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NEWS IN BRIEF

PM Modi to flag off 9 Vande Bharat Express trains on Sunday

New Delhi Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off nine Vande Bharat trains on Sunday connecting religious and tourist destinations across 11 states. The nine trains will provide faster connectivity across 11 states -- Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat. The Prime Minister Modi will flag off the trains through video conferencing. The new trains that will be flagged off are -- Udaipur - Jaipur Vande Bharat Express, Tirunelveli-Madurai - Chennai Vande Bharat Express, Hyderabad - Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express, Vijayawada - Chennai (via Renigunta) Vande Bharat Express, Patna - Howrah Vande Bharat Express, Kasaragod - Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat Express, Rourkela - Bhubaneswar - Puri Vande Bharat Express, Ranchi - Howrah Vande Bharat Express and Jamnagar-Ahmedabad Vande Bharat Express. In a statement the government said that these nine trains will boost connectivity across 11 states namely Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Odisha, Jharkhand and Gujarat. These Vande Bharat trains will be the fastest train along the routes of their operation and will help save considerable time of the passengers. As compared to the current fastest train along the route, Rourkela - Bhubaneswar - Puri Vande Bharat Express and Kasaragod - Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat Express will be faster by about three hours; Hyderabad - Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express by more than 2.5 hours; Tirunelveli-Madurai - Chennai Vande Bharat Express by more than two hours; Ranchi etc the statement said.

Trade, Commerce given special attention under PM Modi's leadership: Law Minister Meghwal

New Delhi, Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal on Saturday said that trade, commerce and investment were given special attention under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the last few years with alternative dispute mechanisms made more effective. He said that the PM Modi-led government has taken various steps to strengthen contract enforcement and commercial dispute resolution in the country. Addressing the inaugural session of the International Lawyers' Conference organised by the Bar Council of India, he mentioned that the government enacted the Commercial Courts Act in 2015 soon after it came into power. Also, Meghwal highlighted that various amendments were undertaken in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 to institutionalize arbitration and set up an arbitration ecosystem. He said Parliament also enacted the Mediation Act, 2023 to statutory deal matters relating to mediation. The 'compliance burden' was reduced to enhance 'ease of doing business', he added. Meghwal said that 'Telelaw' and 'eCourts Project' enabled access to justice for all, adding that the Supreme Court had the highest number of virtual hearings in the world during the CoVID-19 pandemic. It may be recalled that during his recent address to the convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, CJ Chandrachud had highlighted that during the pandemic, courts across India held as many as 43 million hearings through virtual mode. CJ Chandrachud had also pointed out that between March 23, 2020 and October 31, 2022, the Supreme Court alone heard 3.37 lakh cases through video conferencing. Meghwal said that the government is focusing on infrastructure in district and lower courts.

Judiciary, legal fraternity have been long protectors of India's justice system: PM Modi

New Delhi @ EW News

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the legal fraternity plays a key role in the building of any country, adding that the judiciary and bar have long been protectors of India's justice system. He was inaugurating the 'International Lawyers Conference' here. The Women's Reservation Bill that was passed in Parliament two days ago will give women-led development a new direction, energy. Addressing the conference here, Modi said, 'The International Lawyers' Conference 2023 has become a symbol of the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. He welcomed the foreign dignitaries to India and also thanked the Bar Association of India for taking the lead in organising the programme. Emphasising the role of the legal fraternity in the development of any country, Modi said, "For



years, the judiciary and the bar have been the guardians of India's judicial system." He also highlighted the role of legal professionals in the freedom struggle and cited examples of Mahatma Gandhi, Baba Saheb Ambedkar, Babu Rajendra Prasad, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Lokmanya Tilak and Veer Savarkar. "Experience of the legal profession has worked to strengthen the foundation of independent India and today's

impartial judicial system has also helped in bolstering the confidence of the world in India," he said. The Prime Minister underlined that the conference is taking place at a time when the nation has been a witness to several historic decisions and recalled the passage of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha which entitles a 33 per cent reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha. He also mentioned that the world got a

glimpse of India's democracy, demography and diplomacy at the recently concluded G20 Summit in New Delhi. "On this day, a month ago, India became the first nation in the world to successfully land Chandrayaan-3 on the south pole of the moon," the Prime Minister recalled. He emphasised that the India of today which is brimming with self-confidence is working to realise the goal of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 and expressed the need for strong, independent

and unbiased foundations for the legal system in India to achieve the goal of a developed nation. He expressed confidence that the International Lawyers' Conference 2023 will turn out to be extremely successful and each country will get an opportunity to learn from the best practices of other nations. Modi elaborated on the deep connectedness of today's world. He said that there are many forces in the world today that do not care about the borders and jurisdiction. "When dangers are global, ways to deal with them should also be global", he said. He touched upon cyber terrorism, money laundering, and possibilities of misuse of artificial intelligence and said that preparing a global framework on such issues goes beyond just government matters but calls for connectedness among the legal framework of different countries," the Prime Minister said.

Citizens should be proud of bipartisan efforts in passing of Women's Reservation Bill: CJ

New Delhi @ EW News

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Saturday said that citizens should be proud of the bipartisan efforts echoed in Parliament during passing of the Women's Reservation Bill. Such spirit was reflected in drafting of the Constitution where members engaged beyond partisan line and conflicting ideologies came together "in one voice" to draft the Constitution, he said while addressing the inaugural session of the International Lawyers' Conference organised by the Bar Council of India. CJ Chandrachud said that while the judiciary upholds rule of law, the bar plays a key role as lawyers help in business efficiency and cross border transactions and contribute to national well being and economic development. He stressed that it is time for the lawyers to reach

Rahul Gandhi reaches Jaipur; to lay foundation of Congress headquarters building

Jaipur @ EW News

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who reached Jaipur at around 7 a.m. on Saturday morning, will lay the foundation stone of the party headquarters building in Jaipur. Rahul Gandhi and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge will lay the foundation stone of the new building and both the leaders will also address a public meeting at the Housing Board Ground on Shipra Path of Mansarovar. Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, State President Govind Singh Datasara welcomed Rahul Gandhi at the airport. Rahul Gandhi will first lay the foundation stone of the new Congress headquarters building in Mansarovar, and will hold a meeting in the afternoon. After this he will inaugurate Gandhi Vatika at 3.30 pm. It is believed that Rahul

Gandhi and Kharge will give a new political line to the Congress leaders. This is the first meeting of the two leaders after the passing of the Women's Reservation Bill. In such a situation, there can be an announcement regarding women also. Over 60,000 party officials, including more than 52,000 Congress booth presidents, 2200 division presidents, 400 block presidents, and many district presidents, have been called for this meeting. Workers have also been called from Jaipur and surrounding districts. The big meeting of Rahul and Kharge in the capital is being considered as the beginning of Congress' election campaign. The meeting of Rahul-Kharge is taking place at a time when Prime Minister Modi's election rally is scheduled to be held in Jaipur after two days on September 25.

Bihar Dy Speaker claims INDIA leaders agreed upon Nitish as PM face

Patna, Agency

The Deputy Speaker of Bihar Assembly, Maheshwar Hazari, claimed on Saturday that the leaders of the Opposition INDIA bloc have agreed on projecting Nitish Kumar as its Prime Ministerial face, adding that an announcement in this regard will be made in the near future. "Five-time Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has had a long political career. Being a former Union minister, he has all the qualities to become the next Prime Minister of the country. Every socialist leader wants to make Nitish Kumar the Prime Minister," said Hazari, who on Saturday went to the CM's residence to attend a meeting held under Nitish Kumar's chair.

DUSU results reflect faith of young generation in an ideology that puts national interests first: Amit Shah

New Delhi, Ew News

Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah on Saturday congratulated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) for winning three posts in the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) elections, saying that it reflects the faith of the young generation in the ideology that puts national interests first. In a post on X, Shah said: "Heartily congratulations to all the workers of the Council on the landslide victory of the ABVP in the Delhi University Students Union elections." "This victory reflects the faith of the young generation in the ideology that puts national interests first. I have full confidence that the workers of the Council will continue to work with determination to keep the ideals of Swami Vivekananda and the spirit



of nationalism alive among the youth," he added. His remarks came after the ABVP on Saturday won the three posts including that of the President, Secretary and Joint Secretary, while the Congress-backed National Students Union

of India (NSUI) managed to win one post of Vice President. According to officials, ABVP's Tushar Dedha has been elected president of Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) as he defeated NSUI's Hitesh

Gulia. Dedha got 23,460 votes while Gulia was polled 20,345 votes. While ABVP's Aparajita won for the post of Secretary as she got 24,534 votes. Sachin Baisla won the post of Joint Secretary with 24,955 votes. NSUI's candidate Abhi Dahiya managed to win the post of the Vice President as he got 22,331 votes. Earlier in the day, Minister of State for Railways and Textiles, Darshana Jardosh in a post on X, said: "Many congratulations to ABVP for its jubilant victory in DUSU Election 2023. This victory enunciates the collective faith of youth in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies and politics."

MINISTERS AND MPS IN CANADA CONDEMN THE KHALISTANIS No place for hatred and threats: LeBlanc

MP Arya asked to be cautious

Anil Malviya | Ew News

(Lucknow) In view of the increasing anti Indian activities of gangster turned Khalistanis terrorists in Canada, an atmosphere of panic and insecurity is prevailing there. The Canadian Ministers and MPs have assured the Hindu community that there is no need to get frightened from anyone in Canada. Canada's Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc has condemned Khalistani leaders and told them sternly to desist from any act of violence. He said that he wants to tell those who are asking the Hindu community to leave the



country that hatred and intimidation have no place in Canada. At the same time, Canadian Defense Minister Harjit Singh Sajjan also said that it is not justified to threaten Hindus to leave Canadian soil. Every community living in Canada will be protected. Canadian MP Chandra Arya says, "Few days back Khalistan movement leader in Canada and the president of Sikhs for Justice which organizes the so-called referendum, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun attacked Hindu-Canadians asking us to leave Canada and go back to India. I have heard from many Hindu-Canadians who are fearful after this targeted attack. I urge Hindu-Canadians to stay calm but vigilant..."

The Khalistan movement leader is trying to provoke the Hindu-Canadians to react and divide the Hindu and Sikh communities in Canada. Let me be clear. Vast majority of our Canadian Sikh brothers and sisters do not support Khalistan movement. Most Sikh Canadians may not publicly condemn the Khalistan movement for several reasons but they are deeply connected to the Hindu-Canadian community...I can't understand how glorification of terrorism or a hate crime targeting a religious group is allowed in the name of freedom of speech and expression..."

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BJP MLA ticket scam: Police custody of prime accused to end on Saturday, likely to be sent to judicial custody

Bengaluru, Agency

The police custody of Chaitra Kundapura, the prime accused in BJP MLA ticket scam, will be produced before the court as the duration of his police custody will end on Saturday. The sleuths of special wing CCB investigating the scam will also produce accused Gagan Kadur, Ramesh, Channa Naik, Dhanraj, Srikanth before the court. The authorities are most likely to hand them over to judicial custody. Abhinava Halasri Swamiji, another accused in the scam is still being questioned by the special team and until his investi-

gations are over the Hindu activist Kundapura and others bail plea will not be entertained by the court. Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda had said that the special wing CCB sleuths, who are investigating the BJP MLA ticket scam, have seized Rs 2 crore worth valuables, gold jewellery, and Rs 76 lakh in cash. Dayananda said that Rs 2 crore worth valuables, and gold jewellery were seized from accused Chaitra Kundapura, a Hindutva activist, in the case. Dayananda stated that Rs 56 lakh in cash was seized from the mutt of the arrested seer Abhinava Halasri. After carrying out

further investigations Rs 20 lakh was seized from a person connected to the seer. The police have arrested eight persons and notice has been issued to four persons to appear for questioning in connection with the case. Congress Spokesperson from Mysuru M. Laxman had alleged that he had got inputs on the BJP MLA ticket scam amounting to Rs 185 crore. Seventeen ticket aspirants have been cheated by Chaitra Kundapura. She got tickets for 23 people and made money, he had claimed. He had said that Chaitra Kundapura had direct connections with the BJP top leadership and

demanding that it should be probed. "We are taking a delegation to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in this regard and he will be requested to give directions for a comprehensive probe into the scam," he had said. The BJP had given tickets to 72 new faces in the recently concluded assembly elections and faced a humiliating defeat. The scam came to light following an industrialist Govind Babu Poojari lodging a complaint against Chaitra Kundapura and others for cheating him of Rs 5 crores after promising a BJP MLA ticket. He claimed the involvement of the top party leadership in the scam.

Assam Rifles seeks action against insurgents using lookalike paramilitary vehicles

Imphal, | Ew News

The Assam Rifles has requested Manipur police to take prompt action against the valley-based insurgents and miscreants who have acquired vehicles and modified them to resemble those used by the Central paramilitary force. The Churachandpur-based headquarters of 27 Sector of Assam Rifles, in a confidential letter to the Superintendent of police of Churachandpur district said that immediate actions should be taken against such illegal modification of vehicles to avoid any kind of adverse incident. The Assam Rifles' September 18 letter, accessed by said, "It is reliably learnt that few Maitei miscreants with the help of VBIGs (Valley Based Insurgents Groups) have acquired many used TATA 407 from civil market and have converted them to resembled like the



TATA 407 vehicle being used by Assam Rifles by painting and putting the Assam Rifles insignia." "These vehicles are located in the general area of Kakching. Conversion of civil vehicle to lookalike of Assam Rifles vehicle clearly shows the nefarious intention of VBIGs to tarnish the image of Assam Rifles or to utilise the same vehicle for anti-national activities," the letter said. "It is requested to please disseminate this input to SP, Kakching and to your higher authorities so that a pre-emptive action can be taken to avert any kind of adverse incident," it added. The development comes at a time when

the Manipur police on September 16 arrested five persons with sophisticated weapons in camouflage uniforms. On Friday, the Manipur police displayed a fake identity card, posted on the X (formerly Twitter) : "Fake I-card. Manipur Police has not issued such a card. Necessary legal action will be initiated." A senior Manipur police official said that the police have information that miscreants masquerading as police commandos are roaming around and such acts, including demands for extortion and threats, have hampered the efforts to normalise the situation that the police have been genuinely-

making. "We have several reports from different valley districts including Imphal East and Imphal West that there is an increase in complaints related to extortion and threats," the official told the media. Meanwhile, The Manipur government on Friday night warned people, who have looted arms, to deposit them within 15 days, otherwise stern legal and security measures would be taken against them. A release, issued from Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's office said that all illegal weapons held by any person or groups across the state should be surrendered forthwith or within a period of 15 days. The state government is willing to take a considerate view for the persons depositing such comprehensive search operation all over the state to recover such weapons, and all persons associated with any illegal weapons will be dealt with severely.

Cauvery dispute: Protests in B'luru, south K'taka dists opposing release of water to Tamil Nadu

Bengaluru, Karnataka Police department is on high alert and has made elaborate security arrangements in the backdrop of protests being held in Bengaluru and other districts of south Karnataka on Saturday opposing the government's move to release water to Tamil Nadu. Home Minister G. Parameashwara has warned the protestors not to disturb the law and order situation and cause damage to public properties during the protests. BJP and JD(S) have declared their support to various farmers' and Kannada organisations who are protesting against the Congress government. BJP leader C.T. Ravi is joining the protestors in Mandya in the morning while former CM and JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy has announced that he will join the protests in Mandya after arriving from New Delhi. BJP is staging a massive protest at the Mysuru Bank Circle in the Central Business District of Bengaluru. Large number of people are expected to take part in the protest and it is likely to throw the traffic out of gear. Former CM Basavaraj Bommai and other top leaders from BJP are taking part in the protest. The BJP unit is organising protests across Bengaluru. The bandh call has got a good response in Mandya district. The shops, theatres and commercial establishments barring the emergency services remained closed. Roadblocks are reported from the region. The security is tightened in Mysuru and Ramanagara districts. The security is also beefed up near the roads of Bengaluru where buses owned by Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation ply as there are high chances of agitators targeting them. The police department has also deputed a platoon at the Mysuru Satellite Bus Terminal where buses from Tamil Nadu are halted.

TN DMK leader attacked with swords in B'luru; video goes viral

Bengaluru, A video of an attack on DMK leader, who is also a rowdy sheeter from Tamil Nadu, by a rival gang at a Bengaluru hotel has gone viral on social media raising concerns in the state capital. The incident had taken place on September 4 when V.K. Guruswamy, a DMK leader, was sitting with a broker and chatting with him at a hotel in Kammanahalli in Bengaluru. The footage shows a gang of five persons barging inside the hotel and launching a brutal attack on him. Though Guruswamy notices the gang and tries to escape, he gets caught by the gang. The gang thrashes him as he runs all across the hotel. Police explain that the 64-year-old Guruswamy was hit by a sword more than 70 times. He was rushed to the hospital and surprisingly, Guruswamy survived the attack and he is being treated at the hospital. Banaswadi police, who had lodged a case in this regard, had cracked the case found that the attack was carried out by the gang of rowdy Pandiyan of the state. The police had arrested the attackers Karthik, Vinod Kumar and Prasanna. Guruswamy was having a close connection with politicians in Madurai. The Tamil Nadu police have opened a history sheet against him. He is facing the allegation of involvement in eight murders. East DCP Bheema Shankar Guled stated that Guruswamy faced murder, murder attempt charges and he is a history sheeter in Kirutai police station. He had a rivalry with another gang for 30 years. Guruswamy is being treated at the hospital. The real estate agent with him had also suffered serious injuries.

