

Attempt to change LPG cylinder triggers fatal blast in Sangareddy

Sangareddy: An attempt to replace an LPG cylinder proved fatal for a young man in LIG Colony of RC Puram mandal, on Thursday night.Swaroop, aged 22, was changing the cylinder around 10:30 pm when it began leaking, sparking an explosion that shook the residential building.

The force of the blast threw Swaroop from the first floor, leading to his death on the spot. His mother and sister, who were present at the time, suffered minor injuries. Firefighters from BHEL responded swiftly to contain the blaze.

Jubilee Hills bypoll: Voters can cast their vote using 12 valid photo Id documents



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Hyderabad: In the Jubilee Hills Assembly bye-election to be held on November 11, voters can exercise their franchise using any of the 12 valid photo identity proof.District Election Commissioner, R V Karnan on a Friday released the list of 12 valid photo Id proofs and said the aim was to ensure that eligible voters were empowered to exercise their democratic right.Voters whose names were present in the electoral rolls but do not possess an Electors' Photo Identity Card (EPIC) can still cast their vote by presenting any one of the following 12 approved photo identification documents at the polling station.-Service Identity Card with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt, PSUs, or Public Limited Companies-Official Identity Cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs

Mamata vs BJP: Suvendu seeks Central security for Bengal electoral official, cites CM's 'threat' over SIR



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Suvendu, Mamata vs BJP over SIRThe BJP and Mamata Banerjee are locked in a war of words over the conduct of SIR exercise in Bengal (Photos: FB pages of leaders).Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's 'warning' to the Election Commission regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise has sparked a war of words with the BJP. Citing her "threat", the BJP has demanded action against CM Mamata and the deployment of central forces for the security of the Chief Electoral Officer in Bengal, Manoj Kumar Agarwal.West Bengal Assembly Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari said: "I request that Central Security be provided to the CEO at his Office and Residence to ensure his safety, given the clear and present danger posed by these threats in a state where lawlessness prevails."

Calling Mamata Banerjee's "threat" "audacious", Adhikari posted on X (previously Twitter): "From a press conference held at the State Secretariat, in the presence of the Chief Secretary, she hurled baseless allegations against the CEO, accusing him of corruption and issuing covert threats to intimidate him. Her words, 'I hope he doesn't over-react or play aggressively', and references to 'various allegations' are nothing short of an attempt to blackmail and undermine an officer tasked with upholding the sanctity of our democratic process."He also posted the video of Mamata Banerjee's "threat".

He claimed this was not an isolated incident. "On July 28, during an administrative meeting in Bolpur, Mamata Banerjee openly threatened Booth Level Officers (BLOs), who are state government employees, warning them of 'consequences' if they dared to exclude even a single name from the voters' list, while performing their Electoral Duties. She reminded them that the ECI's authority over them would cease post-elections, implying they would face her wrath," she said.Suvendu said that it was the ECI's failure to take action against CM Mamata that had "emboldened her to escalate her attacks".He pointed out the deteriorating law and order situation in West Bengal, citing the attack on Khagen Murmu he said that the MP had been attacked in the presence of state police "simply for distributing aid to flood-affected people"The Trinamool Congress said it "will not tolerate deletion of voters". Mamata Banerjee at Nabanna said on Thursday:

Telangana HC allows visually impaired candidate to apply for Assistant Public Prosecutor post, bypassing recruitment clause

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Telangana High Court (2)The decision, therefore, should apply to the case of the petitioner and other similarly situated visually impaired candidates who suffer from a benchmark disability of 40 per cent, the counsel said. (File)The Telangana High Court Thursday passed an interim order allowing a visually impaired candidate to apply for the post of Assistant Public Prosecutors (APPs), bypassing a clause in the notification.

The petitioner, Koppula Sravan Kumar, filed the writ petition after the recruitment notification's clause 11(D)(ii) that explicitly excludes candidates suffering from visual impairment.After hearing the arguments, the Division



Bench of Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G M Mohiuddin Bench said: "In view of the above facts and circumstances, the petitioner may be allowed to submit the application in the instant recruitment Notification Rc. No.234/Rect./Admn-2/2025 dated 15.08.2025."The petitioner's counsel submitted that if a candidate who has acquired a law degree can be considered suitable

therefore, should apply to the case of the petitioner and other similarly situated visually impaired candidates who suffer from a benchmark disability of 40 per cent, the counsel said.He requested the court that during the pendency of this application, the petitioner may be allowed to submit his application on or before the cut-off date, i.e, 15.10.2025.

The High Court acknowledged the circumstances and directed that the petitioner's application be accepted immediately. However, the court clarified that the acceptance of the application is subject to the outcome of the ongoing writ petition.The court has granted the state's counsel three weeks to obtain instructions and has listed the matter for further hearing on November 10.

Congress slams Modi's praise for Israeli PM



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "unqualified praise" for his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu was "shameful and morally atrocious", the Congress said on Thursday (October 9, 2025), while targeting Mr. Modi for his "silence" on the future of an independent and sovereign state of Palestine.The criticism followed the Prime Minister's statement welcoming the agreement on the first phase of United States President Donald Trump's West Asia peace plan, under which Israel and Hamas have agreed to pause fighting in Gaza. Mr. Modi described the deal as a reflection of Mr. Netanyahu's "strong leadership" and expressed hope that it would bring "respite" to the people of Gaza and pave

the way for lasting peace.

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh attacked Mr. Modi for failing to mention the ongoing expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank or the devastating toll of the Gaza war."It is shocking, shameful, and morally atrocious that the Prime Minister has extended unqualified praise to Netanyahu — who has unleashed a genocide in Gaza over the past 20 months," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X."Mr. Modi has also maintained a total silence on the future of an independent, sovereign state of Palestine that was recognised by India way back in November 1988, and that is now recognised by over 150 countries," he added.The Congress has consistently criticised the Narendra Modi government's stance on Gaza. Earlier, it accused the Prime Minister of "moral cowardice" and a "total betrayal" of India's values by refusing to condemn "horrific atrocities" in the region and the Congress Working Committee (CWC) in September had expressed "profound distress" at India's muted response to the crisis.The CWC said India, once a "beacon of moral conscience" and a leader of the post-colonial world, had now been reduced to a "silent spectator". "India has always been a beacon of moral conscience and the champion of the post-colonial world, it has now shamefully been reduced to a silent spectator. Our foreign policy has now acquired a moral taint," the CWC resolution said.

BJP twin strategy for polls: 'Ensure no Hindu names deleted during SIR, focus on 160 seats'

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Election Commission, SIR of electoral rolls in West Bengal, West Bengal Assembly elections, West Bengal Assembly polls, Special Intensive Revision, Kolkata news, WEst Bengal news, Indian express, current affairsWhile the party is keen to retain its hold in north Bengal, it will deploy full strength in south Bengal this time, where the TMC has been electorally dominating for close to two decades.With the Election Commission all set to start Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, where Assembly elections are due early next year, the state unit of the BJP on Thursday held a high-level meeting to strategise its plan.Sources in the party said the meeting — chaired by state in-charge Bhupendra Yadav and attended by his deputy Biplab Deb, state unit chief Samik Bhattacharya, party leaders Sunil Bansal, Amit Malviya, and Sukanta Majumdar among others — focused on two things — "ensuring no Hindu voters' name is removed during SIR, and identifying Assembly seats where it could win this time". "In the meeting, instructions were given to party leaders to remain vigilant during SIR to ensure that no Hindu voter's name is removed from the electoral rolls. For this purpose, Hindu voters will be made aware of the EC exercise through camps, so that they can correct any errors in the electoral roll," said a senior BJP leader.

Earlier in the day, Union minister Shantanu Thakur claimed that around 1.2 crore "illegal voters" could be removed from the state electoral rolls through the SIR. Thakur, a prominent leader of the Matua community, said the SIR would ensure a transparent voter list and remove what he termed as "Rohingyas, infiltrators and ghost voters" from the state's electoral rolls."If SIR is implemented properly, the TMC government will have no escape route. At least one crore to 1.2 crore people who have illegally become voters in West Bengal will be deleted. Rohingyas, infiltra-



tors, and ghost voters will not be able to cast their votes anymore," the BJP MP said, triggering a sharp retort from the TMC leaders who warned that the SIR process could backfire on the BJP itself.At the meeting, sources said, the party leadership identified 160 Assembly seats where special focus will be given.In the 2021 Assembly polls, the BJP had won 77 out of 292 seats to emerge as the principal Opposition party in the state."There were several seats where the party was defeated by a narrow margin of votes in the last Assembly elections. These seats will receive special attention this time," the BJP leader said.While the party is keen to retain its hold in north Bengal, it will deploy full strength in south Bengal this time, where the TMC has been electorally dominating for close to two decades.

According to sources, 50,000 booth committees have been formed, and the leaders have been directed to constitute the remaining. "A separate committee will be formed for the four districts of Kolkata, with Vijay Ojha and Dipanjan Guha being made their in-charge. Committees will be formed for all tasks — for deciding the criteria for candidates, for promotion of central government schemes, among others.

Seven injured as car hits tree near Maruthinagar, Jagtial; three in serious condition

Jagtial: Seven persons were injured in a road accident that took place near Maruthinagar in the outskirts of Korutla. The incident occurred when a car wherein the injured were travelling rammed into a roadside tree late on Thursday night.Residents of Korutla town, the victims were traveling to Maruthinagar to have tea in a dhaba and met with an accident when the driver lost control over the steering and hit a roadside tree.Seven persons sustained serious injuries and the condition of three persons is said to be serious. Injured persons were shifted to Jagtial and Karimnagar hospitals.

Fire breaks out at a factory in Prakasam District



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

A significant fire broke out today at the tobacco factory in Singarayakonda mandal, Prakasam district, engulfing the surrounding areas in thick smoke. Local residents, alarmed by the smoke emanating from the factory in the early hours, promptly alerted the police and fire brigade.

Fire brigade personnel arrived swiftly on the scene and are currently working to control the rapidly spreading blaze. The recent tobacco harvest has left a substantial stockpile within the factory, complicating the firefighting efforts.Initial reports suggest that the fire may have been sparked by a short circuit, and estimates indicate that damages could amount to approximately hundreds of crores. The full extent of the destruction is still being assessed as firefighters continue their battle against the flames. Further details regarding this alarming incident are awaited.

Injustice to BCs again!



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Senior BC Welfare Association leader Gundala Krishna (RJC Krishna) condemned the State government's handling of the 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BCs), following the High Court's stay on its implementation. Speaking at a meeting of BC community leaders in Khammam on Thursday, Krishna stated that the state government's lack of sincerity is responsible for this setback (referring to the High Court's stay order on the day.)He alleged that despite the Bill being passed in both Houses of the legislature, the manner in which reservations were structured exposes the dominance of upper castes and the government's questionable intent. "Can reservations be granted secretly, without proper legal footing? Is the government trying to push this through in the dark?" he asked.

Krishna further alleged that certain groups deliberately filed cases in the High Court and Supreme Court to stall BC reservations that are rightfully due as per population proportion.He asserted that 42% reservation for BCs is a just demand and warned that the government would have to pay a political price if it fails to ensure it.BC leaders Kurakula Nagabhushanam, Bomma Rajeshwara Rao, and Katti Nehru were among those present at the meeting.

Thunderstorms Expected in Telangana as Trough Influences Weather Patterns

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

The Hyderabad Meteorological Centre has forecasted thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds of 30 to 40 km/h across several districts in Telangana, including Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Suryapet, and Mahabubabad. This weather is anticipated due to a trough extending from South Odisha to the coastal Andhra coast, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, and the Komarin region, positioned at a height of 0.9 km above mean sea level.



The Centre has also indicated the possibility of scattered rain in Bhadradri K o t h a g u d e m , Khammam, and Mahabubabad districts tomorrow. Additionally, a surface depression linked to the existing trough over Telangana and Andhra Pradesh is expected to strengthen, potentially developing into a low-pressure area by tomorrow, October 11. This shift raises the likelihood of heavy rainfall in the region next week.In the past 24 hours, Annapurreddy Pally in the Kothagudem district reported the highest rainfall of 9.15 cm, followed by Malkalapalli at 7.55 cm, Tipparti at 6.78 cm, Kattangur at 5.07 cm, Narketpally at 4.76 cm, Moosapet at 4.71 cm, and Bhutpur at 4.59 cm. Residents are advised to stay alert and take necessary precautions in preparation for the expected weather changes.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

ED's advisory about digital arrests adds to the confusion

"There is no concept of digital or online arrest under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002." Though it sounds as a well-intended means to alert the gullible public, this affirmation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as regards the nature of arrests it makes, the same appears like an ill-timed wake-up call. It is good that ED per se never makes any digital or online arrest but it is quite baffling that the federal probe agency has only restricted itself to the scope of the anti-money laundering law, while it would have done a world of good for itself and all potential victims of frauds being played out in the name of digital or online arrest if there was an element of genuine attempt to thwart such crimes in the first place.

'Ignorance of law is no exception' goes the adage but to what extent will a person who knows law be assured of its protective shield that can safeguard one from falling prey to devious schemes. All said and done, framing laws and coming up with the most stringent regulations are easier said than done. The problem is with the continued failure and the absence of a steely resolve to implement them in right earnest.

Taking advantage of such lacunae, street-smart scammers get away with murder even as innocent victims, who lose their hard-earned money, are driven to suicide. The authorities should realise that like all types of online frauds, even digital arrests are cybercrimes, albeit with a more potent modus operandi.

Either way, it is the innocent people who pay a heavy price. A sad irony is that there has been an alarming increase in digital arrests, whereupon the fraudster traps people by calling them over an online messaging platform as ED or narcotics wing officials and demand money

Rachakonda Police Commissionerate & Rachakonda Security Council Organize "Golden Care" Health Camp for Senior Citizens

Hyderabad

Rachakonda Police Commissionerate, in collaboration with Rachakonda Security Council (RKSC) and Kamineni Hospitals, successfully hosted the "Golden Care" health camp on October 10, 2025, at PMR Convention Hall, Nagole. The initiative aimed to provide comprehensive health check-ups and medical consultations for senior citizens, with over 147 participants benefiting from the event.

Shri G. Sudheer Babu, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, and Chairman, Rachakonda Security Council, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He high-



lighted the importance of ensuring healthcare, dignity, and support for senior citizens who have contributed significantly to society.

The health camp offered a range of free services, including consultations with General Physicians, Cardiologists, Orthopedicians, Dentists, and Eye Specialists, along with diagnostic tests. The event was supported by Kamineni Hospitals and Solis Eye Care Hospitals. Shri ARS Satyanarayana, Vice President - Marketing at Kamineni Hospitals, was also present, underscoring the hospital's commitment to community health initiatives.

Senior officers, including LB nagar DCP Anuradha IPS, Women safety DCP Usha Rani, Traffic DCP Srinivasulu along with the Chief Coordinator of RKSC, Smt. M. Savithri, and forum coordinators Chandrashekar, Jagan Yadav & Suryanarayana attended the event, demonstrating the commitment of Rachakonda Police towards community care and well-being.

unknown person

Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,10."The body of an unidentified person was found at the police station in Rebbena mandal on Friday morning, 10-10-2025, at around 9 am. According to local people, the body was found in the place of Ahmed bin Mohammed on the ravine near Rebbena Government Junior College.The locals noticed it and informed the police. Following this, they reached the spot and collected details. It was learned that the deceased had been begging in that area for some days.That person's



landmarks."Age: Approximately 55 to 60 years old"6: 5.3 Color: Chamana shade.Clothing: Wearing a maroon colored dress and a blue T- shirt If you know the details, you can contact me."Rebbena SI Venkata Krishna..8712670532

Corporator Jeripothula Prabhudas Inspects Box Drain Widening Works at Meerpet Housing Board Colony



"Nacharam, Indain Chornicle, October 9:""Local Corporator Jeripothula Prabhudas inspected the ongoing box drain widening works from Noma Kalyana Mandapam to the Railway Track in the Meerpet Housing Board Colony Divisi on."Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Prabhudas said, "Once the box drain widening work is completed, there will be no water stagnation during rains. This construction will provide a permanent solution by preventing drain age water from flowing onto the roads and avoiding inconvenience to the residents."DE Rupa, AE Linga rao, Work Inspector Chari, Srinivas, and local leaders Sai Kumar, Shekhar Goud, and Dandem Narendra participated in the inspection.

Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Inspects Works of Sathya Nagar Community Hall



"VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 10 (Indian Chronicle)""The construction work of the community hall being built at a cost of ₹20 lakhs in New Shantinagar Basti, Uppal, is progressing rapidly. Uppal Corporator Mandamula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy, along with Uppal Constituency Congress Party in-charge Parameshwar Reddy, inspected the construction works on Friday, accompanied by local residents."They instructed the officials to ensure that the work is completed on time. On this occasion, Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy emphasized that quality standards must be strictly followed during the construction. She directed the engineering department officials to



supervise the work regularly.The residents of Sathya Nagar Colony felicitated Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy and Parameshwar Reddy on this occasion."Participants in the program included A.E. Raj Kumar, Lingampally Ramakrishna, Tummala Deva Reddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Sathya Nagar Colony President Katapalli Vijay Kumar, Vice Presidents Kushangala Satish Kumar, Sudarshan Shiva Kumar, Pogula Elareddy, Pogula Sanjeev Reddy, Raju, Kasoju Satyanarayana, Krishna Mohan, Narasimha Reddy, Omprakash, Lingayya, Venkatesh Seth, Janagam Ramakrishna, Alugula Anil Kumar, Eega Rajesh Mudiraj, Delhi Chandrasekhar Reddy, Jittu Reddy, Mohan Nayak, Anwar Pasha, and others.

BJYM Leader Dies by Suicide After Video of Him Beating His Mother Goes Viral



"VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal | October 10 (Indian Chronicle)""A tragic incident occurred under the Bibi Nagar police station limits, where a BJYM (Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha) leader ended his life by jumping into a lake after becoming distressed when a video of him beating his mother went viral."According to police reports, Revelli Raju

(39), a resident of Vijayapuri Colony, Uppal, was serving as the BJYM in-charge for the Malkajgiri parliamentary constituency. Recently, due to a property dispute, Raju lost his temper and hit his mother — a video of which spread widely on social media. Deeply humiliated by the incident, Raju recorded a selfie video expressing his remorse.In the video, he reportedly said that hitting one's mother is a grave sin, that no one wishes to do such a thing, and asked his mother for forgiveness. He said that after the video went viral, he could no longer face society and that his reputation had been destroyed.

