

FAREWELL NOTE FROM TGSRTC

Hyderabad, Sept.29 : "My stop has arrived! After steering TGSRTC for over four enriching years, it's time for me to step off this bus and embark on a new route. Journeys pause, passengers move on, but the road always stretches ahead. It's time to park this bus and accelerate toward the next challenge. My deepest gratitude to the drivers and conductors—the lifeline of TGSRTC - and to every officer and passenger whose dedication kept the wheels turning", RTC managing director VC Sajjanar stated in his message. Recently, Sajjanar has been transferred as Hyderabad city police commissioner.He further stated "Public transport isn't just travel; it's a choice for a healthier planet and a healthier you. I will always remain its proud advocate. Soon, I'll share a detailed reflection on my experiences, learnings, and takeaways from this unforgettable ride."

Congress has people's support in local body elections: Bhatti



Hyderabad, Sept.29 Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the people are familiar with the development and welfare initiatives being carried out by the State government, and these programmes have effectively reached their homes.

He stated that the people of the Telangana would support and bless the Congress party in the upcoming local elections. Speaking to the media at the Madhira camp office on Monday, Bhatti Vikramarka said while the BRS leaders destroyed the State's financial and administrative systems over ten years, the State government has been steadily rectifying them according to plan.He said the welfare and development programmes undertaken by the Congress party for farmers, women and youth are well known to their hearts and minds. The Deputy Chief Minister said that for social justice, Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Indiramma government have fulfilled the decades-long aspirations of the Backward Classes. Under the Planning department, a socio-economic, political, educational and employment survey was conducted and 42% reservation was provided for BCs, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister alleged that BRS leaders are trying to smear and drag the Congress party, which stands for the people, into courts through conspiracies. They promised a job for every household and three acres of land for Dalits but failed to implement them, he said.Bhatti Vikramarka criticised that even after ten years, the promised ₹1 lakh farm loan waiver was not fully implemented. He said the Kaleshwaram project built with ₹1 lakh crore has collapsed.He stated that the Congress has fulfilled 99% of its promises. Along with Group-I and Group-II, 60,000 jobs have already been given to the youth; ₹21,000 crore farm loan waiver; ₹9,000 crore "Rythu Bharosa" in nine days; free power to 29 lakh agricultural pump sets; free electricity up to 200 units; a bonus of ₹500 per quintal to farmers cultivating fine rice; and "Indiramma Houses" worth ₹5 lakh each – in the first phase 4.5 lakh houses are being constructed at a cost of ₹22,500 crore, he explained.Out of 1.05 crore families in Telangana, 96 lakh families are being supplied fine rice at six kilos per person free of cost, while the same rice costs ₹56 a kilo in the open market, he said. Free travel for women in RTC buses statewide, and interest-free loans worth ₹20,000 crore every year to women Self-Help Groups – making one crore women millionaires in five years – are also being implemented, Bhatti Vikramarka added.(

Komatireddy directs officials to speed up flood repair works

Hyderabad, Sept.29 Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Monday conducted an elaborate review of the department to assess the damage caused by recent heavy rains and to take stock of major ongoing construction projects across Telangana.The Minister chaired the meeting with senior engineers and department officials and issued clear directions to accelerate road restoration, hospital construction, and key administrative infrastructure works.

Officials explained that the recent spell of intense rains inflicted serious damage on the state's road network. As many as 1,062 locations covering nearly 1,370 kilometres of state roads have been affected.

Among these, 68 roads were completely cut off, hampering connectivity and disrupting public transport. Cross-drainage (CD) structures worth about ₹306 crore have also suffered significant damage, requiring immediate attention.So far, temporary restoration has been completed at 38 stretches, ensuring partial relief to commuters. Of the 520 locations that experienced overflow, water has receded at 478 points, while traffic interruptions were reported at 445 stretches, of which 375 have already been restored for movement.

Preliminary estimates prepared by engineers reveal that ₹72.49 crore will be needed for temporary repairs and ₹1,263.33 crore for permanent restoration works.Komatireddy directed the R&B engineers to complete temporary works on a war footing once the rains subside to ensure public safety and smooth transportation.He instructed officials to carry out detailed field inspections before finalising estimates for permanent restoration so that long-term solutions can be implemented without compromise.

The Minister made it clear that the government will not tolerate delays or substandard work, emphasising the importance of durable repairs and quality construction.

CM Revanth greets women on Saddula Bathukamma

Hyderabad, Sept.29 : Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has extended heartfelt greetings to all Telangana women on the occasion of Saddula Batukamma.In a statement on Monday, the Chief Minister said Telangana is blessed with a great culture of worshipping nature and flowers. He wished women to celebrate Saddula Bathukamma with a decorated stack of flowers and singing traditional folk songs and dances."The festival is a testament to the collective way of life of Telangana and the unity of the people who share hardships and joys together," he said.Apart from showcasing the cultural grandeur of the unity of people, the Chief Minister said that the Saddula Batukamma also reflects many social aspects. The Bathukamma festival, which symbolises the self-respect of the people particularly women, is being celebrated for nine days with pomp and gaiety, he said.To display the uniqueness of Bathukamma before the world, Revanth Reddy said the government is organising a grand Bathukamma celebration with 10,000 women at

SRI RAMA GLIDES ON HANUMAN

Tirumala, Sept.29 Hanumanta Vahana Seva is a significant ritual held during the ongoing annual Brahmotsavam on Sixth day at Tirumala.The vahana Seva took place between 8am and 10am on Monday morning wherein Sri Malayappa Swamy decked as Sri Kodanda Rama was taken in procession on Hanuman carrier, blessing the devotees along the four mada streets of the temple town.

This seva symbolises the inseparable bond between Sri Rama and Hanuman and is regarded as a moment of immense spiritual elevation by the devotees.Hanuman is considered the foremost among devotees and is revered for his selfless devotion, and service. This Vahana seva emphasizes the Vedantic teachings and unity between Guru (Rama) and Sishya (Hanuman), highlighting the ideal qualities of devotion and surrender.



the Saroor Nagar Stadium.The Chief Minister also reminded that the people's government accorded priority to the conservation of nature aiming to preserve ponds and lakes and gift them to the future generations to continue the legacy. The revival of Batukamma Kunta was part of conservation of natural resources, Revanth Reddy said.

Revanth govt to consider WUAs for upkeep of Irrigation tanks & canals : Uttam



Hyderabad, Sept.29 Irrigation and civil supplies minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday said the Telangana government was examining the formation of Water User Associations (WUAs) for upkeep of state's irrigation tanks and canals. The proposed move, taken on CM A Revanth Reddy's directions, aims to ensure local accountability in maintenance and to prevent breaches during Monsoons, he noted.

WUAs may initially be given charge of minor irrigation

tanks with support from Laskar staff and an Irrigation department officer as convenor. The Telangana Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Commission would be consulted to ensure farmers participation, he added.At a review meeting with senior officials concerned, the Minister recalled that many WUAs became defunct after water cess was scrapped in 2018–19.

The new system would empower them with manpower, resources and statutory backing under the Telangana Water Resources Development Corporation Act, 1997.The Minister directed the concerned officials to strengthen Telangana's case in the Supreme Court against Karnataka's move to raise the Almatti dam height. He asked for the revised DPR of the Pranahita Chevella Sujala Sravanthi project at Tummadihatti, besides clearance of works related to SLBC tunnel, Kalwakurthy, Devadula package-6, Chinna Kaleshwaram and Khammam land issues. "The Congress government's effort is two fold: to empower the irrigation department technically and legally to ensure local accountability through water user associations. This combined approach will safeguard irrigation assets, improve water availability, and support farmers and communities across Telangana", he added.

KTR PREDICTS CONG DEFEAT IN LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS

Hyderabad, Sept.29 : Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao on Monday asserted that his party is fully geared up for the upcoming local body elections and confident of sweeping the polls from 'galli' (street) level to Delhi. Addressing party workers at Telangana Bhavan on Monday, KTR predicted that the Congress government is heading towards a 'humiliating defeat' as people across the state were turning back to K. Chandrashekhara Rao's leadership. While welcoming senior TDP leader Pradeep Chowdhary from Jubilee Hills into the BRS fold under the leadership of MLC L. Ramana, KTR said the newly launched 'Debt Card' campaign would be the 'Brahmastra' to dismantle the Revanth Reddy government. "The Congress symbol of the hand has turned into a hand of destruction for its own party. The Debt Card movement will expose the government's betrayal of its own guarantees", he said.KTR ridiculed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's claim of building a "Future City", and likened him to Nero, the Roman emperor who fiddled while Rome burned. "As Hyderabad struggles with overflowing drains, garbage and darkened streets, the Chief Minister is busy selling hollow dreams. Those who cannot save the present city are claiming that they will build a future one", he quipped and pointed out that the Congress government had not laid a single brick for new infrastructure, while the previous BRS regime had built 42 flyovers and underpasses in the capital city.



The BRS leader further alleged that resentment has been rising across all sections of the society - farmers, women, youth, students and the elderly. He recalled how farmers once had to fight for fertilisers under earlier Congress regimes, a situation he claimed has returned under Revanth's misrule. Students and youth are angry over the unfulfilled promises of two lakh jobs and scooters for girl students. The elderly felt cheated by the non-implementation of Rs.4,000 pension. The ruling Congress has made 'ghastly promises' and committing 'heinous betrayal', he charged.

to impose a 100% tariff on foreign-made films.White House did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on how the tariffs would be implemented. Warner Bros Discovery, Comcast, Paramount Skydance and Netflix also did not immediately respond to requests. The president had first floated the idea of a movie tariff in May but offered very little details, leaving entertainment executives unsure whether it would apply to specific countries or all imports.Studio executives told Reuters earlier this year that they were "flummoxed" by how a movie tariff might be enforced, given that modern films often use production, financing, post-production and visual effects spread across multiple countries.The move has drawn skepticism from legal and trade analysts. Some argue films are a form of intellectual property and part of the global trade in services, an area where the U.S. often runs a surplus.

Govt releases 104 crore for panchayat secretaries

Hyderabad, Sept.29 The State government has allocated ₹104 crore for settling bills concerning Panchayat Secretaries.In a statement here on Monday, Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka stated that this is the first time such a significant sum has been disbursed in a single installment. She indicated that this financial release has alleviated some of the burdens faced by panchayat secretaries.Seethakka acknowledged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, recognising the challenges panchayat secretaries encounter, acted swiftly to approve the release of ₹104 crore."Disbursing such a substantial amount all at once, a first in our history, is contributing to the enhancement of the Panchayati system," she remarked.During the event, Seethakka expressed her appreciation to both the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister for their proactive approach in facilitating the fund's release.

Indiramma canteens meant to make Hyd 'Hunger-Free' city - Minister Ponnampet



Hyderabad, Sept.29 State Transport minister and district In-charge Minister Ponnampet Prabhakar on Monday claimed that 'Indiramma Canteens' have been launched with the vision of making Hyderabad a hunger-free city. The initiative was inspired by former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who worked tirelessly to eradicate poverty with her slogan "Garibi Hatao", he noted.Minister Prabhakar, along with Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalakshmi, inaugurated Indiramma Canteens at Mothinagar and Khairatabad Mint Campus. MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLA Danam Nagender, GHMC Commissioner R.V. Karnan, Zonal Commissioners Borkade Hemant Sahadev Rao and Anurag Jayanthi, Additional Commissioners Raghu Prasad and Pankaja, as well as several corporators, were present.Under this scheme, breakfast and lunch will be provided to beneficiaries at just Rs.5 each. While GHMC spends Rs.14 per breakfast and Rs.24.83 per lunch, each beneficiary is expected to gain a financial benefit of nearly Rs.3,000 per month. The canteens will be managed by the Hare Krishna Hare Rama Foundation. The subsidized meals will benefit the poor, casual labourers, auto drivers, small traders, low-income families and the unemployed.As part of the inaugural program, the Minister, Mayor, MP, MLA and GHMC officials personally served meals to beneficiaries, while sanitation workers also dined with them and interacted about their well-being.On this occasion, Minister Prabhakar said that many welfare schemes have been launched after the formation of the people's government, including the distribution of over 60,000 ration cards in Hyderabad city. "Inspired by former PM late Indiramma, we started Indiramma Canteens as per the Chief Minister's orders. From now on, breakfast will also be available at just Rs.5. Despite the financial burden, the government is committed to providing quality food at an affordable price", he noted.The minister further said that initiatives like free bus travel, free household electricity,

CHADA SLAMS AMIT SHAH'S REMARKS ON MAOISTS

Hyderabad, Sept.29 : CPI state secretariat member and former MLA Chada Venkat Reddy on Monday termed Union Home Minister Amit Shah's comments against holding talks with Maoists as 'evil and dictatorial'. He demanded an immediate halt to "Operation Kagar" and urged the Centre to initiate dialogue with Maoists to resolve issues.The CPI leader said the country's independence struggle itself was for land, freedom and food, but after 78 years, inequality has only deepened. "While Ambani and Adani hold lakhs of crores, many still beg for food. Since the BJP-led NDA came to power, gaps have widened and unemployment has risen", he remarked. He said that democracy and progressive forces, and people at large are concerned over killings of Naxalites in the name of "Operation Kagar", and stressed that only negotiations and socio-economic reforms can bring the lasting peace.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

The hustle never ends

In the past decade, the term side hustle has transformed from a fringe concept to a cultural phenomenon. Once the domain of struggling artists and part-time freelancers, side hustles are now proudly proclaimed on LinkedIn profiles, monetised on TikTok, and discussed in bestsellers promising financial freedom. The idea that you should never rely on one stream of income has been repeated so often that it feels like common sense. But beneath the sheen of empowerment and entrepreneurial grit lies a more troubling question: Are we simply normalising overwork under the guise of ambition?

Let's start with the numbers. According to a 2023 survey by Deloitte, nearly 45% of millennials and Gen Z workers in the United States report having at least one side hustle. In the UK, a similar trend has emerged, with estimates suggesting more than a third of workers have turned to second jobs or freelance gigs to supplement their income. Even in countries like India and Singapore, where traditional career paths were once more rigidly defined, the side hustle culture is rapidly gaining ground, fueled by social media, start-up culture, and a volatile job market. The reasons vary.

For some, side hustles are a lifeline in the face of stagnant wages and rising living costs. For others, they're a means of pursuing passion projects that their 9-to-5 doesn't accommodate. There's also the seductive promise of escape, the idea that with enough hustle, one might transcend the drudgery of salaried work altogether. The modern worker is no longer content with one job—they want multiple income streams, a personal brand, and perhaps even the chance to become their own boss. The problem lies not with the hustle itself, but with its glorification, and with the economic conditions that make it feel mandatory rather than chosen.

AIPIF East Zone Hyderabad Completes 1500 Days of Free Breakfast Program



“NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Sept 28, Indian Chronicle: The All India Personal Improvement Foundation (AIPIF) East Zone, Hyderabad, has successfully completed 1500 days of its free breakfast program at Koti Maternity Hospital and Gandhi Hospital. The initiative is led by East Zone Incharge Syed Qutubuddin Nadvi, with support from Patron Mohd Moizuddin Nadvi. Special guests present at the event included Syed Iftikhar Obaid Nadvi, Syed Faheem Nadvi from Mahboobnagar, and Mohd Ishaq Shareef Nadvi. The program has been sustained by the consistent efforts of AIPIF volunteers, who have been serving patients and their attendants with nutritious breakfast every day. The initiative highlights the organization's ongoing commitment to public service and community welfare. The completion of 1500 days marks a significant milestone in AIPIF's journey of humanitarian work, setting an example of dedication and compassion.

Jet Innovative Teacher Award For Janakapur School Teacher



“Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. September, 29. “Belonging to Teacher Vadluri Rajesh has been selected for the Innovative Teacher Award 2025 presented by Jatadhara Educational Technology (JET) every year in Biology, said the school's Principal Maryala Uday Babu. The award will be received by JET Project Director Arun Kumar on 29 September 2025 at Na Hari Hara Kala Bhavan, Hyderabad. Therefore, the Principal and all the school staff congratulated him.

Reservation Shock For Aspirants!

"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. September, 29. “Reservation shock for aspirants! The lucky lottery system of local body elections has left aspirants scratching their heads. Some, who thought that they would get reservation according to the old calculations, spent lakhs on organizing Ganesh and Navratri festivals. However, the newly finalized reservations have left them with a huge grief. With the unexpected change in reservations, leaders who wanted to contest the elections are facing financial and political difficulties.

Godrej Agrovet's 'My Gracia, My Pride' strikes the chord with farmers



Hyderabad: September 2025: Godrej Agrovet Limited (Godrej Agrovet), one of India's leading diversified agri-businesses conglomerate, recently launched a nationwide campaign titled 'My Gracia, My Pride', highlighting the importance of healthier seedlings to enhance farming prosperity. A proactive application of the insecticide Gracia at the right

time offers extended duration and effectiveness in controlling pests and has excellent rainfastness in chili, cabbage, tomato, brinjal, and other crops.

As a part of the campaign, the company has also introduced a 'Spin & Win' contest to incentivize farmers and educate them on the authenticity of the product. Running until March 2026, the contest is available in 10 languages – English, Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Kannada, Gujarati, Punjabi, Oriya, Bengali and Tamil. Commenting on the initiative, Mr. Rajavelu N.K, CEO – Crop Protection Business, Godrej Agrovet said, "Gracia is an economical and effective solution available in the market including the conventional ones. Its quicker control against chewing pests and thrips, compared to peers, provides farmers with one of the lowest costs per day treatment. We encourage farmers to scan the QR code on the Gracia pack to verify the product authenticity and also stand a chance to win a cashback." Farmers across the country who purchase Gracia can participate by scanning the QR code on the bottle and verifying their mobile number via OTP. After selecting their state, district and crop, they need to spin a virtual bottle to win a cashback of up to INR 200. In order to avail their cashback, they need enter their mobile number linked to their bank account for instant transfer. Mr. Hanuman Chaudhary, a farmer from Sayla tehsil, Jalor District of Rajasthan, showcased his excitement saying, "I used 160 ml of Gracia in 200 Liters of water to protect my crop. I am happy to share that it not only protected my crops from thrips, but I also won cashback." Godrej Agrovet remains committed to creating awareness among the farmers by educating them on the benefits of using authentic products in appropriate and recommended quantities. In its endeavour to uplift the farming families, the company will continue to introduce crop protection solutions that are tailored for the Indian market.

Canon India & Future Schoolz join hands to Launch India's First Digital Press Certification Programme for Digital Printing Professionals

Hyderabad: Canon India, a leader in digital imaging solutions, has partnered with Future Schoolz, a leading consulting and training organization for the printing and packaging industry, to launch India's pioneering Certified Digital Press Specialist (CDPS) programme. Underscoring Canon's commitment to advancing the digital printing ecosystem, the collaboration is designed to upskill digital Press operators, supervisors, and managers, bridging the critical skills gap in the Indian print industry.

Speaking on the collaboration, Mr. C Sukumaran, Senior Director, Products & Communication, Canon India said, "At Canon, giving back to the community through knowledge and skill building is central to our culture. We believe that technology alone cannot transform the industry; it requires skilled professionals who can truly unlock the potential of advanced digital printing solutions. Through this initiative, Canon India and Future Schoolz are together building a robust ecosystem of certified specialists, equipped to deliver exceptional results with our cutting-edge digital imaging technologies. This endeavour not only enhances individual careers but also elevates the digital printing industry in India to global benchmarks. We are targeting to add at least 200 such professionals in next couple of years who will add value to current ecosystem of Cutsheet Digital Printing Industry in India."

Commenting on the initiative, Jose Thomas, Principal Consultant, Future Schoolz, said: "The digital printing in-



dustry in India has reached a stage where skill is as important as technology. This certification is a structured pathway to create experts who can fully unlock the potential of investments in digital presses, ensuring higher productivity, quality, and customer satisfaction. We are building not just operators, but future leaders of digital print." Kulakkada Pradeep, CEO of Future Schoolz, added: "Skill shortage has long been a pressing challenge in the Indian print industry. The Certified Digital Press Specialist programme is our answer to this gap, offering a credible, independent certification that recognizes expertise and brings dignity to digital printing professionals. This initiative is not only about upskilling individuals but also about strengthening the overall ecosystem of digital printing in India."

Congress Leaders Repair Borewell at Kushaiguda PHC (Jammigadda)



“NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, AS Rao Nagar, Sept 29, Indian Chronicle: The long-defunct borewell at the Kushaiguda Primary Health Centre (Jammigadda) was repaired with personal funds contributed by local Congress leaders. The borewell was re-drilled with proper casing, water pipelines were installed, and a starter was fixed, resolving the water shortage at the PHC. On Monday, senior Congress leaders Kamsani Seetharam Reddy, Kotha

Anjireddy, Allurayya, Sunku Srikanth Reddy, and Chinna Reddappa Reddy inaugurated the repaired borewell. PHC staff expressed their happiness over the initiative. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders assured that they would address any problems faced by the PHC if brought to their notice. Congress leaders Pakala Raju, S.K. Saleem, Peera, Dastagiri, Dubai Raju, Rehmatullah, Satyanarayana, Singam Kiran, Mamidi Srinu and others were also present.

