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## One person killed, five injured in road accident at Hajipur chowrasta on Srisailem Highway

Nagarkurnool: A 28-year-old resident of Hyderabad died on the spot and five other natives of Karnataka sustained severe injuries when three cars were involved in a head-on collision on the Srisailem Highway at Hajipur chowrasta under Achampet mandal in the district on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Bilal. The five others, including Vishnukanth, Vijayalaxmi, Vasavi, Manju and Jagadish, who suffered injuries, were shifted to Achampet area hospital. According to reports, 12 persons of a family from Karnataka were returning to Gulbarga in two cars after darshan at Srisailem. At Hajipur chowrasta, a speeding car from Hyderabad heading towards Rangapur jathara hit the two cars from Karnataka.

## Formula E race case: Sponsor of racing event, Greenko MD Anil Kumar appears before ACB

Hyderabad: Greenko Group Managing Director, Anil Kumar Chalamalasetty, appeared before the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Saturday in connection with the on-going investigation into the alleged procedural lapses in the Formula E race case. The ACB had issued summons to Anil Kumar two days ago asking him to appear before the agency for investigation. Ace Nxt Gen Private Limited, a subsidiary of Greenko Group, was the sponsor of the racing event hosted in February 2023. The ACB officials are enquiring into the transactions and the transfer of amounts from the State government to different companies linked to the Formula E race case.

## Arvind Kejriwal's car attacked while campaigning in Delhi; AAP points fingers at BJP supporters



GNS News Agency, Jan 18

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convenor Arvind Kejriwal's car was allegedly attacked on Saturday while campaigning in his constituency of New Delhi ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls, according to party sources. The BJP's New Delhi candidate Parvesh Verma, meanwhile, alleged that two youths hit by Kejriwal's vehicle were critically injured and taken to a hospital.

Sources in the AAP said the former Delhi chief minister was campaigning in the area when black flags were waved at his car and stones hurled. A video circulating on social media shows the car surrounded by a group of youths. A stone was also thrown at the vehicle. Party sources alleged that the youths were Parvesh Verma's supporters. The two injured youths were taken to Lady Hardinge Hospital, BJP sources said, adding that Verma will visit them. The Delhi Police said they are yet to get any complaint in connection with the incident but they are looking into the matter.

## Harish Rao slams Congress government for delayed salaries



GNS News Agency, Jan 18

Hyderabad: Coming down heavily on the Congress government for its failure to pay salaries for months together, BRS leader and former Minister T. Harish Rao on Saturday said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was making false promises in Delhi while employees and workers in the fold of different government wings were left struggling without salaries under his administration.

Highlighting the plight of workers, including the staff of gram panchayats who were not paid for four months, MGNREGS employees who have been waiting for three months, and municipal sanitation workers who haven't received their salaries for a month, he said thousands of small employees, including field assistants, technical assistants, and APOs in MGNREGS, have been making requests in writing for timely payment of their salaries. Despite the dire situation in almost all districts, the government has shown no concern. Families are facing financial issues and running into debts due to the delayed salaries. The employees are anxiously waiting for their payments, he said while urging the government to focus on governance instead of making trips to Delhi and boasting about bringing in investments worth thousands of crores. He demanded that the government pay all employees their salaries on time.

## Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan health updates by doctors at Lilavati Hospital on January 18, 2025

GNS News Agency, Jan 18

Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan, who was attacked by an intruder at his Mumbai home, is recovering well and is expected to be discharged in two to three days, doctors said on Saturday (January 18, 2025).

The 54-year-old actor suffered multiple stab wounds, including on his neck and near the spine, in a brutal attack at his house in Bandra in the early hours of Thursday (January 16, 2025). He was rushed to Lilavati Hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery. Doctors at the hospital said the actor, who has been shifted out of the ICU, is recovering well. He is walking and is on a normal diet. They said Khan is expected to be discharged in two to three days. "We are observing his progress, and he is doing excellently well according to our expectations. As per his progress, we have advised him bed rest, and if he is comfortable, then in two to three days we will discharge him," Dr Nitin Dange, a neurosurgeon at Lilavati Hospital, had said on Friday.

## PM Modi distributes 65 lakh Svamitva property cards

GNS News Agency, Jan 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday (January 18, 2025) distributed around 65 lakh Svamitva property cards, and said it will bolster economic activities and help in poverty alleviation. He also interacted with some beneficiaries through video conferencing, and said the scheme will help people in getting loans and benefits of government schemes. These property cards are being distributed to beneficiaries across more than 50,000 villages in 10 states - Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and two Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.

"Around 2.24 crore beneficiaries in villages will now have Svamitva property



cards after 65 lakh cards are distributed today," the Prime Minister said. "Property rights are a major challenge across the world. Years ago, the United Nations had held a study, which revealed people did not have legal documents for property rights in several countries. The UN has said property rights are important for poverty alleviation," he said. The Prime Minister said an eminent economist had opined that property in villages is a "dead capital" because people cannot do

anything with it, and it can't help increase their income. "India was also impacted by this challenge. People in villages have property worth lakhs of crores, but they did not have papers for it. There were disputes, properties were snatched, and even banks did not provide loans over it," he said.

"Previous governments should have taken steps to do something about it but nothing much was done," he said. PM Modi said Dalits, backward classes and tribals were the

worst affected by this. "After getting legal property rights, lakhs of people have taken loans. They have used this money to start their businesses. Many of these are farmers, for whom this property card is a guarantee of financial security," he said. He also said Svamitva and Bhū-Adhaar will become the foundation of development of villages. Union Minister of Panchayati Raj Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Union Minister of State for Panchayati Raj S P Singh Baghel and Ministry of Panchayati Raj Secretary Vivek Bharadwaj were also present at the event. It was attended virtually by several chief ministers, Union ministers and state ministers. Events are also being organised in over 230 districts for physical distribution of property cards. It is expected that around 13 Union ministers will physically join from designated locations from across the country, to oversee regional distribution ceremonies of property cards.

## HM Amit Shah to hold discussions on disaster management in Vijayawada tomorrow

GNS News Agency, Jan 18

With the aim of encouraging a zero-casualty approach in disaster management, Home Minister Amit Shah will on Sunday interact with top officials of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. HM Shah will be the Chief Guest at the 20th Foundation Day Celebrations of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in Vijayawada, a statement mentioned. On this occasion, HM Shah shall inaugurate and lay the foundation for projects worth over Rs 200 crore. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is now adopting a zero-casualty approach for disaster management, rather than a relief-centered approach. This approach aims to achieve the goal of Zero Casualty during disasters, said a statement. The Home Minister will also inaugurate the premises of three important centers on Sunday, which include the Southern Campus of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Campus of the 10th Battalion of the NDRF, and the premises of the Regional Response Centre (RRC) in Supaul (9th Battalion).