He requested that after his death, party members support his family.After recording the video, he sent it to his friends. On Friday, police were informed about an unidentified body found in Bibi Nagar's big lake, which was later identified as Revelli Raju. Raju is survived by his wife and two sons. The body was shifted to Bhuvanagiri Area Hospital for post-mortem examination. Police have registered a case and started an investigation.Members of the BJP and BJYM expressed deep shock and grief over Raju's death, recalling his dedicated service to the party and describing his contributions as memorable.

World Mental Health Awareness Day Observed at Uppal Government Degree College

"Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 10 (Indian Chronicle)""On the occasion of World Mental Health Awareness Day, an awareness seminar and a state-level essay writing competition were organized at Uppal Government Degree College."The program was presided over by Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar, while noted psychologist Ms. Soma Radhika from the organization "You and Me" attended as the chief guest."Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Radhika emphasized the importance of giving priority to mental health. She said that everyone today faces stress while trying to maintain a balance between family, work, social responsibilities, and personal life. She advised that adequate sleep, a healthy diet, regular exercise, and yoga can help achieve mental peace and emotional stability.As per the directions of the Commissioner of Collegiate Education, the state-level essay writing competition was held on the topic "Impact of Social Media on Mental Health." The event was coordinated by Jaldha Viswanath Kumar on behalf of the Literary and Cultural Committee, with the support of members Dr. R. Chandrasagar, Bhagya (Health Club Coordinator), Vice Principal Dr. A. Ravi Prasad, Academic Coordinator K.



Organisation of Science and Innovative Engineering & Technology (OSIET) founded on 2011 at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India. The organisation focus on promoting interdisciplinary research and entrepreneurship through initiatives like the Research & Development. They create platforms to the young engineers, Professors, Industry, Scientist scholars by conducting various International conferences in multi-disciplinary domains in Engineering and Technology."OSIET has identified talent from Mr Shreyas Srinivasan of Charlotte, NC, a senior at Ardrey Kell High School. He developed FinBioScan, it is a rigorous behavioral finance tool designed to help the biotech industry differentiate between substantive science and persuasive hype. FinBioScan uses a transparent 30-point rubric that is grouped into six behavioral categories to produce a concise "bias fingerprint," highlighting omissions in data or misrepresentations in narrative, poor transparency in science, and rhetorical devices to mislead stakeholders and investors. Srinivasan spurred the creation of FinBioScan due to his observations that, as the world of biotech grows increasingly complex, analysts consistently forget that long-term success in biotechnology relies on hard science, not an exquisitely polished business model or a compelling presentation. In FinBioScan, cognitive and qualitative indicators are translated into an actionable, defensible score, offering clinicians, investors, and corporate R&D teams a practical tool for conducting due diligence to reveal translational risk in science and prioritize projects that have real promise in regard to science. As of right now, FinBioScan has done 3 case studies on big-time biotech startups in the United States, including TheraNas, Aurion Biotech, and Moderna. Srinivasan has also used this tool to predict a relatively new startup: Aether. Although FinBioScan is a relatively new procedure and lacks solid credibility, Srinivasan's efforts to publish his work in an accredited journal and pitch to various investors will build that foundation he needs. In short, FinBioScan reveals and reduces the distance between common forms of information asymmetry, enhances funding decisions, and importantly, offers a defensible, ethically grounded, industry-ready tool with immediate applicability. OSIET has appreciated his work and awarded him as a Young Researcher to encourage his research work. For inquiries about FinBioScan, contact Srinivasan at ssrini2703@gmail.com.



Geetha, Dr. Ch. Satyanarayana, Dr. N. Rajasree, Dr. G. Tirupathayya, Dr. S. Yamuna Rani, Dr. V. Srinivasa Rao, and Dr. P. Venkateswarlu."Several faculty members and students participated and shared their views during the session.

SBI Card Rolls Out Festive Offer 2025 with 'Khushiyan Unlimited' campaign

HyderabadSBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has rolled out an extensive line-up of exciting offers across the country for the festive season 2025 with the 'Khushiyan Unlimited' campaign. Customers can benefit from around 1250+ merchant-funded offers, cashback, and instant discount offers across online and offline platforms in over 2900 cities, including tier 2 and tier 3. The festive offers are applicable on all key categories including consumer durables, mobiles, laptops, fashion, furniture, jewellery, e-commerce and grocery, among others. To ensure that cardholders can make high-value purchases with greater convenience and flexibility, SBI Card has also introduced many EMI-focussed offers in partnership with several revered partner brands.

To add to the festivities, SBI Card is providing exciting instant discount offers on purchases across leading partner brands including Amazon, Reliance Retail group, Max Fashion, Raymonds, Monte Carlo, among many others. Furthermore, SBI Card's EMI-focused offers with up to 27.5% instant discount are being rolled out across popular categories including consumer durables, mobiles, and laptops. Key brands that are participating in this festive offer initiative include Samsung, Haier, LG, Sony, OPPO, vivo, Panasonic, Whirlpool, Bosch, IFB, HP, and Lloyd, among others. With this diverse range of offers and discounts, SBI Card continues to enhance its customers' overall shopping experience, making it more rewarding with bigger savings, unmatched convenience, and exceptional value.

TribeVibe Entertainment announces acclaimed singer and composer Karthik's extensive 11-city tour: 'Karthik Live'

HyderabadTribeVibe Entertainment is all set to bring the magic of live music to fans with Karthik's tour: Karthik Live! This 10-city extravaganza marks the much-awaited return of acclaimed singer and composer Karthik to the stage, delivering his chart-topping hits and soul-stirring performances straight to audiences. Produced and promoted by TribeVibe Entertainment, a BookMyShow Enterprise, the tour will cover ten cities across South India - Tirupati, Vizag, Coimbatore, Cochin, Rajahmundry, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Chennai, Madurai and Warangal beginning on November 30th, 2025.

Ticket sales for the tour are now live, exclusively on BookMyShow, India's leading entertainment destination.



Starting his professional career as a backing vocalist, Karthik has grown to become one of India's most versatile playback singers, having lent his voice to over 8,000 songs across 15+ Indian languages, including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia, Bengali, Marathi and Hindi.

Sharing his excitement about the tour, Karthik said, "Thank you for all the love you continue to pour over me. This tour is my way of giving it back, through my music, live, in your city. I can't wait to see you all and create unforgettable memories together."

Shoven Shah, Founder & CEO, TribeVibe Entertainment, said, "Karthik is a musical icon whose voice has defined generations across India. With this tour, we're continuing to push our vision of decentralising live entertainment, taking large-scale experiences beyond the metros and into the heart of regional markets. It's about making artists more accessible and bringing fans closer to the music they love, right where they are."Over the years, Karthik has carved a unique space in Indian music with his soulful voice and genre-spanning versatility. From soul stringing-tunes, his composition is a masterclass featuring chartbusters like 'Ram Sita Ram', 'Behka', 'I Am In Love', 'Sheher Mein', 'Athev Nanne', 'Adiga' 'Chilipiga', 'Niluvaddham' 'Oru Maalai', 'Giri Friend' and many others. Karthik Live will bring the singer's iconic repertoire straight to fans across India. Known for delivering chart-topping hits across multiple Indian languages, he has established himself as one of the most celebrated voices in contemporary music. From film soundtracks to independent tracks to fusion, his performances are celebrated for their infectious energy, heartfelt emotion and the deep connection he creates with every audience.

She Team Organized An Awareness Program At Chirrakunta Government School And Thumpalli Government School.

"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,10."On this occasion, She Team members Swapna, Rajani, Dinesh... explained in detail to the students about the functioning, goals, and measures taken for the safety of women of She Team. Students were advised to immediately inform the She Team helpline 8712670564, dial 100, or the local police station if they face any harassment or problems. Awareness was created on drugs and NDPS Act, cybercrime,"School staff participated and women asserted their rights.and the precautions to be taken for safety. Principal Narahari member Swapna Rajini Dinesh participated in this program

Seizure Of Illegally Transported Timber Logs

""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,10.""forest department



officials caught a group of timber logs being illegally transported in an auto from Pangidi Madaram in Tiryani mandal to Bellampalli. According to forest department officer FSO Venkataram,4 timber logs were found during the inspection.The estimated value of these is around Rs. 18,000. FSO Venkataram said that the wooden logs have been seized and a case has been registered against Atram Dharmanath.

Asifabad: Misuse Of Ration Rice

""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,10.""Asifabad Misuse of ration rice Enforcement officials inspected a ration shop in Parigam village of Sirpur T mandal on Thursday. It was found that 3.98 quintals of ration rice was missing in this shop, bearing number 2410016.A case has been registered under 6A against the dealer for misappropriation of ration rice and the shop has been handed over to temporary management, Enforcement DT Raj Kumar said.

Three Injured In Bike Collision

""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad,District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,10.""A road accident occurred on Friday on the national highway near Khamana X- road in Wankidi mandal.While ASF was riding a bike to Khamanaki Lalit and Bhumaya,another bike coming from the opposite direction collided with it at Khamana X- road. Three people were seriously injured in the accident and were rushed to Asifabad Government Hospital in an ambulance

Strict Action Will Be Taken Against Hateful Posts On Social Media

""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,10.""Kagaznagar



Town CI Prem Kumar on Friday warned that strict action will be taken against social media posts that incite caste,religious or political hatred or disrupt peace and order. He said that legal action will be taken against those who encourage such posts.He revealed that a special team has been appointed to monitor social media and advised everyone to be careful as posting without knowing the facts can hurt the sentiments of others.

Durgam Praveen Kumar Joins BSP



""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,10.""Sirpur leader Durgam Praveen Kumar joined the BSP on Thursday at the BSP state office in Hyderabad in the presence of BSP Central Coordinator XLC Athar and State President Ibrahim Shekhar.Praveen Kumar said that this decision was taken for the sake of Bahujanism and the aspirations of the poor. He revealed that he will work with young leadership for the victory of the BSP in the upcoming local elections and will field ZPTC candidates in 7 mandals

Parameshwar Reddy requests District Collector to resolve issues in Uppal constituency

""VADDEPALLI KISHORE,Uppal, October 10 (Indian Chronicle): ""Congress in-charge of Uppal constituency, Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, requested the District Collector to resolve the problems prevailing in the Uppal constituency.On Friday, Parameshwar Reddy, along with Kapra Corporator Swarna Raju, met Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collector Manohar Choudhary and submitted a representation.They explained several issues related to land disputes in Uppal and Kapra mandals. They urged the Collector to protect government lands from encroachments and to allocate land for government offices and educational institutions.They mentioned that the Collector responded positively to their requests."



“Sankatahara Vratam: A Sacred Vow to Eliminate Life’s Obstacles”.



""P.S.ASHOKAN"Indian Chronicle"Manthani, October 10: ""On the auspicious occasion of Sankashta Hara Chaturthi, which fell on a Friday during the bright fortnight (Shukla Paksha) of the Ashwayuja month, devotees congregated in large numbers to offer prayers to Lord Ganesha. The Sri Maha Ganapathi Temple in

Manthani town witnessed an overwhelming influx of devotees, all seeking divine blessings and relief from life's adversities.""The Sankatahara Vratam, deeply rooted in ancient spiritual tradition, is regarded as a powerful observance to dispel hardships and attract divine grace. According to sacred scriptures, the compassionate glance (kripaka?ak?am) of Lord Vighneshwara is essential for overcoming obstacles and achieving success in life.""It is believed that observing the Sankashta Hara Chaturthi by fasting until moonrise and offering prayers with sincere devotion grants the blessings of Lord Ganesha. As the remover of all impediments, Ganesha is worshipped first in every auspicious endeavor, symbolizing the start of success and the end of difficulties.""The vratam is traditionally observed on the Chaturthi that follows the full moon (Pournami)—generally the 3rd or 4th day after Pournami—in the waning phase of the lunar month (Krishna Paksha). The observance should align with the Pradosha Kaalam (the twilight period around sunset), and the Chaturthi tithi must be present during that time to qualify as Sankashta Hara Chaturthi. In rare instances where Chaturthi spans over two evenings, the vratam is to be performed on the second day.""Devotees may undertake this sacred vow for 3, 5, 9, 11, or even 21 consecutive months, based on personal devotion and spiritual commitment. It is highly recommended to commence this vratam on a Bahula Chaturthi, with the faith that sustained observance leads to the fulfillment of wishes, removal of karmic obstacles, and attainment of peace, prosperity, and contentment.""In essence, Sankatahara Vratam is not merely a ritual but a profound spiritual discipline—one that strengthens inner resolve, invokes divine intervention, and leads the devotee on a path toward harmony and holistic well-being.

Panchayat Secretary Nabbed Red-Handed by ACB While Accepting Rs10,000 Bribe in Housing Scheme Scam



""P.S.ASHOKAN"Indian Chronicle"Joint Karimnagar Bureau, October 10 : ""In a stark violation of public trust, a Panchayat Secretary responsible for facilitating civic welfare was apprehended by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday while allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹10,000 to process a government housing subsidy.""According to Pothula Vijay Kumar, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), ACB – Karimnagar division, the accused, Anil, who serves as the Panchayat Secretary of Madhuranagar village under Gangadhara Mandal, demanded illicit gratification from a local beneficiary, Gangadhara Srikanth. Srikanth had constructed a house under the Indiramma Housing Scheme and had approached the official for approval and disbursement of sanctioned bills.""Upon receiving the bribe demand, the aggrieved citizen filed a formal complaint with the ACB. Acting swiftly, the agency laid a pre-planned trap. On Friday, as the complainant handed over the tainted currency notes, ACB officials intervened and caught the official red-handed during the act of bribery.""The accused has been taken into custody and will be produced before the Special Anti-Corruption Court on Saturday,"" stated DSP Vijay Kumar. He further appealed to the public to report any incidents of corruption involving government officials by contacting the ACB's toll-free helpline at 1064.""The operation was executed under the supervision of ACB Inspectors Tirupati and Krishna Kumar, along with officers Punnam Chandar and team, ensuring meticulous coordination and successful enforcement.""This incident underscores the ACB's continued commitment to rooting out corruption at the grassroots level and safeguarding the integrity of public service systems.

Town CI Ramesh's birthday celebrated at Bhuvanagiri Library Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Avaiz Chisti

""Manduva Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 10):-""On the occa-



sion of Bhuvanagiri Town CI Ramesh's birthday, birthday celebrations were held at the District Library under the auspices of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Avaiz Chisti. On this occasion, he honored CI Ramesh with a shawl and presented sweets. Later, he discussed with the CI about resolving the problem of peace and security in the library. On this occasion, he explained to the CI the problem of law and order related

to the District Library Organization in the District Library premises in Bhuvanagiri town and the need to take strong measures to prevent anti-social activities in the premises and in the surrounding areas of the library organization. He agreed and stated that he would work to resolve the problems. "MD Aves Chisti said that it is commendable that special measures are being taken to maintain law and order in Bhuvanagiri town under the leadership of City CI Ramesh, and that the areas surrounding the police station premises are being renovated, modernized, and the complaints and problems of the town people are being responded to immediately. On the occasion of his birthday, he extended his best wishes to the people of Bhuvanagiri town. He said that he wished them to scale higher peaks in the future and prosper with good health. PCC General Secretary Potnak Pramod Kumar, District Youth Congress President Manga Praveen, District Congress SC Section President Dargai Hariprasad, DCC General Secretary MD Mazahar, Seva Dal State Secretary Pittala Balaraju, senior leaders Challagurugula Raghubabu, Gurralla Srinivas, MD Layak Ahmed, MD Salauddin, Taduri Narasimha, State SC Cell Convener Nagaram Shankar, Pachala Katta Someswara Temple Chairman Kolluri Raju, Hirekar Ramesh, KKR Yuva Sena Presidents Vastupula Sai, Vadicharla Sarath Yadav, Jaligam Shiva and others participated in the program.

Job Security Technical Assistant Dies Of Heart Attack“



""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,10.""A.Surender Goud, a technical assistant of the Employment Guarantee Agency, working in Jainur mandal of Asifabad district, died of a heart attack yesterday.DRDO Datta Rao and members of the Technical Assistants Association, who came to know about this, participated in the funeral held in Utnoor on Thursday and expressed their condolences. They presented a financial assistance of Rs.20 thousand to his family members. State Vice President A. Santosh Kumar and District JAC Chairman G.Mallaiah also participated in the program.

Accused Arrested In 56 Theft Cases

""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,10.""The GRP police on Thursday arrested Satish Kumar Naidu (45), an accused who was stealing passengers' bags at the Secunderabad railway station. He is a resident of Sirpur Kagaznagar and is an accused in 56 theft cases that took place in various areas. Following complaints, the police kept a watchful eye and caught him while stealing the bag of a female passenger. He confessed to the crimes during interrogation.

Effigies of forces blocking BC reservations burned at Prince's Corner intersection.. BC leaders protested

""Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 10):- "At Prince's Corner intersection in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district headquarters, at the call of BC Welfare Association National President Jajula Srinivas Goud, the anti-reservation forces, who blocked BC reservations under the auspices of the district committee, took up a "protest" program to burn an effigy, but the police who arrived there stopped the protest program. A tense atmosphere prevailed amid



a brief scuffle. There was also some verbal altercation between BC leaders and the police. " Later, BC Welfare Association President Kotha Narasimhaswamy said that the Telangana state government had passed a law in the Legislative Assembly with the support of all political parties for 42 percent reservation for BCs in local bodies and the government was supposed to conduct local body elections with 42%, but some anti-reservation forces, with malicious intent, went to the High Court and the Supreme Court to block the 42 percent reservation for BCs and stopped the 42 percent reservation for BCs. A protest program was organized under the auspices of the district committee due to the suspension of local elections. Constituency presidents Sabankar Venkatesh, Gajula Kranthi Kumar, Turakapalli Mandal president Erukala Venkatesh Goud, Vadicharla Krishna Yadav, leader Pittala Balaraj Mudiraj, Sirikonda Sivakumar Rajaka, Ratna Raju Vanjari, Ramakrishna Yadav and other leaders of BC caste organizations participated in this program.

Leaders of Lambadi Rights Struggle Committee submit petition to District DCP

""Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 10):- Lambadi Rights Struggle Committee Telangana State Working President Bhukya Santosh Nayak submitted a



petition to Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District DCP. Speaking at the event, they said that as part of the ongoing dispute between Lambadi Koya and Gondrus in Telangana for some time now, legal action should be taken against Arun, the state president of Tudum Deb, who insulted the entire Lambada nation and abused the self-respect and existence of Lambadis with inappropriate words.