Sri Mahankali Temple – Goddess Blessed Devotees in the Alankaram of Sri Saraswati Devi

“(Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal) September 29, Indian Chronicle “On Friday, at the Sri Mahankali Temple in Uppal, the presiding deity was adorned and worshipped in the form of Sri Saraswati Devi, the goddess of knowledge. On this special occasion, several rituals and devotional programs were conducted. “Temple Chairman Telkala Mohan Reddy and many temple committee members participated in the worship ceremonies. The day began with Suprabhata Seva, followed by Devi Abhishekam, Tirumanjana Seva, Devi Alankarana (decoration), Prabhata Darshanam, Ekadasa Harathi, Chatusthapachara Poojas, Kumbha Harathi, Theertha Prasada Vitarana, Durga Homam, and in the evening, Pradosha Kaala, Shodashopachara Pooja, Samoohika Ashtottara Kumkuma Archana, Nakshatra Harathi, Theertha Prasada distribution, Ekanta Seva, and cultural programs were held. On this occasion, Annadanam (community feast) was also organized. “The event was attended by BJP senior leaders like Shamirpet Dharmareddy,



Kollu Balaraj, Congress leaders like Bazaru Jagannath Goud, and temple committee representatives including Bikkumalla Anjaiah Gupta, Salla Rajireddy, Eega

Tap, pay, and go: PhonePe and Mastercard collaborate to power contactless payments through smartphones for millions of Indians



Hyderabad: As contactless payments through smartphones gain popularity among consumers, PhonePe and Mastercard have collaborated to launch an exclusive feature for Mastercard cardholders in India. The new feature enables Mastercard cardholders to make in-store payments by simply tapping their NFC-enabled smartphones at payment terminals using the PhonePe app.

The collaboration is designed to offer secure and frictionless Tap & Pay experiences at physical retail outlets, while also supporting tokenized e-commerce transactions—all through NFC-capable Android smartphones. Cardholders can simply save their Mastercard credit, debit, and prepaid cards issued in India on their smartphones and enjoy all the benefits of card-based payments. By combining Mastercard's global expertise in tokenization with PhonePe's vast base of 618 million registered users, this launch expands access to digital payments both within India and internationally. It reinforces the shared commitment of both companies to strengthening the country's rapidly growing digital economy.

Mastercard cardholders can now benefit from a suite of powerful features, including:

Secure Tap & Pay in-store payments: Make contactless payments at NFC-enabled terminals across India and abroad using PhonePe app on Android smartphones, with device-specific tokenization for enhanced fraud protection.

Safer online shopping: Shop securely with Mastercard cards via the PhonePe app, with each transaction tokenized and tied to your device, making stolen credentials useless elsewhere.

Frictionless & reassuring experience: Save your card just once to enjoy a fast, secure checkout every time, backed by Mastercard's global expertise in tokenization and PhonePe's intuitive user experience. Emphasizing the importance of continuous innovation, Deep Agrawal, Head of Payments at PhonePe, said, "We're delighted to collaborate with Mastercard to bring device-based tokenization to millions of PhonePe users. With an increased penetration of NFC enabled smartphones coupled with growing consumer preference towards usage of Tap & Pay using their cards, this functionality marries the two seamlessly. This elevates both convenience and security for users, enabling contactless payments at physical stores and safer online transactions—all within the familiar PhonePe app. We view this association as yet another key step toward delivering a world-class payment experience to PhonePe users across India and when travelling abroad."

Always Keeping The Office Locked

“Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. September, 29. “People who came to submit petitions had to turn away, - phone numbers were not answered when called, or they said they were "on field work" but did not know where they were working, - newspaper advertisements never appeared stating that they had done field work. The fact that the Drug Inspector's office under the jurisdiction of the Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District Collector's office is locked and the neglect of not changing the boards properly is causing serious suspicion among the people. Due to the fact that the office is always locked, people are unable to submit petitions and are forced to turn away. Even when the numbers there are not answered, no one is aware of where the work is being done except for the reason of "field work" if they are answered. So far, no newspaper advertisements have been received that field work has been



done for a single day. At the same time, the lack of any checks despite the sale of medicines indiscriminately in medical shops across the district has become a threat to the health safety of the people. We demand that the District Collector immediately respond to this issue, conduct a thorough investigation and take appropriate action. If there is such negligence at the District Collector's office, then one can understand what the situation is like in other mandal offices, said DYFI District Secretary Godisela Karthik.



Anjaneyulu, Bhaskar, Gummadavelli Krishna, Murali, Annapu Reddy Krishnareddy, Naresh, Shaag Shekhar, Raghavendra, Kasireddy, Somireddy, and others,

Bontu Sridevi Yadav Attends Clay Durga Mata Celebrations at Yusufguda



“NSR, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, Sept 29, Indian Chronicle: In Yusufguda division, Venkata Giri Sravanthi Nagar, a special puja was organized at the clay Durga Mata mandapam set up by the Veer Savarkar Youth Association. Former Hyderabad Mayor's spouse and GHMC Standing Committee Mem-

ber, Charlapalli Division Corporator Bontu Sridevi Yadav, took part in the program and performed the rituals. Later, the committee members felicitated Sridevi Yadav with a shawl. Speaking on the occasion, Sridevi Yadav said she was happy to witness the Durga Mata idol made of clay and appreciated the efforts of the committee members.

Grand Arrangements for Saddula Bathukamma at Chilkanaagar Division: Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen



“Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 29, Indian Chronicle” “Grand arrangements have been made for the Saddula Bathukamma celebrations at the Bathukamma Park in Bank Colony, located in Chilkanaagar Division. Chilkanaagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, along with officials from the GHMC and Horticulture Department, inspected the arrangements on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen stated that all necessary arrangements have been made for the public to celebrate Saddula Bathukamma at the Bank Colony Bathukamma Park. She mentioned that the temple struc-



ture (Sampu) and idols (Vigrahalu) have been freshly painted, lighting has been arranged through the Electrical Department, and water has been provided in the temple ponds. She added that people from around 25 surrounding colonies, including Beerappa Gadda, will gather in large numbers at the park to celebrate the festival with great enthusiasm.

The program was attended by DE Vennela Goud, AE Radhika, Work Inspector Kedar, Horticulture Department Supervisor Balu, BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, movement leaders Yedula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Masa Shekhar, Banti, and several others.

CM Revanth Reddy Inaugurates STPs Worth 539 Crore



— Uppal Congress Cadre Mobilized Under Parameshwar Reddy's Leadership” “Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 29” “Indian Chronical,” “Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, along with Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Goud, Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narendar Reddy, and Mayor Vijayalakshmi, inaugurated several Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) constructed at a cost of ₹539 crore across various parts of Hyderabad. The inauguration ceremony was held on Sunday at the STP constructed in the Ramantapur-Amberpet region. A large number of Congress workers from the Uppal constituency, led by Uppal constituency in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, participated in the event, showcasing strong support from

the local Congress cadre. On this occasion, CM Revanth Reddy also laid the foundation stone for 39 new STPs to be constructed in the city at an estimated cost of ₹3,849.10 crore. These projects include Package 1: 16 STPs at a cost of ₹1,878.55 crore, Package 2: 22 STPs at a cost of ₹1,906.44 crore, PPP Model: 1 STP at a cost of ₹64.11 crore. The event witnessed the participation of several key officials and dignitaries, including HMWSSB MD Ashok Reddy, GHMC Commissioner Kiran, Medchal District Collector Manu Chowdhary, Floor Leader Dharpally Rajasekhar Reddy, Uppal and Charlapalli corporators Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy and Bonthu Sridevi, Medchal in-charge Vajresh Yadav, senior Congress leaders from Uppal, and numerous party workers.

A Thorough Investigation Should Be Conducted Into The Road Accident Involving RTI Activists.

“Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. September, 29. “Right to Information Rights Act Activists Ashraf, Komuram Bheem Asifabad Kagaznagar Peddavagu U Two days ago, Azim was seriously injured in a road accident. In this incident, Azim unfortunately died * and Ashraf suffered a fractured leg. The Komuram Bheem Asifabad District Committee under the Protection of Information Act 2005 has asked the police to conduct a comprehensive investigation into this incident from all angles, especially from a partisan perspective. The committee has made it clear that the real truth about this accident will come out only when an investigation is conducted from all angles. It reminded that RTI activist Ashraf has been continuously working for public welfare and community development through several RTI applications so far. “The district committee expressed deep concern that such an incident should happen to such a public interest activist.” [17-07, 29/9/2025] +91 99485 55073: End.



CM Revanth Reddy Attends Inauguration of STPs – Congress Cadre from Uppal Constituency Participates Under the Leadership of Parameshwar Reddy



“Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 29, Indian Chronicle” “Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, along with Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Goud, Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narendar Reddy, and Mayor Vijayalakshmi, inaugurated several Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) constructed across various parts of the city at a cost of ₹539 crore on Sunday. As part of this, an STP constructed in the Ramanthapur-Amberpet area was officially opened. A large number of Congress leaders and cadre from the Uppal constituency participated in this inauguration event under the leadership of Uppal Congress in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy. “On this occasion, CM Revanth Reddy also laid the foundation stone for 39 new STPs to be constructed in the city at a total cost of



₹3,849.10 crore.” Under Package-1, 16 STPs will be constructed at a cost of ₹1,878.55 crore.” Under Package-2, 22 STPs will be built at a cost of ₹1,906.44 crore.” Additionally, 1 STP will be constructed under the PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model at a cost of ₹64.11 crore. Several officials and leaders participated in the event, including:

HMWSSB Managing Director Ashok Reddy, GHMC Commissioner karnan, Medchal District Collector Manu Choudhary, Floor Leader Dharpalli Rajasekhar Reddy, Corporators from Uppal and Cherlapally: Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy and Bonthu Shreedevi, Medchal in-charge Vajresh Yadav, Senior Congress leaders and workers from the Uppal constituency

Injustice To SC s In ZPTC, MPP Reservations

“Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. September, 29 “Wankidi: ZPTC and MPP reservations for the mandal have been allotted properly” Dalit leaders alleged that they were not given the opportunity. On Sunday, a press conference was held at the Jetwan Buddha Vihara in the mandal center under the auspices of Ambedkar Yuvajana Sangam, Bharatiya Buddhist Maha Sabha and Siddhartha Yuvajana Sangam. Speaking on the occasion, they said that since the formation of the mandal system, all communities have benefited politically, and the SC community has not had an opportunity at the mandal level. In 1972, when Wankidi mandal was a panchayat committee, it was together with Tiryani. Kerameri, he said, at that time Tirupati Shavukar from

Asifabad Pattanam was the president, and with the subsequent SC reservation, Madavi Raju from Kerameri was the president of the committee. After the formation of separate mandals, MPP and ZPTC seats have been allocated only to ST, BC and General. He alleged that due to this, the SC communities are not able to benefit politically. He said that although he was hopeful that this time it would go to the SC category, he was disappointed. He said that the reason for this is the lack of proper understanding of the mandal and district level officials. He said that if the reservation allocated is not reviewed, he will approach the court. BSI District President Ashok Maholkar, Mandal President Durgam Durgaji, General Secretary Vijay Upe, Honorary President Kainala Upe, and others participated in this program.

Majestic Procession of Goddess Mahalakshmi Illuminates Manthani Streets Amidst Navaratri Fervor

“ P . S . A S H O K A N “ Indian Chronicle “Manthani, September 29.” “As part of the vibrant Sharannavaratri celebrations, the sacred idol of Sri Mahalakshmi Devi was taken in a resplendent procession through the streets of Manthani town on Monday, drawing large crowds of spiritually-charged devotees. The event, steeped in tradition and cultural richness, saw enthusiastic participation in the Gopalakaluvulu rituals, with each locality adorned festively to welcome the Goddess.” “The procession commenced at 8:00 AM and continued until 4:00 PM, creating an atmosphere of divine grace and cultural splendor. A highlight of the day occurred at Tammicheruvu Katta, where renowned cricket commentators Mahavadi Sudheer and Vijay captivated the audience by dancing joyfully to devotional melodies, uplifting the collective spirit of the gathering.” “On Sunday, the temple hosted the Chakri Bhajan, a revered devotional tradition that marks the essence of Navaratri at the temple. This sacred practice involves nonstop bhajans for nine consecutive nights, reflecting a long-standing spiritual legacy. Bhajan groups from across Manthani's neighborhoods assembled nightly from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM, showcasing a harmonious blend of rhythmic devotion and cultural unity.” “Performers accompanied their soulful singing with traditional instruments such as palelu, maintaining a seamless musical offering to the divine. Each bhajan group contributed two hours of continuous singing, ensuring that the temple resonated with unbroken chants of devotion throughout the festival.” “The festival continues to draw thousands of devotees, all seek-



ing the blessings of Sri Mahalakshmi Devi, revered as a celestial embodiment of prosperity and protection. There is a profound belief among devotees that sincere worship, accompanied by disciplined offerings, ensures auspicious outcomes and divine grace in their lives.” “In keeping with the spirit of charity and service, the temple is also hosting an Annadanam (free community feast) throughout the nine-day celebration, serving devotees with devotion and hospitality. On the final day, the festival idol will once again be taken in a jubilant culmination procession, accompanied by kolatam (folk stick dances), devotional singing, and jubilant festivities.” “The concluding rituals include a final session of Chakri Bhajan within the temple premises, after which devotees partake in Teertha Prasadam, receiving the sacred blessings of the Goddess.

Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Distributes Bathukamma Covers on the Occasion of Saddula Bathukamma Festival



“Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 29, Indian Chronicle-” “On the occasion of the Saddula Bathukamma festival, Chilkanaagar Division GHMC Corporator and Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj distributed Bathukamma covers provided by GHMC to various colonies and bastis across the division. “Special Bathukamma setups were arranged in these areas, and the covers were handed over to local women celebrating the festival. At the Corporator's office, representatives from different colonies were invited, and Bathukamma covers were distributed to ensure all communities could actively participate in the festivities.” “Speaking on the occasion, Cor-



porator Geetha Praveen extended her warm Saddula Bathukamma greetings to all the residents of the Chilkanaagar Division. She also wished everyone a joyful and grand Dussehra celebration in advance.

BRS WILL EMERGE STRONGER

Expressing confidence that BRS would emerge stronger with leaders like Pradeep Chowdhary joining the party, KTR said the party would secure a bumper majority in the upcoming Jubilee Hills by-election, riding on KCR's developmental track record. He praised former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao's role in shaping Telangana, and said, “If NT Rama Rao showcased Telugu pride across India, i

Grand Celebration of Ayudha Puja at District Police Headquarters



SP Rohit Raju Participates in the Ceremony during Navaratri""Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau , Sept 29, Indian Chronicle: On the occasion of Dasara Navaratri, Ayudha Puja was performed with great devotion and grandeur at the District Police Headquarters in Hemachandrapuram today. ""District Superintendent of Police (SP) Rohit Raju, IPS, participated in the special puja, which was conducted as part of the Navaratri festivities. Along with him, Additional SP (Operations) Narendra, Kothagudem DSP Rahman, DCRB DSP Mallayya Swamy, AR DSP Satyanarayana, Cyber Crimes DSP Ashok, Circle Inspectors, Reserve Inspectors, and several other police



officers and staff members attended the ceremony. ""Following the Ayudha Puja, vehicle worship was also performed. Speaking on the occasion, SP Rohit Raju expressed his happiness in taking part in the puja as part of the Navaratri celebrations, stating that such traditions strengthen devotion and collective spirit.

""The SP also conveyed his greetings on the occasion of Saddula Bathukamma to the people of the district, as well as to all police officers and staff. Later, he participated in the Annadanam (community feast) organized for the police officials and personnel.

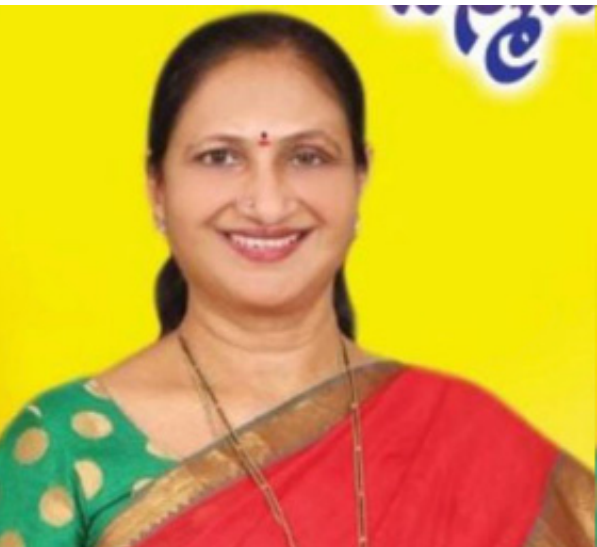
Stay united - fight the problems:-""-TWJF State President Mamidi Somaiya "



""Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Bureau.. (Indian Kanukals September 29):-""Telangana Working Journalists Federation State President Mamidi Somaiya has called on all the members of the Federation to work together and fight the problems of journalists. State Council member Potlapalli Ashok Kumar Goud, who was unanimously elected from LB Nagar constituency in the elections held on the occasion of the third general assembly of TWJF Rangareddy district, Rangareddy district vice president Sanem Srinivas Goud, joint secretary Satyanarayana Goud Gaddam and others met State President Mamidi Somaiya

in LB Nagar on Saturday and thanked him. Speaking on the occasion, he advised the newly elected members of the district committees to work in accordance with the rules and regulations of the union, focus on the problems of local journalists and work together to achieve their rights. He urged them to develop professionalism, perseverance in work, and fulfill their duties with discipline and enhance the prestige of the association. He congratulated the LB Nagar leaders elected to the district committee on the occasion. M. Ashok, LB Nagar Working Journalists Federation Treasurer Parvathu Nambi, Advisor S. Kiran, Gilakathula Srinivas Goud, and Yakanna participated in the program.

Padma Desai Appointed as Vice President of Telangana Women's Wing of Head World Human Rights Council"



""(Kishore Vaddepalli) Uppal, September 29 – Indian Chronical-""Padma Desai, a resident of Tarnaka, Osmania University area in Telangana, has been appointed as the Vice President of the Telangana State Women's Wing of the Head World Human Rights Council, which operates in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The appointment order was issued by the organization's Chairman, Madhav. Speaking to the media on this occasion, Padma Desai expressed her gratitude, saying, "I thank Chairman Madhav for trusting me and appointing me as the State Women's Vice President. I also extend my thanks to National General Secretary Satish Devarakonda for his efforts in my appointment. ""She stated that she would do her best to contribute to the growth of the organization and stand by victims, providing them support. She emphasized her commitment to fighting for justice for victims and upholding human rights through the Head World Human Rights Council. ""Following her appointment, Padma Desai received congratulations and best wishes from the organization's members and prominent individuals from the community.

SCR GM LAUNCHES "DIGITAL LEVEL CROSSINGS MONITORING SYSTEM"

Hyderabad, Sept.29 (NSS):In a major digital push, South Central Railway general manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava today launched "SCR-LEMS (Level Crossings Elimination Monitoring System)" - a web and mobile platform enabling real-time tracking of level crossing elimination project. He lauded the in-house team for developing the application.Srivastava held a detailed review on train operations safety particularly Monsoon safety measures at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad here on Monday. The meeting, attended by Additional GM Satya Prakash, Principal Heads of Departments, and Divisional Railway Managers

of all six divisions via video conference, focused on monsoon-related risks.The GM reviewed vulnerable assets such as bridges, tunnels, road under bridges, flood-prone zones, and erosion-prone embankments. He instructed the officials to maintain emergency reserves of sand, ballast, cement and boulders, and stressed proactive field inspections, including footplate duties, during heavy rains for real-time assessment. He reiterated that any deficiencies observed during inspections must be addressed with urgency to uphold seamless train movement and passenger safety.

Government Whip Aleru MLA Birla Ailaiah and Birla Foundation Chairperson Birla Anitha performing special pujas at Goddess Durga's shrine "



""A view of Birla Foundation Chairman Birla Anitha performing special pujas at Goddess Durga's shrine in Peddakandikur. ""Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. September 29):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Birla Ailaiah and Birla Foundation Chairperson Birla Anitha performed special pujas at the Goddess Durga's shrine in Peddakandikur village of Yadagirigutta mandal of Yadadri



Bhuvanagiri district. They participated in the Annaprasadam program organized by Jammu Sai and served Annaprasadam to the devotees who came." Telangana State Government Whip MLA Beerla Aylaiah and Beerla Foundation Chairperson Beerla Anitha performed special pujas at the Durga Mata installed in Sriram Nagar in Yadagirigutta town. Earlier, the people of Sriram Nagar Colony welcomed MLA Beerla Aylaiah amidst Sannai Melam Bajantri.

Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah performed special pujas at Kurraram Lake

""Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. September 29):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah performed special pujas at Kurraram village lake in Rajapet mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. He said that for the last few years, the lake had been filled with water due to the collapse of the dam, and in this context, with the help of Beerla Ayilaiah, a dam was built with earth at the edge of the lake. He said that with this, the water will not flow out and the lake will become full of mud. On this occasion, Beerla Ayilaiah performed special pujas along with the villagers and farmers



Government Whip MLA Beerla Ayilaiah participated in the housewarming ceremony of Indiramma Illu



""Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. September 29):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah participated in the housewarming ceremony of Dandla Naresh Chandana Indiramma Illu in Raghavpuram village of Aleru mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. On this occasion, he handed over clothes and alms to the beneficiaries as promised. He wanted Indiramma Illu to be constructed in the constituency as soon as possible. He said that Indiramma Illu will be given to some more poor families in the second phase.