An official said that under PM Modi's Vision@2047, NIDM and NDRF are making significant contributions towards making India disaster-resilient and strengthening the disaster risk reduction system in the country. They are playing a crucial role in human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation, and policy formulation. HM Shah will also lay the foundation stone for a new 'Integrated Indoor Shooting Range' at the National Police Academy (NPA) in Hyderabad, where IPS probationary officers will be trained in firing skills.

This 'Integrated Indoor Shooting Range' will be 50 meters long and have 10 lanes, allowing 10 individuals to practice firing simultaneously. The shooting range will be operational in all weather conditions, fully automated, and technologically advanced. It is being constructed at a cost of Rs 27 crore. The state-of-the-art technology of this range will be in line with international standards, and it will be a



unique facility among all police organisations in the country. The 10th Battalion of the NDRF has set an extraordinary example of dedication, efficiency, and professionalism in the field of disaster management. Since its formation, this battalion has participated in over 800 missions, saving the lives of more than 15,000 people and evacuating over one lakh citizens to safe locations. In the 2016, Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), PM Modi outlined a 10-point agenda for disaster risk reduction, which continues to guide India's disaster management policy. In line with the 10-point agenda given by PM Modi, the Indian Universities and Institutions Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (IUIINDRR-NIDM) has been established under the auspices of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). The aim of this network is to highlight the role of education, research, and training in building disaster resilience, and to develop model curricula for integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) at various levels. To meet the needs of the southern part of the country, the Central government established the Southern Campus of NIDM in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh, under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014. This campus has been partially operational since May 2023, and in a short span of time, more than 44 training programmes have been organised, with over 2,130 stakeholders trained in various aspects of disaster management.

## Courts must not use 'abetment of suicide' charge just to assuage distraught family of deceased: SC

GNS News Agency, Jan 18

The Supreme Court on Friday (January 17, 2025) held that the police must not deploy the criminal provision of 'abetment of suicide' casually or to assuage the immediate feelings of the distraught family members of the deceased.

A Bench of Justices K.V. Viswanathan and A.S. Oka said Section 306 (abetment of suicide) of the erstwhile Indian Penal Code or corresponding Section 108 read with Section 45 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 appeared to be "too readily resorted to by the police". In order to bring a case of abetment of suicide the police must carefully examine whether the accused had played an active role in instigating or facilitating the death of a person.

To satisfy the requirement of instigation by the accused by his or her act or omission or by a continued course of conduct should have created such circumstances that the deceased was left with no other option except to end their own lives. "A word uttered in a fit of anger and emotion without intending the consequences to actually follow cannot be said to be instigation," Justice Viswanathan, who authored the judgment, observed. The court said it was time



investigating agencies were sensitised to the law laid down by the Supreme Court under Section 306 so that persons were not subjected to the abuse of process of a totally untenable prosecution. "The trial courts must exercise great caution and circumspection and should not adopt a play it safe syndrome by mechanically framing charges," Justice Viswanathan wrote.

The judgment was dealing with an appeal filed by an accused in a case of abetment of suicide of a young man. The accused was an employee of a financial company who had sought the repayment of a loan.

## Kolkata court finds prime accused Sanjay Roy guilty in RG Kar case



GNS News Agency, Jan 18

Kolkata: A Kolkata court on Saturday declared Sanjay Roy "guilty" of raping and murdering an on-duty doctor at the state-run RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, a heinous crime that sparked nationwide outrage and prolonged protests. The Sealdah court, where Roy's trial was held, will declare his sentence on Monday, Anirban Das, the additional district and sessions judge, said. The judgement was pronounced nearly two months after the in-camera trial commenced in November last year and 162 days after the heinous crime was committed on August 9, 2024.

Roy was found guilty under Sections 64 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita that governs rape, and Sections 66 and 103 (1) of the Act, which deals with punishments for death and murder. Section 103 (1) of BNS entails a possible punishment of death or life imprisonment. The judge stated that Roy was found guilty of sexually assaulting the doctor and strangling her to death, and that the CBI had proven all the charges against him. Das said Roy's statement will be heard at 12:30 pm on Monday, and the sentence will be pronounced thereafter. At the time of the delivery of the verdict, Roy claimed in court that he was framed. In his defence, Roy said, "I wear a rudraksh necklace, and if I had committed the crime, it would have snapped." After the judgement, police whisked away Roy from the courtroom to the Presidency Correctional Home under strict vigil, preventing the waiting media persons from attempting any kind of interaction with the convict. The medic's parents thanked the judge for the guilty verdict and said the court honoured the trust they had reposed in it. In its chargesheet, the CBI had mentioned Roy, a civic volunteer with the city police, as the prime and sole suspect of committing the gruesome rape and murder of the postgraduate trainee at the state-run hospital.

## CM Revanth, 'che chor' milking cos, says KTR

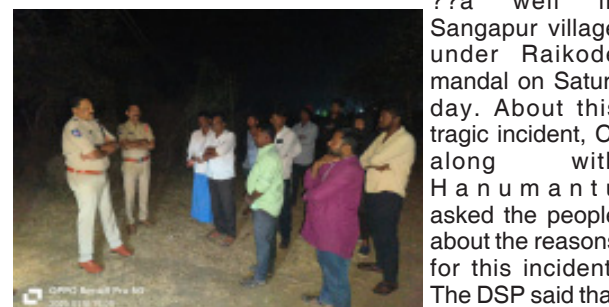


GNS News Agency, Jan 18

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Friday alleged that the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had formed a team of six members to blackmail companies, and the team was indulged in land grabbing in the State. The BRS leader made these comments while talking to the reporters during the Rythu Deeksha at Shahbad in the Chevella Assembly constituency on Friday. Rama Rao alleged that the six-member gang included Tirupathi Reddy, Kondal Reddy, Vem Narendar Reddy, Rohin Reddy, Fahim Qureshi, and AV Reddy. "Ali Baba and a half-dozen gang of thieves are roaming in Telangana. This gang is threatening and blackmailing companies to divert their collections, blackmail, and land deals. Replying to a question, KTR said that Revanth Reddy, who praised Hedgewar, is the real RSS man. "Revanth Reddy has worked in ABVP and RSS printing press.