If there is anything in a democracy, the courts, law and order should be respected and problems should be resolved, but the constitution suggests not to go into personal disputes. He urged that legal action be taken against those who are trying to create a political divide between the tribals and Lambadis who are living together like brothers under the guise of corrupt politicians.

Lambadi Rights Struggle Committee Telangana State Working President Bhukya Santosh Nayak, State Secretary Mohan Nayak, District Working President Shekhar Nayak, District Leader Ramesh Nayak, Tribal Students Association District Leader Arun Nayak, Bommalaramam Mandal President Krishna Nayak, Turkapalli Mandal President Ramesh Nayak, Tribal Students Bommalaramam Mandal President Devender Nayak, Youth Mandal President Sudhakar Nayak, Shankar Nayak, Bhaskar Nayak, Shiva Nayak, Mahesh Nayak, Hari, and others participated in this program.

‘Bigg Boss Kannada studio will be given time to address violations’: Karnataka Deputy CM Shivakumar orders to lift seal



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

A day after Vels Studios and Entertainment Private Limited (Jolly Wood Studios & Adventures), where the reality show Bigg Boss Kannada was being shot, was seized for violations of environmental regulations, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar Wednesday instructed the deputy commissioner of Bengaluru South to reopen the premises. The closure of Jolly Wood studios turned political after the Janata Dal (Secular) alleged that the closure was done at the behest of Shivakumar. A video of his remarks in March at the 16th Bengaluru International Film Festival 2025 went viral, in which he expressed his disappointment that the film fraternity did not participate in the Mekedatu

Padayatra. The Congress launched the foot march to demand the implementation of the Mekedatu project across the Cauvery River.“I know where to tighten the nuts and bolts to ensure cooperation from the industry,” Shivakumar can be heard saying in the video.In a post on X Wednesday, Shivakumar said, “I have directed the Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru South District to lift the seal on Jollywood premises in Bidadi, where Bigg Boss Kannada is being filmed. While environmental compliance remains a top priority, the studio will be given time to address violations in accordance with the norms set by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.”“I remain committed to supporting the Kannada entertainment industry, while also upholding our responsibility toward environmental protection,” he added.The contestants, who were shifted to a resort following the closure, may be brought back to the studio Thursday.Yeshwanth V Gurukar, Deputy Commissioner, Bengaluru South District, said Vel Studios has sought 10 days to comply with all the directions.Kiccha Sudeep, who is the host of Bigg Boss Kannada, “sincerely” thanked Shivakumar for the “timely support”.“Also want to thank the concerned authorities for acknowledging that #BBK was not involved or was a part of the recent chaos or disturbances. I truly appreciate the DCM for promptly responding to my call, and thank #Nalpad, for his dedicated efforts. #BBK12 is here to stay,” he said in a post on X.

Fake ghee racket busted by Delhi Police ahead of Diwali, 2 arrested from Budh Vihar and Jind

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

The Delhi Police Tuesday busted a large-scale adulterated ghee manufacturing racket, seizing 2,651 litres of spurious ghee and arresting two manufacturers following raids in the capital and neighbouring Haryana.Acting on a tip-off, a Crime Branch team carried out raids at two godowns, one in North West Delhi’s Budh Vihar and another in Jind, Haryana. The police recovered adulterated ghee packaged under labels of several popular brands. The accused have been identified as Raksesh Garg, 38, and Mukesh.



According to the police, 2,241 litres were seized from a godown owned by Garg in Budh Vihar, while another 410 litres were recovered from a unit in Jind belonging to one Mukesh. The Jind facility has been sealed, and both accused have been booked under relevant sections at the Crime Branch police station.Investigators said the fake ghee was meant to meet the rising festive demand ahead of Diwali and other upcoming celebrations. Preliminary inquiry revealed that the accused allegedly blended low-grade vanaspati ghee and refined oil with flavouring agents, synthetic colours, and other unsafe substances to replicate the texture and aroma of pure ghee.“The adulterated product was then filled into containers of reputed brands and sold to local distributors, dairies, and retailers at wholesale prices,”

‘One who generates income looked upon as culprit’: Delhi HC Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya urges tax reforms; CJI Gavai backs call

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Delhi High Court Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya on Thursday criticised the working style at the lowest level of tax assessment—such as that of inspectors and assessing officers—as “archaic”, saying that “the one who generates income is looked upon as a culprit”.Chief Justice Upadhyaya made the remarks at a symposium organised by the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) on the topic of ‘Role, Challenges and Way Forward’ at the Delhi High Court. The event also served as a felicitation programme for Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai, and Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal was among the dignitaries present.



Both CJI Gavai and Chief Justice Upadhyaya emphasised the need for consistent rulings in the taxation framework to maintain trust in the legal system as well as to help an assessee engage in proper tax planning.“In specialised fields like tax laws, achieving clarity and certainty in interpretation and application of legal provisions is of paramount importance...Taxpayers, practitioners and authorities rely on predictable outcomes to plan their affairs and comply with their obligations. Conflicting rulings not only create confusion but can also undermine trust in the legal system...Contradictory opinions can erode authority and hinder the administration of justice,” CJI Gavai said.

an inherent dichotomy between the tendency of the revenue department to overcharge and that of the assessee to find ways to evade the tax burden, Chief Justice Upadhyaya said, “Any forum which deals with such contested issues of taxation is essentially tackling the age old thought process, ‘when tax is a burden on the citizens’. It makes the task challenging, and what makes it even more challenging is the statutory structure of tax laws in India.”“We have legislation which is far from simplifying. Every tax practitioner understands the pain of going through the statutory provisions, with one provision running into multiple pages, sub-sections, clauses, provisos, and further supplemented by circulars issued by the board from time to time. At times, one wonders if understanding the law of taxation is more taxing than the tax burden itself...Time has come to cultivate the culture of tax planning rather than unpleasant enforcement,” he added.Both CJI Gavai and Chief Justice Upadhyaya emphasised that tax law is not merely a technical domain but touches individual enterprises and impacts livelihoods, affecting the daily lives of ordinary people.

Chief Justice Upadhyaya questioned whether understanding taxation law is “more taxing than the tax burden itself”. Batting for a “predictable and simplified system of taxation” as a necessity to achieve India’s target of a \$5 trillion economy, Chief Justice Upadhyaya implored for a “simplified legal framework of taxation” and the need “to embrace those who contribute to the economy of the nation”.Noting that the present taxation structure suffers from

Bareilly police encounter: Dacoit, carrying a bounty of Rs 1 lakh, killed; constable injured



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

The police in Uttar Pradesh’s Bareilly allegedly shot dead a 35-year-old dacoit early Thursday in an encounter during which a constable was critically injured.According to the Bareilly police, the man, identified as Iftikar alias Soldier

alias Shaitan, had been absconding for a long time, and carried a reward of Rs 1 lakh on his head.

They said Constable Rahul sustained a bullet injury on his arm during the exchange of fire. He was rushed to a hospital, where doctors described his condition as critical. The man also fired at other policemen, with bullets striking the bulletproof jackets of two personnel; however, they escaped unhurt, the police said.Anurag Arya, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Bareilly, said Iftikar had a criminal record of 19 cases, including four cases of murder committed during dacoities.

Arya added that Iftikar had no connection with the recent incidents of violence reported in the city.The police stated that they received a tip-off regarding the movement of the wanted criminal in the Bhojipura area of Bareilly. The informer also alerted them that Iftikar was planning to shift his hideout soon. Acting swiftly, a police team cordoned off the area and confronted him, asking him to surrender.

Cheque-bounce capital: Almost 4 in 10 cases pending in Delhi’s courts relate to dishonoured cheques; highest incidence in India



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

As many as 5.55 lakh cases relating to cheque-bounce claims are pending in trial courts in Delhi, making up approximately 36% of the total pendency, official data show.Statistical reports of all trial courts in Delhi accessed by The Indian Express show that pending cases under Section 138 (Dishonour of cheque for insufficiency, etc., of funds in the account) of The Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (NI Act) have risen by 1 lakh in just nine months. That works out to 370 new cases every day on average.Cheque-bounce cases are usually heard by magistrate courts and special digital NI Act courts.As of the end of December last year, more than 4.54 lakh cases relating to cheque-bounce claims were pending in trial courts in Delhi. This was 31% of all pending cases in Delhi at the time, and Delhi had the highest number of cheque-bounce cases in the country relative to population.Nine months on, Delhi has 13.49 lakh criminal cases and 2.17 lakh civil cases pending, data on the National Judicial Data Grid – a comprehensive online database of orders, judgments and case details of 18,735 district and subordinate courts and High Courts – show.

While 85% of the data for Delhi in the statistical reports is updated, 15% (for three districts) is about a year old – this means that the actual rise in pendency of cases under Section 138 of the NI Act could, in fact, be a little more than 1 lakh so far this year.Section 143(3) of the NI

Eight injured in scooter explosions at Kanpur market, probe underway

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Eight persons sustained burn injuries and multiple shops were damaged in a blast involving two scooters parked at a market in Kanpur’s Moolganj police station area.The incident occurred on Wednesday evening when the scooters, stationed outside a toy shop, suddenly exploded, causing panic in the crowded market, said the police. Police recovered firecracker wrappers and jute twine from the spot.“Eight persons were injured in the incident. The blast took place in the dicky of one of the scooters. The injured were rushed to the hospital for treatment,” said Kanpur Police Commissioner Raghubeer Lal.The condition of two persons is reported to be critical, added Lal. The two seriously injured victims include one of the scooter owners and a woman ragpicker who was present near the blast spot, said the police.Soon after the incident, the bomb disposal squad and forensic team were rushed to the spot. Later, the forensic experts collected samples and remains from the site for examination. Police said the exact cause and motive behind the blast would be known only after the forensic report is received.According to officials, the preliminary inquiry suggests that some explosive material had



been kept in the dicky of one of the scooters, which in turn triggered the explosion. Police suspect that the blast intensified after the explosive came in contact with the petrol present in the vehicle. Security personnel have been deployed in the area as a precautionary measure. All the injured are residents of Kanpur. A probe into the matter is underway, said the police.

2 held for mob attack on BJP leaders; party says no faith in police probe



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

mob attack on BJP leaders, BJP MP Khagen Murmu, MLA Shankar Ghosh, West Bengal BJP, Kolkata news, WEst Bengal news, Indian express, current affairsPolice have lodged an FIR against eight people in connection with the attack that left BJP ML Murmu with severe head injuries.Two days after a mob attacked BJP MP Khagen Murmu and party MLA Shankar Ghosh in the flood-hit Nagrakata area of Jalpaiguri district, police on Wednesday arrested two persons.“We have arrested two persons, identified as Ekramul Haque and Govinda Sharma, for Monday’s attack on the BJP lawmakers. The investigation is underway. We will soon arrest the others involved in the attack,” Superintendent of Police (Jalpaiguri) Khandbahale Umesh Ganpat told The Indian Express.Police said that while one was arrested from Nagrakata, the other one was nabbed from Jaigaon, near the India-Bhutan border in neighbouring Alipurduar district.Police have lodged an FIR against eight people in connection with the attack that left BJP ML Murmu with severe head injuries.

BJP MLA Ghosh, who was also admitted along with Murmu, was discharged from the hospital.Earlier in the day, Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar, who visited the injured party leaders in the hospital, claimed that the mob attack was a “pre-planned murder attempt” and demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for “failing to maintain law and order”.On Tuesday, state BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya had demanded a probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).Accusing the TMC of being behind the incident, he claimed that the attack on his party’s legislators was to silence the voice of protest.“We don’t have faith in the state police. There has to be a probe by a central agency like the CBI,” Majumdar said.Meanwhile, in Delhi, the BJP targeted the chief minister, alleging that democracy was being “killed” in the state under her rule.“Three separate incidents of deadly violence have been carried out against BJP representatives, specifically targeting leaders from the tribal community. Amidst the ongoing devastation in north Bengal, Mamata Banerjee’s celebrations and the

TMC’s political frustration have manifested themselves in this violent phase against three elected BJP leaders,” BJP national spokesperson Shahzad Poonawalla said.The BJP has claimed that another BJP MLA, Manoj Oraon of Kumargram in Alipurduar district, was also allegedly attacked while distributing relief materials on Tuesday.He said, “West Bengal has been facing floods and landslides, particularly affecting North Bengal. More than 35 people have lost their lives, and over 50,000 have been displaced. This dire situation in North Bengal is largely a man-made disaster, as the floods, though natural, were exacerbated by the corruption of the TMC government...”

Lured from Gujarat, shot dead in Sonbhadra: UP cops crack ‘honour killing’ of couple

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

According to the police, the 19-year-old woman and her husband Dukhan Shaw (22), both belonging to the backward class, hailed from Motipur village in Bihar’s Patna district.On Wednesday, police arrested the woman’s brothers, Munna Kumar (22) and Rahul alias Siddharth (28), for their alleged involvement in the case even as a manhunt has been launched to arrest the other two brothers, who are absconding.

In June, the woman eloped with Shaw, who lived in her neighbourhood and married him against her family’s wishes, following which they started living in Gujarat’s Valsad district, said the police. In September, the couple allegedly went missing, following which Shaw’s brother Sunny filed a complaint with the Gujarat Police accusing the woman’s brother of kidnapping him, police said. Soon after, a probe was launched.On September 24, a woman’s body with a head injury, suspected to be a bullet wound, was recovered from Sonbhadra. Initially, the attempts to identify her by checking with adjoining districts and states yielded no information. Sonbhadra shares its borders with four states, including Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar.The first headway in the case came when the Gujarat Police contacting their Sonbhadra counterparts seeking information about the missing couple, said the police. Based on the information shared by the Gujarat Police, the Sonbhadra police found that the couple had reportedly left Gujarat by train for Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh, from where they were expected to leave for Bihar.

‘Want him to suffer the same pain’: Sambhal teacher attacked with acid; accused held after shootout



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

A 40-year-old man who allegedly threw acid on a woman teacher in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal earlier this week was arrested following a shootout late Thursday night, police officers said. Police identified the accused as Nishu, a resident of Amroha. He was shot in both legs during an exchange of fire around 10.30 pm on Thursday.

Addressing the media, Superintendent of Police, Krishna Kumar Bishnoi, said: "He fired at the police team. The team opened fire in retaliation, and he was shot in both legs. A country-made pistol of .315 bore, two spent cartridges and an electronic scooter have been recovered from him. He is undergoing treatment." According to police, Nishu had been harassing the 25-year-old teacher for months,

sending her obscene messages and threatening her. On Tuesday afternoon, as the woman was returning home, Nishu allegedly flung a flammable substance at her from a scooter. She sustained 25% burns to her face, neck and stomach and is being treated at a private hospital. The victim told police that a man on a scooter, who had covered his face with a handkerchief, threw acid on her. She said her marriage was fixed with an Army soldier in June but Nishu used to harass her, saying that she should not get married to the soldier. During questioning, police found that Nishu bore a grudge against the jawan. He had approached the jawan's fiancée with a proposal for his sister, which was rejected. "He was upset since then and wanted to prevent the jawan's marriage," said police. So he decided to target the jawan's family with a proposal for his sister, which was rejected. "He was upset since then and wanted to prevent the jawan's marriage," said police. So he decided to target the jawan's family with a proposal for his sister, which was rejected. "He was upset since then and wanted to prevent the jawan's marriage," said police. So he decided to target the jawan's family with a proposal for his sister, which was rejected.

Engineers, postgrads among newly recruited bus drivers in Chandigarh

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Among the 97 newly recruited bus drivers for the Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (CTU) are those with an MTech and postgraduate degrees, according to official documents accessed by The Indian Express. According to official documents, Amit Kumar, a resident of Sector 28C, Chandigarh, holds an MTech degree in Mechanical Engineering. Similarly, Sanjay Kumar and Toofan Malik have a B Tech degree in Mechanical Engineering, while Ravinder Kumar has a B.Tech in Electronics.

While Sanjay Kumar is a resident of Nahar, Toofan Malik and Ravinder Kumar are residents of Jind and Bhiwani. Two other drivers, Vikas and Pawan Kumar, are post-graduates in Humanities. Nitesh, another newly recruited bus driver, a resident of Hisar, and Kamal, a resident of Ateli, hold a Bachelor's degree in Commerce. Mahesh and Naveen Kumar Rathee have a Bachelor's degree in Computer Application (BCA). Deepak, a resident of Bahadurgarh, has a BSc degree. As far as qualification is concerned, a Matric certificate is required. Also, the job holder must have a heavy transport/motor vehicle licence. The basic pay for the job ranges between Rs 5,910 and Rs 20,200. In addition to a written test, a driving test and a medical examination



were also conducted. On Thursday, UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria handed over appointment letters to the 97 newly appointed bus drivers of CTU. In his address, Kataria congratulated all the newly appointed drivers, saying that this appointment is not just a job, but a proud responsibility to serve society and the public. "A bus driver is not just a driver, but a guardian of the city's speed, passenger safety, and punctuality. The journey of every student, every worker, and every family can be safe and enjoyable only if the driver performs his or her duties with utmost devotion and dedication," he said.

Despite several drug busts to his name, why Sameer Wankhede is no stranger to controversy

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

With Sameer Wankhede suing Shah Rukh Khan-owned Red Chillies Entertainment Limited and Netflix in Delhi High Court over a recent show aired on the streaming service, the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer is back in the news again. Last year there was speculation of him contesting elections as well, but it did not materialise. In 2020 and 2021 respectively, Wankhede was at the centre of the high-profile Rhea Chakraborty allegations and the drug bust case against Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan. Charges were eventually dropped against Aryan Khan by an SIT that was asked to probe the matter.

