

INDIAN CHRONICLE

Unique discovery at University of Hyderabad: LED Lights to end acid fly infestation in hostels

Hyderabad: A University of Hyderabad (UoH) student along with a Professor have figured out that white light emitting diodes i.e. LED lights if available in hostels, can reduce the perennial pest problem of Acid Fly attacks among students in the UoH campus. Tejas Anto Kannampuzha, Integrated MSc Sciences (Physics) student at UoH collaborated with Prof. B.R. Shamanna of School of Medical Sciences, UoH to address the perennial issue of Acid Fly attacks on students in UoH hostel campus. The duo used a simple technology of the effect of reduced ultraviolet radiation from the light source used in the hostel rooms and its effect on acid fly attacks.

Vinod Kampli in critical condition: Former Cricketer rushed to hospital after health crisis

Hyderabad: Former Indian cricketer Vinod Kampli, 52 years old, was admitted to Akriti Hospital in Thane. His health went drastically wrong over the weekend. Known for his cricketing feats and amiable rapport with Sachin Tendulkar, Vinod was admitted to a hospital at night on Saturday. As of now, doctors are optimistic about the former cricketer's condition, stating he remains critical, and therefore, is continuously under close observation. Kampli was recently in the news when he attended a memorial event for his mentor, Ramakant Achrekar, and was spotted struggling and sitting in a wheelchair. The former star spoke about his health battle, where he said that he had been suffering from a serious urine infection.

Nearly 10 lakh job letters issued under Rozgar Mela since 2022: PM Modi



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

New Delhi: In the last one and a half years, around 10 lakh permanent government jobs have been offered, setting a remarkable record, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, taking part in the 14th edition of Rozgar Mela. While distributing 71,000 job offers, PM Modi highlighted that such job fairs were part of the government's endeavour to provide employment with complete transparency. So far, 9.25 lakh job letters have been issued in 14 editions of Rozgar Mela. On Monday, the Rozgar Mela was held at 45 locations across the country. The recruitments took place for various ministries and departments of the Central Government.

PM Modi launched Rozgar Mela – the recruitment drive for 10 lakh personnel – on October 22, 2022. The first edition saw the handing over of appointment letters to 75,000 new appointees. Rozgar Mela represents a significant initiative by the Government to enhance employment opportunities for the youth across India. By facilitating direct connections between job seekers and employers, it not only addresses the pressing issue of unemployment but also empowers individuals to contribute to national development. In the 13th edition of Rozgar Mela held on October 29, PM Modi distributed 51,000 appointment letters. On that occasion, the Prime Minister remarked that the government was creating new opportunities to make it easier for Indian youth to get jobs abroad.

Citing the recently released Germany's Skilled Labour Strategy for India, PM Modi informed that Germany had increased the number of visas given to skilled Indian youth every year from 20,000 to 90,000. He added that India's youth will benefit greatly from this. PM Modi also mentioned that India had signed agreements related to migration and employment with 21 countries in recent years, including countries like Japan, Australia, France, Germany, Mauritius, Israel, the UK and Italy, apart from the Gulf countries. A total of 71,000 appointees each were given letters in Rozgar Mela edition number 2, 3, 4 and 5. In the sixth (June 13) and seventh editions (July 22), 70,000 appointment letters each were distributed by the PM. In the eighth edition of Rozgar Mela, held on August 28, 2023, 51,000 job letters were distributed. A total of 51,000 appointment letters each were distributed in the ninth, 10th and 11th editions of Rozgar Mela held earlier last year. The highest number of 1 lakh appointment letters were distributed in the 12th edition of Rozgar Mela held on February 12. On that occasion, the PM highlighted the Budget announcement of about 1 crore rooftop solar plants and said this scheme will create lakhs of new jobs.

Send Sheikh Hasina back, Bangladesh sends note to India



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Dhaka: Bangladesh's interim government said on Monday that it has sent a diplomatic note to India to send back deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Dhaka. Hasina, 77, has been living in exile in India since August 5 when she fled the country amid the student-led protests that toppled her 16-year regime. Bangladesh-based International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former Cabinet Ministers, advisers, and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity and genocide".

"We have sent a note verbale to the Indian government saying that Bangladesh wants her back here for the judicial process," Foreign Affairs Adviser Touhid Hossain told reporters at his office. Earlier in the morning, Home Advisor Jahangir Alam said his office has sent a letter to the Foreign Ministry to facilitate the ousted premier's extradition from India. "We have sent a letter to the Foreign Ministry regarding her extradition. The process is currently underway," he told reporters in response to a query. Alam said an extradition treaty between Dhaka and New Delhi already exists and Hasina could be brought back to Bangladesh under it.

Last month, in an address to the nation on the completion of 100 days of the interim government, Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus said it will seek the extradition of Hasina. "We must ensure justice in every killing... We will also ask India to send back fallen autocrat Sheikh Hasina," he said. In October, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul had reportedly said that Bangladesh would strongly protest if India tried to refuse Hasina's extradition by citing any provision in the treaty. In an interview in September, Yunus had said that Hasina making political remarks from India is an "unfriendly gesture", asserting that she must remain silent to prevent discomfort to both countries until Dhaka requests her extradition. "If India wants to keep her until the time Bangladesh (government) wants her back, the condition would be that she has to keep quiet," he said.

CM Nitish Kumar embarks on Pragati Yatra from West Champaran, begins development drive in Bihar

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Patna: Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Monday began the Pragati Yatra from Valmikinagar in Bihar's West Champaran. This Yatra will mark a significant development drive in the state. The Chief Minister, accompanied by Cabinet Minister Vijay Kumar Chaudhary and other party leaders, received a warm reception from party workers and local officials upon arrival. During the yatra, Nitish Kumar will lay the foundation stone for various development projects amounting to Rs 700 crore. Under the Energy Department's on-grid electricity scheme, the Bihar government will do the electrification of remote villages that come under the jurisdiction of Valmikinagar Tiger Reserve (VTR) in Bagaha. The scheme focuses on providing on-grid electricity to 22 villages within the dense forests of VTR. Approximately 70,000 people, who have remained without electricity since Independence, will benefit from this initiative. An investment of Rs 139 crore has been allocated to the project. This project introduces underground cabling for power supply, a first for Bihar. The underground cables will traverse the dense forests of VTR, ensuring a smooth and sustainable electricity supply to these remote areas. The electrification project is expected to be completed within 18 months, significantly transforming the lives of the inhabitants of these villages. The introduction of underground electricity cabling reflects a forward-thinking approach to infrastructure development in



ecologically sensitive regions. The Pragati Yatra of Nitish Kumar showcases the state's development efforts during his tenure of 20 years. Around 500 cops have been deployed to ensure safety and security, alongside 150 officers and magistrates. As per the schedule of Pragati Yatra's first phase, Nitish Kumar will visit West Champaran on December 23. After staying overnight in Valmiki Nagar Tiger Reserve, he will go to East Champaran on December 24. On the occasion of Christmas on December 25, there is no programme. He will visit Sheohar and Sitamarhi on December 26, then Muzaffarpur on December 27 and on December 28, he will visit Vaishali and then return to Patna.

Delhi HC refuses to grant pre-arrest bail to ex-trainee IAS officer Puja Khedkar

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

The Delhi High Court Monday refused to grant anticipatory bail to former IAS trainee Puja Khedkar, accused of fraudulently clearing the civil services examination held by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The court of Justice Chandra Dhari Singh observed that "prima facie it is established that conduct of the petitioner has been truly driven with the motive to dupe the complainant UPSC and all the documents arranged by her were done in order to reap benefits of schemes meant for disadvantaged groups in the society."



Justice Singh further reasoned, "Apart from owning luxury cars and various properties, the family of the petitioner, that is father and mother, have held high positions, therefore there is (a) high possibility that family members have colluded with unknown powerful persons in order to get the requisite certificates produced by the petitioner." Till now, Khedkar was granted interim protection from arrest by the Delhi High Court pending the final disposal of her anticipatory bail plea. A Delhi court on August 1 had dismissed Khedkar's anticipatory bail plea. Khedkar has been accused of cheating and wrongly availing OBC and disability quota benefits in the civil services exam. She has denied all allegations. The Delhi Police have registered an FIR under provisions of the Indian Penal Code, the Information Technology Act, and the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act.

Kavitha calls out Congress-BJP collusion to target BRS in Telangana

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Hyderabad: BRS MLC K Kavitha called out a collusion between the Congress and the BJP in Telangana, conspiring to suppress regional forces like the BRS and its president, former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao. In an informal interaction with mediapersons at Telangana Bhavan on Monday, Kavitha said the Congress and BJP had proven their "brotherhood," citing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's alleged meetings with BJP leaders in Delhi, followed by the Governor's nod for the ACB to file case in connection with the Formula-E race case and swift action by Central agencies like the ED which registered a case on the same charges.



"Both parties do not want strong regional parties and strong leaders like Chandrashekhara Rao, Uddhav Thackarey and Sharad Pawar who fight for regional aspirations," she said, adding that the Governor was also favouring the Congress-led government in Telangana. The BRS MLC criticised the BJP and Congress for their policies, particularly regarding farmers, alleging that both parties were undermining agriculture and failing to address agrarian distress. She lashed out at the Congress government for reportedly planning to adopt the PM-KISAN scheme rules for the proposed Rythu Bharosa scheme in Telangana, which she felt, would adversely impact a large number of farmers.

She stated that without clarifying on the delay for implementing various schemes promised to farmers, Revanth Reddy was indulging in diversion politics by targeting the opposition. She urged the Left parties to speak out on behalf of farmers and people of the State, instead of remaining silent for a few political posts. She felt that replacing the Dharani portal with the new Bhu Bharati Act would complicate the land registrations process in Telangana. Kavitha also lambasted BJP leaders Bandi Sanjay Kumar, M Raghunandan Rao and Dharmapuri Aravind for shielding the Congress government which was engaging in diversion politics. She pointed out that the State government failed to fulfill electoral promises like crop loan waivers, leading to auction of lands belonging to farmers in Kamareddy district. "Rather than people, the Revanth Reddy government is working for a few select individuals. The decisions of this

government are in favour of the rich, while neglecting the poor. Revanth Reddy is indulging in diversionary and revenge politics," she observed. Remembering the BRS government's achievements, the BRS leader defended the party's resistance to obtaining World Bank funding. "In ten years, Chandrashekhara Rao did not allow the World Bank interference, ensuring Telangana's autonomy," she said. She questioned why the Congress government which was criticising the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS), cleared the bills to its contractors. Kavitha found fault with the Congress for reducing bus services after implementing free bus travel for women, and also depriving opportunity for the differently abled passengers to travel. She reiterated that BRS, rooted in Telangana's people, would continue its grassroots outreach to expose the Congress government's failures and policies that harm Telangana's identity, besides installing statues of Telangana Thalis planned in all villages across the State to promote the symbols of cultural identity. Responding to a question, the BRS MLC stated that the party did not take any decision on the One Nation-One Election, and termed the constitution of the party committees as an internal issue.