Parameshwar Reddy Participates in Special Puja During Devi Navaratri Celebrations"



""Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 29, Indian Chronicle-""As part of the Devi Navaratri festivities, Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Congress Party In-Charge of Uppal Constituency, visited the Maisamma Temple located on the Boppan Cheruvu embankment in HMDA Layout, Uppal. He performed special pujas and took part in an annadanam (food donation) program. ""Several local leaders and devotees joined the celebrations, including Lekala Anji Reddy, Nidhanakavi Sudhakar, Eega Santosh Mudiraj, Shameerpet Vinod Reddy, Shameerpet Rakesh Reddy, Suman Sharma, Tumala Devi Reddy, Ranganath Goud, Ramakant Reddy, Sunita, Pramod, Narasimha Reddy, Suresh, Bodiga Mallesh, Kasturi Tillu, Bheem Sen, Upender Ramana Reddy, Mohan Naik, Ganesh, Venkat Reddy, Subba Reddy, Chandra Reddy, Bhikshapati, Venkat Reddy, Damodar Reddy, Kondal Reddy, Rajitha, Reddigari Satti Reddy, Reddigari Sanjeev Reddy Reddy, Nagaraju, Sumalatha, Krishna Veni, Bharatamma, Sudha, Suvarna, Mallama, Jyothi, and many others.

Government Vippu, MLA Beerla Aylaiah joins Congress party in presence of Congress leader*

""Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..(Indian Chronicle..September 29) :- In Yadagirigutta town of Pallepahad village in Atmakur mandal, MLA Beerla Aylaiah from various parties joined Congress party in presence of Telangana State Government Whip MLA Beerla Aylaiah.

On this occasion, MLA Beerla Aylaiah invited them to join the party by covering them with a scarf. Among those who joined the party, Orsu Durgaiah, Saraiah, Nagaraju Samba, Ganesh, Naveen, Praveen, Machhagiri, Rajender, Shekhar, Chandu, Dasu Saraiah, and others joined Congress party.



"Prioritize Fitness to Safeguard Health," Urges Collector Pamela Satpathy on World Heart Day.



cal importance of incorporating regular physical activity into daily life to combat stress, anxiety, and chronic diseases. "Speaking at a free cardiac health camp organized by Rene Hospital at the District General Hospital, Karimnagar, on the occasion of World Heart Day, the Collector underscored the alarming surge in cardiovascular diseases and the need for proactive health management. "The camp featured free diagnostic services, including ECG, 2D Echo, and general heart screenings, benefiting around 140 individuals. Inaugurating the event, Ms. Satpathy highlighted the increasing incidence of cardiac ailments and called for enhanced public awareness on cardiac arrest response and CPR techniques. "Each individual must commit to at least 40 minutes of daily physical exercise or brisk walking to ensure long-term cardiovascular health," she advised. "Interacting with the patients, the Collector personally reviewed the medical screenings and commended the efforts of the medical personnel. She lauded Rene Hospital for their initiative in organizing the camp and extended her appreciation to the entire medical team for their service to the community. "Key officials present at the event included District Hospital Superintendent Dr. Veerareddy, RMOs Dr. Naveen and Dr. Sudhakar, Dr. Uday Aditya, and several other medical professionals from Rene Hospital.

"P.S.ASHOKAN"Indian Chronicle"Karimnagar, September 29 "Amid growing concerns over lifestyle-induced ailments, Collector Pamela Satpathy emphasized the criti-

Document writers should act responsibly in Sub-Registrar offices: Uppal MLA Bandi Laxma Reddy



"Narra Srinivas Reddy, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, Sept 29, Indian Chronicle: Uppal MLA Bandi Laxma Reddy stressed that document writers in Sub-Registrar offices must work with responsibility and provide proper service to both buyers and sellers of plots. On Monday, he inaugurated a document writers' office at the Kapra Sub-Registrar Office along with AS Rao Nagar Division Corporator Singireddy Sirisha Somashekar Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, he said that due to unnecessary delays and excuses made by staff, registration documents

are often kept pending for several days. As a result, buyers and sellers are forced to run around the offices, facing serious difficulties. He pointed out that people who want to sell their property due to family needs such as marriages or health expenses, and those who spend their lifetime savings to purchase property, are suffering greatly due to the slow process in Sub-Registrar offices. The event was attended by Charlapally Colonies Federation (CCS) President Empalli Padma Reddy, senior Congress leaders Kotha Anjireddy and Kasam Maipal Reddy, along with several journalists.

Former ex MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar participates in Navratri celebrations



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY, Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, Sept 29, Indian Chronicle: As part of Devi Navratri celebrations, special pujas were held at Sri Lakshmi Chennakesava Swamy Temple in Kapra and at Sri Vijayadurga Malleshwara Temple in Jai Jawan Colony. Former Uppal ex MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar attended the program along with his family, following an invitation from

the temple committees. BJP Medchal-Malkajgiri Urban district secretary Ambati Venkatachalam, district executive member G.V.N. Rao, Dr. A.S. Rao Nagar division president Tummala Sandhya Narsireddy, general secretary K. Uma Sridhar, Kapra division president Shantikiran, Narsireddy, Erra Srinivas, Anand, and temple committee members also participated in the program.

Gram Panchayats.. Municipalities should deposit 8 percent of the house taxes collected in libraries in the PD account:-



Secretary M.Sudheer participated in this program. Speaking at the event, District Additional Collector Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao directed that 8 percent of the library cess collected from the house taxes collected by Gram Panchayats and Municipalities should be deposited in the PD account of the libraries.

PRCI, Hyderabad receives awards at 19th Global Conclave of PRCI

Hyderabad, Sept.29 The Public Relations Council of India (PRCI), a pan-India communication exchange forum with Chapters across the country and internationally held its 19th Global Conclave, Panjim, Goa on September 26 and 27. The PRCI, Hyderabad chapter received the coveted "Best administration and Governance Award" at the National level, signifying remarkable achievement of the Executive Committee which has Shakeel Ahmed as Chairman, Aneja as Vice Chairperson, Philip Joshua as Secretary, Jacob Ross as Joint Secretary and Noel Robinson as treasurer.

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Local Bodies Collector Bhaskara Rao "Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. September 29):- The District Library Society Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Level Library Cess Review Meeting was held in the chamber of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Local Bodies Collector Bhaskara Rao on Monday. The District Audit Officer, District Panchayat Office Officer, Municipal Commissioners, Bhuvanagiri, Aleru, Yadagirigutta, Motkur, Chautuppala, Pochampally, and District Library Society

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao wants doctors to provide better treatment to patients coming to government hospitals



"Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. September 29):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that

doctors should provide better treatment to patients coming to government hospitals. "On Monday, the District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the village hospital in Vadaparathi village of Bhuvanagiri mandal.. "The MLHP and the staff asked whether the staff were coming to the village hospital every day. They found out how many people were coming to the hospital every day. They asked if there were any cases of toxic fever in the village. They asked how many deliveries had taken place in the last month within the limits of this village hospital and where they had taken place." How many EDDs are there this month, are they coming for regular checkups, should they talk to pregnant women regularly on the phone, and should encourage them for normal delivery from now on? Later, the Collector inspected Indiramma House in Vada Parthi village. "He asked how many houses have been sanctioned in the village and how many are under construction. Is their construction work progressing at a fast pace? He wanted to see that the construction work of Indiramma House is expedited. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Dussehra bonus to 91 porters and 5 sweepers working in the Civil Supplies Corporation Godam:-

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Revenue Additional Collector G. Veera Reddy "Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. September 29):- On Monday, in honor of the Dussehra festival, District Revenue Additional Collector G. Veera Reddy said that 91 porters and 5 sweepers working in the Civil Supplies Corporation Godam in the district were given a Dussehra bonus of ₹7500/- each and sweet boxes worth ₹900/- each. Similarly, 2 pairs of clothes were given to each porter and 2 pairs of saris to sweepers on the occasion of Dussehra festival. In this program, District Manager D. Harikrishna, office staff K. Ganesh, and porters participated.



Orders to officials to resolve applications received in Prajavani quickly:-



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao "Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. September 29):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao has ordered the concerned officials to resolve applications received in Prajavani quickly. On Monday, at the Prajavani program held at the Collectorate Conference Hall, 31 applications were received from people of various areas, along with the District Collector, District Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy and Local Bodies Collector Bhaskara Rao.



Out of which, 25 were received by the Revenue Department, one each by the District Panchayat, Municipality, Survey Land, Housing, Medical and District Rural Development Departments. He instructed the concerned officials to immediately examine the applications received by various departments and resolve the problems of the people. District Revenue Officer Jayamma, District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy, Housing PD Vijaya Singh, district officials of various departments participated in this program.

Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen attends Dandiya event as Chief Guest at Uppal Municipal Grounds



"Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 29 — Indian Chronicle: "At the Dandiya event organized by Mystic Live Events at the Uppal Municipal Grounds, prominent guests included Chilkannagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj and other local leaders. The event was arranged by Mystic Live Events coordinator and friend, Telakala Sujith. "Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha

Praveen said that Sujith and his wife had organized the Dandiya event in a grand and joyful atmosphere. She appreciated how youth from Uppal and surrounding areas participated enthusiastically in the celebration. "She further stated that she would continue to extend her full support as a corporator for such events in the future and encouraged Sujith and his team to organize such programs every year. She concluded by conveying her advance greetings for Bathukamma and Dussehra to everyone present

BRS LEADER JAGADISH ALLEGES METRO SCAM

Hyderabad, Sept.29 :Former Minister and BRS leader Jagadish Reddy on Monday criticised Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, saying he had 'no vision for the future' and was misleading people with talk of a 'future city'. A massive real estate scam took place in the state, he alleged while referring to exit of L&T company from Metro rail project.

Talking to newsmen, Jagadish claimed that L&T was forced out of the Hyderabad metro rail project under a

'scheme' that earned profits of Rs 1,000 crore while burdening the public with Rs 15,000 crore. Assets worth Rs 35,000 crore was being tied up with a 'mega company' thereby making the metro inaccessible to citizens, he charged. The BRS leader mocked the CM's plans for developing a 'Fourth City' where there are no houses, no people, no settlements, and sarcastically asked if Revanth Reddy would travel with AP CM Chandrababu Naidu to Amaravati 'on the same train'.

From the door of a mausoleum to artwork adorning the wall of a tea shop: How MF Husain left his imprint on Ahmedabad



GNS News Agency, Sept 29

“Paun mein chappal nahin pehenneka...pehle mere haath milave, phir mere hotel mein jaave, ek chai peeneke aur ek gakhar khaneke, bas! Meine kaha, ‘Husain saab, ek sign toh kar do’; Aur unhone note pe ‘MF Husain’ sign kiya (He would not wear slippers, would shake my hand first, then head to my eatery, have a cup of tea and a gakhar [a thick roti dunked in ghee]. I requested him to sign for me and he did).”It may have been almost two decades since M F Husain went into exile, and 15 years since his demise, but Khozemabhai Khambhati, who runs a store selling sundry items – from socks and trinkets to tea and biscuits – in the Saraspur area of Ahmedabad remembers the legendary painter’s visits to his modest establishment like it was yesterday.

Around four white tables whose laminated tops have paled, bottles of packaged water, a few loaves of bread, biscuit cartons, and a host of instructions on the walls make up this ‘hotel’ that Husain frequented some 20-25 years ago.Husain’s main destination, though, was the mausoleum of the Sulaimani spiritual head situated next door.Lucky tea stall which Husain frequented. Lucky tea stall which Husain frequented (Express photo/Bhupendra Rana)“Husain saab came here and found peace (sukoon),” Salim Sulaimani, one of the custodians of the mausoleum who often met Husain, who would have turned 110 Ahmedabad-based art curator Anil Relia, who has a personal collection of Husain’s works, remembers how the duo would stop by at Saraspur, a former textile mill hub in the city, where Husain would get a “long brass key from a custodian and we would go to the mausoleum where on turning the key seven times, each with a clicking sound, the wooden door would open and Husain would go inside and pray as I sat outside”.Husain designed a door made of silver with gold inscriptions that replaced the wooden one that opens to the mausoleum of Syed Sulaiman Bin Hassan, the spiritual leader of Sulaimani Bohras – the community to which the artist belonged, says Relia.

The spiritual leader’s mausoleum, located in the expansive Mazar-e-Qutbi premise, is just a small part of Husain’s engagement with Ahmedabad.Relia has editions of Husain’s rare drawings from the 1970s on the old city of Ahmedabad on its monuments like the Teen Darwaza, the iconic Raipur Bhajiya house, the pol neighbourhoods, and the everyday life captured in line art in black ink on paper.

The set of around 20-25 sepia-tone drawings, which remain a part of Husain’s lesser-known works, capture details like the signboard of a readymade cloth store with the footnote in Gujarati: ‘Stitched and full dhots available’.

Another one on the city’s famous bhajiya (pakora) house in Raipur area captures a slogan: ‘Kathor parishramno koi vikalp nathi (there is no substitute for hard work)’ in Gujarati. The one on Panch Hatdi ni pol in old Ahmedabad has the tailor sitting on the sewing machine at ‘Omkar tailoring’ sipping tea from a saucer; signboards of ‘National Cricket Club’ and a yuvak mandal visible from the pol gates, with people going about daily chores — typical to life in the gated neighbourhoods of Ahmedabad. One painting, of a couple on a bullock cart, has a date — 21 November, 1976, even as most of these works bear Husain’s signature in Gujarati.“He brought them to me around 2002; the paper, even at that time, had yellowed with age. He wished to compile them in a document that remained unfinished,” says Relia. It was at Relia’s doorstep that Husain’s search for a graphic artist to print the frames of the Madhuri Dixit-starrer Gaja Gaminii had ended in the mid-1990s. The film was released in 2000.Pritzker prize-winning architect Balkrishna Doshi had introduced Husain to Relia, forging a bond that would last a lifetime.By then, in 1992, the two greats had collaborated to build the Husain-Doshi Gufa adjacent to the CEPT University. Doshi designed the unique underground cave-like mosaic tile-finished structure, compliant with weather conditions of the city, and Husain painted its internal roof and walls with his signature bold and colourful human forms, animal motifs and horses. According to Relia, Husain took a call to rename the gufa to Amdavad-ni-Gufa.

In 1996, the gufa was vandalised by Bajrang Dal activists protesting works of Husain on deities. “He was least worried about the loss of his work as much as he was about the harm to people working at the gufa and asked me to ensure they were taken care of,” Relia tells. “He was someone who believed in taking everyone along,” says the art collector who took charge of the gufa in 1997.Some five kilometres away from Saraspur was another favourite haunt of Husain – the Lucky Tea Stall, right opposite the 16th-century Sidi Sayed Mosque known for its stone filigree windows.Built around a graveyard, this tea stall, whose owner belonged to Kerala, has “tables arranged around 26 graves”, says an employee of 16 years, refusing to identify himself. “Husain came here to have tea, and gave the owner this painting in 2004,” he says, pointing at the artwork. The busy place now also serves meals in a section that has 24 of the graves, and a neem tree growing from its centre. The tea and maska bun is served in the adjoining section with the remaining two graves, all surrounded by a steel frame.It was at Relia’s house that Husain decided to paint for the Lucky restaurant owner — the process preserved in a set of photographs that the art curator took. Husain, whom Relia addressed as ‘Baba’ (father) would frequent Lucky along with Doshi, another well-known artist, Amit Ambalal, and others during those days, recalls Relia.

The maternal side of Husain’s family was from Sidhpur in Patan and Husain began coming to Ahmedabad as a six-year-old. He was sent to a madrasa in Vadodara to study but then took to painting.Awarded a Padma Vibhushan in 1991, Husain went into exile in 2006, following the controversy over his work, and spent time between Qatar, Dubai and London. When he passed away on June 9, 2011, Relia, who was in London working on a project with him, bid his final adieu to the celebrated artist at the Brookwood Cemetery in Surrey, London.

Rajasthan man’s legs broken by goons for ‘raising water issue on Instagram’, he blames local MLA



GNS News Agency, Sept 29

A 20-year-old man in Rajasthan’s Chittorgarh alleged that he was assaulted and had his legs broken by goons for raising water woes in his area on Instagram account.In his police complaint, Suraj Mali also named local BJP MLA Arjun Lal Jingar, accusing him of being behind the attack. Jingar, while not directly responding to the allegation, said the attack on Mali was “highly condemnable and will not be tolerated in any form”.

In his police complaint, Mali, a resident of Kapasan in Chittorgarh, said that after completing his shift, he was returning from his factory at around 5.15 pm on Monday and headed to his home in Kapasan.He said that on the way, a white Scorpio car stopped in front of his bike on the highway, and 6-7 people stepped out and started assaulting him with iron rods and pipes. Mali said that they started threatening him by saying “tu roz roz paani ki baaat karta hai, aaj tuihe maar kar pani mein phenk denge (You talk of water daily, we will kill you and throw you in water).”Naming local BJP MLA Arjun Lal Jingar in his complaint, Mali said that the MLA was behind the assault, claiming that he had earlier been threatened at the MLA’s behest for uploading videos saying “ye video banakar daalega toh tera ilaaj ho jaayega (You will be taught a lesson if you upload such videos).”He said that the men who assaulted him also threatened his friend, Uday Lal Bhil, who was with him, telling him to run off or be killed. He claimed that the men said they would teach a lesson to anyone who dares to raise the water issue.Mali’s friend, Om Prakash, told The Indian Express, “He told me they wanted to kidnap him and tried to put him in the car, but he held on to his friend (Uday Lal) and didn’t

let go. So, they took out rods and sticks and beat him then and there. As vehicles stopped and with people around, they left in a hurry.” Following his assault, Mali was referred from Chittorgarh to Udaipur, where he was brought late on Monday.Following his complaint, the local police have lodged an FIR under sections of BNS for attempt to murder, rioting, wrongful restraint, voluntarily causing hurt, voluntarily causing grievous hurt, and unlawful assembly.Ratan Singh, SHO of Kapasan police station, said an FIR was lodged against unknown persons and that the police have recorded the statements of some witnesses. “Suraj was riding pillion on the motorcycle while his friend (Uday Lal) was driving it,” the SHO said, adding that no one has been detained as yet.

Prakash said that Mali “had been making videos for a couple of months. Some days ago, the company where he works told him that there’s pressure on them and that he should stop making and posting videos.



Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle... September 29):- Turkapalli Mandal RMP Dr. Ambati Chenna Kishtayya's mother Shivaratnamma passed away due to illness. On Monday evening, Telangana State Government Whip MLA Beerla Ayilayya visited the body of the late Shivaratnamma and garlanded her and paid tributes.

Plans afoot to kickstart Delhi govt’s first General Pool Residential Accommodation project in Baharpur



GNS News Agency, Sept 29

In a first for the Delhi government, a General Pool Residential Accommodation (GPRA) project is set to start on a pilot basis in South East Delhi’s Bahapur area where the government owns a land parcel measuring around four acres, said officials. Under the project, the government is planning to construct over 100 quarters for senior bureaucrats under a public-private partnership (PPP) model.At present, the Centre is already undertaking a GPRA project under the PPP model to construct high-rise buildings to accommodate senior bureaucrats and officials working with the Delhi government. However, the Delhi government is exploring such a project for the first time. Officials said that the Public Works Department (PWD) recently inspected the land and submitted a proposal for a nod from the higher authorities. After receiving the approval, the PWD will float tenders to appoint a consultancy firm to prepare a detailed project report (DPR).“The appointed engineers visited and inspected the area and measured the size of the vacant land available. The land size is 16,000 square metres, which is around 4 acres. We have prepared the Notice Inviting Tender (NIT), which will soon be floated after receiving clear-

ance from the government,” said an official.Officials said the PWD plans to develop more than 100 high-end quarters, of which 96 will be Type-V, 26 Type-VI, and 10 Type-VII. The categories are designated according to the rankings of the officials. This will be based on a “sharing of built-up quarters on a lease basis for up to 99 years”.“The objective is to unlock government land value through sustainable urban development, promote mixed-income housing solutions, and attract private capital and expertise for efficient projects through a transparent sharing model,” said a senior official.Officials added that the PWD also aims to identify and select a bidder capable of adopting aesthetically appealing, innovative, futuristic ideas and cost-effective green technologies. The proposal should preferably feature an energy-efficient design that maximises natural light, with the goal of minimizing maintenance expenditure.“Once appointed, the selected bidder will also study the feasibility and prepare a detailed plan, including the number of towers that can be constructed and whether office space can be developed.

As the government wants the project to be completely on a PPP model, the bidder will also plan for retail and commercial complexes to recover the project’s cost,” the official said.Last month, the government selected several other residential and office spaces under the PWD and presented them to the National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) for the development of Type-VII residential quarters, office buildings, and commercial projects under the PPP model.Officials said the government plans to involve NBCC in preparing a PPP proposal for the redevelopment of seven government colonies under the PWD. The seven locations selected for redevelopment to optimise land use are: Probyn Road, Timarpur, Gulabi Bagh, Sindhora Khurd and Sindhora Kalan, Kalyanvas, Vikas Bhawan-I,

Maoists announce temporary suspension of armed struggle, await govt response

GNS News Agency, Sept 29

Raipur: The outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), in a purported statement, has announced a temporary suspension of its armed struggle to facilitate peace talks, but has asked the government to declare a one-month ‘ceasefire’ and halt security operations to initiate the process.Reacting to the development, the Chhattisgarh government said it is verifying the authenticity of the statement, which surfaced on social media on Tuesday.