The 2008-batch IRS officer — with stints in the NIA, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), before being loaned as Director of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)'s Mumbai Zone — was no stranger to controversy, or celebrities. However, his stock has gone southwards ever since the Cordelia case, which saw allegations of corruption against him, enquiries, intra-department rivalries and eventually being shunted out of NCB and Mumbai and posted to Chennai as Director General of Analytics and Risk Management in May 2022. Earlier this year, the transfer order was set aside by the Central Administrative Tribunal where Wankhede had appealed it. During his stint as a Customs officer at Mumbai international airport, he had acted against Shah Rukh, who in 2016 was stopped for carrying excess baggage and fined Rs 1.5 lakh duty. At the Customs and later Service Tax Department, he also crossed paths with Anurag Kashyap, Vivek Oberoi, Mika Singh and Ram Gopal Verma. Before he moved to the NCB from the DRI in 2020, Wankhede, the son of a police officer, was a well-known name in Mumbai. Sources said he was brought in specifically in the wake of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death and the cascading allegations against his girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty, due to his work on drug seizures at the DRI. "He was transferred as he has an excellent network of informants when it comes to narcotics," says a senior NCB official. After Wankhede took over, the inconspicuous NCB office in south Mumbai became the buzzing heart of the city, with one celebrity after another being called for questioning in the Chakraborty case, including Deepika Padukone, Shradha Kapoor, Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet Singh. Questions were also raised about the NCB's apparent focus on cases involving small drug quantities but the accused were high-profile. As per data provided by the NCB to The Indian Express, of the 30 cases it registered from September 2020 — when Wankhede took over — to February 2021, in at least 12, the amount seized was "small", as compared to "intermediate" or "large" seizures. Many asked why the NCB, a central anti-narcotic agency, was going after even cases of consumption, such as the one involving comedian Bharti Singh. An officer of the Mumbai Police said, "Even our constables hardly do consumption cases." Prior to Wankhede joining, a majority of the NCB's operations were related to raiding factories producing mephedrone on the outskirts of Mumbai. In an interview to The Indian Express in February 2021, Wankhede had said their strategy was to nip drugs at all levels — from factories to consumption. "You see our record, we have seized drugs from cocaine to ganja... busted labs and factories. We have dismantled suppliers and manufacturers. Regarding consumers, is consuming legal in the country?... There is Section 27 of the NDPS Act... Anybody violating the Act, we



are taking action, the manufacturer, the factory guy, the peddler, the consumer. When the law prohibits it, how can we allow its use? Secondly, in order to attack the drug menace, we need to have a consolidated approach, targeting each and every evader." In the Rhea Chakraborty case, there were other question marks over Wankhede's intentions. One of those arrested, Kshitij Prasad, associated with film production company Dharmatic Productions, told the court that Wankhede had told him to implicate his boss Karan Johar and other film stars like Ranbir Kapoor, Arjun Rampal and Dino Morea, if he wanted to be let off. Wankhede denied these allegations. Eventually two chargesheets were filed against Prasad, who is currently out on bail, as is Chakraborty. Once the Chakraborty case was behind him, the NCB conducted several operations, of which 12 local gangs as well as networks run by Nigerian nationals were neutralised. To highlight how busy Wankhede was, the FIR against Aryan and others in the alleged drug bust on a cruise liner was the 94th registered by the NCB in Mumbai and Goa in 2021; against 35 in 2019; 25 in 2018, 30 in 2017; and 23 in 2016. Later, Wankhede along with his team at the NCB got the Home Minister's medal for "excellence in investigation". Even his bitter critics conceded that Wankhede today has one of the most enviable networks of informants and has dealt a major blow to the narcotics network in Mumbai as well as Goa, which also comes under his unit. However, it's not just the names involved that find Wankhede in the cross-hairs. Just like in the Rhea Chakraborty case, his measures came under a cloud in Aryan Khan's arrest, especially his involvement of a person with BJP links and a private investigator facing cheating charges in the raid. Over the weekend, NCP leader Nawab Malik came out with fresh allegations, saying several people, including one with BJP links, had been let off by the NCB after the alleged drug bust on the cruise ship. The NCB denied the allegations. Malik's son-in-law Sameer Khan had been incidentally arrested by the NCB in connection with a narcotics case earlier this year and got bail after around six months. Malik has denied his claims are linked to this. Congress spokesperson Sachin Sawant, who had also questioned Wankhede's measures, said the NCB under him is "doing the work of the BJP government". "Several questions have been raised by us but the NCB has not answered them." About Wankhede's success against drug gangs, Sawant added, "That is the job of the NCB, so nothing special in that. Even Mumbai Anti-Narcotics Cell carries out seizures." Officers have spoken about how much of a no-nonsense, hardworking person Wankhede is, always at work on some operation in his third-floor office. Wankhede had in the past spoken about missing out on time with his twin daughters. His wife Kranti Redkar is a well-known Marathi actress.

Amid flood crisis, Dharashiv collector's dance clip prompts warning from minister Pratap Sarnaik: 'Will not tolerate such things'



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

After a video of Dharashiv District Collector Keerthi Kumar Pujar purportedly dancing at a cultural event in Tuljapur went viral, District Guardian Minister Pratap Sarnaik said on Friday that the Maharashtra government would take action against him if he was "found to be insensitive" during a time when the region is grappling with a severe flood crisis. "After I learnt about the cultural event in Tuljapur, I spoke to the district collector. I told him that the cultural event can continue, but it is an emotional issue as faithfulness from across the country participate in it. But it is not important that the collector should attend such events. Even if he attends, he is not supposed to show his emotions," Sarnaik said.

"I warned the district collector. I told him that I will not tolerate such things in the future. If he has been insensitive,

we will take action against him," Sarnaik added. The viral video purportedly shows the collector on a stage, joining the dance show with other officials. The development has come at a time when several districts in Maharashtra's Marathwada region have been affected by floods, with Dharashiv being the worst-hit. While the entire region has witnessed 28.5 per cent more rainfall than average, Dharashiv has registered 148 per cent of its typical rainfall.

Reacting to the incident, Dharashiv MP Omraje Nimbalkar said, "Be it public representatives or officials, they all have to be sensitive in the current times. They should think about whether they should participate in such events. I think Tuljapur Devasthan had organised the cultural event. They should hand over the money to be spent on such events for flood relief." Nimbalkar said that on the first day of the floods, when he had called up the district collector at 4 pm, he had responded quickly to disaster management. "But I think his participation in the cultural event would send the wrong message. The cultural events should be cancelled and all the money should be spent on assisting farmers and villagers who have been badly affected by the floods," Nimbalkar added. State Congress president Harshwardhan Sapkal alleged that the collector was not serious about discharging his duties, especially during a serious flood situation in Dharashiv and Marathwada. "There should be accountability. The government should take quick action against the collector. His behaviour raises doubts about the government's intention to bring relief to the flood-affected," he said.

Delhi court rejects pre-arrest bail plea of 'godman' in forgery case

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Chaitanyananda Saraswati misappropriated funds worth Rs 20 crore, claimed to be a part of a national advisory council, and photoshopped photos with politicians, the Delhi Police told a court on Friday. The defence, however, said the FIR was registered behind his back. Following arguments, the court dismissed his anticipatory bail plea in a forgery case.

Chaitanyananda was booked in a separate case last month for allegedly sexually harassing 19 women at Sri Sharda Institute of Indian Management (SRIISM) in Vasant Kunj. He was the chancellor of the institute, which is run by the Sri Sri Jagadguru Shankaracharya Mahasamsthanam Dakshinamnaya Sri Sharada Peetham. The forgery FIR relates to the alleged misappropriation of funds from the institute while he was serving as its chancellor. Arguing before Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Hardeep Kaur of Patiala House Court, the prosecution said, "He has two passports. This person has been running away for the last month. Since 2010, Rs 20 crore has come to his trust... All of that is misappropriation. Rs 60 lakh has been withdrawn in a month." "He has photoshopped himself with other leaders. He has many fake addresses, he claimed to be a part of a national advisory council," the investigating officer submitted before the court. The complainant is represented by advocates Rushab Aggarwal, Kumar Vaibhaw and Riddhima Aggarwal.

On the other hand, senior advocate Ajay Burman, who appeared for the self-styled godman, said: "The FIR was registered against me when I was not in Delhi. A complaint was filed and immediately an FIR was registered without any inquiry... Till date, no property has been sold and neither has a sale deed been executed... I had the power but have never misused it... I have been targeted since day one." "The police are giving so many stories to the media, I don't know where they are getting it. Since July, he (Chaitanyananda) is not in Delhi and behind his back, these FIRs have been registered," Burman added. ASJ Kaur said,



"Investigation of the present case is at a nascent stage and IO requires custodial interrogation of applicant/accused to establish the entire chain of fraud, cheating, conspiracy and misappropriation of funds. As per the version of IO, the applicant/accused is not available at his given address and his mobile phone is switched off." "Considering the seriousness of allegations and gravity of offence, this Court is not inclined to grant anticipatory bail to applicant/accused. Therefore, present bail application stands dismissed," the order stated.

Chaitanyananda had earlier moved another anticipatory bail plea in the molestation case but later withdrew it as names of the alleged victims had inadvertently been mentioned in the plea. The accused had allegedly sent lewd and inappropriate messages to women students and forced them to accompany him on foreign trips and to visit him in his room late at night. At least 19 women, enrolled under the Economically Weaker Section quota at the institute, had alleged that Chaitanyananda made unwanted physical contact with them. Before the latest allegations of the women were made public, the FIR for alleged embezzlement and misappropriation of funds was lodged against him on July 23. A separate case has also been lodged against him for allegedly using a Volvo car with a fake blue United Nations number plate.

Delhi HC allows Priya to file list of assets in sealed cover, all parties agree not to leak details



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

The court also recorded that the will of Sunjay and the list of assets, as furnished by his widow Priya, in a sealed cover before the court, will be used discreetly by all parties involved. The court also recorded that the will of Sunjay (left) and the list of assets, as furnished by his widow Priya (right), in a sealed cover before the court, will be used discreetly by all parties involved. (Credit: Wikimedia Commons) The Delhi High Court Friday allowed former Sonu Comstar chairman Sunjay Kapur's wife, Priya, to file the late businessman's list of assets in a sealed cover, even as the parties locked in dispute in the partition suit said they would not leak the details to the press. The court also recorded that the will of Sunjay and the list of assets, as furnished by his widow Priya, in a sealed cover before the court, will be used discreetly by all parties involved. Justice Jyoti Singh, while dealing with the request by Priya for adding a confidentiality clause for the lists of assets and Sunjay's will, did not issue any directions for adding a confidentiality club or a media gag. Justice Singh also directed that a copy of the will be supplied to Sunjay's mother, Rani.

In an application to the Delhi HC, Priya urged the court to permit her to submit the details in a sealed cover, accompanied by a confidentiality clause. Priya filed the application in a partition suit moved by Samaira and Kiaan Kapoor, Sunjay's children from his second marriage to actor Karisma Kapoor. The two children have demanded a share in his estate, and raised suspicion over the genuineness of Sunjay's will. On Thursday, Justice Singh stated orally that the issuance of any such order could be "problematic," as it would impinge on the parties' right to question or verify the assets disclosed. The court also sought judicial precedents for any such order of sealed cover sub-

mission of disclosure assets. On Friday, Senior Advocate Mahesh Jethmalani, appearing for the Kapoor children, objected to Priya's request. "There can't be a media gag like this... both sides have been talking about the case."

Labourer found hanging at Sabarmati Ashram redevelopment project site

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

A 19-year-old labourer from Madhya Pradesh working at the Sabarmati Ashram redevelopment project site was found hanging from a tree near Abhay Ghat, the resting place of former Prime Minister Morarji Desai, in Ahmedabad on Friday morning. Ranip police stated that the labourer has allegedly committed suicide for unknown reasons and a case of accidental death has been registered.

Police seized his phone and launched an investigation. The deceased has been identified as Mohitsinh Pramodsinh, a native of Umariya Dhara village of Shihora tehsil in Jabalpur district of Madhya Pradesh.

According to police, Mohitsinh was found hanging from a neem tree with a plastic string being used to tie cement blocks at around 7 am. After the body was found, the labour contractor with whom Mohitsinh was working informed the police. Sources said that Mohitsinh's body has been sent to Ahmedabad Civil Hospital for postmortem, and his family has been informed about the incident. Sources said that Mohitsinh was working as a wooden polish labourer. He was living at the labour camp near Abhay Ghat at the Ashram redevelopment site. The Gujarat government is implementing the Rs 1200 crore Sabarmati Ashram redevelopment project on the 55 acres of land of the ashram. As part of the project, a total of 36 buildings, which hold historical significance, are being restored by the Mahatma Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram Memorial Trust formed by the Gujarat government.



Sexually suggestive language not free speech: Delhi HC orders takedown of posts against Gaurav Bhatia



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

The Delhi High Court ordered the takedown of posts containing obscene and sexually suggestive language against BJP national spokesperson and senior advocate Gaurav Bhatia, and observed that “attacking the dignity of a person using obscene and sexually suggestive language under the guise of free speech cannot be permissible under any circumstances”. Justice Amit Bansal was dealing with a defamation suit by Bhatia, who sought an injunction against alleged defamatory content across social media over a video of him, “attired in kurta and casual shorts” during a live telecast, that went viral recently.

The court, however, refrained from issuing an ex-parte injunction against all such posts, including ones which the court deemed to be satirical in nature and that Bhatia has taken objection to. Justice Bansal reiterated, “The thresh-

old for defamation in respect of public figures or politically exposed persons should be higher”. In the order dated September 25, Justice Bansal recorded, “... while the words used in the impugned posts may appear to be defamatory by themselves, it has to be borne in mind that the impugned posts were occasioned on account of the plaintiff’s appearance, as noted above, during a live telecast and, on a prima facie view, appear to be satirical, humorous and in the nature of hyperbole.” “Further, there is no invasion of privacy of the plaintiff as he voluntarily chose to be a part of a live television debate from his place of residence in such an attire... In my prima facie view, the threshold for defamation in respect of public figures or politically exposed persons should be higher. No doubt the actions of such individuals are more often under scrutiny and prone to public criticism, however, they also have the benefit of a stage/media as well as the ability to counter any statement made against him,” it said. Taking objection to posts on social media where “defamatory statements” were being made against him, Bhatia had claimed an “invasion of privacy”. He submitted that the purported objectionable video, where he is improperly dressed, is being circulated “without my consent”. He said the video was from September 12, when he was at home. The order recorded, “... at this stage, the court is not inclined to grant an ex-parte ad interim injunction against the defendants qua their respective posts. In my prima facie view, it would only be reasonable to give an opportunity to the defendants to present their case including the defence of ‘fair comment’ that they might take in support of their posts.”

Punjab Vidhan Sabha tables resolution condemning Centre for ‘meagre’ Rs 1,600 crore flood-relief package

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

The Punjab Vidhan Sabha, convened to discuss the recent floods in the state, Friday tabled a resolution criticising the BJP-led Centre for announcing a ‘meagre’ Rs 1,600 crore flood-relief package for the state. The resolution also condemned the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) for “not responding to the elected Chief Minister of Punjab’s repeated request for a meeting”. Tabling a resolution on the first day of the two-day special session, Punjab Water Resources Minister Barinder Goyal demanded a financial package of Rs 20,000 crore. He said the prime minister should respect federalism in the country and treat all states equally. “The PM announced a meagre amount of Rs 1,600 crore. Even after so many days of his visit, the money has not been credited in the state’s treasury,” the minister added.

Holding the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) responsible for the floods in Punjab, Goyal said that it was important that the management of BBMB be transferred to the state government. The minister alleged that whenever he requested the release of more water from BBMB, the chairman would delay it by calling a meeting of all the states. “For instance, we asked the BBMB to release water from Bhakra when the dam level was 1,660 feet, but they said they would release it only after it reached 1965 feet,” Goyal said.

He also alleged that the Ramsar side of the Beas River was declared a wildlife reserve, and added that “Central approval is required to extract even a spoonful of sand from the Beas. We cannot carry out de-silting or mining; it is beyond our jurisdiction.” He said that they saved the popula-



tion alongside the Ghaggar River this time by strengthening the bund of the Ghaggar. “We worked on strengthening after the 2023 floods. This time, only 40 villages were affected, that too due to the Hansi-Butana siphon.” The Punjab minister said the government had high hopes from the Centre in the hour of crisis, “but despite the floods ravaging the state on August 26, the prime minister did not even send a message of sympathy until September 9.” The resolution said that Punjab has been ravaged by catastrophic floods, widely regarded as the worst and most destructive deluge since the 1988 floods, causing loss to over 20 lakh people, destroying crops on nearly 5 lakh acres, numerous losses to livestock, and irreparable damage to both private and public infrastructure. It added that the Punjab Vidhan Sabha “condemns the lack of response and the failure of the BJP-led Union Government to sanction a special financial package commensurate with the scale of the worst floods faced by Punjab in decades.”

Bareilly protest over ‘I Love Mohammad’ banner turns violent: Stones pelted, vehicles damaged



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Tension erupted in Uttar Pradesh’s Bareilly on Friday afternoon when several groups took out processions, carrying placards reading “I Love Mohammad”, in the Kotwali and Baradari areas of the city soon after prayers at a local mosque. Police officers said that when the procession was stopped and asked to disperse, an argument broke out between protestors and the police. Police said the situation escalated when some members of the crowd began pelting stones — damaging vehicles and forcing people in the vicinity to run for cover — and raised provocative slogans, triggering tension across parts of the city. The situation was eventually brought under control after security personnel used force to disperse the crowd.

“The situation has been brought under control. We are conducting flag marches in the affected areas to maintain peace,” said Circle Officer of Bareilly, Ashutosh Shivam. He added that so far, police have not received any information about injuries to any individual during the clashes. No case has been filed so far. Heavy deployment of police personnel was put in place across sensitive areas of the district in view of the Friday prayers and the ongoing protests across the state in support of the “I Love Mohammad” banner. The additional security arrangements, coupled with continuous patrolling, helped the administration respond swiftly and prevent the situation from escalating further, said a police officer.

The protest in Bareilly and other parts comes days after an FIR was lodged by Kanpur police over a light board displaying the message, “I love Mohammad”, which was put up as part of decorations for the annual Barawafat procession to commemorate the birth of Prophet Mohammad. According to the police, the board was installed in front of Jafar Wali Gali in Mohalla Saiyad Nagar, an area with a mixed population in Kanpur. Police said that on September 4, some locals opposed the installation, calling it an attempt to introduce a “new practice.” Attempts to remove

the board led to a heated exchange and tensions in the area, and senior police officers had to intervene to calm tempers. Eventually, the board was removed and relocated. On September 5, when the Barawafat procession was underway, unidentified youths allegedly tore down religious posters installed by Hindu outfits, police said. On September 10, police registered an FIR at the Rawatpur police station and named nine persons, including the procession organisers, and 15 unidentified individuals. Police clarified that the FIR was not registered in connection with the board but the tearing of religious posters. Officials explained that the reference to the board was included in the complaint only to present the sequence of events leading up to the tension.

