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Chaos in Sangareddy gram sabhas as officials fail to answer people's questions

Sangareddy: Officials continued to face the ire of people during the second day of gram sabhas held across the erstwhile Medak district on Thursday. The public, whose names were missing in the beneficiary lists for ration cards and other schemes, questioned the officials. During a meeting held in the third ward of Andole-Jogipet municipality, the citizens were seen questioning the officials on the discrepancies in the list released by the officials. During another gram sabha in Chinnakodur mandal headquarters in Siddipet district, BRS leaders demanded that the officials release the accurate beneficiaries list. When they failed to show anything, the BRS leaders alleged that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was just trying to advertise his work rather than selecting the eligible beneficiaries.

Wipro to Expand Investments in Telangana with New IT Center in Hyd



GNS News Agency, Jan 23

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, along with Industries and IT Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and senior officials, met Wipro Limited Executive Chairman Rishad Premji at the World Economic Forum in Davos. During the meeting, Wipro announced its plans to expand investments in Telangana, further strengthening its presence in the state.

As part of the expansion, Wipro will establish a new IT center in Gopanapally within Hyderabad's Financial District. The project will add 5,000 direct and indirect job opportunities in the state. Additionally, the company's campus in

Hyderabad will also undergo expansion, highlighting Wipro's commitment to the city's IT ecosystem. Hyderabad, already a key hub for Wipro, is expected to see significant growth in its technology sector with these new initiatives. The new IT center is projected to be completed within the next two to three years, reinforcing Telangana's reputation as a global IT investment destination.

Welcoming the announcement, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy reiterated the government's commitment to supporting major corporations like Wipro by fostering a business-friendly environment and offering necessary support. Expressing enthusiasm, Rishad Premji, Executive Chairman of Wipro, stated, "We are excited to collaborate with the Telangana government to encourage innovation and create opportunities. Telangana's efforts in promoting skill development and fostering a conducive business environment align perfectly with Wipro's vision." Minister Sridhar Babu invited Wipro to partner with various skill development initiatives implemented by the state government, including the Young India Skills University. He emphasized the government's dedication to equipping the workforce with industry-relevant skills. Wipro's expansion is set to bolster Telangana's technology sector, contributing to employment generation and reinforcing Hyderabad's position as a leading IT destination.

New airport near Nagarjuna Sagar: Central team visits site to assess suitability of land

Nalgonda: A team from the Airports Authority of India visited Nagarjuna Sagar to assess the suitability of the land available for developing a new airport. The team inspected the old airport in Vijayapuri South and its surrounding areas.

The team has already reviewed several sites in the Andhra region. Vijayapuri South is one of them and it being preferred over other places for construction of the new airport spanning approximately 1600 acres, according to reports. A proposal for construction of the new airport at Nagarjuna Sagar has been under consideration as it would help develop the place as a tourism hub giving access to the places of tourism importance in both the Telugu States.

BJP readies poll blitzkrieg, top brass including PM Modi to campaign



GNS News Agency, Jan 23

New Delhi: For the upcoming Assembly elections in the capital, Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with top leadership will join the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) high-decibel campaign to bolster its poll pitch and corner the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over its failures and failed promises. From Home Minister Amit Shah to BJP President JP Nadda and several Union Ministers will join the electoral fray to woo the Delhi electorate over the next 10 days. BJP is keen on carrying the momentum set by the phase-

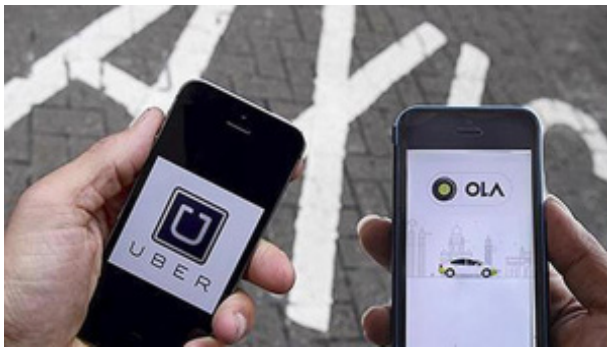
wise release of its poll manifesto and wants to seize the moment by launching its most reliable and credible faces in the Delhi arena.

Party insiders say that many Union Ministers have been attributed with the task of canvassing, with each minister being given charge of two Assembly seats each. PM Modi is expected to hold three election rallies while Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP President JP Nadda are likely to address more than 18 public rallies and gatherings. The programme has been specially designed to cover all 70 Assembly seats. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath will also add vigour to BJP's poll campaign and is expected to rally support in at least 14 public meetings. Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Bhupendra Yadav, Piyush Goyal, Mansukh Mandaviya, and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will also be seen partaking in the election campaign. BJP national general secretaries Vinod Tawde, Sunil Bansal, Tarun Chugh and Arun Singh have also been deployed. Former Union Minister Anurag Thakur, Sanjeev Balyan, Rajya Sabha MP Surendra Nagar, and former Rajasthan BJP President Satish Poonia have also been included in the star list of campaigners. Till date, BJP leaders have conducted about 4,500 meetings with the Dalit community, 1,700 public meetings with the Muslim community and 7,500 outreach programmes with women of different sections.

Union government sends notices to Uber, Ola over pricing disparity on Apple and Android phones

GNS News Agency, Jan 23

A Union government body has sent notices to ride-hailing firms Ola and Uber over alleged differential pricing for Android and Apple phones. Consumer Affairs Minister, Pralhad Joshi, said in a post on X on Thursday (January 23, 2025). The move comes after several reports by local media and complaints by users on social media that iPhone users were charged higher prices for the same ride than those using phones that ran on Android operating systems. After receiving complaints on the National Consumer Helpline regarding performance issues in iPhones following the iOS 18+ software update, the department, after examining these grievances, has issued a notice to Apple through the CCPA, seeking a response on the matter. The Minister said he would direct the Central Consumer Protection Agency (CCPA) to also look into differential pricing strategies used by other sectors, including food delivery and online ticketing portals. Ola and Uber did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. India is



one of Uber's biggest markets outside the United States and Canada, where it is locked in a fierce battle with SoftBank-backed Ola, local rival Rapido, as well as all-electric ride hailing app BluSmart. Mr. Joshi had last month termed differential pricing an "unfair trade practice" that is a "blatant disregard" to consumer rights.

MoUs signed in Davos spark criticism over foreign site choices



GNS News Agency, Jan 23

New Delhi: As the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu enthusiastically signed several MoUs with Indian companies in Davos during the World Economic Forum (WEF) Summit, a glaring question emerges: Why are these deals being inked on foreign soil?

The question being hotly debated on social media and in political circles is why state governments insist on sending delegations abroad to sign agreements with Indian firms, deals that could easily be finalised within India? Many analysts argue that this is nothing more than a PR exercise. The governments appear to be not only pushing their business-friendly image, but also flaunting their ability to attract investment.

