delivery delays) is just part and parcel. We, and every airline, is impacted by it, and we just have to adjust our plans," Wilson added. Air India expects a "bit of a hiatus" in aircraft deliveries towards the end of 2025, after which the line-fit aircraft from Airbus and Boeing are expected to "start arriving at an accelerated pace." Air India's order for 250 Airbus planes includes 210 narrow-body jets of the A320 family and 40 wide-body A350 aircraft.

Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrashekar (right) and Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson during the unveiling of Air India's new logo and livery colours in New Delhi. The slowdown in production at Boeing and the recent strike at the plane makers' manufacturing facilities in the US are causing delays in aircraft deliveries to the Air India group, with some deliveries of already-manufactured jets that were earlier scheduled by December now stretching up to June of 2025. As for line-fit aircraft — planes to be built specifically for Air India — the airline is not yet sure about the likely delays and its impact.

"There were 50 (Boeing 737 MAX) white-tails and all of them were supposed to have come by December. As it stands now, they will stretch out until June of next year. That in itself has a little bit of an impact. As for the line-fit (aircraft), there are two contributing factors here. One is the slowdown in production that they (Boeing) had, and then there was the strike. So, it is not clear to us, and I think even to Boeing yet, quite how long the impact is going to be," Air India Chief Executive Officer and Managing Direc-

Trump's tariffs, its impact on global growth, and what it could mean for India

With less than two months remaining until President-elect Donald Trump assumes office, the self-proclaimed "tariff man" has made his intentions clear, threatening steep tariff hikes of up to 25 per cent on the United States' top three trade partners—Mexico, Canada, and China—on his first day in office. While Mexico and China have hinted at potential retaliation, Canada has already begun negotiating. However, as the world's largest economy, once a champion of free trade, turns protectionist, the risk of a global economic slowdown is increasing. Fears of trade conflict are mounting, particularly as the World Trade Organization (WTO) remains paralysed due to the breakdown of its dispute resolution mechanism.

Christine Lagarde, President of the European Central Bank (ECB) and a long-time advocate of globalisation and inclusive economic policies, warned in an interview with the Financial Times that a trade war would benefit no one and could lead to a global reduction in GDP. Lagarde, who was the first woman to lead the International Monetary Fund (IMF) from 2011 to 2019, had earlier called a second Trump presidency a "threat" to Europe. An analysis by S&P Global on Trump's tariff wars during his first term concluded that there are no real winners in such conflicts. Nations subjected to tariffs—including the US itself—suffer declines in real exports and GDP. Other countries are indirectly affected by weaker demand for their exports, disruptions in supply chains, or slower global economic growth.

Trade experts highlight Trump's disregard for multilateral organisations like the WTO, pointing to deeper confrontations ahead. The WTO was originally formed to foster cooperation among nations, with economic theories suggesting that countries integrated through trade are less likely to engage in military conflict due to mutual economic reliance. As Trump's primary target appears to be China which has a much higher trade surplus than the US, India is relatively insulated from Trump's tariff war, primarily because India is less export-oriented than many other Asian economies, as per Fitch Ratings. However, if the global growth shrinks, it would also impact India's goods and services exports, especially to the US, its largest trade partner.

A report by S&P Global, released on Tuesday, indicated that China's growth could slow to 4 per cent by 2025 due to US tariffs weakening exports and investment. Conversely, India is expected to maintain a robust expansion rate of nearly 7 per cent, taking the "global growth baton." Despite this optimism, S&P cautioned that the US's economic performance, which has supported global stabil-

ity, might shift under the new administration. The policies aimed at further stimulating an already robust economy could result in higher inflation, elevated interest rates, and a stronger dollar. These effects may tighten financial conditions in the US and impact emerging markets, including India. Notably, the US remains India's largest trade partner, with bilateral trade surpassing \$120 billion in FY24, slightly outpacing India's trade with China. Unlike China, India's trade balance with the US is favourable, making the relationship a vital source of foreign exchange. Over the past decade, India's reliance on the US market has grown, with the US now accounting for 18 per cent of India's exports, up from 10 per cent in 2010-11. India's export portfolio to the US is diverse, spanning textiles, electronics, and engineering goods.

Trump's tariff threats have already unsettled financial markets and sparked a global reaction due to fears of a fresh trade war that could affect both allies and adversaries of the US. China has criticised Trump's tariff plans, with Yadong, a spokesman for China's Commerce Ministry, stating that imposing unilateral tariffs will not resolve America's issues. He emphasised that the US should adhere to WTO rules and collaborate with China to ensure stable trade relations. Similarly, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum warned of potential retaliation should Trump proceed with a 25 per cent across-the-board tariff. Sheinbaum noted the move could result in the loss of 400,000 US jobs and increased costs for American consumers, particularly in sectors like automotive manufacturing, which is central to Mexico's economy and heavily reliant on exports to the US. Meanwhile, India's Commerce Minister, Piyush Goyal, struck an optimistic note, stating: "Mr Trump is a friend of India, a friend of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and I am confident this friendship will continue to flourish, as evidenced by his recent remarks."

tighter tolerances to ensure better quality.

"Mechanized laundries have been set up to ensure supply of clean and hygienic linen sets. Monitoring of linen washing activities in the laundry premises is done by CCTVs and Railway staff. Whito-meters are used to check the quality of washed linen items. Codal life of linen items has been reduced from the previously prescribed duration to allow for quicker induction of fresh linen items," said the Railway Minister. Ashwini Vaishnav also said that Warrooms have been established at zonal Head-quarters and divisional levels to monitor/prompt action on complaints lodged on Rail madad portal including complaints on linen/bedroll.