## DSP investigation on suspicious girl's death Sangareddy

Zaheerabad DSP Rammohan Reddy inspected the scene of suspicious death of a girl named Vaishnavi in a well in Sangapur village under Raikode mandal on Saturday. About this tragic incident, CI along with Hanumanth asked the people about the reasons for this incident. The DSP said that they are investigating the incident.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Shun corruption

SO entrenched is corruption in the Indian social and political reality that any resolve to counter it instantly runs into thick clouds of pessimism. A sense of resignation with regard to the status quo runs deep. Yet, for hope to filter through, the significance of terse plainspeak at the highest echelons cannot be overstated. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna's call to reinforce systems of accountability and fairness is a reminder of how the citizen continues to be let down. Corruption as a hydra-headed monster that undermines public trust and hinders the ideals of democracy is an apt description. Equally crucial is the CJI's emphasis that the success of the anti-corruption ombudsman, the Lokpal, hinges on public trust and citizen engagement. It's the ability of the little man or woman to hold the big and powerful accountable, as he put it.

It's indisputable that corruption can be rooted out only with the help of an educated and engaged citizenry. What's essentially missing — and that's the hydra on the ground — is institutional support. The social contract between the government and citizens to safeguard against corruption remains breached, and the gap is only widening. The referee agencies have been found wanting. Public trust is the sum total of the efficacy of the systemic reaction and action on complaints and grievances at every level. Nothing less will suffice.

What the citizen has come to recognise is the futility of standing up against corrupt practices, small or big. Nothing weakens the national character more than a social sanction to graft and an official stamp, as it were, to the right to cheat. All organs of democracy are to blame. If you truly desire change, revitalise the institutions. Else, expect a more shrivelled moral and ethical fibre in an average Indian.

## The way you delayed tabling CAG reports in Assembly raises doubts, Delhi HC tells AAP govt.



Justice Sachin Datta, who was hearing a petition by the Opposition MLAs from the BJP over the delayed tabling of the CAG reports in the Assembly, remarked,

GNS News Agency, Jan 18

The Delhi High Court on Monday questioned the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government for "dragging its feet" on the tabling of the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on the city administration before the Assembly, saying it "raises doubts about your bona fides".

Justice Sachin Datta, who was hearing a petition by the Opposition MLAs from the BJP over the delayed tabling of the CAG reports in the Assembly, remarked, "The way you dragged your feet raises doubts about your bona fides... You should have promptly forwarded the reports to the Speaker for having a discussion on the floor of the Assembly." "You have dragged your feet to avoid having a discussion... See the number of dates you held onto the report, and the time taken to send them to the L-G [Lieutenant-Governor], and then forwarding it to the Speaker... The timeline is stark. See the way you have been dragging your feet is something that is unfortunate," Justice Datta remarked. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Vijender Gupta and BJP MLAs Mohan Singh Bisht, Om Prakash Sharma, Ajay Kumar Mahawar, Abhay Verma, Anil Kumar Bajpai and Jitendra Mahajan filed the petition last year, and sought a direction to the Speaker to call a sitting of the Assembly for the purpose of tabling the CAG reports.

"Tenure ending in Feb.' Earlier, the Assembly Secretariat had told the court that no useful purpose would be served by tabling the CAG reports before the Assembly as its tenure was ending in February. It said no judicial order could be passed to the Speaker in matters of internal functioning of the Legislative Assembly. However, the counsel for the BJP leaders, during the Monday hearing, submitted that the court was empowered to direct the Speaker to call a sitting of the Assembly for tabling the reports.

Hearing on Jan. 16 The Delhi government's counsel raised an objection over the "political" nature of the petition, and alleged that the L-G's office made the reports public and shared it with newspapers.

To this, the judge said, "How does it matter?" The court posted the case for further hearing on January 16. After the court hearing, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the constitutional scheme required a government to table reports of the CAG, which scrutinised its revenue and expenses, but the AAP dispensation had not done it. He questioned whether AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal considered himself above the Constitution.

'Govt. sitting on over 12 reports' Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that since 2023, the AAP government had been sitting on more than 12 CAG reports, including the one on the construction of the "sheesh mahal" (palatial building, a reference to the official residence of the Chief Minister). He said that though repeated requests were made by the BJP MLAs in the Delhi Assembly to present these reports, the AAP government refused to budge out of fear that their corrupt practices would be exposed. "Why are you dragging your feet on discussion," he asked. Mr. Sachdeva remarked that the AAP government had lost all moral authority to continue in office. The AAP responded that the CAG reports had been sent to the Delhi Legislative Assembly Speaker for tabling in the next session of the Assembly. It said that "beyond this, we have no role".

## Why this ex-MP has put her hopes in the public to avert climate crisis in Pune



GNS News Agency, Jan 18

"If engineers and corporators do not understand certain aspects of climate change, we will never address global warming. Cement concrete roads are being constructed wall to wall but this is not correct. We must allow a little part of it for seeping water, then the groundwater will get recharged. Now, we have new construction rules that say that builders can construct up to three floors to make parking but this means that we are cutting the aquifers. The latest thing that is going to be a horror and a disaster for Pune is the Unified Development Control and Promotion Regulations (UDCPR)," said Vandana Chavan, former mayor and MP, who has played a leading role in environmental stability. She added that Pune had a 1.1 FSI but, due to UDCPR, it will increase to five in some places and seven in some places. "With that kind of construction and people coming in, do we have the roads to cater to that kind of traffic? We are already very high on air pollution which is

higher than Delhi in some months of the year. Do we have water? We may be having water but we don't have a network. All our public infrastructure has been designed to cater to only 1.1 FSI. Have we really studied what impact this is going to cause?" she said. "If people are not conscious about this, they will never raise the issue," she said.