Cyclone alert at seven ports in Tamil Nadu; rain, strong winds expected

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Chennai: The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) has issued a third-level cyclone alert for seven ports in Tamil Nadu: Chennai, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Ennore, Kattupalli, Puducherry and Karaikal. The alert is due to a low-pressure system over the central western Bay of Bengal, which has weakened into a depression. The weather department predicts rain accompanied by strong winds on December 24 and 25 as the system moves west-southwest toward the southwest Bay of Bengal, near the coasts of north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh. Cyclone Fengal struck Tamil Nadu and Puducherry between November 29 and December 1, causing widespread destruction. The cyclone claimed 12 lives and inundated 2,11,139 hectares of agricultural and horticultural land, resulting in significant losses for farmers. Cyclone Fengal also caused extensive infrastructure damage, including 1,649 kilometres of electric conductors, 23,664 electric poles, 997 transformers, 9,576 kilometres of roads, 1,847 culverts, and 417 water tanks. The Tamil Nadu government reported that 69 lakh families and 1.5 crore individuals were adversely affected. Following the cyclone, Chief Minister M. K. Stalin requested Rs 2,000 crore as interim relief from the National Disaster Response Fund. An initial damage assessment estimated losses at Rs 2,475 crore for relief and reconstruction efforts. The Central government sanctioned Rs 944 crore as interim relief. Heavy rains have been observed across Tamil Nadu due to the ongoing north-east monsoon, which has brought 14 per cent excess rainfall this season.



Tamil Nadu recorded 447 mm of rainfall against an average of 393 mm. Chennai saw 845 mm of rainfall (16 per cent above average), while Coimbatore registered a 47 per cent increase. The Tamil Nadu Water Resources Department (WRD) reported that reservoirs across the state are near full capacity. 12 reservoirs (3 in Coimbatore, 7 in Madurai, and 2 in Chennai) are at 100 per cent capacity, 18 reservoirs have exceeded 90 per cent of their total capacity, 23 reservoirs have water levels between 70 per cent

and 80 per cent. The Stanley Reservoir at Mettur, Tamil Nadu's largest, is at 97.51 per cent capacity, holding 91.146 TMC out of its total 93.470 TMC. The dam recorded an inflow of 7,368 cusecs and discharged 1,300 cusecs downstream as of Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Sathanur Reservoir stands at 117 feet, just below its full reservoir level (FRL) of 119 feet. The cumulative water storage across Tamil Nadu's reservoirs is 195.455 TMC, leaving it 24.824 TMC short of full capacity.

Mohan Babu's anticipatory bail denied: Shocking setback in journalist attack case

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Hyderabad: In a setback to veteran actor Manchu Mohan Babu in the case relating to an attack on a journalist, the Telangana High Court on Monday dismissed his petition for anticipatory bail. Mohan Babu had sought anticipatory bail on health grounds. His counsel had submitted to the court that he was suffering from health problems related to heart and nerves. The court also said that Mohan Babu is currently in Tirupati.

Sukhu on 'Rs 25-crore graft' letter: 'BJP MLA sought my forgiveness and I've forgiven him'



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu Thursday rejected all corruption-related allegations during the discussion initiated under Rule 62 as the Opposition under the Leader of Opposition (LOP) Jai Ram Thakur walked out of the House. Responding to the allegation pertaining to an anonymous letter mentioning alleged graft of Rs 25 crore, Sukhu informed the House, "An FIR was lodged in this connection. The name of BJP MLA Janak Raj from Bharmour came to light during the course of investigation. He came to me and claimed he doesn't know how a picture of the letter was clicked from his office in Bharmour. The picture was clicked by one of the supporters called Manoj Kumar Sharma. He sought my forgiveness and I have forgiven him. But as his own party raised this issue, I have to clear my position. That letter was only to malign the image of the CM's office and government."

The BJP had levelled allegations of corruption against the Suku government saying that an anonymous letter was sent to the Prime Minister's Office mentioning the alleged bribe of Rs 25 crore for favouring a private company. However, when contacted, first-time MLA Janak Raj rejected the CM's claim that he had sought the CM's forgiveness. "Why should I plead with him when I didn't do any wrong? I will raise this issue in the House tomorrow. I wanted to raise an objection in the House today but was not allowed. I will speak on this issue in the House tomorrow. The anonymous letter was received in my office by post. One of my supporters had clicked a picture of that letter from my office but without my knowledge," Janak Raj told.

Responding to the allegations of the Opposition that certain close people of CM were recently arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for illegal mining, the CM informed the House, "Everybody knows that a person named

Gyan Chand is a businessman. During Assembly elections, he supports me and during parliamentary elections, he supports the sitting Member of Parliament. Another person arrested by the ED is also a supporter of BJP MLA. I have been in political life for the last three decades. There is not a single allegation against my image. Law will take its own course." Clarifying his government's stand on one-time settlement (OTS) policy under which a loan of crores of rupees of Congress leader Satpal Raizada was waived off by the Kangra Co-operative Bank, Sukhu said, "OTS rules are framed by the Reserve Bank of India. Satpal Raizada was not the only one whose loan was waived off. Raizada was among around 7,000 people who benefited through OTS." The CM also attacked BJP Rajya Sabha MP Harsh Mahajan in the House, mentioning that he was the chairman of Kangra Co-operative Bank between 2013-17. Later, he quit the Congress and joined the BJP. "When Harsh Mahajan was the chairman of Kangra Co-operative Bank, BJP had levelled allegations of tampering of records against him. Jai Ram Thakur came to power and ordered a vigilance probe.

The man joined BJP and within a few days, CM Jai Ram Thakur's government gave him a clean chit," Sukhu said. The opposition leaders walked out of the House when CM Sukhu started speaking on the excise policy scam alleged by BJP MLA Randhir Sharma. As the CM said that his government has earned a revenue of Rs 600 crore through the new excise policy, the Opposition shouted slogans that he is misleading the House. At the outset of the second day of inter session, Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania urged CM Sukhu and LoP Jai Ram Thakur to first initiate the business of the House including the question hour, discussion on the introduced bills while deferring the discussion on corruption for the time being. However, the LoP preferred to continue the discussion. During his address to the House, Jai Ram Thakur said, "The government always misunderstood the opposition. We didn't call the memorandum submitted to the Governor over corruption a chargesheet but named it kachcha-chitha. We are warning the government and giving you time to correct yourself. Why are tainted officers continuing in your government?" Jai Ram Thakur also commented on Sukhu mentioning investigation over missing samosas, registration of FIR over jungle murga and toilet tax. He said, "The opposition is not making these issues on its own but your government has been making these issues." After hearing Sukhu, however, the Speaker rejected the issue of corruption brought under Rule 62 in the House.

Delhi Police arrest 3 for selling dead man's house by forging documents in Dwarka

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

The Delhi Police said Thursday they have arrested three people, including a 70-year-old woman and her son, for allegedly illegally selling a property in Dwarka's Sector 6, using forged documents after the original owner died in 2023. Ankit Singh, Deputy Commissioner Of Police (Dwarka), said the complainant had reported that the property in Badwar Apartment, owned by his deceased brother-in-law, had been fraudulently transferred and sold for Rs. 1.85 crore to a buyer, Sunny Yadav. "The complainant claimed that the documents were forged after the death of his brother-in-law in 2023. He further said that his sister died in 2019 and the couple had no children," said Singh.

Accordingly, a case was registered under sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 380, 120B and 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and an investigation was taken up by a team led by Inspector Sanjeev Mandal (SHO Dwarka South), under supervision of M L Meena, ACP, Dwarka. In October, the police arrested Sarabjeet Singh and Pawandep Singh, both 43, with the help of technical and manual surveillance. During interrogation, the police learnt that



Pawandep, a property dealer, had masterminded the plot. "He, along with his associates, forged the documents in the name of Sarabjeet's mother, Rajender Kaur, to facilitate the sale. After Sarabjeet's arrest, Pawandep went into hiding and was arrested in Himachal Pradesh," said Singh. Kaur, who had been on the run, was arrested on December 9 and admitted her involvement, stating that she was offered money to allow the forgery in her name.

HP govt spends Rs 84.90L yearly on seven persons with Cabinet rank



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

The Himachal Pradesh government spends Rs 84.90 lakh every year on salaries and allowances of seven individuals with Cabinet ranks, including three MLAs. The information was shared by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, in a written reply in the Vidhan Sabha, on the second day of the ongoing Winter Session. The information has been furnished in response to BJP's Bilaspur MLA Trilok Jamwal's question. Two of the seven individuals — MLA RS Bali, Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC), and Kehar Singh Khachi, Vice-Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Development Corporation — do not draw salaries or allowances from the state exchequer, as per the information tabled in the House.

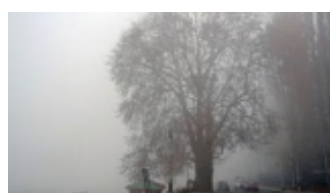
Gokul Butail, Principal Advisor (Digital) to the Chief Minister, has surrendered his Rs 2.50 lakh monthly salary and has been taking only Re 1 as token money, but draws Rs 32,822 monthly as vehicle and fuel allowances, it said. The seven persons who have been accorded Cabinet ranks are Political Adviser to the CM Sunil Sharma, Principal Media Advisor to the CM Naresh Chauhan, Principal Advisor (Digital) to the CM Gokul Butail, Chairman of the Seventh Pay Commission Nand Lal, Vice-chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Development Corporation Kehar Singh Khachi, Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Board MLA Bhawani Singh Pathania and Chairman of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) MLA RS Bali. The government informed the House, "Sunil Sharma is drawing Rs 2.50 lakh salary, along with Rs 19,132 monthly vehicle and fuel allowance; Naresh Chauhan is drawing Rs 2.50 lakh salary, along with Rs 20,000 residence allowance and Rs 25,910 fuel and vehicle allowance every month; Gokul Butail is taking just Re 1 as token money as honorarium, surrendering his Rs 2.50

lakh salary but drawing Rs 32,822 vehicle and fuel allowances every month; Nand Lal, who is also an elected MLA, is drawing Rs 40,462 monthly vehicle and fuel allowance every month; and MLA Bhawani Singh Pathania has been drawing Rs 69,000 vehicle and fuel allowance every month." The matter related to salary and allowances to be given to Khachi was pending before the Himachal Pradesh State Forest Development Corporation Ltd (HPSFDC). The Opposition BJP has been criticising Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led Congress government for giving "undue benefits to their favourites".

In Pune, season's first cold wave to retreat in the next few days

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

The present dip in temperature in Pune would be the first cold wave the district has experienced this winter. Over the last few days, Pune's temperature has been hovering in single digits with the city recording the season's lowest of 7.8 degree Celsius on December 16, after which the temperatures have been in the range of 8-8.5 degree. Parts of the district, like NDA, have seen the mercury falling to 6 degree Celsius. Anupam Kashyapi, former head of weather forecasting, India Meteorological Department (IMD), said the present cold wave in isolated parts of the district would wane in the next 5-7 days as the wind patterns change. "The present cold wave is mostly due to the incursion of cold Northern winds into the state," he said. The lack of moisture has also continued to increase the "feel" of cold — the chill factor in the air. "But the minimum temperature is increasing and chances of the cold wave are likely to reduce further for the next 5-7 days due to changes in wind pattern," said Kashyapi. Most parts of North India have reported a cold wave with mercury in single digits in many places. The incursion of moisture-laden winds from the Bay of Bengal will restrict the entry of cold winds from the north of the country. However, parts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are expected to receive some rain. Earlier this month, in its monthly forecast IMD said that the minimum temperature would be higher than normal in many parts of the country.