Mahindra launches two new EVs 'BE 6e' and 'XEV 9e'

Chennai: Mahindra has launched its flagship Electric Origin SUVs, the BE 6e and XEV 9e on Wednesday. The newly launched EVs are built on a ground-up revolutionary electric origin architecture INGL0 and are powered by MAIA. The introductory prices* of BE 6e and XEV 9e were announced at the Global Premiere.

In a press release, the automaker said that the vehicles embody Mahindra's vision of "Unlimit India"—an era where Indian innovation and design not only challenge global benchmarks but set new ones.

The BE 6e, with its sporty, performance-driven appeal, is crafted for explorers and those who love pushing boundaries. The XEV 9e, on the other hand, offers unparalleled luxury with refined elegance, the press release said.

Into the world of tablescaping: where dining meets the art of storytelling



Tablescaping in India has grown from a creative pastime to a sought-after professional service, thanks to the growing demand for thoughtfully curated dining experiences. Simply put, tablescaping is the art of arranging articles on a table to create a particular mood or setting for an event. Many tablescapers are driven by the satisfaction of crafting unique, meaningful settings that add a personal touch to special occasions. Bollywood actor Tara Sutaria is also an enthusiast, sharing her elaborate tablescapes and culinary prowess on social media. Tablescaping is about more than just beauty—it's creating an ambience that aligns with the occasion.

What drives people to take up tablescaping?

Anjali Tolani, Assistant Vice President-Weddings at Tamarind Global, explained that tablescaping, at its core, is about storytelling. "Each table becomes a fresh canvas for themes and colours that personify the elements that couples wish to express. What drove people to pick it up lies in the innate human desire for beauty and detail." A thoughtfully designed table not only elevates the dining experience but also creates Instagram-worthy moments, which is a huge factor in our digital world. According to Divya Singh, Founder and CEO of House of Srjana, tablescaping could stem from a hobby of organising which can be later monetised into a business with women-centred and special invite-only clubs, where you can showcase your skills and talent. Suramya Uppal from The Maison Pantry explained that tablescaping is an element that falls under the broader category of catering, and focuses on the hardware and styling aspect of the service. In contrast, grazing tables are more food-focused, with the ingredients and their complementary pairings being the highlight of the arrangement.

Is tablescaping a sustainable craft?

Although the initial costs can be high, many professionals invest in versatile, multi-use pieces that allow them to adapt to various themes without needing a massive inventory. "Initially it can be expensive to begin with as it requires some investments with regards to furnishing collectibles, textiles used, artefacts, decor accents, crockery, cutlery and a host of other accessories, including flowers. It takes patience and endurance to build," said Singh. The

wide range of tablescaping arrangements cover minimalist to festive, theme-based to eco-friendly, handmade and reusable items. Singh pointed out that it can be a sustainable practice if you know your target audience and make your initial investment accordingly. "If you are conducting an exclusive workshop say for a finishing school or an exclusive event, it can be and should be the client's products. With a few additions here and there based on current interior and style trends, you will be able to maximise your efficiency and output at a lower cost." Tolani agreed that tablescaping can be a daunting investment with high-quality linens, ornate centrepieces, cutlery, and props. However, sustainability is certainly not off the table. Many designers are incorporating recyclable elements like reusable glassware, biodegradable decor and upcycled materials.

How can you turn this hobby into a profession?

For those starting out, sourcing versatile, timeless pieces that can be reused across different themes is a smart strategy to balance your creativity and cost. Sonali Dhandia Jain of Gemtherapy suggests aspiring tablescapers begin with a few high-quality, adaptable pieces that can be used across different themes and styles. "Coasters can serve as single-serve plates, and planters can double as tea light holders — these multipurpose items make it easier to offer clients a distinctive and elegant look without extensive overhead costs. Building an online portfolio, experimenting with styles, and incorporating unique accents like personalised gem elixirs or gemstone coasters can help create a signature look that sets you apart," she shared. If you're a newbie eager to explore this profession, Tolani advises to begin by mastering the basics of design principles such as colour palettes, symmetry, and layering. "Learn your strengths and niche areas while understanding your market and potential clients' tastes. You have the choice of either investing in your own inventory or working with your client's existing items," she said. Collaborations with brands or event planners can add sophistication without requiring a large inventory, making it easier to transition smoothly and cost-effectively. Newbies trying to penetrate the market need to create a luxe product inventory and work on building and strengthening their network, added Singh.

Does tablescaping have a future in India?

Singh believes that tablescaping is in a nascent stage in India right now and the customer base is usually very niche and elite for these businesses, which means it has a very select audience. According to Jain, tablescaping has a promising future in the country as more people are embracing decor that combines elegance, sustainability, and personal meaning. With brands championing wellness-driven, mindful designs, tablescaping is poised for long-term growth. Tolani emphasised that Indian weddings have become increasingly upscale, with themes that reflect individuality, and tablescaping is finding its space here. From intimate dinners to grand receptions, the demand for curated aesthetics is on the rise. It's not just about "decorating a table" but more about creating a better experience, visually and emotionally.

Here's how long different syrups last after opening and the health risks of using expired ones

Whether it's maple syrup, cough syrup, or fruit syrups, the shelf life can vary significantly depending on the type and how it's stored. But how long is it safe to use these syrups once the bottle has been opened? Understanding the proper storage and expiration guidelines for syrups is crucial for avoiding potential health risks and ensuring the best taste and effectiveness. Alok Singh, a food science expert at Diga Organic Farms, provides insights into how long different syrups can be safely consumed after opening and the best practices for storage.

How long can different types of syrups be safely consumed after being opened?