My prayers cleared way for Antony to get in CWC again: Elizabeth Antony

Thiruvananthapuram, Ew News

Elizabeth Antony, wife of A.K Antony, has said that it was due to her prayers which paved way for Antony's health to recover and was able to again become a CWC member. She said that it was again because of her prayers that her son Anil Antony was able to join the BJP. Elizabeth Antony was addressing a Catholic prayer congregation - Kreupasanam Marian Shrine. "My husband is an atheist and doesn't go to Church, but he gave me the freedom to pray. I started to regularly pray, especially for my husband who had serious health issues," said Elizabeth. "It was after eight months of intense



prayers things started to change. I got relief and so did my husband. Then came his recent nomination to the CWC," said Elizabeth. She said that with the Congress leadership taking a decision at their Chintan Shibiram that children of leaders will not be allowed to join pol-

ter's Office to join the BJP. I went to prayer before the Catholic prayer congregation - Kreupasanam Marian Shrine. "I told the priest, at the shrine about Anil, as we all along have been die hard Congress supporters. But the priest after placing my request before the deity, he came back and said do not ask for Anil to return. Anil will be having a good future also," Elizabeth said. She also pointed out that what will happen when Anil comes home. "Here too, my prayers got answered as when Anil came home, my husband said we will not discuss politics at home and there has been no issues at all. I am very happy that my prayers got answered," said Elizabeth in her 19 minutes of speech.

Cauvery protest: Cong govt is Tamil Nadu's agent, says Yediyurappa

Bengaluru, Karnataka unit of BJP on Saturday staged a protest here against the Congress government's move to release water to Tamil Nadu. Addressing the agitators, former chief minister B.S. Yediyurappa alleged that the Congress government in Karnataka has become Tamil Nadu's agent. "The Congress, which was supposed to protect the interest of the state, is acting like an agent of Tamil Nadu. The ministers of the state are issuing statements as if they are agents of Tamil Nadu," Yediyurappa attacked. The state government had released water before the order of the Supreme Court. The farmers are pushed into crisis. Let Tamil Nadu send a team of experts to Karnataka, they will know the crisis here, he said. Knowing well that there is no storage of water in state reservoirs, the water released day and night to Tamil Nadu neglecting the interests of the state. This is just a symbolic protest. In the coming days the protest will be launched with more intensity in the state. All MLAs and MPs will together come into the agitation, Yediyurappa stated. Former PM H.D. Deve Gowda, former CM H.D. Kumaraswamy has stated that the state should not release a drop of water to Tamil Nadu. The Congress government should stop acting like an agent of Tamil Nadu and file a petition before the Supreme Court. They must efficiently present the views, he stated. Former chief minister Basavaraj Bommai stated that there is an easy way to solve the Cauvery issue. "Write a letter to your friend Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin.

DyCM row deepens in K'taka: CM loyalist Cong MLA bats for creation of 5 DyCM posts

Bengaluru, | Ew News

Close on the heels of Karnataka Congress Minister K.N. Rajanna vouching for three more DyCM posts, party MLA and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's follower Basavaraja Rayareddy, on Saturday, sought creation of five DyCM posts. Speaking to reporters here, Rayareddy maintained that the DyCM D.K. Shivakumar is the principal of all others. "In my opinion, five DyCM posts have to be created in Karnataka to benefit in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections," he said. Currently, Shivakumar is the only DyCM. Similar opportunities should be given regionally and district wise. The chance should be given to candidates belonging to Lingayat, Muslim, Dalit communities and one Dalit candidate as well, he added. If this is done, all communities will support the Congress party. "I support the demand of Minister Rajanna. He demanded for three and two more DyCM posts to be created," Rayareddy stated. He maintained that the Congress government will turn unstable if it wins fewer seats than the BJP-JD(S) alliance. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah-led government is stable and strong, he stated. He also denied that creation of more DyCM posts is aimed at weakening the position of present DyCM Shivakumar. "The proposal is not against Shivakumar. He is a good organiser. Let him become principal DyCM.

Let others be called as his subordinates," he stated. Rayareddy claimed that CM Siddaramaiah will remain as the Chief Minister for five years. He is made CM for the full term. He can resign to the post as per his wish. But, the high command while making him the CM, had clearly stated that he has been made so for the full term. Minister for Cooperation K.N. Rajanna and Rayareddy's statements have created a furore within the Congress party. Rajanna had stated that if three posts of Deputy CM are not created, then the government will become "unstable". Rajanna stressed on the creation of three Deputy CMs posts in the state to win more seats in the Lok Sabha elections. "If Congress wins less seats in Parliamentary elections, the government is going to be unstable. On many occasions, the high command had considered the public opinion whenever there was a defeat in the Lok Sabha elections," he said. "I have told the high command to create three DyCM posts to ensure a stable government and to win more Lok Sabha seats. This is not a statement with ill-intention and I am stating this in the interest of the party," the minister added. "It is wrong to interpret that CM Siddaramaiah is prompting me to talk on this matter. I have not met CM Siddaramaiah in the recent past. It is also wrong to say that Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar is going to lose prominence if three more DyCMs are made," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

RAHUL GANDHI TRAVELS WITH STUDENT ON SCOOTER IN JAIPUR

Jaipur, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi reached Maharani College at around 12 p.m., where he talked to the girl students for some time and then traveled on a scooter with student. The video of the Congress leader riding on a pillion on a girl's scooter in Jaipur has also gone viral on social media. Congress has also posted the video and captioned it as 'Rajasthan mein Jan Nayak.' The Wayanad MP on Saturday reached Jaipur at 7 a.m., Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, state President Govind Singh Dotsara welcomed Rahul at the airport. Rahul and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge laid the foundation stone of the new Congress headquarters building in Jaipur.

TOLLYWOOD ACTOR NAVDEEP APPEARS BEFORE TSNAB IN DRUGS CASE

Hyderabad, Tollywood actor Navdeep on Saturday appeared before Telangana State Anti-Narcotics Bureau (TSNAB) in a drugs case. In response to the notices served by TSNAB on Thursday under 41A of Criminal Procedure Code, the actor appeared before the officials. The officials were questioning him about his alleged links with drug peddlers. His name had cropped up during an investigation conducted by TSNAB in a drugs case. The agency had said that the actor was evading arrest in the case registered recently by the Gudimalkapur police following the arrest of three Nigerian peddlers. An accused arrested based on the information provided by Tollywood financier Venkatarama Reddy and ex-Navy officer B. Balaji, who were arrested in another case recently, had allegedly revealed the name of Navdeep. However, Navdeep had denied his involvement and approached the Telangana High Court for anticipatory bail. The court on Wednesday directed the police not to take coercive action against him. It, however, said police can question him by issuing him a notice. Navdeep was among the Tollywood personalities questioned by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of Telangana's Prohibition of Excise department in 2017 in connection with a high-end drugs racket. In 2021, he along with other film personalities was also questioned by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the same case. The SIT had given clean chit to celebrities drugs case.

MONEY KEY FACTOR IN CHOICE OF CANDIDATES IN BENGAL PANCHAYAT POLLS: TRINAMOL MLA

Kolkata, Now, a heavyweight but controversial legislator of Trinamool Congress has accused the party leadership of ensuring tickets to candidates on lieu of money in the recently concluded panchayat polls in West Bengal. "In several districts, especially in Murshidabad, money had been the deciding factor in selection of party candidates in the panchayat polls. The block presidents in the districts were mainly responsible for this collection of money to ensure party tickets. Even the decided names of candidates were changed at the last moments and obviously money played a role in that. First the block president in the district needs to be changed," said Idris Ali, Trinamool Congress MLA from Bhagwangola Assembly constituency in Murshidabad district while speaking to the newsmen. Ali's comments were a virtual echo of similar comments made by another Trinamool Congress legislator from the same district, Humayun Kabir, who is the party MLA from Bharatpur Assembly constituency. The successive comments by the two party MLAs reveals the nasty infighting within the state-ruling party in Murshidabad district, where a number of party MLAs are already up in arms against the district president Shaoni Sinha Roy. While Trinamool Congress has maintained total silence on the allegations levelled by Ali, opposition leaders take it as a revelation of the ruling infighting over the share of that money collected trial committee member shared equally among all ranks of leadership. BJP state president in West Bengal and the party Lok Sabha member, Sukanta Majumdar said that what Ali said is nothing new since the other name of corruption is Trinamool Congress.

TN ANNOUNCES FUNERAL WITH STATE HONOURS FOR BRAIN DEAD ORGAN DONORS

Chennai, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. K. Stalin on Saturday announced that the state would provide state honours for the funeral of organ donors. In a social media post on microblogging site X on Saturday, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister said, "In order to honour the sacrifice of those who donate their organs and save many lives, the funeral of those donating their organs before their deaths will be conducted with state honours." He also said that the state of Tamil Nadu continues to be a pioneer in the country in giving life to the hundreds of patients through organ donation, the Chief Minister said that the achievement has been made possible by the selfless sacrifices of families who come forward to donate the organs of the family members who suffer brain death under tragic circumstances. Tamil Nadu has recently won the award for the best State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO) from the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO). As per the official data, since the inception of the deceased organ transplantation programme in 2008, the state of Tamil Nadu had 1,706 donors. A total of 786 hearts, 801 lungs, 1566 livers, 3047 kidneys, 37 pancreas.

Despite reservation since 2006, Mukhiya patis' still call the shots in

Patna, Ew News

The term, 'Mukhiya Pati' is very common in states like Bihar. These husbands of women in power are not public representatives but they act like elected representatives at the Panchayat level. Apart from the signing authority, their value is almost equal in the state. This is the bitter truth in Bihar where Chief Minister Nitish Kumar brought reservation for women at the Panchayat level in 2006 with the idea to empower them. However, in the male-dominated society of rural Bihar, Nitish Kumar's idea did not prove to be completely practical.

But that did not prevent him from winning the unflinching support of women in the state who have time and again stood firmly behind him and turned their loyalty into votes at election time. The astute politician that is Nitish Kumar ensured that he kept his crucial vote bank happy by launching various schemes for women's empowerment in the state. Apart from reservation for women at the Panchayat level, he also gave them reservation in jobs. He empowered girl students by announcing a cash reward for passing intermediate (10+2) and completing graduation. He provided them with free uniforms, bicycles, books and

other infrastructure crucial to ensure their continued education. All these decisions, taken in his first tenure as the Chief Minister of Bihar, yielded big dividends for him in the 2010 Assembly election when his party won 118 seats in Bihar. Now, the Narendra Modi government is walking the same path and has passed the Women's Reservation Bill in both Houses of Parliament. He also knows that if his party can get the support of women, there would be no need to depend on caste combinations to win the Lok Sabha election in 2024. After 2006, seats of the Mukhiya, Sarpanch, ward councilors and others were

reserved for women. However, wily male candidates brought their spouses to contest elections from those seats. "Women candidates contest elections here on the reserved seats but a majority of them are no more than puppets in the hands of their husbands. In Khusrupur block of Patna district, there are 18 Panchayats seats and nine of them are reserved for women." In those seats, women were elected as Mukhiya and Sarpanch but apart from filling the nomination, taking certificates after the election and attending one or two meetings in the block, they have no role as an elected leader.

Mehbooba alleges thousands of youth engaged in self-help groups left in lurch

Srinagar, Ew News

Former J&K Chief Minister, Mehbooba Mufti alleged on Saturday that thousands of educated, unemployed youth engaged in self-help groups have been left in the lurch. Requesting the Lt governor, Manoj Sinha to intervene in the matter so that the future of these youth is secured, Mehbooba Mufti said on her X post, "Thousands of youngsters in J&K associated with self help groups have been rendered unemployed ever since the scheme was abolished. "A fact finding committee formed in 2020 is yet to submit its findings. These bright skilled degree holders are being deprived of employment opportunities. Request @manojosinha_ji to kindly intervene and resolve this issue". It must be mentioned that self-help groups were formed in J&K to give gainful employment to educated youth as the avenues of seeking government jobs in the UT are very small as compared to the ever increasing numbers of educated unemployed youth here. In addition to this, the distance from the main industrial markets of the country coupled with the paucity of electric energy have always been the main impediments for big industries to be set up in the UT.

NEWS IN BRIEF

RAJASTHAN PANCHAYAT SYSTEM LEADS FROM THE FRONT IN CREATING WOMEN LEADERS

Jaipur, The Women's Reservation Bill has been approved in both Houses of Parliament. If proof was needed that reservation works for the better of both, the women and their constituents, while creating a new leadership culture, Rajasthan provides many laudable examples. Quota for women in panchayat and civic elections gave a new platform to candidates with no political background. It enabled them to take their first step in politics and establish themselves. One such woman is Kavita Joshi who left her profession as a hardware engineer and became a Sarpanch. In 2015, the Shobhagpura Panchayat seat was reserved for women and it became a rule that in order to contest elections the candidate had to have cleared eighth standard at least. Because of this rule, no one in the families already active in politics in the village could contest the elections. In such a situation, the people of the village approached Kavita's family and demanded that Kavita, who was pursuing her PhD after finishing her M.Tech, contest the elections, despite the fact that neither her in-laws nor anyone at her maternal home had anything to do with politics. As per Kavita, "I was working as a hardware engineer and had no connection whatsoever with politics. But I decided to contest for the sake of the villagers. At the time of campaigning for the election I was nine months pregnant and I delivered just a day before voting day. However, I voted the next day." Kavita won and became the first woman Sarpanch of Shobhagpura village. The impact of Kavita's work and her capabilities led the BJP to give her a senior leadership position. Today she is the district president of the Mahila Morcha of BJP Udaipur. Another woman of note is Chhavi Rajawat from Jaipur, who is the country's first MBA Sarpanch. Chhavi left her job in a multinational company and was recently invited by Amitabh Bachchan to participate in the game show KBC. Chhavi, who is originally from Tonk, is one of the most popular women Sarpanches of the country today. Chhavi does not have a political background, was amended and implemented. For the first time in January 1995, reservation of 33 per cent was given to women in Panchayats. Meanwhile, the tagline of 'Sarpanch pati' has also become famous, with the husbands of the elected representatives working behind the scene and enjoying immense clout. One such sarpanch is Neeru Yadav whose husband Ashok Yadav, a government officer, is working behind the scene to cash in on the situation. He has been designing the marketing and PR services for Neeru and reportedly taking all decisions on her behalf, spending lakhs and crores on her PR with the aim to get her a BJP ticket. Earlier, Ashok Yadav was suspended for many months allegedly on charges of corruption. "He has been spending crores on PR, marketing and the social media of his wife and is the key decision-maker for all her activities," said a PR person adding, "All her campaigns and projects are being designed by Yadav." Neeru recently made news when she shared a photo and video with the 'Ashok Stambh' placed on the back of her chair and 'Sarpanch' written below it. The national symbol can only be used by people holding constitutional posts. Neeru was criticised on social media for this act and District Collector Dr. Khushal started an investigation into the matter. Later the Sarpanch removed the symbol. Such "rubber stamp" Sarpanches defeat the very idea of reservation for women in Panchayats as their husbands rule from behind the scene," said the PR manager who made Neeru famous as 'hockey wale sarpanch' and gave her the idea of bringing a her village.

WOMEN HEAD OVER 50% MP PANCHAYATS BUT STILL FIGHT GENDER STEREOTYPES

Bhopal, Making a mockery of women's representation, the husband of a woman municipal councillor in Madhya Pradesh was seen actively participating as well as creating a ruckus during an official meeting while his wife -- the councillor -- was sitting quietly as a mere spectator. It happened in Sironj, a municipality in Vidisha district located around 70 km from the state capital Bhopal, on Friday at the time when the country is celebrating the passage of the 'historic' Women's Reservation Bill that aims to promote women's representation in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies. However, this (Sironj) incident wasn't the sole example of women's representation being mocked as such incidents have been a regular affair in the state and only a few of them get noticed. There have been several instances when male family members have taken the oath of office instead of the duly elected women representatives in Madhya Pradesh panchayats. Over a dozen such incidents were reported in Dhar, Damoh, Sagar, Panna, Rewa and some other districts where the elected women representatives were among the spectators or at home while their husbands or other relatives took the oath on their behalf. The worst part is that a majority of women Gram Panchayat heads (Sarpanch and Panch) are elected just to fulfil the mandatory constitutional procedure as particular seats are reserved for the women and they only sign on documents while the rest of the work were being done by their male family members. A woman officer posted in the state Panchayat and Gram Vikas Department and looking after such issues, told that such occurrences blatantly contravene established rules and are a direct mockery of the principles of constitutional democracy. The efforts to empower women at the grassroots level appear to be an uphill battle, she added. "It is a well-acknowledged concept especially in male dominating society, especially in rural parts of the country and it is more because.

Telangana HC cancels Group 1 Prelims, orders re-exam

Hyderabad, | Ew News

The Telangana High Court has cancelled the Group 1 Prelims exam conducted by the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) in June. A division bench of the High Court on Saturday pronounced orders on a batch of petitions by candidates who had appeared in the exam. The court directed the TSPSC to conduct the exams again. Over 2.32 lakh candidates had appeared in the exam conducted by TSPSC on June 11 for recruitment to 503 Group 1 posts. The petitioners had approached the court seeking cancellation of the exam due to loopholes in the conduct of the written test. They alleged that the authorities did not collect biometric details of the candidates.



They also told the court that OMR sheets given to them did not have hall ticket numbers. This is the second time that Group 1 Prelims have been cancelled. Earlier the TSPSC

had cancelled the exam conducted in October last year due to question paper leakage that had rocked the Commission in March. The TSPSC had to cancel several recruitment

exams due to the scam allegedly involving some of its own employees. Nearly 2.86 lakh candidates appeared in Group 1 Prelims conducted on October 16, 2022.

How Telangana held back husbands, won 79 national awards since 2015

Imphal, Ew News

Hyderabad angana claims to be among the first states to provide 50 per cent reservation for women in local bodies and a whopping 53 per cent of the sarpanches in the state are women. Out of the 12,769 sarpanches 6,808 are females and women have a significant presence in both the urban and local bodies. The state has 59,000 women as ward members in municipalities and more than 4,000 women representatives in Mandals and Zilla Parishads. The state claimed to have made significant progress since the early 1990s when one-third reservation was given to women in the local bodies. Over the years, the representation of women continues to improve in Mandal Parishad and Zilla Parishad territorial constituencies as many of them are Mandal presidents and chairpersons of Zilla Parishads. Leaders of the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) claim that real women's empowerment has been ensured in the state in the last 20 years. Earlier, the general perception was that while women were being elected or nominated to the posts as per the quota, the real power was in the hands of male members of their families. In most cases husbands of women public representatives were seen attending official meetings and taking decisions. The women were just "rubber stamps" forced to sign official papers to

complete the formalities. Many studies revealed that women representatives were not free to discharge their constitutional duties and became dummies in the hands of the male family members or village leaders. A large number of elected members of the local bodies, especially women, were not actively participating in the meetings of the local bodies. However, BRS leaders say things have changed over the last one decade with women asserting themselves. They claim that after the formation of Telangana efforts were made for the real empowerment of women. Last year, orders were issued under Panchayat Raj Section 37(5) Act-2018 to ensure that the husbands and relatives of the women public representatives do not interfere in the administrative activities. They were advised not to participate in the official programmes of their wives and were warned of action for any violation of the instruction. The Panchayat Raj department announced that if husbands and other relatives of women public representatives were seen supervising or involving themselves in the contract works of the government, people could take their photos and send them to the Mandal-level or district-level officials concerned for immediate action against them. The themselves. They have a el. They are also playing a key role in improving sanitation, education.