‘Acted in hot haste... bring them back in four weeks’: Calcutta HC to Centre on two families pushed into Bangladesh

The Calcutta High Court on Friday dismissed the Centre’s deportation order against two migrant worker families from Birbhum who were pushed into Bangladesh earlier this year, with its order stating, “... Acting in hot haste to deport them is a clear violation which renders the deportation order bad in law, and liable to be set aside.” A division bench of Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty and Justice Ritabrata Kumar Mitra directed that the six members of the two families — including eight-month pregnant Sonali Bibi — be brought back to West Bengal within four weeks. The court also rejected the Centre’s request for a stay on the order. “The question of citizenship should be considered based on further documents and evidence before an appropriate Court... The process and procedure adopted in the deportation raise a suspicion that the concerned authorities, while acting in hot haste, have clearly violated the provisions of the memo dated May 2, 2025,” the order, a copy of which was accessed by The Indian Express, states. “We have ordered the persons to be returned to India. We have said what steps have to be taken to return them. Four weeks’ time is given,” the bench observed. It criticised the Centre’s move to accord Bangladeshi national status to the detainees. In an earlier hearing, it had asked the Centre to file an affidavit explaining how the families were deported, and to disclose the place from which they had been deported.

Adani, Newslandry, Ravish Kumar agree on status quo till Delhi court decides on ‘defamatory content’ plea



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

The status quo shall continue till AEL’s application is decided by a civil judge at the Rohini court. The status quo shall continue till AEL’s application is decided by a civil judge at the Rohini court. Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), news media company Newslandry and journalist Ravish Kumar told the Delhi High Court on Friday that they were agreeable to maintaining a status quo till a civil judge decided on AEL’s plea seeking a permanent injunction against alleged defamatory content against the company.

In effect, Newslandry and Kumar will not have to take down any further material uploaded on their website or other intermediaries than what exists as of 12 pm on September 26. The status quo shall continue till AEL’s application is decided by a civil judge at the Rohini court. It does not, however, prevent Newslandry or Kumar from uploading fresh material on AEL. It was pursuant to the proceedings before

the civil judge earlier this month that the court had ordered an ex parte gag order against alleged defamatory content on September 6. Following the gag order, the Centre, through its Information and Broadcasting Ministry, had issued a communique on September 16 to Newslandry and Kumar to comply and take down alleged defamatory content against AEL. According to Newslandry, it did not take down any material pursuant to the government order.

Newslandry and Kumar had moved the Delhi High Court, specifically challenging the September 16 government order for “overreach”, even as the government had told Justice Sachin Datta on Thursday that the government is merely equivalent to a “post office” communicating court orders to concerned parties for compliance as is required of the government under the IT Rules. Senior advocates Saurabh Kirpal and Trideep Pais, appearing for Newslandry and Kumar, informed Justice Datta on Friday that all parties have now agreed to maintain a status quo till AEL’s application before the Rohini court is decided and disposed of. Recording the submission, the court also noted in its order that it has been agreed by the parties that in case Newslandry and Kumar have taken down any material from their website pursuant to the government communique of September 16, the same shall not be reuploaded, and the understanding shall subsist until final disposal of AEL’s application before the civil court in Rohini.

The court also directed the Centre to “address a corrigendum” in light of the latest development and agreement at the Delhi High Court, under IT Rules.

How is defamation case against Aryan Khan’s ‘The Ba***ds of Bollywood’ maintainable in Delhi? HC asks Sameer Wankhede

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

The series, which premiered on September 18 on Netflix, marks the directorial debut of Aryan, son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, and has been produced by Red Chillies Entertainment. The series, which premiered on September 18 on Netflix, marks the directorial debut of Aryan, son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, and has been produced by Red Chillies Entertainment. The Delhi High Court Friday inquired about the maintainability of the defamation suit by IRS officer Sameer Wankhede, who sought an injunction and damages for the “misleading” and “negative” portrayal of anti-drug enforcement agencies in the Aryan Khan-directed Netflix show, ‘Ba****ds of Bollywood’. In his suit, Wankhede has accused Aryan of a “calculated and vindictive hit job orchestrated to target and malign” him. He also pointed out that he has been the subject matter of “trolling and derogatory insinuations on social media platforms, some of which have received... 1.3 m views.” Justice Purushendra Kaurav orally questioned Wankhede’s counsel if there is any cause of action pertaining to Delhi and then suggested he amend the suit accordingly, specifying the cause of action for pursuing the suit in the jurisdiction of Delhi. The series, which premiered on September 18 on Netflix, marks the directorial debut of Aryan, son of actor Shah Rukh Khan, and has been produced by Red Chillies Entertainment.

Wankhede shot to the limelight when he arrested Aryan in 2021 while serving as Mumbai zonal director of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). Pointing to the alleged dig at Wankhede in the web series, his suit details that similarities include a character that “mimics” Wankhede’s persona, with “facial and physical resemblance, striking similarities in action, speech and mannerism”. He also pointed out the fact that the character in the series “proceeds to arrest an influential individual associated with the movie industry”. He objected to the “utterance of the expression, ‘Satyamev Jayate’, by the character — an expression that was often used by Wankhede “while answering media queries while



he was investigating Mr Aryan Khan for offences under the NDPS Act”.

He has also taken objection to the character making an obscene gesture — specifically, showing a middle finger — after the character recites ‘Satyamev Jayate’ which is the part of the National Emblem. Wankhede submitted that this constitutes a “grave and sensitive violation of the provisions of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.” The defamation suit has been filed against the production company, Netflix, X Corp, Google LLC, Meta Platforms Inc, RPG Lifestyle Media Pvt Ltd and John Does. Wankhede has claimed that the series disseminates a misleading and negative portrayal of anti-drug enforcement agencies, thereby eroding public confidence in law enforcement institutions. It is learnt that the suit alleges the series has been “deliberately conceptualised” and executed with the intent to malign Wankhede’s reputation in a “colourable and prejudicial manner”. He has also taken objection to references made in the series to Aryan’s NCB case and has highlighted that the case is pending and sub-judice before the Bombay High Court and the NDPS Special Court, Mumbai.

BMC’s Rs 4300-crore proposal of multimodal tunnel network to decongest Mumbai’s traffic



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

BMC has invited tenders for the project, and once the contractors are selected, a feasibility study will be carried out in line with the timeline of the project. BMC has invited tenders for the project, and once the contractors are selected, a feasibility study will be carried out in line with the timeline of the project. In a bid to ease commute and decongest traffic movement in Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is set to create a multi-modal vehicular tunnel network across Mumbai’s island city and suburbs. About the project

As part of its plan, BMC will construct multiple inter-connecting tunnels beneath the existing road surface of Mumbai. This web of tunnels will act as a parallel road network, providing an alternate path to the vehicles and in return decongest the existing roads of Mumbai. Features of the project According to the preliminary plan, the project will have six tunnels that will provide connectivity across the eastern and western suburbs. These tunnels will be interlinked with the existing and upcoming arterial roads, like the Goregaon Mulund Link Road, and Mumbai Coastal Road (Phases 1 and 2). Each tunnel will be equipped with a modernised ventilation system, digital signage system, lighting facility, as well as dedicated service lanes and access networks. Current status BMC has invited tenders for the project, and once the contractors are selected, a feasibility study will be carried out in line with the timeline of the project. The construction style will be fixed accordingly. Cost The project cost has been pegged at Rs 4,392 crore, while the

construction of each tunnel is set to cost Rs 732 crore to the BMC. Administration speaks The project is aimed at creating a significant master plan for connectivity in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The vehicular density of Mumbai is growing, and there is an ardent need to create an alternate mode of commute to meet future demands. The tender has been floating for a long time and we are awaiting a response from interested agencies,” said Abhijit Bangar, Additional Municipal Commissioner (Projects).

Congress worker shot dead in broad daylight in South Delhi’s Malviya Nagar

A Congress worker was shot dead in broad daylight in the Malviya Nagar area of South Delhi on Friday by unidentified gunmen, the Delhi Police said. According to the police, the incident took place at a public park run by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Begampur.

“Today, at 9.53 am, a PCR call was received at Malviya Nagar police station regarding a firing near Vijay Mandal Park, Begumpur,” Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankit Chauhan said. The deceased was identified as Lakhpat Singh Kataria (55), who was also a property dealer.

A police officer said Lakhpat was on his daily morning walk at the DDA park when two men on a bike fired four shots at him. “The victim was then taken to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (New Delhi), where he was declared dead on arrival,” the police officer said. Police said the PCR call was made by a guard on duty at the park. The guard told the police that the deceased came to the park every day at the same time for his walk.

Police said it prima facie seems like a case of personal enmity. However, the police are probing all possible angles and are trying to trace and arrest the gunmen.

A case has now been registered under Section 101 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Arms Act at the Malviya Nagar Police station.

Geography, politics stand in way of independent Palestinian state



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

London: There has been a recent rush of countries to formally recognise the state of Palestine. Affirming Palestinian sovereignty marks a historic diplomatic milestone, yet the exact layout of its territory, a central requirement under international law, remains fiercely contested from every hilltop in the West Bank to the ruins of Gaza. To grasp what this moment means, we need to trace how borders have evolved – or dissolved – over Palestine’s tumultuous political history. The 1947 UN partition plan had envisioned two semi-contiguous territories for Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an international city.

But that vision quickly collapsed into the war that led to the establishment of Israel in 1948. Palestinians found themselves confined to the West Bank and Gaza Strip as fully separated territories, demarcated by the “green line” and placed under Jordanian and Egyptian control. These initial contours remain the internationally recognised basis for Palestinian statehood until today – and are referred to as the “pre-1967 borders”. That year, the six-day war saw Israel effectively tripling its territory. It occupied all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and annexed East Jerusalem. Israeli settlements immediately began fragmenting Palestine’s geography, especially in the West Bank. These settlements are illegal under international law, and in many cases lacked even the government’s authorisation. Yet they faced limited government pushback – and were often directly supported by Israeli authorities. The Oslo accords later carved the territory into Areas A, B, and C with varying degrees of Palestinian governance. Following suicide bombings during the second intifada (2000-05), Israel built a separation barrier cutting deep inside the 1967 borders. Six decades on, the West bank resembles a fragmented archipelago more than a cohesive state territory. In a recent study, my colleagues and I used satellite imagery to show, for the first time, what exactly this does to the West Bank. We tracked all 360 settlements and outposts that existed in 2014 across the following decade.

During this time alone, the average settlement expanded by two-thirds in size. Collectively, they now occupy 151 sq km of built-up area – compared to 88 sq km ten years ago – a 72 per cent increase. Adding to this are hundreds of new settlements, especially with a wave of approvals following October 7 2023. Each of these settlements comes with extensive Israeli military presence and infrastructure. This has created a complicated system of roads and checkpoints that typically exclude Palestinians, severely restricting movement and economic activity. What’s worse, violent attacks and harassment by extremist settlers are well documented in some locations. To say that building an independent state under these conditions is challenging would be a massive understatement. A recently approved development project on the West Bank exemplifies this. On paper, the E1 project it will be yet another settlement. But if

constructed, E1 – short for “East One” – will choke off the main road running north to south outside Jerusalem, effectively cutting the West Bank in half. Israel’s far-right finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich, celebrated the move as “erasing” the idea of a Palestinian state while bolstering national security – the government’s official justification for settlement expansion. In reality, the settlements have the exact opposite effect. Our research, involving four months of fieldwork and surveying over 8,000 Palestinians, found an alarming dynamic. Living within a few kilometres of settlements almost doubled the likelihood of engagement in high-risk and violent action (more than 82 per cent), while moderate protest dropped by 30-36 per cent. Similarly, support collapsed for diplomatic initiatives, and surged for violent attacks. Critically, this isn’t simply a reaction to settler violence. Beyond the effects of such exposure, settlement presence alone intensified collective moral outrage, a cognitive state known to drive violent conflict. Studies demonstrate how this state primes people to think in terms of threat and punishment rather than the risks of taking action – particularly dangerous in the West Bank. And this factor is likely to persist: the settler community today counts upwards of half a million people, many of them armed, violence prone, and radically opposed to leaving.

What this implies for Israeli-Palestinian relations is that, as settlements expand, so will political violence and retaliation, fuelling further cycles of conflict. The recent attack in Jerusalem, in which Palestinian gunmen shot six people just weeks after E1’s approval, tragically shows this reality already. Any viable Palestinian state must include a vision for Gaza’s reconstruction and integration once the horrific suffering and famine caused by Israel’s brutal attacks ends. Yet as I’ve reported based on data collected in January, Gaza’s largest political constituency (32 per cent) now consists of those who feel represented by nobody. Hamas is militarily decimated and has lost almost all remaining support among the public. The UK and other countries have also proscribed the terrorist group. Yet no viable alternative has emerged to represent Gazans’ interests. Over in the West Bank, a Palestinian Authority (PA) dominated by elderly men offers little better. Three decades since its establishment as part of the Oslo peace process, it is widely seen as illegitimate, corrupt and incapable, as polls consistently show. The most realistic governance scenario involves a restructured PA administering both territories. It’s likely this will still be dominated by Fatah but with fundamentally reformed structures and leaders. If elections were held today, the 89-year-old president, Mahmoud Abbas, would almost certainly lose. One candidate with more prospects is the imprisoned Marwan Barghout, complicating succession planning. Whoever eventually leads a unified Palestine will inherit decades of failed self-governance, deep public scepticism, and Israel undoubtedly attempting to intervene in this process.

Despite massive challenges, building a functioning Palestinian state is not impossible. So recognition can be more than a symbolic act. Already, it’s reshaping in tangible ways how major powers engage with Palestinian representatives while applying meaningful pressure on Israel’s leaders. But as nations line up to recognise Palestine, they must confront what they’re actually recognising. Given the vicious cycles of settlement expansion and violence that our research shows, recognition risks becoming an empty gesture unless this issue is addressed diplomatically head on. Without creating genuine conditions for statehood that uphold the interests of all parties, neither goal will be achieved. The choice is no longer between one-state and two-state solutions. It’s between recognising borders that have long been rendered meaningless – or committing to build something viable. Both the future of Palestinian statehood and Israeli security may depend on that choice.

Trump escalates retribution campaign with charges against Comey, threats against liberal groups



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

New York: President Donald Trump’s unprecedented retribution campaign against his perceived political enemies reached new heights on Thursday as his Justice Department brought criminal charges against a longtime foe and he expanded his efforts to classify certain liberal groups as “domestic terrorist organisations.” Days after Trump publicly demanded action from his attorney general and tapped his former personal lawyer to serve as the top federal prosecutor in Virginia, former FBI Director James Comey, a longtime target of Trump’s ire, was indicted by a grand jury for allegedly lying to Congress during testimony in 2020.

Hours earlier, Trump signed a memorandum directing his administration to target backers of what he dubbed “left-wing terrorism” as he alleged without evidence a vast conspiracy by Democrat-aligned nonprofit groups and activists to finance violent protests. The developments marked a dramatic escalation of the president’s extraordinary use of the levers of presidential power to target his political rivals and his efforts to pressure the Justice Department to pursue investigations — and now prosecutions — of those he disdains. It’s an unabashed campaign that began soon after Trump returned to office and one that critics see as an abuse of power that puts every American who dares to criticise the president at risk of retaliation.

“Donald Trump has made clear that he intends to turn our justice system into a weapon for punishing and silencing his critics,” said Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee. The Comey indictment came less than a week after Trump installed a former White House aide and confidant to the role of US Attorney in the Eastern District of Virginia. The president had forced the ouster of his previously hand-selected pick because he was not sufficiently responsive to calls from Trump to bring charges against his longtime targets.

“This kind of interference is a dangerous abuse of power,” Warner said. “Our system depends on prosecutors making decisions based on evidence and the law, not on the personal grudges of a politician determined to settle scores.”

The first former president convicted of a felony — for falsifying business records to hide hush-money payments to conceal an alleged affair — Trump won the White House despite a host of other legal troubles over his alleged retention of classified information after leaving the White House in 2021 and his role in stoking denials of his 2020 electoral defeat that culminated in the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol. Thursday’s moves were just the latest in a concerted effort by Trump to wield the vast powers of his office in unparalleled ways to punish his enemies since returning to the Oval Office in January. During his campaign, Trump made clear that this was his intention if he returned to office. “In 2016, I declared: I am your voice,” he said in 2023. “Today, I add: I am your warrior. I am your justice. And for those who have been wronged and betrayed, I am your retribution.” Earlier this week, he signed an order designating a decentralised movement known as antifa — short for “anti-fascists” — as a domestic terrorist organisation, a move testing broad First Amendment protections enjoyed by organisations operating within the United States.

The Thursday memo went further, targeting liberal-leaning groups and donors, and “represents a significant abuse of power where the government is either changing the law or bending definitions to try and investigative and punish their political opponents in a way that is really unprecedented,” said Caitlin Legacki of Americans Against Government Censorship, which was founded to fight the Trump administration’s weaponization of the federal government against its political rivals. As for Comey, she said, “It reeks of selective prosecution, it reeks of vindictive targeting and calls into question the integrity of many of the charges being brought by the office.” A widespread press campaign

Beyond Comey, Trump has also pressured prosecutors to bring mortgage fraud charges against New York Attorney General Letitia James, who brought a massive civil fraud case against the president. Attorney General Pam Bondi last month named a special prosecutor to investigate mortgage fraud allegations against both James and Democratic US Sen. Adam Schiff of California, another top Trump target. Both have denied any wrongdoing.

The Justice Department has also begun examining mortgage fraud allegations against Lisa Cook, the Federal Reserve governor who has won success in lower courts in challenging Trump’s effort to remove her from her job in a move she says is designed to erode the central bank’s independence. Trump has appealed to the Supreme Court to allow him to oust her. He has also stripped Secret Service protection from a slew of former officials, including his 2024 Democratic rival, Kamala Harris, members of former President Joe Biden’s family, and people who have fallen from favour, including his onetime national security adviser, John Bolton and his former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Trump has also targeted major institutions, revoking security clearances for attorneys at law firms he disfavors, pulling billions of dollars in federal research funds from elite universities, and securing multimillion-dollar settlements against media organisations in lawsuits that were widely regarded as weak cases.