In the purported statement issued by Maoists, the rebels have appealed to the government to share their decision on the issue via Internet and government news media, including radio.The two-page statement, dated August 15, was issued in the name of Abhay, a spokesperson of central committee of Maoists, and came nearly four months after the killing of Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, general of secretary of the CPI (Maoist), in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh’s Bastar region.Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma, who holds the home portfolio, told reporters that the authenticity of the statement was being verified and the best way for Maoists is to surrender and avail rehabilitation benefits.The term ‘ceasefire’ is highly objectionable as there is no war like situation that requires one. In a democracy, talks cannot be conditional, yet once again, they have set preconditions. However, after verifying the statement, discussions will be held within the government, he said.The Maoists, in the statement said, they had proposed ceasefire to the government earlier, asking for one month’s time to consult with the highest leadership comrades of the outfit.But unfortunately, the central government did not express its favorable stand on it. Rather, it has further intensified its operations, it said.“To take for-



ward the process of peace talks that was started on the initiative of the party’s general secretary (Late Basavaraju), we are making it clear that in view of the changed global and national circumstances, as well as the continuous requests being made by the country’s Prime Minister, Home Minister and senior police officers to give up arms and join the mainstream, we have decided to shun arms,” it said.“We have decided to declare a temporary halt to the armed struggle. We are making it clear that in the future, we will fight shoulder to shoulder with all political parties and organizations fighting for the public cause as far as possible”, it added.The CPI (Maoist) offered direct talks with the Centre.“We are ready to talk to the Union Home Minister or persons appointed by him or a delegation on this issue. But we will have to inform the party about our changed opinion. Therefore, our request to the Central Government is to give us one month to consult with our comrades working in different states across the country and those imprisoned,” it

Saddula Bathukamma Celebrated Grandly at Dammaiguda Journalist Colony““

“Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Keesara, Sept 29, Indian Chronicle: The residents of Dammaiguda Journalist Colony organized Saddula Bathukamma celebrations on Monday in a grand manner. Women of all age groups gathered at the colony center, singing traditional Bathukamma songs and performing dances around the floral arrangements. On this occasion, District Mahila Congress General Secretary Merugu Sunitha said that Bathukamma is a true representation of Telangana’s culture and traditions. She expressed happiness that the festival has received official recognition as a state festival and is now celebrated with great pomp across Telangana. She also appreciated the state government’s efforts, noting that the Bathukamma celebrations held at Saroor Nagar were entered into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Women from the colony including Ananda, Santoshi,



Latha, Suvarna, Lakshmi, Aruna, Saraswathi, Ananya, Sahaja, Radhika, Deekshitha, Sathya, Bhavishya, Renuka, Pallavi, Sravani, and Padma actively took part in the celebrations.

MRO Office Junior Assistant Who Acquired Government Land“

““Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas.September, 29.”““Allegations are being made against Durgam Janaiah, Junior Assistant of Rebbena MRO Office, that he has illegally acquired government land in Kishtapur village of Rebbena mandal, is also taking Rythu Bandhu, Rythu Bharosa, and is also taking ration cards along with ration goods. Durgam Srinivas has filed a complaint with the Asifabad Collector in this regard. He said on Sunday that details are being collected through RTI.

taking Bathukamma with their children for immersion during the Bathukamma celebrations at his residence in MLA Kotars in Hyderabad.



Masood Azhar’s family ‘torn into pieces’ in India’s Operation Sindoor in Pakistan: JeM commander



GNS News Agency, Sept 29

A Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) commander has admitted that the family of the terror group’s chief Masood Azhar was “torn into pieces” in the Indian missile strikes on May 7 on the outfit’s headquarters in Bahawalpur, Pakistan.In a viral video uploaded to a YouTube channel on Tuesday (September 16, 2025), JeM commander Ilyas Kashmiri can be heard fuming over the Indian attack that killed the family members of Azhar during Operation Sindoor and also bragging about fighting in neighbouring countries for Pakistan.Kashmiri is reportedly speaking in Urdu at the Mission Mustafa Conference in Pakistan’s Punjab province on September 6.

Standing among several gun-wielding men, he said: “To protect the ideological and geographical boundaries of this country, we hit [wage a jihad in] Delhi, Kabul and Kandhar. And after sacrificing everything, on May 7,

Maulana Masood Azhar’s family members in Bahawalpur were torn into pieces [in Indian strikes].”Tensions between India and Pakistan soared after terrorists killed 26 people, mostly civilians, in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam on April 22.In a powerful retaliation to the Pahalgam massacre, Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on the terror targets, including Bahawalpur, a stronghold of the JeM terror group, on May 7 as part of Operation Sindoor.A statement attributed to Azhar had said that India’s attack on Jamia Masjid Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur, some 400-km from Lahore, resulted in the death of 10 of his family members and four close associates.Those killed included Azhar’s elder sister and her husband, a nephew and his wife, another niece, and five children from his extended family.

The statement further mentioned that the attack also claimed the lives of one of Azhar’s close associates and his mother, along with two other close companions.The Pakistan Army generals, senior police officers, and top bureaucrats had attended the funerals of those killed in Indian strikes.Bahawalpur became the hub of the JeM after the release of Azhar in exchange for the hijacked passengers of IC-814 in 1999.In May 2019, the United Nations designated Azhar a “global terrorist” after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist the JeM chief, a decade after New Delhi approached the world body for the first time on the issue.The elusive Azhar, who has not been seen in public since April 2019, is believed to be hiding in a “safe place” in Bahawalpur.The group has been involved in a series of terror attacks in India, including the Parliament attack in 2001, the strike on the Jammu and Kashmir assembly in 2000, the attack on the IAF base in Pathankot in 2016 and the Pulwama suicide bombing in 2019.

China urges U.S. & Japan to withdraw Typhon missile system

GNS News Agency, Sept 29

China urged Tokyo and Washington on Tuesday (September 16, 2025) to withdraw the U.S.-developed Typhon missile system, after it was unveiled in Japan for the first time during joint military exercises.Japan and the United States began the “Resolute Dragon” military drills on Thursday, and they will last until September 25. Tokyo’s Defence Ministry said on X.Japan’s Self-Defense Forces confirmed that the missile system had been showcased for the first time in the country over the course of the exercises, though it said the weapon would not be fired.Beijing’s Foreign Ministry on Tuesday called on the United States and Japan to “promptly withdraw” the missile system.

“The United States and Japan, disregarding China’s solemn concerns, have insisted on deploying the Typhon mid-range missile system in Japan under the pretext of joint exercises,” spokesman Lin Jian told reporters at a regular briefing.“China expresses strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to this,” he added.



The United States’ Typhon missile system is part of the army’s long-range precision strike “modernisation portfolio”, according to an April report on the U.S. Naval Institute’s website.The system “leverages existing Raytheon-produced SM-6 missiles and Raytheon-produced Tomahawk cruise missiles and modifies them for ground launch”, it added.It is “a truck-based, trailer-loaded system that is able to be employed throughout rugged and austere positions”, U.S. Colonel Wade Germann told reporters Monday at an air station in the Japanese city of Iwakuni.“The deterrent against armed attacks can be enhanced as the security environment surrounding Japan becomes increasingly severe,” a spokesperson for Japan’s Self-Defense Forces told AFP.Typhon was deployed in the northern Philippines in 2024 for annual joint exercises.In December, Manila angered Beijing when it said it planned to acquire the system in a push to secure its maritime interests.“The United States’ deployment of the Typhon system in Asian countries... heightens the risk of a regional arms race and military confrontation, and poses a substantive threat to regional strategic security,” Lin said

Charlie Kirk killing suspect Tyler Robinson charged with aggravated murder, weapon, obstruction offences



GNS News Agency, Sept 29

Tyler Robinson, the man accused of assassinating conservative activist Charlie Kirk at a Utah University, was charged on Tuesday (September 16, 2025) with aggravated murder.The charge means Robinson could face the death penalty if convicted of killing Kirk last week at Utah Valley University in Orem, about 64 km south of Salt Lake City.“The murder of Charlie Kirk is an American tragedy,” Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray said in announcing the charges. He said Robinson’s DNA was found on trigger of the gun used to kill Kirk.

Kirk was gunned down on September 10 as he spoke with students and died soon after. Prosecutors allege Robinson shot Kirk in the neck with a bolt-action rifle from the roof of a nearby campus building.A Utah Valley University police officer was watching the crowd from an “elevated position” and identified the roof of the Losee Center as a potential position for a shooter, Mr. Gray said. The officer found evidence on the roof immediately, he said, and spurred officers to direct their attention to surveillance video leading to the roof.Robinson, 22, also was charged with felony discharge of a firearm, punishable by up to life in prison, and obstructing justice, punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

He was scheduled to appear on camera for a virtual court hearing Tuesday (September 16, 2025) afternoon.It was unclear whether Robinson had an attorney who could speak on his behalf, and his family has declined to comment to The Associated Press.Robinson was arrested late Thursday (September 11, 2025) near St. George, the southern Utah community where he grew up.

Investigators have spoken to Robinson’s relatives and carried out a search warrant at his family’s home in Washington, Utah, about 390 km southwest of where the shooting happened.Kirk, a dominant figure in conservative politics, became a confidant of President Donald Trump after founding Arizona-based Turning Point USA, one of the nation’s largest political organisations.He brought young, conservative evangelical Christians into politics. His shooting raised fears about increasing political violence in a deeply polarised United States.While authorities say Robinson hasn’t been cooperating with investigators, they say his fam-

ily and friends have been talking. Utah Governor Spencer Cox said over the weekend that those who know Robinson say his politics shifted left in recent years and he spent a lot of time in the “dark corners of the internet”.FBI Director Kash Patel said Monday

Parameshwar Reddy Participates in Special Pujas at Velgugutta Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple during Devi Navaratri Celebrations



“– Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 29 | Indian Chronicle”“On the occasion of Devi Navaratri, Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Congress Party In-Charge of Uppal Constituency, participated in special pujas and visited the presiding deity at the Velgugutta Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple in Habsiguda. As part of the celebrations, he also took part in the Annadanam (community meal) program organized at the temple premises.”The event witnessed the presence of several key leaders and devotees. Among them were Velgugutta Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple Chairman Janni Raghu Kuruma, Gannaram Vijay Kumar, Peta Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Srikanth Reddy, Ramesh Reddy, Jangayya Kuruma, and senior Congress leaders Kandi Aagi Reddy, Bopanapalli Sudhakar Reddy, Ganesh Naik, Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy, Valapu Srikanth Yadav, Dharmender Naik, Babu Rao, Kishan Naik, Mallu Naik, Rajanna, Vasu Naik, Sumanth Naik, Ravi Kumar, and others.”The festive atmosphere at the temple was marked by devotion and community participation, reflecting the spiritual significance of Navaratri in the region.

At UNHRC, India condemns violation of Qatar’s sovereignty



GNS News Agency, Sept 29

India on defended Qatar’s sovereignty at the U.N. Human Rights Council. Addressing a session in the UNHRC in Geneva, Government of India’s Permanent Representative Arindam Bagchi referred to the September 9 Israeli bombing of Doha and said India “unequivocally” condemns the attack on Qatar.

“India is deeply concerned about the recent attacks in Doha and their impact on the security situation in the region. We unequivocally condemn the violation of the sovereignty of Qatar. Such actions threaten peace, stability, and security not only in the region but across the world,” said Mr. Bagchi in his statement, which, however, did not name Israel. India’s reiteration of its position on the Israeli strike on Qatar came days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi

said he called Qatar’s ruler Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani and said, “India condemns the violation of the sovereignty of the brotherly state of Qatar. We support resolution of issues through dialogue and diplomacy, and avoiding escalation.” In a first Indian response, the Ministry of External Affairs, in a statement, had noted the “Israeli strikes” on September 9, saying India is “deeply concerned by this development.”Mr. Bagchi highlighted the importance of sovereignty in international affairs and said, “India firmly believes that differences must be resolved peacefully through dialogue and diplomacy, in full conformity with the principles of the UN Charter and international law. Any escalation must be avoided, and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States must be upheld.”On September 9, Israel struck targets in Doha which host the negotiating team of Hamas, including Khaled Meshal, top political leader of Hamas. Qatar subsequently intensified international outreach and hosted an emergency Arab-Islamic summit on September 15 which was attended by heads of states and representatives of 57 member-countries of the OIC (Organisation of Islamic Cooperation). Following the summit, OIC said the attack was an attempt to disrupt the Qatar’s role to bring an end to the war in Gaza. “The leaders valued the vital role that Qatar continues to play in mediation efforts in the region, and emphasised that the aggression against Qatari territory represents a serious escalation and a desperate Israeli attempt to undermine Qatari diplomatic efforts to achieve peace,” said Youssef Al-Dobey, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs of the OIC.

Making health care safe for every Indian

the world observes World Patient Safety Day. This is a reminder that the basic promise of health care continues to elude us. Globally, estimates show that one in 10 patients experience harm while receiving care during hospitalisation, and this number rises to four in 10 in outpatient care.For India, where the burden of disease is rapidly shifting to chronic conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and mental health disorders, the challenge is especially urgent. These conditions demand long-term frequent treatment, creating more points where safety lapses can occur. In acute care, where the complexity of treatment requires multiple specialities to come together, medical harm happens when there is insufficient coordination.Many faces of patient harm

Patients are usually vulnerable in more complex situations, such as hospital-acquired infections, blood clots, or even unsafe injection or transfusion practices. However, patient harm can also show up in everyday situations, such as unintentional prescription of inappropriate medicine combinations, delayed diagnoses, or preventable falls.Hospitals across India are placing higher standards on delivery, by instituting quality audits, developing protocols, running staff trainings, and strengthening infection control alongside patient safety. In practice though, systems designed to protect patients are still vulnerable to breakdowns. From the health care provider’s side, doctors, nurses, and staff often operate under extreme pressure. Staff attrition, heavy patient loads, long shifts, and inadequate staffing mean that even when they want to engage fully with every patient, time and fatigue become serious constraints. In India, unsafe care persists because of a two-way gap — overburdened providers and passive uninformed patients hesitant to ask questions. Closing this gap requires shifting mindsets, where patients must be empowered to become active partners in care, and health care systems must welcome and enable their participation.A shared responsibility

Patient safety cannot rest on the shoulders of doctors and nurses alone. Families and patients themselves play a vital role, by asking questions, maintaining personal health records, reporting adverse drug reactions, and following safe practices at home, including not self-medicating.In recent years, India has taken important steps to build this ecosystem. The National Patient Safety Implementation Framework (2018–2025) lays out a roadmap, from adverse event reporting to embedding safety into clinical programs. Professional networks like the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India monitor and report adverse drug reactions nationwide. The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) has raised benchmarks for patient safety by auditing and embedding practices for infection control, patient rights, and medication management. Yet far less than 5% of hospitals in India have earned full accreditation.

Civil society has also stepped up. The Patient Safety & Access Initiative of India Foundation works on strengthening regulatory clarity of medical devices. Another non-profit, the Patients for Patient Safety Foundation reaches 14 lakh households weekly on safe health practices. It also equips over 1,100 hospitals and 52,000 professionals.This responsibility can extend further to the media to shape pub-



lic understanding by highlighting both failures and successful safety models. Higher education institutions can build safety awareness early; corporates can extend workplace programs and fund safety campaigns through CSR. Even technology innovators have a role by designing workflows that flag harmful drug interactions or aid communication during care.The WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan provides a blueprint for integrating safety into all levels of health care systems. One proven mechanism is the establishment of Patient Advisory Councils (PACs) to bring patient voices into hospital decision-making. Case studies from high-income countries show PACs improving safety, communication and trust. India can pilot and scale this model, adapting them to local realities.

As India approaches the final stretch of the National Patient Safety Implementation Framework (2018–2025), governments must renew focus, mobilise resources, incorporate patient safety into medical and nursing education, and close the gap between policy and practice. Hospitals, too, must rise to the challenge, by meeting accreditation standards, embracing PACs, and co-developing technology solutions for catching errors early.This year’s focus on safe care for every newborn and every child reminds us that we need to safeguard care from the very first breath of life.True patient safety requires integrated action across the entire ecosystem. We need to move beyond isolated efforts and build a national patient safety movement. On this World Patient Safety Day, let us make this a shared mission, with governments, hospitals, patients, and civil society working together to make safe care an everyday reality of health care in India.With inputs from Som Mittal, Chairperson, Patients for Patient Safety Foundation (PPPSF), former Chairperson Nasscom and Nadira Chaturvedi, Co-Chairperson, PPPSF

Trump’s threats against ‘radical left’ after Kirk killing spark fears of crackdown on dissent

GNS News Agency, Sept 29

Washington: President Donald Trump is escalating threats to crack down on what he describes as the “radical left” following Charlie Kirk’s assassination, stirring fears that his administration is trying to harness outrage over the killing to suppress political opposition.Without establishing any link to last week’s shooting, the Republican president and members of his administration have discussed classifying some groups as domestic terrorists, ordering racketeering investigations and revoking tax-exempt status for progressive nonprofits.The White House pointed to Indivisible, a progressive activist network, and the Open Society Foundations, founded by George Soros, as potential subjects of scrutiny.Although administration officials insist that their focus is preventing violence, critics see an extension of Trump’s campaign of retribution against his political enemies and an erosion of free speech rights.Any moves to weaken liberal groups could also shift the political landscape ahead of next year’s midterm elections, which will determine control of Congress and statehouses across the country.“The radical left has done tremendous damage to the country,” Trump told reporters on Tuesday morning when leaving for a state visit to the United Kingdom. “But we’re fixing it.” Trump has sometimes made similar threats without following through. But now there’s renewed interest fuelled by anger over the killing of Kirk, a conservative activist who was a prominent supporter of Trump and friends with many of his advisers.White House blames “terrorist networks” Authorities said they believe the suspect in Kirk’s assassination acted alone, and they charged him with murder on Tuesday.However, administration officials have repeatedly made sweeping statements about the need for broader investigations and punishments related to Kirk’s



death.Attorney General Pam Bondi blamed “left-wing radicals” for the shooting and said “they will be held accountable.” Stephen Miller, a top policy adviser, said there was an “organised campaign that led to this assassination.” Miller’s comments came during a conversation with Vice President JD Vance, who was guest-hosting Kirk’s talk show from his ceremonial office in the White House on Monday.Miller said he was feeling “focused, righteous anger,” and “we are going to channel all of the anger” as they work to “uproot and dismantle these terrorist networks” by using “every resource we have.” Vance blamed “crazies on the far left” for saying the White House would “go after constitutionally protected speech.”Instead, he said, “We’re going to go after the NGO network that foments, facilitates and engages in violence.” Asked for examples, the White House pointed to demonstrations where police officers and federal agents have been injured, as well as the distribution of goggles and face masks during protests over immigration enforcement in Los Angeles.

Modi and leadership



As Prime Minister Narendra Modi turns 75 on September 17, the question worth asking is not about his electoral longevity or political craft. Rather, the question should be what explains his resonance with India's people, across divides of geography, languages, class, and generation? Why does his leadership feel larger than the immediate churn of day-to-day politics? The answer, I believe, lies in qualities that are timeless. They are the very traits by which history remembers its great. History remembers those who build nations, not those who merely govern. Take for example Abraham Lincoln. His greatness lies not only in preserving the Union but in his moral clarity against slavery, even when it risked tearing America apart. Mr. Modi's nation-building project is cast in a similar mould: decisions that may appear disruptive in the short run but are designed for the long arc of India's rise. Whether abrogating Article 370, bringing in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or restructuring taxation through the Goods and Service Tax, his purpose has always been long-term nation building. Leaders who change nations often do so while ignoring the personal risk. Franklin D. Roosevelt, faced with the Great Depression, defied orthodoxy with the New Deal. Mr. Modi, too, has umpteen times defied electoral compulsions for larger national purpose, perhaps most vividly during demonetisation in November 2016. Every electoral instinct advised against such a major upheaval just three months before the crucial Uttar Pradesh 2017 Assembly election. The possibility of things going wrong was most severe in a poor State like Uttar Pradesh. Yet Mr. Modi took the risk. It underlined an eternal leadership trait: the willingness to stake personal standing for what one believes to be the larger national good.

Every great leader also carries a vision larger than themselves. Chandragupta Maurya imagined a subcontinental empire; Shivaji sowed the seeds of Hindavi Swaraj. Mr. Modi's articulation of a "New India" resonates in this lineage. The contours of his vision are clear: an India that is self-confident, technologically modern, rooted in civilisational depth, and unwilling to settle for a subordinate place in world affairs. Such visions galvanise societies not only by policy but by altering the imagination of the people of what is possible. Leadership is also about reshaping character. Sport offers a powerful analogy. The Indian cricket team of the

2000s shed its hesitancy and embraced self-belief and a victorious attitude; the result was not just world titles on the field but shift in the dynamics of cricket world itself. Mr. Modi's leadership has nudged India in a similar way. A nation once too ready to accept second-best now demands parity on the global stage. This shift is visible in economic diplomacy, in climate negotiations, in the way India responds to geostrategic issues. Leaders who can alter the very temperament of their people — that is when nations truly make epochal change.