The shelf life of syrups varies depending on the type. Singh explains, "Maple syrup, once opened, can typically last up to 1 year if stored in the refrigerator. Its low water content prevents bacterial growth, but keeping it cold helps preserve its flavour and freshness for longer periods." Singh advises that fruit syrups, such as those made from berries or other fruits, generally have a shorter shelf life. Once opened, they should be consumed within 6 to 12 months if refrigerated. Because these syrups often contain more sugars and sometimes artificial preservatives, they can last longer than fresh fruit but are still susceptible to spoilage due to their higher water content. "Regarding medicinal syrups, he notes, "Medicinal syrups, such as cough syrups, usually have a printed expiry date that should be adhered to. Once opened, they can typically be consumed for up to 6 months, but always check the packaging for specific recommendations. Storing them in a cool, dry place can help extend their effectiveness, though refrigeration is not usually required." Medicinal syrups, such as cough syrups, usually have a printed expiry date that should be adhered to. Medicinal syrups, such as cough syrups, usually have a printed expiry date that should be adhered to.

What are the signs that a syrup has gone bad?

Singh outlines several indicators of spoiled syrup: Texture Changes: If the syrup becomes unusually thick, lumpy, or develops crystals or grit, it may no longer be safe to consume. Colour and Clarity: A change in colour, such as darkening, or a shift from clear to cloudy appearance, can indicate bacterial or mould growth. Taste and Smell: Spoiled syrups often have a sour or fermented smell, or they might taste off — more bitter or less sweet than



usual. Mould: Visible mould growth, often seen on the surface of the syrup or around the cap, is a definite sign the syrup has gone bad.

How does refrigeration affect the shelf life of syrups once opened?

Singh stresses the importance of proper storage: "Proper storage, including refrigeration, can significantly extend the shelf life of syrups. Maple syrup, for example, should be refrigerated after opening, as it is prone to mould growth at room temperature." He adds, "Fruit syrups, which contain more water, can also benefit from refrigeration. They are more likely to spoil if left at room temperature because moisture encourages bacterial growth." Singh advises that medicinal syrups "generally not be refrigerated unless specified by the manufacturer. Most of these syrups contain preservatives that help maintain their stability at room temperature. However, they should always be stored in a cool, dry place, away from direct sunlight."

Are there health risks associated with consuming expired syrups?

Singh warns, "Consuming syrups past their recommended usage period can pose several health risks, even if they appear normal. Spoiled syrup can contain mould or bacteria, which could lead to foodborne illnesses." It's always safer to follow the expiration dates or recommended time frames for use. Even if a syrup looks and smells fine, it may still harbour harmful microorganisms, especially if it has been improperly stored, he asserts.

Blood-based tests emerge as key tools for early Alzheimer's detection

New Delhi: While early detection of Alzheimer's disease is crucial for better outcomes, a report on Wednesday said that blood-based tests are emerging as valuable tools. The report by GlobalData, a data and analytics company, offers accessible alternatives to PET scans and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) analysis. Currently, Alzheimer's affects over 55 million people globally, and cases are projected to triple by 2050. Advances in diagnostic methods that can make diagnosis faster, less invasive, and more affordable can help in the timely intervention of the neurodegenerative disease. However, the report said questions remain about their real-world impact on patient outcomes. Ashley Clarke, Senior Medical Analyst at GlobalData said that blood-based biomarker tests that are cost-effective and efficient in early assessment, have taken a major leap forward in diagnostics with it being used for conditions like heart attacks. "For Alzheimer's disease, reliable and accessible testing could

lead to earlier detection, giving patients more time to pursue interventions and lifestyle changes," Clarke said. According to GlobalData's Pipeline Products Database, more than 150 in vitro diagnostic tests for Alzheimer's disease are currently in development. However, the USFDA has yet to grant full approval to blood-based Alzheimer's tests.

"With high negative predictive values, blood-based tests could serve as reliable screening tools, helping reserve hospital resources for procedures such as PET scans for patients most likely to need them," Clarke said. GlobalData reports that at least five pipeline devices are now in the regulatory approval process across the US and Europe, yet ethical and regulatory challenges persist. These tests raise concerns about overdiagnosis, exposure of sensitive health data, and the potential for insurers to adjust premiums based on test outcomes.

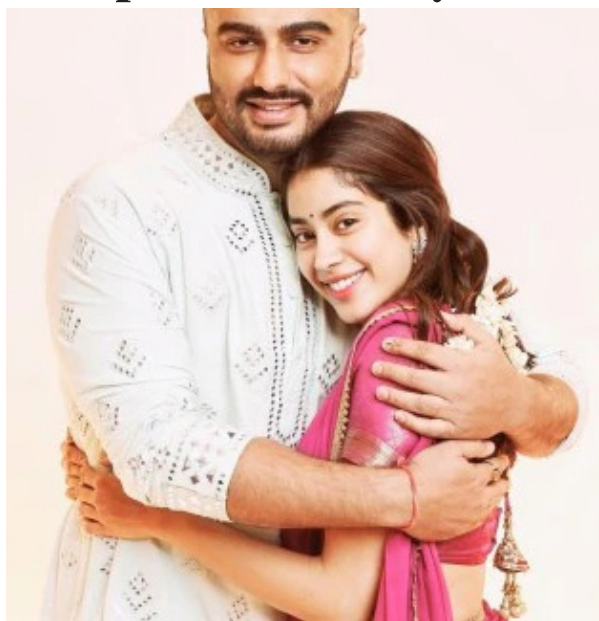
Blankets provided in train are washed at least once a month: Railways Minister in Parliament



The blankets provided to passengers during train journeys are washed at least once in a month, Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnav Wednesday provided this information in Lok Sabha while responding to the queries of Kuldeep Indora, a Congress MP from Rajasthan. He said that an additional bed sheet is also provided in the bedroll kit to the passengers for using it as a cover for the blankets.