Fresh Raj Bhavan-State Secretariat tussles in Bengal over oath of newly elected MLA

Kolkata, A fresh tussle has surfaced between the Raj Bhavan and the State Secretariat in West Bengal over the venue of swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected Trinamool Congress legislator from Dhupguri assembly constituency in Jalpaiguri district, Nirmal Chandra Roy. Fresh tension between the two has surfaced after the newly elected legislator received a phone call on late Friday evening from Raj Bhavan where the latter was asked whether he would have any problem in taking his oath at the Raj Bhavan. The point of tension has arisen since the communication from the Governor's House to the newly elected legislator was made bypassing the state Parliamentary affairs department. Political observers feel that from this communication it is clear that the Governor not only wants to administer the oath to the newly elected legislator instead of assigning the same to the speaker, but also wants the same occasion to be held at the Raj Bhavan instead of the state assembly premises. The development has irked the state Parliamentary affairs minister Sovande Chattopadhyay who claimed on Saturday, that confusion created by the Raj Bhavan bypassing the assembly and state Parliamentary affairs department is not a healthy practice. "The Governor seems to be totally bypassing the existing system. What the Governor is trying to do is against the Indian Constitution and the Parliamentary democracy system," he said. According to the state assembly speaker Biman Bandopadhyay, while the Governor has the liberty to himself administer the oath of any elected legislator, propriety says that the programme for that purpose should be conducted at the assembly premises instead of any other place. "I would like to remind the post of speaker is also constitutional just as that of the Governor," he said.

In UP, men benefit more than voiceless women in reserved seats

Lucknow, Agency

If there is one state where men have benefitted more than women because of reservation for women, it is Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, out of the 9.1 lakh representatives, 3, 04,638 are women. Yet the tangible and transformative contribution of grassroots women leaders remains sidelined, in favour of stories around failure and co-option. The story of a man who broke his vow of celibacy in 2021 to marry and make his wife contest in the panchayat election after the seat was reserved for women, showcases the intense desire of men to retain their hold on seats reserved for women. The husbands of women who are elected as panchayat heads are known in Uttar Pradesh as 'Pradhan Pati' and many in the village are more familiar with the Pradhan Pati than the Pradhan herself. A woman Pradhan head from central Uttar Pradesh who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "I do not know anything about the work allotted to me and it is my husband who does all the work. My job is only to put my signature wherever my husband says." Asked whether she did not feel deprived of her authority in this situation, she said, "I do not know how the administration works and I do not want to land into any controversy or trouble. So, it is better that my husband takes care of everything." During her election, the photograph of her husband was placed as prominently as hers on the hoardings and he would address the election meetings.

1 killed, 350 evacuated as Nagpur turns into lake city after heavy rains

Nagpur, Agency

A woman was killed and hundreds of people were evacuated to safer places after a thunderous downpour since midnight of Friday-Saturday virtually submerged the state's second capital Nagpur into a lake city, and the Indian Army was called for the rescue operations, officials said. The torrential rains accompanied by thunder and lightning, poured over the city and surroundings, and many areas woke up to between one and four feet of waterlogging. Thousands of citizens were left stranded in their homes or buildings, unable to step out as waters flood-

ed the ground floors of housing complexes and in some areas power was switched off as a precaution, hitting even water supply. A 70-year-old woman identified as Mirabai Pillay died in the flood waters and over 350 people in different parts were evacuated to safer locations. Besides the Army, the SDRF, NDRF, Nagpur Police, fire brigade and other agencies were deployed in boats to help out the marooned people and take them to safer locations as intermittent rains continued to batter the city even on Saturday. Some areas of the city which reported severe waterlogging included Shankar Nagar,

Panchsheel Chowk, Sitabuldi, Ambazari, Kanchipura, Itwari, Lakadganj, Dharam-peth, Mekosabaug, Sadar, Cotton Market and surroundings. At least 50 girls stuck in a private hostel were rescued with ropes and shifted to a higher location, and some distressed families in buildings where two-three feet water seeped into their homes, were also moved out. Hundreds of public and private vehicles all over the city were partly or fully submerged under water as drains, gutters, the Ambazari Lake and other water bodies flooded beyond the danger levels, with the waters gushing into the city.

As the rains assumed alarming proportions by 5 a.m., the city and district authorities ordered closure of all schools for the day to avoid inconveniencing the students. The IMD has issued an alert for more heavy rains over the next 48 hours and urged people to exercise all precautions including moving out to safer spots with the help of the rescue agencies. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said in Mumbai that the government is constantly monitoring the flood situation in Nagpur while Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis is likely to reach here this evening for a spot assessment of the scenario.

Kejriwal inaugurates new OPD building at Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital

New Delhi, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday inaugurated the new OPD block at Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital here and asserted that his government's focus is on health and education and earlier there were 10,000 beds in the government hospitals with the construction of 11 new hospitals the total number of beds will go up to 26,000 beds.

Kejriwal said. He said that he was delighted that a new block has been constructed as the older block lacked the required space and other facilities. He said that he also visited the new block and noticed that the new block was spacious, centrally Air-Conditioned with availability of rooms for the specialists.

NIA confiscates properties of SFJ chief Pannu in Amritsar

Chandigarh, | Ew News

In a massive action and in a bid to tighten its noose around Canada-based 'designated individual terrorist' Gurbatwant Singh Pannu, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday has confiscated his two properties.

located on the outskirts of Amritsar district. The official also said that it has also confiscated his residential property in Sector 15 area of Chandigarh. The agency sleuths also put the hoarding outside the property of Pannu informing him about the anti-terror probe agency's action.

Number 2033, Sector 15/C, Chandigarh (U.T.). The agency said that these properties were earlier attached following orders passed by the government in two different cases. The properties have now been confiscated on the court's orders under section 33(5) of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967, in a case it registered on April 5, 2020, under sections 120-B, 124-A, 153-A 153-B and 17, 18 and 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

crackdown on the terror and secessionist network being operated from various countries, including Canada, followed confiscation orders passed by the NIA Special Court, SAS Nagar, Mohali. The official said that Pannu has been on NIA's scanner since 2019, when the anti-terror agency had registered its first case against the terrorist, who has been playing a major role in promoting and commissioning terror acts and activities, and spreading fear and terror in Punjab and elsewhere in the country through his threats and intimidation tactics.

NEWS IN BRIEF

2 held for assaulting show-room staff for delay in iPhone delivery

New Delhi, Two men were arrested after they allegedly physically assaulted a Croma showroom staff after the store failed to deliver an iPhone 15 to them as promised, a Delhi Police officer said on Saturday.

Delhi: Nigerian national held with drugs worth Rs 70 L

New Delhi, Delhi Police have arrested a 40-year-old Nigerian national for allegedly indulging in drug peddling across the city and recovered over 100 grams of amphetamine worth Rs 70 lakhs in international market, an official said on Saturday.

Delhi L-G takes note of delaying appointment of SPP, PPs for CBI cases by AAP govt

New Delhi | Ew News

Delhi L-G V.K Saxena on Saturday took serious note of delay on part of the Delhi government in issuing notification for appointment of Special Public Prosecutors (SPPs) for the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which has resulted in stalling the progress of trials in POC SO cases in various special courts of the national capital for the last nine months.

been pending at the level of the Home Minister the Delhi government since February 2023, after having moved between him and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in January 2023. The official said that the L-G has taken serious note of the delay by the Delhi government to issue notification for appointment of Special Public Prosecutors (SPPs) for CBI, which has resulted in stalling the progress of trials in POC SO cases in various courts in Delhi and a reminder was sent on March 15, this year.

Kovind chairs first official meeting of 'one nation, one election' panel, discusses several points

New Delhi | Ew News

The first official meeting of the 'One Nation, One Election' Committee took place on Saturday under the chairmanship of former President Ram Nath Kovind during which the members decided to hold discussion and get suggestions from the stakeholders and the political parties.



of India and other bodies. The source also said that the members, during the meeting also primarily discussed how the committee will function and on which issues it needs to have deliberations with everyone to build a consensus on the idea of the 'one nation, one election'.

headed by former president Kovind. Besides Kovind, Azad and Shah, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, former chairman of the 15th Finance Commission N.K Singh, former Secretary General of Lok Sabha Subhash Kashyap, senior advocate Harish Salve and former Chief Vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari are the other members, who are part of the eight-member panel.

holding not only Lok Sabha and assembly elections simultaneously, but also elections to municipalities and panchayats, according to the gazette notification. The committee will analyse and recommend possible solutions linked to simultaneous elections if there is a hung House, no-confidence motion, defection, or any such other event.

IMD forecasts heavy rainfall across multiple regions



New Delhi, Ew News

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday said that heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to continue over Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Sikkim and over northeast India during next two days and decrease thereafter.

Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim could witness isolated very heavy rainfall on Saturday, while Bihar may experience this on Saturday and Sunday. A higher level of intensity is expected on Saturday with isolated extremely heavy rainfall in Bihar, said the IMD.

Unsubstantiated remarks demoralise entire probe agency: Delhi HC

New Delhi, Ew News

The Delhi High Court has observed the sensitivity of the role assigned to investigative agencies and the need to avoid unsubstantiated remarks that could demoralise them. Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma made this observation while expunging adverse and disparaging remarks made by a special judge in 2015 against the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and its officials while discharging former Telecom Secretary Shyamal Ghosh and three telecom firms in the 2002 additional spectrum allocation case.

RUN OF SPECIAL TRAINS

In order to clear extra rush of passengers, Northern Railway has decided to run following special trains on eve of annual Nirankari Sant Samagam to be held from 28th October to 31st October at Bhodwal Majri as per details given below:-

Table containing train schedules for special trains, including train numbers, stations, arrival/departure times, and days of run.

Table containing train schedules for regular trains, including train numbers, stations, arrival/departure times, and days of run.

Greed to earn more money in less time leads father and son to jail

Chatra. | Ew News

Father and son arrested with 515 grams of brown sugar worth Rs 80 lakh, sent to jail

Gidhaur police station has got the biggest success so far in the case of smuggling of deadly drug brown sugar. The police has arrested Gidhaur resident Rajdev Dangi and his son Rohit Raj along with 515 grams of brown sugar worth about Rs 80 lakh. The action was taken by the raid team formed under the leadership of Simaria SDPO Ashok Kumar Priyadarshi. Apart

from brown sugar, the police have also seized a blue colored bike with registration number JH-02-AW/9423, a keypad and an Android mobile. A case has been registered against both the accused in this regard under Gidhaur police station case number 66/23 dated 23.09.2023, sections 21, 22, 27 (A), 28 and 29 NDPS act. Both the arrested accused were sent to Chatra Mandal Jail in judicial custody. And intensive research and raids are being conducted against other people involved in smuggling. In the press conference held at the police station, Simaria SDPO



Ashok Kumar Priyadarshi told the journalists that Rajdev Dangi was involved in illegal business of brown sugar at the interstate level. It has links with interstate smugglers. On September 22, SP Rakesh Ranjan received secret information that Rajdev was going to

reach Gidhaur with a consignment of brown sugar via Katkamsandi in Hazaribagh district. On the instructions of the SP, the police team formed under the leadership of SDPO trapped him and caught him. Apart from SDPO, Gidhaur police station in-charge Puani was part of the raiding team. Kanhaiya Kumar Yadav, Pt. Ashok Kumar Pandey and Gidhaur police station armed forces personnel were involved. SDPO told that Rajdev earlier used to prepare brown sugar in his house. Due to police raid, he had stopped making brown sugar at his home a few months ago. He had

shifted this work to some other place. From there he used to bring brown sugar and supply it to interstate smugglers. On Friday, he received brown sugar from Hazaribagh and brought it to Gidhaur. His plan was to the smugglers of UP. s ago. During these years he amassed immense wealth. Presently he is the owner of property worth crores. Started cement and iron business. He was involved in smuggling of opium and brown sugar for many years. But the police were not able to reach him. In the end, he was finally caught by the police in a dramatic manner.

8 armed unknown criminals created a ruckus in Purnadih of Piparwar police station area

Ajit Sinha, EW News

A highway dumper engaged in coal transportation was set on fire by indiscriminate firing, the driver and sub-driver were beaten up

Chatra Chatra. A Hiva dumper engaged in transportation of coal from Purnadih Coal Project of CCL NK area was set on fire by unknown criminals late on Friday night. He also assaulted the driver and sub-driver of the vehicle. The incident is said to have happened late last Friday night at around 1 am. During this period, the criminals are said to have fired about seven rounds in rapid succession. On receiving information about the same incident, Piparwar police of the concerned police station area reached the spot early on Saturday morning and are



scanning the CCTV footage installed in the surrounding areas, so that they can get any clue about the criminals. According to the information received, all the criminals who carried out the incident were hiding in the bushes on the side of the transportation road from Purnadih Coal Project. As soon as the Hiva dumper reached the banks of Damodar river carrying coal

from the mine, the criminals started firing on the Hiva dumper. Seeing the firing, the criminals snatched the mobile phone of the dumper driver, poured petrol on the vehicle and set it on fire with a torch. Hiva Dumper was being run under the supervision of Shree Enterprises Transport Company. On receiving information about the incident, the

fire brigade was called from the rescue station of CCL and the fire was extinguished. The front part of the dumper has been fire. There are bullet marks on the drivof the dumper. If sources are has been carried out by 8 unknown armed criminals. After the incident, coal transportation work from Purnadih Coal Project has been resumed in the afternoon.

NTPC Chattabriyatu Coal Project distributed bags among 405 boys and girls of middle school Peto

Amit Mali : Keredari (Hazaribagh). On the instructions of CB Coal Mines GM Nabeen Kumar Gupta, on Saturday, courtesy of NTPC Chhatti Bariatu Coal Mining Project, Additional General Manager Mohammad Basif, DGM Anil Kumar, Panchayat Peto Pansa Arabinda Sao, among 405 school boys and girls, were present at the Government Middle School, Peto, on Saturday. Bags were distributed among the school children by the hands of Principal Rameshwar Ram and Management Committee Chairman Manohar Sao. This bag has been made to encourage children towards education. This distribution ceremony was organized here on the instructions of Navin Gupta, project head of Project Chhatti Bariatu. The children expressed happiness after receiving school bags. On this occasion, Additional General Manager of the project Mohammad Wasif inspired the children to study with dedication and hard work and bring glory to the family and the school. You will use this bag to keep your text books and notebooks while coming to school. Told to always keep the bag clean and neat. He also appealed to the students of the school to come to school regularly. On this occasion, Deputy General Manager Anil Kumar Gupta and senior manager and school headmaster Rameshwar Ram, Parmeshwar Mahato, Ashok Kumar, Birendra Prasad, Rajendra Prasad Sao, Sanjay Kumar Sao, Tribhuvan Ram, Umesh Kumar Mehta, Usha Kumari, Rajni Kumari from the project, Tikeshwar Saav, Upendra Ram, Bina Kumari and many dignitaries were present.

Outstanding Work Recognized for Anganwadi Workers and Supervisors

Ranchi: EW News

As part of the Nutrition Campaign during Nutrition Month 2023, a program was organized today on September 23, 2023, at Aryabhata Sabhagar in Morhabadi by the district administration (Social Welfare Department). Themed around Nourished Jharkhand, Literate Jharkhand, and Empowered Jharkhand, the program saw the participation of distinguished guests, including Director of Social Welfare Shri Shashi Prakash Jha, Additional Secretary of Social Welfare Shri Abhinandan Ambast, Deputy Development Commissioner of Ranchi Shri Dinesh Kumar Yadav, and District Social Welfare Officer Smt. Shweta Bharati, along with Assistant Director of Social Security in Ranchi Shri Ravi Shankar Mishra, DPM JSLPS Shri Divyadeep



Singh, and other related officials. During the program, awareness about the importance of millets in daily nutrition was shared, alongside the organization of food demonstrations and childcare practices. Additionally, exceptional Anganwadi workers and supervisors were honored for their exemplary contributions. Director of Social Welfare Shri Shashi Prakash Jha, in his address, highlighted the significance of incorporating millets into daily routines for proper nutrition. He also informed attendees about

various government schemes for children and pregnant women and encouraged them to avail of these benefits. Additional Secretary Shri Abhinandan Ambast and Deputy Development Commissioner Shri Dinesh Kumar Yadav also stressed the importance of millets in their diets. Organization of Food Demonstrations and Childcare As part of the program, food demonstrations were conducted to promote proper nutrition. Director of Social Welfare Shri Shashi Prakash Jha, Deputy

Development Commissioner Shri Dinesh Kumar Yadav, and Additional Secretary Shri Abhinandan Ambast actively participated in the feeding of children. Additionally, pregnant women were provided with nutritionally balanced meals, and officials emphasized the importance of regular consultation with Anganwadi and healthcare workers for maternal health. Honoring Exceptional Anganwadi Workers and Supervisors During the program, Anganwadi workers and supervisors who have excelled in their roles were honored. Director of Social Welfare Shri Shashi Prakash Jha, Deputy Development Commissioner Shri Dinesh Kumar Yadav, and Additional Secretary Shri Abhinandan Ambast felicitated these dedicated individuals. Anganwadi Workers Recognized Include: Maheshwari Pahan, Kiran Ku-

mari, Kilghero Ekka, Stella Kujur, Anima Khalkho Kaushalya Devi, Kaushila Devi, Fabiola Lakra, Deepika Rani Sumitra Devi, Sangeeta Kumari, Pavita Devi, Rukmini Devi, Geeta Rani, Ruksana Khaatoon, Neelam Bek, As part of the program, a stall showcasing food products prepared by the Self-Help Group of JSLPS was also set up at Aryabhata Sabhagar. Director of Social Welfare Shri Shashi Prakash Jha, Additional Secretary Shri Abhinandan Ambast, Deputy Development Commissioner Shri Dinesh Kumar Yadav, along with other officials, tasted and appreciated the quality and taste of the food products. Director of Social Welfare also made purchases from the stall. The vote of thanks was extended by District Social Welfare Officer Smt. Shweta Bharati.