Chavan was speaking to The Indian Express on the sidelines of a press conference to announce the third edition of the Big Green Fest, an initiative themed around "Sustainable Living: Nurturing Tomorrow's Changemakers" that is expected to be attended by hundreds of schoolchildren, teachers, parents, environmentalists, small businesses working on sustainability and community members. The festival, which will be held on January 18 at Pt Jawaharlal Nehru Auditorium on Ghole Road, is aligned with the belief of global experts that change can best happen at the grassroots. One of its highlights is an unusual fashion show that features eco-friendly designs. "Way back in 1972, it was at the Stockholm conference, when the environment was talked about by all the countries. At the Rio conference, it was decided that, if you really have to make a difference, it has to be at a local level. In Pune, we have been seeing the impacts of climate change for the last 10 years. We have seen cloudbursts, floodings and heatwaves in a city that never used to be very hot," she said. While the city has taken several steps to reduce carbon emissions, "there is still a lot more that needs to be done." "If there are more people who understand the environmental issues, it means that more people will start thinking. They will say, 'no, we don't want this development or we want it only after a proper study has been done. They will say that they don't want gardens that are fully cemented. In the Smart City, open gardens are all cemented and that is not what is expected. We need open spaces for the water to seep in. These are all aspects where if people are not sensitized, nobody will ever raise their voice or go to the municipal corporation and say no, we cannot have this," said Chavan.

## Chief of Army Staff inaugurates new upper limb training lab at Pune's Artificial Limb Centre

GNS News Agency, Jan 18

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) on Tuesday visited the Artificial Limb Centre (ALC) in Pune, where he toured the centre's state-of-the-art facilities. The visit highlighted the latest advancements in prosthetic care, with the General being briefed on the centre's cutting-edge computer-aided designing and manufacturing workshops. During the visit, General Dwivedi inaugurated the newly constructed Upper Limb Training Lab, a significant enhancement to the centre's capabilities in providing tailored rehabilitation for upper limb amputees. The lab is expected to play a crucial role in furthering the centre's mission to offer the highest quality of care and support to soldiers and veterans. In addition to the tour, the COAS interacted with the patients, offering words of encouragement.

The Artificial Limb Centre, a premier tri-services institution of the Armed Forces Medical Services, was established in Pune in 1944. Later in 1945, the establishment was shifted to Kirkee and then to Lahore in December 1946. However, after India's partition in August 1947, the Centre was re-established in Pune, at its present location on January 1, 1948. Initially, the ALC was set up to provide prosthetic limbs to soldiers injured in combat. The centre continues to set the standard for prosthetic care, helping soldiers and veterans lead independent and fulfilling lives.

Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi at the Artificial Limb Centre (ALC) in Pune. Initially, the ALC was set up to provide prosthetic limbs to soldiers injured in combat. (Express Photo by Arul Horizon) Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi at the Artificial Limb Centre (ALC) in Pune on Tuesday. Initially, the ALC was set up to provide prosthetic limbs to soldiers injured in combat. (Express Photo by Arul Horizon) Services have extended to civilians and with the advancement of prosthetic technologies the ALC also expanded its role and set up the Department of Prosthetics and Orthotics Education to ensure that the next generation of prosthetists are equipped with technical skills to handle innovations.

The upper limb training laboratory is aimed at helping amputees develop the skills that are vital for using their mechanical and bionic devices. The advanced limbs respond to muscle contractions and utilise sensors to mimic natural movements. The cosmetic limbs are designed to resemble natural ones and each amputee then gets a

## Haryana BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli, singer Rocky Mittal booked for gang-rape of Delhi resident in Himachal



GNS News Agency, Jan 18

The Himachal Pradesh Police has booked Haryana BJP chief Mohan Lal Badoli and singer Rocky Mittal aka Jai Bhagwan on charges of gang rape in the wake of a complaint by a New Delhi resident. As per the FIR registered at Kasauli police station in Solan district on December 13, the alleged offence was committed on July 3, 2023, at Ros Common Hotel of the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) at Monkey Point Road, Kasauli. The FIR, which surfaced on Tuesday, also mentions detailed addresses and mobile phone numbers of both the accused. Badoli has refuted the allegations and termed them "baseless".

In the FIR registered under Sections 376D (gang rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code, the complainant has alleged that she was in Himachal Pradesh as a tourist along with her Delhi-based employer and a friend on July 3, 2023, when the incident allegedly occurred. The complainant said she met the accused along

with her friend. "One of them identified himself as Mohan Lal Badoli, a senior politician, while the other identified himself as Rocky Mittal alias Jai Bhagwan, a singer."

She added that they took the two women to their room for a conversation. "Jai Bhagwan told me that he would sign me in his album as a heroine. Mohan Lal Badoli told me that he would get me a government job saying that he has very high-level connections. They started praising us. Then they offered us alcohol, which we refused," she stated. "Despite our refusal, they forcibly made us consume alcohol. After that, they started harassing me. I objected, after which they threatened (friend) with dire consequences and made her sit on a side and threatened me that he would get me killed if I did not adhere to his demands. After that, both of them took turns to rape me. They also clicked my nude pictures and a video," she further said. The complainant added, "They threatened to make me disappear if I disclosed the matter to the police or anybody. We felt ashamed... About two months ago, they called us to Panchkula and threatened to implicate us in a false criminal case. After that, we managed to find Rocky Mittal's address in Panchkula and Badoli's address in Sonapat and their mobile phone numbers. I am requesting that justice should be given to me, and stern action should be taken against them. Also, my nude pictures and videos should be deleted from their mobile phone numbers..." Speaking to The Indian Express, Badoli said, "It is all baseless accusations. There is nothing like that. I have no clue what it is all about. Such FIRs can also be fudged. It could be due to the upcoming elections in Delhi that such fake FIRs are being circulated." However, Superintendent of Police (Solan), Gaurav Singh confirmed that a case has been registered in this connection.

## Delhi Police bust international mobile phone smuggling racket run by engineer who collaborated with thieves



GNS News Agency, Jan 18

The cyber cell of the Delhi Police Crime Branch arrested a man from north Delhi's Wazirabad village on Monday for allegedly smuggling stolen mobile phones internationally. They also recovered "195 high-value stolen mobile phones worth approximately Rs 2 crore" from his possession. Sanjay Kumar Sain, additional commissioner of police (cyber cell), on Tuesday informed that the accused, Manish Yadav, 36, an engineer from Loni in Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh, "collaborated with a network of juveniles and thieves tasking them to steal mobile phones from crowded areas in Delhi-NCR, like Metro stations, buses, and marketplaces". "Yadav purchased these stolen devices at low prices and sold them in bulk to neighbouring countries," he said.

The investigation was led by Inspector Sandeep Singh and supervised by Assistant Commissioner of Police Pawan Kumar. The team included Sub Inspectors Harvinder and Bhagyashri, and High Constables Anand and Pankaj Gupta. It began with a tip-off about the illegal trade of stolen phones. After technical analysis and ground-level intelligence, a trap was laid in Gali No. 6 in Wazirabad village and Yadav was arrested while he was trying to flee.