"Blankets provided to passengers during train journeys are washed at least once in a month... The blankets used in Indian Railways, as per current specifications, are lighter, easy to wash and provide good insulation to passengers for overall comfortable journey experience," said the response by Vaishnav Wednesday. The Railway Minister also said that the linen provided to the passengers during train journeys is washed in mechanised laundries/washing facilities after every single use. While listing out different measures taken by Indian Railways to provide clean bedding services, Vaishnav said that procurement of new linen sets is carried out with improved BIS specifications that have

Arjun Kapoor says he is 'grateful' for Janhvi, Khushi in his life; calls them 'very well brought up kids': 'They have been solid behind me'



Arjun Kapoor, who recently tasted success with Singham Again, opened up about his bond with his step sisters Janhvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor and said that he feels "grateful" to have them in his life. Janhvi, who was also a part of the conversation through her audio message, shared that she has seen Arjun go through some difficult times in the last two years and fighting against all odds. Arjun was in a conversation with Galatta India where Janhvi shared some nice words for him and said, "I've seen him wait in the wings these past two years. Everyone knows that it hasn't been an easy journey for him. I know it's been hard and I know he has always put up a brave front but I know there have been days where it's just been hard to be hopeful and keep going and fight against all odds and believe that you still get your due if you put in the hard work. I'm just so proud of him for having that courage."

When talking about his bond with Janhvi and Khushi, Arjun acknowledged that they came together under "unfortunate" circumstances but now, they are each other's strength. He added that any good moment in his life is "incomplete" without Janhvi and Khushi. He then shared that Khushi even went to watch his film without him asking to do, which made him feel like she "cares enough."

Arjun Kapoor then shared that he is closer to Janhvi Kapoor because they are closer in age but added that the sisters are both by his side. "They both have been really solid behind me and I know it sounds like I am the brother who is taking care of them and all that. It's not always like that. There are moments where you are also vulnerable. Janhvi has seen that vulnerable side of me. You question life, you question choices, you question is it all worth it, you question what will happen because you have to realise that negativity is a constant in our profession. It's just that the volume of it sometimes reaches a point where your head just wants to explode. There's only so much you can take and gracefully so, I mean without wanting to push back and say things back to faceless people sometimes. She has seen that side, she has felt it. And I think, both of them are just happy for me because it's an important thing for them to see the upside of this profession," he said. Arjun then added that he was "better off for having Janhvi and Khushi in my life." "I love them a lot. I care for them a lot and I am so glad that they are doing well and I am happy to say that they are very well brought up kids," he said. Arjun Kapoor is the son of Boney Kapoor and Mona Kapoor. Boney later married late actor Sridevi and welcomed Janhvi Kapoor and Khushi Kapoor.

Allu Arjun thanks his Kerala fans for being his first army: 'Peelings from Pushpa 2 is to show my love for you'

Some fandoms are crazy because it genuinely comes out of nowhere. In the early 2000s, Malayalam cinema was going through a transition phase, and the audience found an unlikely ally in Allu Arjun. From Arya (2004) to Pushpa 2: The Rule (2024), the Malayalam cinema audience has been showering unprecedented love on the Pushpa star, fondly referred to as Mallu Arjun. Acknowledging this long-standing love from his Malayali fans, Allu Arjun, in a pre-release event in Kochi, said, "Thank you for all the love for your adopted son, Mallu Arjun. In fact, when we got down from the flight, I told my crew 'Welcome to my land'... That's the love I have been receiving from Kerala." Speaking about the relentless support he has received from the Malayalam audience for two decades, Allu Arjun said that it is this love that prompted him to call up composer Devi Sri Prasad with a unique request. "I told him that we must do a song that would show my love for my Kerala audience. The song, Peelings, starts off with Malayalam verses, and I assure you that these verses will be retained in all six languages the film is releasing. This is just to show my love for you."

The Pushpa actor also shared another reason why he holds the Malayali fans close to his heart. "You know, why do I call my fans an army? It is because of the Kerala fans. You started this trend and I got inspired from you and it has become such a phenomenon today. So, thank you for giving me that," said Allu Arjun. The much-awaited multi-starrer featuring the likes of Rashmika Mandanna, Fahadh Faasil, Dhananjaya, Ajay Ghosh, and Prathap Bhandari is expected



to create box-office records all across the world. With the film expected to open in over 11000 screens worldwide, it is one of the widest releases of 2024, and is expected to be Allu Arjun's debut in the coveted Rs 1000 crore club. Mythri Movie Makers, who have pumped in almost Rs 400-500 crore into Pushpa 2, are expecting the film to open up new markets. Pushpa 2:

The Rule, which has songs composed by Devi Sri Prasad, and an ambiguous cloud hanging over the credits for the background score, will be released in Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Bengali and Hindi on December 5.