Another enduring quality is the ability to fuse ideals with workable solutions, the mark of Benjamin Franklin, remembered not only as a founding father of the U.S. but also as a practical innovator. Mr. Modi's governance bears this stamp: a ceaseless emphasis on innovation at scale. From Jan Dhan bank accounts and Aadhaar-linked welfare to UPI-powered digital payments, his instinct is to bend technology to solve everyday problems. This is not abstract idealism; it is applied wisdom that endures in institutional memory. Moral authority also defines leadership. Mr. Modi's personal austerity — no family, political patronage, or personal indulgence — has become a source of moral weight far more consequential than politically expedient alliances. In a political culture scarred by dynastic privilege and personal aggrandisement, this quality resonates deeply with ordinary Indians. Leaders are remembered not only by their words but also by the example they set. Ultimately, the most telling measure of leadership is the relationship with power itself. On January 22, 2024, after the visuals of the consecration of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, I first informally described Mr. Modi on social media as a Rajrishi — a title which was once used for Mithila's sage-like king Janak. Since then, the English moniker "Priest King" has also been used extensively for him. The significance lies not in the title but in what it conveys. History shows that leaders — Lincoln in the corridors of Congress, for example, while getting the anti-slavery bill passed — have sometimes used sharp tactics to gain power. Mr. Modi too has used edgy practices to attain or retain power. What matters, however, is how that power is then exercised. Mr. Modi has never deployed political power, once attained, for personal enrichment.

His use of power has been singularly nation-first. That is why Opposition attacks do not stick and people do not judge him for the means he deploys. For the people know that what matters in the end, what will matter in history, is how Modi used that power. The moniker of "Priest King", therefore, sits easily. It signals the rare ability to treat power as an instrument of service or seva, not possession. At 75, Mr. Modi's traits of leadership — the nation-builder's foresight, the reformer's courage, the visionary's imagination, the teacher's ability to change collective character, the innovator's practicality, the ascetic's moral authority — will endure in the ledger of history. Mr. Modi has entered that bracket. And it is from there, ultimately, that posterity will judge him.

The hidden human cost of Artificial Intelligence

A machine cannot process the meaning behind raw data. Data annotators label raw images, audio, video, and text with information that trains AI and Machine Learning (ML) models. This, then, becomes the training set for AI and ML models. The world is gearing towards an 'automated economy' where machines relying on artificial intelligence (AI) systems produce quick, efficient and nearly error-free outputs. However, AI is not getting smarter on its own; it has been built on and continues to rely on human labour and energy resources. These systems are fed information and trained by workers who are invisibilised by large tech companies, and mainly located in developing countries.

Areas of human involvement

A machine cannot process the meaning behind raw data. Data annotators label raw images, audio, video, and text with information that trains AI and Machine Learning (ML) models. This, then, becomes the training set for AI and Machine Learning (ML) models. For example, an large-language models (LLM) cannot recognise the colour 'yellow' unless the data has been labelled as such. Similarly, self-driving cars rely on information from video footage that has been labelled to distinguish between a traffic sign and humans on the road. The higher the quality of the dataset, the better the output and the more human labour is involved in creating it. Data annotators play a major role in training LLMs like ChatGPT, Gemini, etc. An LLM is trained in three steps: self-supervised learning, supervised learning and reinforcement learning. In the first step, the machine picks up information from large datasets on the Internet. The data labellers or annotators enter in the second and third steps, where this information is fine-tuned for the LLM to give the most accurate response. Humans give feedback on the output the AI produces for better responses to be generated over time, as well as remove errors and jailbreaks. This meticulous annotating work is outsourced by tech companies in Silicon Valley to mainly workers in countries like Kenya, India, Pakistan, China and the Philippines for low wages and long working hours. Data labelling can be of two types: those which do not require subject expertise and those which are more niche and require subject expertise. Several tech companies have been accused of employing non-experts for technical subjects that require prior knowledge. This is a contributing factor in the errors found in the output produced by AI. A data labeller from Kenya revealed that they were tasked with labelling medical scans for an AI system intended for use in healthcare services elsewhere, despite lacking relevant expertise. However, due to errors resulting from this, companies are starting to ensure experts for such information being fed into the system.

Even features marketed as 'fully automated' are often underpinned by invisible human work. For example, our social media feeds are 'automatically' filtered to censor sensitive and graphic content. This is only possible because human moderators labelled such content as harmful by going through thousands of uncensored images, texts and audio. The exposure to such content daily has also been reported to cause severe mental health issues like post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and depression in the workers. Similarly, there are voice actors and actors behind AI-generated audios and videos. Actors may be required to film themselves dancing or singing for these machines to recognise human movements and sounds. Children have also been reportedly engaged to perform such tasks. In 2024, AI tech workers from Kenya sent a letter to former U.S. President Joe Biden talking about the poor working conditions they are subjected to. "In Kenya, these US companies are undermining the local labor laws, the country's justice system and violating international labor standards. Our working conditions amount to modern-day slavery," the letter read. They said the content they have to annotate can range from pornography and beheadings to bestiality for

The birthplace of several housing colonies in Chennai



The building stands on Avvai Shanmugam/V.P. Raman Salai/Lloyd Road (only in Chennai can we have three names for a single road), just bordering on Gopalapuram. The original, and from what I can make of it, handsome edifice, has since been marred by mindless extensions both horizontally and vertically. And in one corner is a painted and fast-fading sign that says Gopalapuram Co-Operative Housing Society Limited. Standing by its side, I could not help reflecting on how this building may hold within it the story of the development of not just one, but as many as five housing developments in the city. The Co-Operative Credit Societies Bill was passed by the Government of India in March 1904 and Madras was, as it often was, first off the mark. The Triplicane Urban Co-Operative Society, TUCS, was the country's first such body. A decade later, the possibility of such societies for affordable housing was realised and the Madras Provincial Co-Operative Union was formed in 1914. However, a true fillip in housing societies happened only with the founding of the Madras City Co-Operative Building Society in 1923, in Triplicane. It shortly thereafter changed its name to Madras Government Servants Co-Operative Building Society.

The first project of the society was Gopalapuram, as has been documented earlier in this column. That was on

114 grounds on Lloyd's Road, between Mount Road and Mowbray's Road and once belonging to Nawab Sir Syed Muhammad, a senior Congress leader after whose passing the property vested with the Official Assignee of the High Court of Madras. Gopalapuram was named after Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar, then of the Madras Civil Service and later to become Dewan of Kashmir and independent India's first railway minister. He was the leading light of the co-operative society that developed the colony. In 1937-38, the society purchased around 38 grounds in what was known as Singarathoppu off Lloyds Road in Royapettah to develop Lakshmiapuram. Six grounds were reserved for roads and other utilities, while the rest was allotted to 16 members for building houses. A piece of land was retained for common purpose of the colonists. The society laid out the roads and handed them over to the corporation. This area became known for the Lakshmiapuram Young Men's Association, which for long held the reputation of being an intellectual body that every leader in the State aspired to be invited to address. A few years later, the society bought around 200 grounds at the southern end of Mowbrays Road belonging to the Official Trustee of Madras. A triangular piece of land belonging to the Bishop of Madras adjacent to this site was also purchased. The entire block was parcelled into 42 plots and thus, was formed Sriramnagar, which still remains a very handsome locality, with broad roads. In 1943-44, the society purchased around 50 grounds near Norton Lane in Mandaveli from a C. Sambanda Mudaliar and developed a layout comprising around 25 plots. The corporation laid the roads, the cost of which was met by the society. In 1953, the Bank purchased around 60 grounds in Guindy for a sum of ₹20,000 for the development of the Ganapathy Nagar colony. Some time after this, the society seems to have lost steam. It converted itself into a mortgage bank to enable the members to pledge their properties and seek loans for various purposes other than just house building. In 1945, the bank was taken over by the South Indian Co-Operative Insurance Society. It seems to have faded away by the 1950s, its good work done.

Too many cooks, no one stirring the pot

The year 2025 is shaping up to be a milestone for accessible (disabled-friendly) public buildings in Delhi. The Central government's Sugamya Yatra Abhiyan for accessibility audits and awareness has reached the national capital. Meanwhile, the Delhi government has also announced its ambitious "Purple City" plan to make public buildings accessible. This makes it the perfect moment to examine how Delhi, so uniquely complex in its administrative structure, actually fares when it comes to making accessibility a reality. Unlike most Indian cities, Delhi's governance is a dense web of central, State, and municipal bodies, each exercising simultaneous control over different aspects of the city, including its public buildings.

For example, some departments fund and administer public buildings – the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs oversees the construction of the Parliament building, Indian Railways administers railway stations, and Delhi's Education Department funds the construction of government schools. Central and State public works departments handle construction and maintenance. Local bodies like the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) are responsible for both constructing buildings and granting building permits and completion certificates. However, when it comes to accessibility, this fragmented structure creates a perfect storm of confusion among departments. It begins with the basics: is a department's role for ensuring accessibility even defined in law? Do officials within that department know they have such a responsibility? Are the boundaries of their jurisdiction clear, or do they assume the task falls to another department? This is the crux of Delhi's public building accessibility knot. Here's an attempt to untangle it.

Is a department's role for ensuring accessibility defined in law?

In the simplest terms, yes. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 (RPWDA) mandates all new constructions and existing public buildings to comply with accessibility standards notified by the Central government. Further, Delhi's Unified Building Bye-Laws, 2016 (UBBL) also includes an entire chapter on accessibility. The UBBL requires local bodies (MCD, NDMC, and DDA) to issue permits and completion certificates only after confirming compliance with its provisions. So, broadly, accessibility in public buildings is everyone's responsibility under the law. Building owners must plan and budget for it, architects and engineers must comply with it and local bodies must issue permits and certificates only upon compliance.

Do officials within a department understand their responsibilities?

After the RPWDA came into force in 2016, most government departments issued internal directives for its compliance. The same year, the UBBL was introduced which is considered the primary reference point for all construction in Delhi. So, at the very least, one would assume officials



are aware of these mandates. On the ground, the reality seems a bit different. In Nipun Malhotra v. GNCTD (2018), the Delhi High Court observed limited awareness and sensitisation among civic authorities regarding the rights and challenges of persons with disabilities. Similarly, in a case concerning inaccessible markets in South Delhi, the Delhi State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities noted that professionals like civil engineers and architects require basic training on accessibility.

Is there enough clarity on departmental jurisdiction?

The answer to this question may feel familiar, as Delhi's notoriously muddled governance, where authorities keep shifting responsibilities, is nothing new. As recently as August 2025, the Delhi High Court, in a case concerning waterlogging, highlighted the absence of coordination and accountability among the MCD, Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Public Works Department (Delhi PWD), and DDA. The court noted that while MCD manages stormwater drains and the Delhi Jal Board handles sewer lines, waterlogging occurred with neither accepting responsibility (Maharani Bagh Society v. Union Of India). This issue also percolates into accessibility. In Himanshu Goswami v. University of Delhi (2018), the Delhi High Court noted that when public infrastructure in North Campus was found to be inaccessible, some elements were claimed to fall under the MCD's jurisdiction, while others under the Delhi PWD, resulting in fragmented and delayed implementation. Time to pick up the ladle! This may appear to be a common governance challenge across India, but in the context of accessibility, the stakes are much higher, as inaccessible public buildings severely limit participation of persons with disabilities in everyday activities. In this scenario, an efficient coordination mechanism is absolutely crucial in Delhi, to ensure responsibilities are not shuffled endlessly and initiatives are executed in harmony, with clarity on who will implement, who will fund and who will monitor compliance. With Delhi's recent pledge to become a model city for inclusion, this is the moment to take decisive action.

Indian tourists, pilgrims stranded across Nepal and along Nepal-China border

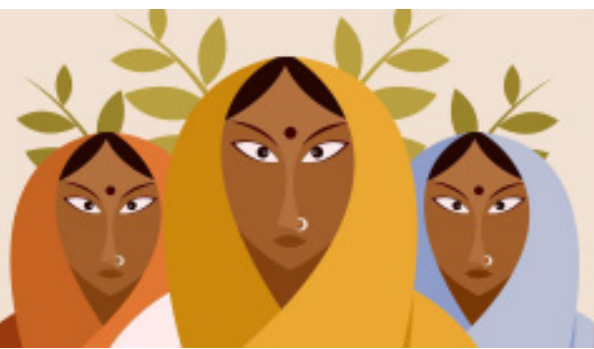
Around 600 Indian pilgrims who had gone for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through private tour operators have been stranded in Taklakot on the Nepal-China border. A large number of Indian tourists are also stranded in capital Kathmandu, Pokhara and other locations across Nepal where October to December is generally considered to be peak holiday season. In view of the prevailing situation, the tourists stranded in Taklakot are unable to enter Nepal and most of them are facing problems due to a lack of accommodation and resources. Sridhar, a pilgrim from Andhra Pradesh, told The Hindu that the situation is dire as many have fallen sick and are in need of urgent medical attention. "We urge the Government of India to help us as there are hundreds of us here and the Nepal border is not yet open," said Mr. Sridhar. The Ministry of External Affairs said in an advisory that the pilgrims should take "necessary care and precautions" and follow advisories from local authorities as well as the Embassy of India in Beijing. Nepal's situation prompted Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday (September 10, 2025) to write to External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar seeking urgent intervention to ensure the safe evacuation of a group of tourists from Kerala stranded in Pokhara, amid protests and arson in the Himalayan tourism hub. He said that the State government would

extend full cooperation for all necessary coordination in the evacuation efforts. In the letter, Mr. Vijayan said that the anti-government protests in Nepal had taken place near areas where most of the visitors from Kerala, including senior citizens, were staying. Steps had to be taken to ensure their safety as it had become extremely difficult for them to continue there. Interventions should be made to urgently bring them back home safely, he said. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday (September 10, 2025) said efforts were under way to bring back tourists from the State, who have been stranded in violence-hit Nepal. She urged the tourists from West Bengal to stay in the neighbouring country for a couple of days, till the situation eases. "We are also making arrangements from the State government. You stay there for one or two more days. Do not be in a rush to get out and fall into in any trouble," Ms. Banerjee said. West Bengal shares about a 100-km border with Nepal. "If you or someone you know requires assistance for returning to India through Panitanki or Pashupati check post under Darjeeling district, please contact on the numbers given below. Mobile/WhatsApp: 9147889078 Landline: 0354-2252057," the West Bengal Police posted on social media. Several tourists from Telangana have been stranded in Kathmandu after the airport was shut down amid



widespread riots that have rocked the country over the past few days. "We arrived in Kathmandu last Saturday (September 6, 2025) on a business trip. We took a 25-minute flight to Pokhara from there and came back. We were supposed to return to Hyderabad on Thursday (September 11, 2025) but are cooped up in our hotel," said Shyam Mohan, a businessman from Malkajigiri. He and his group of seven friends flew down to Nepal to explore business opportunities and visit temples when they were caught in the internal strife. "

What true empowerment of women entails



The trial of former Janata Dal (Secular) MP Prajwal Revanna, tainted by every trick in the book that power can muster, from legal intimidation to procedural delays, could have been yet another grim entry in India’s long and exhausting history of justice denied. However, this case was different because a 47-year-old domestic help, with no wealth, no political connections, and no media machinery at her disposal, refused to be worn down. She braved high-profile legal muscle, relentless attempts at discrediting her, and the quiet but crushing social pressures that compel victims to disappear into silence. She didn’t disappear; instead, she stood her ground.

The language of empowermentIndia loves the language of empowerment. We put women entrepreneurs on magazine covers, we host conferences celebrating women CEOs, and we create awards to honour women leaders in politics, business, and culture. Yet, when a woman without privilege takes on the powerful in a court of law, we often treat her as a passing headline; not as a hero whose actions have fortified the very concept of justice. Our narrative of empowerment too often belongs to those who have the resources to recover from failure, the networks to cushion backlash, and the privilege to choose their battles. We rarely extend the same recognition and support to women whose fight is not for market share or boardroom representation, but for their very survival. Women like this domestic help are not just defending their rights; they are performing a form of public service. Their win strengthens the jurisprudence for every woman who will walk into a police station trembling, unsure if she will be heard.And yet, the moment the verdict is read, the applause dies down and the state, which was happy to bask in the optics of justice served, does little to ensure that these women can rebuild their lives. The women return to the same environment where abuse took place, facing retaliatory stigma, finding themselves jobless because it is “too much trouble” to employ someone who has been in court, or sinking under the weight of legal debts incurred during the fight. If governments, corporates, and civil society are serious about “women empowerment”, they must provide these women structural support — legal, economic, and psychosocial — to ensure that victory

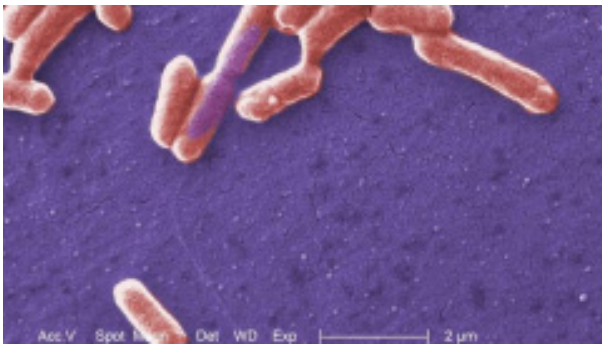
in court does not translate into defeat in life.The way forward

We need state-funded survivor compensation schemes. Frameworks exist to provide financial compensation to families of crime victims in categories such as terrorism or industrial accidents, so why should a woman who has stood up against entrenched power, faced character assassination, and endured court battles not receive similar recognition and financial security? The compensation should be calculated not only to cover legal expenses but to secure a minimum period of stability.We need dedicated legal aid cells with special funding. Most women in such cases are bankrupted by the legal process. While legal aid exists in theory, it is woefully under-resourced and often inaccessible. States must create specialised survivor litigation cells with professional advocates, forensic experts, and victim support officers, funded on par with public prosecutors in high-profile cases.We need guaranteed employment pathways. Governments, public sector undertakings, and corporates should create direct employment quotas for survivors of legal battles against abuse and harassment.We need psychological support and trauma recovery. Survivors require structured access to long-term counselling, peer support networks, and therapy sessions, funded by the state and supplemented by CSR initiatives. Trauma recovery must be treated as a right, not as a luxury.Most importantly, we must institutionalise survivor expertise. Women who have navigated intimidation, isolation, and legal complexity should be trained and appointed as counsellors for victims in police stations to guide them through the first and often most critical reporting stage; as mentors in community legal education programmes to demystify the justice process for other women; and as members of Internal Complaints Committees under POSH laws, where their lived experience can lend authenticity and empathy to workplace grievance redressal. This will not only provide survivors with income, but ensure that their courage is institutionalised, not forgotten.One might ask, why we should single out women like this? Why not simply improve the justice system for all? The answer is simple: they are fighting battles that, in the absence of systemic reform, remain exceptions. Supporting them visibly and meaningfully sends a signal to both potential victims and potential abusers that the state does not abandon those who resist, and that the cost of silencing them will only rise. Moreover, recognising these women’s courage in concrete, life-changing ways reshapes our national idea of empowerment.Applause is easy; it costs nothing. But when a woman risks everything to hold a powerful man accountable, society owes her more than praise; it owes her a future. That future must be secured through a combination of immediate economic support, long-term professional integration, and the legitimisation of survivor voices in policymaking and institutional culture. Only then can we say that empowerment has been delivered, not just declared.

Scientists turn E. coli bacteria into a mercury sensor

In a step towards building cheap and programmable bioelectronic devices, Imperial College London and Zhejiang University researchers have shown in a new study that genetically engineered bacteria can be turned into self-powered chemical sensors that interface directly with electronics.According to the authors, these new platforms are possible today thanks to advances in synthetic biology and bioelectrochemistry.

Traditional biosensors, such as those based on enzymes, are often fragile, costly and/or have a slow response time in complex environments. Whole-cell biosensors, which use living microorganisms, can maintain and repair themselves and operate inside contaminated samples. However, in most conventional designs, these biosensors’ output signals are in the optical range, which is harder to integrate into portable or field-deployable electronics.In their study, the researchers built a modular biosensor that could sense the presence of specific compounds and convert that into an electrical signal, which is compatible with low-cost electronics.The team used genetically engineered Escherichia coli bacteria as ‘containers’. The microbes hosted three biosensor modules. The sensing module detected a target chemical through specific molecular regulators. The information processing module amplified or processed the signal. And the output module produced phenazines, nitrogen-containing organic molecules that can be measured using an electrochemical technique called voltammetry.This way, the researchers built two biosensors. The first one could detect arabinose, a simple plant sugar often used in lab media. When a sample containing the sugar came in contact with the bacteria, the cells started producing phenazine-1-carboxylic acid. When this molecule touched the electrode, the latter produced a current that rose with sugar level. The signal appeared in roughly two hours. The second sensor detected mercury ions in water. Because these ions are present only in trace quantities in real-world water, the researchers added a genetic amplifier to the E. coli. When the mercury bound with a protein called MerR, the meeting triggered the production of a polymerase that pushed the phenazine production pathway into overdrive. As a result, just 25 nanomoles of mercury — below the WHO safety limit — produced a readable current within three hours.The team also demonstrated an ‘AND’ logic gate inside E. coli, so that it produced a signal only when two specific molecules were present together.The team thus established a proof of concept of a living, electronically integrated biosensor capable of detecting compounds in its surroundings, processing the signals, and supplying data.