Medical waste from Kerala dumped in Tamil Nadu: Green tribunal issues ultimatum



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

The southern bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued a three-day ultimatum to the Kerala government to remove hazardous biomedical and solid waste that was allegedly illegally dumped in Tamil Nadu. The court's stern directive follows reports of clandestine dumping operations that pose environmental hazards to parts of Tamil Nadu's border districts. The tribunal order was issued by a bench of Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana and expert member K Satyagopal. The bench instructed Kerala to either retrieve the waste or enter into an agreement with Tamil Nadu's Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility for safe disposal.

"Kerala should take back the waste or formalise a Memorandum of Understanding for its scientific disposal without delay," the order said. Tamil Nadu's government pleader, D Shanmuganathan, informed the bench that Kerala had failed to honour a previous June 2024 directive to pay Rs 69,000 for cleanup efforts in Nanguneri, where similar dumping had occurred. The illegal dumping of biomedical waste, reportedly sourced from hospitals and municipal establishments in Kerala, has sparked outrage. Truckloads of hazardous materials have been found abandoned in wa-

ter bodies, farmlands, and forests in Tirunelveli district. The NGT initiated a suo motu case following investigative reports highlighting the environmental hazards posed by these practices. Local activists allege that unauthorised waste collectors transport the waste under the cover of darkness, evading border checks. Tamil Nadu officials are conducting assessments to quantify the volume of waste dumped across multiple sites, including Kodaganallur, Palavoor, Kondanagaram, and Sivalarkulam. FIRs have been lodged with the Suthamalli police against the entities responsible, invoking Sections 271 and 272 of the Indian Penal Code, alongside provisions of the Environment Protection Act. This is not the first instance of Kerala's waste being dumped in Tamil Nadu. Past incidents in Nanguneri, Theni, and Anamalai have drawn sharp criticism.

"Despite judicial orders and public protest, Tamil Nadu's border districts continue to bear the brunt of these violations," said a senior official of Tamil Nadu's Pollution Control Board (TNPCB). Kerala's Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has admitted lapses. Advocate V K Rema Smrithi, representing KSPCB, told the tribunal, "Some unauthorised waste collectors, not recognised by the government, were indulging in this illegality." The tribunal responded by demanding stringent action against these operators. The crisis has also triggered political reactions. Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai accused the DMK government of failing to safeguard the state's environmental and territorial integrity. Annamalai said southern districts, particularly Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, and Tenkasi, have become the dump yards of the Kerala government. "Biomedical waste, plastic waste, and poultry waste are being illegally dumped in Tamil Nadu, and checkposts have turned into collection centres," he said, alleging collusion at the highest levels. Annamalai warned of mass protests and threatened to march to Kerala to return the waste if the situation persists. According to the Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016, such materials must be treated in dedicated facilities to prevent contamination.

After FIR in Formula E case, new probe into Hyderabad road toll contract brings further scrutiny on KTR

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has announced that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) would be formed to probe alleged irregularities in the contract awarded to a private company to collect tolls on the Hyderabad Outer Ring Road (ORR). After coming to power last December, the state Congress government has raised allegations about the contract to collect tolls along the 158-km road, which is operated by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) and comes under the Ministry of Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD), which was headed by K T Rama Rao in the previous BRS government. Revanth Reddy's announcement of the SIT in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday comes on the same day that Rama Rao, known as KTR, was booked by the Anti-Corruption Bureau in a separate case related to alleged irregularities in payments made to bring the Formula E car racing event to Hyderabad during the BRS government's tenure. Ordering the latest probe, CM Reddy said the toll collection contract was valued at Rs 7,380 crore while the estimated revenue was Rs 18,000 crore over a 30-year period. "This gap between the contract value and projected revenues reeks of corruption and fiscal mismanagement.



There is proof that IRB Infrastructure Developers Limited donated to BRS party," the CM alleged. Earlier on Thursday, the ACB filed a case into alleged irregularities related to the payment of Rs 45 crore to hold the Formula E race in Hyderabad in 2023, when KTR was MAUD minister. KTR was named the primary accused in the case, former MAUD principal secretary Arvind Kumar was named the second accused and former Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) chief engineer BLN Reddy was the third accused.

From expressive art to discussions on blame: How Bihar cops are being trained to deal with violence against women



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Sessions in which police personnel play themselves as well as victims of crimes against women, and subsequent discussions on where the blame lies were part of a new training programme to sensitise Bihar police on interacting with victims of gender-based violence. It started with the government bringing in public policy experts, who, over the last few months, helped create an innovative curriculum to "change the mindset" of police towards women. One of these experts, Nishith Prakash, a professor of Public Policy and Economics at Northeastern University in Boston, told The Indian Express that their first task was to understand the police personnel, "from health status of police officers to infrastructure at police stations", before providing them gender-based training with the help of art and theatre.

The experts surveyed police personnel from 419 stations across 12 Bihar districts. The sample represented about 37 per cent of the police force. In terms of health issues, Prakash said, "We found that gastrointestinal issues ranked first, followed by arthritis, hypertension, and diabetes." "As for our focus area of gender-based violence, the survey showed that in 40 per cent of cases, the police officers blamed victims... Again in 40 per cent of cases, they asked irrelevant questions, and in 15 per cent of cases, the officers used foul language against complainants," he said. According to NCRB data, more than 20,000 cases of violence against women were registered in Bihar in 2022. Of these cases, 40 per cent of women aged between 18 and 49 years experienced physical or sexual violence from their current partner.

Considering all of this, to help the police better deal with such cases, experts designed a 21-hour curriculum. The training was imparted over three days for 25 officers each in shifts. This way, 1,405 officers, out of the 3,526 surveyed, were given training. The surveyors also spoke to 1,811 women constables, the wives of 217 officers, and 307 victims of gender-based violence over the last few months. Vandana Pandey, a theatre and art-based facilitator and founder of cultural organisation Rang Karwan, who has been part of several training sessions for police officers, said: "Rather than delivering mundane lectures, we applied theatre and expressive art in which police officers played the parts of police, society, and victims. At the end

of each session, we would ask who is to blame. We would also try to highlight the social and moral aspects of policing." "At the end of the three-day session, the police officers returned with the other side of stories — mainly the victims' side. A sense of empathy towards complainants did develop in police officers after the end of training," Pandey said. The experts involved in preparing the curriculum were Nishith Prakash, Sophia Amaral of the World Bank, and Maria Micaela Sviatschi from Princeton University.

Prakash said, "We have now found that about 65 per cent of police officers referred to a new handbook on dealing with gender-based violence." A senior police officer at state headquarters said, "While such kind of innovative training would surely help police better understand women-related cases, the state government has also set an example by reserving 35 per cent seats in government jobs for women. As per 2020 data, Bihar had 25.3 per cent of women in its police force, surpassing Himachal Pradesh (19.5 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (18.5 per cent)."

Akbaruddin Owaisi exposes Congress false claims on outstanding liabilities

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Hyderabad: AIMIM Floor Leader Akbaruddin Owaisi exposed the Congress government's narrative on the State finances stating that as per the RBI's report on 'State Finances — a Study on State budgets 2024-25', Telangana's outstanding liabilities, including outstanding guarantees was Rs. 4,32,154 crore as on March 31, 2024 against Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhathi Vikramarka's claims of Rs. 7,11,911 crore. The State government should convince the RBI, which released the report on Thursday, to consider its figures on the outstanding liabilities rather than convincing the members in the House, he said, asking the Minister to quote the latest figures, and not obsolete figures.

Since the Congress government came to power, there have been several discussions in the Assembly on the State finances. An attempt was being made to present a bad picture on Telangana's finances, which was against the State interests, he said in the Assembly. Considering the last seven months total receipts, which was Rs. 1,25,990 crore and the total expenditure, including salaries, subsidies, loans etc, it was Rs. 1,23,799 crore. Still the State was left with nearly Rs. 2,190 crore, he explained. Taking serious objection over the Congress government's efforts to present Telangana's finances in poor condition just to corner the previous BRS government, the AIMIM floor leader said this did not auger well for the people. "We want investments to come to Telangana and people should reap benefits. Generally, when a lender wants to lend money, he checks the repayment capacity.

Chaos at party workers' funeral, Congress says BJP members tried to disrupt



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Chaos at party workers' funeral, Cong says BJP members tried to disrupt A police team at Congress party office in Lucknow on Thursday in connection with the death of a youth. The funeral of a 28-year-old Youth Congress worker turned chaotic at his native village in Gorakhpur on Thurs-

day after state Congress Chief Ajay Rai arrived to pay his last respects. "He (Prabhat Pandey) was our party worker, and we wanted to offer him our last respect. But the BJP workers are doing politics. The family has the right to stop anyone, but instead it was BJP leaders indulging into politics. It is the government, who is responsible for the death of our worker and we would fight for justice," said Rai. Meanwhile, police have started a probe into the murder FIR, based on a complaint filed by Prabhat's father. On Wednesday, the Congress said that the 28-year-old died during a protest in Lucknow and cited "police brutality" as the cause of her death. The police, however, denied the charge, saying the youth was last seen at the Congress party office, where he was found unconscious and no external injury marks were found on his body. Pandey's body was brought home for last rites on Thursday. His grieving father, Deepak Pandey, broke down, saying, "This is the result of my deeds. My only son is gone." His mother fainted at the funeral site, while his grandfather, a retired postal employee, was in shock and unable to speak.

Shocked by Shah's comment on Ambedkar, the way he belittled him

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said that she was shocked at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent remarks about B R Ambedkar and the way he was being "belittled". Addressing a gathering during the inauguration of the 'Kolkata Christmas Festival', at Allen Park in Park Street, Banerjee said, "I am shocked at the comments made about Babasaheb Ambedkar... I feel bad seeing Babasaheb belittled." On Tuesday, a controversy erupted over Amit Shah's speech in the Rajya Sabha during a debate on the Constitution, when he said, "It has become a fashion to say Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar, Ambedkar." If they had taken God's name so many times, they would have got a place in heaven."



X on Wednesday.

Termining the remarks as derogatory, the CM claimed that it was an insult to the millions of people who look up to Ambedkar for guidance and inspiration. "... Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is the Father of the Constitution, this outrageous remark is not only an outright attack on him but all members of the Drafting Committee of the Constitution..." she further wrote on X. Meanwhile, during her address CM Banerjee alleged that the BJP-led central government "omitted December 25 from the list of national holidays". "Central government canceled the December 25 holiday... In our state, it'll continue. In our state, all festivals are celebrated by people of all creeds, castes and religions," she said.