If these were foreign investments, it would at least justify the MoU signing spree on foreign soil. Netizens also criticised mega Indian deals being inked at the ongoing WEF event in Davos, with some even seeking clarification around misusing taxpayers money. Rajya Sabha MP Priyanka Chaturvedi posted on X that the Maharashtra State government entourage has spent huge amounts of money to sign MoUs with Indian companies in Davos! Arrey bhai Mumbai main hi sign kar lete oh but wait, AQI is better there.

Another post by an X user called such exercises as absolutely blatant. Opposition should demand and seek clarification around this Junket on Tax Payers Money!!! They are having ball of a time!!! Entire Indian entourage having Picnic in #Switzerland - Pity a common man, wrote the X user. According to another X user, the fact is that most of this year's MoUs again seem to be with companies based in India, and these deals could have been signed in Mumbai

itself. In fact, I'm told that several MoUs were deliberately held back for months to inflate the investment figures showcased at Davos. No amount of PR spin can whitewash the Mahayuti's grave sin of driving crucial projects out of Maharashtra, the X post claimed.

Indian short film 'Anuja' earns Priyanka Chopra, Guneet Monga a nod at the Oscars 2025

GNS News Agency, Jan 23

Indian cinema celebrates another Oscar nomination as Anuja, a short film backed by Priyanka Chopra and Guneet Monga, secures a coveted spot in the Best Live Action Short Film category at the 2025 Academy Awards. The nominations, announced by Bowen Yang and Rachel Sennott, mark a significant milestone for the film, which tells the story of a young girl navigating challenging circumstances.

The film follows the titular Anuja, who works in a garment factory in Delhi alongside her sister Palak, portrayed by Ananya Shanbhag. When she is faced with a life-altering decision, the responsibility of her family's future rests heavily on her young shoulders.

This nomination places Anuja among five finalists selected from an initial pool of 180 qualifying films. It will compete against Alien, I'm Not a Robot, The Last Ranger, and A Man Who Would Not Remain Silent.

This marks Guneet Monga's third Oscar nomination, following the success of The Elephant Whisperers and Period: End of Sentence, both of which won Academy Awards. The film, directed by Adam J Graves and produced by his wife Suchitra Mattai, is a collaboration with the Salaam Baalak Trust, Shine Global, and Krushan Naik Films.

The film also earned the top honor at the HollyShorts Film Festival last year. Graves collaborated with organizations like Salaam Baalak Trust, Shine Global, and Save the Children to ensure the film authentically portrays the challenges and triumphs of working children in India.

It features performances by Ananya Shanbhag, Sajda Pathan, and Nagesh Bhosle. Anuja will soon be available for streaming on Netflix. The 97th Oscars, hosted by Conan O'Brien, will take place at the Dolby Theatre on March 2.

BRS demands Revanth Reddy's apology for Davos remarks on IT employees

GNS News Agency, Jan 23

Hyderabad: BRS leader Dasoju Sravan has demanded an immediate apology from Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his controversial remarks belittling IT employees during his Davos visit. Charging the Chief Minister with tarnishing the State's reputation and insulting IT employees before a global audience, Sravan urged him to act responsibly on global platforms. Interacting with the mediapersons at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, Sravan said Revanth Reddy's comments in Davos had brought disrepute to Telangana, insulting the hardworking IT employees who significantly contribute to the country's GDP. He pointed out that the IT sector contributed over 10 per cent to the GDP. "Revanth Reddy's disparaging remarks undermine their efforts and the progress of the State. If there are grievances with KT Rama Rao, they should be addressed differently without maligning IT employees," he said. He found fault with the Chief Minister for referring to IT employees as just workers, stating that such statements indicate a feudal mindset. He urged Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, also present in Davos, to counsel Revanth Reddy on representing the State responsibly on international platforms. The BRS leader also lashed out at Revanth Reddy for his remarks against Rama Rao, citing the latter's professional credentials, contrasting them with Revanth Reddy's rise to power. "Rama Rao headed a US-based company's operations in India and later, proved his mettle by bringing in investments and creating jobs. However,



Revanth Reddy's rise from being a painter to the Chief Minister is a result of collective hard work by others, not personal merit," he said. Calling for introspection, Sravan criticised the Chief Minister for his unclear and contradictory statements regarding Hyderabad's IT future. "Revanth Reddy's remarks contradict the Congress principles and constitutional values. He owes an apology not just to IT employees but to the entire State," he added.

Young Woman Dies, 28 Injured as Bus Overtakes on Rajamahendravaram Bridge

GNS News Agency, Jan 23

Rajamahendravaram: In a tragic accident, a private bus overturned on the Gaman Bridge near Rajamahendravaram in the early hours of Wednesday, leaving one young woman dead and 28 others injured. Among the injured, 10 sustained serious injuries, while three are reported to be in critical condition. The incident occurred around 1-30 a.m. when a Kaveri Travels bus traveling from Visakhapatnam to Hyderabad lost control and overturned on the bridge between Komthamuru and Katheuru. Preliminary investigations by the police revealed that the driver, allegedly under the influence of alcohol, was driving negligently, leading to the accident.

The deceased has been identified as Homini (21), a resident of Visakhapatnam. She was traveling to Hyderabad for a job interview along with her sister Dhanalakshmi. Homini succumbed to her injuries on the spot. Emergency response teams dispatched six ambulances from Rajamahendravaram to transport the injured to the government hospital. Most of the injured passengers hail from



Visakhapatnam, Tuni, and Annavaram, with several being students. East Godavari District SP D. Narasimha Kishore visited the accident site and personally monitored the rescue operations. A crane was deployed to remove the overturned bus, and three people trapped beneath it were rescued. The tragic accident has once again highlighted the risks posed by reckless driving. Authorities are investigating further to ensure strict action against those responsible.

Seven Telangana universities in dire straits with no professors

GNS News Agency, Jan 23

Hyderabad: A startling reality has emerged in the State's higher education particularly with regards to State-of-academic affairs in the universities. Not one, two or three, seven out of 11 public universities in Telangana have been operating without a single professor. Kakatiya University, one of the oldest universities in the State, Mahatma Gandhi University, Satavahana University, Palamuru University, Telugu University, Dr BR Ambedkar Open University, and Rajiv Gandhi Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT), Basar, have no regular professors on staff rolls. Out of 390 profes-

sor positions sanctioned in 11 universities, only 174 worked as of November 30, 2024. Among the working, 147 alone were in the Osmania University. With professors, the universities, which are meant to provide rigorous academic work and research, have been severely compromised. Worst is the situation of Satavahana University, Telugu University and RGUKT as they do not have associate professors as well. These varsities are just managing the show with regular assistant professors and academic assistants on contract basis. Another worrisome issue has been that only 27 per cent of the sanctioned strength in 11 universities are present on the rolls.

'Will AI replace lawyers, judges soon? I think not,' says Supreme Court Justice Dipankar Datta



GNS News Agency, Jan 23

Supreme Court Justice Dipankar Datta was speaking in Delhi at the launch of a Bachelor's programme in AI and Law at the OP Jindal Global University (JGU) which, according to the varsity, is the first one of its kind in India. Supreme Court judge Justice Dipankar Datta on Friday expressed his reservations on the capabilities of artificial intelligence (AI) in the legal sphere when it comes to replacing judges and lawyers.