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Nutty delight

The almond harvest in Kashmir marks an important seasonal and cultural event, and this year’s bumper crop has brought smiles to farmers’ faces.Almond trees bloom in early spring, colouring the landscape in delicate shades of pink and white, which later turn green before the harvest in summer.Kashmir’s moderate climate, fertile soil, and abundant water sources provide ideal conditions for almond cultivation.Kashmiri almonds, usually small in size but known for their sweet flavour and high oil content, are primarily grown in Anantnag and Pulwama in southern Kashmir, Budgam in central Kashmir, and Baramulla in the north. The varieties cultivated include both soft-shell and hard-shell almonds.

Harvesting almonds is a labour-intensive process. Farmers wait until the green outer hulls begin to split naturally, indicating ripeness. Then comes the “shakedown”. The almonds are manually shaken from the trees using sticks and collected on cloth sheets spread beneath them. Once harvested, the nuts are sun-dried for several days before the shells are removed.Women and children also participate in this traditional activity, turning it into a family business that is often celebrated at the community level.Almonds are used extensively in traditional cuisine, especially in sweets and beverages such as kehwa. Locally grown almonds are preferred over imported varieties due to their superior taste and freshness.Despite their importance, almond farmers in Kashmir face challenges such as erratic weather patterns, limited access to modern farming techniques, competition from lower-cost imports, shrinking farmlands, and a lack of policy support from authorities. To address these issues, the government is now planning



to introduce high-density varieties of almonds across Kashmir.The almond harvest remains a celebratory event in Kashmir’s rural life, blending natural beauty with traditional farming practices.Fresh from the tree:A farmer shows harvested almonds at a village in Pulwama district, south of Srinagar. Almonds are an intrinsic part of the Kashmiri cuisine and trade, with their harvest being celebrated as a cultural festival.Fit for harvest: A farmer scrutinises almonds on a tree for harvest in Pulwama. Once the almonds are ripe, they are shaken off the tree using sticks and collected on cloth sheets spread under.

Eyeing the Bodoland pie



Peace sells in a region scarred by decades of extremism. In 2003, the Government of India, the Government of Assam, and the Bodo Liberation Tigers signed a peace accord, which led to the creation of the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC), an autonomous body to govern the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR). The BTC was established as a political alternative to the demand for a separate Bodoland state.The Bodoland People’s Front (BPF), a political party formed largely by members of the disbanded Bodo Liberation Tigers, ruled the BTR until December 2020. The end of its 17-year rule was partly because of another peace accord in January 2020 and partly because of the BPF’s divorce from its “big brother”, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

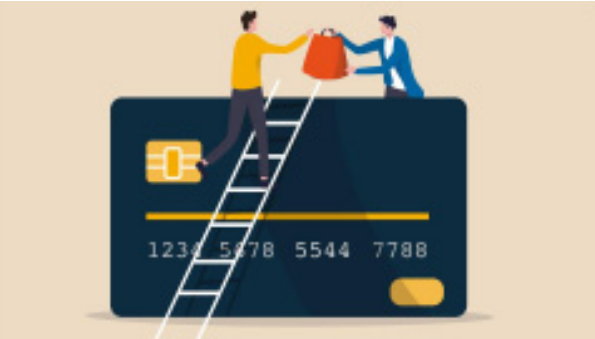
The 2020 peace pact, catalysed by the influential All Bodo Students’ Union (ABSU), was between the government and all the factions of another set of extremists — the National Democratic Front of Boroland. Pramod Boro, then the ABSU president and one of the key architects of the peace process, became the president of the United People’s Party Liberal (UPPL), the BPF’s long-term rival across the BTR.The BJP, claiming to have brought peace to the north-east and paved the way for development, found in Mr. Boro’s image as a peace broker an opportunity to penetrate the areas under the tribal council where mainstream parties had little or no traction after 2003.The BPF, dumped by the BJP, became the single-largest party by winning 17 of the 40 seats in the 2020 BTC polls. The UPPL, which won 12 seats, and the BJP, with nine, formed the government in the BTC along with a regional party that won one seat.The Congress managed to win one seat and became the BPF’s short-term ally in February 2021. Over the next few years, defec-

tions from the BPF and Congress saw the UPPL and BJP’s tally increase to 15 and 14 seats, respectively.

The UPPL-led government in the BTC, allegedly rendered bankrupt by the BPF, exuded inclusivity in the rebuilding process across the BTR, which had a history of conflicts between the dominant Bodos, the largest plains tribe in the north-east, and a majority of the 19 non-Bodo communities, including the Assamese and the Bengali-speaking Muslims. Mr. Boro’s outreach was underlined by the Bhutan-inspired Bodoland Happiness Mission launched in 2024 and a community-based road map for development of the smallest of communities. According to him, the post-2020 BTR was vastly different from the pre-2020 BTR, ruled by instability and division along community lines. The UPPL has been banking on the “unprecedented” peace and associated development across the five-district BTR for a second term, either on its own or in an alliance.There is apparently no strain in the ties between the UPPL and the BJP, but the latter has often indicated it could befriend the BPF again. The BJP, reportedly miffed by a less pliant leadership in the BTC unlike its counterparts in the two other tribal councils — Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council — under the Sixth Schedule in Assam, has decided to go it alone in the BTC polls, likely to be held by September-end. If that is not enough, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma began campaigning in the BTR extensively, claiming that the region was reaping the benefits of peace because of the BJP. He also said that the non-tribal communities would have nothing to fear in Bodoland till he was alive. “Remember that you are safe and have equal rights because the BJP is here, and there will be no second-class citizens,” he said.Bodo organisations did not react to the Chief Minister’s alleged bid to polarise the BTR electorate on ethnic lines. However, the All-Assam Tribal Sangha condemned State BJP president Dilip Saikia’s assurance to non-Bodos that the laws specific to the autonomous councils would be amended for them to purchase land in the tribal blocks and belts. The BJP’s approach to the BTC polls indicates a design to weaken the hold of its smaller allies in specific areas. This is evident from its oblique advice to another regional ally, the Asom Gana Parishad, to stay away from the BTC polls.The Congress and other non-National Democratic Alliance parties have slammed the BJP’s “divisive” campaign as a show of desperation to win the BTC polls.

Upgrading credit card

Upgrading means switching to another credit card, usually a higher variant, from existing card provider. This would earn higher rewards and better benefits and sometimes even higher credit limits, which would help maximise savings while maintaining current lifestyle. You can consider an upgrade in the following situations:While an entry-level card can be a good option for beginners, it comes with a low reward rate and usually lacks additional perks like lounge access, milestone benefits, movie benefits, etc. Hence, it is important to review spending patterns every few months and check for upgrade offers from the bank. If you have a strong credit history and excellent repayment record, your card issuer may extend a card upgrade, often with lifetime-free or first year free offers, additional joining bonus, or welcome vouchers, which can help you maximise savings. In such cases, upgrading would be a smarter choice. However, ensure the benefits of the existing card align with your current lifestyle.If your card spending has increased and the existing card only comes with a basic reward rate, you may not be able to maximise savings. Upgrading to a card with a better reward rate, especially in your preferred spending categories, could enhance savings.For instance, you have an SBI Simply Click Credit Card with accelerated rewards on select online brands, but with time, your income and expenses have increased, and you find yourself spending a considerable amount online, with a majority of it being beyond the select few brands. Here, upgrading to the Cashback SBI Card could help you get much higher savings on all online spends, as there are no merchant restrictions.Spending habits change with time as you grow financially. If monthly expenses have grown, especially in a particular category like travel, shopping or dining, upgrading to a card with more category-focused benefits could help you save more. For example, someone using an entry-level card like Axis My Zone can consider upgrading to Axis Horizon or Axis Atlas for travel-centric benefits. These give stronger value-back on travel spends with the option to transfer accumulated points to popular airlines and hotels. Enhanced perks around lounge access,



milestone benefits, forex markup fee, etc. can also be a good add-on for travellers.

Higher credit limitAs income grows over time, you need a higher credit limit to manage increasing expenses. If you continue with your existing credit limit and max out your credit card frequently, it can affect your credit score. Moreover, a consistently high credit utilisation ratio shows you are overly dependent on credit, which could make lenders apprehensive of extending more credit to you. Upgrading to a credit card that aligns better with your current needs and offers a higher credit limit can offer you a well-rounded solution. However, note that a card upgrade does not guarantee a limit increase, so it is essential to confirm this with the card provider before opting.

Cash flow managementAt the time of upgrading, you can also change the credit card billing cycle. This will help manage cash flow easily by aligning the billing cycle with monthly expenses. For instance, if you are a salaried person and your existing card’s due date falls at the end of the month, you can change the cycle so that the bill is due at the beginning of the month, which would make it easier to manage monthly cash flow.Before an upgrade, review overall card benefits, fees, charges and other terms and conditions to ensure it matches current lifestyle and helps maximise savings. The right upgrade at the right time can help save significantly without affecting financial goals.

Minta Devi had no idea

The first few stories tracking down Minta Devi, the woman from Bihar’s Siwan, who was recorded in the electoral rolls as 124 years, simply spoke about who she was, and how old she actually was (35). Reporters did not immediately ask her what she thought about her face being the symbol of alleged irregularities with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) that Bihar has undergone.“I do not know what is going on in Parliament...” said Devi, adding that she didn’t check the date on her voter ID card when it was delivered. On August 12, several Opposition members wore tees with her photograph, with the tag line ‘124 not out’. It is easy to use photographs of people — especially women with seemingly less agency — without their consent.

Women in Bihar already have it rough. Their life expectancy is lower than that of the men in the State (68.3 years to 69.6 years in 2015-19), they are highly vulnerable to violence and insecurity after natural disasters, and there are still 100 maternal deaths for every 100,000 births (2020-2022; the national average is 93). Now, with the SIR, more women than men have been deleted from the rolls.On the same day, at Delhi’s Constitution Club, Jaya Bachchan pushed away a man who attempted to get too close to her and take a selfie. I doubt anyone would have put her face on a tee sans consent.

Class, in India, is sometimes more pronounced than caste. There is an ‘us’ and ‘them’: ‘we’ the educated English-speaking, ‘they’ the illiterate poor. Class unites women and men in the same social bracket. Until there is abuse. Then, the women are drawn into a circle of sisterhood that men, even as allies, might not be able to penetrate.Two days after Minta Devi’s picture appeared everywhere and Jaya Bachchan pushed away a man who lifted his phone with entitlement, Kolkata came together again to Reclaim the Night. It was the first death anniversary of the medico who had been assaulted and killed, and women across the city seemed to say: we remember.We also remember when the Supreme Court passes a judgment that “sets a dangerous precedent for both criminal justice and gender equal-



ity”. We know the issues that cut across class: gender-based violence, access to justice, and taking women for granted.Breakthrough, the non-profit that works in the gender-based violence space, is hosting its annual symposium called ReFrame, which will touch upon health, education, and work for women, along with brainstorming sessions on how to make men and boys allies. On September 3 and 4, 2025 in New Delhi.The ecosystem of the vaginal area (the tube between the external genitals and the lower end of the uterus) that has colonies of bacteria and other organisms, all contributing to the health of this part of the reproductive anatomy. Generally, a Lactobacillus-dominated vagina is considered healthy. Earlier this month, the Gates Foundation committed \$2.5 billion until 2030 to research and development around women’s health. Among its “areas of breakthrough potential” was the vaginal microbiome, along with therapeutics for preeclampsia and non-hormonal contraception.Ouch!People consider [the code for Gaya airport, GAY] socially and culturally offensive and uncomfortable. Could it be replaced with something more respectful and culturally appropriate Vijaya Harish Jethwa, 55, has a shop in Dharavi’s Kumbharwada area of potters, on Mumbai’s 90 Feet Road. She runs it with her husband and two sons, and is so busy preparing for Janmashtami that she continues to paint pots as she speaks. “

Urban Company's shares list at a premium of over 55%



Shares of Urban Company, a tech-driven online full stack home services platform, made a strong debut on bourses, getting listed at a premium of over 55 per cent. On the BSE, the company's share opened at Rs 161 apiece, a premium of 56 per cent to the upper price band, and on the NSE it opened at Rs 162.25 per share, a premium of 57.52 per cent. The upper band of the company's initial public of-

fering was Rs 103 a share. The Urban Company's Rs 1,900.24 crore initial public offer was a combination of fresh issue of 4.58 crore shares aggregating to Rs 472.24 crore, and offer for sale of 13.86 crore shares amounting to Rs 1,428 crore. The price band of the issue was fixed at Rs 98-103 per share. The issue opened for subscription on September 10 and closed on September 12. The Urban Company's Rs 1,900 crore IPO received an overwhelming response, getting oversubscribed 103.63 times. Investors bid for 1,106.46 crore shares as against 10.68 crore offered. The retail portion of the issue got subscribed 39 times, with nearly 76 crore bids being received compared to 1.93 crore offered. The qualified institutional buyers (QIB) category saw a subscription of 140.2 times, with investors placing bids for 814 crore as against 5.81 crore offered. The non-institutional investor portion got 74.04 times subscribed. The employees bid for 1.03 crore shares, as against 2.81 lakh offered to them, representing a subscription of 36.79 times. The company had raised Rs 569.25 crore through anchor investors.

GST 2.0: Re-labelling of drugs, medical devices not mandatory for stocks issued before Sept 22

Manufacturers and marketing companies selling drugs, formulations including medical devices are required to revise the maximum retail price (MRP) and issue revised price lists to dealers and retailers for display to consumers to bring into effect the rate cuts under GST 2.0, but recalling, re-labelling, or re-stickering is not mandatory for the stocks released in the market prior to the implementation date of September 22, the Ministry of Finance said in a second set of FAQs on GST released Tuesday. For the insurance sector, the Ministry said health and life insurance policies for individuals or to an individual with his or her family will be exempted but not group policies. In addition, reinsurance services will be exempted from the ambit of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

The Ministry also said insurance companies will not be able to claim input tax credit on GST paid on inputs like commissions and brokerages for individual health and life insurance policies with effect from September 22. "At present, insurers are availing ITC on many inputs and input services such as commissions, brokerage and reinsurance, etc. Out of these input services, reinsurance services will be exempted," the Ministry said. The input tax credit (ITC) — tax paid on inputs adjusted against the GST liability on output — of other inputs or input services such as commissions, brokerages will be reversed because the output services will be exempted, it said. Reinsurance services act like insurance for insurance companies as a way for insurers to transfer part of their risk to another company with an aim to protect against any potential losses. The GST Council in its 56th meeting held on September 3 had decided to exempt premium paid on individual health and life insurance policies from GST effective September 22, from the current 18 per cent rate.

For other services such as beauty and physical well-being services, the Ministry said the GST rate of 5 per cent without ITC is mandatory. "Service providers do not have the option to charge 18 per cent with ITC on these services," it said. For the hospitality services, the Ministry clarified that the hotels supplying units of accommodation which have value less than or equal to Rs 7,500 per unit per day will not be able to avail ITC on such units as the GST rate for such supplies is 5 per cent without ITC. "It is a mandatory rate prescribed for such services, and the option to pay GST at



the rate of 18 per cent with ITC is not available for such units," it said.

Local delivery services will be taxable at 18 per cent GST, with the liability to pay directly on the person supplying the service if the person is registered and on the ECO (electronic commerce operator) if the person supplying the services is not liable to be registered. Delivery services through e-commerce operators such as Zomato, Swiggy and quick commerce companies like Blinkit, Zepto are set to face a 18 per cent GST on delivery charges beginning September 22. In the past, such platforms have maintained that they only collect delivery fees on behalf of delivery workers and it is not part of their revenue, and so, they should not be expected to pay GST on the service, which is fulfilled by a delivery worker, who is an independent vendor. Tax experts said the FAQs by the government will help smoothen the transition with minimum disruption or future litigations. "The FAQs address recurring problem areas such as how revision in MRP should be made for existing stock of medicines, how ITC must be handled where exemptions or concessional rates apply, and have clarified a few other points," Rahul Shekhar, Partner- Indirect Tax, Nangia Andersen LLP said. For hotels, beauty and physical well-being services, Shekhar said they cannot choose a higher rate with ITC on these services. "The government wants that the end customer gets the maximum benefits out of these changes, therefore, has not allowed dual-rate structure for these industries," he said.

As MSMEs push back, govt data shows BIS issued nearly half of all quality control orders in just 3 years



IN JUST three years, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has issued as many as 84 Quality Control Orders (QCOs) based on the recommendations of various ministries and departments, which is almost 45% of all 187 QCOs administered by it. These 84 QCOs cover 343 products.

QCOs are legal orders issued by departments or ministries under the BIS Act, which make it mandatory for domestic and imported products, to conform with certain quality standards. The products cannot be sold unless they get a certification from the BIS. But over the last two years, micro, small and medium enterprises have complained to the government that the QCOs are akin to non-tariff barriers, and have raised cost of inputs for them. In fact, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery recently said QCOs are "malign interventions" that have restricted imports of certain inputs, forcing MSMEs to procure these at a much higher cost for large companies.

According to government data, of the total 187 QCOs notified till date, a majority i.e., 86 QCOs (covering 362 products) were issued issued on the recommendation of the Department of Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, followed by 69 QCOs (covering 74 products) on the recommendation of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and 10 QCOs (covering 76 products) on the recommendation of the Ministry of Textiles. Concerned over the large number such orders and complaints by a section of MSME associations, a high-level committee led by NITI Aayog member Rajiv Gauba (former Cabinet Secretary) discussed the issue in one of its meetings recently. Year-wise QCO data shows that from just 10 QCOs in 2022-23, the numbers increased to 59 in 2023-24. In 2024-25, it dropped to 15, and in the current financial year till date, four QCOs have been notified. The QCOs issued over the last three years covered products like jute bags, water bottles, helmets, medical textiles, agro textiles, furniture, gas stoves, ceiling fan, primary lead, solar thermal system and stainless steel pipes and tubes. The High-level Committee on Non-Financial Regulatory Reforms (HLC-NFRR), headed by Gauba held its second meeting on September 6. During the meeting, the committee deliberated on issues related to

QCOs administered by the BIS and challenges faced by the industries and stakeholders in obtaining certifications under the QCOs, said a source. Explaining the process of issuance of QCOs in India, an official said the concerned line ministry identifies products which require mandatory compliance to standards. It then holds consultation with all stakeholders including industry and the BIS and then prepares a draft QCO.

Before finalising the QCO, the draft is hosted at the World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barrier to Trade (TBT) website where other countries can comment. Thereafter, the line ministry issues the QCOs giving usually 6 months or more time to implement them by the industry. The deliberations on QCOs also assume significance in the backdrop of India negotiating trade deals with the US and the European Union and navigating through the 50 per cent tariff penalty imposed by the Trump administration. In India, BIS formulates Indian Standards for different products. While the BIS certification scheme is voluntary in nature, for a number of products, compliance to Indian Standards is made compulsory by the Central Government under various considerations viz, public interest, protection of human, animal or plant health, safety of environment, prevention of unfair trade practices and national security. "For such products, the Central Government directs mandatory use of Standard Mark under a Licence or Certificate of Conformity (CoC) from BIS through issuance of QCOs," as per the information available on the BIS website. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Act, 2016, empowers the government to mandate standardisation through compulsory certification. The aim of QCOs is to uplift the national quality ecosystem and curb substandard cheap imports of goods in the country, said the sources.

GST reforms injected Rs 2 lakh crore into economy, says FM Sitharaman

Visakhapatnam: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday said the Next Gen GST reforms have infused Rs 2 lakh crore into the economy, which has left people with more cash on hand, which otherwise would have gone to taxes. Addressing the Outreach and Interaction Program on Next Gen GST Reforms, she also said, following the tax reforms, 99 per cent of goods under 12 per cent GST slab have moved to five per cent. The rejig has resulted in 90 per cent items under 28 per cent tax slab slipping into the 18 per cent bracket.

Testicular torsion in children: why prompt medical attention is crucial



Children's testicular pain is frequently brushed off as a minor injury, or it is assumed that it will go away on its own. Testicular torsion is one condition though, where a delay could mean the difference between saving or losing the testicle. Raising parental awareness is the first line of defence against long-term effects. When the testicle twists around the spermatic cord and cuts off its blood supply, this condition is known as testicular torsion. The testicle may sustain permanent injury if treatment is not given immediately, typically within four to six hours.

Although it can happen at any age, newborns and children as well as teenagers during puberty are more likely to sustain this condition, when growth spurts cause the testicles to become more mobile. Timely intervention is critical. Taking the pain seriously and seeking immediate medical care can ensure the testis is saved. Children might not

always be able to express their symptoms as well as adults do. Parents need to be aware of any unexpected changes, such as: sudden, severe pain in one testicle, scrotal swelling or redness, nausea and vomiting, the child walking awkwardly, refusing to sit or play and pain that comes on after a minor injury but continues to worsen. Children frequently arrive at the emergency room hours after the pain starts, which can significantly lower the testicle's chances of survival. Awareness is key. Teenagers, young adults, and parents must be educated about the symptoms of testicular torsion and the need for immediate medical attention. Until proven otherwise, treat scrotal pain in children as an emergency. A physician can confirm the diagnosis through an examination or with an ultrasound.