Banerjee on Wednesday claimed that Shah's remarks in about B R Ambedkar were a display of the BJP's "casteist and anti-Dalit mindset". "The mask has fallen! As Parliament reflects on 75 glorious years of the Constitution, HM @AmitShah chose to TARNISH this occasion with DEROGATORY remarks against Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, that too in the temple of Democracy. This is a display of BJP's CASTEIST and ANTI-DALIT mindset. If this is how they behave after being reduced to 240 seats, imagine the damage they would've inflicted if their dream of 400 seats had been realised. They'd have rewritten history to entirely erase Dr. Ambedkar's contributions," Banerjee posted on

Fake Indian passport case: 1 held, copies of Indian passports found; Detective Dept takes over investigation



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

passport fraud, fake passports, bangladeshi nationals given indian passports, kolkata, kolkata news, west bengal, west bengal news, mea, The probe further reveals that Das was assigned to fabricate various documents for obtaining fake passports, like income tax returns and other tax-related documents. A day after the Kolkata Police launched a major passport fraud investigation, the police on Tuesday night arrested a man, Dipankar Das from Becharam Chatterjee Street in the Parnasree Thana area in connection with the case. He was produced in the Alipore court on Wednesday, which remanded him to police custody till December 26. The arrest comes amid the ongoing investiga-

tion, now taken up by the detective department, after it was discovered that 73 Indian passports were allegedly issued to Bangladesh nationals using "forged documents".

Police found forged income tax returns documents, seals of two state-owned banks, computers, printers during raids at Das's premises. "Authorities recovered photocopies of 36 Indian passports, along with Schengen and UK visas," said an official. As per sources, Das alone allegedly created 3,000 fake passports. While the Kolkata Police is actively investigating the racket and its connections to other regions, authorities believe that 73 individuals have already traveled abroad using these fraudulent passports. Four persons including Samaresh Biswas and his son, Ripon Biswas, believed to be the main conspirators along with two temporary post office employees, Deepak Mondal, and Tarakanath Sen, have already been arrested. As per the investigation, a sophisticated operation was led by Biswas and his son Ripon, who allegedly created fake passports. They engaged two post office temporary workers, Tarakanath Sen and Deepak Mondal, to facilitate the acquisition of fake passports for Bangladeshi nationals. The probe further reveals that Das was assigned to fabricate various documents for obtaining fake passports, like income tax returns and other tax-related documents.

2 Bangladesh militants held in joint op with Assam Police



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Bangladesh militants, Bangladesh militants arrested, West Bengal police, Assam Special Task Force, Kolkata news, WEST Bengal news, Indian express, current affairs According to the Assam Police five people were arrested, among whom two are from West Bengal, one from Kerala and two others are from Dhubri. The police also suspect that the accused were allegedly planning some violence. However, the matter is under investigation. In a joint operation, the Special Task Force of Assam and West Bengal police have arrested two suspected militants from Murshidabad's Hariharpara on Thursday. Those arrested have been identified as Abbas Sheikh, a resident of Baharan area and Minarul Sheikh, a resident of Kedartala and the police suspect that they were allegedly working as linkmen of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen and JMB from India.

the Assam Police five people were arrested, among whom two are from West Bengal, one from Kerala and two others are from Dhubri. The police also suspect that the accused were allegedly planning some violence. However, the matter is under investigation.

Parmeet, Arya shines in C Division

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Hyderabad: Parmeet smashed an unbeaten 102 (13x4, 3x6) in Ameerpet's 13-run win over SK Blues in the HCA C Division One-Day League Championship on Thursday. Aditya (4/46) was the standout bowler for SK Blues, who fell short in the chase by 13 runs, finishing at 237/8 in 40 overs.

In the other match, Arya's five-wicket haul (5/21) helped Reliance clinch commanding 184-run victory over Raju CA. Shanmukh's unbeaten 106 and Pranay's 77 guided Reliance to 296/3 in 50 overs. In reply, Raju CA crumbled as Arya and Prathamesh (3/33) wreaked havoc, dismissing Raju CA for 112 in 34.3 overs.

Brief Scores: C Division One-Day League: Ameerpet 250/6 in 40 overs (Parmeet 102 no, Sukhbeer 44, Aditya 4/46) bt SK Blues 237/8 in 40 overs (Anshul 46, Manpreeth 3/35); Reliance 296/3 in 50 overs (Pranay 77, Shanmukh 106 no) bt Raju CA 112 in 34.3 overs (Prathamesh 3/33, Arya 5/21); Superstars 165 in 34.1 overs (Karthik 65, Jai Keerth 5/28) lost to VP Willowmen 166/6 in 31.3 overs (Akhileshwar 48); U-14 Boys One-Day Knockout Tournament: World One School 96 in 29.2 overs (Anshul 51, Anas 4/26) lost to Adilabad Dist 107/3 in 20.3 overs;

Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain laid to rest in San Francisco, percussionist Sivamani pays musical tribute



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Zakir Hussain was laid to rest on Thursday (December 19, 2024) at a San Francisco cemetery as renowned percussionist A. Sivamani and other artists performed on their drums at a little distance away in a tribute to the tabla maestro. Hussain, one of the world's most accomplished percussionists, died at a San Francisco hospital on Monday (December 16, 2024) due to complications arising from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a lung disease. He was 73. Hundreds of his admirers gathered at Hussain's funeral to pay their last respects. Sivamani and several other musicians played drums at a little distance away to pay him a tribute. Mr. Sivamani told PTI Video, "Rhythm is God, that is you Zakir bhai. I learned a lot in our journey from 1982 till now. Every moment you are here with us in the rhythm. Every time I hit the rhythm, you are there. We love you Zakir Bhai. Have a lovely journey. Please give my pranam to all the masters."

Hussain, the son of the legendary tabla player Alla Rakha, revolutionised the instrument, taking it beyond the limits of classical music to other forms, including jazz and

Western classical. The celebrated musician, one of India's most well-known, received four Grammy Awards in his career spanning six decades, including three at the 66th Grammy Awards earlier this year. Hussain is survived by his wife Antonia Minnecola and daughters Anisa Qureshi and Isabella Qureshi. Hussain received the Padma Shri in 1988, the Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2023. In his career spanning six decades, the musician worked with several renowned international and Indian artistes, but it was his 1973 musical project with English guitarist John McLaughlin, violinist L. Shankar, and percussionist T.H. 'Vikku' Vinayakram that brought together Indian classical and elements of jazz in a fusion hitherto unknown. Sivamani after Hussain's death in a Facebook post said he would go to San Francisco to see him for the last time. "No Zakir Bhai, you cannot leave us like this. This is just unbelievable. I'm on the way to San Francisco. I want to see you, one last time. I want to hold your hands, my brother, my Guru. I'm devastated. Life will never be the same again." Mr. Sivamani had said. Messages of condolence poured in on social media as the news of Hussain's demise spread. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called him a true genius who revolutionised the world of Indian classical music. Grammy winner musician Ricky Kej remembered Hussain for his "immense humility, approachable nature". "One of the greatest musicians and personalities India has ever produced. Along with being the best himself, Zakirji was known for... being responsible for the careers of numerous musicians, who are now forces to reckon with themselves. He was a treasure trove of skill and knowledge and always shared and encouraged the entire music community through collaborations and his actions. His legacy will live on forever, and his influence will be felt for generations. He left us too soon," Mr. Kej had written on X after his demise.

Delhi-Noida Direct flyway to remain toll-free, says Supreme Court

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

The Supreme Court on Friday (December 20, 2024) ruled that the Delhi-Noida-Direct (DND) flyway will be toll-free as it dismissed a plea by a private firm challenging the 2016 decision of the Allahabad High Court order asking it to stop collecting toll from commuters. The decision will benefit lakhs of people who commute daily on the flyway. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan held that awarding a contract to private firm Noida Toll Bridge Company Limited (NTBCL) to collect toll from commuters plying on the DND flyway was unjust, unfair and arbitrary. "There is no reason for the collection of user or toll fee to continue. We hold that the agreement (for toll collection) is invalid," the bench said. It pulled up the NOIDA authority for delegating toll collection to private firm NTBCL, which did not have any prior experience and said it has resulted in unjust enrichment. The bench said NOIDA overstepped its authority by delegating the powers to NTBCL to collect or levy fees and it has led the general public to part with hundreds of crores of rupees.

The High Court, in October 2016, had ruled that there will be no toll collected henceforth from those using the 9.2 km-long, eight-lane Delhi-Noida Direct flyway. The order was passed as the High Court allowed a PIL by the Federation of Noida Residents' Welfare Association. The PIL,



filed in 2012, had challenged the "levy and collection of toll in the name of user fee by the Noida Toll Bridge Company". In an over 100-page judgment, the high court had held, "the user fee which is being levied/realised is not supported by the legal provisions relied upon by the Concessionaire (Noida Toll Bridge Company), Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (promoter and developer of the project) and the Noida Authority." It had said the "right to levy and collect user fee from the commuters as conferred upon the Concessionaire under the concession agreement suffers from excessive delegation and is contrary to the provisions of the U.P. Industrial Development Act".

Strict provisions of law for women's welfare; marriage not commercial venture: SC

The Supreme Court on Thursday (December 19, 2024) said the strict provisions of law were for the welfare of women and not means to "chastise, threaten, domineer or extort" their husbands. Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Pankaj Mithal observed a Hindu marriage was considered to be a sacred institution, as a foundation for a family and not a "commercial venture". Notably, the bench observed the invocation of IPC sections including rape, criminal intimidation and subjecting a married woman to cruelty—as a "combined package" in most of the complaints related to matrimonial disputes—was condemned by the top court on several occasions. "The women need to be careful about the fact that these strict provisions of law in their hands are beneficial legislations for their welfare and not means to chastise, threaten, domineer or extort from their husbands," it said.