NEWS IN BRIEF

DIET COUNSELING ORGANIZED IN THE UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL NUTRITION AND DIETETICS

Hazaribag : Maintaining good health is important for everyone. The Department of Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics of the University not only imparts teaching in related subjects but sincerely seeks to contribute towards planning good health for all. Keeping this vision in mind, a one-day diet counseling is being organized for all the officials, teachers and non-teaching staff of the university on the occasion of Nutrition Month on Saturday, 23.9.2023, under the joint aegis of CND Department of Vinoba Bhawe University and IAPEN Ranchi Chapter. In this, the students of CND participated enthusiastically and did diet counseling of all the coming people and gave them a diet chart and gave them information regarding their eating habits. It should be known that the entire month of September is celebrated as Nutrition Month. Director of the department Dr. Manoj Kumar, teachers Jaya Sinha, Sushma Kumari and Kumari Anima had important contribution in organizing diet counseling. Baby Hena and Rajiv Shashikant Bhegra also event successful.

REVIEW OF ALL THE SCHEMES DISCUSSED IN THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI MEETING

Vishnugadh (Hazaribag): A review meeting of the Panchayat Committee was held in the Block Office Auditorium building. The meeting was presided over by Chief Jaibun Nisha and Operating Block Development Officer Sanjay Kogadi. On one hand, the government programs were reviewed by the members present in the meeting. On the other hand, the officials of the department present in the meeting gave detailed information about the schemes currently running by the government. In the meeting, a proposal to convert Vishnugarh block into a drought area was passed unanimously. To treat the diseases spreading among animals in the block, to give the amount of material under MNREGA directly to the beneficiaries, to make the health committees active, to complete the incomplete housing, to increase the police patrolling in the area, to make the monitoring committee formed at the dealer level active. Many issues were discussed, including construction, increasing the attendance of children in Anganwadi, stopping the leakage of Vishnugadh water supply pipeline and canceling the deputation of teachers of Govindpur High School. Mainly present in the meeting were Chief Jaibun Nisha, Video Sanjay Kogadi, CO Rambalak Kumar, Deputy Chief Saryu Sao, MP representative Bhuvneshwar Patel, MLA representative Guru Prasad Sao, Sheikh Tayyab Medical Officer Dr. Arun Kumar, Ramchandra Dangi, Panchayat Committee member Ajay Mandal, Many Panchayat Samiti members and department officials including Mahtab Alam, Munni Devi, Ghanshyam Pathak, Sushil Mandal, Mukhiya Kunwar Hansda, Rajendra Mandal were present.

MARSHALL YOUTH CLUB INDIRA THREE-DAY FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT CONCLUDES



I am trying to provide every possible help to the players - Roshan Lal Chaudhary

Barkagaon (Hazaribag): A three-day football tournament was organized in Indara village of Barkagaon Napokhurd Panchayat courtesy of Marshal Yuva Ekta Club. In which the final match was between Pasaria vs Urimari. In which Urimari's team defeated Pasaria's team 1-0 and captured the title. The final football competition was inaugurated by the chief guest, Central Secretary of AJSU Party cum Barkagaon Assembly in-charge Roshan Lal Choudhary and special guest Barkagaon East District Council member Geeta Devi. On the occasion, Chief Guest AJSU Party Central Member Roshanlal Chaudhary said that organizing sports competitions is very important to showcase the talent of the players. There is no dearth of talent among the players in the coming days, there is just a need to bring them to a good platform. It is my endeavor that the players here should bring glory to the state and the country in the future.

INSAS bullet recovered from the bag of a passenger going from Ranchi Airport, one arrested

Ranchi: INSAS bullet has been recovered from the bag of a passenger going from Birsa Munda Airport to Bengaluru. Police arrested a person named Vinod Yadav on Friday. Vinod Yadav is a resident of Giridih.

ANNOUNCEMENT

I Ramesh Kumar Rai Declare By Affidavit Number 27580 Dated 18/9/2023 That The Land Of Plot 1110 Account 13 Mauza Matwari, Which Was In The Name Of Kaushalya Devi And On Which Loan Was Taken From Pchfl. It Has Been Repaid By His Son (late Kaushalya Devi) Ramesh Kumar Rai, Now No One Has Any Objection To It.

No Place for Hate Speech: Upholding the Dignity of Parliament

EDITORIAL

In the wake of the historic passage of the Women's Reservation Bill during the five-day special session of Parliament, it is imperative to address an issue that threatens the very fabric of our democracy – hate speech. While the session witnessed spirited debates and a near-consensus on the critical issue of women's political representation, it was marred by instances of Islamophobic comments. Such rhetoric not only lowers the dignity of Parliament but also reflects a larger malaise that must be addressed promptly and decisively. The sanctity of Parliament, as the highest legislative body of our nation, rests on the principles of tolerance, respect for diversity, and freedom of expression. In the spirit of these principles, lawmakers from across the political spectrum gather to deliberate on matters of national importance, chart the course for the future, and uphold the ideals of democracy. It is therefore disheartening and deeply troubling when these hallowed halls become the stage for hate speech. The recent instances of Islamophobic comments during the special session serve as a stark reminder that hate speech has no place in our democratic discourse. Such comments not only offend and hurt the sentiments of a significant section of our society but also undermine the very essence of India's pluralistic and inclusive identity. They create divisions, sow discord, and erode the public's trust in the political system. Islamophobia, like any form of hate speech, is a dangerous contagion that threatens the unity and harmony of our diverse nation. It not only victimizes a particular community but also damages the collective social fabric. When it rears its ugly head within the hallowed halls of Parliament, it sends a chilling message that intolerance and bigotry can infiltrate even the most revered institutions. In the face of such incidents, it is heartening to see that members of Parliament, regardless of their party affiliations, did not let their differences over the Women's Reservation Bill escalate into a broader atmosphere of hostility. They wisely chose to prioritize the larger national interest over personal or political agendas. This display of unity and maturity should serve as an example for dealing with hate speech. Addressing the issue of hate speech requires a multifaceted approach. First and foremost, there must be a collective commitment from all lawmakers to condemn and shun any form of hate speech, regardless of its source. It is essential that our elected representatives lead by example and adhere to a code of conduct that upholds the principles of respect, tolerance, and inclusivity. Additionally, Parliament should consider strengthening existing laws against hate speech and ensuring swift and effective mechanisms for their enforcement. Public awareness campaigns that promote tolerance, diversity, and mutual respect should be encouraged to counter the rising tide of hate speech and bigotry. Furthermore, the role of the media in promoting responsible discourse cannot be overstated. Media outlets must exercise caution and responsibility in their reporting and commentary, refraining from amplifying hate speech and instead focusing on fostering a culture of informed and civil debate. The recent instances of Islamophobic comments during the special session of Parliament are a stark reminder of the urgent need to address the issue of hate speech in our society. The dignity of Parliament, as the apex institution of our democracy, must be upheld, and its hallowed halls must remain free from the poison of intolerance and bigotry. It is incumbent upon lawmakers, civil society, and citizens alike to work together to ensure that hate speech finds no place in our democratic discourse. By doing so, we can reaffirm our commitment to the values of inclusivity, diversity, and respect that define the essence of our great nation.

Men benefit more than voiceless women in reserved seats

If there is one state where men have benefitted more than women because of reservation for women, it is Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, out of the 9.1 lakh representatives, 3, 04,638 are women. Yet the tangible and transformative contribution of grassroots women leaders remains sidelined, in favour of stories around failure and co-option.

The story of a man who broke his vow of celibacy in 2021 to marry and make his wife contest in the panchayat election after the seat was reserved for women, showcases the intense desire of men to retain their hold on seats reserved for women.

The husbands of women who are elected as panchayat heads are known in Uttar Pradesh as 'Pradhan Pati' and many in the village are more familiar with the Pradhan Pati than the Pradhan herself.

A woman Pradhan head from central Uttar Pradesh who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "I do not know anything about the work allotted to me and it is my husband who does all the work. My job is only to put my signature wherever my husband says."

Asked whether she did not feel deprived of her authority in this situation, she said, "I do not know how the administration works and I do not want to land into any controversy or trouble. So, it is better that my husband takes care of everything."

During her election, the photograph of her husband was placed as prominently as hers on the hoardings and he would address the election meetings.

"That is because no one knows me but everyone knows him and we got votes because of his name," she confesses. Social activists, meanwhile, feel that women in panchayats can make a difference if they assert themselves.

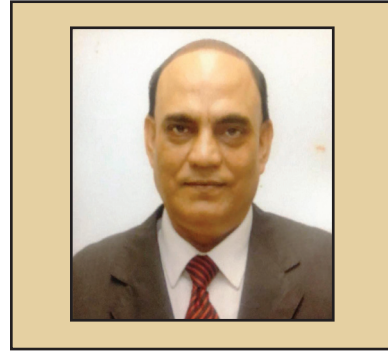
"Women leading a panchayat can really turn around the situation of a village. Women in panchayats add a humaneness to a governing body and stay more focused on social and human development issues rather than material transformations," says Chandra Shekhar Pran, Founder, Teesri Sarkar, a public campaign for the institutional development of panchayats.

Pankunwar is a living example of it. She was an elected panch of Mamna village panchayat in Kabrai block, Mahoba district, Uttar Pradesh, for two consecutive terms from 2011 to 2021.

She has been constantly encouraging other women panchayat members to raise issues at the panchayat meetings regarding access to water and girls' education.

Pankunwar raised the issue of roads in panchayat meetings and now the village has an unkept but pucca road. "I used to tell other members that unless they raised issues around water and education, how would they get solved," she said.

India-Canada Ties Hit a New Low



Dinesh Dubey



With India suspending visa applications by Canadian nationals, India and Canada have touched the lowest ebb in the history of their diplomatic relations after years of simmering tensions. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesman Arindam Bagchi described the move as a technical and security one. He stated that the Indian High Commission and its Consulates in Canada were "temporarily unable" to process visas because of safety threats, though he added up that "we will be reviewing the situation on a regular basis."

The week began with Premier Justin Trudeau's loud claim on the floor of Canadian House of Commons on Monday that "Indian agents" were behind the murder of a Sikh leader and "Canadian citizen" Hardeep Singh Nijjar on "Canadian soil." His statement was followed by the expulsion of a senior Indian diplomat, Pawan Kumar Rai, from Ottawa-based Indian High Commission. Within hours, in a diplomatic tit-for-tat response, India also told New Delhi-based Canadian High Commission to ease out a senior Canadian diplomat, Olivier Sylvester, within five days. Both the diplomats were heading the intelligence units in their respective missions.

As it was not enough, Premier Trudeau reiterated his claim on a couple of occasions while interacting with the media followed through by Canadian government's advisory for its citizens traveling to Jammu & Kashmir and parts of northeastern states. The MEA too issued a travel advisory, in response.

The Indian advisory asked its citizens living in or traveling to Canada to "exercise utmost caution" because of what it described as an increase in "anti-India activities and politically condoned hate crimes and criminal violence in Canada." Recently, "threats have particularly targeted Indian diplomats and sections of the Indian community who oppose the anti-India agenda," the advisory noted.

India Makes a Point

In fact, the Indian government not only vehemently rejected the Canadian claim that it had been involved in the killing of Nijjar, but also accused Canada of harboring terrorists who are working for a separate Sikh homeland

out of Indian territory. On Thursday, spokesperson Bagchi signalled that more Canadian diplomats could soon leave India, in what he called a step to ensure a kind of diplomatic parity. "Their numbers here are very much higher than ours in Canada," he said. "The details of this are being worked out, but I assume there will be a reduction from the Canadian side."

In Canada, although opposition Conservative Party leaders have not been satisfied with the unsubstantiated charges by Premier Trudeau, a section of Canadians have voiced outrage at the possibility that the Indian government had played a role in the killing of "a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil." In July, protesters outside the Indian Consulate General in Toronto promoted the Sikh secessionist cause with signs that accused Indian diplomats of being behind Nijjar's killing. On Wednesday, the MEA also pointed to what it called "threats to the safety of its citizens and diplomats."

The Indian government has long accused Canada and other Western nations of inaction as extremist Sikh groups in the Indian diaspora – including the one headed by Nijjar – have supported a secessionist movement that threatens India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The National Investigation Agency have issued a list of 43 individuals wanted in serious cases of crime and terrorism. Interestingly, most of them are either living or have links with terrorists and gangsters in Canada.

In response to the Canadian stand that it respects the "right of all of its citizens to freedom of speech" in advocating political causes, Indian officials argue that Canadian politicians are reluctant to curb Sikh extremism because of their lobbying and business clout, the largest population of Sikhs outside India.

Officials in New Delhi have accused Canada, Britain, the United States and Australia of standing by those who are pushing for an independent Sikh homeland carved out in the Punjab state of India. Emboldened by that, such elements have been vandalising Indian diplomatic missions and have threatened Indian diplomats.

It is in this backdrop, the Indian foreign ministry decided to halt the issuance of all categories of visas for Canadian cit-

izens. They would be unable to apply for an Indian visa even through a third country. The Indian government had been forced to suspend visas, spokesperson Bagchi said, because of "incitement to violence, the inaction by Canadian authorities and the creation of an environment that disrupts the functioning of our high commission and consulates."

Divided Diaspora

The stunning allegation that India was behind the assassination of a Sikh separatist Nijjar has revived long-simmering tensions within Canada's Indian diaspora, pitting staunch Hindu nationalists against supporters of the creation of an independent Sikh state. Last October, in Ontario, the police broke up a fight in which one man was injured after two groups, carrying Indian and Khalistani flags, became unruly during a Diwali celebration. In March this year, a Punjabi journalist covering a protest of an Indian high commissioner's visit to Surrey, British Columbia, was attacked.

These episodes underscore the challenges that Canada — home to the world's largest Sikh population outside India — faces following Trudeau's stunning accusation that India was responsible for shooting Nijjar. This is high time that leaders of both the communities get together to isolate pro-Khalistani elements, most of whom are linked to crime syndicates involved in drug and human trafficking, in the diaspora.

Prime Minister Trudeau's loud allegations have set off a diplomatic skirmish, as the country seeks India's cooperation with its investigation into Nijjar's killing. The matter to ponder over here is that if Trudeau really needed Indian cooperation to reach to the bottom of truth, why did he jump to the gun in claiming that his government has "credible information" of Indian agent's involvement in the killing.

Canada and Five Eyes

Canada is a prominent member of the Five Eyes Alliance, which is a multilateral intelligence-sharing platform formed in post-World War-II scenario. Other four members include the United States and Commonwealth countries of United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. Primarily the alliance

of so-called Anglo-Saxon countries, the Five Eyes is largely guided and controlled by the US and UK in catering to their global foreign policy goals. The US President Joe Biden is virtually caught in a bind as both Canada and India are two important democracies and allies of the US. He has been assiduously courting India as a counterweight to China in the Indo-Pacific. Only two weeks back he had a bilateral meeting with PM Modi on the eve of G20 and developed a powerful chemistry with him. About three months back, Biden had hosted Modi as a State visitor during the latter's three-day visit to the US. Biden has expressed his "deep concern" over the worsening ties between his two friends, and appealed both to find out an amicable solution out of the current standoff.

The US National Security Adviser Jack Sullivan, nonetheless, told reporters at White House that, "regardless of the country, we will stand up and defend our basic principles and we will also consult closely with allies like Canada as they pursue their law enforcement and diplomatic process." Secretary of State Antony Blinken also echoed his sentiments by calling on Delhi to cooperate in push for 'accountability' over killing, adding up that the US takes "very, very seriously" such incidents of "transnational repression." The US, Britain and Australia have all been prioritising closer ties with India, seeing it not just as one of the fastest growing economies but also as a strategic balancer against hegemonic China. They expect that democratic India will also be their partner in the economic isolation of Russia after the invasion of Ukraine.

Britain is also close to striking a post-Brexit trade deal with India possibly as soon as next month, and on Tuesday British government said that negotiations would "continue as before" while Canadian investigations are ongoing. Meanwhile, the US, Australia and Japan are partners with India in the Quad, a quadrilateral security dialogue, that restarted in 2017.

A former Pentagon official Michael Rubin has said that Justin Trudeau's allegations have led to "greater danger" for Canada than India, that if the United States has to choose between Ottawa and New Delhi, it will surely choose the latter. He further stated that India is far more important strategically than Canada is and Ottawa picking up a fight with India is like "an ant picking up a fight against an elephant". For the moment, it is relatively easy for the western nations to adopt "a wait and watch approach", marking time until Canada's investigation becomes clearer. They will want to see how the situation develops, and engage with both countries in private. Our big challenge, nevertheless, would be in staying extra cautious in view of preventing the unfortunate row escalating into a diplomatic disaster.

Money begets money: The stars know

Vinod Mirani

A lot of film stars made handsome money even when the studio system was on, when they were on the roster of one of the studios in Mumbai which made films at regular intervals.

The studios engaged actors on a monthly pay and the stars, thus, had a reason to feel secure. If a star was becoming popular, he/she gained more.

All one needed was talent and education qualifications counted for little as far as what the stars earned. They made many times more than what a white-collar graduate earned working for some or the other company.

Then came the era of actors charging per film. The cost of filmmaking was moving from thousands to lakhs. The first thing that a successful star did when a regular income started was to invest in a house. And, the next acquisition was, of course, a car. Chevrolet and Impala were the hot favourites and marked the arrival of a star.