Emergency surgery to untwist the spermatic cord and fix both testicles is the standard treatment for testicular torsion in order to prevent recurrence. The testicle can be saved if blood supply to it is promptly restored. Delays longer than six to eight hours, however, significantly reduce the affected testicle's chances of surviving. In cases where the testicle cannot be saved, removal may be required. Even then, with one healthy testicle, boys usually maintain normal fertility and hormonal function. Although a normal sexual life and good quality of life are possible even with a single testis, the goal should always be to preserve both, for the physical and psychological well-being of the individual. Although testicular torsion is uncommon, it can have major consequences. The testicle can be saved and long-term effects can be avoided with early detection and prompt treatment.

WHO includes drugs for diabetes and weight loss in essential medicines list

With the World Health Organization (WHO) updating its Model Lists of Essential Medicines (EML) to add the GLP-1 class of drugs for diabetes with associated comorbidities such as obesity, access to these drugs might just become easier. Listing a medicine on the EML is one step in a series of actions that can lead to lower costs, better affordability, and greater access. The 25th meeting of the WHO Expert Committee on the Selection and Use of Essential Medicines was held from May 5 to 9, 2025. It reviewed scientific evidence showing that a group of medicines called glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists can help people with type 2 diabetes — especially those who also have heart or kidney disease — and concluded that semaglutide, dulaglutide, liraglutide, and tirzepatide would be added to the EML. These drugs are used as glucose-lowering therapy for adults with type 2 diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular disease or chronic kidney disease and obesity.

High price According to the WHO, the rationale for including these drugs is very clear: diabetes and obesity are two of the most urgent health challenges facing the world today. According to statistics from 2022, over 800 million people live with diabetes, with half going untreated. At the same time, more than one billion people worldwide are affected by obesity, and rates are rising fast especially in low- and middle-income countries. The prices of these drugs are so high that access is limited. "A large share of out-of-pocket spending on noncommunicable diseases goes toward medicines, including those classified as essential and that, in principle, should be financially accessible to everyone," Deusedit Mubangizi, WHO Director of Policy and Standards for Medicines and Health Products, says. Good step forward

While appreciating the move, Anoop Mishra, head, Fortis C-DOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, New Delhi, lends a reality check: "It is a good move; however, in India these types of drugs will benefit only a small number of people, while other life-saving, low-cost essen-



tial medicines for diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease, applicable to a large number of people, remain largely unavailable." On the other hand, V. Mohan, chairman, Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialties Centre (DMDSC), provides an energetic response: "I'm very happy that the WHO has included the GLP-1 class of drugs. The fact that even a conservative organisation like the WHO has included these rather expensive drugs in their EML, shows how compelling the evidence is. Apart from the glucose lowering effect, they have tremendous effect on weight reduction and obesity management." He points out that, recently, injectible semaglutide has been approved for metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease, associated with weight, and for improving cardio-metabolic health. "R.M. Anjana, managing director, DMDSC, says: "It will definitely help improve access and affordability. But will it be useful as a first line drug? This maybe not for everyone... as there are various subtypes of diabetes. But for those in whom it is indicated, it's a good step forward." The Model Lists are updated every two years by an Expert Committee, made up of recognised specialists from academia, research, and the medical and pharmaceutical professions, to address new health challenges, prioritise highly effective therapeutics, and improve affordable access.

Who will decide that a religious conversion is 'deceitful', asks Supreme Court



The Supreme Court asked a petitioner seeking a complete ban on "deceitful" religious conversions who exactly gets to decide if an inter-faith marriage is a fraud or not. The Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai agreed with senior advocate C.U. Singh, appearing for an NGO questioning the validity of increasingly stringent anti-religious conversion laws across 10 States, that the court sits to examine the constitutionality of laws, and not to make laws. Petitioner-advocate Ashwini Upadhyay said his petition was against religious conversion through allurement and duplicity. Mr. Upadhyay argued that one has the right to propagate religion under Article 25 of the Constitution, but not to convert through fraud or force.

Highlighting the risk his plea posed to the freedom of conscience enshrined in the Constitution, Chief Justice Gavai pointedly asked, "but who would find out that a religious conversion was deceitful or not?" Mr. Singh, appearing in the case along with senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocate Vrinda Grover, said that States, including Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, and Karnataka have enacted copy cat 'Freedom of Religion' Acts one after the other, with Rajasthan recently coming up with one. "The batch of laws are characterised as Freedom of Religion Acts, but they contain everything but freedom. They are virtually anti-conversion laws," Mr. Singh submitted. He sought a stay of these laws, which were getting more and more strident as courts grant bail and bring relief to persons accused and arrested under them. The court scheduled the case after six weeks to consider the question of stay of the implementation of the Acts.

Mr. Singh said recent amendments made in these Acts empower third parties to file criminal complaints against couples who enter into inter-faith marriage. The punishment

under these laws include a "minimum 20-year sentence or a maximum of life imprisonment". The bail conditions are on par with the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The burden of proof was on the convert to prove that he or she was not forced or "allured" to change faith, the senior counsel argued. "For anybody who marries inter-faith, bail becomes impossible. These are Constitutional challenges... It is not just marriages but any normal church observances or festivals, mobs may come..." Mr. Singh submitted. Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj said the case was coming up for hearing after three years, "and suddenly they [the petitioners] are asking for stay?" In 2023, while hearing the case, the apex court had refused to refer to the Law Commission of India the question whether "forcible conversion" should be made a separate offence relating to religion under the Indian Penal Code. The government had even opposed the locus standi of the NGO, Citizens for Justice and Peace, represented by Mr. Singh, to move the apex court against these laws. Mr. Singh had, however, argued that these laws amounted to undue interference in a person's right of choice of faith and life partner. He said each law was used by the other as a "building block" to make a more "virulent" law for itself. The petitions have argued that these laws have a "chilling effect" on the right to profess and propagate one's religion, enshrined in Article 25 of the Constitution.

Starlink suffers fresh outage; over 50,000 users hit across US

New Delhi: Thousands of users of Starlink on Monday experienced internet issues and total outage as billionaire Elon Musk's satellite internet service is down yet again.

According to outage-tracking website Downdetector, there were nearly 50,000 outage reports by 10:01 a.m. "Starlink is currently experiencing a service outage. Our team is investigating," the company said on its website. However, it did not provide any reasons for the outage.

Downdetector reported that 59 per cent of users experienced internet issues, while 40 per cent faced a total blackout, with 1 per cent facing poor reception. The issue affected customers majorly across the US, including Virginia, Louisiana, Indiana, and Washington state. Some users in Colombia also reported losing connectivity.

Sarvesh Kushare, the first Indian high-jumper in World Championships final, started off with ‘jugaad’ and makeshift pits of corn husk



GNS News Agency, Sept 29

Early Monday morning, a day before his World Championship final, Sarvesh Kushare stood near the high-jump pit of Tokyo's cavernous National Stadium and video-called his childhood coach, Raosaheb Jadhav. "It was a brief call," Jadhav said. "He showed me the stadium, the jumping pit... for a moment, we became nostalgic." The 30-year-old athlete, who had started on makeshift pits made of corn husk, was now rubbing shoulders with the world's best, including Olympic champion Hamish Kerr at one of the finest sporting arenas. "To think of how we began, with nothing but jugaad and to see him come this far," the coach said. Kushare ended the call with a promise: to target a top-five finish in a star-studded field and go for his personal best. On Tuesday, he narrowly missed the first goal but delivered on the second. He recorded a personal best leap of 2.28m to finish joint-sixth, becoming the first high jumper from India to qualify for the World Championship final. Kerr won the gold medal.

As Kushare competed under the bright lights of the 67,000-seater arena, Devargaon village in Nashik with a population of less than 3,000, stopped to watch one of their own land on the biggest stage in athletics — except his father. "I was too nervous," Anil told The Indian Express. "The rest of our village stops to follow Sarvesh's performance whenever he is competing, especially at the international events." Kushare Sr had wanted his son to become a civil engineer. "But he was adamant to pursue a career in high jump," Anil said. There was a catch, though. There was no proper facility to train in their village. That's when Jadhav, an enterprising school teacher who had introduced Kushare to the sport, teamed up with Anil to prepare a makeshift pit.

They used corn husk, agricultural waste, old unused clothes and cotton. Kushare, then 18, would leap over the bar into the makeshift pit.

"We would fill all the corn residue in sacks and stack them together. We would then tie two poles to create the set-up for him," Anil said. "Last year, when he played at the Olympics, all of us were emotional, knowing how far he has gone from this small village." No one from their village had "travelled outside Maharashtra", Anil joked, adding, "And Sarvesh is travelling all over the world. I always thought he would do well at the national level. I had told him to pursue sports for 10 years but he has been going on and on and it's been more than 14 years now." There are no signs of him slowing down, either. For three years, after he set his previous personal best of 2.27m in 2022, Kushare has been trying to better that mark. On Tuesday, the jumper broke into an impromptu celebration by displaying his muscles to the camera and running towards the crowd to soak in the applause. "The celebration is for the fact that he finally got that 0.01m, which he was trying for the past three years," said Kushare's current coach Justin Thomas, who trains him at the Army Sports Institute in Pune. "When Sarvesh came to me in 2022, he was jumping 2.25m regularly but we worked on his technique. He has been jumping since he was a kid, so it was not easy to change his technique." Thomas made minute changes in stride and approach to the bar. "When he used to run towards the bar, his right hand used to flap more and used to be wide open. First, we changed that... he runs with a more compact shape now," he said. "After that, we worked on how he approached the bar. Now, he goes aggressively with four strides as compared to his early technique where he was a little slow." Kushare has much more left in his tank, Thomas said. "He didn't win a medal at the World Championships but if you look at it in a way, he is the first one to (reach the final). He would always say that he wanted others to believe that Indians can compete at the World level and today he proved it. I think this is the start of another good phase in his career and he will go on for more," he said. The next barrier Kushare will hope to cross is the national record (NR) of 2.29m. That record currently belongs to Tejaswin Shankar, who is now a regular in the decathlon. Shankar, on his part, had no doubt about the enormity of Kushare's place at the Worlds. He wrote on X: "For me from this point on — you are the GREAT-EST Indian high-jumper ever! Well done sir! The NR hunt stays on..."

Why a 16-year-old high-schooler from New Jersey started an online chess programme for schoolgirls from Madhya Pradesh's Betul

GNS News Agency, Sept 29

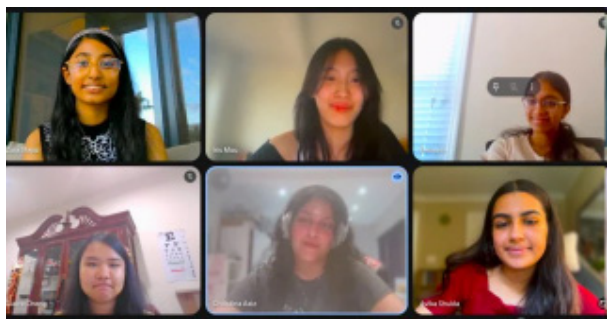
It's a Saturday evening and a Google Meet session is humming with frantic chess activity. A group of schoolgirls in a Madhya Pradesh town called Betul is hooked on to their cellphones from their homes. Chess pieces flit from one square to another on their screens as the instructor, Iris Mou, a Woman International Master (WIM) based in New York, pauses to ask the girls what their next logical move should be.

For two months, as many as 75 schoolgirls have attended online sessions such as these for a programme called Checkmate Betul. The initiative is the brainchild of a 16-year-old high-schooler from New Jersey, Avika Shukla, who was struck by the gaping gender disparity in chess and decided to do something about it. "The initial thought regarding Checkmate Betul came when I was playing in chess tournaments and realised that I didn't really have any female friends that played the sport. I realised this was a problem. When I used to play chess events in India — and then, even after moving to the US — I found the gender divide in chess very fascinating considering that it's a mental sport," says Shukla, currently specialising in electrical engineering and computer science at Edison Academy Magnet School in New Jersey. "There should be no reason for a gender divide. I did some initial research and figured out that only one in seven chess players are girls. In my own personal experience in tournaments, if there are maybe 100 players, there will only be about five girls." After moving to the US with her parents seven years ago, Shukla got involved with an organisation called Queens United Chess, an initiative that focuses on teaching chess to schoolgirls.

"As part of that, we were teaching kids who were privileged and had other chess opportunities available to them. But while visiting Betul, I realised that similar opportunities were not there for girls. Kids there didn't really have a concept of after-school activities or after-school clubs like we have in the USA. That's how Checkmate Betul was conceived," Shukla tells S. The idea was simple: get established women players to teach chess virtually across the year to schoolgirls in Betul — Shukla's hometown which she visits for a month or two with her parents every year.

Shukla calls the concept, "Girls teaching girls chess." What is remarkable about the programme is that many of the eight trainers or mentors in Checkmate Betul are teenagers themselves and hail from various corners around the world. Mou, a WIM from New York City, is one of the top youth players in the US. Then there's Woman Candidate Master Zara Majid, who hails from the Cayman Islands. There is also Christina Aziz, a FIDE arbiter and chess educator based in Gambia. The others who help with coaching are from New Jersey and California. So far, seven schools from Betul have signed up and a few more are likely to join soon. The first session was held in July this year. Shukla first enlisted support from the principals of the seven schools to partner for the pilot project.

"We saw a great chance for girls from our school to get exposure to chess from good players. We saw many benefits for the girls. Learning the sport will help these girls with critical thinking skills as well," says Sister Jojina, the principal of Little Flower Convent School, which has 25 girls in the sessions. A regular online session for Checkmate Betul lasts for around 90 minutes with one of the mentors hosting the session where they explain basic concepts like pins, forks and checkmating patterns via Google Meet. A regular online session for Checkmate Betul lasts for around 90 minutes with one of the mentors hosting the session where they explain basic concepts like pins, forks and checkmating patterns via Google Meet. Shukla also started reaching out to female players around the world via social media asking if they would be interested in offering chess coaching to schoolgirls in India. Shukla says that since she plans to pursue engineering, her chess initiative will not directly help her earn any extra credits. But she's glad that



What is remarkable about the Checkmate Betul programme is that many of the 8 trainers or mentors are teenagers themselves and hail from various corners around the world, like New York, Cayman Islands and Gambia. Avika Shukla, whose brainchild the initiative is, calls it, "Girls teaching girls chess."

running the programme has helped her with soft skills like leading an international team. The initiative also has assistance from Chess.com, which provided the schoolgirls premium subscriptions to the ChessKids app for use on their cellphones.

A regular online session of Checkmate Betul lasts around 90 minutes with one of the mentors explaining basic concepts like pins, forks and checkmating patterns via Google Meet. It's an interactive session where the girls answer which move is the best based on the positions on the board.

Tanishka Singh Verma, a Standard XII (PCM) student, a regular in the classes, says she knew a bit of chess, but after the sessions, has taken a bigger interest in the sport. "Getting to learn concepts from international players has been great. I've learnt something new in every class. The way of teaching in these classes is very helpful," she says. For the last two months, as many as 75 school girls from schools in Madhya Pradesh's Betul have attended online sessions for the Checkmate Betul programme. For the last two months, as many as 75 school girls from schools in Madhya Pradesh's Betul have attended online sessions for the Checkmate Betul programme.

Rather than a session just being about chess, the girls are also encouraged to ask questions about their own lives and career paths. "The idea is to expose these girls to other role models, because part of the problem that we noticed in the girl chess community was that there was a lack of genuine role models that one can easily connect with," says Shukla. Each session ends with the girls being given 'homework' of puzzles, which they solve using the ChessKids app. The girls are divided into three batches around the week — Monday-Wednesday, Tuesday-Thursday, Wednesday-Saturday — based on their preference. After only two months of teaching, there is already talk of getting the players to compete in online tournaments from November. "The challenge was how we can take these girls from being beginners to playing their first tournaments soon. We have a few students that left us very pleasantly surprised with the promise they've shown, considering we started to teach them from square one," Shukla adds. There are also plans to expand the programme. Shukla says she's already been approached by Wisdom World School in Madhya Pradesh's Katni. But the ultimate goal is to try and expand past state borders. "We want to connect with girls in India who play chess to see if they can start their own 'Checkmate Chapters' in their schools with our curriculum to take this across India," says Shukla.

China Masters Super 750: Lakshya Sen's Hong Kong Open momentum frittered away as he loses in straight games against Toma Junior Popov



GNS News Agency, Sept 29

It's been a strange old season for Lakshya Sen. After two first-round exits to start the year, he played one of his best matches of the year at the All England Open to defeat Jonatan Christie in straight games, then promptly lost in the next round. Then a few more early exits followed, before he showed glimpses of returning to form at the Macau Open, reaching the semifinals. It seemed he was building up good momentum going into the World Championships in Paris, but then came the draw from hell as he was pitted against world No 1 Shi Yu Qi in the first round, where he lost despite playing a fairly decent match. Coming out of the Worlds disappointment, he put together a fine run at the Hong Kong Open last week to reach his first final since last November. But on Wednesday, that hard-earned momentum was lost once more as he tamely exited the China Masters Super 750 without much of a fight, losing 11-21, 10-21 against France's Toma Junior Popov in just 30 minutes.

Popov made the better start to the match, opening up a 5-3 lead after a really tight net exchange, perhaps an area where Lakshya would have expected to control coming into the match. A big booming smash to Lakshya's backhand from the middle of the court saw the Frenchman take an 8-3 lead, followed by another down-the-line smash from the deep forehand corner, kissing the sideline for 10-3. Lakshya's attacks seemed to lack any zing, while he wasn't as sharp in defence as he was against Chou Tien Chen last week, going into the interval with a massive 3-11

GNS News Agency, Sept 29

Coming off a six-wicket defeat to Sri Lanka, Bangladesh needed a win against Afghanistan, and they achieved it with a collective performance in an attritional contest wherein fortunes swung from one side to another. At the halfway mark, Afghanistan seemed to have the game in their reach having restricted Bangladesh to 154 for five, but then they huffed and puffed before getting bowled out for 146 in 20 overs. Azmatullah Omarzai threatened to turn the tables with his 16-ball 30, a knock in which he collected 20 runs off Saif Hassan's 14th over of the innings to begin Afghanistan's resurrection following a poor start.

But he perished right after hitting Taskin Ahmed for a six in the 16th over, signalling the end for Afghanistan. The end came swiftly when Mustafizur Rahman (3/28) removed Rashid Khan (20) and AM Ghazanfar (0) in consecutive balls of the penultimate over. Bangladesh fielded well, and more importantly, dominated both the powerplays which paved the way for their win, as they first raced to 59 for no loss in the first half and restricted Afghanistan to a poor 27 for two in the second. The tone was set by Nasum Ahmed whose first delivery of the innings skidded off the surface and hit Sediqullah Atal in front of the pads. The left-arm Bangladesh spinner struck again in the powerplay when he trapped Ibrahim Zadran (5) leg-before in the fifth over. While Rahmanullah Gurbaz did the heavy lifting at the top, he found no support from the other end, as No. 4 Gulbadin Naib (16) too perished without making a mark. The contest also marked Bangladesh spinners Nasum (4-1-11-2) and Rishad Hossain (4-0-18-2) outsmarting their Afghan counterparts, skipper Rashid Khan (2/26) and his spin colleague Noor Ahmad (2/23), who had earlier produced impressive spells to restrict their opponent. Bangladesh were bolstered by a 31-ball 52 from opener Tanzid Hasan and his 63-run open-

ing stand with Saif Hassan (30), powering the Tigers to 87 for one at the halfway mark. But the two Afghan spinners, well backed by Azmatullah Omarzai (3-0-19-1), pulled things back with their accuracy and variations and put pressure back on Bangladesh. Bangladesh had picked up the scoring rate after a sedate start when Tanzid got four boundaries off Fazalhaq Farooqi in the third over, in between surviving a leg-before appeal courtesy umpire's call. Two of those fours came off edges that flew through and two were smacked down the ground past mid-on. In the next over from AM Ghazanfar, Hassan showed intent smashing a huge six down the ground but it was Tanzid who hit more spectacular sixes off the Afghan spinner in the sixth over, one that sailed over long on and other that was picked up from his pads over deep square leg. The partnership was broken by Afghanistan captain Rashid, whose delivery kept a little low and beat Saif's sweep to crash into the off-stump. Bangladesh were still in cruise mode after 10 overs but they could not do much in the face of acute pressure from the Afghanistan spinners who kept tight lines and denied any room for the batters to free up their arms.