The observations came when the bench dissolved the marriage between an estranged couple on the ground of its irretrievable breakdown. "The provisions in the criminal law are for the protection and empowerment of women but sometimes are used by certain women more for purposes that they are never meant for," the bench said. The husband in the case was ordered to pay ₹12 crore as permanent alimony to the estranged wife as a full and final settlement for all her claims within a month. The bench however commented on cases, where the wife and her family tended to use a criminal complaint with these serious offences as a platform for negotiation and as a tool to get the husband and his family to comply with their demands, which were mostly monetary in nature. It said the police were sometimes quick to jump into action in selective cases and arrest the husband or even his relatives, including aged and bedridden parents and grandparents with trial courts refraining from giving bail to accused owing to the "gravity of the offences" in the FIR. "The collective effect of this chain of events is often overlooked by the actual individual players involved therein, which is that even minor disputes between husband and wife tend to snowball into ugly prodigious battles of ego and reputation and washing dirty linen in public, eventually leading to the relationship turning sour to the extent that there remains no possibility of a reconciliation or cohabitation," it said. The apex court noted a plea was filed before it by the wife seeking transfer of a divorce petition filed under section 13 (1) of Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 pending in a court in Bhopal to a court in Pune. The husband had sought dissolution of marriage under Article 142(1) of the Constitution. The court said the parties and their family members were involved in numerous litigations during the brief period of their marital relationship. The bench said the marriage did not really take off at all, observing no continuous cohabitation of the estranged couple. Considering the point of alimony, the court said the wife claimed the estranged husband had a net-worth of ₹5,000 crore with multiple businesses and properties in the U.S. and in India, and had paid the first wife at least ₹500 crore upon separation, excluding a house in Virginia. "Thus, she claims permanent alimony commensurate to the status of the respondent-husband and on the same principles as was paid to the first wife of the



respondent," the bench noted. The apex court expressed serious reservations with the tendency of the parties seeking maintenance or alimony as an equalisation of wealth with the other party. The bench said it was often seen that parties in their application for maintenance or alimony highlighted the assets, status and income of their spouse, and then asked for an amount that could equal their wealth of the spouse. "However, there is an inconsistency in this practice, because the demands of equalisation are made only in cases where the spouse is a person of means or is doing well for himself," it said. The bench wondered if the wife would be willing to seek an equalisation of wealth if due to some unfortunate event, post-separation, he was rendered a pauper. Fixing alimony depends on various factors and there cannot be any straight-jacket formula, it said. In the joint plea jointly seeking dissolution of their marriage by a decree of mutual divorce, the husband had agreed to pay a sum of ₹8 crore towards full and final settlement of all claims. "The family court at Pune has assessed ₹10 crore as the quantum of permanent alimony that petitioner could be entitled to. We accept the said finding of the family court, Pune. An additional amount of ₹2 crore is liable to be paid to the petitioner so as to enable her to acquire another flat..." said the bench.

GO 317 sparks heated debate in Telangana Council

Hyderabad: A heated debate over GO 317 unfolded in the Telangana Legislative Council, with BRS MLC Kavitha and Legislative Affairs Minister D Sridhar Babu exchanging sharp remarks. While Sridhar Babu blamed the previous BRS government for the government order creating hurdles in recruitment, Kavitha justified the order. During the Question Hour, Kavitha defended the BRS government's decision to issue GO 317 after the creation of new districts, based on the Presidential Orders. She said the government orders were aimed to benefit local youth in government jobs. "However, those who criticised the formation of new districts and GO 317 during the BRS regime, are in power now. Rather than addressing the lingering issues over the past one year, they keep blaming the previous BRS government," she demanded.

'ACE offers convenience and long-term growth potential'



with high growth prospects and focusing on accessibility, ACE Group ensures that its projects stand out in a competitive market, delivering superior ROI and meeting the demands of modern buyers and businesses.

The ACE Group has successfully completed several high-profile commercial and residential projects, while also undertaking ambitious new developments. Could you walk us through some of the key completed projects, and how do you envision the impact of your ongoing developments on the local real estate landscape?

ACE has established a strong reputation in the real estate market through several completed projects, each contributing to its story of quality, innovation, and strategic development. All of our projects are close to my heart, still, I can name a few like ACE City, one of the finest developments in Greater Noida West at that time which offered a well-integrated residential project. It provides residents with a blend of modern conveniences and community-oriented spaces with a best-in-class clubhouse. Another example I can give is ACE Golfshire and Ace Parkway, two of the most premium residential projects at Noida Expressway that have set a benchmark in luxury living with their contemporary design, state-of-the-art amenities, and open spaces. In the commercial segment, Ace Capitol, which is completely leased out to two major corporates, is the most eye-catching commercial project on the Noida Expressway. These completed projects have not only enhanced the quality of life for their residents and their occupants but also contributed to the urbanisation and development of their respective areas, driving increased interest and investment in the region.

Could you elaborate on how you have continued to exceed the expectations of customers, especially in light of the increased competition in the real estate sector and the burgeoning landscape?

ACE exceeds customer expectations by following its fundamentals of focusing on quality, innovation, and customer-centric service. Even in a competitive real estate market, ACE delivers high-quality projects with superior construction, modern design, and sustainable features. The Group also emphasises customer service, offering transparency, timely delivery, and utmost quality. By staying ahead of market trends and anticipating customer needs, ACE ensures its developments provide long-term value and a better real estate experience, solidifying its reputation in an increasingly competitive sector.

ACE Group has collaborated with the celebrity interior designer Gauri Khan for its premium residential projects in Noida. What was the vision behind this collaboration, and what can prospective buyers and investors look forward to in terms of the design philosophy and overall experience in these luxury homes?

The collaboration with Gauri Khan aimed to elevate luxury living in Noida by combining sophisticated design with functionality. Khan brings a unique touch to homes, focusing on open spaces, premium materials, and elegant interiors that reflect contemporary style. The design philosophy emphasises bespoke furniture, art-inspired elements, and luxurious finishes to create an indulgent yet comfortable living experience. We had a wonderful association with her for our premium residential project at Noida Expressway. With such an experience of a precious association of ACE, buyers, and investors can rest assured of luxury homes with elegant designs, premium materials, and smart home technology. These spacious upcoming properties by Ace will offer more charismatic features and amenities.

Looking ahead, what can potential investors and buyers expect from the ACE Group in the near future?

First of all, they can expect ACE to continue on the same track without any deviations in quality and timelines. ACE will keep the focus on strategic market expansion, innovative project launches and advancements in technology to enhance operational efficiency and customer satisfaction. The company is also committed to sustainability, adopting eco-friendly practices, and delivering robust financial growth, ensuring competitive returns for stakeholders while maintaining its industry leadership. Expanding to more progressive geographies is also our objective. This content is sponsored and does not reflect the views or opinions of IE Online Media Services Pvt Ltd. No journalist is involved in creating sponsored material and it does not imply any endorsement whatsoever by the editorial team. IE Online Media Services takes no responsibility for the content that appears in sponsored articles and the consequences thereof, directly, indirectly or in any manner. Viewer discretion is advised.

ZEE Entertainment shareholders reject Punit Goenka's reappointment as Director

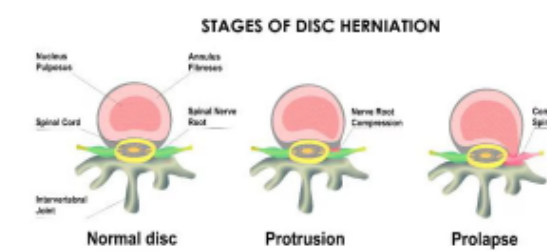


Shareholders of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) have blocked Punit Goenka's reappointment as a director of the company at the company's annual general meeting (AGM). At the EGM on Thursday, as many as 50.45 per cent shareholders were against Goenka being reappointed as Director, whereas 49.54 per cent of shareholders voted in favour, according to the exchange filing. "Resolution No. 3 (re-appointment of Goenka as Director) failed to get requisite majority of votes as required under the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015," the firm said in the exchange filing. The promoters — Punit Goenka and Subhash Chandra family — hold only 3.99 per cent stake in the company.

ZEEL shares were trading higher by 4.10 per cent at Rs 128.20 on the exchanges at 10.45 am IST on Friday. Mutual funds hold 12.39 per cent and foreign institutions 18.52 per cent stake in the company. However, Goenka will continue as CEO of the company. On November 18, Punit Goenka, son of media baron Subash Chandra, resigned as the Managing Director of Zee Entertainment. ZEEL had then informed exchanges that its board accepted the resignation of Goenka as MD of the company and appointed him as CEO. "With this step, he intends to dedicate his time entirely towards the future of the company by enhancing its performance and profitability levels in line with the direction given by the Board/ Nomination and Remuneration Committee in its meeting dated November 15, 2024," ZEEL had said.

Goenka also withdrew himself from reappointment for the post of MD in the AGM, according to an exchange filing. While sharing Goenka's resignation letter to exchanges, ZEEL said he is "withdrawing his consent for his re-appointment as Managing Director of the company as proposed in the notice of the ensuing annual general meeting". Earlier, in August 2024, more than seven months after Sony Pictures called off the \$10 billion merger deal with ZEEL on account of ZEEL's purported delay in completing merger formalities, both parties announced a settlement to conclude all

Do you have a slipped disc or a disc bulge? Here is all what you need to know!!



disc or slipped disc, is a condition that affects the spine, specifically the intervertebral discs. These discs act as cushions between the vertebrae (bones) in the spine. A prolapsed disc occurs when the soft, gel-like center of a disc (called the nucleus pulposus) pushes through a tear or weakness in the outer layer (the annulus fibrosus). This can cause the disc to bulge out of its normal position. Age-related wear and tear: As people age, the discs lose water content, which makes them less flexible and more prone to damage. Injury or trauma: A sudden injury, such as lifting something heavy incorrectly or a fall, can lead to a herniated disc. Repetitive strain: Repeated activities or positions that put stress on the spine can cause gradual disc degeneration. Genetics: Some people may have a predisposition to disc problems due to their genetic makeup. Risk factors of Disc Prolapse:

Aging, Genetics, Smoking, Sedentary life style and obesity leading to weak core muscles that support the spine and conversely overexertion or sudden, intense physical activity without proper conditioning can also trigger a disc prolapse. Sports or activities that involve twisting, lifting, or repetitive motions (e.g., weightlifting, gymnastics, or high-impact sports) can increase the risk of disc injury and prolapse if proper technique and precautions aren't followed. When does the pressure inside the disc rise: The pressure exerted on the intervertebral discs varies depending on your posture and body position. Standing distributes the body's weight evenly across the vertebral discs, with the body's core muscles helping to support the spine. Proper posture helps minimize pressure. Standing distributes the body's weight evenly across the vertebral discs, with the body's core muscles helping to support the spine. Proper posture helps minimize pressure typically around 100% of the baseline pressure (with standing considered as the reference position). When sitting, gravity pushes down on the spine, and the discs are more compressed, especially in positions like slouching or poor posture. In an upright sitting position with good posture, the increase in pressure is less significant but still higher (140-150%) than when standing. Bending forward increases the compressive force on the discs (200-300%), particularly in the lower back. This is because the spine is flexed, and the discs bear more load as they try to support the bending motion. Bending too far or frequently without proper posture can contribute to disc degeneration or herniation. Lifting heavy objects while bending forward can significantly increase the pressure on the intervertebral discs, sometimes reaching up to 400% or more of the pressure experienced when standing.

Increased pressure on the discs, especially during prolonged sitting, bending, or lifting, can accelerate disc degeneration over time. That's why maintaining good posture, using ergonomic furniture, and avoiding prolonged sitting or improper lifting techniques are essential for spine health. Symptoms: The symptoms depend on the location and extent of the prolapse. Back pain or/and leg pain (sciatica): If the prolapsed disc presses on nerves that travel down the legs, it can cause pain, tingling, numbness, or weakness, often referred to as sciatica. Neck pain or/and arm pain (cervicobrachial neuralgia): a condition characterized by pain radiating from the neck (cervical spine) down into the arm (brachial region). The term "neuralgia" refers to nerve pain, and "cervicobrachial" describes the areas affected: the neck and the arm. Weakness or loss of reflexes: Nerve compression can lead to muscle weakness, making

Have a cough that just won't go away? It might be walking pneumonia

When symptoms like coughing, mild fever, and fatigue appear, it can be difficult to tell whether you're dealing with a common cold or something more serious, like walking pneumonia. Walking pneumonia, a milder lung infection can often be mistaken for a cold because of its subtle symptoms. While it typically doesn't require intensive treatment, understanding the distinctions can help you manage symptoms and seek proper care when needed. Dr Vikas Mittal, Pulmonologist at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, provides insights into walking pneumonia's symptoms, causes, and treatment options.