He was speaking in Delhi at the launch of a Bachelor's programme in AI and Law at the OP Jindal Global University (JGU) which, according to the varsity, is the first one of its kind in India. "It is undeniable that AI has the capacity to change academia, the practice of law and the delivery of justice... AI has to be responsibly scrutinised and critically analysed before its widespread use... Will AI replace lawyers and judges anytime soon? I think not... At least for the moment it is a misplaced notion...," Justice Datta said.

"AI, in its present form, cannot communicate like how

humans do. Litigants rely on lawyers to provide insight into their matter and apply their knowledge to help them make informed decisions. Lawyers are aware that judges may pose questions from unexpected perspectives, catching them off guard; they must therefore be prepared to think on their feet, lest they falter," he added. Pointing out that in a multicultural country like India, a client may take comfort in a lawyer belonging to the same region or speaking the same language as her, Justice Datta remarked, "Communication in law is key... While AI has the power to change the way in which humans interact, it is unlikely to be a substitute for humans in such sensitive professions. Communication is also a key factor for judges... Such communications have different tone and tenor, let alone different purposes..." Judges have different types of cases one after the other, the complexity associated with each individual matter calling for a nuanced approach, the need for understanding human values and emotions, the imperatives to be fair and just to the parties before it...etc make me believe that AI would struggle to replicate a judge... AI can and definitely has been helping judges in research and analysis, ensuring efficiency and speed... AI as a tool can bring about revolutionary changes in assisting our legal system...and can make our legal system more accessible," he said. Meanwhile, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who also attended the event, expressed his concerns over AI taking over the human aspects of legal procedures and implored that the use of AI be limited to solving logistical issues "such as number of matters, classification of matters, how to deal with those matters speedily etc." Mehta added, "Rather than concentrating on other algorithmic aspects of AI, please provide for a think tank which can decide how to regulate it so that it (AI) becomes our slave and not become our master." Union Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, Attorney General R Venkataramani, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi and OP Jindal Global University chancellor and Lok Sabha MP Naveen Jindal were also present on the occasion.

A murder, a movement, and the search for justice: A timeline of events in the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder case

GNS News Agency, Jan 23

On an August morning, the body of a 31-year-old junior doctor was found in the seminar hall of the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. More than six months later, the country remains on edge, awaiting a verdict in the case as the sessions court in Sealdah, Kolkata, is poised to deliver its judgment. However, the story leading up to this moment is as much about what happened after the crime as the crime itself. August 9, 2024: A discovery, a night-mare

The body of the 31-year-old junior doctor was found in the seminar hall on the fourth floor of the hospital. Her body had 16 external and nine internal injuries. The postmortem would later confirm death by manual strangulation following sexual assault. The accused, a 28-year-old traffic police volunteer named Sanjay Roy, was arrested the next day, August 10, 2024. Shock turned into anger, and anger into a nationwide movement. Protests erupted not just in Kolkata but across the country. Doctors, medical students, and the Indian Medical Association (IMA) led a fierce campaign, demanding justice for their colleague and increased safety for healthcare professionals. The demand for justice

Just two days after the body was discovered, the West Bengal government transferred the hospital's Superintendent. But this administrative shuffle was far from enough to quell the growing outcry. The hospital's principal, Sandip Ghosh, stepped down on August 12, following nationwide protests led by the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), which brought elective medical services to a grinding halt. rg kar, rg kar timeline, rg kar verdict, news, The High Court agreed, handing over the case to the CBI. The protests grew. Doctors refused to return to work. Services in hospitals across India were disrupted as medical professionals stood united in their demand for swift action. "We will not be silent," read one banner held aloft during the demonstrations. The Human Rights Commission and scrutiny

By August 13, the dissatisfaction was palpable. The victim's parents, along with others, filed a petition before the Calcutta High Court. They demanded an investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), citing distrust in the Kolkata Police. The High Court agreed, handing over the case to the CBI. The protests grew. Doctors refused to return to work. Services in hospitals across India were disrupted as medical professionals stood united in their demand for swift action. "We will not be silent," read one banner held aloft during the demonstrations. The Human Rights Commission and scrutiny

As the nation watched, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) intervened, noting visible signs of struggle on the victim's body. On August 14, the Kolkata Police formally handed Sanjay Roy over to the CBI. Just a day later, on August 15, as the nation celebrated its Independence Day, another form of protest emerged: 'Reclaim the Night' rallies, organized by women and activists, demanding justice and protection for women. At RG Kar Medical College, however, the protests turned violent. A mob vandalized the hospital and crime scene. Tensions flared further when the National Commission for Women (NCW)

CBI court grants agency five-day remand of ED officer Vishal Deep in corruption case

GNS News Agency, Jan 23

The special CBI court of Chandigarh on Friday granted the agency a five-day remand of the ED assistant officer Vishal Deep in a corruption case. Deep was produced before the special CBI court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Alka Malik, on Friday. A day earlier, the CBI Court had allowed the production warrants of Deep to the CBI. The CBI through Public Prosecutor Narender Singh sought seven days remand for Deep on Friday. The CBI Public Prosecutor said that the remand was required as Vishal Deep had been evading investigation in this case since December 22, 2024, and had never joined investigation in the case deliberately. A notice dated January 1, 2025 was issued for his presence but he did not join investigation and the investigation of the case is being hampered severely as this accused is required to be interrogated in police custody, submitted Narender Singh. The CBI counsel further told the court that the remand was required for recovery of the remaining bribe money of Rs 1 lakh. Further for recovery of mobile phone used by the accused during the trap proceedings as the complainant had received a WhatsApp call during the trap proceedings in which he had

talked to accused Vishal Deep, and also to unearth the larger conspiracy and role of other public and private persons, and to recover any other incriminating documents/articles, submitted the CBI counsel. Vishal Deep's counsel, however, opposed the agency's plea for remand. The court on hearing the contentions, granted five days remand of the accused. The CBI has registered two FIRs in a bribery case against Deep. The bribery allegations surfaced on December 22, 2024, when the CBI registered two FIRs based on complaints lodged by Bhupinder Kumar Sharma, chairman of Dev Bhumi Group of Institutions, Una, and Rajneesh Bansal, chairman of Himalayan Group of Professional Institutions, Sirmour. Both accused Deep and other ED officials of "demanding bribes for not arresting them" in connection with cases registered against their institutions. Notice to CBI on Deep's application The CBI Court of Chandigarh has issued notice to the agency, on an application filed by the ED officer-Vishal Deep, seeking directions for preservation of footage of the CCTV Camera installed near his parent's house. Deep, through counsel-Manpreet Singh Kaler, and Abhey Joshi, also sought directions for preservation of CDR of the investigating officer.