The days of travelling in public transport, like the Mumbai local trains, were over when this had its advantages in that you struck a friendship with another aspirant, which

often went a long way, or else, you observed people and things around you that were big assets for both, an actor and the director. Some stories of such friendships struck are legendary.

All successful stars would have loved to live in South Mumbai, especially on Marine Drive. The people of Mumbai had this notion about living in South or Central Mumbai, which they defined as 'Proper Bombay'. If you fitted this definition, you were looked upon with respect. There were two challenges, though. Most Marine Drive apartments were occupied, or were rented out on the 'pagdi system', as it was known in those days.

Most actors who made a name for themselves came from other places, they had no such hangups about 'Proper Bombay' and opted for the suburb of Bandra, which was quite unique in that it had small villages belonging to certain communities such as the East Indian Catholics, fisher folk and so on.

Their settlements were known as 'Gaohan'. And, yes, the place still had rice farms. Here, the actors could build homes after their own dreams, spacious bungalows. The Bandra who's who included Dilip Kumar, Rajendra

Kumar, Sunil Dutt, Pran, Mala Sinha, Sadhna, Bharat Bhushan, Meena Kumari, followed by latecomers such as Jeetendra, Mumtaz, Vinod Mehra, and Rajesh Khanna.

Bandra was ideally suited for the stars because it was at the ideal centre not far from the major studios located at Dadar and Andheri. Bandra was the place where the top stars lived. It meant you had arrived.

Juhu in those days was for weekend homes of the moneyed business communities. But it soon became a place to build a house for film folk. The neighbourhood made better economic sense than investing in Bandra.

Sadly, for a lot of the stars, the sense to invest for the future ended with buying a home. No star ever thought that the film industry as well as a star had phases; new trends and new faces replace them. A star today went into oblivion tomorrow.

Very few actors knew the importance of investments for a rainy day. Ashok Kumar was said to be savvy on this count and so was Rajendra Kumar. Jeetendra was keen on the stock market. Rajesh Khanna invested in property, but couldn't keep count.

Even when it came to stocks, it was a long-term investment done purely on the basis of broker's advice (top brokers in Mumbai were not willing to accept the portfolio of a film star!)

Sadly, when work stopped coming, so did the money. Stars such as Bharat Bhushan and Meena Kumari had to sell their bungalows and move to apartment buildings. Other bungalows were given away for development of apartment houses

The Chevrolets and Impalas were replaced by Fiats and in place of a bungalow came a decent-enough apartment around Bandra or Juhu, culminating in a small flat in a distant suburb. This was the story of stardom and thereafter.

This is one story that tells a lot. A big star of yore, once the proud owner of a bungalow on Pali Hill, Bandra, now reduced to doing bit roles, was spotted at a bus stop near a studio where he had finished his late-night shift. A newly successful hero, who had finished his shift a while later, spotted him and inquired. The veteran had missed the last bus home and was waiting for the first bus that was to come at 6 a.m.!



Assam government waives off loans of 2.2 lakh women

Guwahati | Ew News

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said at least 2.2 lakhs borrowers who could not repay their loan will get relief under the state government's initiative. The state government had organised an event to waive-off loans of women borrowers of state from different microfinance companies. The Chief Minister said that his government has fulfilled an ambitious election promise made two years ago during the assembly polls in Assam. "A section of the media also claimed that we have backtracked on our earlier poll promises. I want to make it clear that we have been fulfilling all our promises. Those loans which had become non-performing as on March 31, 2021 will get reliefs," Sarma said. A ceremonial distribution of relief under the Assam Microfinance Incentive & Relief Scheme was organised by the state administration in Dispur. Borrowers whose accounts had turned non-performing asset (NPA) as on March 31, 2021 and having outstanding principal amount upto Rs. 25,000 are deemed to be eligible for benefits in this category. An official statement mentioned that the state government is shelling out a total of Rs 291 crore as compensation to the lenders (microfinance institutions) and this move is expected to benefit a total of around 2.2 lakh borrowers from across the State. In return, the concerned microfinance institutions shall issue "no due certificate" to the borrowers, thus making the latter credit-worthy again under the formal



financial system. Claiming the Assam Microfinance Incentive & Relief Scheme as a first of its kind in the country, Sarma said its main objective was to provide relief to eligible borrowers who had availed small loans from microfinance institutions and the formal banking system but owing to certain circumstances, they couldn't repay the borrowed amount in full. The Chief Minister said the primary reasons behind the default in loan repayment can be said to be the Covid-19 pandemic scenario and the anti-CAA movement. "Now that the pandemic period and days of strife have been left behind, it is important that a healthy credit habit is built up in the State," he added. The event was also attended by Ministers of Assam Cabinet Ajanta Neog, Jayanta Mallabaruah, Chandramohan Patowary, along with a host of senior officials and representatives of microfinance institutions.

Aspiring Indian students get admission in Canadian institutes as they normally do: Officials

Chandigarh, Ew News

Visa by Canada for Indian citizens, including students, amid a growing diplomatic row between the countries has not stopped and aspiring students are rushing in to get admission for the January intake in colleges and universities as they normally do, officials here said on Saturday. This is despite BLS, India's visa processing centres in Canada, this week suspended services citing operational reasons. Besides, India has issued a travel advisory for Indians travelling to Canada, citing safety concerns. Speaking with the media, Canada's Immigration Minister Marc Miller urged Indians, who are concerned about safety, to remain calm. "I think everyone knows Canada is a safe country and given the events of the last two or three days and the seriousness of the allegations that - it's important for everyone to stay calm." Canadian federal public safety officials say Hindus from India are safe and welcome in Canada after a viral video from a pro-Khalistan group called for them to leave the



country. Saying there should be no tension between the Sikh Canadian and Hindu Canadian communities, Punjab-origin Member of Parliament for Brampton North, Ruby Sahota, wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "There has been a video circulating targeting Hindu-Cdns, calling on them to move back to India. This is against Canadian and Liberal values. I will always stand up for everyone's rights. I condemn this statement and any hate towards Hindu-Cdns. Such speech has no place in Canada." Mayor of Brampton, Patrick Brown, participated in a 'garba', a traditional Indian dance, on Friday. "This evening, we hosted the @CityBrampton's first City organized outdoor garba at Gage Park. Attendees dressed in

their finest garba attire and took part in an evening of traditional dances, music, and cuisine," he said. India is the second largest source of foreign students coming to Canada, just behind China. In 2022, there were 118,095 Indians who gained permanent residence in Canada. Of these, 59,503 Indians transitioned from permanent residents to Canadian citizens. Immigration consultants based in Chandigarh told IANS the admission process and craze of Indian students for admissions to Canadian colleges and universities is normal as there is no impact of "diplomatic standoff" between two nations. "The number of applications for study visa in Canada for the January intake is the same as it was in the previous (Sep-

tember) session, which is normally the major among all three major intakes," a consultant with Canam, a leading international education consulting organization, told IANS. He said there is no delay in visa processing time for Indian nationals and colleges and universities are accepting new applications as they normally do. Working in Canada while studying is an added attraction that can help one get practical work experience and build his/her network. Most international students are eligible to work while studying. There are different requirements for working on campus and off campus. Normally, international students can work off campus up to 20 hours per week. A majority of Indian students work in food services, retail, and hospitality. As per the latest data from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), Canada issued study permits to 551,405 international students from 184 countries, in 2022, an increase of 24 per cent on 2021, in what Canadian immigration described as a "record-breaking year" for visa applications. Out of the total international students, 41 per cent (226,450) are Indian students, a majority from cash-rich Punjab, up from 169,460 the previous year. As per estimates, there were 807,750 study permit holders in Canada last December, over 190,000 more than in 2021, against Canada's target of 450,000 foreign students by 2022 set out in the country's 2014 international education strategy. Upon graduation, a foreign student may apply for a work permit under the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program. Under this program, the work permit may be issued for the length of the study program, up to a maximum of three years. According to the Canadian government, foreign students contribute more than \$15.3 billion annually to the economy. There are no restrictions on the type of employment during the study or work permit. Also each year thousands of graduates from India opt for Canadian residency -- a source of educated, young workforce. (Vishal Gulati can be contacted at gulatiians@gmail.com)

BJP's love for backward class is limited only to election speeches: Umesh Singh Kushwaha

Alok Nandan @ EW News

Patna. Addressing the one-day Karpuri Charcha organized by JDU in Jiradei Assembly of Siwan district, party's state president Umesh Singh Kushwaha said that the party has taken the initiative of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in the development of the person standing at the last rung of the society through the assembly level Karpuri Charcha programme. It has been decided to take the work done to the common people. Along with this, the manner in which BJP is continuously behaving despicably with the backward and extremely backward society also has to be exposed before the public. The State President said that even in the Women's Reservation

Bill, the Modi government of the Bharatiya Janata Party, as a well-thought-out strategy, has neglected the women of backward and extremely backward classes. Whereas our Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had fixed OBC quota along with Scheduled Caste and Tribe in Panchayati Raj and Municipal Body elections. He said that Bharatiya Janata Party is cheating the extremely backward and backward society. BJP's love for backward and backward classes is visible only in election speeches, the reality is exactly the opposite. The State President said that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is in the true sense the biggest messiah of the extremely backward people. Not through his speeches but through his



actions, he has proved his affection and connection towards the backward classes. Following the ideals established by Jananayak Karpuri Thakur, Nitish Kumar has carried out many historic works for the upliftment of the weaker and

deprived sections of the society. The result of which is that the society which has deviated from the mainstream of development is once again becoming economically, politically, socially and educationally strong. Mr. Kushwaha said that through

this Karpuri discussion, we have to resolve to give a befitting reply in 2024 to the forces conspiring to deprive the backward classes of their rights. In the last 9 years, Modi government has not done even a single work in the public interest, and the promises made by it in 2014 were also termed as jumla by the Home Minister of the country. The common people of the country are suffering between inflation and unemployment. BJP has no other issue except religious and caste fanaticism to go into the elections but the people of the country have now become aware. It is now going to be difficult for BJP to win the elections with the help of rhetoric and false promises. The State President said that Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

has worked to unite all the opposition parties of the country to remove the present anti-people government from the throne of the Centre. In this respect too, JDU workers have a special responsibility. We have to put all the 40 Lok Sabha seats of Bihar in the hands of India Alliance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The program was presided over by party's Siwan District President Chandraketu Singh and the stage was conducted by Mr. Mohan Rajbhar. Mainly present in the program were Siwan Lok Sabha MP Kavita Singh, Legislative Councilor Virendra Narayan Yadav, former minister Vikram Kunwar, former minister Ramsevak Singh, former MLA Hemnarayan Shah, program division in-charge cum former MLC.

13 seats will be reserved for women in state assembly: Goa

CM, Panaji, Sep 23 (IANS) Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Saturday welcomed the women's reservation bill and said that as per provision 13 seats will be reserved for women in state's legislative assembly. "I welcome the Women Reservation Bill. It is the first time that women are getting 'Sanman' (of reservation) by the BJP government under the leadership of Narendra Modi. I congratulate him," Sawant said. Speaking about the reservation for Goa assembly, he said that 13 seats will be reserved for women in Goa. Goa has 40 members in the state legislative assembly. "It will help women for their representation in Lok Sabha and assembly," Sawant said. Meanwhile, Congress in Goa has called the bill another 'Jumla' by the BJP government. Congress leader Girish Chodankar has said that 'Women Reservation' should not become another 'Jumla' like 'crediting 15 lakhs in account of every citizen', which was a failed promise of the saffron party. He said that BJP is trying to divert attention from public issues by bringing Women's Reservation Bill.

DUSU polls: ABVP wins 3 of 4 posts; NSUI nominee gets vice president post

New Delhi | Ew News

The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) on Saturday won three of four posts for which candidates were in the fray in the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) polls -- voting for which was held on Friday. The three posts won by the ABVP include that of the President, Secretary and Joint Secretary, while the Congress-backed National Students' Union of India (NSUI) managed to win the post of Vice President. According to officials, ABVP's Tushar Dedha has been elected president as he defeated NSUI's Hitesh Gulia. Dedha got 23,460 votes while Gulia bagged 20,345 votes. ABVP's Aprajita won the post of Secretary as she got 24,534 votes. Sachin Baisla won the post of Joint Secretary with 24,955 votes. NSUI's candidate Abhi Dahiya managed to win the post of the Vice President by bagging 22,331 votes. Meanwhile, celebrations following the election results erupted in the North Campus of the Delhi University. The ABVP workers raised slogans



and also burst crackers. Minister of State for Railways and Textiles, Darshana Jardosh in a post on X, said: "Many congratulations to ABVP for its jubilant victory in DUSU Election 2023. This victory enunciates the collective faith of youth in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies and politics." About 42 per cent of students exercised their franchise in the DUSU elections. According to the university administration, a total of 24 candidates were in the fray for four posts in Delhi University. The student union elections have been held at Delhi University after three years. The last DUSU elections were held in 2019-20. Since then, it could not be held due to Covid-induced crises. Due to the delay of three years in the elections, the university administration had given relaxation in the age limit to the candidates.

Melting glaciers are a threat to the world's ecosystem

A report says glaciers will melt before the year 2100

Ew News

Yes, there are several reports that have projected that glaciers will continue to melt at an alarming rate, and some may even disappear completely before the year 2100. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the world's glaciers are currently losing mass faster than at any other time in history, and this trend is expected to continue. The IPCC report states that even with a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, glaciers will continue to melt over the coming decades, leading to rising sea levels and other environmental changes. If carbon emissions continue to increase at the current rate, the report warns that many glaciers could disappear entirely, with significant consequences for ecosystems, freshwater availability, and human societies that rely on

these resources.

It is important to note that while the exact timing and extent of glacier melting remains uncertain, there is a strong scientific consensus that human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, are driving climate change and contributing to the ongoing loss of glaciers and other environmental changes. Addressing this urgent issue will require global cooperation and action to reduce emissions and move to a more sustainable energy system. Melting glaciers are a result of global warming and climate change. They have several impacts on the environment, including:

1. Rising sea levels: As glaciers melt, they contribute to rising sea levels, which can cause flooding in low-lying areas and damage to coastal ecosystems.
2. Changes in water availability: Melting glaciers can affect the availability of freshwater in some areas, leading to droughts and water shortages that can affect agriculture and other industries.
3. Changes in weather patterns: The melting of glaciers can alter weather patterns, leading to changes in precipitation and temperature that can disrupt ecosystems.
4. Threat to biodiversity: The loss of glaciers can negatively impact plant and animal species that rely on glaciers for their habitat and survival.
5. Release of pollutants: Melting glaciers can release pollutants that have been trapped in the ice for decades or even centuries, leading to contamination of water and soil.

Himalach Pradesh, a state that has five important perennial rivers fed particularly by glaciers, has witnessed a decline in snowfall over the past year. The area under snow cover in the state has declined by 18.5% between 2019-20 and 2020-21 according to a report by the State Centre on Climate Change (SCCC) Shimla and Space Application Centre (ISRO) Ahmedabad. The study revealed that the area under snow cover in 2019-20 was 23,542 sq km,

which dropped to 19,183 sq km in 2020-21, a decline of 3,404 sq km or 18.52%. Usually, in the winter season, about one-third of the geographical area of the state, which amounts to about 18,556 sq km, remains under thick snow cover. Most of the major rivers like Chenab, Beas, Parvati, Baspa, Spiti, Ravi, Satluj and their perennial tributaries originate from the Himalayas depend upon the seasonal snow cover for their discharge dependability. The report added that the snow cover in the Chenab basin fell from 7,154.12 sq km in 2019-20 to 6,515.92 sq km in 2020-21, a reduction of 638.2 sq km or 8.92%. The Beas basin shows a decrease of about 19% with its average snow cover area having decreased from 2,457.68 sq km to 2,002.04 sq km, a loss of 455 sq km. The Ravi basin saw an overall reduction of 23% in the total area under snow cover. The snow cover in the Sutlej Basin, which covers 45% area of Himachal and is the longest river in the state,

shrank the most by 23.49% or 2,777 sq km. It was 11,823.28 sq km in 2019-20 and 9,045.51 sq km this year. Another study published in 2019 said that the Sutlej River basin glaciers are melting fast and may shrink significantly by as soon as 2050. The research estimates that the melting would cause 33% of the glaciers to disappear by 2050 and 81% by the end of the century. Not only Himachal, glaciers in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are also melting at a significant rate. According to a 2020 study, over 1,200 glaciers in the region saw an annual reduction in mass of 35 centimetres on average between 2000 and 2012. The study added that the glaciers have reduced from 101.73 sq km in 1980 to 72.41 sq km in 2018 showing a recession of 28.82% decrease. Irfan Rashid, Senior Professor, Department of Geo Informatics, University of Kashmir, said, "From 1980, at least six glaciers have disappeared. Four out of the six disappeared after the year 2000. The main reason is

climate change; but other factors include an increase in greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases. India stands at the third position after China and the USA in the release of greenhouse gases." According to the state of Jammu and Kashmir Rivers Report, during the last 51 years, the glacier area in the Jhelum basin has decreased from 46.09 sq km in 1962 to 33.43 sq km in 2013, a decline of 27.47%. The glacier area of river Chenab has also seen a decline of 21%. In Uttarakhand, there has been a downfall of around 85 sq km of the snow cover of the Gangotri and surrounding glaciers (GSG) in the years of 2018 and 2019 respectively from the year 2017, according to a study that used Remote Sensing and GIS. In 2020, a huge recovery has occurred with a drastic increase in snow cover area by approximately the same amount which has been previously depleted. After 2020, a gradual drop of 27 sq km occurred in 2021.