What is walking pneumonia?

Walking pneumonia is a less severe type of pneumonia characterised by a localised infection in the lungs. Unlike typical pneumonia, patients with walking pneumonia usually don't need hospital care and may continue with daily activities despite mild discomfort. According to Dr Mittal, common symptoms include a low-grade fever, persistent cough, slight sputum production, and occasional shortness of breath. Blood pressure, pulse rate, and oxygen levels generally remain stable, setting it apart from more intense cases of pneumonia. A white patch on a chest X-ray often identifies



Dr Mittal said risk factors include poor nutrition, lack of sleep, exposure to air pollutants, and viral infections. Walking pneumonia commonly affects individuals with stronger immune systems, so it often manifests with milder symptoms.

walking pneumonia, highlighting lung inflammation. Causes of walking pneumonia This type of pneumonia is primarily caused by atypical bacteria like Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Chlamydia pneumoniae, and Legionella pneumophila. While it affects younger people more often, anyone exposed to these bacteria can contract it. cold For those diagnosed with walking pneumonia, antibiotics prescribed by a doctor are crucial for a complete recovery. Dr Mittal said risk factors include poor nutrition, lack of sleep, exposure to air pollutants, and viral infections. Walking pneumonia commonly affects individuals with stronger immune systems, so it often manifests with milder symptoms.

Walking pneumonia

it difficult to perform certain movements or tasks. Treatment: Treatment focuses on alleviating pain and addressing the underlying cause of nerve compression. Options include: Conservative Treatment: Physical Therapy: Exercises to strengthen the neck and shoulder muscles, improve posture, and relieve nerve compression. Medications: Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or oral corticosteroids to reduce inflammation and pain. Muscle relaxants or nerve pain medications (e.g., gabapentin) may also be used. Heat or Cold Therapy: Applying heat or cold packs to the affected area to reduce inflammation and ease pain. Rest and Posture Correction: Avoiding activities that exacerbate symptoms, and correcting posture during daily activities. Epidural Steroid Injections: To reduce inflammation and provide pain relief if oral medications don't help. Nerve Block Injections: Directly targeting the nerves to reduce pain. Surgical Treatment: If conservative treatments fail or if there is severe nerve compression (such as from a herniated disc or bone spur), surgery may be considered. Procedures might include: Discectomy: Removal of the herniated part of a disc. Laminectomy: Removal of a small portion of the vertebra to relieve pressure on the nerve. Spinal Fusion: Fusing two vertebrae together to stabilize the spine and prevent further nerve compression. Revolution in Spine Surgery for Disc prolapse: Discectomy options have evolved significantly, with traditional open surgery being replaced by minimally invasive techniques. Microdiscectomy, uses a small incision and specialized tools (retractors and surgical microscopes) to remove a herniated disc. It offers reduced recovery time compared to traditional open surgery. Tubular discectomy (key-hole surgery) uses a narrow tube to access the disc, causing less muscle disruption and offering quicker recovery than microdiscectomy. Uniportal endoscopic discectomy involves a single small incisions with an endoscope for precise visualization, minimizing tissue damage. Biptoral endoscopic discectomy uses two small incisions for access, providing better visualization and more flexibility in complex cases. Both endoscopic approaches allow for quicker recovery, minimal scarring, and better surgical precision than traditional methods. Microdiscectomy, uses small incisions and specialized instruments, reducing muscle disruption, pain, and recovery time. This innovation has revolutionized day care, enabling patients to undergo the procedure and return home the same day. Recovery after Endoscopic discectomy:

Recovery after endoscopic discectomy (pin-hole surgery) is typically quick due to its minimally invasive nature. Most patients experience mild discomfort and can walk within hours, often being discharged the same day or the next. In the first 1-2 weeks, light activities are encouraged, with complete pain relief from the herniated disc occurring within days. By 2-4 weeks, patients can resume light work and daily activities. Physical therapy may start around this time to strengthen the back. Full recovery, including return to sports and strenuous activities, generally occurs within 3 months. Dr. Dilip Chand Raja .S , Senior Consultant - Bone, Joint & Spine Surgery Dr. Dilip Chand Raja .S , Senior Consultant - Bone, Joint & Spine Surgery Dr. Dilip Chand Raja .S is a highly experienced Senior Consultant in Bone, Joint & Spine Surgery at Kauvery Hospital Vadapalani, Chennai. With over 15 years in the field, he specializes in orthopedic trauma, joint replacement, and spine surgery. Dr. Raja is one of the few surgeons in India with an accredited spine fellowship (FNB-Spine surgery) and advanced training from Switzerland and Germany. He has successfully performed over 3,000 surgeries and is known for his expertise in minimally invasive spine surgery, scoliosis correction, and treating complex spinal issues. Dr. Raja is also committed to raising awareness of spinal health, particularly among older adults, and helps improve their quality of life through treatments like vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty. Kauvery Hospital Vadapalani is a leading healthcare provider offering top-notch medical services, particularly in orthopedics and spine surgery. The hospital is known for its advanced technology, skilled specialists, and patient-focused care, ensuring every patient receives personalized treatment for faster recovery and better outcomes.

prevention tips Dr Mittal said that antibiotics prescribed by a doctor are crucial for a complete recovery for those diagnosed with walking pneumonia. Here are preventive steps to reduce the risk of contracting walking pneumonia: Maintain a Balanced Diet: A diet rich in vitamins and minerals supports immune function. Rest and Sleep: Proper rest boosts your body's natural defenses. Regular Exercise: Physical activity strengthens the immune system, reducing infection vulnerability. Avoid Air Pollutants and Infections: Limiting exposure to pollutants and practicing good hygiene are essential to reducing the risk of respiratory infections. By understanding these key differences and focusing on a healthy lifestyle.

Diljit Dosanjh questions Bollywood music at Mumbai concert after being slapped with restrictions, references Allu Arjun's Pushpa



notice asking the singer to not sing songs that mentioned drugs, alcohol and violence. A similar advisory was previously issued in Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Chandigarh before his concerts by the state governments. In a video being shared online, Diljit addressed his audience at the start of his concert and promised them that they would have fun despite the restrictions. He said, "You don't worry about it. The advisory is for me. I will make sure that you have double the fun than you expected." He then shared his thoughts about the advisory and said, "When I was doing yoga this morning, I had a thought in my head. I thought today's show should start with that. When Sagar Manthan happened, the amrit was taken by the Devtas, but the poison was taken by Shiv. But Shiv also did not consume that poison, he held it in his throat. So I have learnt that life and the world might throw poison at you, but you should never take it in you. That's what I have learnt. Don't let your work suffer. People might stop you but you should not let yourself get bothered from inside. Enjoy, have fun." In another video, Diljit can be heard saying that Mumbai, which is the primary hub of the Hindi film industry, produces a lot of songs on alcohol. "This is Mumbai right? There are lots of songs here in movies that are on alcohol, too many songs. I don't want to name any artist or name their songs but you know better. You know how many songs are made in Bollywood but my songs are making the most noise these days," he said.

Diljit Dosanjh performed in Mumbai on Thursday night as a part of his Dil-Luminati India Tour. At the start of the show, Diljit addressed the crowd and spoke about the new advisory that was issued for him by the Maharashtra government, and explained it to his audience in the form of a mythological story. The Maharashtra government issued a

Shah Rukh Khan gets emotional watching son AbRam perform at school annual day function, dances with Abhishek Bachchan, Suhana Khan at after party.

Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan attended his youngest son AbRam Khan's annual day celebrations at school on Thursday, and the videos from the event have taken the internet by storm. The actor, known for his charming on-screen presence, was seen vibing to the music and enjoying the performances alongside his wife Gauri Khan and daughter, actress Suhana Khan. A video shows Shah Rukh Khan seated alongside Suhana and Gauri as the annual day function. As the children took to the stage, the "Levitating X Woh Ladki Jo" mashup playing in the background, prompting SRK to groove subtly. His infectious energy was palpable, and it was clear that he was having the time of his life. Watch here: In another video, Shah Rukh Khan was seen enjoying the children's performance on the song "Yeh Jo Des Hai Tera" from his iconic film Swades. The actor was seen beaming with pride as the children performed to the song.

Throughout the event, Shah Rukh Khan was seen sporting a suave salt-and-pepper look, and was seated in the front row alongside Gauri and Suhana. A viral video from the event captures the beloved actor dancing with students, much to the delight of attendees and fans alike. SRK's joyful participation reflected his deep bond with his family and his warm personality off-screen. It was more than an annual program; it was a celebration of love, energy, and SRK! Ending with 'Deewangi Deewangi' with SRK and AbRam was the cherry on top! Abhishek Bachchan, too, joined in the fun, creating a lively atmosphere alongside the kids and fellow parents. The two of them were seen grooving on the



song 'Deewangi Deewangi' from Om Shanti Om. However, it was a heartwarming video of Shah Rukh carefully escorting Gauri to her car amidst a bustling crowd that truly stole the show.

Following this, he held Suhana's hand, leading her through the crowd with a protective gesture. The touching moment highlighted SRK's dedication as a family man, leaving fans in awe of his grounded nature.

Exes Shahid Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor sat next to each other at kids' annual day function, fans react: 'Our Geet, Aditya'



Kareena Kapoor Khan and Shahid Kapoor's viral photos from the Dhirubhai Ambani International School's annual day function have sparked nostalgia among their fans. The ex-couple, who is happily married to Saif Ali Khan and Mira Rajput, respectively, attended their kids' annual function. While Kareena was seen cheering for her kids Taimur and Jeh, who performed at the event, Shahid Kapoor was sitting in the row behind her, as he cheered for daughter Misha. Fans have shared multiple photos of Kareena and Shahid from the celebrations, and expressed their happiness to see a reunion of 'Geet' and 'Aditya', their characters from Jab We Met.

"Geet and Aditya will always be in our hearts. #KareenaKapoorKhan," another fan on X, while another wrote, "OMG - #ShahidKapoor and #KareenaKapoor captured together in a same Frame today." Mira Rajput in one frame at their kids annual day wasnt in my bingol list of 2024," read another post. Kareena Kapoor and Shahid Kapoor were in a long-term relationship but broke up during the production of Jab We Met. Interestingly, Shahid's daughter, Misha Kapoor, and Kareena-Saif Ali Khan's kids Taimur and Jeh, are in the same school. Videos of Kareena Kapoor Khan adorably cheering for her younger son Jeh Ali Khan during his performance are also getting a lot of love on social media. She cheered just as enthusiastically for her older son, Taimur. Kareena also recorded her sons' performances

on her phone. Director Karan Johar was seen sitting next to her. Karan's twins, Yash and Roohi, were also a part of the performance. The event at Dhirubhai Ambani International School also saw other celebrity parents like Shah Rukh Khan and Gauri Khan, who attended along with daughter Suhana Khan. Aishwarya Rai, Abhishek Bachchan and Amitabh Bachchan came to watch Aaradhya Bachchan's performance. Genelia D'Souza and Riteish Deshmukh were also spotted.