"During the raid, a large cache of stolen phones — including 39 iPhones, 52 Samsung, 45 OnePlus, Google Pixel and other high-end brands — were seized," said ACP Sain. He said 29 of them were connected with different incidents of theft or lost reports, while 38 phones were found to be unlisted on official records. The police stations concerned were notified regarding the recovery, said the officer. Sain added, "128 phones are inactive, likely due to battery discharge... We are trying to unlock and trace the rightful owners of the recovered phones." He said that Yadav, an engineer at a private firm, is married and has two children. "Due to financial difficulties, he turned to illegal activities in 2023. Initially involved in scrap trading, he started selling stolen mobiles for commissions ranging from Rs 1,000 to 3,000 per phone to a man from Baghpat, Naeem. He has a prior criminal record with four cases registered against him and was arrested in 2017 under similar charges in Khajuri Khas," said Sain. The police booked the accused, and further investigations were underway.

## Nanoparticles from vehicular emissions pose significant health risks to Delhi residents, says study



GNS News Agency, Jan 18

Vehicular emissions in Delhi expose residents to millions of airborne nanoparticles (PM1 or less), causing significant health risks, according to a joint study by researchers at Delhi Technological University and the Physical Research Laboratory in Ahmedabad. The study found that people in the capital can be potentially exposed to around 10 to 18 million nanoparticles daily on the road, where particle deposits are 30 per cent higher than in other regions.

The study noted that exposure to high concentrations of nanoparticles is particularly concerning, as they can penetrate the bloodstream and pose serious health risks. Their tiny size allows them to cross the blood-brain barrier, potentially reaching the brain and causing harm. To conduct the study, researchers examined the seasonal variation of particle concentration and assessed exposure and build-up in the human respiratory system. The study was published in October last year in the Dutch journal Elsevier. It was conducted in a roadside urban environment in Rohini in 2021, covering all major seasons. The direct sources of airborne nanoparticles include engine exhausts and industrial emissions, which can also form from the oxidation of existing gaseous pollutants. Seasonal analysis revealed that direct emissions dominate nanoparticle concentrations during winter and autumn, while new particles formed contribute the most during spring and summer. In urban areas, traffic-related sources are the primary contributors to airborne nanoparticles, according to the study. "The concentration of UFP and Nacc (particles of size >100 and up to 1000 nm) during non-peak hours is less than that of peak hours, confirming the dominant influence of emissions from vehicular exhaust in the study region," it observed. Another key finding is that UFP (ultrafine particles, of size between 10 and 100 nm) constitute around 60-80 per cent of the total particle number concentration over Delhi. The study stated, "More than 5 million nanoparticles get deposited during the winter season over Delhi. The annual average nanoparticle deposition is ~500 μg/year over a roadside urban environment, which is 30% higher than the deposition over a location away from the roadside." An exposure assessment found that a wide section of the population is at risk due to exposure to nanoparticles, including the urban poor, motorcyclists, pedestrians and residents. The study emphasised the need for "developing mitigation policies aimed at improving air quality and public health". "These nanoparticles are found in high concentrations near the sources, such as roadways, where most of the population is exposed."





# ICICI, HDFC, SBI among top 25 global banks by market cap



New Delhi: Three Indian banks — HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and the State Bank of India (SBI) — ended the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2024 at the 13th, 19th, and 24th spots in the top 25 global banks by market capitalisation, respectively, according to a new report.

However, HDFC Bank's market cap recorded a 1.6 per cent increase to \$158.5 billion, due to rising competition

and cost pressures. The aggregate market capitalisation of the top 25 global banks increased by 27.1 per cent year-on-year (YoY), reaching \$4.6 trillion in the fourth quarter (Q4) ended December 31, compared to the same period ended December 31, 2023.

Most of the stocks rose in Q4, benefiting from the US Federal Reserve's interest rate cuts, while other regional markets came under pressure amid worries over trade tariffs, according to the report.

# North Korea launches projectile toward eastern waters in year's second launch, South Korea says



GNS News Agency, Jan 18

"North Korea on Tuesday (January 14, 2025) test-fired at least one unidentified projectile toward its eastern waters," South Korea's military said, as it continued its weapons demonstrations ahead of Donald Trump's return to the White House.

North Korea said the January 6 test was a new hypersonic intermediate-range missile designed to strike remote

targets in the Pacific as leader Kim Jong Un vowed to further expand his collection of nuclear-capable weapons to counter rival nations. North Korea is coming off a torrid year in weapons testing. The systems it demonstrated in 2024 included solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to strike the U.S. mainland and various shorter-range missiles designed to overwhelm missile defences in South Korea.

# Hamas has accepted draft agreement for Gaza ceasefire, release of hostages: officials



GNS News Agency, Jan 18

Hamas has accepted a draft agreement for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and the release of dozens of hostages, two officials involved in the talks said.

The United States, Egypt and Qatar have spent the past year trying to mediate an end to the 15-month war and secure the release of dozens of hostages captured in Hamas' October 7, 2023, attack that triggered it.

"Today, we are at the closest point ever to having a deal," he said. Hamas, meanwhile, said in a statement that the ongoing negotiations had reached their "final stage".

Israeli strikes across Gaza overnight and into Tuesday killed at least 18 Palestinians, including two women and four children, while Yemen's Houthi rebels fired two missiles at Israel, setting off sirens and sending people racing into shelters.

Among the 33 would be five female Israeli soldiers, each of whom would be released in exchange for 50 Palestinian prisoners, including 30 convicted militants who are serving life sentences.

600 trucks entering each day. Details of the second phase still must be negotiated during the first. Those details remain difficult to resolve — and the deal does not include written guarantees that the ceasefire will continue until a deal is reached.

In the second phase, Hamas would release the remaining living captives, mainly male soldiers, in exchange for more prisoners and the "complete withdrawal" of Israeli forces from Gaza, according to the draft agreement.

Unless an alternative government for Gaza is worked out in those talks, it could leave Hamas in charge of the territory. In a third phase, the bodies of remaining hostages would be returned in exchange for a three- to five-year reconstruction plan to be carried out in Gaza under international supervision.

Israel and its close ally the United States have blamed setbacks on Hamas. Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the October 7 attack and abducted another 250.