Ram Gopal Varma asked Sandeep Reddy Vanga if he can make a better film than Baahubali, here's how he responded



Ram Gopal Varma and Sandeep Reddy Vanga seem to be in a mood to grill as well as admire each other at the same time. In their recent conversation, the two kept praising each other for their films and being each other's inspirations. RGV lauded Vanga's film Animal, while the latter shared that he took inspiration from him, while accepting an award for Best Editing for the movie. The two filmmakers also joked about making a better film than SS Rajamouli's Baahubali. RGV put the Animal director in a tough spot and said, "I'm asking you a question. You should answer immediately without a pause. Okay? Can you make a film on Baahubali?" Sandeep was hesitant for a few seconds, grinned at Varma, and then responded, "I'll try, sir. Maybe, in the future." The Satya director, initially surprised by his hesitation, rebuked him, "Arey, that is not the correct answer. You should say either yes or no." Sandeep Reddy Vanga hesitated again and said that he would try, but Ram Gopal Varma scolded him again: "Sandeep, that is not correct. You can't be diplomatic." When Vanga finally gave in and said, "My immediate answer is a no," RGV roasted him, saying, "Okay, he says no. So my next question is, can you make a better film than Baahubali?" The Animal

director again said, "I'll try," after which the veteran filmmaker laughed and shook his hand. "No trying. It's done! The answer has come. Superb," he replied. RGV went on to ask Vanga if his cult 1990 action film Shiva released on the same day as Arjun Reddy, whose film would do better at the box office. When Vanga chose Shiva, Varma again grilled him and claimed that he is trying to be modest and diplomatic. To give it back to him, Vanga asked RGV to make a great film again, so that the audience says "RGV is RGV," and not even "RGV is back." Sandeep Reddy Vanga's next, Spirit, is a Telugu film featuring Prabhas. On the other hand, Ram Gopal Varma's last directorial was Vyuham, which released earlier this year.

Dua Lipa lands in Mumbai: pop icon spotted ahead of her highly-anticipated concert

Mumbai: Singer-songwriter Dua Lipa has arrived in Mumbai ahead of her concert on November 30 in the maximum city. The singer was clicked arriving at the Kalina airport in Mumbai. He was seen donning a yellow coloured t-shirt paired with black pants. The singer appeared a bit exhausted after her journey as she left the VIP area of the airport. This is her second trip to India, and her first performance. Dua earlier came to India for a holiday in Rajasthan where she made the most of her holiday as she went completely unnoticed. However, this time around, the singer means business and is looking to grab the maximum number of eyeballs. Indian playback singer Jonita Gandhi is set to open Dua's set on November 30. A few days ago, Dua spoke about the mash-up of her song 'Levitating' with 'Wo Ladki Jo Sabse Alag Hai' from the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer 'Baadshah'.

Krushna Abhishek hugs uncle Govinda, says 'Do saal baad mile hai, aaj nahi chhodunga main'

Actor Govinda is all set to appear on The Great Indian Kapil Show. Fans are looking forward to his reunion with nephew Krushna Abhishek, putting an end to their long time feud. The Hero No. 1 actor will grace the couch with his friends and actors Shakti Kapoor and Chunky Panday. Netflix has shared a promo of the upcoming episode, which looks like a roller-coaster of laughter and memorable moments. In the video, Krushna welcomes his uncle with a warm hug as he says, "Do saal baad mile hain, aaj nahi chhodunga (We have met after two years, I won't let him go today). Hero number one, Coolie number one, and maama (uncle) number one." Govinda instantly asks, "Yeh maama no. 1 ka kya matlab hai (What did you mean by uncle number one)? Yeh sab karke maama bana raha hai kya (Are you trying to butter me up)?" Everyone bursts into laughter, adoring the uncle-nephew bond.

Moving on, Shakti mentioned, "I have been married for 42 years. I challenge the whole audience sitting here, if anyone can stand and say that I had an affair with someone." Following which both his friends Chunky and Govinda get up and tease him about his past affairs. Meanwhile, while talking to Hindustan Times, Krushna Abhishek called his reunion with Govinda "one of my best experiences after such a long time". The comedian said that he stands by his words on stage that '7 saal ka vanvas' has ended with their



reconciliation. The two had a public rift, which started in 2016. The spat began after Krushna cracked a joke on his show, which Govinda found disrespectful. In the last few years, both of them expressed their anger through media. But, the situation took a turn when Govinda attended his niece Arti Singh's wedding, putting an end to their seven-year feud.

Naga Chaitanya opens up about his first meeting with wife-to-be Sobhita Dhulipala, calls her a 'family girl': 'I'm treated like a son'



Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala are all set to get married on December 4 at Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad. The couple kept their relationship private until their engagement in August and now, Chay has finally opened up about their love story. In a new interview, Chay talked about their first meeting with each other and also spoke about their wedding that, he said, will be an intimate affair. In a chat with Zoom, when Chay was asked about his first meeting with Sobhita, he shared that it was in Mumbai at a work event. The actor said, "I was in Mumbai for the launch of my OTT show, during that time, she did have a show with the same platform as well. We first interacted at the event hosted by the OTT platform."

Talking about how their families have been bonding with each other over the last few months, Naga Chaitanya said, "It's been lovely getting to know Sobhita and her fam-

ily the past few months, watching the families interact has been a joy. I am really looking forward to and excited for the wedding day, going through all the rituals and watching the families come together." He added, "I am treated like a son. There has been a lot of comfort and many things in common from the get-go. Sobhita is a family girl, and we have all celebrated a couple of festivals together as well." Naga Chaitanya also spoke about the wedding venue that holds a "special and sentimental" value for the family. He said that this "makes it even more important that all the arrangements flow well and are memorable for everyone. All in all, there is a lot of excitement and healthy nervousness in me." The actor also spoke about the scale of the wedding and said that it would be "elaborate and lavish" in terms of the rituals that will be performed but the guest list will be intimate.