'Huge tragedy if a life is lost because govt didn't respond'



GNS News Agency, Jan 23

Samyukt Kisan Morcha Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi not to ignore the farmers' demands and to save the life of Jagjeet Singh Dallewal who has been on a hunger strike for the past 53 days. "It is extremely unfortunate that the Union government has neither held talks nor has it responded to the Supreme Court's intervention of giving an assurance. It will be a huge tragedy for the country if a valuable life is lost only because the government chooses not to respond. We firmly believe that the Union government should hold talks and save his life," the SKM's national coordination committee has written in the letter sent via e-mail to PM Modi. In the letter, a hard copy of which would be sent separately to Modi through MPs and chief ministers, the SKM expressed concern over Centre's "apathy" towards the farmers who have been demanding a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP), among other things.

Farmers, under the banner of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, have been camping at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 last year. Dallewal, the convener of the SKM (non-political), has been on an indefinite hunger strike at Khanauri since November 26 last year in support of various demands of the farmers, including a legal guarantee of MSP. The SKM, in its letter, urged prime minister to not ignore the demands being raised by farmers, "to implement the written assurances given to SKM by the Government on December 9, 2021, and to save the life of Dallewal"

"With deep concern over the continuous apathy of the Central government, we write to you to help solve the extremely serious issues concerning the farming community of India and the economy as a whole. We hope that you will be able to take up these issues with the Government of India, especially Prime Minister Narendra Modi," read the letter addressed to MPs and chief ministers. Earlier, Dallewal had twice written to PM Modi. The SKM's to PM comes a day before it meets SKM (non-political) and KMM for a third time to further discuss modalities for a joint struggle. The meeting will be held at Guru Tegh Bahadur Gurdwara at Patran in Patiala, about 18 km from the morcha site. The SKM, which had led the agitation at the Delhi borders against the now-repealed three farm laws, is not party of the morcha at the Haryana's borders. In its letter, the SKM also raised the issue of the Draft National Policy Framework for Agricultural Markets, terming it a "reincarnation" of the now-repealed farm laws.

"This draft is out and out a policy to hand over all agricultural operations to private corporations and MNCs. This policy prominently exhibits its anti-farmer intent by remaining totally silent on granting of MSP or government procurement or food distribution through PDS. We urge you to go through this anti-people, pro-corporate policy and raise your voice against it. We request your Vidhan Sabhas to kindly reject this draft and immediately notify the Central government," read the letter. "The Government knows very well as is also common knowledge that the main demands of the farmers are grant of MSP @ C2+50% with legal assurance of procurement and debt waiver for all farmers and agricultural workers. It is extremely unfortunate that the Government has not moved to solve these pending problems. On the other hand it has introduced provisions of the New Electricity Act that had been presented in the form of raising tariff and imposing smart metres, while the farmers had been demanding free electricity for tube wells and 300 units free power for other users countrywide," it adds. It urged the MPs and CMs to remind the prime minister of his written commitment to the farmers of India, made when the farmers' protests were withdrawn. "We also urge you to ask the prime minister to immediately hold talks on all these issues with all farmers' organizations, chief ministers and all political parties to solve these problems," they said.

Punjab and Haryana HC orders to reinstate judicial officer who was dismissed over 'misconduct' as a lawyer

GNS News Agency, Jan 23

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ordered to reinstate an Additional District and Sessions Judge, who was dismissed from service in March 2022, during the probation period, on account of "doubtful integrity". The petitioner, Prem Kumar, had moved the high court seeking quashing of the order dated April 18, 2022 and April 20, 2022, whereby his services were dispensed with. He had also sought quashing of the ACR (Annual Confidential Report) for the year 2015-16; the order dated December 3, 2021, whereby the representation of the petitioner was rejected, and the order dated March 7, 2022, withdrawing the judicial work from the petitioner.

A division bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sudhir Singh, directed the respondents to upgrade the ACR of the petitioner for the year 2015-16, and to re-instate him in service with immediate effect with all consequential benefits. It was alleged that the petitioner, while practicing as a lawyer, in connivance with a woman had got registered a false FIR in 2012 for rape against a person. He was then given 'B+ Good' grading in the ACR for the year 2014-15 and in the integrity column, it was mentioned: 'good, subject to the outcome of the pending complaint'. After a preliminary enquiry, the high court's OSD (Vigilance), Haryana, in May 2016 concluded that the conduct of petitioner was found to be an act of professional misconduct. This led to him being graded 'C (integrity doubtful)' in the ACR for 2015-16. In 2019, he was informed that proceedings in the 2014 complaint was being dropped on the recommendations of the Vigilance/Disciplinary Committee. He was advised to be careful in future and his ACR for 2014-15 was also confirmed as 'B+ Good'. However, the ACR for 2015-16 was



finalized as 'C-Integrity Doubtful'. Consequently, his judicial work was withdrawn and the Punjab government terminated him on the recommendation of the full court. Hearing the matter, the bench noted that there is nothing on record except the complaint to infer that the integrity of the petitioner was doubtful due to any extraneous consideration or otherwise. The HC asserted that the Full Court decision passed in 2021 and the recommendations of the Recruitment and Promotion Committee (Superior Judicial Service) made in 2022, approved by the Full Court in 2022, did not notice the dropping of the proceedings in the complaint filed and treating the ACR of the petitioner as 'B+ Good' as final, for the year 2014-15. "Therefore, applying the same ratio, which was made basis for treating the provisional remarks recorded in the ACR for the year 2014-15 as final, the remarks recorded in the ACR for the year 2015-16 do not hold the ground and, therefore, there being no material except the complaint, the proceedings wherein were dropped, the said remarks could not have been made the basis," said the bench, while allowing the petition.

Chandigarh administration calls for fresh demand survey for Sector 53 housing scheme

GNS News Agency, Jan 23

Reviving hopes, the UT administration has decided to conduct a fresh demand survey for the Sector 53 housing scheme. Chief Secretary Rajeev Verma, who is also the Chairman of the Chandigarh Housing Board, on Friday questioned the previous demand survey of the housing scheme and asked the officials to conduct a fresh demand survey. The decision was taken after the officials of the Chandigarh Housing Board gave a presentation on the Sector 53 scheme.

When the chief secretary quizzed about the demand survey, he was told that it was done in 2018. Verma then directed officials to start a fresh demand since it has been many years since the previous one. He suggested that the survey should be conducted and finalised before the final presentation to UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria. The Sector 53 housing scheme was halted by then Chandigarh administrator Banwarilal Purohit. It was in November 2024



that Kataria directed officers for a fresh presentation on the scheme by December 31. In February 2024, the launch of a General Housing Scheme for people in Sector 53 was approved by the then adviser, with a proposal for four-bedroom flats as well on the same parcel of land.