Earlier this week, he threatened ABC over the network’s decision to allow late-night host Jimmy Kimmel to return to the airwaves. “I think we’re going to test ABC out on this. Let’s see how we do. Last time I went after them, they gave me US\$ 16 million. This one sounds even more lucrative,” Trump crowed. And his administration has fired or reassigned federal employees for their earlier work, including prosecutors who worked on cases against him. The Justice Department also fired Comey’s daughter, Maureen Comey, from her job as a prosecutor in the Southern District of New York. She has since sued, saying the termination was politically motivated. Trump celebrates the indictment of Trump, meanwhile, cheered the Comey indictment, saying “JUSTICE IN AMERICA!” had been served, even as Comey has denied wrongdoing and expressed confidence in winning an acquittal at trial. The indictment was the culmination of a pressure campaign that burst into public view over the weekend when Trump aired his frustrations with Bondi on his social media site and demanded that she move forward with charges against Comey, James and Schiff. “We can’t delay any longer, it’s killing our reputation and credibility,” he wrote on Truth Social Saturday. “JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOW!!!” He said he would nominate Lindsey Halligan, his former personal lawyer and a White House aide, to serve as US attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia to quicken the pace after the ouster of chief prosecutor Erik Siebert, who resigned under pressure to bring charges against James. The charges against Comey came even as prosecutors in the office had written a memo detailing concerns about the pursuit of an indictment and their likelihood of success at trial. The former FBI director said in a video Thursday night that he is innocent, but knew that “standing up to Donald Trump” would come with costs. “My heart is broken for the Department of Justice, but I have great confidence in the federal judicial system, and I am innocent,” Comey said.

Pak PM Sharif, Field Marshal Munir meet Trump at White House, trade deal sealed



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

New York/Washington: Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Field Marshal Asim Munir met US President Donald Trump in the White House. Sharif is in the US for the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly and will address the General Debate from the UNGA podium on Friday. He made a brief visit to the US capital from New York for the meeting with Trump on Thursday — the Pakistani PM’s first visit to the White House.

Munir, who was hosted by Trump for lunch at the White House early this summer, accompanied Sharif for the meeting, which was also attended by Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Sharif met Trump in New York on the margins of the UNGA session on Tuesday when the US president held a multilateral meeting with leaders from Arab nations and others, including Egypt, Indonesia, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. Sharif arrived at the White House around 4.52 pm and was greeted by senior administration officials. Trump signed several executive orders and was speaking to reporters when Sharif and Munir arrived at the White House.

The Pakistani PM’s motorcade was seen leaving the White House around 6.18 pm, according to the White House pool. In his remarks to reporters after signing the executive orders, Trump again said that he has stopped seven wars. “In fact, we have a great leader coming, the prime minister of Pakistan coming, and the field marshal (of) Pakistan. Field marshal is a very great guy and so is the prime minister, both. And they’re coming, and they may be in this room right now, I don’t know, because we’re late, and I said maybe they’d like to join. They actually may be somewhere in the beautiful Oval Office,” Trump said.

Trump has said on multiple occasions that he ended the recent conflict between India and Pakistan. He repeated the claim in his address to world leaders at the UNGA. Pakistan has nominated Trump for the 2026 Nobel Peace

Prize, in “recognition of his decisive diplomatic intervention and pivotal leadership during the recent India-Pakistan crisis”.

The last Pakistani prime minister to visit the White House was Imran Khan, who met Trump in July 2019 on an “official working visit”. Before him, Sharif’s brother and then Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif visited the White House in 2015. The two countries have reached a trade agreement that entails a 19 per cent tariff on Pakistani imports and will allow Washington to help develop Pakistan’s oil reserves. US goods and services trade with Pakistan totalled an estimated USD 10.1 billion in 2024, up 6.3 per cent (USD 523.0 million) from 2023. The US’ total goods trade (exports plus imports) with Pakistan was an estimated USD 7.2 billion in 2024. US goods exports to Pakistan in 2024 were USD 2.1 billion, up 3.3 per cent (USD 67.2 million) from 2023. US goods imports from Pakistan in 2024 totalled USD 5.1 billion, up 4.8 per cent (USD 233.9 million) from 2023. The US goods trade deficit with Pakistan was USD 3 billion in 2024, a 5.9 per cent increase (USD 166.7 million) from 2023.

Trump played key role in ending India-Pakistan hostilities: US Secretary Rubio

United Nations: President Donald Trump was “very involved” in bringing about the cessation of hostilities in the “very dangerous” conflict between India and Pakistan, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has claimed.

Speaking at a United Nations Security Council Ministerial Meeting on Ukraine on Tuesday, Rubio said the US President had made restoring global peace one of his top priorities. “When President Trump took office, he made it among his highest priorities the restoration of peace anywhere and everywhere in the world where the opportunity presented itself. And it’s met with great success in a number of places.” “We had a conflict between India and Pakistan, which was a very dangerous conflict, and one that he chose to engage in and was able to bring it to – be very involved in bringing it to a cessation of hostilities,” he said.

Rubio further said that Trump has played a “critical role” in resolving several other conflicts, including those between Thailand and Cambodia, the Congo and Rwanda, and Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Polish climber on skis makes Everest descent in first



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Poland’s Andrzej Bargiel has become the first climber to ski down the world’s highest mountain without supplemental oxygen, his team and expedition organiser said on “I am on top of the highest mountain in the world and I’m going to descend it on skis,” Mr. Bargiel said in a video posted on Instagram early on Thursday. Everest has seen a handful of ski descents but never a continuous downhill without additional oxygen.

In 2000, Slovenian Davorin Karnicar made the first full ski descent from Everest’s summit to base camp using bottled oxygen. Chhang Dawa Sherpa of Seven Summit Treks, which organised the latest expedition, said Mr.

Bargiel skied down to Camp 2, spent a night and then reached the base camp on skis the next day. “This was extremely challenging and no one had done it before,” Mr. Sherpa told AFP. Heavy snowfall forced Mr. Bargiel to spend 16 hours above 8,000 metres, known as the “death zone” because thin air and low oxygen levels heighten the risk of altitude sickness. He was greeted with a khada, a traditional Buddhist scarf, when he arrived at the base camp. “Sky is the limit? Not for Poles! Andrzej Bargiel has just skied down Mount Everest,” Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk posted on X. Mr. Bargiel’s team said in a statement that he had made history and called it a “groundbreaking milestone in the world of ski mountaineering”. Mr. Bargiel started eyeing Everest a year after he became the first person to ski down Pakistan’s K2, the second-highest mountain in the world, in 2018. But a dangerous overhanging serac forced him to abandon his 2019 attempt. He returned in 2022 but high winds hindered his plans. The daredevil adventurer has been on a quest to make ski descents of the highest mountains in the world under his Hic Sunt Leones project, a Latin phrase for ‘here are lions’ and used to refer to uncharted territories. In Pakistan he has skied down all four of Karakoram’s eight thousanders and also skied off Nepal’s Manaslu and Shishapangma in Tibet. Autumn expeditions on Everest are rare because of snowier terrain, shorter and colder days and a narrow summit window compared to the busy spring.

“To deliver hope, solidarity”: Gaza aid flotilla carrying Greta Thunberg set to head east from Greece despite Israeli warnings

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

An international aid flotilla was set to leave Greek waters and head towards Gaza on Friday (September 26, 2025), organisers said, defying warnings from Israel that it would use any means to block the boats’ access to the war-torn enclave. The Global Sumud Flotilla is using about 50 civilian boats to try to break Israel’s naval blockade of Gaza, an initiative Israel strongly opposes. Many lawyers, parliamentarians, and activists, including Swedish climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, are on board. Its passage across the Mediterranean has raised international tensions, especially after it said it was attacked by drones this week. No one was hurt, but Italy and Spain have dispatched naval ships to provide assistance to their and other European citizens on the flotilla. Greece said it would guarantee the safe sailing of the flotilla off Greece, but Friday’s (September 26) launch will take the flotilla back into international waters in the eastern Mediterranean. Organisers said the boats aim to arrive early next week. Israel, which has imposed a naval blockade on Gaza, said the flotilla will not pass and that the project will only assist Hamas. The flotilla has blamed Israel for the drone attack. Israel’s foreign ministry did not respond directly to the accusation, but invited the flotilla to drop humanitarian aid for Israel to take to Gaza, or face consequences. The exact timing of the departure from Greece is unclear. Organisers said on Friday (September 26) that one of its lead boats had suffered a mechanical failure but that it was still preparing to depart. “We are not just delivering humanitarian aid. We are trying to deliver hope and solidarity, to send a strong message that the world stands with Palestine,” Ms. Thunberg said from the deck of a boat off the Greek island of Crete on Thursday (September 25). Italy had proposed a compromise whereby aid supplies could be dropped off in Cyprus and handed over to the Catholic Church’s Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, which would then distribute it in Gaza.

Pune on my plate: A humble dish without which every Punekar’s morning is incomplete



In Pune, mornings often begin with the familiar aroma of kande pohe wafting from small eateries and handcarts tucked into street corners. For generations, this humble dish of flattened rice tempered with onions, green chillies, and curry leaves has been more than just breakfast—it’s comfort food, a reminder of home, and an integral part of Pune’s food culture. From roadside stalls to late-night haunts, Pune-kars’ love for pohe has made some eateries legendary.

In 2007, Sushil Jadhav began a small venture where he sold pohe along with sheera, upma, and sabudana khichdi on the street. Over the years, this modest stall in Navi Peth has become a morning ritual for countless Pune-kars, with steaming hot kande pohe the star attraction. The charm lies in the simplicity: a humble plate of pohe, light yet filling, garnished just right, carrying the unmistakable flavour of home. Regulars swear by its taste and consistency. “I love the taste; I have been coming here for the past eight years,” shares Nitin Sharma, assistant professor at MIT. “The taste reminds me of home, it’s my go-to breakfast place,” says Shruti Digankar, a student at Wadia College, Pune. Poha, Pune on my plate, From 11 pm to 4 am, the place buzzes with customers who travel not just from Pune but from Mumbai, Delhi, and even Punjab to savour its famous pohe. For the past 50 years, this legendary pohe joint in Nal Stop has been drawing crowds at unusual hours.

From 11 pm to 4 am, the place buzzes with customers who travel not just from Pune but from Mumbai, Delhi, and even Punjab to savour its famous pohe. The magic lies in the variety—fluffy pohe served with toppings like tangy chutney, piping hot sambar, crunchy shew, or roasted peanuts. “We only close our shop for two hours a day. Otherwise, people are here all the time,” says Sunilbhai Dige, the founder. Over the years, loyal customers have returned faithfully for decades. “Whenever I visit Pune, I make it a point to go to this spot for pohe. I love the taste,” says Rahul Chadda, a businessman from Punjab.

Famous for its vada-pohe combo, this humble cart opposite the Bank of Maharashtra’s Tilak Road branch is a morning landmark. Blink and you might miss it—the pohe vanish almost as quickly as they are served. By 10 am, the familiar cry of “pohe sampale (pohe over)” rings out. Started nearly 40 years ago, this tradition of pairing steaming hot pohe with a freshly fried wada has won the hearts of many. “I have been coming here for the past 15 years. The taste feels like home, and the hot poha with the freshly fried wada is a true delicacy,” says Rajendra Chitnis, a lawyer and loyal customer. Be it the comfort of kande pohe or the mouthwatering flavour of tarri pohe, this outlet has mastered nine varieties. From Konkani, dahi, and kurkure pohe to sambar, dadpe, matki pohe and the ever-popular Indori pohe, there is something for every palate. “What began as a single outlet near Shaniwarwada in 2019 has gained popularity and now grown into a franchise of 48 stores. People all over Maharashtra love our pohe,” says owner Sandesh Bhosale. Vijay Ballal, a businessman, adds, “I have been visiting the Shaniwarwada branch frequently for the past 2–3 years. I love the variety of pohe I get there.” Pune’s love for pohe is as diverse as the city itself. Each plate tells a story—of tradition, innovation, and memories shared over steaming servings. Whether it is the simple comfort of kande pohe, the indulgence of a vada-pohe combo, or the adventurous flavours of tarri and Indori pohe, one thing is for sure that happiness really does come in a humble, perfectly cooked plate of flattened rice.

Late last week, India nominated the globally acclaimed Homebound, which lists legendary American filmmaker Martin Scorsese as an executive producer, as its official entry for Oscars 2026. Behind the curtains, the announcement marked another twist in the movie’s turbulent journey within its own country — marred by a series of cuts that appeared to rattle the film’s makers so much they omitted Scorsese’s name from the first set of posters before restoring it in later versions. For three years, a film on Punjab’s days of militancy, Punjab ’95, starring global star Diljit Dosanjh is in deep freeze after the director put his foot down to the board’s demand for over 100 cuts.

These are but only two examples of a controversial decision-making process that has set off divisions within the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), a statutory body under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. And cast a long regulatory shadow on the Indian film industry as it aspires to be a global player and rope in non-Indian sponsors and patronage. The Indian Express spoke to several top filmmakers and board members to find that a not-so-silent storm is brewing within the fraternity — and inside the CBFC, too — over what many call a “one-man show” that has transformed into a “super censorship raj”, which is both “methodical and whimsical” in equal measure.

* Under the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules 2024, the board must meet once every quarter. But the 12-member board last met six years ago on August 31, 2019.* The last annual report on the CBFC website dates back to 2016-17. Under the rules, the board is required to publish and submit an annual report to the I&B Ministry.* The board was last reconstituted on August 1, 2017, “for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier”. There have been no renewals of tenure after the mandated period ended in 2020, raising questions over the current board’s legal status.

“We don’t know if we are still members of the board or if the board itself is functioning legally,” said a member appointed in 2015. “Our tenures are time-bound (three years) but no one has been officially reappointed since 2017. Even my identity card was not replaced after its validity expired. There is no (board) meeting, no annual report, no work for most of us, no appellate authority (for filmmakers)... CBFC is running at its chairman’s pleasure,” the member said. Asked about these irregularities, an I&B Ministry spokesperson told The Indian Express: “The Board has been functioning in accordance with the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983 and 2024. The CBFC submits its annual report material to the Ministry each year, which is then included in the Ministry’s consolidated annual report.” On CBFC not conducting mandatory quarterly board meetings since August 2019, the I&B spokesperson said: “The CBFC’s online certification system, e-cinepramaan, launched on 01.04.2017, has been operating smoothly, enabling fully online certification and payments, with a focus on transparency and ease of doing business.”

On August 11, 2017, lyricist Prasoon Joshi was appointed chairperson of the 12-member board of actor Gautami Tadimalla; author Narendra Kohli (since deceased); film director Naresh Chander Lal; musician Neil Herbert Nongkynrih (since deceased); film director Vivek Agnihotri; theatre director Waman Kendre; actor Vidya Balan; filmmaker T S Nagabharana; editor Ramesh Patange; actor Vani Tripathi Tikoo; and actor and director Jeevitha Rajasekhar; and playwright Mihir Bhuta. A number of film professionals said that the longest-serving CBFC chairperson has involved only a select few members in the board’s activities in recent years. According to them, Kendre, Nagabharana and, to some extent, Patange have been heading most of the board’s Revising Committees (RC). Chaired by board members, these are powerful panels that decide on appeals filed by applicants who are not satisfied with decisions taken by Examining Committees (EC) at the first level of certification in the CBFC’s nine zonal offices. The Board has around 1,000 advisory panel members who are picked to constitute these committees. The fallout is evident — as the case of Homebound illustrates. Directed by national award-winner Ghaywan, backed by Karan Johar’s Dharma Productions and scheduled for release in India on September 26, Homebound received a warm reception at Cannes and Toronto. And yet, it was “destroyed in parts”, said a unit member, by the cuts and changes imposed at home. Ghaywan did not respond to requests for comments, but sources in Dharma said the film waited nearly three months for a screening date at CBFC. Then, after a “very hostile” screening, the makers were asked to modify or re-

usual hours. From 11 pm to 4 am, the place buzzes with customers who travel not just from Pune but from Mumbai, Delhi, and even Punjab to savour its famous pohe. The magic lies in the variety—fluffy pohe served with toppings like tangy chutney, piping hot sambar, crunchy shew, or roasted peanuts. “We only close our shop for two hours a day. Otherwise, people are here all the time,” says Sunilbhai Dige, the founder. Over the years, loyal customers have returned faithfully for decades. “Whenever I visit Pune, I make it a point to go to this spot for pohe. I love the taste,” says Rahul Chadda, a businessman from Punjab.

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* Under the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules 2024, the board must meet once every quarter. But the 12-member board last met six years ago on August 31, 2019.* The last annual report on the CBFC website dates back to 2016-17. Under the rules, the board is required to publish and submit an annual report to the I&B Ministry.* The board was last reconstituted on August 1, 2017, “for a period of three years or until further orders, whichever is earlier”. There have been no renewals of tenure after the mandated period ended in 2020, raising questions over the current board’s legal status.

“We don’t know if we are still members of the board or if the board itself is functioning legally,” said a member appointed in 2015. “Our tenures are time-bound (three years) but no one has been officially reappointed since 2017. Even my identity card was not replaced after its validity expired. There is no (board) meeting, no annual report, no work for most of us, no appellate authority (for filmmakers)... CBFC is running at its chairman’s pleasure,” the member said. Asked about these irregularities, an I&B Ministry spokesperson told The Indian Express: “The Board has been functioning in accordance with the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules, 1983 and 2024. The CBFC submits its annual report material to the Ministry each year, which is then included in the Ministry’s consolidated annual report.” On CBFC not conducting mandatory quarterly board meetings since August 2019, the I&B spokesperson said: “The CBFC’s online certification system, e-cinepramaan, launched on 01.04.2017, has been operating smoothly, enabling fully online certification and payments, with a focus on transparency and ease of doing business.”