When Shah Rukh Khan was told he'd never be a star; recalled being called 'arrogant': 'I didn't suck up to anybody'



Shah Rukh Khan, the undisputed 'King of Bollywood,' might be a reigning superstar today, but his journey to the top was far from easy. In a recently resurfaced BBC interview, the Jawan actor opened up about the initial challenges he faced as a newcomer in the Hindi film industry. Coming from a theatre and television background, Shah Rukh revealed how he was labeled 'arrogant' by many in the industry when he began his acting career. During the interaction, SRK was asked what made him a star despite his lack of commercial inclinations. Responding to this, he recalled, "I came to Bombay by accident, I came for a year and I got sucked into films. I was a theatre actor and I wanted to try my hand at a different medium. How would films be. The whole thing was very enigmatic to me. I came here and I am still here after 5 years."

Sharing insights into his early days, Shah Rukh Khan explained that he deliberately chose unconventional and anti-hero roles at the start of his career. His aim was to continuously experiment and surprise audiences with his performances. However, his bold choices didn't sit well with everyone in the industry. He shared, "When I came here people told me my hair and overall look is wrong, my attitude is wrong. They said I am arrogant and that I am not a nice guy. They told me I am the kind of person who won't make it in Hindi films. I did a lot of anti-hero roles when I started and they told me it is completely wrong." Shah Rukh

played negative roles in films like Darr, Baazigar and Anjaam. Despite these obstacles, Shah Rukh Khan maintained his individuality and refused to conform to the typical 'Bollywood star' image. He admitted that he lacked many of the traditional traits associated with stardom but believed his uniqueness worked in his favour. "I wasn't surrounded by commercial aura. I wasn't 6 feet tall, I didn't dress correctly, I didn't have style of a film star and I didn't suck up to anybody which is the way of film stars sometimes. I had nothing to lose actually and that was the problem. They thought this guy has nothing to lose so he can never be a star." On the professional front, Shah Rukh Khan continues to dominate the box office. Last year, he delivered two of Hindi cinema's biggest blockbusters, Jawan and Pathaan. Up next, the superstar will be seen in Sujoy Ghosh's King, an exciting project that marks his first on-screen collaboration with his daughter, Suhana Khan.

Zarina Wahab heaps praises on Prabhas; Says she wants a son like him in her next life

Mumbai: Veteran actress Zarina Wahab has heaped praise on star Prabhas and said that she wants him as a son in her next life. In a conversation on Lehren TV, Zarina shared that she is doing a film titled 'Raja Sahab' with Prabhas and then went on to praise the star. "I'm doing one film with Prabhas also. Raja Sahab. You must see that movie. Abhishek Kishore, he's releasing the film in April. But let me tell you one thing about a person like Prabhas... There's no one like him. He's such a nice person. I say, I want two sons in my next birth. One Prabhas and one Suraj. Such a nice person. Such a lovely person."

What has Rafael Nadal been upto immediately after retirement? Singing along YNWA, for starters, joining Liverpool's Gakpo gleeful



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Tennis World reported that Rafael Nadal couldn't help but sing along as Liverpool fans broke into 'You'll never walk alone' at Anfield, where he had landed to watch his favourite club, Real Madrid. No one - not even the ultras - will grudge

him the spontaneous quiet sing-along as the atmosphere crescendoed to the Reds' anthem, and videos captured him humming along. Nadal, a 23-time Slam champion, earlier retired from tennis at the Davis Cup Finals in Malaga, finishing a 23-year-old professional career. Freed up from training, recovery, rehab and planning, he was quoted by Tennisworld as beginning to enjoy his hobbies. On his retirement weekend, he competed at the local golf event in Mallorca.

Mid-week he travelled across the channel visiting Manchester and Liverpool. He first met Manchester City stars, before attending the Champions League match between Real Madrid and Liverpool. "Despite being a die-hard Real Madrid fan, Nadal sang the Liverpool Football Club's anthem 'You'll Never Walk Alone.' The Spaniard enjoyed the experience at one of the most famous football stadiums despite Real Madrid's other poor performance and a 2-0 defeat," Tennis World wrote.

Michael Vaughan and Adam Gilchrist on Virat Kohli: 'Ominous sign for Australia that he's found form'

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Former England captain Michael Vaughan says the Virat Kohli's return of form is not a good sign for the Australia. Kohli scored an unbeaten 100 in the second innings at Perth and India trounced Australia by 295 runs to go 1-0 up in the five-match Test series. "That's an ominous sign for Australia that he's found form," Vaughan said on Club Prairie Fire. Vaughan also dissected Virat Kohli's century in the second innings and explains the changes Indian batter made after getting out on 5 in the first innings. "I mean, in the first innings, he came out of his crease and was trying to get close to the ball one bounce. I thought, well, that's a bit dangerous at Perth.

Jasprit Bumrah Virat Kohli India vs Australia BGT India's Virat Kohli kisses his bat as he celebrates his century on the third day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth, Australia, Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024. "In the second innings, the pitch quietened down, he came in in a good position, but his movements are perfect for these wickets. "When the ball comes on, he's got that lovely punch through the offside. He was keeping his balance to work on the outside and anything slightly short, you know, he was whipping onto that pulled shot, the hook shot. "Against Nathan Lyon, he just had a very simple game plan, just work it on the outside with the spin. Played a couple of sweep shots, actually. You don't see him sweep the ball too often."

Meanwhile, Adam Gilchrist on the other hand suggested that the double innings collapsed inside first four sessions of the Test match worked in favour of Virat. Batting first, India were bowled out for 150 and in reply, Australia



could only manage 104 runs. "I think that the double innings collapse in the first innings of both teams worked in Virat's favour," said Gilchrist. "He looked like he came out probably a little bit too, trying to be a bit too authoritative in the first innings, he was buzzing, he was all about it, his energy was right up the Richter scale. He got nipped out like a lot of them did, but I think that just had a chat with him after that next morning and he said, oh, yeah, so disappointed getting out. But then by the end of the day, you realise that's not a big failure compared to a lot of things that happened in that day. "So he obviously processes it pretty quick, had a beautiful platform when he came out in the second innings and just looked really in control and at ease. So, you know, and then I tell you what helped him too, he was 60-odd by the time the motion came from Jasprit Bumrah, but that was positive cricket. Like what you say, Vaughan, everything was all about going forward, taking that game forward by the Indians."