Abhishek Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai attend Aaradhya's school function; Shah Rukh Khan and family join too.



Amid rumours of their split, Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai were spotted at the annual day function of their daughter Aaradhya Bachchan's school on Thursday evening. Amitabh Bachchan was also seen with the couple at the Dhirubhai Ambani School in Mumbai.

Other than the Bachchan family, Shah Rukh Khan and his family were seen attending AbRam's annual day function. SRK, Gauri, and Suhana Khan were spotted at the event. While Shah Rukh wore a formal pant shirt, Gauri was spotted in an off-white traditional attire.

Abhishek Bachchan holds Aishwarya Rai's dupatta at Aaradhya's school annual day event, Amitabh Bachchan cheers for granddaughter.



Amidst swirling rumours of trouble in their relationship, Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan made a joint appearance at their daughter Aaradhya's school annual day function on Thursday. The couple was accompanied by Amitabh Bachchan, who was also seen engaging with his granddaughter Aaradhya. The Bachchan family was spotted arriving at the function together. In a video doing rounds on social media, Abhishek and Aishwarya are seen exiting their vehicle together along with Amitabh Bachchan. The trio is seen entering the school premises together. Both Aishwarya and Abhishek were seen guiding Amitabh safely into the venue.

The annual day function, held at the Dhirubhai Ambani School in Mumbai, was a star-studded affair, with several

Bollywood celebrities, including Shah Rukh Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan, in attendance. Aaradhya, who participated in a Christmas play, stole the show with her impressive performance, captivating the audience with her dialogue delivery and stage presence. SRK's son AbRam was also a part of this play.

The Bachchan family's united appearance was a clear indication that they are not paying heed to the rumours surrounding their personal life. Aishwarya, in particular, was seen graciously dismissing speculations through her actions, as she engaged with her father-in-law and ensured his comfort amidst the crowd. Abhishek, too, was seen lovingly looking after his wife, as they held hands and exchanged warm glances. As the evening drew to a close, the Bachchan family made a heartwarming exit from the venue together. Proud parents Aishwarya and Abhishek were seen beaming with pride as they walked out of the school with Aaradhya by their side. As they made their way to their car, Aishwarya's affectionate gesture towards Aaradhya was caught on camera. The dotting mother was seen planting a tender kiss on her daughter's cheek, praising her for her outstanding performance on stage. The sweet moment was a testament to the strong bond between the mother-daughter duo. With their joint appearance, the Bachchan family has sent a clear message that they are united and not bothered by the rumours surrounding their personal life. The couple's fans also sighed in relief after spotting them together. Taking to the comments section of these videos, they poured their love for Aishwarya and Abhishek. One fan wrote, "To be very honest, when a family is complete its beautiful ?? I wish every family always remain intact ??," another fan wrote, "Aish and Abhishek ??," yet another fan wrote, "Aish is just like me ?????? I too can't get over my child when she does something new ?????."

Allu Arjun film is just Rs 280 cr shy of overtaking Baahubali 2, earns Rs 1508 cr

Pushpa 2 worldwide box office collection day 15: Pushpa 2 has collected Rs 1508 cr. Pushpa 2 worldwide box office collection day 15: Pushpa 2 has collected Rs 1508 cr. Pushpa 2 Box Office Collection Day 15 India & Worldwide: Allu Arjun-starrer Pushpa 2: The Rule has become the biggest hit of the actor's career, and even after two weeks in the cinemas, the film is still making money in double digits. On its 15th day in theatres, Pushpa 2 made Rs 17.75 crore, taking its nett domestic total to Rs 990.7 crore, as per industry tracker Sacnilk.

Pushpa 2, which was made in Telugu but released across India in various languages, has proved to be a bigger hit in Hindi as compared to Telugu. In fact, in just two weeks, the film has crossed the box office numbers of Street 2, which was the biggest Hindi-language hit of the year. Of the Rs 990.7 crore, Pushpa 2 has made Rs 621.6 crore in Hindi, Rs 295.6 crore in Telugu, Rs 52.4 crore in Tamil, Rs 13.97 crore in Malayalam and Rs 7.13 crore in Kannada. Street 2, which only released in Hindi, made Rs 598 crore during its theatrical run. With the holiday season coming up, Pushpa 2 has the chance to make a lot more money at the box office. On the 15th day, the film saw an overall Telugu occupancy of 18.93 percent with 481 shows in Hyderabad witnessing around 23 percent occupancy, and 459 shows in Bengaluru witnessing 10 percent occupancy. In Hindi, Pushpa 2 saw 17.43 percent overall occupancy with 2. Pushpa 2's success came with the news of a woman dying from a stampede at the premiere of the film in Hyderabad's Sandhya theatre, which was attended by the film's star Allu Arjun. The woman's nine-year-old son is critically injured and is still in the hospital. Previously, Allu Arjun was arrested in connection with the woman's death. His security team and the theatre owners were also named in the police complaint.

Pushpa 2 has become the third-highest grossing Indian film of all time behind Dangal and Baahubali 2: The Conclusion. Dangal made Rs 2000 crore globally after its release in China and Baahubali 2 made over Rs 1788 crore.



Pushpa 2 has already made Rs 1508 crore in India, as per the producers Mythri Movie Makers. Pushpa 2 might face some competition in the Hindi region with the release of Varun Dhawan's Baby John but it appears that by the end of its run, Pushpa 2 will overtake the collection of Baahubali 2. Pushpa 2's success came with the news of a woman dying from a stampede at the premiere of the film in Hyderabad's Sandhya theatre, which was attended by the film's star Allu Arjun. The woman's nine-year-old son is critically injured and is still in the hospital. Previously, Allu Arjun was arrested in connection with the woman's death. His security team and the theatre owners were also named in the police complaint.

Vivek Oberoi recalls getting mobbed during Saathiya shoot: 'The cops put me in the police van...'

Actor Vivek Oberoi has been part of the film industry for 22 years. While Vivek put acting on the backseat some years ago, he has been busy on the business front. Today, the actor has an impressive net worth of more than Rs 1200 crores, and now he is set to launch his next business venture. Recently, on the latest episode of SCREEN's Dear Me, Vivek spoke about his business and looked back at his journey as an actor. He also opened up about an incident from Saathiya's shoot when cops had to be called, and Vivek was taken in a police van. Speaking to SCREEN, Vivek revealed that he had initially said no to doing Saathiya. He shared, "Shaad Ali was like a childhood friend. He called me one day and said he wanted to show me something. He showed me the tape of a Tamil film called Alaipayuthey. He told me he was making that film and wanted me to play Maddy's role. I was doing Company, so I said no. But by the end of the movie, I was crying and I wanted to do it. I spoke to Mr. Verma, we figured it out, and then finally I signed Saathiya."

Recalling how he shot for 23 hours for Saathiya and even slept on benches, Vivek Oberoi shared, "Saathiya was a small budget film and only Rani used to get the makeup van. I had



to go and change in restaurant bathrooms and hotel washrooms. I did the touch-ups on the streets. Nobody knew who I was. I used to carry the tripod on my shoulder and walk with the rest of the crew. I have shot for 22-23 hours non-stop for Saathiya. I used to put newspapers on the bench and take a nap so that I looked fresh." Vivek further recalled how one day during the shoot of Saathiya, he got mobbed by fans, and the cops had to be called. He said, "April 12 2002, Company released, and that Sunday, we were shooting near Gaiety Galaxy's railway channel. It is that scene where I am chasing Rani.

We started shooting; it was a normal day. By then, Rani was a star, so she had a security guard. Around 11 am-12 pm, suddenly people started shouting Chandu Bhai, and I was very fascinated. From those 4-5 people, almost 2000 people gathered there, and the entire security arrangement went kaput. I was panicking because one day was getting wasted. Shaad wanted to get me out of there, so he pushed me into Rani's makeup van and I was looking outside the window. They were shouting the dialogues. Finally, they had to call the cops, and they said I should get out of there. Shaad opened the door, and he was

like stop and see this as it is for you. He told me I was a star. Then the cops picked me and put me in the police van and took me like I was some common criminal. Then we shot the same scene next Sunday with proper police protection." When asked if that first brush with stardom changed him, Vivek said, "You don't change overnight. You begin to realise slowly when the fraternity starts showing you respect. It starts to give you more confidence. At the time when I joined the industry, it was still about craft and passion, and less about box office numbers. I still don't know what business Saathiya did.

Irwansyah, Indonesia's singles coach, says he has accepted a job offer to coach in India



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Indonesian badminton coach Irwansyah, who has been the long-time singles coach for the badminton powerhouses, has said he has accepted an offer from India after his contract run down with Persatuan Bulutangkis Seluruh Indonesia (PBSI, the country's badminton federation). Irwansyah is credited with the rise of men's singles stars Jonatan Christie and Anthony Ginting, who have both been as high as No 2 in the world. "PBSI as my employer did not send me to the China Masters & Superseries Final Championship without informing me," Irwansyah was quoted as saying in a written statement by CNN Indonesia. "And until now there is no clarity and reason why I was not sent and included to accompany the players, then I decided to accept one of the offers from abroad," said Irwansyah. "I wanted to try a new challenge and seek new experiences living abroad with my wife and children. My family and I decided to accept a job offer as a coach in India." Christie, who won Asian Games gold in 2018, thanked the coach on his Instagram account. "Thank you for all the good things

and memories we have gone through together so far, I wish you all the best in the future," he posted a story.

Indonesia had a difficult men's singles outing at Paris 2024 despite high hopes from their two star shuttlers Anthony Ginting and Jonatan Christie. Ginting failed to progress out of the group after defeat against Toma Junior Popov. Christie, third seed, was eliminated by Lakshya Sen in the group stage as well. But 2024 also saw some famous results for the singles stars from the badminton-mad nation. "If you say the results are bad, okay, Jonatan and Ginting's Olympics did not have good results, I accept it, I am also responsible," Irwansyah had told MNC Portal Indonesia recently. "But not everything is bad. This year's All England we made history, the first time in 30 years, Jonatan and Ginting in the All England final, that's history." It is not clear yet what role the Badminton Association of India has offered him. Last week, BAI confirmed the appointment of Malaysian doubles specialist Tan Kim Her to work with the national team for the second time. Instrumental in pairing Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy during his first stint with India, the BAI statement said that "Tan will focus on developing strong doubles partnerships and bench strength ahead of the 2026 Asian Games and 2028 Los Angeles Olympics." Tan has already arrived in India and has begun his second spell with the team, joining the players in Hyderabad. "We had been looking for quality foreign coaches who could work with our current top players and also guide our next-generation players as we prepare for the 2028 Olympics. Finding the right coach took time but we were determined to bring in those who can continue the development of our badminton stars and also work with a bigger group of players and help build a strong pipeline of talent for the future," said BAI Secretary General Sanjay Mishra.