Samadhi to maha samadhi: After postmortem, self-styled guru again lowered into crypt at Kerala home



GNS News Agency, Jan 23

Self-styled Kerala guru's body found, Kerala guru's

body found, Gopan Swami, Gopan Swami dead, Gopan Swami body found, Kerala, Kerala news, Kerala samadhi case: Police and authorities seal the burial site of 81-year-old Gopan Swami in Aralumoodu, Neyyattinkara. The body of Gopan, the self-styled spiritual guru whose mysterious death has attracted a police probe, was buried in a specially-erected crypt — dubbed as "maha samadhi" — at his house at Aralumoodu near Neyyattinkara in Thiruvananthapuram Friday. The body of the 69-year-old Gopan was lowered into the chamber in a sitting position, and the crypt was filled with ashes and camphor while scores of Hindu sanyasis led the prayers. Since Gopan belonged to Hindu Nadar community, several leaders of the community outfit Vaikunda Swami Dharma Pracharana Sabha (VSDP) took the lead in the rituals.

RBI bulletin article: Economic growth poised to rebound but food inflation needs careful vigil



the article said. It said that the rising input cost pressures in the manufacturing sector, coupled with weather-related exigencies and global headwinds could, however, pose risks to this outlook, it said.

In India, it said, there is a "conducive quickening" of high frequency indicators of economic activity in the second half of 2024-25, bearing out the implicit pick up in real GDP growth for this period in the annual first advance estimates of the National Statistics Office (NSO).

As per the first advance estimate of NSO, the country's real gross domestic product (GDP) is seen growing at a four-year low of 6.4 per cent in the current financial year. The article has been prepared by the RBI's former Deputy Governor Michael Patra and other central bank officials. The RBI said the views published in the article are of the authors and not of the institution. As per the nowcast estimate, the GDP growth in Q3 FY2025 is seen at 6.2 per cent, the article said. High frequency indicators suggest that aggregate demand firmed up in Q3 FY2025. E-way bills rose on a y-o-y basis in volume terms in December, and toll collections recorded strong growth both in volume and value terms, it said.

The country's economic growth is expected to rebound driven by higher domestic demand and revival in public capital expenditure on infrastructure, a Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) article said. However, elevated food inflation requires close monitoring, the 'State of the Economy' article published in the RBI's January bulletin said. "India's economic growth is poised to rebound as domestic demand regains strength. Rural demand continues to gain momentum, reflecting a resilience in consumption, supported by brighter agricultural prospects. A revival in public capex on infrastructure is likely to stimulate growth in key sectors,"

Govt clears Rs 11,440-cr plan for reviving Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd

The decision was taken in the Thursday meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Rs 11,440 crore revival package includes fresh equity infusion of ₹10,300 crore and conversion of ₹1,140 crore working capital loan as 7 per cent non-cumulative preference share capital redeemable after 10 years to keep RINL as a going concern, the statement said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant has a "special place in the hearts and minds of the people of Andhra Pradesh". "During yesterday's Cabinet meeting, it was decided to provide equity support of over ₹10,000 crore for the plant. This has been done understanding the importance of the steel sector in building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat," Modi said in a post on social media platform X. With this revival, Andhra Pradesh will get a major steel plant revived, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw



said, adding that two blast furnaces in the plant will start functioning in the coming days and all three blast furnaces are expected to become functional by August. The equity infusion of ₹10,300 crore into RINL will help it overcome the operational problems related to raising working capital.

'Slowing nominal growth major headwind; front-loading capex, easing monetary conditions critical for reviving economy'



In India, the process of budgeting perhaps takes up much more focus and energy than what it does in most other economies. This unusual focus on the budget is understandable, since it was through the budgets in the nineties that major industrial and financial reforms would get announced, and rather than being just an accounting process, the annual announcement is now almost synonymous with a "state of the economy" address that the government presents, as we approach the new fiscal year.

The expectations are no different this time. The budget for financial year 2025-2026 is being awaited, as the economy appears to have hit a rut, while global headwinds are rising. To be sure, government finances have been well managed, and are expected to reach a stable level post pandemic. Indeed, the 9.2% fiscal deficit recorded during the pandemic year is fading from memory, and the government which had laid down an ambitious target to achieve the glide path of fiscal deficit to 4.5% of GDP by FY26 is homing in on the target. This fiscal marksmanship has come while improving the quality of spending and strengthening the social security net despite multiple shocks. On the face of it, the ability to consolidate deficits while keeping growth and welfare considerations in mind is commendable and needs to be appreciated and acknowledged.

Still, there are risks ahead. As mentioned above, the cyclical state of the economy appears weak, and the government needs to manage the need for fiscal consolidation, while ensuring steady growth. One reason for the economic slowdown has been the lower pace of capital spending than what was budgeted, and while this slower pace puts the fiscal finances in good order, it does produce a negative impact on growth. Restoring the pace of execution and deployment of capital expenditure will be critical for reviving growth. Indeed, the government can take a leaf out of its second term, where a significant highlight of its fiscal management was the surge in capital expenditure, which increased to 3.2% of GDP in FY24. We believe the government would be keen to restore this spending mix, and re-

start the spending momentum, as it pushes for greater infrastructure investments. As such, the government could consider front-loading capex to the first half of FY26 to ensure better planning, and with the revenue expenditure to capital expenditure ratio expected to go up from 3.7x to 4.0x in FY25 but fall to 3.25x in FY26, indicating a renewed focus on capex.

A major headwind comes in the form of slowing nominal growth. Indeed, just prior to the pandemic, the slowdown was causing fiscal headaches, and the return of sub-10% nominal GDP growth prints in consecutive years can do the same. In Q3 (July-September) 2024, nominal GDP growth slowed to a fifteen-quarter low of 8% annual growth, and if not addressed, this slowdown could have major implications for wage growth, tax buoyancy and debt consolidation going forward. At 9.7%, the first advance estimate for FY25 is below the 10.5% nominal GDP growth that was factored into the July'24 budget. We believe to revive nominal growth along with real GDP growth, one needs to see both public capex spending and monetary conditions ease in coming quarters, which could improve the outlook for growth in FY2026. We continue to project GDP growth to be around 6.5% YoY in FY2025, with risks skewed to the downside, but expect a recovery to 7.0% YoY, contingent on conditions turning more supportive of both fiscal and monetary policy. If monetary policy remains entangled in dealing with a policy trilemma, then the heavy lifting of supporting growth will need to be done by fiscal policy. Beyond the cyclical challenges, the bigger question remains - where do we go on fiscal management post the 4.5% of GDP deficit target?

Prior to the pandemic, the government had discussed a potential shift in the fiscal objectives away from deficits to debt, which may be restored, and can have several implications. While there will be an implied need for further fiscal consolidation, the expenditure mix and the pace of economic growth would also be key for this new approach to be successful. We believe the government is considering adopting a debt-driven fiscal framework, rather than one anchored on fiscal deficits, to approach the next stage of its medium-term fiscal framework.