Michael Hussey backs struggling Marnus Labuschagne

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Australia's Marnus Labuschagne gestures as he leaves the field after losing his wicket on the first day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth, Australia. (AP) Australia's Marnus Labuschagne gestures as he leaves the field after losing his wicket on the first day of the first cricket test between Australia and India in Perth, Australia. (AP) Former Australia batter Michael Hussey has backed struggling Marnus Labuschagne ahead of the second Test against India, to be played in Adelaide from December 6. Labuschagne managed only 2 and 3 in the Perth Test and the experts has called to drop the Australia's No 3 from the Australian Test team.

However, Hussey sees no technical problem with Marnus Labuschagne's batting but his mindset that's getting him in trouble. "I actually went back and had a look at some of his highlights of some of his great innings from a few years back," Hussey told. "It was just to see if I could see anything different than what we've been seeing in the last week or so. "From a technical perspective, there's actually not a lot of difference from when he was playing really well in scoring a lot of runs compared to the last Test match against India. "The biggest difference I've noticed is just his intent to score. He's probably looking at it thinking, 'I'm a senior player now, I've got to take responsibility, I've got to bat time, be there for the team, soak up the pressure and all of that'."

"That gets you into a tentative defensive frame of mind - of batting time, being there and being patient. "Whereas



when I watched some of those highlights from a few years back, he was just confident and decisive in everything he did, even in defence and when he was letting the ball go he was getting into really strong positions. "Marnus Labuschagne on India Border Gavaskar Trophy Australia's Marnus Labuschagne celebrates making 100 runs against England during the second day of their Ashes cricket test match in Adelaide, Australia, Friday,

Hussey is backing Labuschagne to turn things around. "I feel as though it's something that can be fixed really quickly just with a mindset shift," Hussey said. "If he can just change that mindset of just looking to occupy the crease... into, 'Whatever I do, I'm going to do it confidently, decisively and be a little bit more positive with an intent to score'."



"If Rohit wants to open, KL should bat at No. 3. Nothing later than that. I think he has to bat top of the order, because it suits his game really well. I hope we don't tinker around with that. "With Shubman Gill, who has recovered from the injury, Pujara has said the 25-year-old can be slotted at No 3. Shubman Gill is likely to make his comeback in Adelaide Test. Shubman Gill is likely to make his comeback in Adelaide Test. "Ideally No. 5. Because it allows him to come in at a time, even if we lose two wickets early, he is someone who can negotiate the new ball," Pujara said. "But if he walks in after, say, 25 or 30 overs, he can play his shots."

'Fully support the PCB's stance against the hybrid model': Shahid Afridi slams BCCI for 'intertwining politics with sports'



GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Former Pakistan player Shahid Afridi on Thursday accused the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) of 'intertwining politics with sports' and supported Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) stance against the hybrid model for the upcoming Champions Trophy. "By intertwining politics with sports, the BCCI has placed international cricket in a precarious position. Fully support the PCB's stance against the hybrid model - especially since Pakistan (despite security concerns) has toured India five times, including a bilateral white-ball series, post-26/11. It's time for the ICC and

its Board of Directors to uphold fairness and assert their authority," Afridi posted on X. At a virtual meeting called for by the International Cricket Council to be held on Friday, The Indian Express reported that a hybrid model is likely to be proposed to the PCB for the Champions Trophy which will see India's three matches, a semifinal and the final to be played in a neutral country. By intertwining politics with sports, the BCCI has placed international cricket in a precarious position. Fully support the PCB's stance against the hybrid model - especially since Pakistan (despite security concerns) has toured India five times, including a bilateral white-ball series. India have intimated to the ICC their refusal to travel to Pakistan for the tournament. PCB wants the entire Champions Trophy to be played at Lahore, Karachi and Rawalpindi. However, fresh tensions rising in Pakistan, which led to Sri Lanka's cricket board canceling its A team tour, is unlikely to help PCB's stance during the meeting. night, PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi had questioned India's continued refusal to visit the country to play cricket, as the impasse continued over the aforementioned Champions Trophy 2025. "It is just not possible that while Pakistan keeps on going and playing in India all events the Indian authorities are not willing to send their team to play in Pakistan. We can't have such an unequal situation," Naqvi told reporters at the Gaddafi stadium, reported PTI.

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma goes airborne to pull off uppercut six vs Sri Lanka

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

The second day of the South Africa vs Sri Lanka 1st Test match threw up plenty of newsworthy moments with the Proteas wiping out Sri Lanka's first innings for just 42 runs as well as Marco Jansen's career-best figures of 7/13. Another incident which will stay in the minds of the fans will be South Africa captain Temba Bavuma's leaping uppercut shot in the first innings that went for a six. The tremendous shot was executed off the 42nd over bowled by Asitha Fernando who tried to catch the Proteas skipper off guard with a short ball. Bavuma moved to his leg side to guide the delivery towards the off-side region but with the ball still rising, he leaped in the air and smashed the ball over the third man boundary. It was one of the shots of South Africa's first innings, something that the commentators said would make a great picture.