Strikes in Gaza continue. Two strikes in the central Gaza city of Deir al-Balah overnight and into Tuesday killed two women and their four children, who ranged in age from 1 month to 9 years old.

# Gaza ceasefire deal close after 'breakthrough' in Doha; Hamas likely to release 33 hostages in first phase

GNS News Agency, Jan 18

A Gaza truce and hostage release deal is close and could be finalised in the final week of U.S. President Joe Biden's term, White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said.

Hamas a final draft of an agreement on Monday, an official briefed on the negotiations said, after a midnight "breakthrough" in talks attended by envoys of both the outgoing U.S. president and President-elect Donald Trump.

# Russia-Ukraine war: North Korean soldiers captured in Ukraine haven't shown desire to defect, says Seoul's spy agency

GNS News Agency, Jan 18

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers on Monday (January 13, 2025) that two North Korean soldiers who were captured by Ukrainian forces while fighting alongside Russian forces in Russia's Kursk border region haven't expressed a desire to seek asylum in South Korea.

In a closed-door briefing at South Korea's National Assembly, the National Intelligence Service confirmed its participation in the questioning of the North Korean soldiers by Ukrainian authorities.

The agency said it was willing to discuss the matter with Ukrainian authorities if the soldiers eventually do ask to go to South Korea. About 34,000 North Koreans have defected to capitalist rival South Korea to avoid economic hardship and political suppression at home.

"There's nothing we can say at the current stage," Mr. Koo said. Seoul's spy agency believes that about 300 North Korean soldiers have died and another 2,700 have been injured while fighting against Ukrainian forces.

The agency assessed that the North Koreans are struggling to adapt to drones and other elements of modern warfare. They are further disadvantaged by the crude tactics of their Russian commanders, who have thrown them into assault campaigns without providing rear-fire support.

# U.S. proposes new rules on exporting AI chips, provoking industry pushback

GNS News Agency, Jan 18

The Biden administration is proposing a new framework for the exporting of the advanced computer chips used to develop artificial intelligence, an attempt to balance national security concerns about the technology with the economic interests of producers and other countries.



ary 13, 2025), days after Ukraine, facing a slow Russian onslaught in the east, began pressing new attacks in Kursk to retain ground captured in a lightning incursion in August — the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II.

Moon Seong Mook, a retired South Korean brigadier general, said the high death toll for North Korean soldiers was predictable, as they would not have been sufficiently prepared for an unfamiliar mission in the terrain of the Kursk region, which is vastly different from North Korea's mountainous landscape.

ing damage to America's economy and global competitiveness in semiconductors and AI by ceding strategic markets to our competitors," said SIA President and CEO John Neuffer. One industry executive, who is familiar with the framework and insisted on anonymity to discuss it, said the proposed restrictions would limit access to chips already used for video games, despite claims made otherwise by the government.



## Archana Puran Singh's son reveals she has never cooked for them; Farah Khan answers: 'That's why you look healthy'

Farah Khan's cooking vlogs on her YouTube channel have become a hit with her fans, and recently she visited actors Archana Puran Singh and Parmeet Sethi in Madh Island, accompanied by her trusted (and now famous) cook, Dilip. In addition to Farah's fun chatter with Archana and Parmeet, she also interacted with their sons, Aaryamaan Sethi and Ayushman Sethi. During the conversation, Farah learned an interesting tidbit: Archana has never cooked a meal for her children.

After admiring their beautiful home, Farah complimented the couple, saying, "What a house. So proud of you both." Archana, with a smile, then declared that her son Ayushman would be cooking for Farah on the show. Responding with her trademark humour, Farah quipped, "This is the first time a good-looking guy will cook on our show." Seizing the opportunity, Ayushman added that his mom, Archana, had never cooked for them. "Mom ne humare liye aaj tak kabhi cooking nahi ki hai (Mom has never cooked for us)," he revealed. Farah then teased Archana and jokingly said, "That's why you look healthy," prompting laughter from everyone on the set. In the vlog, Archana herself humorously confessed that she "doesn't know" where the spoons are in her kitchen. Ayushman shared an amusing incident when Archana, attempting to make toast, couldn't locate the toaster or the bread. To top it off, Archana referred to an air fryer as a "dry



frier," which sent everyone into fits of laughter. Archana, who recently launched her own YouTube channel, gave her viewers a glimpse into her everyday life in the first episode. She shared details of her stunning house and her expansive garden in Madh Island.

## Shakti Kapoor reveals he begged wife Shivangi Kolhapure to give up promising film career, marry him: 'Be a housewife'

Bollywood actor Shakti Kapoor and Shivangi Kolhapure have been married for 43 years. In an earlier interaction, the Raja Babu actor opened up about how Shivangi left a promising acting and singing career to marry him, despite strong opposition from her family.

Speaking on the YouTube channel Timeout With Ankit, Shakti recalled first meeting Shivangi on the set of the film Kismet. He said, "I met her. She was a child artiste, and I was playing an older character in the film. She is 12 years younger than me. We met, fell in love, and I thought to myself, 'Where will I find such a homely and beautiful girl?' One day, I told her that my work was getting disturbed, and I needed to focus. She got very angry." Recounting how he eventually proposed to Shivangi, Shakti shared, "I went to her and begged her. I apologized and told her I wanted to marry her. I also said that I wanted her to be a housewife. We had a court marriage. After that, everyone accepted our union. She gave up her singing career and everything else for me. To this day, I fold my hands and thank her for that."

Shivangi Kolhapure comes from a distinguished Marathi family. Her sister is the iconic actress Padmini Kolhapure, and her relatives include the late legendary singer Lata Mangeshkar. Shakti, on the other hand, hails from a Punjabi family. Their differing cultural backgrounds became a point of contention, and their families strongly opposed



their relationship. However, the couple eloped and tied the knot in 1982. Their families reconciled with them after they welcomed their first child, Siddhant Kapoor. The couple later had a daughter, Shraddha Kapoor, in 1987, who has since become one of Bollywood's leading actors.