ICRA Analytics collaborates with FactSet to provide users with daily security level valuation of fixed income securities

New Delhi, Agency

ICRA Analytics, a wholly owned subsidiary of ICRA Ltd, announced that it has collaborated with FactSet to provide its daily security level valuation (SLV) of fixed-income securities to FactSet licensed users. ICRA Analytics is currently one of the two valuation agencies authorised for the valuation of fixed-income securities. It holds a prominent share in the Market Linked Debentures (MLDs) valuation space. As a part of the collaboration, ICRA Analytics will provide daily security level valuation (SLV) of all fixed income

securities to FactSet licensed users. Such users can run further analytics using FactSet's proprietary models and attribution tools. FactSet is a global financial digital platform and enterprise solutions provider. They are the global market leaders in attribution analysis tools and have over 185,000 users with offices in 20 countries. Commenting on the collaboration, Ashwini Kumar, Head Market Data, ICRA Analytics said, "We are glad to collaborate with FactSet, who are global market leaders in attribution analysis tools, to provide our daily security level valuation of fixed income securities



to their licensed users. Such users can run further analytics using FactSet's proprietary models and attribution tools." Commenting on the collaboration, Yeshwant Lingudkar, Regional Director, Head - Indian Subcontinent, FactSet, said, "FactSet's strategic alliance with ICRA Analytics empowers us to deliver

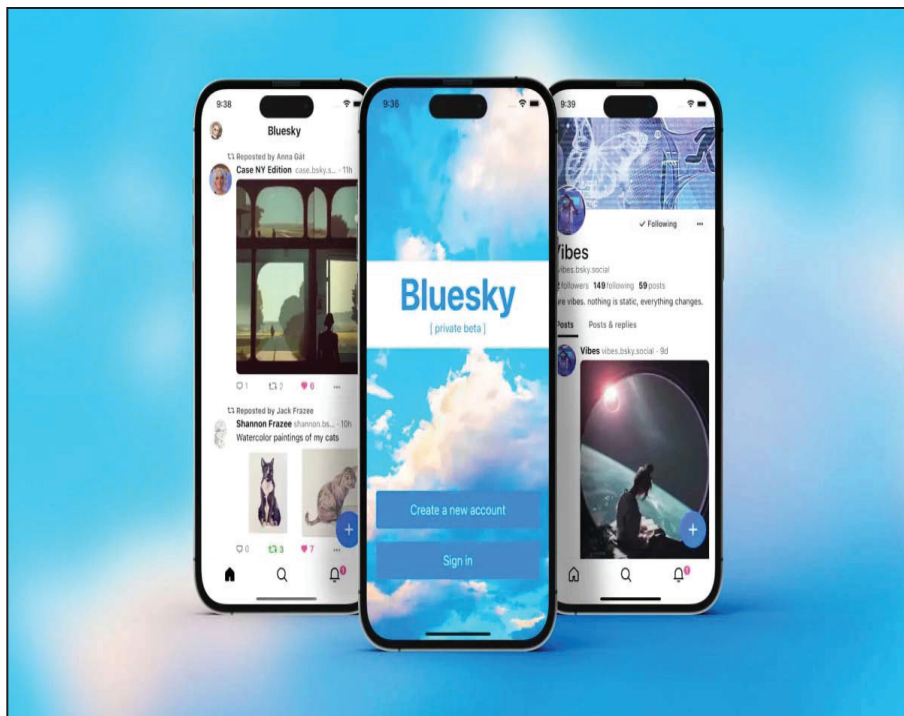
comprehensive and advanced fixed income analytics solutions to our clients in the local investment management space in India. With ICRA data being integrated, our clients can run reports on characteristics, exposure, performance, attribution, and risk of their fixed income portfolios with FactSet's flexible, industry-leading solutions for portfolio analysis." ICRA Analytics' valuation of fixed income securities is a key enabler for Indian debt funds and its valuation methodology is validated and accepted by fund managers and industry leaders. It holds nearly one-third (30 per cent)

of the total market share in the valuation industry. Over 8000 corporate bonds, g-secs (government securities), SDLs (State Development Loans), CPs (Commercial Paper), CDs (Certificates of Deposit) and T-bills (Treasury bills), MLDs Sub-Investment grade securities are valued by the company daily. ICRA Analytics to various asset managers which include AMCs (asset management companies), insurance companies, wealth managers, banks, corporates, primary dealers and NBFCs among others. It had recently collaborated with Bloomberg to provide domestic bond valuation data.

Dorsey's Bluesky usage surges after Musk says will charge all X users

New Delhi, Agency

Jack Dorsey-backed social media network Bluesky saw a surge in new users sign-up after Elon Musk announced he will soon charge all X users a small monthly fee. Musk's announcement earlier this week backfired as Bluesky hit a daily active user record afterwards. According to data from analytics firm Similarweb, Bluesky's Android app saw half a million daily active users on the day of Musk's announcement and its web traffic increased even higher. On Android, the daily active users metric was up 20.6 per cent for Bluesky. Bluesky saw a total of 53,585 new signups in one day after Musk's announcement — 5 per cent of the platform's user base of around 1.13 million accounts, reports TechCrunch. In a



live-streamed interaction with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the X owner floated the idea that the social network may no longer be a free site. "It's the only way I can think of to combat vast armies of bots," Musk said.

Pakistan's economy on edge of precipice, warns World Bank

Islamabad, Pakistan is in its tipping point crisis where it should decide to remain a laggard with 40 per cent population living below the poverty line under elite capture and policy decisions driven by strong vested interests of military, political and business leaders or change course to take off for a brighter future, local media reported. This candid warning came from the World Bank ahead of the new election cycle for the upcoming government to make early choices while making it clear that international lenders and development partners could only advise with international experiences of successes and some financing but hard choices and course correcting decisions could only be taken within the country, Dawn reported. "This may be Pakistan's moment in making policy shifts," said Najy Benhassine, Country Director for the World Bank in Pakistan, at a news briefing while releasing a set of policy notes for debate and discussions for finalisation before the new elected government comes in, Dawn reported. He said Pakistan was in the middle of a human resource capital and economic crisis. "Policy decisions are heavily influenced by strong vested interests, including those of military, political and business leaders," reads an overview of the 'Reforms For a Brighter Future: Time to Decide' that Mr Benhassine released. He said Pakistan had been facing numerous economic hardships including inflation, rising electricity prices, severe climate shocks, and insufficient public resources to finance development and climate adaptation — when the country was among the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, Dawn reported. Pakistan's human development outcomes lag well behind the rest of South Asia and are roughly equivalent to those in many Sub-Saharan African countries with the costs disproportionately borne by girls and women while close to 40pc of children under five years of age were stunted and had the largest number (20.3m) of out-of-school children in the world, Dawn reported. Its growth model has resulted in periodic balance of payments crises driven by unsustainable fiscal and current account deficits that necessitated subsequent painful contractionary adjustments, slowing growth, reducing certainty and undermining investments.

I-T Dept urges taxpayers with previous arrears to have them adjusted in refund claims

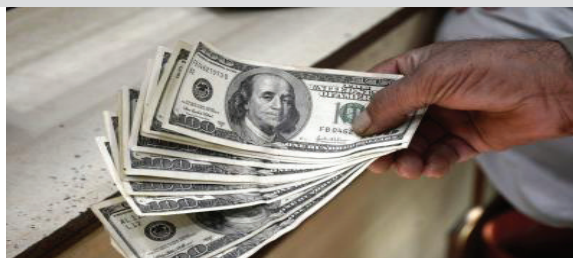
New Delhi, Agency

The Income Tax (I-T) Department is providing an opportunity to taxpayers who have previous outstanding demands of payments against them, to have these reconciled so that refunds in their cases, if any, can be issued. In a statement issued on Saturday, the I-T Department said it "is making every effort to complete the processing of Income Tax Returns (ITRs) and issuance of refunds expeditiously". However, there are a few cases in which refunds are due to the taxpayer, but previous demands are outstanding. "Taxpayers are requested to avail this opportunity and respond to such intimations to enable cleaning up/reconciliation of pending demands and facilitate timely issue of refunds," the statement read. Section 245(1) of Income-tax Act, 1961, mandates providing of an opportunity to the taxpayer to make a representation before adjusting the refund against an existing demand. The taxpayer is required to agree, disagree or clarify the status of the demand. Accordingly, taxpayers with existing demand(s) in the previous years are being intimated of the same, the official statement said. The I-T Department said that this is a taxpayer-friendly measure where an opportunity is being provided in line with principles of natural justice. For the Assessment Year.

Dollar-rupee to trade in Rs 82-84 in 2HFY24: CARE Ratings

Chennai, Agency

The US dollar-Indian rupee exchange rate will fluctuate between Rs 82 and Rs 84 during the second half of FY24, CARE Ratings said in a report. According to the credit rating agency, the rupee breached the Rs 83 against a dollar recently, but its decline has been curtailed by interventions by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) across various markets, including the spot, non-deliverable forward (NDF), and futures markets. "In the second half of the fiscal year 2023-24, we anticipate the USD/INR exchange rate to fluctuate within the range of Rs 82 to



Rs 84, gradually gravitating toward the lower boundary of this range. This projection marks a shift from our prior forecast of Rs 81 to Rs 83," CARE Ratings said. The US Federal Reserve's hawkish stance, communicated during the September meeting, is expected to sustain elevated yields in the US Treasury market and maintain strength in the US Dollar Index (DXY) in the short term." However, we

Micron begins construction on \$2.7 bn India semiconductor plant in 'epic' beginning

Sanand (Gujarat), Agency

Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said that India has embarked upon its journey to become a semiconductor hub, as US-based Micron Technology broke grounds for its about Rs 22,500 crore (\$2.75 billion) chip assembly and test facility here. Stressing that India will soon need Rs 5 lakh crore worth chips to meet the growing demand, the minister said within three months of Prime Minister Narendra Modi meeting Sanjay Mehrotra, the President and CEO of Micron Technology in the US, the company has started construction on its plant which is unprecedented. Micron has committed to investing up to \$825 million in building the semiconductor assembly and test facility in India, with support from the government. The combined investment of \$2.75 billion is projected to create around 5,000 direct jobs and offer 15,000 community job opportunities over the next five years. Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, said that for a country that has missed several opportunities

for the last 70 years, this is a historic and epic

moment. "We have made tremendous strides in the last 9-10 years. It is certainly a very important milestone and I have absolutely

no doubt that this Micron's state-of-the-art plant will be a beacon to all investors, other manufacturers and participants in the global semiconductor ecosystem," Chandrasekhar told the gathering.

The Assembly, Test, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) of the company is being set up on 93 acres in Sanand GIDC-II industrial estate and is expected to be commissioned within 18 months.

The facility will focus on transforming wafers into Ball Grid Array (BGA) - integrated circuit packages, memory modules and solid-state drives. In July, Prime Minister Narendra Modi promised 50 per cent financial assistance to players wishing to set up semiconductor manufacturing facilities in the country.

At the Semicon India 2023 in Gandhinagar, he had said that "we are continuously carrying out policy reforms to accelerate the growth of the country's semiconductor sector". (Nishant Arora can be reached at nishant.a@ians.in).

NEWS IN BRIEF

PAKISTAN'S WEEKLY INFLATION

SURGES 38.66%

Islamabad, Pakistan's weekly inflation spiked 38.66 per cent on a year-on-year basis, mainly due to a rise in petroleum prices, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) said on Saturday. The Sensitive Price Indicator-based inflation increased by 0.93 per cent for the week ending on September 21 as compared to the previous week, the PBS data revealed. The indicator comprised 51 essential items collected from 50 markets in 17 cities of the country, the PBS said, Xinhua news agency reported. During the week, out of 51 items, the prices of 22 items increased, 11 items decreased in price, and 18 items remained stable, the data showed. The PBS added that the prices of chicken, onions, garlic, petrol and diesel witnessed an increase during the last week. A decrease was recorded in the prices of sugar, bananas, tomatoes, wheat flour, cooking oil it said.

JPMORGAN ANALYST SEES OIL

PRICE SURGE AS HIGH AS \$150

New Delhi, JPMorgan's head of EMEA energy equity research, Christyan Malek, warned markets that the recent Brent price surge could continue upwards to \$150 per barrel by 2026, according to a new research report, Oil Price reported. Several catalysts went into the \$150 price warning, including capacity shocks, an energy supercycle—and of course, efforts to push the world further away from fossil fuels. Most recently, crude oil prices have surged on the back of OPEC+ production cuts, mostly led by Saudi Arabia who almost single-handedly took 1 million bpd out of the market, followed by a fuel export ban from Russia. Increased crude demand paired up with the supply restrictions, boosting crude oil prices and contributing to rising consumer prices, Oil Price reported. Brent prices were trading around \$93.55 on Friday afternoon, but Malek expects Brent prices between \$90 and \$110 next year, and even higher in 2025. "Put your seatbelts on. It's going to be a very volatile supercycle," Malek told Bloomberg on Friday, as the analyst warned about OPEC's production cuts and a lack of investment in new oil production. JPMorgan said in February this year that Oil prices were unlikely to reach \$100 per barrel this year unless there was some major geopolitical event that rattled markets, warning that OPEC+ could add in as much as 400,000 bpd to global supplies, with Russia's oil exports potentially recovering by the middle of this year, Oil Price reported. At the time, JPMorgan was estimating 770,000 bpd in demand growth from China—less than what the IEA and OPEC were estimating. JPMorgan now sees the global supply and demand imbalance at 1.1 million bpd in 2025, but growing to a 7.1 million bpd deficit in 2030 as robust demand continues to butt up against limited supply, Oil Price reported.

TEEN-FOCUSED NEO-BANKING

PLATFORM AKUDO TO SHUT

DOWN OPERATIONS

New Delhi, Leading US-based investment firm Y Combinator-backed Akudo, a teenagers-focused neo-banking platform, is shutting down its core UPI and card business, media report said. According to Entracker, citing sources, the decision comes in response to a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directive that prohibited the use of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in a co-branding arrangement. "Akudo is likely to wind up its operations and shut down completely in a few weeks from now," a person familiar with the matter was quoted as saying. "The company has already stopped onboarding new users and intimated its PPI issuer LivQuik and infra partner M2P Fintech about the shutdown," it added. According to the report, UPI accounts for the majority of Akudo's business (over 70 per cent), with cards accounting for approximately 25 per cent of total revenue. Aside from regulatory issues, the company is also out of cash, and its attempts to raise new capital have failed. Akudo, founded by Lavika Aggarwal, Khanna, and Jagveer Gandhi, is a digital bank for teenagers that offers debit cards that can be controlled by parents. The firm raised \$4.2 million led by Y Combinator, JAFCO Asia, Incubate Fund India and AET Fund. Tribe Capital, Cabra Capital, and a few other investors also took part in the round, which was announced in September 2021. The RBI has directed PPI issuers to halt UPI in co-branding arrangements. Because of this move, companies like Dream11, Fampay, Akudo, Muvin and CheqUPI had to discontinue UPI services as they didn't hold PPI license.

INDIA IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE STOCK MARKET IN THE WORLD

New Delhi, Even after the recent correction, Nifty is trading around 20 times FY 24 earnings, making India the most expensive market in the world, says V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services. FPI selling which started early this month continued in the week ended September 22. This month, in the 15 trading days, so far, FIIs were sellers in eleven days. As per NSDL data, in September through 22nd, FPIs sold equity for Rs 10164 crore. This figure includes bulk deals and investment through the primary market. In the cash market FII selling was Rs 18260 crores, so far this month, he said. Since valuations remain high even after the recent pull back and US bond yields are attractive (the US 10-year bond yield is around 4.49 percent) FIIs are likely to press sales so long as this trend persists. It would be irrational to expect the FIIs to buy aggressively when the US 10-year bond yield is around 4.49 percent and the dollar index is above 105, he added. Even after the recent correction, Nifty is trading around 20 times FY 24 earnings, making India the most expensive market in the world. No doubt, India has the best growth and earnings prospects among the large economies of the world. So, if the markets correct further, by say 3 to 4 percent, FIIs can turn buyers even if US bond yields remain high, he added. FII selling can be an opportunity for domestic.

Rashmika Mandana looks simple, elegant in her poster as Geetanjali in 'Animal'

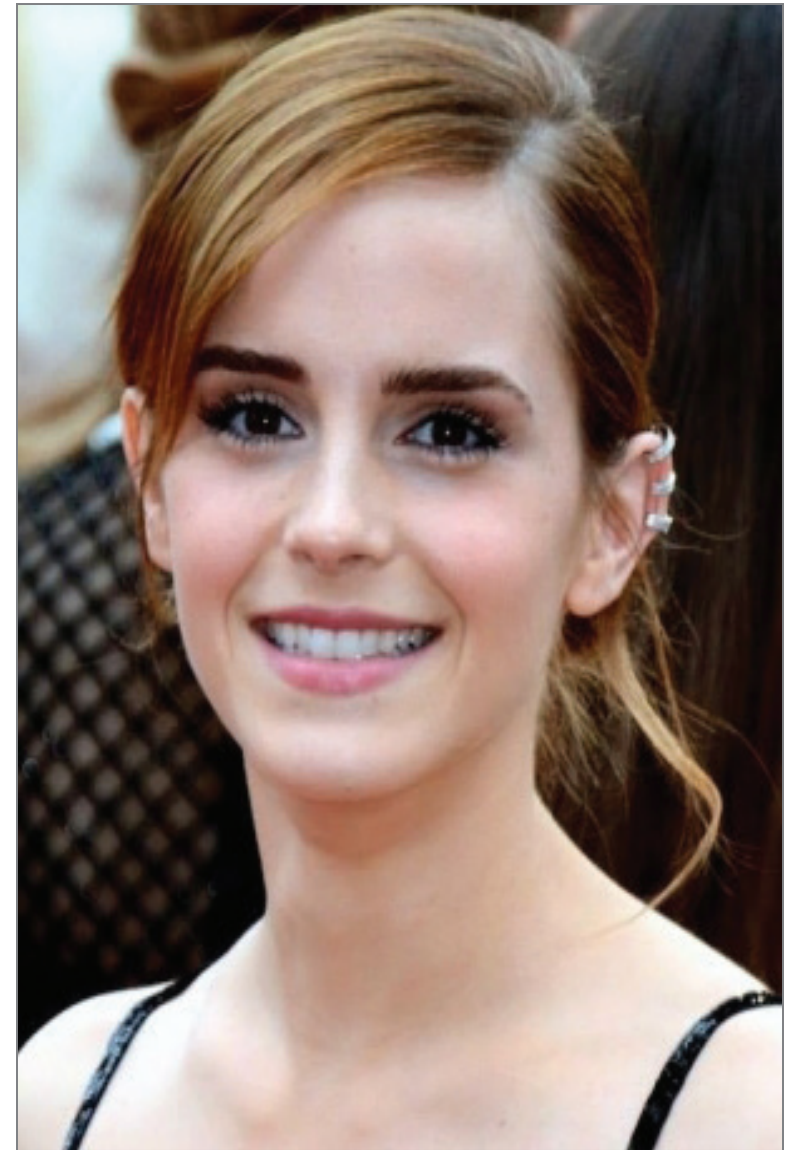


Mumbai, Sep 23 (IANS) The latest poster for the Ranbir Kapoor-starrer film 'Animal' has come out, featuring actress Rashmika Madana as the character of Geetanjali. The poster shows a relatively very simple, pretty and graceful picture of the actress, wearing a shimmering red-white saree with a bindi on her forehead, while she is looking down and giving a very downsidled smile, with blurry lights glimmering in the background. Posting the look of Geetanjali on her X (formerly Twitter), the actress wrote: "Your Geetanjali. #Animal #AnimalTeaserOn28thSept #AnimalTheFilm #AnimalOn1stDec". The movie has been surrounded by quite a mystery as it is very much unknown what the film exactly is about, though apparently it is a gangster drama somewhat similar to Allu Arjun's 'Pushpa', being more rustic and grounded in its aesthetic. 'Animal' features a kind of violent and bloody, underground criminal war while exploring a kind of tumultuous and chaotic relationship between a gangster father-son duo. As such, it is not even known what Geetanjali's character is supposed to be. Whether she is just a standard heroine or has a deceptively weak look harbouring a kind of killer inside her, it is hard to presume. The movie was initially scheduled for an August release, though troubles in post-production as well as clashing with 'Gadar 2', 'Oh My God 2' and 'Jailer', pushed its release forward to complete the work on its VFX as well as the rest of post-production. Furthermore, this was also done to avoid clashing with the three giant films pushing its release date to December 1, 2023. The movie's teaser is scheduled to be released on September 28, while the final stages of post-production and VFX polishing are still ongoing. Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, 'Animal' is touting itself to be a pan-Indian Bollywood release much like the.