As such, the primary deficit could become the de-facto operational parameter rather than the fiscal deficit as the government seeks to move away from debt financed consumption. However, it would also mean that the need to balance monetary conditions, which anchor borrowing costs, nominal growth which drives revenues and the denominator of debt, and fiscal prudence which reduces primary deficits, would be critical for the success of the new framework, which in the medium term can create fiscal space for the next crisis, as and when

People Tech Enterprises to invest Rs 1,800 crore for 1,200 acre EV park in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati: People Tech Enterprises Pvt Ltd inked an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh government on Friday to set up a 1,200-acre electric vehicle (EV) park in Kurnool district, with an investment of Rs 1,800 crore. Dubbed as Orvakal Mobility Valley, the park aims to foster a complete EV ecosystem, providing state-of-the-art infrastructure for EV manufacturing and allied industries. "Once fully operational, the park is expected to attract an investment of \$1.5 billion (Rs 13,000 crore) and generate employment opportunities for 25,000 people. As the anchor unit of the park, People Tech Enterprises will set up an electric two-wheeler manufacturing unit with an investment of Rs 300 crore," said a press release. The park aims to catalyse EV industry growth by offering essential infrastructure such as R&D

centres, testing tracks, plug and play industrial spaces and readymade plots for industries. The deal was struck in the presence of IT Minister Nara Lokesh and Industries Minister TG Bharath.

"The Orvakal Mobility Valley is a significant step towards creating a thriving ecosystem for electric vehicles and demonstrates our government's ability to enable rapid industrial growth through cutting-edge policies and seamless support," said Lokesh. People Tech Group representative Bhaskar Reddy noted that the ground breaking ceremony for both the park and the two-wheeler manufacturing unit is planned for the end of March 2025. "The first electric two-wheeler from our factory is expected to roll out by December 2026.

Coldplay's Chris Martin and girlfriend Dakota Johnson quell breakup rumours with Mumbai temple visit



As part of their Music of the Spheres World Tour, Coldplay is set to perform in Mumbai at the DY Patil Sports Stadium on Saturday, with two more shows lined up on January 19 and 21. Coldplay's frontman, Chris Martin, was recently spotted visiting the Shri Babulnath Temple, hand in hand with his girlfriend, actress Dakota Johnson, quashing all breakup rumours around the mysterious couple. A widely circulated video shows the duo dressed in traditional Indian attire, with Martin in a powder blue kurta set and Johnson in a salwar suit, with a dupatta wrapped around her head. She was also seen whispering in the ear of a Lord Nandi idol, a ritual associated with making wishes.

Martin and Johnson began dating in 2017 after the singer legally separated from ex-wife Gwyneth Paltrow, with whom he shares two children, Apple and Moses. Though they prefer to keep their relationship low-key, the couple has been spotted together on multiple occasions—from cosy restaurant dates in Los Angeles and Malibu to attending concerts and high-profile events. From Buenos Aires to London, Johnson has been captured by fans cheering on the band as they performed. According to People magazine,

the duo made their first public appearance at Stella McCartney's Autumn 2018 Collection. After almost a year of speculation, Johnson acknowledged her relationship with Martin in a 2018 interview with Tatler.

Their romance extended into professional collaborations as well. Johnson directed the music video for Coldplay's Cry Cry Cry in February 2020. In October 2021, Martin made a heart-felt onstage gesture, dedicating the song Universe to Johnson during a Coldplay concert in London. "This is about my universe, and she's here," he told the audience, as Johnson was spotted dancing in the front row. In March 2024, a source told People that the couple had taken the next step in their relationship. "They got engaged years ago but were in no rush to get married," the source revealed. Adding fuel to speculation, Johnson has been spotted multiple times wearing a striking emerald ring. Despite breakup rumours in August 2024, Martin and Johnson's recent public appearance in Mumbai suggests their relationship remains strong. Fans will undoubtedly be keeping an eye on the couple as Coldplay continues their tour.

Step inside actor Divya Dutta's Mumbai home: 'Shabana Azmi told me 'ghar ko dheere dheere sajana''



Explore Divya Dutta's luxurious Mumbai home with its spiritual vibes, artistic corners, and a unique blend of modern and personal aesthetics. Explore Divya Dutta's luxurious Mumbai home with its spiritual vibes, artistic corners, and a unique blend of modern and personal aesthetics. Actor Divya Dutta's home in Mumbai not only reflects luxury but also the personalities of its dwellers.

Divya recently gave Pinkvilla an exclusive tour of her elegant residence, a space she has meticulously curated to reflect her personality and career. Sharing the journey of her home's evolution, Divya revealed anecdotes, inspirations, and the emotions that make her house a haven. The tour begins at the entrance, where a long-standing idol of Lord Ganesha sets a serene tone; flanking it are two Ganesha-inspired chairs. Speaking about this setup, Divya said, "This idol has been with me for years. It's the first thing I see every time I enter the house—it gives me a sense of calm and grounding."

Reflecting on how she approached decorating her home, Divya credited her co-star Shabana Azmi for her advice. She recalled, "I was shooting in Jaipur jab ghar ki taiyaari ho rahi thi. Tab Shabana (Azmi) ji told me sab cheezein sath mein na le aana ghar ki, toh fir pata hi nahi chalega kaha kya rakhna hai. Dheere dheere ghar ko

sajana. (I was shooting in Jaipur when my house was being set up. Shabana ji told me, 'Don't bring everything into your home at once. Take your time to feel the space and decide where each thing belongs.')

The dining-cum-living hall houses what Divya fondly calls her "Glory Corner," a collection of awards that celebrate her successful career.

Divya emphasised the significance of awards in an actor's life: "Hum log kehte hain ki awards matter karte hai ya nahi (We often debate whether awards matter or not), but for me, they absolutely do. They're like a tonic—they remind us that our work is appreciated and acknowledged. Holding a trophy feels like holding a memory." She joked about expanding the corner, saying, "Ghar me yeh joke hota hai ki isko hum aur badhaenge aage (There's a running joke in my house that we'll expand this corner further)." The drawing room showcases Divya's love for woodwork and vibrant accents. Speaking about her evolving style, she shared, "I used to think that everything should match perfectly, but now I believe in blending different elements. Contrasting pieces complement each other beautifully." A highlight of this room is a portrait gifted by her Dhakaad team, which she proudly displays. "It's a reminder of the wonderful time I had shooting that film and the friendships I made," she said.

Divya's fondness for nature is evident throughout her home, with plants and flowers in almost every corner. Her coffee nook exudes a cosy charm, designed to give her a French café vibe. "I wanted a space where I could sit and feel like I'm in a café—peaceful and inspiring," she said. Having a balcony in a city like Mumbai is a rare privilege, and Divya treasures hers. "To have a balcony in your home in Bombay is very lucky. It's where I read, relax, and sometimes entertain my friends," she said. Divya's library is another personal sanctuary, decorated with earthy tones and housing stacks of books alongside film posters. "This space combines my two great loves: reading and cinema. It's where I lose myself in stories," she explained.