At 1-6 in the second game, Lakshya's frustration came out as he half-smashed, not the shuttle, but his racket after harmlessly sending a cross-lift beyond the baseline. Then, a moment of controversy. Popov's smash to Lakshya's backhand side was seemingly called wide by the line judge (not visible on the one-camera broadcast setup for Court 3), and the Indian was celebrating the point. Popov looked mystified from the other end when it was called out and sought the intervention of the chair umpire, who gave the point to the Frenchman, leaving Lakshya confused and frustrated. There was more arching of the head backward soon after as he missed a bread-and-butter inside-out smash to trail 4-11 in Game 2. As Popov dominated the net to win a superb flat rally and go up 14-6, the writing was on the wall for Lakshya. On Sunday, Lakshya had spoken about building momentum on the tour after his impressive run to the final, taking out a couple of his national teammates, HS Prannoy and Ayush Shetty, and more importantly, coming through a thriller in the semifinal against Chou. "A good week... especially coming back from World Championships where things didn't go as planned, but I think we had trained well for it," Lakshya had told BWF. "Three weeks, four weeks we had put in a good work, so now it was time that I keep the momentum up because even at the World Champs it was a really good match (against eventual champion Shi Yu Qi), a close match that I lost. So, a lot of positives to take from this tournament, especially winning good matches in three-setters. A lot of positives to take, a lot of the things that I did back maybe two months, three months back are helping, so I just want myself to believe in myself more and keep going." It was perhaps the physical exertions from the long matches in Hong Kong — although that can hardly be an excuse when a veteran like Chou Tien Chen turns up week in and week out to beat younger players, as he showed against Ayush Shetty on Tuesday. For Lakshya, unfortunately, that head of steam he had built up in Hong Kong was lost a week later in Shenzhen.

Bangladesh pip Afghanistan by eight runs to keep Super Fours hopes alive



ing stand with Saif Hassan (30), powering the Tigers to 87 for one at the halfway mark. But the two Afghan spinners, well backed by Azmatullah Omarzai (3-0-19-1), pulled things back with their accuracy and variations and put pressure back on Bangladesh. Bangladesh had picked up the scoring rate after a sedate start when Tanzid got four boundaries off Fazalhaq Farooqi in the third over, in between surviving a leg-before appeal courtesy umpire's call. Two of those fours came off edges that flew through and two were smacked down the ground past mid-on. In the next over from AM Ghazanfar, Hassan showed intent smashing a huge six down the ground but it was Tanzid who hit more spectacular sixes off the Afghan spinner in the sixth over, one that sailed over long on and other that was picked up from his pads over deep square leg. The partnership was broken by Afghanistan captain Rashid, whose delivery kept a little low and beat Saif's sweep to crash into the off-stump. Bangladesh were still in cruise mode after 10 overs but they could not do much in the face of acute pressure from the Afghanistan spinners who kept tight lines and denied any room for the batters to free up their arms.

Why are Pakistan so far behind India? Power hitting coach Julian Wood explains

GNS News Agency, Sept 29

Having an aggressive intent, a strong structure to play high-risk game, learning to manage risk are some of the key aspects that renowned T20 power-hitting coach Julian Wood has suggested for Pakistan, which has been struggling to keep pace with the changing nature of the format. After Pakistan came up with another listless display with the bat against India, there have been plenty of questions about their approach even from their former players with many pointing out how they appeared clueless when it came down to taking down the Indian spinners. For a team that made successive finals when the T20 World Cup came into picture, and played the T20 World Cup final in 2022, they have been perennial strugglers in white-ball since then, failing to make the knockouts in ICC events. Even in successive Asia Cup tournaments in 50-overs as well as T20, they have appeared far behind India. Wood, who has travelled worldwide as a specialist T20 coach, acknowledged that Pakistan are better placed than Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, but still have issues to address. "They are more aggressive anyway. Their characters are more aggressive. So they have that aggressive intent. With them it is the just the lack of understanding. I think it is lack of knowledge on how to assess and having a framework or structure, in their attack. There needs to be a game plan. I'm sure they have plans. I'm sure they sit down and say, 'right, this is how we're going to play'. But it's having that understanding how to do it," Wood told The Indian Express. With teams embracing a high-risk approach in search of big totals in excess of 200, the run-rate has gradually picked up in recent times. For instance, since the start of January 2021, India have been scoring at 9.15 runs per over — the highest for any team — and have an incredible win-loss ratio of 3.115. England are up next, scoring at exactly 9 an over with Australia at third (8.94). Pakistan, on the other hand, going at 8.14 runs per over are 14th on the list with some of the Associates like Nepal and Canada above them. "It's basically managing risk. You need them to embrace the risk and there is a method to it. You have to keep adapting the

game depending on the conditions and the attack. You have to adapt throughout the game. You can't just play one way," Wood says. Apart from searching for the big hits, their middle-order showed no signs of putting pressure by keeping the scoreboard ticking with singles and twos. "You can't just bat sort of one way," Wood says. "When you do that, you are guessing you will be successful. And you won't be consistent with that. Most teams tend to slow down in the middle. But the bowlers will continue to give bad balls and I will again go back to the mindset. If you hit two boundaries and play four dots or one boundary and hit five singles, that's no risk. There is no risk there at all. You are very one-paced. The idea has to be to keep accelerating. It is a habit that takes time. India is a good case in point now," Wood adds. Just before the Asia Cup, Wood was summoned by both the teams to improve on their power-hitting skillset, as this season also includes a T20 World Cup. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh happen to be far behind Pakistan when it comes to keeping pace with the demands of T20. Sri Lanka (7.68) and Bangladesh (7.44) reflect a wider trend in their system which lacks power-hitters and batsmen who can take bold risks. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh happen to be far behind Pakistan when it comes to keeping pace with the demands of T20. (ANI Photo) "They rely heavily on rhythm, timing of their movements. So what I did with them was just basically looked at how they can access more power. The Sri Lankans, I think, are in a better position than the Bangladeshis. I think mindset comes into it a lot. If you look at it, you need everybody to be in the same mindset. The message has to be consistent throughout. If that's not, then you get fearful cricket. Players playing fearful cricket is the last thing you need. It's about having an aggressive intent. You won't hit every ball. But you have to put something back on the bowlers. You can't let them dictate," Wood says. This lack of aggressive intent has also had a ripple effect. While batsmen, including ones from Afghanistan pile their trade in domestic T20 leagues and gain experience, batsmen from Pakistan

‘Ram Gopal Varma 2.0 is going to blow your mind’: Manoj Bajpayee on working with RGV in Police Station Mein Bhoot



Actor Manoj Bajpayee, who first rose to prominence through Ram Gopal Varma's cult classic *Satya* as the unforgettable Bhiku Mhatre, is set to reunite with the maverick filmmaker after several years. The duo, known for their ground-breaking collaborations on films like *Shool* and *Kaun*, are now joining hands for an upcoming horror comedy titled *Police Station Mein Bhoot*. In an exclusive conversation with **SCREEN**, Manoj Bajpayee opened up about the experience of working with Varma again after such a long hiatus — and what felt different this time. "It's too early to say anything, but at least we've finished one schedule. This Ram Gopal Varma 2.0 is really going to blow your mind. In the first schedule, I myself was blown away by the taking, by the craft. Every shot, every detail, every suggestion kept me

on my toes. I realized this isn't the Ram Gopal Varma I had worked with before. This is a new RGV — someone who's collaborating more than just directing, and surprising you with the way he sets up a scene. So yes, it's still early, but I can say he's going to be back — and how!" RGV, who began his career with the pathbreaking *Siva*, and later made an indelible mark with films like *Rangeela* and *Satya*, quickly emerged as one of the boldest and most entertaining voices in Indian cinema. At his peak, he was a force to reckon with, delivering genre-defining films such as *Kaun*, *Company*, and *Sarkar*. However, by the late 2000s, Varma's craft appeared to lose its edge. His signature style started to feel repetitive, and the stories lacked the bite that once made them iconic. While he continued to make films, few managed to make a lasting impact. Now, with *Police Station Mein Bhoot*, there's a renewed sense of curiosity and anticipation surrounding Varma's next chapter.

The filmmaker himself recently offered a rare moment of introspection. During the re-release of *Satya*, he shared a deeply personal reflection on social media, a kind of confession and a hint at the comeback he intends to make. He wrote: "Coming back to the hotel after the screening of *Satya*, and sitting in the dark, I didn't understand why, with all my so-called intelligence, I did not set this film as a benchmark for whatever I should do in the future. I also realized I didn't just cry for the tragedy in that film, but I also cried in joy for that version of myself. And I cried in guilt for my betrayals of all those who trusted me due to *Satya*. I became drunk not on alcohol but on my own success and arrogance, though I didn't know this until two days back."

Homebound trailer: Ishaan Khatter, Vishal Jethwa fight caste and religion politics in Neeraj Ghaywan's acclaimed second film

Dharma Productions on Wednesday unveiled the first trailer for director Neeraj Ghaywan's *Homebound*, after the film's successful festival run and ahead of its theatrical release on September 26. *Homebound* marks Ghaywan's second narrative feature, after the critically acclaimed *Masaan*, which was released a decade ago. In the interim years, the filmmaker directed episodes of shows such as *Made in Heaven* and *Sacred Games*, and directed an acclaimed short film titled *Geeli Pucchi*. *Homebound* premiered as an official selection at the Cannes Film Festival's Un Certain Regard section, and then emerged as the second runner-up for the People's Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival. The trailer introduces the film's two protagonists, childhood best friends Mohammed Shoaib (Ishaan Khatter) and Chandan Kumar (Vishal Jethwa). Besides their village in Uttar Pradesh, the two also share a the same lived experiences as members of oppressed communities. The trailer shows that both characters have



grand aspirations, and want nothing more than to escape their stations in society. But when they enter the workforce, they witness everyday acts of casual cruelty, based on nothing but their caste and religion.

‘Aishwarya Rai hasn't moved out of Bachchan home, so what if she doesn't like Jaya?': Prahlad Kakkar addresses Aishwarya-Abhishek Bachchan separation rumours



Ad guru Prahlad Kakkar, who continues to live in the same building as Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's original house in Mumbai, said that she spends her days there because her mother is unwell, not because she has moved out of her in-laws house. Rumours have been rife in recent months about the status of Aishwarya's relationship with her husband, Abhishek Bachchan. They tied the knot in a secretive ceremony at the Bachchans' home in Mumbai, and welcomed their first child, daughter Aaradhya, in 2011. In a new interview with journalist Vickey Lalwani, Prahlad Kakkar said that Aishwarya has a few hours to kill after she drops Aaradhya to school, which she chooses to spend with her mother.

Asked about the recent rumours, Prahlad said, "I don't think there is any truth (to them). I live in the same building, and I know how much time Aish spends in the building, and there's a valid reason for that. Her mother is unwell. She drops her daughter to the Ambani school, and she has to pick her up at 1 pm, so she has three hours to kill. She spends those three hours with her mother. Then she picks up her daughter and goes home."

Prahlad described the rumours of Aishwarya having moved out of the Bachchans' house and back in with her mother as 'garbage'. When the specific rumours of Aishwarya not getting along with Jaya Bachchan and Shweta Bachchan were brought up, Prahlad said, "So what? She's still the bahu of the house. She still runs the house." He said that he didn't see a reason to ask Aishwarya about the rumours on one of her visits to her original house, because he knew 'there was no truth to it'. Aishwarya Rai Abhishek Bachchan Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan tied the knot in 2007. (Express Archive) He continued, "Everyone is saying she's escaping from her marriage and living with her mother. But she's only visiting her mother in the mornings while her daughter is at school. Sundays she didn't come. I knew she is very close to her mother and was very concerned about her. Sometimes, Abhishek also came. So what's the big deal? Why would he come if she was running away from him?" Prahlad, who

mentored Aishwarya early in her career and witnessed her evolution from close quarters, praised her and Abhishek for never commenting on the rumours. "She has always maintained her dignity, right through her career," he said. Rumours about Abhishek and Aishwarya have been swirling for a while; they were exacerbated by a sharp decline in their joint public appearances together, and when Abhishek once 'liked' a post about divorce on social media. However, they attended a family wedding, Aaradhya's school function, and Anant Ambani's wedding festivities together. They seemingly put the rumours to rest when they celebrated their 18th anniversary together with Aaradhya.

Chiranjeevi says he feels humbled that Kirti Chakra winner Malla Ramgopal Naidu is his fan!

Chennai: Megastar Chiranjeevi, who recently met Kirti Chakra awardee Major Malla Ramgopal Naidu, penned a heartfelt post on X expressing gratitude for the brave officer's affection. Posting pictures from their meeting, Chiranjeevi wrote on Tuesday: "So delighted to meet Major Malla Ramgopal Naidu, who won the Kirti Chakra for his extraordinary gallantry (Aug '23). His act of valour at such a young age is a beacon of inspiration for generations to come." The Telugu superstar added: "What humbles me the most is knowing that this brave soldier, who stood tall for the country, also holds me close to his heart as a fan. My heartfelt gratitude for his affection and warm memories. May God bless him & his family abundantly." On the work front, Chiranjeevi is currently shooting for director Anil Ravipudi's much-awaited commercial entertainer *Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu*. Just last week, the team filmed a song featuring Chiranjeevi and Nayanthara. Sources said the track, choreographed by Vijay Polanki, has a catchy tune composed by Bheems Ceciroleo, known for chartbusters. The makers had earlier released a title teaser for Chiranjeevi's birthday, showing him as a commanding figure, escorted by armed commandoes, with background music repeatedly echoing the word "Boss." Produced by Sahu Garapati and Sushmita Konidela under Shine Screens and Gold Box Entertainment, the film has generated huge expectations. After Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy and Godfather, this marks the third collaboration of Chiranjeevi and Nayanthara. Anil Ravipudi, fresh off the success of *Sankranthiki Vasthunam*, directs the film. Bheems Ceciroleo handles the music, Sameer Reddy is the cinematographer, Tammiraju is the editor,

Aamir Khan charged thrice the fees of Shah Rukh for an ad, but this director chose him: ‘SRK didn't have a squeaky clean image; Aamir was a clean boy’



Post 1990s, most of the 'modern' era of Bollywood was dominated by the three Khans. Aamir Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, and Salman Khan collectively delivered more hits and iconic films than the rest of the industry combined and became synonymous with Bollywood success. Ad guru Prahlad Kakkar recently talked about working with the three actors during their early days and how a distinct quality separated Aamir from the other two.

Kakkar told Vickey Lalwani that he chose Aamir over Shah Rukh for an ad even though the former actor was asking for almost thrice the money. Kakkar answered in the affirmative and said, "Yes, that's correct. I did fight with a client to get Aamir instead of Shah Rukh. Aamir was actually charging Rs 17 lakh compared to Shah Rukh's fees of Rs 6 lakh, and that too because Shah Rukh was short of

that exact amount for buying his house. I told them that Shah Rukh wasn't right for the ad, because I don't just want an actor; I want the image that comes with him. They went around and around with him for 6 months, because Aamir didn't budge, but they finally got him. The image Aamir had was of an innocent and clean boy; that's what I wanted for the film. Shah Rukh didn't exactly have the squeaky-clean image I was looking for."

He doubled down on the need for the right image and said, "They were both good-looking and talented boys, but Aamir had done films like *Qayamat se Qayamat Tak*, while Shah Rukh had worked in *Raju Ban Gaya Gentleman*. The latter wasn't right for the ad because of the image he had at that point, and that's why I sided with Aamir. I knew that both would make it, and I used Shah Rukh for a lot of other ads." Kakkar specifically pointed out the qualities of two actors and how Salman wasn't in the running during his early days, and that's why he wasn't his first choice for ad films. Shah Rukh is a thorough professional, and I have always enjoyed working with him. I had the same positive experience with Aamir as well, but he is a bit anal. Salman I knew before he shot to stardom, and he used to hang around my sets because he was friends with my wife. He wasn't superstar material back then because he hadn't worked a lot. He was a bit short in height, and he wasn't a great actor at that point." Aamir made his debut with *Qayamat se Qayamat Tak* (1988), after appearing in *Yaadon Ki Baarat* (1973) as a child actor. Shah Rukh entered the industry with *Deewana* (1992), and Salman's debut came with the film *Biwi Ho To Aisi* (1988), but his first lead role was in *Maine Pyar Kiya* (1989).

Payal Rohatgi pens note about ‘betrayal’, shares stories about ‘knowing your worth’ amid reports of husband Sangram Singh’s affair with Nikita Rawal

Sangram Singh and Payal Rohatgi's love blossomed on the reality show *Survivors India* in 2012. The two bonded on the show and according to Payal, Sangram expressed his love to her on the show itself after which they started dating each other and eventually moved in together. After dating each other for over a decade, they tied the knot in 2022. However, now it seems like their marriage is in trouble with reports of Sangram Singh having an affair with actor Nikita Rawal. Amid all the chaos, an Instagram post by Payal has added fuel to the fire.

On Wednesday, Payal shared a picture from their wedding reception with the caption: "Betrayal always comes dressed as loyalty until the mask falls." In another post, with another picture from her reception, Payal wrote: "Asked a rich man how he did it & he said 'I stopped trying to help everyone'." Both the captions were accompanied with the hashtags "Ladki hoon lad sakti hoon." She also took to her Instagram Story to share cryptic notes about honouring oneself. One of her Stories read: "Choose what chooses you, honour what honours you and love what loves you back. Honour your worth." Just a week ago, Payal shared another cryptic post that read: "They called you crazy to cover up how damaging they really were. Attacking your sanity is their excuse to dodge accountability. It's not confusion, it's control, and every time they label you the problem, they are hiding the truth that they were the one causing the harm."

Around the same time, Payal had shared yet another picture from her wedding which she captioned: "Every wound she ever survived became another jewel in her crown." The post had also gained the attention of her husband, who dropped hearts in the comment section. Speaking to NDTV, Sangram shared: "There is no talk of divorce between us. We have been together for 14 years and will always be. I keep all my focus on doing good work. I do not pay attention to these talks of divorce, and I will also request her to not believe in such rumours." However, in another interview with News18 Showsha, he admitted that all the rumours impact Payal. He said: "10–12 years ago, such news would affect me. Even a single negative comment would hurt me. But now, I've developed a thick skin. We lead public lives, so the idea is to not get affected by what people say. People love reading negative headlines. But Payal ji was affected. She overthinks a lot and then explodes."

What sparked dating rumours?

The rumours of Sangram Singh having an affair with actor Nikita Rawal surfaced after netizens noticed constant likes, affectionate comments and emojis left by Sangram on Nikita's post.



Payal and Sangram have been in news since their marriage. This is not the first time Payal has shared a speculative post or story. About an year ago, the actress had shared a video complaining about Sangram making her stay at people's house rather than a hotel. The video was widely circulated online. In the video, Payal was also seen crying. During their anniversary last year, Payal had penned a taunting post for her husband where she accused him of not appreciating her efforts of starting a new business. She wrote: "Dear husband, it's been 2 years of marriage. I stood on the roads to learn business post marriage to you. I did that as I am not insecure nor having weak society driven mindset." She added: "It will be nice if you can self analyse my efforts and appreciate it rather than making my efforts seem petty." Payal had also spoken about the delay in their marriage on the reality show *Lock Upp*. There she claimed it is Sangram's friends who are keeping him from getting married to her. "Sangram is close to his friends, hence he doesn't want to go against them to marry me", she said on the show. However, it was on the same show when Sangram proposed to her for marriage. Clips and screenshots of these statements were often shared on Reddit with people sharing their opinions. Many speculated that she needed medical help. When Payal confessed to being diagnosed with bipolar disorder, Payal Rohatgi had also shared on the show *Lock Upp* that she was diagnosed with bipolar disorder in the past. Previously, in an interview post her wedding, Payal told *FreePressJournal* that she is short-tempered and once during a fight with Sangram she even broke a plate into two. She said: "We fight about very trivial things. I like the air conditioner; he doesn't. Whenever he shaves, he leaves hair in the wash basin. So now I don't share a bathroom with him." The couple is yet to react to the rumours.

‘Salman Khan was physical, obsessive with Aishwarya Rai; would bang his head’: Prahlad Kakkar says Aishwarya was ‘heartbroken about being abandoned by Bollywood after break-up’

Ad guru Prahlad Kakkar lives in the same building as Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's mother; this was the house that Aishwarya herself used to live in before she married Abhishek Bachchan. Owing to his close proximity to the star, whom he mentored in the early stages of her career, Prahlad was also privy to the ups and downs that she experienced in her life. One of the most traumatic phases that Aishwarya experienced was her rumoured relationship with actor Salman Khan. In a new interview, Prahlad described Salman as 'possessive', and recalled memories of hearing his arguments with Aishwarya. He also addressed long-standing rumours of him being physically violent towards her.

Chatting with journalist Vickey Lalwani, Prahlad was asked about witnessing Aishwarya's career from close quarters, as she rose up the ranks through beauty pageants and became a leading heroine. "Her greatest hurt was being abandoned by the industry for Salman. That was her greatest hurt. She really felt bad." Prahlad said that she wasn't as upset about the break-up itself, because it was a long time coming.

"She was relieved about it. The break-up was a huge relief. He was very physical with her. He was very obsessive. How do you deal with somebody who is very obsessive?" Prahlad said. Asked if Aishwarya shared some of the details of her altercations with Salman, Prahlad said, "No. But I know. I was living in the same building! He would make scenes in the foyer. He would bang his head at the wall. The relationship had ended long before it ended. It was a relief for everybody; her parents, her, everybody. She wasn't upset about the break-up. She was upset about being completely... Everybody took Salman's side and not hers." Prahlad suggested that Aishwarya still carries some of this hurt, which is why she doesn't work as often as she used to. "That's where her commitment to the industry actually cracked. Otherwise she was very committed. She didn't trust the industry anymore. They weren't being fair. I could understand if she was wrong and the other party was right, or if they were equally responsible. Nothing! It was so one-sided. She felt very, very betrayed by the industry," he said. In a recent interview with *FilmyMantra*, Aishwarya and Salman's *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* co-star Smita Jaykar said that their romance translated onto the screen. "