Samuel L. Jackson steps out for date night with wife LaTanya Richardson Jackson

Los Angeles, Hollywood actor Samuel L. Jackson and his wife LaTanya Richardson Jackson shared a sweet date night at the Elizabeth Taylor Ball to End AIDS Gala held in Beverly Hills. The longtime couple looked snazzy on the red carpet with Samuel wearing a dark navy suit and LaTanya dressing in a colourful white, black and yellow printed dress, as they gathered with friends to honor Magic Johnson who received the Elizabeth Taylor Commitment to End AIDS Award, reports 'People' magazine. Angela Bassett and her husband, Courtney B. Vance were hosts for the evening and presented the award to Johnson. Other stars in attendance to support the cause were 'Real Housewives of Beverly Hills' star Kathy Hilton and Dancing With the Stars pro Gleb Savchenko. As per 'People', in June, Samuel, 74, and LaTanya attended the 76th annual Tonys, at which the actor was nominated for best performance by an actor in a featured role in a play for August Wilson's 'The Piano Lesson', which LaTanya, 73, directed him in. They also stepped out together on the red carpet for the premiere of Samuel's movie 'Secret Invasion'. On his Instagram Jackson wrote: "About last night! On The Marvel Red Carpet with the Mrs @ltjackson". The pair, who met in college, have been married for 43 years and share one daughter, Zoe, who is an Emmy-winning reality TV producer.

Emma Watson hires security team to go back to University for degree



Los Angeles, Actress Emma Watson is heading back to school to chase a degree from Oxford. The 33-year-old actress who played Hermione Granger in all eight of the blockbuster Harry Potter films, has reportedly signed up for a part-time Master's degree at Oxford University. But fellow students might not be able to get very close to the star as she will reportedly be bringing a heavy security presence with her, reports Mirror.co.uk. Emma, who already graduated from Brown University with a bachelor's degree in English literature in May 2014, will be heading to the world famous university to attend a handful of lectures. However, it is suggested she will complete most of her degree virtually - while security guards will protect her whenever she does need to go to campus. The Sun reports that the actress is keen to keep herself safe while studying. A source told the publication: "The course is for older adults and can be done on a part-time basis, which is perfect for Emma's schedule. She only has to be on site for four or five days a year because she can do the rest of the course online from home." "Because she's a famous actress, she'll have a security team looking after her whenever she has classes to go to. There have been a few incidents recently and she is taking every precaution necessary to ensure her safety." As per Mirror.co.uk, the report of Emma's new education plans comes after a man was arrested earlier this month after trying to break into her dressing room at a fashion show in New York. The man in question has so far denied criminal trespass and disorderly conduct and his case is due to be heard in a USA court next month.

Divyanka Tripathi got to explore another aspect of her on Khatron Ke Khiladi 13



show compete demanded not stunned as contestants who would perform after me would know how to do it. Being the first person to figure out the passage of the stunt was tricky. I felt nervous but eventually had it all under control and gave my best."

Mumbai, Actress Divyanka Tripathi has returned to the stunt-based reality show, 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13', and has shared her experience of performing the stunts in the wilderness of Cape Town, South Africa. The actress shared that being a challenger on 'Khatron Ke Khiladi 13' was an enriching adventure for her. Initially, she contemplated if I would be able to perform these stunts as all the stunts were equally tough in her season. She said: "I feel proud that I emerged stronger and bold. I received a lot of appreciation for my journey in the 11th edition of the show. Being part of the latest edition as a challenger, who sets benchmarks for the daredevils was an honour and felt like a homecoming. "I loved returning to the thrilling world of stunts and the accomplishments of these fierce tasks developed a sense of achievement in me. This season was quite different, and it has lived up to its theme, 'Harr level, darr next level'. I am thankful to the show as I got to explore another aspect of me this time as well." The actress also spoke about the toughest challenge on the show which tested her strength. She said: "All the stunts that are devised on the show are difficult in some or the other way but the second challenge that I performed on the was like a finale stunt for me. When I learned about it, it looked a bit tougher. I had to against two male contestants and go first to perform the stunt to challenge them. "This task only extraordinary physical strength but also an unshakable force of will. After the briefing, I was stunned as contestants who would perform after me would know how to do it. Being the first person to figure out the passage of the stunt was tricky. I felt nervous but eventually had it all under control and gave my best."

Chandramukhi 2' new trailer combines supernatural horror, action, comedy

New Delhi, The new trailer for the Tamil film 'Chandramukhi 2' is out, and it shows an even more interesting narrative than the first one. Featuring shots of a hauntingly beautiful spirit of Chandramukhi and the lead protagonist Vettiyan, the trailer cuts back from past to present mixing supernatural thrills, action, intrigue and even comedy. The P. Vasu directorial has a clear cut style, showing Kangana Ranaut as the beautiful court dancer Chandramukhi who in her true form is a raving and vengeful spirit, while Raghava Lawrence portrays the protagonist Vettiyan Raja. 'Chandramukhi 2' cuts between past and present, as a family moves inside a palace which is said to be haunted by the spirit of a medieval court dancer named Chandramukhi, who was once king Vettiyan's favourite dancer before her death. Throughout the trailer there is an increasingly greater element of tension, as one wonders what will happen next due to the spirit of Chandramukhi who is now vengeful for blood, just eagerly waiting to possess someone and draw out blood. The trailer for director P. Vasu's sequel is heavily reminiscent of 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa', though this time there is a very clear level of supernatural horror involved with psychological thrills, much like the 2007 Bollywood film and its 1993 Malayalam counterpart 'Manichitrathazhu'. Tamil actor Vadivelu largely acts as a comic relief, much like he is known in Tamil cinema asking bizarre questions, such as 'Whether ghosts grow old or not' and 'Do they leave traces of their hair'. So much like the first film which starred superstar Rajinikanth, there is a strong element of comedy present as well. However, the tension never dies as it shows some bizarre masala action scenes and dancing, all the while there is a horror score playing in the background making you wonder just.

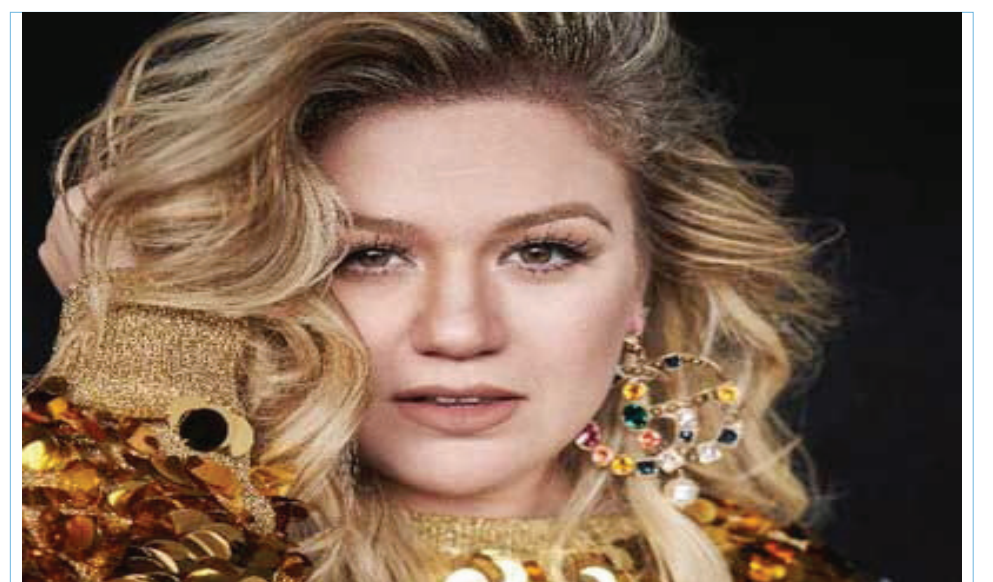
Justin Timberlake reveals he did not mastermind his song 'It's Gonna Be Me'

Los Angeles, Actor and singer Justin Timberlake has revealed that he was not the original creator of his iconic 2000 hit song 'It's Gonna Be Me', which today has become a meme. Decades after 2000 single 'It's Gonna Be Me' first premiered, the pop song—and more specifically, the way Justin sang its closing line ended up taking on a life of its own, becoming a meme that resurfaces each year to mark the month of May. However, according to the singer, he was not the mastermind who thought up its unique delivery. When recently asked if it was "fact or fiction" that one of the song's producers had advised him to add emphasis on the word to sound "meaner," Justin confirmed that it ain't no lie, reports Eonline. "I don't remember the specifics," he told host Sean Evans during NSYNC's appearance on Hot Ones' episode, "but I sang, 'It's Gonna Be Me,' and he was like, 'No, no, no, no, no.'" The 42-year-old explained that the producer wanted him to say "may" instead, with bandmate JC Chasez noting how all of the track's songwriters had Swedish accents. "What's funny specifically to Max Martin," Justin said of the hitmaker, who co-wrote the song with his fellow Swedes Andreas Carlsson and Rami, "the parts of their English that was broken actually made them catchier songwriters." He continued: "Because they would put words away that almost didn't make sense but when you sang them, they were more memorable." In the present day, 'It's Gonna Be Me' has since become a part of pop culture lexicon and is a full on meme song, something which Timberlake himself has acknowledged and is more than happy with. In fact.

Brian Austin Green engaged with long-time partner Sharna Burgess

Los Angeles, Actor Brian Austin Green has announced his engagement with his longtime girlfriend, Australian dancer Sharna Burgess. The couple revealed in a new interview that they have been engaged more than a year after welcoming their son Zane Walker. Sharna announced the happy news on the September 22 episode of their 'I Heart Radio' podcast 'Oldish', with the couple stating: "We've been engaged for two months," with Burgess adding "Brian proposed to me", Aceshowbiz reported. "I did the thing," Brian confirmed. The 'Beverly Hills, 90210' actor went on sharing that he popped the question on his 50th birthday in July. "Sharna threw me this surprise party, and I was like, 'That's a perfect place to do it. She'd never see it coming,'" he recalled. It was also revealed that Brian involved the whole family, including his kids Noah Shannon, Bodhi Ransom and Journey River with ex-wife Megan Fox, in the proposal. The actor also shares 21-year-old son Kassius from his previous relationship with Vanessa Marcil. "The kids come in with him. Noah is holding Zane, and Journey is holding this little red Cartier box. And they all come in there and they stand next to Brian, and he takes the box from Journey, and he says, 'Would you spend the rest of your life with us?' " Sharna recounted. "I was just looking at him like, 'I can't believe this is really happening.'" According to the dancer, Brian sweetly asked her on behalf of himself and the kids: "Would you spend the rest of your life with us?" to which replied: "Of course I said yes and I put that ring on my finger."

Kelly Clarkson loves being single



Los Angeles, Singer-songwriter Kelly Clarkson, who filed for divorce from businessman Blackstock, 46, in June 2020 after nearly seven years of marriage, and enjoys singlehood. The Grammy-winning singer has now revealed she doesn't have a boyfriend and probably won't for a while, reports 'Female First UK'. She told fans during an Instagram Live: "Do I have a boyfriend? No! And not looking. You know why? I love being single. I have two kids, two dogs, three rabbits, a hamster, multiple jobs - there's a lot going on. And, you know, you think you're going to spend the rest of your life with somebody, and you don't. That's hard to start over." As per 'Female First UK', not long after splitting from Brandon, mum-of-two Kelly moved to New York City with their daughter River Rose, nine, and son Remington 'Remy' Alexander, seven, to host her self-titled talk show. She joked in December 2021 she would be "single forever" after going through such a tumultuous divorce. And during an episode of 'The Kelly Clarkson Show', the singer admitted she struggles to spot "red flags" in her partners, which she said led to her taking a break from dating. She added, "I'm always that person that's like, 'Oh, I don't know. Maybe they were having an off day.'" Kelly has said her move to New York has helped get her back on her feet. She said in a separate Instagram Live: "I love living here, and I'm a Texas girl, so I did not think I was gonna love it so much. But you will see this face all the time at the park. I love walking around (the kids) love getting on the subway. My son doesn't allow us to stand near him, so he looks like he's by himself."

Mumbai City FC announce squad for 2023-24 Indian Super League

Dubai, Agency

Mumbai, Mumbai City FC kick off their league title defence and have named a 27-member squad to represent the Islanders in the 2023-24 Indian Super League. Des Buckingham's side set the stage ablaze last season, breaking as many as 17 all-time ISL records, en route to winning the League Winners' Shield in 18 games, with two rounds to spare. The Islanders will come in to the new ISL campaign aiming to do what no other club has done before - successfully defend the ISL League Winners' Shield. Last season's ISL Player of the Season and

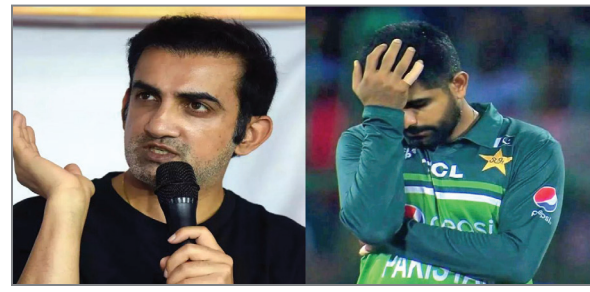
AIFF Men's Player of the Year, Lallianzuala Chhangte, will aim to repeat his exploits as he features in the Islanders' squad alongside the likes of Jorge Pereyra Diaz, Bipin Singh and Vikram Partap Singh in attack. Having won the ISL Shield for two seasons in a row, Greg Stewart will aim to add a third consecutive league title to his rich list of accolades. The likes of Phurba Lachenpa, Rahul Bheke, Rostyn Griffiths, Mehtab Singh and Apuia, who form the core of Des Buckingham's Mumbai City side, will be supported by a mix of youth and experience in Mohammad Nawaz, Sanjeev Stalin.

World Cup: Babar Azam can set this World Cup on fire, he has a different level of capability: Gautam Gambhir

New Delhi, Agency

New Delhi, Former Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir believes that Pakistan captain Babar Azam carries the potential to be the standout batter in the World Cup 2023.

The right-handed batter performed extremely well in the opening games of Asia Cup 2023 and played a handful of innings of 151 runs against Nepal. However, he failed to continue the momentum forward in the other matches but stood out as the lone batter for Pakistan. It was one of the biggest reasons for Pakistan not making it to the final of the Asia Cup. India beat both



Pakistan and Sri Lanka to advance to the final and then beat Sri Lanka again to lift the trophy for a record 8th time. Talking to Star Sports, Gambhir stated, "Babar Azam", when he was asked to name the player he is most looking forward to seeing at the World Cup. "Babar Azam can set this World Cup

on fire. I have seen a lot of players with so much time to bat.

I think that Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Kane Williamson, and Joe Root are there, but Babar Azam has a different level of capability," said Gambhir. Ranked No. 1 in the ODI format of cricket, in 2023, Babar has

scored 745 runs in 15 innings with a marvelous average of 49.66 comprising 2 Hundreds, and 6 Fifties. He is ranked 3 in T20Is behind India's Suryakumar Yadav and teammate Mohammad Rizwan while he attains the fourth spot in the Test rankings led by New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson. Pakistan will play two warm-up matches against New Zealand and Australia before starting off their World Cup campaign against the Netherlands on October 6. The tournament begins with last year's finalists England and New Zealand squaring off against each other a day earlier in Ahmedabad.