Proenza Schouler designers depart in further fashion world tumult

Proenza Schouler, a New York brand that was once considered the future of fashion in the city, announced that its designers, Jack McCollough and Lazaro Hernandez, would be stepping down from the company, which they founded back in 2002. They will remain on the board and will continue to be minority shareholders. A search is underway for their replacements. No reason was given for the decision, other than that the time simply felt "right," and no statement was made about what the designers would do next. McCollough and Hernandez reportedly began thinking about exploring other opportunities after the company's 20th anniversary in 2022, and their new CEO, Shira Suveyke Snyder, was brought in last October in part to manage the transition. Still, a designer leaving a house he or she founded when it is relatively stable and they are relatively young (Hernandez and McCollough are 46) is almost unheard-of, unless there has been a falling out with a backer or the designer is planning to take another job. It is possible McCollough and Hernandez are setting a new precedent when it comes to career paths. But they are also widely rumored to be under consideration to be the new designers of Loewe, the Spanish brand owned by LVMH, replacing Jonathan Anderson, who has been said for months to be heading to Dior. (A spokesperson declined to comment on the move.) It should be noted that Anderson has not officially left Loewe, nor has Maria Grazia Chiuri, the creative director of Dior womenswear whom he would theoretically replace, left Dior. Also, Kim Jones, the creative director of Dior menswear, recently re-signed his contract with the brand.

LVMH, which once explored acquiring Proenza Schouler, has neither confirmed nor denied the various anonymous reports suggesting all the above, even as the rumors have spread across social media. Neither Loewe nor Proenza Schouler nor JW Anderson, Anderson's namesake brand, are on the coming fashion show schedules in New York, Paris or London. According to headhunters, major luxury groups are now asking that designers who take on positions at fashion houses in their group stop doing double duty with their own labels. For example, Quirina Leoni, the new designer at Calvin Klein, put her Quirina collection on hold when she took the bigger job. All of which has further fueled the speculation about who is going where. The only thing that is certain is that despite Proenza Schouler's being synonymous with McCollough and Hernandez, the designers intend for it to go on without them. It is not being closed or suspended, and the opening of a second store in New York in February is going ahead. (The February woman's collection will be released digitally; the fate of a planned men's collection is to be determined.) What Proenza Schouler, which was named after McCollough and Hernandez's mothers, will look like without its founders is less clear. Other than being known for a coolly urban art gallerist vibe and a hit bag (the PS1), and despite McCollough and Hernandez's being highly mediagenic, winning five Council of Fashion Designers of America awards and being championed by Anna Wintour, Proenza Schouler never really fulfilled the promise of becoming the Next Great American Brand. Within the industry, the designers are still known as "the Proenza boys," which reflects the sense that they have remained designers on the verge.

Kangana Ranaut's confused Indira Gandhi biopic is weak in craft

GNS News Agency, Jan 23



'future PM' after one meeting. The late Satish Kaushik gets smirking play as Jagjivan Ram, who went over to the other side. Jayaprakash Narayan's (Anupam Kher) 'sampoorn andolan' is given short shrift, as is George Fernandes's 'rail roko abhiyaan'. Rajiv, Sonia, Menaka, the grandchildren, show up as ciphers.

The most puzzling thing about this enterprise is why it is called Emergency. Given the title, it should have been an in-depth before-and-after depiction of one of the most tumultuous periods in recent Indian history; it feels like just another rushed chapter here as are the rest of the momentous events, including Mrs Gandhi's trial and arrest, and resurrection. And soon after, assassination. One of the most significant events of Indira's political career, showing Indira's arrival, atop an elephant, in Belchi, a tiny outpost which brought her back in power, leaves little impact: if there was something even her bitterest rivals acknowledged, it was that she was an astute, fearless politician, who kept a hold on the public imagination even in her darkest hours. In this revisionist era, we have been flooded with films which claim to set the record straight. How about making them well? Randeep Hooda's 'Veer Savarkar' was much better on practically all these metrics, including a superb lead performance. For the most part, 'Emergency' is more a scattershot caricature of time and place and people, riddled with tacky computer graphics: in a preposterous sequence, Manekshaw, Indira, the members of the Parliament, including Vajpayee, join in a song. Not even Ranaut's undoubted competence as an actor, armed with that distinctive prosthetic nose, white streak of hair and tasteful handloom saris which add to the remarkable resemblance to her subject, can save it.

Rakesh Roshan had mortgaged his house and cars for Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai; Hrithik Roshan recalls heated argument with dad: 'He gave it back to me'



gaged... I realised how much was at stake." Ameesha Patel and Hrithik Roshan in Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai Ameesha Patel and Hrithik Roshan in Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai. Hrithik's mother, Pinkie, said that she often had to play the mediator between father and son. She said, "There were days when I found him a bit sad sometimes. I would ask him, 'What happened? You don't look good'. Then he would come out of it eventually tell me that he wanted to do a scene a different way, but papa wanted it another way. I used to feel bad, as a mother. From his room, I would go to my room and talk to my husband, and I would ask what happened, and he'd say, 'Hrithik knows nothing! I'm the director!' Kaho Naa Pyaar Hai turned out to be a massive blockbuster, and turned Hrithik into an overnight sensation. His remains the last major Bollywood debut of a future superstar. Hrithik has sustained his stardom for over two decades, and will next be seen in the film War 2.

Dakota Johnson whispers prayers in Lord Nandi's ear as she visits Shiva temple with boyfriend Chris Martin in Mumbai.

blue kurta set, Dakota wore a cotton salwar suit for her visit. In the video, she could be seen whispering in the ears of a Lord Nandi idol. Chris and Dakota began their relationship after the singer separated from his wife, Gwyneth Paltrow, in 2016. He has two children, Apple and Moses, with the Iron Man actress. In early 2024, it was speculated that Chris and Dakota have broken up. However, with their current visit to India, the couple have put the rumours to rest.

In 2022, in an interview with Vanity Fair, the Madame Web actress had shared that she loves to accompany her boyfriend when she is not working. She often tours with him for his scheduled performances across the world.

Coldplay is all set to perform in Mumbai at the DY Patil Sports Stadium on Saturday. Two more performances are scheduled in the same venue, on January 19 and January 21, respectively. This will be followed by two more performances in Ahmedabad on January 25 and 26, at the Sardar Patel Stadium. Previously, the band was scheduled to have three performances: two in Mumbai and one in Ahmedabad. However, due to heavy demand, the band added two more shows to their India tour. Following their India tour, the band will head to Hong Kong in April. They are also scheduled to perform in South Korea in the same month. Coldplay's India performance will be exclusively streamed live on Disney+ Hotstar. This will mark the band's second visit to India after their 2015 performance at the Global Citizen Festival in Mumbai.