## Black Warrant is a genre-defying coming-of-age tale inside Tihar Jail where endurance triumphs over defiance

Black Warrant, a seven-episode Netflix web series created by Vikramaditya Motwane and Satyanshu Singh, opens with a riveting sequence. The first seven minutes employ parallel editing, presenting Sunil (Zahan Kapoor) in two distinct scenarios. One functions as an interview — established as a principle moment in the series' structure — where Sunil applies for the position of a jailer at Delhi's Tihar Jail. The other depicts him, freshly groomed and sporting a thick mustache, as his family prepares him for his first day on the job. The inter-cutting is executed with such finesse that it not only reveals Sunil's personal history but also establishes his urgent need for this position, a role for which he seems ill-suited. Meek, baby-faced, of modest stature, and lacking the physicality typically associated with managing a facility like Tihar. His vulnerability is inherently apparent. Yet, like countless job candidates in this country, his needs outweigh his aptitude. He needs the job more than the job needs him.

The odds are stacked against Sunil even before he steps into the role. And these opening seven minutes masterfully hook you with the promise of what lies ahead. A part of you instinctively expects him to rise above the challenges, following the familiar trajectory of a classic underdog story. But the narrative subtly subverts this expectation, reminding you that Sunil's primary motivation for taking the job is not a lofty desire to reform society but rather a desperate need to secure a better life for himself and his family. This moral ambiguity leaves you in a state of conundrum, and, as all great storytelling does, the series soon introduces another twist. On his very first day, Sunil reveals glimmers of idealism. He appears eager to make a positive impression, to do what is right. When a snake is killed within the walls of Tihar, he insists that the proper 'procedure' be followed. This naive insistence, however, invites a calculated response from his senior officer, Rajesh Tomar (a brilliant Rahul Bhatt), who tasks him with discovering who killed the snake. What follows is Sunil's harrowing crash course in the grim realities that make Tihar one of the most haunting and infamous prisons in the country.

On the surface, Tihar is chaos. A place where reform is a forgotten word. But beneath, it simply mirrors the society outside. Caste and religion shape its structure, violence asks and answers its questions, drugs fuel its wars, and power corrupts its core. The innocent are discarded, the influential thrive, and lives are reduced to numbers, categories — B-class, C-class, and so on. Filth is everywhere, not just on the walls but in the air they breathe. For an out-cast like Sunil, who sees the world through rose-tinted glasses, such a brutal reality is unforgiving. His naivety becomes a target, and he is repeatedly reminded that he is unfit for this role. Yet, his true crime is not his inadequacy; it is his idealism. In a system that feeds on cynicism, his crime is seeing the world as it could be, rather than as it is.

Still, Sunil persists. More fiercely, with greater idealism. And there are even moments when his efforts yield small victories. Say, in the third episode, his reliance on intellect over brute strength begins to pay off. While others flex their muscles, he chooses his mind, and his solutions work. His immediate colleagues start to see him as more than an idealist. They begin to see him as someone capable of offering real answers. Even Tomar, his seasoned senior, feels something about him. For the first time, Sunil emerges as a threat, someone who could dismantle the carefully constructed system Tomar has long controlled. As a viewer, you begin to believe in his transformation. It feels inevitable: he will overcome, he will come of age, and



perhaps, through him, Tihar will too. No wonder Motwane cuts to a shot of Sunil running, unbound and free. The imagery evokes Udaan, and for a moment, you think you've cracked the series' essence — hope rising from despair, freedom born from struggle. But that's the facade Motwane and his team craft so deliberately. They want you to believe in Sunil — the revolutionary, the agent of change, the underdog whose grit defies the odds. It's the illusion cinema has conditioned you to accept, a design as seductive as it is intentional. However, the truth is far bleaker. Those small victories are cursory, eclipsed by losses far greater. The system is merciless, always maneuvering Sunil into positions where failure feels inevitable. He loses more than he gains, stumbles more than he stands. His conscience becomes a burden; nothing but an affliction in a world where morality holds no currency. He begins to see his dispensability when a senior colleague, guilty only of daring to do what is right, is sacrificed like a lamb to the slaughter. After all, Tihar is not a place to be changed; it is a place that changes you.

It is a place where survival demands not transformation, but compromise. Sunil learns the art of the trade-off, reckoning with this contradiction as his idealism wanes but never extinguishes. The dream of overhauling the system fades, replaced by the resolve to mend it, piece by piece. He knows the machine will never reward him with the validation he seeks, yet he doesn't flee its chaos. Instead, he steps back into it with a steady determination, striving to leave it just a little better than it was the day before. He treats it not as a battlefield for revolution, but as a workplace: a space where managers come and go, assignments evolve, yet the core issues remain stubbornly unresolved. His job becomes more about doing the necessary thing than doing the right thing. His journey becomes less about defiance and more about endurance. His life at the prison is no longer defined by the fight against it, but by his ability to survive within it. Because, eventually, it is a story of survival in a world built to break you. It is about enduring one more day, with one more punishment, and finding the strength to stand. This is not a tale of heroes who conquer, but of those who persist despite the odds, hoping to leave behind something stronger than themselves. Perhaps Sunil's job needed him as much as he needed it. Perhaps the answer to the mystery was not who killed the snake, but why the snake was killed. Perhaps, in Tihar, everyone is a snake — killing to climb ladders of all kinds. Perhaps, Sunil too learns to climb, but the difference is this: when he reaches the top, he doesn't just see the system's endless machinery. For a moment, he can imagine a peacock amidst the filth.

## Paatal Lok creator Sudip Sharma and Jaideep Ahlawat calls social media obsession 'ridiculous': 'Thankful I found work without many followers'

When streaming platforms entered the Indian market, both filmmakers and audiences had high expectations. They were seen as a paradise for independent films, offering a platform to unique voices that often struggle to find space in mainstream cinema. However, over time, things didn't pan out as envisioned. Recently, Paatal Lok creator Sudip Sharma and actor Jaideep Ahlawat addressed this issue, admitting that Indian streaming platforms have failed to live up to their potential. They highlighted how the overload of information is hindering the emergence of distinctive voices and expressed concern over a troubling trend where actors submit their portfolios with their follower counts.

Speaking On The Hollywood Reporter India, Sudip said, "We live in the times of information overload. We are like hamsters on the wheel, both the audience and the makers. We see something and we think of writing or creating the same thing. We don't think about the stories that we want to

tell and till the time that personal touch isn't there, what we call voice of an artist, you aren't going to stand out or tell stories that are going to connect and last the test of time." He added, "There is a constant urge to create and get attention. It is there at the level streamers, filmmakers and the audience. It's an anxiety about the time we live in." Jaideep added to the discussion, "Everyone wants to be famous and I am thankful I started getting work before this culture because I don't even have those many followers." Calling the social media culture 'ridiculous,' Sudip elaborated, "Now when you get profile of actors its comes with how many followers they have and it's always a dangerous sign. Just because they chose to put that, it's really sad. While pitching a show to streamers if I have to show that I got these many votes on IMDB or these many views on my trailer, its really ridiculous. It really has to be on the quality of the script that you are pitching."