Bavuma would go on to top-score with 70 runs, returning after missing last month's two-test series victory in Bangladesh with an elbow injury, and was 24 not out at stumps in South Africa's 2nd innings along with Tristan Stubbs on 17. Aiden Markram scored 47 in South Africa's second innings before being bowled by Vishwa Fernando



while Prabath Jayasuriya took two wickets to reach 100 in his test career in only 17 tests and become the joint second-quickest to a ton of wickets. Earlier, Sri Lanka would be shot out in their first innings for just 42 runs which is the tied-ninth lowest innings in test history and their own worse total by 29 runs after their previous low of 71 against Pakistan in Kandy 30 years ago. It was also the lowest test innings total at the Durban venue, eclipsing the 53 scored by Bangladesh in March 2022.

In contrast to inscrutable Gukesh, Ding Liren allows the world to see how he feels

GNS News Agency, Nov 30

Ding Liren slumps in his chair as the post mortem into his Game 3 defeat to D Gukesh at the World Chess Championship begins. Journalists from around the world try to prod and poke at the cadaver of his defeat, finding newer ways of asking him what had gone wrong. Right after he loses Game 3 on time to Gukesh, the world champion stays rooted to his chair, unable to raise his eyes from the floor. Visuals on social media later show the world champion standing alone backstage, hands in pockets, staring at the floor like a child punished and made to stand in the corner.

This has been the theme of Ding's Game 3. In the middle of the game, when he errs with a rook and Gukesh finds the right response to pile on the pressure, Ding Liren sits on the board shaking his head. One can't hear it, but can feel him admonishing himself under his breath. When the vice-like grip of time trouble starts tightening, and a series of bad moves start mounting up, Ding sits there, his palm planted on his forehead like he's bet away all his life's savings on the roulette wheel.

At the other end, the 18-year-old boy who has just won his first world championship battle - not to mention his first game against Ding Liren in classical chess - is calmly putting the pieces back on their squares like he's just rearranging stationery on his desk after walking in for his regular eight-hour shift. Only on a handful of times over the three games has Gukesh publicly bled any emotion. His answers are straight to the point, his face inscrutable. In stark contrast to the boy from Chennai is the emotionally transparent Ding, whose face is a human evaluation bar: one doesn't need to know the status of the game, just one glance at his face will break the news.

At the elite level in chess, there are players like Hikaru Nakamura, Ian Nepomniachtchi and Vidit Gujrathi who are very expressive while playing, defying that norm of chess players needing to have the face for poker. But Ding stands out. Not just for his expressive visage during games, but also his candour in answering questions. At a press conference during last year's World Chess Championship against Nepomniachtchi, Ding had publicly revealed that he had been 'depressed and shaky'. Given the history of world chess championship battles, that admission was initially treated with suspicion. Surely this was a player trying to lull his opponent into a false sense of superiority. It is the world championship after all. Why would a player be exposing himself as vulnerable to the world, with his rival seated a few feet away? But over the last year, after he became world champion, the more he played in tournaments, his rivals started to notice that this was not some elaborate act Ding Liren was putting on. "You hear all the stories about Ding... but I hadn't actually played him so far. Now seeing it in person, it is very clear that he's not the same person he was back when I played him in 2022. Everything, including the body language, doesn't feel right. When you've played against these guys for so many years, there are certain things you get used to. He just doesn't look right," Nakamura had said during Norway Chess in June. At the Sinquefeld Cup in August, Dutch Grandmaster Anish Giri also noticed Ding Liren's physical struggles. "His physical condition is not top notch. I can see it. You hear it in the way he sits at the board: he starts to move a little bit on the chair. You see it in the way he breathes or coughs: he coughs in a way that you realise that it's not that he's got a cold, but it's a



nervous cough. He's sometimes shaking a little bit... It's just these incredible physiological signs of weakness. It's quite intuitive, the science when people look very nervous and can't fully control themselves. If you see it from up close, you'll definitely notice it." Giri had told The Indian Express, dismissing any suspicion that Ding may have been exaggerating his troubles. Just watch his press interviews right after he became world champion in May last year, when he had nothing to gain by pretence. In one of them, Ding is asked how he's feeling, the kind of softball question that athletes could answer on autopilot because they're asked that at every single interview. "It's quite a mixed feeling. First, I am very proud to become the world champion. But secondly, it means I have to spend more time on chess," he says before revealing that he was contemplating retiring from chess if the world championship had ended differently.

The world saw visuals of Ding slumped in his playing chair after defeating Nepomniachtchi to become world champion, almost like his emotions were trying to catch their breath after finishing a marathon. Before making an appearance in front of the world, he snuck away into his private lounge. He is asked what were his thoughts in those moments. "Actually I cried in my room. I could not control my emotions at that point. "As a follow-up, he's asked if becoming world champion was the happiest moment in his life. "No, not the happiest. Just relief," Ding Liren says, unfocused eyes staring into the floor.

Pujara wants Rohit Sharma to come in at 3 for Adelaide Test

Canberra: KL Rahul's spot at the top in the team hangs in balance, thanks to the arrival of skipper Rohit Sharma. However, Cheteshwar Pujara feels that the opening combination should not be tinkered with after a 295-run win in the series opener against Australia. Jaiswal scored a memorable hundred while Rahul too was impressive, collecting 26 and 77 in the two innings in Perth. Rohit's absence in the series opener in Perth allowed India to move Rahul to the top of the order from the middle order. Pujara said Rahul should open the batting alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal in the second Test. "I think, for some reason if we can carry on with the same batting order, like KL and Yashasvi to open, Rohit could come in at three, and Shubman could come in at five," Pujara said in a chat. "If Rohit wants to open, KL should bat at No. 3. Nothing later than that. I think he has to bat top of the order, because it suits his game really well. I hope we don't tinker around with that."