Rasha Thadani's debut film lands with a thud, makes only Rs 1.5 crore on opening day

Azaad box office collection day 1: Director Abhishek Kapoor's new film, the period drama Azaad, opened to low numbers at the box office. The film was marketed as the acting debut of Aaman Devgan, the nephew of Ajay Devgn, and Rasha Thadani, the daughter of Raveena Tandon. Director Kapoor previously 'launched' newcomers such as Sushant Singh Rajput in the film Kai Po Che, and Sara Ali Khan in the film Kedarnath. While both those films emerged as hits, Azaad will have a difficult time recovering from its disappointing debut. According to industry tracker Sacnilk, Azaad made Rs 1.5 crore on day one. The movie reported poor occupancy rates throughout the day. Morning shows registered an occupancy rate of just 5%, while the night shows saw 26% occupancy. The film was marketed heavily, with both young actors being taken to numerous events across the country. Their illustrious family members also joined in. Rasha Thadani has been a paparazzi favourite since before her acting debut was even announced.



ment after making Rs 28 crore domestically after a Rs 3.5 crore opening. Azaad is the filmmaker's lowest-ever debut, and an inauspicious start for star-kids Rasha and Aaman. The movie opened alongside Kangana Ranaut's long-delayed Emergency, which performed only marginally better, with a Rs 2.5 crore debut. Azaad also has to contend with mediocre response. In her review, the Indian Express' Shubhra Gupta wrote, "Why are such films still being made in 2025? And is Abhishek Kapoor, who made the terrific 'Kai Po Che' and 'Rock On', really the director of this mothballed exercise?"

By comparison, Kai Po Che made Rs 4.5 crore on its opening day, Rs 18 crore in its first weekend, and around Rs 50 crore during its domestic run. All of this happened in 2013. Released five years later, Kedarnath made Rs 6.8 crore on opening day, Rs 27 crore in its first weekend, and Rs 66 crore in total, according to Bollywood Hungama. Kapoor's last film was the Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui, which was seen as a disappointment.

Punjab 95 teaser: Diljit Dosanjh plays courageous activist Jaswant Singh Khalra; film to finally release on this date

As promised, Diljit Dosanjh shared the teaser of the much-anticipated film Punjab 95 on Friday with a special message. The Punjabi actor-singer took to his X handle to share the teaser and mentioned, "Full Movie, No Cuts." His caption was accompanied with the hashtag Challenge The Darkness. The film, directed by Honey Trehan and produced by Ronnie Screwvala, is all set to theatres on February 7. The teaser begins with Arjun Rampal's character saying, "Look at the history of Punjab, sir. Be it the dispute over its rivers or the operation Bluestar, Indira Gandhi's assassination or the riots of 1984, from President's rule to the chief minister's assassination and now... why is Punjab suffering?"



The teaser then introduces Diljit Dosanjh, who plays Sikh rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra looking into the disappearance of Sukhdev Singh. Dosanjh is seen clicking pictures and looking for leads to unravel the missing case of Sukhdev, putting his own life in danger. The film is based on the life of Jaswant Singh Khalra, who exposed 25,000 unlawful killings, disappearances and secret cremations by Punjab Police. The film will reportedly showcase his fight for justice before his kidnapping, torture, and murder by the same police force. Six police officials were allegedly convicted of the crime. On January 15, Diljit Dosanjh took to his Instagram handle to share a series of BTS pictures of himself from Punjab 95, where he could be seen brutally injured. The movie previously faced sig-

nificant obstacles with the CBFC allegedly suggesting 120 cuts due to its sensitive subject. The movie has been on hold for a couple of years. In 2022, the film was screened for the family of Jaswant Singh Khalra, who were reportedly satisfied with the same.

Fan playfully grills Kartik Aaryan on his chat with Alia Bhatt at 100 years of Raj Kapoor event: 'Raha, Ranbir ke baarein mein...'



Actors Alia Bhatt and Kartik Aaryan recently crossed paths at the 100 years of Raj Kapoor event held in Mumbai. A video of the two went viral on social media. In the video, the two could be seen indulged in an intense conversation, followed by laughter. During the SCREEN Live event held on Thursday in Mumbai, a curious fan asked the Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 actor about his conversation with Alia, which took a humorous turn, leaving the audience in splits.

I know what was it?" Kartik, who laughed at the fan first, replied, "Yeh saree wali madame bahaut acha sawaal puchi hai, Pehle se prepare hoke aayi thi... apko kya lagta hai kya baat ki hogi? (The lady in saree has come prepared... what do you think we spoke?)" The fan quickly replied, "How would I know? This is exactly why I am asking this to you," leaving Kartik stunned and audience in splits.

He then answered, "I was just talking to her normally..." The fan quipped, "Jaise ki?" Kartik, who couldn't stop laughing, said, "The lift wasn't working there... so I was telling her, 'You should at least have fixed the lift before doing the event.'" The unconvinced fan sarcastically replied, "Acha bahana tha, han theeek hai (Nice excuse, okay fine)." Kartik Aaryan, who was surprised by her reaction, said, "I was genuinely asking her, 'Acha, kab tak will your new film release' and she was asking me about my film." This too didn't sound convincing to the fan, who said, "Thank you, sir." Looking at her disappointment in his answers, Kartik said, "Arey, kaunsa jawab tumhe acha lagega mai woh batata hu... Raha ke baarein mein puch raha tha, Ranbir ke baarein mein puch raha tha... (What will convince you? I will tell you the same... I was talking about Raha, Ranbir...) I don't like to disappoint you."

The fan replied, "It's okay, sir." Looking at her disappointment, Kartik said, "You have now forced me to overthink this for the next few weeks... kash kuch aur jawab deta."

Tamil Nadu Actor-politician Vijay to lead protest march against Parandur airport on Jan 20

Chennai: Tamil superstar and Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) Chief Vijay will lead a protest march on January 20 at Eganapuram village against the proposed greenfield airport, which is set to become Chennai's second airport. Vijay has sought permission to visit Eganapuram village in the Kanchipuram district, where the airport is planned. The protest aims to highlight the ongoing agitation by residents of about 20 villages who have opposed the project since 2022. Vijay sought permission to hold the meeting on January 19 or 20, and Kanchipuram Police allowed him to do so on January 20. TVK office-bearers have already begun preparations for the event by engaging with the protest committee's leaders. On the Pongal day, two TVK state office-bearers, Jagannathan and another member, visited Eganapuram and identified five acres of land for the gathering. On Friday, TVK General Secretary N Anand oversaw the levelling of a vacant ground near the Ambedkar statue in Eganapuram village, where Vijay is expected to address the people. Since the Union government announced Parandur as the site for the greenfield airport in August 2022, residents have staged vehement protests, citing concerns over ecological damage and the loss of agricultural land.



The project requires the acquisition of 5,746 acres across 20 villages, with plans to complete the airport by 2028. Residents, particularly from Eganapuram – one of the largest affected villages – argue that the project will destroy fertile agricultural land and eco-sensitive water bodies, threatening their livelihoods and local ecosystems. Demonstrations, including nighttime protests, recently marked their 900th day on January 10. Villagers have also boycotted grama sabha meetings, elections, and passed resolutions demanding that the project be scrapped.



Rock star Chris Martin, who is currently in India as part of Coldplay's Music of the Spheres World Tour, was recently spotted with his girlfriend, actor Dakota Johnson, in Mumbai. The couple visited the Shri Babulnath Temple on Friday, and were spotted walking hand in hand, quashing their breakup rumours. They have been together since 2017.

Ahead of Coldplay's first performance in Mumbai on Saturday, the couple visited the Shiva temple. A video of their visit has surfaced online, and it shows the couple dressed in Indian outfits. While Chris opted for a powder