## Real-life jailor Sunil Gupta from Black Warrant recalls his first encounter with serial killer Charles Sobhraj: 'I thought he was a senior officer'

Vikramaditya Motwane's Black Warrant has been creating waves since its release on Netflix recently. The web series Black Warrant, which is based on the real-life experiences of Sunil Gupta, a former Tihar Jail superintendent, and his journey as a jailer. In a recent interview, jailor Sunil Gupta, whose role has been played by Zahan Kapoor on the show, opened up about his real-life encounter with the serial killer Charles Sobhraj.

Narrating the situation which happened back in 1981, when he first came to Tihar jail for a job with offer letter in hand, Sunil shared, "When I came there with the offer letter, they said that this was sent two months ago. However, I was working in Railways prior to that, I had to resign that permanent job and complete my notice period. I had even given an intimation with a letter regarding that. Sir said that I wasn't given any intimation. I was stressed because I had left my previous Railway job for this. I tried talking to him with an approach of a senior individual RP Singhal, so they didn't send me away instantly and I came outside and sat to wait for a while."

Charles Sobhraj entered the corridor with confidence and asked for an introduction. "By then, a person in proper suit, tie, perfect shoes came up to me confidently. I was sitting on the sofa and stood up for him. He asked, 'Are you new here?' I told him that I am new here and I have come here for the post of an assistant superintendent. He asked me, 'Is he harassing you?' and I said yes. I had no clue who he was. He asked me to wait there and went inside," he said. In a government job, you are given an offer letter and then you have to answer that with a joining letter. Then, on



the basis of that joining letter, they issue a letter stating you have been hired. "After a while, that person came with a letter which said that I have been hired in the jail's strength. I felt like God sent an angel for me. Later on, I came to know that he was Charles Sobhraj. It showed his power and approach. I had thought that he was a senior officer. Look at the impunity with which he was just roaming around, when he was already a prisoner. Tihar jail was actually being ruled by him," Sunil added. The jailor also elaborated on the rumours about the criminal Charles having the privilege to meet his girlfriend in the jail premises. "What I had heard was that Charles Sobhraj had recorded a senior jail officer's conversations on dictaphone and he was blackmailing them through that. He even used an officer's room to spend time with his girlfriend," he revealed.

## Madhuri Dixit goes for a ride on her new Ferrari worth Rs 6 cr with husband Shriram Nene.

Actor Madhuri Dixit and her husband, Dr Shriram Nene, bought a new car, adding another masterpiece to their massive car collection. According to Carwale.com, the duo bought a Ferrari 296 GTS, which is worth over Rs 6 crore. A video shared by a paparazzi on Instagram snapped Madhuri and Shriram stepping out of a building together, then going for a ride on their brand new luxury vehicle. In the video clip doing rounds on social media, Madhuri can be seen in a shiny shimmery dark blue dress, while Shriram opted for a white shirt, paired with a black blazer and pants. The couple ensured to greet the fans before getting into their red Ferrari. After meeting the fans, they drove off in the new car. The duo looked quite happy and chirpy about their new purchase.

Madhuri's brand new car, the Ferrari 296 GTS Rosso Corsa, is a two-seater coupe. As per Carwale.com, the convertible car's pricing starts at Rs 6.24 crore. The automatic car is available in one variant, with an engine of 2992 CC, and in 14 colours. It has a rear mid-engine and rear-wheel drive. According to a July report by News18, Madhuri has an amazing car collection, including a Mercedes-Maybach S560, a Range Rover Vogue, and a Porsche 911 Turbo S. Meanwhile, on the professional front, Madhuri Dixit was last seen in Anees Bazmee's Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, which was one of the biggest hits of 2024. The film also starred Vidya



Balan, Triptii Dimri, Rajpal Yadav, Vijay Raaz, Sanjay Mishra, Ashwini Kalsekar, and Rajesh Sharma, among others. It is the third installment of the Bhool Bhulaiyaa franchise.

The first part Bhool Bhulaiyaa, hit the big screen in 2007, starring Akshay Kumar and Vidya Balan in the lead roles. The second part Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 (2022) had Kartik Aaryan, Kiara Advani, and Tabu in the main roles. It was backed by T-Series Films and Cine1 Studios.

## Gaurav Taneja reveals there was 'garmagarmi' during his Shark Tank India pitch, doesn't deny earning Rs 1 crore in an hour

Youtuber Gaurav Taneja, who has over nine million subscribers on the platform, spoke about appearing on the reality show Shark Tank India, which recently debuted its fourth season. In his latest vlog, he spoke about his experience on the show, and promised his fans plenty of 'masala'. He admitted that he butted heads with some 'sharks', and addressed reports that he earns Rs 1 crore per hour through his whey protein business, which he pitched on the show.

He said that he had no intention of going on Shark Tank, and his wife Ritu Rathee agreed that there was too much at risk. He hinted at some 'garmagarmi' during the pitch, and said that there was 'nok-jhok' between him and the 'sharks'. "There will be enough masala in the episode," he said, adding that his CEO felt that going on Shark Tank could backfire on them. "What if they don't like the product? It'll blow up in our faces," Gaurav recalled being told, noting how a founder was accused of 'misleading' customers last season. "I think it was unfair how Deepinder Goyal and Mr

Mittal treated him," Gaurav said. He said that he decided to take the plunge and pitch on the show when one of his investors encouraged him to. Explaining reports that he makes Rs 1 crore per hour, he said, "You are watching this on January 14. My Shark Tank episode will air on January 15. People have started thinking that I earn Rs 1 crore in one hour, but that's not how it works. That's only revenue; it isn't money in the bank or money in the pocket. It's a start-up; whatever we earn, we put back into the business. Don't believe everything you watch on business channels on YouTube. You have to understand how the internet works." He continued, "It was an interesting shoot; it happened in September. I would prefer that you watch the episode first, and then we can talk in detail about it. But a lot of people are saying that Gaurav only went on the show to market his brand, and that I didn't need funding at all. I wanted both, marketing and the money. You can't run a business without them. We went for both, it's not like we didn't want the marketing. We did."