On August 11, 2017, lyricist Prasoon Joshi was appointed chairperson of the 12-member board of actor Gautami Tadimalla; author Narendra Kohli (since deceased); film director Naresh Chander Lal; musician Neil Herbert Nongkynrih (since deceased); film director Vivek Agnihotri; theatre director Waman Kendre; actor Vidya Balan; filmmaker T S Nagabharana; editor Ramesh Patange; actor Vani Tripathi Tikoo; and actor and director Jeevitha Rajasekhar; and playwright Mihir Bhuta. A number of film professionals said that the longest-serving CBFC chairperson has involved only a select few members in the board’s activities in recent years. According to them, Kendre, Nagabharana and, to some extent, Patange have been heading most of the board’s Revising Committees (RC). Chaired by board members, these are powerful panels that decide on appeals filed by applicants who are not satisfied with decisions taken by Examining Committees (EC) at the first level of certification in the CBFC’s nine zonal offices. The Board has around 1,000 advisory panel members who are picked to constitute these committees. The fallout is evident — as the case of Homebound illustrates. Directed by national award-winner Ghaywan, backed by Karan Johar’s Dharma Productions and scheduled for release in India on September 26, Homebound received a warm reception at Cannes and Toronto. And yet, it was “destroyed in parts”, said a unit member, by the cuts and changes imposed at home. Ghaywan did not respond to requests for comments, but sources in Dharma said the film waited nearly three months for a screening date at CBFC. Then, after a “very hostile” screening, the makers were asked to modify or re-



move multiple caste references, they claimed. “The director was distraught but the producers reminded him of the ordeal faced by our Dhadak 2 (on caste and social discrimination), which suffered a significant delay in release (and was eventually granted an U/A certificate with 16 cuts in May),” said a member of the production team.

Added a CBFC source: “The board has multiple members in Mumbai but Nagabharana was called from Bengaluru to head the RC (for Homebound). He tore into Neeraj... to justify all the cuts and changes made on caste references.” So much so, the Homebound poster released on September 13, a day after it was granted a ‘UA16+’ certificate, did not mention Scorsese who had helped Ghaywan with the final edits. Three days later, Scorsese was credited as ‘executive producer’ on a new set of posters. “I loved the story, the culture and was willing to help. Neeraj has made a beautifully crafted film that’s a significant contribution to Indian cinema,” Scorsese had said while coming on board Homebound in April.

When asked about Homebound, Nagabharana declined to comment saying these were “internal matters” of the board. On heading RCs in Mumbai, the Bengaluru-based director said: “What’s wrong with that? I don’t know if local (CBFC) members were available or not. But as a member, I can be in any RC anywhere in India.” According to several filmmakers, a crucial turn for the CBFC was abolition of the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal in April 2021 in order to consolidate powers with the High Courts. “Going to the High Court is costly and takes time. And when you get a favourable view from the court, there is pressure outside to withdraw the case. No professional producer can afford taking them on for the sake of a single film,” said an actor. Director Honey Trehan’s film, based on the life of rights activist Jaswant Singh Khrala with popstar Diljit Dosanjh in the lead role, was submitted to the CBFC in February 2022. When the Board asked for multiple cuts, the Punjab ’95 team moved the Bombay High Court where the CBFC admitted to receiving communication from the Information Ministry that the film could incite Sikh sentiments and radicalise youth. Asked if such interventions by the ministry undercut the board’s autonomy, the I&B spokesperson said: “The filmmakers had filed Petition No. 15277 of 2023 in respect of the said film in the Hon’ble High Court of Judicature at Bombay and later on withdrew the same.

Subsequently, he said, they made 21 cuts as per the out-of-court settlement and resubmitted the film. “The RC watched it a fourth time and demanded about 40 cuts. There was no official communications but fresh lists of cuts were handed to us informally, often through lawyers. When the total count reached 130, I refused,” Trehan said. The CBFC sought to remove terms such as “judicial killings”, “Centre”, “Delhi ke dange” (Delhi riots) and “unclaimed bodies”. The board even wanted to delete the word “Punjab” from the film’s title and change “Punjab Police” to “Police”, he said. The CBFC’s ways have “shocked” a number of board members. Vivek Agnihotri, CBFC sources said, was confronted by Joshi for refusing to justify the treatment of Sandhya Suri’s critically acclaimed film Santosh, which was not cleared for release in India, mainly due to communal and caste references, and depiction of police brutality. Asked about the episode, Agnihotri declined to comment. “The range of censorship he (Joshi) is unleashing cannot always be explained in ideological or even political terms. So it is difficult to understand the source of his uncontested powers,” said a CBFC member.

The member recalled that he had “high hopes” from Joshi when he succeeded the controversial Pahlaj Nihalani in August 2017. “When Nihalani was removed, we thought it was the end of the ‘sanskaar raaj’. But then Joshi’s board changed the title of Padamavati to Padmavat (2018),” the member said. Joshi did not respond to a detailed questionnaire from The Indian Express detailing its findings and complaints from filmmakers about the CBFC and his role.

Day 1 of GST cut: 6-fold surge in credit card online payments to Rs 10,000 crore



A DAY AFTER the government slashed GST rates, online platforms saw a sudden spurt in consumer spending, with e-commerce transactions using credit cards alone jumping about six-fold in a single day on September 22 to Rs 10,411 crore, according to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data. Just a day earlier, on September 21, credit card transactions had amounted to a modest Rs 1,514 crore across 36.16 lakh purchases. The GST relief set off a consumption frenzy, and by the next day, transactions had surged to nearly 95 lakh.

Even on September 23, the momentum remained strong, with Rs 7,274 crore spent through credit cards in close to 70 lakh online transactions, suggesting that shoppers were in no mood to slow down. Point-of-sale (POS) transactions more than doubled to Rs 2,533 crore on September 22 from Rs 1,106 crore the previous day, RBI data shows. The surge wasn’t limited to credit cards. Debit card transactions also reflected the shopping spree. On September 21, purchases worth only Rs 193 crore were made using debit cards. But on September 22, spending soared more than four times to Rs 814 crore through 14.33 lakh transactions, as consumers across the country eagerly tapped into the festive-feel discount wave sparked by the GST cut. Payments through UPI platforms also rose to Rs 82,477 crore on September 22 as against Rs 60,320 crore on the previous day, according to RBI data.

Day 1 of GST cut: 6-fold surge in credit card online payments to Rs 10,000 crore Day 1 of GST cut: 6-fold surge in credit card online payments to Rs 10,000 crore Retailers and banks are rolling out festive offers and special packages to cash in on the recent GST cuts, which cover a wide range of products from FMCG goods to automobiles. The timing coincides with the festive season, adding momentum to consumer demand. Spending is expected to stay strong in the run-up to Diwali as shoppers take advantage of lower prices and discounts. However, questions remain about whether this surge in demand will last once the festive cheer fades and the one-time boost from the GST reduction tapers off, a banking source said. Arun Nayyar, Managing Director and CEO of NeoGrowth said: “Digital payments in India have moved on from being an urban privilege to becoming a national standard. What we are witnessing is a behavioural transformation, powered by technology. From kiranas to kiosks, India’s retailers are redefining adoption and efficiency in digital modes of transacting.” This is accelerating the formalisation of the economy by creating digital trails. At the same time, it’s generating rich data and laying the groundwork for more democratic access to credit. We believe this shift is not just about convenience of payment, it’s about trust in a future-ready ecosystem,” Nayyar said. Digital retail transactions — from UPI payments to credit and debit cards — have become an integral part of daily consumer spending in India, with adoption continuing to rise nationwide. The top 29 cities in India are rapidly closing the digital gap, with digital spends now accounting for 74 per cent of all retail transactions, up from 45 per cent two years ago.

In other words, out of every Rs 100 spent on retail in these 29 cities, Rs 74 is paid digitally. This surge reflects a deep behavioural shift among consumers, who are increasingly choosing convenience and speed of transacting digitally, according to a NeoGrowth NeoInsights study. India’s digital payment habits are now deeply embedded into everyday life. From personal grooming (83 per cent) to grocery runs (68 per cent) to vehicle maintenance (80 per cent) digital retail transactions rule across both discretionary and essential categories. While groceries (68 per cent) and fuel (63 per cent) are fast catching up. Cities such as Hyderabad (82 per cent), Bengaluru (79 per cent), and Pune (79 per cent) lead digital payments adoption in the top cities, while Visakhapatnam (76 per cent), Nagpur (71 per cent), and Chandigarh (68 per cent) rank highest among the cities beyond metros, the study said. In contrast, cities such as Ahmedabad (60 per cent), Kolkata (55 per cent), Jamshedpur (54 per cent), Madurai (52 per cent), and Rajkot (48 per cent) still rely more on cash, the study said. The gap, however, is not driven by lack of access but by behavioural factors. A continued reliance on cash transactions, along with resistance to changing familiar payment habits, has likely slowed the adoption of digital payments.

I have seen Ladakh in its stillest hours: Dawn breaking over Pangong Lake, prayers whispered at Thiksey Monastery, markets closing in Kargil. To wake up in that extraordinary calm in Leh, and then to walk across to hear His Holiness, the Dalai Lama, during one of his annual visits, is to understand how inspiration and serenity coexist in this fragile frontier.

Ladakh has always been one of India’s most steadfast frontiers. Its people and soldiers fought where few could even breathe and stood firm when other peripheries faltered. When raiders poured across the frontier in 1947, the Ladakh Scouts were raised from local volunteers who knew the mountains as second skin. In 1962, they resisted overwhelming odds against the Chinese. In 1971, they helped secure India’s northern defences. Most memorably, in 1999, during the Kargil War, they earned the title of Snow Warriors, fighting in terrain where survival itself was an act of defiance. Colonel Chhewang Rinchen, twice decorated with the Maha Vir Chakra, became a legend. Sonam Wangchuk’s (a colonel in the Indian army at the time, not the man at the centre of the current protest) leadership in Batalik during Kargil remains unmatched. Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, the statesman monk, secured Ladakh’s place in the Union while protecting its spiritual inheritance and serving as India’s ambassador in Mongolia, extending India’s influence into Buddhist Asia. Ladakh’s loyalty has never wavered. Delhi knows this, and it is precisely this record of sacrifice that has ensured Ladakh’s special place in the national imagination.

When Union Territory status was granted in 2019, Ladakhis celebrated. For the first time, they felt liberated from Srinagar’s shadow. The promise was of direct empowerment and a closer bond with the Union. Centralisation was inevitable in the early stages of UT governance, particularly given Ladakh’s geostrategic location at the confluence of Chinese and Pakistani frontiers. Delhi has acted with caution, mindful that this is not just a region of monasteries and pashmina but also of sensitive borders where every administrative decision has national security implications. Yet, the Centre must recognise that empowerment is essential. As Prime Minister Modi has repeatedly emphasised, integration must be accompanied by development and dignity. That delicate balance between security, ecology, and empowerment is Delhi’s challenge today. For decades, Ladakh’s grievances were muted. Its politics was quieter, its youth less restless, its discontent rarely spilling onto the streets. That changed after UT status. Ironically, Leh and Kargil, historically divided by religion and politics, now stand united. The Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, once adversaries, have forged an unprecedented common cause. When Buddhists and Muslims of this frontier speak in one voice, Delhi must listen. There are already signs that New Delhi is opening channels of engagement. Quiet conversations have taken place, and officials who know Ladakh intimately are being asked to take the lead. One such figure is S D Singh Jamwal, the police commissioner, who is among the few administrators who truly understand Ladakh, its people, its rhythms, its silences.

Within Ladakh’s new politics, Sonam Wangchuk, the celebrated innovator, commands support amongst a section of the youth, but given Delhi’s deep suspicions of him, he would serve Ladakh better by stepping aside from direct political engagement so that negotiations are not clouded by mistrust. For this reason, the Centre should prefer collective leadership, represented through the Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance, rather than individual icons. This is wise. Ladakh’s voice is strongest when it speaks collectively. And Delhi, for its part, is committed to ensuring



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that a vacuum does not develop, for it is in such vacuums that foreign actors and vested interests have historically tried to fish in troubled waters. That must never be allowed in Ladakh, one of India’s most loyal frontiers. It is true that New Delhi has been cautious in extending Sixth Schedule protections or considering statehood. These are not simple matters. They carry constitutional complexities and national precedents. Ladakh’s small population and enormous strategic sensitivities demand prudence. But caution does not mean indifference. Rather, Delhi’s approach must reflect the weight of responsibility: ensuring that empowerment for Ladakh goes hand in hand with preserving national security, ecological sustainability, and constitutional integrity. Ladakh today is not alienated, but assertive. Its people seek partnership, not separation. This is a moment of opportunity, and Delhi is well-placed to seize it. By acting decisively and compassionately, it can secure Ladakh’s trust for generations.

The way forward is clear. The Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance must be engaged as legitimate representatives, and dialogue must be broadened to include youth, women, and voices from remote hamlets. Hill Councils should be strengthened immediately, and a path for legislative empowerment sketched out, whether through a reformed Union Territory model, gradual devolution, or innovative provisions of the Sixth Schedule adapted for Ladakh’s unique status. Mega solar projects may power India’s green transition, but they cannot displace fragile ecosystems or pastoral livelihoods. Pashmina, Ladakh’s pride, must be preserved alongside renewable energy ambitions. Empowering Ladakh’s people strengthens, rather than weakens, India’s hand on this sensitive frontier with China and Pakistan. And national parties must rise above short-term politics. Ladakh is not a vote bank; it is a living frontier that strengthens India’s democracy. The recent tragedy in Leh was not about stones thrown or vehicles torched. It was about dialogue deferred. When Leh and Kargil came together, the Centre could have seized the moment. Delay deepened frustration, and lives were lost. But it is not too late. Delhi has the institutions and the leadership, and must now demonstrate the will to act. History shows that the republic grows stronger when it listens to its peripheries with respect. Ladakh, which has stood guard for India through snow and storm, deserves nothing less. Delhi must now act with statesmanship that is firm, empathetic, and imaginative. That is not only in Ladakh’s interest, but in India’s national interest. Ladakh has always stood by India. Today, India, through Delhi, must demonstrate that it will always stand by Ladakh.

How AI tools for recruiters and students are reshaping campus placements



Campus placements at business schools as well as engineering institutions have been going through challenging times due to macro-economic factors accentuated by the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on jobs. The rapid integration of AI into global job markets presents both a challenge and a strategic opportunity for Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to enhance campus placements. This article analyses how AI tools and platforms can be used effectively by all the stakeholders - recruiters, HEIs and the students - to automate the entire placement cycle and improve overall placement outcomes. It also identifies the challenges faced in deploying them and how they can be addressed .The job market is increasingly becoming more competitive. On the one hand, the growth of openings for fresh graduates has entered a slow lane and, on the other hand, recruiters are resorting to multiple channels to source the candidates including job portals, in-house or through recruiting agencies. Companies are moving beyond traditional degrees and are prioritising candidates with hands-on skills in areas such as data analytics, digital business, AI literacy, and cross-functional agility.

With the reduction in corporate placement budgets driving operational efficiency, there is more reliance on remote recruitment through digital hiring tools . While the traditional bulk recruiting sectors like banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) and IT companies have slowed down intake of freshers, HEIs need to expand the pool of recruiters to include new growth sectors such as Global Capability Centres (GCCs), ConsumerTech, FinTech, and renewable energy and align the skills of the students accordingly.It is challenging to meet the career aspirations of the graduating students who have not yet reconciled with the ground realities. As the cohorts are diverse, due to their prior academic and social back grounds, their digital and communication skills need to be improved, necessitating personalized coaching at scale.Due to cost and efficiency considerations, a number of companies are using AI tools and solutions for the entire recruitment cycle. The Automated Applicant Tracking System (ATS) is a software platform, which collects, sorts, and ranks resumes, filtering out unqualified candidates before a human recruiter ever sees the application. It provides transparent "match scores" with explanations for selection as well as rejections, thereby promoting fair and consistent hiring decisions. End-to-end technology platforms that offer such services include CodeinGame, Manatal ,HackerRank, iSmartRecruit and HireView.

Recruiters across the sectors are standardising on evaluation tools such as SHL/AMCAT, Aon, smartPredict and Mercer/Mettl for conducting remote proctored aptitude tests and tools such as HirePro, Talview, HireVue and VERVOE for evaluation of domain skills in areas like finance, analytics, HR, Programme coding etc. Consulting companies like McKinsey use gamified assessment case studies such as Solve for testing analytical and problem solving skills. Tools such as Hogan, Haver and Pymetrics are used for assessing behavioural and leadership skills, whereas Xobin is deployed to assess collaboration skills.The role of AI in recruitment extends beyond the issuing of job offers. Companies are using AI-led virtual onboarding platforms to provide real-time responses to the new employee queries, which helps to foster deep engagement and reduces attrition rates. This focus on a "retention-first" approach ensures a seamless transition for graduates into their new roles.

Traditional campus placement processes in India are often characterized by manual data management, fragmented communication, and a lack of real-time access to data analytics for decision making. AI-powered platforms are transforming this by centralizing and automating the entire placement lifecycle. They can analyse job market trends and recommend curriculum adjustments in collaboration with recruiters. Tools like Superset and Unstop are being used to widen employer funnel and automate slotting, testing, and documentation.The widespread adoption of AI by recruiters creates an urgent challenge for the students and the institutions alike: how to successfully navigate a system, where the first screening is done by a computer algorithm, not a human being. This calls for alignment of their placement strategy with recruitment strategy of the companies. HEIs should equip the students with the necessary skills and access to platforms such as Careerflow,

Superset, Infy Resume Copilot and VMock that allow them to pass through these automated gates successfully.This integrated approach can help the HEIs to manage large student cohorts and provide them with the personalized career counselling needed to navigate an increasingly complex job market. HEIs are adopting platforms such as ProTeen, Mindler, and Coach to conduct psychometric assessments in order to help the students identify their strengths and choose appropriate career paths well before the placement season commences. AI tools can also analyse a student's profile including their academic performance and skills and offer personalized upskilling recommendations.Platforms such as Creatrix Campus and Superset provide a centralized data hub for all placement activities, bringing together students, recruiters, and placement officers on a single platform. This streamlines the communication by eliminating the clutter of the scattered emails and Excel sheets thereby reducing administrative workload.These systems can handle job postings, instantly match candidates to job openings based on skills and academic performance, and automatically shortlist them for the next stage. The automation improves the quality of candidates presented to recruiters and increases placement success rates.Platforms such as Saarthi offer AI-powered simulations and instant feedback, strengthening communication and job readiness for students. Video-based digital interviews can be simulated to prepare the students adequately for facing the job interviews. Large Language Model (LLM)-based models like Siminterview can simulate multilingual interview training system to create realistic virtual recruiters capable of conducting personalized, real-time conversational interviews.Integrated dashboards can provide assessment history, interview recordings and real-time analytics on placement progress and success rates. This allows placement teams to identify the bottlenecks, refine the strategy, and continuously improve the placement outcomes with data-driven insights.