How Ashwin remained a committed cricketer and a team man till his sudden and surprising exit

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

R Ashwin stood at the end of the corridor outside the press conference room after the rain-impacted third Test had ended in a draw. Captain Rohit Sharma was walking just ahead of him, gesturing to the waiting journalists. "Sab pata chalega abhi, milega! The Indian captain would say that with a laugh, perhaps in reference to the buzz in the press box and social media about the possible retirement of a "big player".

Behind Rohit, Ashwin seemed to be calming himself before his big announcement. He took a deep breath, composed himself and entered the press conference room. Just a short while back, he had been enveloped with an emotional hug by Virat Kohli. Ashwin would remarkably try his best to shrug-off the emotions as he sat next to Rohit in front of cameras. He was also being witty. Then the penny dropped when he said "this is my last day ... I had a lot of fun. I must say I've created a lot of memories alongside Rohit and several of my other teammates, even though I've lost some of them over the last few years. We are the last bunch of the OGs." He added that he won't be taking questions as he was too emotional now to handle that load. Rohit would talk about how he first knew about Ashwin's mind space when he landed in Perth on the third day of that first Test. On the first day of that Test, just before lunch break when the Indian top order was wobbling, Ashwin had already hit the indoor nets, bowling away. Over the next couple of days, it became a regular occurrence. On a couple of times, there was not even a support staff with him, as he kept whirring away at the nets. Thud, thud ... one would hear the sounds of his spiked shoes walking down a stairway and enter the indoor nets space. All along then, as Rohit would reveal on Wednesday, he had been contemplating retirement. Still, there was a burning desire to work on his craft. He might be celebrated for his cerebral art but Ashwin is an emotional cricketer. He once revealed to this newspaper about how a stray remark by his father about his trait to speak his mind "screwing him in his career", made him retreat to a room and weep. Unable to handle the flood of emotions, he would eventually get counseling from a therapist. Of late, he said that he is in a "happy space" and trying to gather as many "moments to remember" rather than stress a lot about little stuff.

That happy space, or at least some sort of peace, would pop up now and then in Australia. On the fourth day's play when Ravindra Jadeja, the man who replaced him in this Brisbane Test, was about to enter the tunnel through to the dressing room, Ashwin lunged across from the dugout that's in the outside space, to pat him on the back and give him a wholesome smile. On the final morning, Ashwin and Australia's Nathan Lyon chatted for a long while a short distance away from the pitch. Two celebrated off spinners, two men with more than thousand Test wickets between them - at 537, Ashwin has four more than Lyon - would have a nice animated discussion. Ashwin then walked across towards the warm-up area where Jasprit Bumrah patted his back. In Adelaide, where Rohit Sharma told him he would play, he sweated a lot in the nets again. On the

Sam Konstas and Jhye Richardson added for MCG and SCG Tests; Nathan McSweeney axed

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Australian cricketers Sam Konstas on the left and Jhye Richardson on the right. Australian cricketers Sam Konstas on the left and Jhye Richardson on the right. 19-year-old Sam Konstas has been added to the Australian Test squad in the ongoing Border Gavaskar Trophy for the remaining two Tests in Melbourne and Sydney. The teenage prospect scored an impressive ton against India representing the Prime Minister's XI earlier this month in the warm-up game at Canberra. Nathan McSweeney who made his debut in Perth has had his fair share of troubles against the likes of Indian ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah as a result has been axed from the squad. "The squad provides options as to how we structure the XI for the final two Tests of the series," said Chief Selector George Bailey on the group picked. "Sam gets a call up to the Test squad for the first time. His style of batting offers a point of difference and we look forward to watching his game develop further. We remain confident Nathan (McSweeney) has the ability and temperament to succeed at Test level in the future. It was a difficult decision to leave him out," he added. "It has clearly



been a challenge at the top of the order for batters throughout the series and we want to provide the option of a different lineup for the next two matches." In addition to the change in the batting department, with Josh Hazlewood getting ruled out of the series with an injury the selectors have named West Australian Jhye Richardson as replacement. The 28-year-old in three Tests he played so far has picked up 11 wickets at an average of 22.09.

Michael Clarke compares Rohit Sharma to Aaron Finch and gives advice: 'I'd rather have him go out and back himself from ball one'



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

Rohit Sharma's recent batting form in red-ball cricket has been in steep decline. In the ongoing Border Gavaskar Trophy, the Indian skipper scored just 19 runs from three innings averaging 6.33, former Australian skipper Michael Clarke would compare Rohit to another Australian ex-player Aaron Finch. "Finch is a good example. He will tell you, batting in Test cricket where the ball is moving, when you are a player who has dominated short-format cricket, it's hard when your confidence drops. I remember having conver-

sations with Finchy, I'd rather have him go out and back himself from ball one. Sometimes, it doesn't look great, but that's the way these boys play. They are X-factor players, match-winners. Rohit is such an important player in the Indian team," Clarke said speaking to ESPN Australia.

"You never pick just based on form. He's (Rohit) captain of the team, I'm definitely picking him. Rohit hasn't started here, he took some time to get back into it. He wants some runs, and he's an exceptional player," Clarke added. Rohit missed the first due to the birth of his second child and joined for the second Test. He has also pushed himself down the order to number six after KL Rahul had a good outing in Perth and chipped in with a crucial half-century at the Gabba. While there have been a few opinions from experts and former players that Rohit has to move up, Clarke feels otherwise. "He plays in middle-order because he thinks it's best for the team. I won't make any changes. KL Rahul is doing a great job at the top, I understand that. I don't think it matters what format he plays; when he's confident and backing himself, playing with aggressive intent, that's where he is at his best," Clarke said. In addition to the ongoing series, Rohit did have a pretty average series against New Zealand at home averaging 15.17 and losing the series 3-0.

How Smriti Mandhana and Richa Ghosh put to sword West Indies' attack for a famous series win

GNS News Agency, Dec 23

With the series on the line, Smriti Mandhana and Richa Ghosh put on a high-intent show in Navi Mumbai with blistering half-centuries. It was a record-breaking night for India in Navi Mumbai on Thursday night as they beat West Indies by 60 runs in the T20I series decider. First, Mandhana broke the record for the most 50-plus scores in women's T20Is. Once she was dismissed, Ghosh came in and smashed an 18-ball half-century, the joint-fastest ever in this format. And those two knocks powered India to 217/4, their highest-ever total in women's T20Is. Hayley Matthews won the toss for a third straight time and had no hesitation to bowl first, given the dew factor at the DY Patil Stadium makes it a chase-friendly venue. The first over from Chinelle Henry saw the ball move around significantly and she picked up the wicket of Uma Chetry too, who was out for a duck. India paid the price for not being able to start well in the 2nd match of the series but stand-in captain Mandhana quickly found the feet.

Mandhana got going with a boundary in the second over through the offside but her onslaught truly began in the third. First, she took on Chinelle Henry, hitting three successive fours. She then followed that up with 4, 6, 4, 4 after getting back on strike in Deandra Dottin's over, scoring seven boundaries on the trot. It was a dream start for Mandhana and India. At the other end, Jemimah Rodrigues took her time to get set but helped India finish the powerplay strongly (61/1) with three fours in Karishma Ramharack's over. The pleasing aspect of India's batting was also how it wasn't just a Mandhana show. Once Rodrigues fell for a busy 39, newcomer Raghvi Bist didn't waste any time to get going, smashing her first international six off the 6th ball she faced. Mandhana added another feather to her cap in what has been a good year for her personally. Her third consecutive half century of the series was the 30th in her career and it took her past New Zealand legend Suzie Bates, who has 28 half-centuries and one century in the format. The left-hander got to the landmark with a four over midwicket, scoring a 27-ball half century. Her first century in this format looked imminent until she got out rather softly by lofting Dottin to the fielder at mid off.

But in came Ghosh in the 15th over, and continuing the trend up until then, didn't take long to fire. She smashed



the first ball for a straight six off Dottin, followed that up with a square cut for four and it set the tone for what was to follow. However, West Indies did give her a big reprieve in the next over, with Dottin and Henry getting in each other's way at deep midwicket and it proved to be rather costly. Ghosh could have actually set the outright record for the fastest 50 but failed to connect properly with a short ball when on 44 off 16. But off the first ball of the last over, she reached the record-equaling milestone with a six over midwicket. And once she fell, Sajana Sajeevan came in to hit a first-ball boundary to take India to their best total in this format. "First ball or last ball, if it is in my slot, I want to go for the big shots," Ghosh said after the match. The target of 218 was going to be daunting but WI showed last year they can achieve it, when they pulled off a win in Australia. A lot depended on Matthews and Dottin, and India were able to dismiss both of them in the 20s after getting starts. "The way Raghvi batted was impressive, she came out with a lot of intent," Mandhana said. "Playing just a second match and hitting 4th or 5th ball for a six... I think I would have not been able to do that when I was playing my second match. Then I think the way Richa took that responsibility was superb. Even in the last match I think her innings was really amazing but we could not appreciate it because we could not win the match. But today, I was just telling her I don't know what did she eat today." The win marked a T20I series victory at home for the first time in 5 years for India. As Mandhana said, it was something that spurred the team on. "When I saw that stat, it is not something which reflects on what kind of cricket we've played so that's what the chat was in the morning... that today we have an opportunity to change that, so really happy that you know we've got this series win."

India to host next edition of Para Athletics World Championship at JLN in New Delhi



GNS News Agency, Dec 23

New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium has been finalised as the venue for the 2025 Para Worlds slated for 26 September to 5 October 2025. This is the first time India will host para athletics' biggest sporting event. The development was announced by the World Paralympic Association (WPA) on their official website on Thursday.

The 2025 event is the 12th edition of the championships and the fourth time it is hosted in Asia, following Doha 2015, Dubai 2019 and Kobe 2024. As per WPA, the capital will also host a World Para Athletics Grand Prix from 11 to 13 March at the same venue in 2025. The Grand Prix event will serve as a trial event before the big competition scheduled for October. "We are delighted to announce that the first major championships of the new Paralympic cycle towards Los Angeles 2028 will be hosted in New Delhi. The 2025 Para Athletics World Championships will be the largest in-

ternational Para sport event ever to take place in India, representing a massive opportunity to grow our sport, our fan base, and to impact society's perception of persons with disabilities in the world's most populous nation," Paul Fitzgerald, Head of World Para Athletics said. "India is one of the best examples of the growth and development of Para athletics in the last decade. From winning two silver medals at the Doha 2015 World Championships to securing 17 medals - including six gold - at this year's Worlds in Kobe, the progress is evident. This success reflects the work of the National Paralympic Committee of India and the investment being made in sports, particularly Para athletics, in the country. We have witnessed the impact major events can have and the legacy they can leave to make Para sports more visible and accessible to everyone. We believe this can happen in New Delhi, and we look forward to welcoming the world's best athletes to India next year."