NEWS IN BRIEF

INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM AIMS TO STRIKE GOLD AT ASIAN GAMES IN HANGZHOU

Hangzhou, With determination in their hearts and sticks in their hands, the Indian men's hockey team are all set to embark on their journey to the 19th Asian Games, here. Having won the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 recently, the Indian team is keen to carry forward this momentum and make their nation proud by bring home the gold medal. Interestingly, the Indian team have a rich history in the Asian Games as they have clinched three gold medals (1966, 1998, 2014), nine silver medals ((1958, 1962, 1970, 1974, 1978, 1982, 1990, 1994, 2002), and three bronze medals (1986, 2010, 2018) so far in the marquee tournament. Hence, the Indian team will aim to continue their brilliant show and go all out for Gold medal as it will help them secure a direct qualification for the 2024 Paris Olympics. Notably, India are placed in Pool A, alongside Pakistan, Japan, Bangladesh, Singapore, and Uzbekistan in the 19th Asian Games Hangzhou 2022 and they will kick off their campaign on 24th September against Uzbekistan. Pool B consists of Korea, Malaysia, China, Oman, Thailand, and Indonesia. The top two teams from each Pool will make it to the Semi-Finals. Meanwhile, India captain Harmanpreet Singh, whose consistency and leadership have been instrumental in India's recent success, expressed his excitement and motivation for the upcoming tournament. He said, "Representing the tricolour on the international stage is an honour, and we are ready to give our all at the Asian Games. In the run-up to the tournament, we've undergone challenging practice sessions, and every member in the camp is completely concentrated and dedicated. Our goal is clear - to clinch the Gold medal and earn a direct qualification for the Paris Olympics next year." Also, coach Craig Fulton, who has been working relentlessly with the team to fine-tune their strategies and skills, believes that unity and discipline will be the keys to success in Hangzhou. He stated, "We've been preparing rigorously, focusing on teamwork and mental strength. Our team has the talent, and now it's about executing our plans effectively on the field. We are eager to face the competition and bring glory to India." After taking on Uzbekistan in their opening game on September 24, the Indian team is scheduled to square off against Singapore, Japan, and Pakistan on September 26, 28 and 30, respectively. Their final group stage clash is set against Bangladesh on October 2. Schedule: On September 24, India Vs Uzbekistan at 0845 hrs IST On September 26, India Vs Singapore at 0630 hrs IST On September 28, India Vs Japan at 1815 hrs IST On September 30, India Vs Pakistan at 1815 hrs IST On October 2, India Vs Bangladesh at 1315 hrs IST Rotation before ICC tournaments helps people not.

IN RHYTHM TO GET MUCH-NEEDED GAMETIME: MOHAMMED SHAMI

Mohali, After playing an emphatic role in India's five-wicket victory over Australia with his second five-form in ODIs, veteran pacer Mohammed Shami strongly voiced in favour of the rotation policy adopted by the team management ahead of Men's ODI World Cup, saying it helps those players get some game-time who haven't been able to get their rhythm. On a two-paced PCA Stadium pitch, Shami set the tone by dismissing Mitchell Marsh early, before returning to take out Steve Smith and triggered a late Australia collapse by taking out Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Short and Sean Abbott to pick 5-51, keeping the visitors to 276. "When you build a team, the coach has a role to rotate players and based on the situation, it is decided. You must have seen we have got results due to rotation and I believe before the World Cup, you shouldn't put too much load by playing back-to-back games. As of now, it's going well, and we are getting good results." "It's good for us because rotating pacers is key in such conditions (ahead of the World Cup). It's more important for bowlers, not that it's easier for batters but still. Rotation is important especially before ICC tournaments. It particularly helps those who haven't been in rhythm to get some much-needed gametime," said Shami in the post-match press conference. It was also the second successive.

Hangzhou Asian Games to be event for world unity, says Mongolian official

Ulan Bator, Agency

Ulan Bator, The 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, will be an event to promote world unity, a senior Mongolian official has said. The Asian Games, a major sports event not only in Asia but also in the world, are now at the center of attention of sports fans around the globe, Badmaanyambuu Bat-Erdene, chairman of the National Committee for Olympic Movement, Physical Activities and Sport, told Xinhua recently. He highlighted the slogan of "Heart to Heart, @Future," under which the Hangzhou Asian Games will kick off on Saturday. "I understand the motto of the Hangzhou Asian Games as showing that sport is a guarantee for the peaceful coexistence of nations around the world," he said, noting that as sports represent the meaning of peaceful coexistence, the Hangzhou Asian Games will be seen as an event to call for unity worldwide. Bat-Erdene, 59, is widely regarded as one of the greatest Mongolian wrestlers of all time. The retired wrestler holds the most-win record at 11 times in the country's annual traditional wrestling tournament and holiday Naadam. Particularly, he



won four medals in judo at the Asian Games, including a silver in the 95 kg category and a bronze in the open class at the Beijing Asian Games in 1990. Mongolia aims to break its medal records at the Hangzhou Asian Games, he said. "The two gold medals won in freestyle wrestling at the Asian Games held in Iran's capital Tehran in 1974 are the start of the success stories of the Asian Games for our country. Meanwhile, our athletes took four gold, nine silver, and 11 bronze medals at the previous Asian Games in Indonesian Jakarta and

Palembang in 2018, which was recorded as the most medal-winning Games for our country," he said. "Now, we are aiming to improve the success we managed at the previous Asian Games by winning at least six and more gold medals at the forthcoming Asian Games," Bat-Erdene said, stressing that the country's best chance of medaling will come in freestyle wrestling, judo, boxing, shooting and weightlifting, among others. Bat-Erdene voiced his confidence that Mongolian athletes will compete fairly

with other athletes, saying they will "promote the name of their country, and sing the national anthem many times at the Hangzhou Asian Games." He also wished all athletes at the Games a great success. Mongolia is set to send a delegation of over 600 people to the Hangzhou Asian Games, its largest at a single Asian Games. Sports relations between Mongolia and China have a long history, Bat-Erdene said, noting that bilateral cooperation has been successfully implemented and expanded at all levels.

There are similar basics in T20 cricket and 50-over cricket, and Suryakumar has ticked all the boxes: Mark Waugh



New Delhi, Agency

Former Australia cricketer Mark Waugh weighed on Suryakumar Yadav's performance (49 runs off 50 deliveries) in the first ODI against Australia in Mohali on Friday, saying the basics of playing the white-ball game remain the same and the star batter has the tools to do well in the 50-over format of the game. "It's not about those ducks. All those things that people have been talking about, stuff like 'Is he just a T20 player? Is he good enough to be a 50-over player?'. He sure is, you don't lose your talent overnight. There are similar basics in T20 cricket and 50-over cricket. Hit the ball, run hard, put the bad ball away, he can do all those things really well." Mark Waugh told JioCinema. "It's just a matter of him breaking free and not worrying about getting out. That's the one thing that always holds batters back -- thinking about getting out. If you can not think about that, then your natural instincts will take over and he will be fine," he added. Suryakumar Yadav's third half-century came after a long drought of 21 matches, after more than 1-year gap. When Suryakumar was chosen

for the team to compete in the Cricket World Cup in 2023, concerns about his position in the ODI lineup only grew. Suryakumar, though, appears to have the support and faith of the team administration. Suryakumar Yadav finally got his comeuppance after one of the worst stretches in international cricket, as he collected three consecutive golden ducks in a home ODI series against Australia prior to the IPL. He played a significant role in India's successful pursuit of 277 runs, aiding them in winning by five wickets with eight balls remaining, on Friday. Earlier, former Indian cricketer, Abhishek Nayar also showed faith in Suryakumar, stating, that it's all about trusting your own abilities and confidence from the team. "That also tells you the environment in the team. A lot of times, when you go back to the dugout, the coach and the captain, when they put that sort of trust in you. We saw Rahul Dravid speak in the press conference of how much confidence they had in Suryakumar, that they are going to back him, just feel that Suryakumar having that (backing) gives him the confidence to play his natural game," Nayar said. India will face Australia in the 2nd ODI in Indore on Sunday.

Bach hails Paris Olympics 2024 as 'Games of new era'

Hangzhou, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach hailed next year's Olympic Games in Paris as "the Games of a new era". Bach made the remarks during an exclusive interview with Xinhua, a day before he is scheduled to attend the opening ceremony of the Hangzhou Asian Games, reports Xinhua. Paris 2024 will be "the first Olympic Games which has been planned from the very beginning and will be delivered to the very end according to the Olympic Agenda 2020 of the IOC," Bach noted. "So they will be Games which will be more sustainable by making use of 95 percent of existing temporary facilities." According to the IOC chief, Paris 2024's goal is to cut in half the Games' carbon emissions compared to the average of London 2012 and Rio 2016. Bach added that the 2024 Olympics has also generated a boom in sporting participation.

Indian badminton contingent departs for USA to participate in BWF World Junior Championships

New Delhi, Agency

New Delhi, Following an intense training camp, conducted by the Badminton Association of India (BAI), the Indian contingent has left for the USA where they will be participating in the BWF World Junior Championships 2023, to be held in Spokane, USA from September 25 to October 8. Spearheaded by the Odisha Open 2022 champion Unnati Hooda and the two-time U-19 All India Junior Ranking champion Ayush Shetty, a strong 16-member squad took part in the BAI's preparatory camp at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati, which is supported by the REC Limited and Sports Authority of India, from September 1 to 20. "The three-week training camp was aimed at strengthening

skills of players and also improving team bonding as they will be competing in the team championship along with individual events. I am confident that this camp has helped players to bond and know each other better. The squad looks very competitive and I hope they will bring glory to the nation. I wish them good luck," commented Sanjay Mishra, BAI General Secretary. The players took part in rigorous training under the watchful eyes of singles coach Park Tae-sang, Umendra Rana, Rinky Singh and doubles coach Akshay Dewalkar, the former international shuttler, along with the other coaches of the National Centre of Excellence. The players also played a team practice match during the camp in order to get used to the team event format of the World Championships.

Asian Games: With a distinct water-themed opening ceremony blending culture and tech, Hangzhou declares the Games open

Hangzhou, Agency

Hangzhou, With a theme based on water and tide, which are integral parts of city life here and promoting principles of simplicity, sustainability and cost-effectiveness, Hangzhou displayed before the guests from across the continent a spectacular opening ceremony that blended the power of technology and beauty of art and captured the distinctive Chinese cultural heritage. The 90-minute-long programme captured China's cultural heritage and romantic imagery through the melding of its thousands-of-years-old civilisation and modern technology through stunning visuals, showcasing the dedicated



efforts of the Chinese path to modernisation. It was a presentation that combined Eastern aesthetics and a viewpoint that can connect with a global audience and expresses the country's goodwill and aim of building a community with a shared future through an interplay of Chinese style and Asian appeal. Water and tide were the abiding themes of the opening ceremony

representing the surging tides of Asia, presenting different themes of "water" in its different forms -- mist, fog, West Lake, Qiantang Tidal Bore and the thousand-year-old Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal and the water conservation system of the Archeological ruins of Liangzhu City -- which are found in and around Hangzhou to bring out the connection between life

and environment. Water was also brought to life through the light of Liangzhu which was presented through the Liangzhu Jade Cong, a widely found artefact from the archaeological ruins of the ancient Liangzhu City. For the opening ceremony, 19 pieces of jade cong were used to represent the number of editions of the Asian Games that have been held. By using these 19 water jade congs to create rhythmic beats, the ceremony once again brought out the water theme, as water becomes a means by which the Chinese people welcome incoming guests and create a warm atmosphere. While expressing continuity, creativity and the inclusive nature of culture, the

opening ceremony presented beautiful scenes that embody the uniquely Chinese approach to achieving modernisation by showing the happy lives of the Chinese people and showcasing China's innovative technologies through the integration of the virtual and real worlds, in today's era of Artificial Intelligence; and depicting the progress made by all Asian countries and regions, made possible by appreciating other cultures, and promoting the goal of shared prosperity. Chinese President Xi Jinping declared the games open in the presence of Randhir Singh, acting president of the Olympic Council of Asia, President of the International

Olympic Committee, Thomas Bach and other dignitaries. Held at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium, which the locals fondly refer to as the 'Big Lotus' as it is formed by 28 large and 27 smaller 'lotus petals', the ceremony presented the distinctive motifs of the Chinese culture and life in Hangzhou, which has the undulating waters of the Qiantangjiang River and the allure of Hangzhou silk as the backdrop. With songs by some of the contemporary Chinese musicians and dance themed around culture and fitness, blue was the abiding colour and texture of the ceremony as it symbolises water, which the locals say is the heart and soul of Hangzhou.

Nijjar's killing: British Columbia premier suspects Canada holding back information

Toronto, Agency Premier of Canada's British Columbia province David Eby has said that the government is holding back information regarding allegations of foreign interference in Khalistani leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing...

latest incident," Eby said, adding that everything he knows about Nijjar's killing is "in the public realm". He also called a briefing with the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) director "frustrating" as no concrete information was provided...

World leaders commit to end tuberculosis by 2030 at UN high-level meeting

United Nations, Agency World leaders at the United Nations General Assembly's high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis (TB) have approved a political declaration to advance efforts to end the disease by 2030...

states on the approval of this draft political declaration, which I will submit to the General Assembly for its formal adoption at a later date," UN General Assembly President Dennis Francis said on Friday...

a preventable and curable disease that kills over 4,400 people a day?" he said. "TB epidemic thrives due to well-known inequities such as poverty and undernutrition, and it is further exacerbated by conflicts, climate change, and other crises..."

the prevalence of HIV infections, diabetes, mental health, and smoking. Stigma surrounding the disease needs to be reduced so that people can get help without fear of discrimination...

A VOCAL MINORITY TODAY, INDIANS FIRST ARRIVED IN A HOSTILE CANADA IN 1902

New Delhi, Agency Shortly after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's much talked-about India visit for the G20 summit, the tone and tenor of the relations between the two nations changed in the aftermath of the assassination of prominent Khalistan supporter Hardeep Singh Nijjar...



after the elimination of proscribed Khalistan Tiger Force leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia on June 19 this year. In July 2022, National Investigation Agency (NIA) accused him of conspiring to murder a Hindu priest in Punjab and declared him a "fugitive terrorist..."

for information that could lead to his arrest. As per a Washington Post report, "Nijjar's family and friends say he advocated for a peaceful and democratic path to a Sikh homeland..."

country and polarised the Indian diaspora in Canada for political motives. The proclamation that pro-Khalistan supporters will hold demonstrations outside Indian diplomatic missions in Canada on September 25 by targeting the Indian national flag and nationalist Indians in Canada...

Canadian politicians slam video threatening Hindus, stop short of naming SFJ, Pannun

Toronto, Agency Top Canadian politicians, including many of Indian descent, have slammed a video released by pro-Khalistan Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) group asking Hindus of Indian-origin to leave the country, stating that the community is "welcome" and "safe" in the country...

Canadian society is diverse and inclusive and we must hold those values close to our hearts day in and day out," President of Treasury Board and former defence minister, Anita Anand, wrote on X. The offensive video, which now has been deleted, came just after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused New Delhi of involvement in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar...

Trudeau's India allegation based on 'shared intelligence from Five Eyes': US ambassador

Ottawa, US Ambassador to Canada David Cohen has said Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation against India was based on "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners," the media reported. "There was shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners that helped lead Canada to making the statements that the Prime Minister Trudeau made..."



Pakistan's economy on edge of precipice, warns World Bank

Islamabad, Agency Pakistan is in its tipping point crisis where it should decide to remain a laggard with 40 per cent population living below the poverty line under elite capture and policy decisions driven by strong vested interests of military, political and business leaders or change course to take off for a brighter future...

US Senator Bob Menendez indicted on bribery charges

New York, Agency Democratic Senator Bob Menendez and his wife have been charged with taking bribes from three New Jersey businessmen, the media reported. As per US Attorney's office, Menendez, 69, accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of cash and gold bars in exchange for using his power and influence as New Jersey's senior senator...



to reassert US influence on the world stage, rally support for congressional aid to Ukraine and push back China's rise. Behind the scenes, Senator Menendez was doing those things for certain people -- the people that were bribing him and his wife," Damian Williams, the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan, said...

have investigated Menendez. Federal prosecutors in New Jersey dropped a case in January 2018 in which Menendez was charged with accepting private flights, campaign contributions and other bribes from a wealthy patron in exchange for official favors. On top of that, a 2017 trial on those charges ended in a deadlocked jury. He was also investigated in 2006. He was never convicted despite facing multiple charges over the past dozen years...

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NEWS IN BRIEF

LONDON: WOMAN THOUGHT TO BE SLEEPING ON FLIGHT WAS DEAD

London, A 73-year old woman on board a British Airways flight from London to Nice, who was thought to be asleep, was dead, the media reported. Fellow passengers got concerned when they were unable to wake up the elderly woman after which they alerted the crew...

6 KILLED IN BRAZILIAN POLICE OPERATION

Rio de Janeiro, At least six suspects were killed as the Brazilian police carried out an operation in Salvador, according to local press. Salvador is the regional capital of the state of Bahia, with more than 2.9 million inhabitants. The police launched a mega-operation against a criminal group accused of murdering more than 30 people this month...

14-FT ALLIGATOR CAUGHT WITH HUMAN BODY IN FLORIDA

Tallahassee, A 14-foot alligator was caught carrying a human body down a canal near Clearwater in the US state of Florida, the media reported. A witness, JaMarcus Bullard, who was on his way to a job interview, spotted the reptile with the body in its mouth in residential street in Largo, near Clearwater, New York Post reported...

US AUTO STRIKE SPREADS TO 38 GM, STELLANTIS NV PARTS DISTRIBUTION CENTERS

Chicago, The United Auto Workers (UAW) has expanded its strike against the big three US automakers to 38 General Motors Co. and Stellantis NV parts distribution centers across the US, bringing the total factories on strike up to 41. Ford Motor Co. is spared from the expansion of the strike as its negotiations with the union will continue. Some 5,600 workers at those facilities spanning 20 states walked off their jobs on Friday, joining the 12,700 workers already on UAW's strike...

CANADIAN PM ANNOUNCES NEW MULTI-YEAR ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE

Ottawa, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced new military, economic, peace and security, and development assistance and investments for Ukraine, after a meeting with visiting Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. In a press release posted on his office website on Friday, Trudeau said Canada is "shifting the approach to provide multi-year assistance"...

POWERFUL HEAD OF US SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PANEL CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION

New York, Robert Menendez, the powerful head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has been charged by federal prosecutors with bribery and passing on sensitive information to Egypt. The charges against Menendez, a Democrat who represents New Jersey, and also his wife Nadine, were filed in federal court in New York on Friday by Federal Prosecutor Damian Williams, an appointee of President Joe Biden...