The challenge for students today is to create personalized and compelling Curriculum Vitae (CVs) in a job market saturated with applicants and increasingly reliant on automated screening systems. Tools such as Careerflow, Rezi.ai and VMock offer a suite of self-service tools for job search, preparation of AI-assisted resumes, and creation of optimised LinkedIn profiles. The use of these tools, when done responsibly, empowers students to quickly generate ideas and refine their communication, making them more efficient and competitive.Once students have identified their target roles, AI tools can assist in preparing at every stage of the recruitment process. Students can practice with tools such as PMaps Aptitude Assessment for cognitive and logical reasoning tests or simulate real-world scenarios on platforms like Harver/pymetrics for gamified behavioural assessments. Students can prepare themselves for interview using Final Round AI and Huru.ai, which offer students unlimited mock interview practice with AI-powered feedback and suggestions for improvement on their responses, body language, and vocal delivery. These platforms can generate questions tailored to specific job descriptions providing for targeted preparation.Deployment of AI tools has enabled a number of HEIs achieve better recruiter satisfaction, reduced manual workload for placement cells, and enhanced student readiness for AI-driven hiring processes. However, there are a number of challenges to be addressed.While a few hundreds of AI-based solutions are available, it is a daunting task to select the right ones for the HEI. Though help may be taken from portals such as SourceForge for comparative evaluation of the tools, there is no substitute for due diligence by the individual HEI.The Data Privacy and DP Act 2023 mandates clear consent, purpose limitation, and breach reporting. Handling sensitive student data ethically and maintaining trust are imperative. HEIs must institute robust privacy policies and transparent data governance.There could be issues with regard to the relevance and accuracy and also the in-built bias of the AI algorithms, which calls for robust testing, monitoring and continuous feedback to the vendors so as to update the AI models, if needed.

There are also risks of impersonation and deepfakes in digital assessments, which can be addressed by using advanced AI proctoring and educating the students.Multiple standalone tools can create more practical problems in deployments . HEIs can either go in for integrated solutions or integrate them into their existing student information systems. Besides, faculty members and placement teams need to be trained adequately so as to ensure responsible and ethical deployment of the toolsIn today's challenging job market, it is imperative for HEIs to align their placement strategies with the job market trends in order achieve placement outcomes. Besides equipping the students with market oriented skills, they should provide students access to the AI tools and platforms that are adopted by the recruiters so that the students are better prepared to face the evaluation processes and come out successful. Due diligence is needed to select the right tools and deploy them ethically and responsibly.

Kolkata's oldest bookshop opens a free library at its historic College Street premises

The oldest surviving bookshop in Kolkata has finally opened a free reading library at its historic premises on College Street, attracting 30-40 visitors every day, including many foreigners.While it's common for many present day bookshops to allow customers the comfort of browsing through new releases and classics, Dasgupta and Co., which has been in the business since 1886, has made the rare gesture of transforming a part of it — the second floor of the heritage structure in which the shop is located — into a public library, mainly with the intention of benefiting students who can't afford books."Education is a basic right as well as very crucial in the development of our nation. This free library is a way of making knowledge and education more easily accessible to society," Arabinda Dasgupta, 73, managing director of Dasgupta and Co., said. The bookshop has been owned by his family right from the time it was founded. The library, which was been in the offing for nearly three years now, formally opened on July 24, Mr. Dasgupta's birthday."We have been receiving 30 to 40 visitors daily on an average. Most of them use the reading room to enjoy the rare books in our collection. Our long-time acquaintance, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, congratulated us over telephone very recently, and we gave him a virtual tour of the library over a video call. Several old clients across the city have also expressed their enthusiasm. One of them was kind enough to donate almost 500 rare books for the benefit of our readers," the proprietor said."The visitors often include people from Germany, France, Italy, the U.K., the U.S. Just the other day, a UNESCO team that happened to be in Kolkata visited us. They interviewed me, and also bought several books on India, including books on Calcutta," Mr. Dasgupta said.Dasgupta and Co. was opened in 1886 by Girish Chandra Dasgupta, who hailed from Kaliagram in



Jessore in present-day Bangladesh. At the time, the village was considered more literate than others in the region, and possibly its reputation made Girish Chandra set up a bookshop on College Street, the education and literary hub of India's most important city at the time. Today, the shop enjoys Grade IIA heritage status and draws about 400 customers a day, most of them coming for academic titles.After the upcoming Durga Puja festivities, the shop also plans to open an online library, something that has been on the cards as well for quite some time now. "The Union Bank of India had approached us with a sponsorship plan [for the online library], but the whole deal has been up in the air for almost three years now. They plan to decorate about 250 sq. ft. area close to the physical library, and provide us with six computers and three air-conditioners. Readers can access any book in the world," Mr. Dasgupta said.Dasgupta and Co. is possibly one of the few institutions in Kolkata, perhaps even in India, that has lasted this long, that too without any change in ownership. Mr. Dasgupta finds assurance in the fact that the shop has lived through the freedom movement in Bengal, the two World Wars, the Partition,

GST 2.0 is a landmark in India's tax journey



The 56th meeting of the GST Council on September 3, 2025 will be remembered as a defining milestone in India's tax history. These reforms go far beyond tax rates and structures. They represent a decisive shift towards a simpler, fairer, and growth-oriented system that is aligned with the aspirations of a Viksit Bharat 2047.A long-standing demand of both industry and consumers has been simplification of the multiple GST slabs (5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%). The move to a transparent "Simple Tax", with just two rates, 18% as the Standard Rate and 5% as the Merit Rate, along with a 40% de-merit rate for a select few goods — is transformational.This bold step reduces compliance burdens, enhances predictability for business, and makes the tax regime more citizen-friendly. It clearly signals the government's commitment to align Indian taxation with the best global practices.

The reforms directly touch the daily lives in Indian households. Common items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, a bicycle, and kitchenware are now in the 5% bracket. Essentials such as Ultra-High Temperature milk, paneer, chapati and paratha are exempt. Packaged foods, noodles, chocolates and beverages have seen notable rate cuts, boosting consumption and offering relief to families across income groups.Equally impactful is the exemption of GST on all life and health insurance products. This single decision will make insurance more affordable, particularly for senior citizens and low-income families, raising India's insurance penetration and strengthening social security.Health care has been given a powerful boost through exemptions and reductions on essential drugs, devices, and treatments for cancer, rare diseases and chronic conditions. These measures ensure wider access to modern medicine and diagnostics, easing financial burdens on households. Farmers stand to benefit from major reductions. Tractors, farm machinery, and other vital implements now attract only 5% GST, while fertilizers and inputs such as sulphuric acid and ammonia have moved from 18% to 5%. By correcting earlier inverted duty structures, these reforms lower cultivation costs and improve farm productivity.Labour-intensive sectors such as handicrafts,

marble, granite, and leather goods now enjoy reduced GST rates, which will stimulate demand and secure employment. By making traditional industries more competitive, the reforms safeguard livelihoods while opening new growth avenues.Changes in critical sectors

A particularly significant achievement is the correction of inverted duty structures in critical sectors. For instance, the GST reduction on man-made fibre and yarn to 5% eliminates a distortion that had long plagued the textile value chain. This move is expected to boost competitiveness, exports, job creation, and domestic value addition across textiles and apparel.Cement, a cornerstone for housing and infrastructure, has shifted from 28% to 18% GST. This will drive multiplier effects across construction and infrastructure, while cuts for renewable energy devices and automotive components will accelerate India's green growth journey.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has consistently called for such corrections and is gratified to see so many recommendations accepted that range from a rationalisation of auto parts to relief for hospitality and wellness services. These changes will harmonise markets and reduce unnecessary disputes.The announcement that the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) will become operational by year-end marks a historic institutional advance. For tax-payers, this means faster dispute resolution, more consistent rulings, and enhanced trust in the system. Other process reforms, including provisional refunds for inverted duty structures, risk-based compliance checks, and harmonisation of valuation rules, further reduce uncertainty and compliance costs. Together, these measures reinforce India's position as one of the world's easiest large economies for doing business.Over the past eight months, the CII has strongly advocated simplification into a two-rate structure, a correction of anomalies, a reduction of rates on essentials, support for labour-intensive sectors, and faster operationalisation of GSTAT. It is heartening that so many of these have now been adopted.The Council's decisions reflect both responsiveness and a deep sense of partnership with industry. This is a proud moment for all stakeholders who have constructively engaged in shaping these reforms.Almost immediate benefitsEqually noteworthy is the careful phasing of reforms from September 22, 2025. This sequencing ensures revenue stability while allowing industry and consumers to benefit immediately from lower rates. The approach safeguards fiscal health while stimulating demand and investment.These announcements are more than technical adjustments. They are a people's reform. They touch citizens, farmers, workers, businesses and entrepreneurs alike. By simplifying the structure, lowering rates on essentials, correcting distortions, and strengthening institutions, GST 2.0 has created a stronger foundation for India's growth journey.The CII

Why has IndiGo damp leased from Turkish Airlines? | Explained



The story so far: IndiGo received a third extension from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to lease two Boeing 777-300ER aircraft and crew from Turkish Airlines, after previously facing a directive to end the partnership amid heightened anti-Turkey sentiment related to its support for Pakistan during border tensions with India. The move comes as a sizeable number of IndiGo's aircraft remain grounded even as the global industry faces a shortage of planes.

What does the latest DGCA order say?

The DGCA has given IndiGo a third extension to lease aircraft and crew (also known as damp leasing) from Turkish Airlines, reversing its earlier ultimatum to end the partnership. The original request was for a period of three months from December 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025. In May, the DGCA said it was granting a "one-time, final extension" for three months upto August 31, 2025 to avoid passenger inconvenience due to flight disruptions when IndiGo's damp lease permission was due for a review. The DGCA's rules allow airlines to wet or damp lease foreign registered aircraft for a period of 12 months that is extendable once by further six months.IndiGo started using the B777 aircraft to provide connectivity from Delhi and Mumbai to Istanbul in February and May of 2023. "This extension comes at a crucial time and will help mitigate losses to Indian aviation due to geopolitical restrictions, and greatly benefit Indian travellers during the peak travel season by ensuring a seamless, direct connection to Istanbul and points beyond," IndiGo said in a statement.

100 years of the Self-Respect Movement in Tamil Nadu

V. Geetha and S.V. Rajadurai, in their book, Towards a Non-Brahmin Millennium (From Iyothee Thass to Periyar), write: "The Self-Respect Movement comes to us, as it were, in process, as an ideological impulse, an energetic mobilising of men and women across castes and classes, a vision of a society that had erupted into rebellion, into acts of defiance, daring and, finally, as a time of great churning, when all things were subject to doubt and enquiry, when all matters, however sacred and inviolate were relentlessly interrogated... When women ignored the claims of family and the bonds of community; when young men willingly forsook personal fortunes and defied elders; a time when scores of hitherto despised and ignored peoples, until then, mere objects of charity, pity and paternalist benevolence, were asked to play protagonists in a struggle which, above all, was committed to running their world upside down."According to the authors, "He observed that the Justice Party had been unable to attract popular support because it did not have a political programme which addressed the real needs of the people." He chided that its members and leaders seemed to labour under the illusion that an English education and a position in the services, in themselves, would bring cheer and good to the non-Brahmin commonweal. Periyar went on to assure his audience that he endorsed these objec-

tives but did not consider them significant achievement in themselves. He warned, "They could very well go to constitute a non-Brahmin elite which, in the days to come, could prove as oppressive as a Brahmin oligarchy."Kudi Arasu was seen as an extension of the Self-Respect Movement, taking a more radical strand of the Dravidian movement, articulating the radical politics of caste and gender and embarking on a far-reaching reform of Hindu society.In her research article 'Advocacy journalism and the self-respect movement in late colonial South India', published in Sudasien-Chronik—South Asia Chronicle, Uma Ganesan notes Kudi Arasu as a movement in itself intervened in the crowded journalistic space of early 20th century South India that was dominated by Brahmins and other upper-caste elites to create an alternative space for articulating its goals and mobilising support for its programme of social reform. The movement, in particular, posed a radical challenge to the Gandhi-led Congress nationalism by identifying the Congress as a bastion of Hinduism and its caste system, according to her."Since the Hindu religion and its caste system were held to be the primary obstacles to the 'attainment of true progress and freedom for the nation', the upper-caste composition of the Congress and Gandhi's religion-tinted nationalism were seen as especially problematic," the research article noted.

Trump widens tariff net: 100% tariff on patented drugs, among other products. How does this impact India?



In a fresh expansion of the tariff net, US President Donald Trump on Friday said Washington will be imposing a 100 per cent tariff on branded or patented pharmaceutical products, a 50 per cent tariff on all kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities and associated products, and a 25 per cent tariff on heavy trucks from October 1. This comes after the US launched a range of investigations under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, which gives Trump the power to raise tariffs citing “national security”. The wave of fresh tariffs under Section 232 comes at a time when Trump’s tariff powers under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) could possibly be curtailed next month if an adverse ruling comes in from the US Supreme Court, forcing the administration in DC to remove reciprocal tariffs on countries. India is facing a 50 per cent tariff that is threatening jobs in labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, footwear and marine products. “Starting October 1st, 2025, we will be imposing a 100 per cent Tariff on any branded or patented Pharmaceutical Product, unless a Company IS BUILDING their Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plant in America. ‘IS BUILDING’ will be defined as ‘breaking ground’ and/or ‘under construction.’ There will, therefore, be no Tariff on these Pharmaceutical Products if construction has started,” Trump said in his post on TruthSocial. Simultaneously, he announced a 50 per cent tariff on all kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities and associated products, a 30 per cent tariff on upholstered furniture, and a 25 per cent tariff on all heavy trucks, citing national security issues. “The reason for this is the large-scale “FLOODING” of these products into the United States by other outside Countries. It is a very unfair practice, but we

must protect, for National Security and other reasons, our Manufacturing process,” Trump said.

The immediate impact on India from the pharma tariffs could be limited, as India is the world’s largest producer of generic drugs and supplies nearly 20 per cent of global demand. However, top Indian pharma companies have been attempting to move up the value chain with an increasing focus on patents and novel drugs. Trump’s move could also affect government incentives under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes that are focusing on developing products under three categories. According to an official statement, the first category covers biopharmaceuticals, complex generic drugs, “patented drugs or those nearing patent expiry”, gene therapy drugs, orphan drugs and complex excipients.

The PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021, with a financial outlay of Rs 15,000 crore and a production tenure running from FY 2022-23 to FY 2027-28. “Under this scheme, high-value pharmaceutical products such as patented/off-patented drugs, biopharmaceuticals, complex generics, anti-cancer drugs and autoimmune drugs, among others, are manufactured,” the government said in April this year. The US has been increasingly using Section 232 to impose tariffs on specific products such as steel and aluminium. Among the new investigations launched by the US were probes into pharma and pharma ingredients. After imposing 50 per cent tariffs on steel, aluminium and copper using Section 232, the US Department of Commerce opened fresh investigations into timber and lumber, semiconductors and semiconductor manufacturing equipment, pharma and pharma ingredients, trucks, processed critical minerals, commercial aircraft and jet engines, polysilicon and its derivatives, wind turbines, and unmanned aircraft systems along with their parts and components. The product list could expand further going forward. While tariffs under Section 232 are far less sweeping than reciprocal tariffs that Trump managed under IEEPA, the former provides much stronger legal cover, as the US Supreme Court has on multiple occasions refused to entertain challenges due to the “national security” element in the statute. India has also invoked “national security” to restrict the entry of goods in the past, and at the WTO, what measures fall under national security has been a hotly contested issue due to its broad scope.

Pharma stocks fall up to 5 per cent after Trump announces 100% tariffs

Pharma stocksAccording to Devarsh Vakil, Head of Prime Research, HDFC Securities , Indian pharmaceutical companies, which primarily focus on exporting generic drugs, are expected to avoid significant disruptions. Pharma stocks came under selling pressure in early trades on Friday after US President Donald Trump announced a 100 per cent tariffs on branded pharmaceutical products, starting Pharma stocks declined as much as 5 per cent and Nifty Pharma index plunged 2.67 per cent. Sun Pharma declined 4.89 per cent, Biocon decreased 3.77 per cent, Abbott India Ltd slipped 3.46 per cent, Lupin fell 2.47 per cent and Cipla dipped 2.28 per cent in the early morning trades. Dr Reddy’s and Aurobindo Pharma declined 2.27 per cent, and Zydus Lifesciences was down 3.36 per cent.

“Starting October 1st, 2025, we will be imposing a 100% Tariff on any branded or patented Pharmaceutical Product, unless a Company IS BUILDING their Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plant in America,” Trump said in a post on Truth Social. “IS BUILDING” will be defined as, “breaking ground” and/or “under construction.” There will, therefore, be no Tariff on these Pharmaceutical Products if construction has started. Thank you for your attention to this matter!” he wrote.

“President Trump’s tantrums with tariffs are resuming with new tariff imposts on patented and branded drugs. India being an exporter of generic drugs is unlikely to be impacted by this. But perhaps the president’s next target can be generic drugs. This decision may have a sentimental impact on pharmaceutical stocks,” said VK Vijayakumar,



Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd. According to Devarsh Vakil, Head of Prime Research, HDFC Securities , Indian pharmaceutical companies, which primarily focus on exporting generic drugs, are expected to avoid significant disruptions. However, firms like Sun Pharma, which markets branded and patented products through contract manufacturing organisations across the US and EU, may face measured impacts due to their distributed production structure, he said. The US President also announced that a 50 per cent tariff on all kitchen cabinets, bathroom vanities, and associated products will be imposed from October 1. Trump is now moving from country-specific tariffs to product-specific tariffs. Higher tariffs on trucks, upholstered furniture etc. indicates that the Trump administration’s weaponisation of tariffs may continue till US inflation spikes forcing a rethink of this policy, Vijayakumar said.

Indian households’ wealth jumps 15 pc in 2024, securities drive surge with 29 pc growth

Indian households added to their wealth at a faster clip in 2024, with gross financial assets rising 14.5 per cent during the year — marginally higher than the 14.3 per cent growth seen in 2023 — driven largely by stronger investment in securities, a new report has said. Securities led the charge with a 28.7 per cent increase, while insurance and pensions — holding a larger portfolio share of 32.5 per cent — grew by 19.7 per cent. Bank deposits, still the dominant asset class at 54 per cent, rose by 8.7 per cent, the Allianz group, one of the world’s largest insurance and asset managers, said in the report.

Adjusted for inflation, financial assets grew a robust 9.4 per cent, lifting purchasing power 40 per cent above pre-pandemic levels, an impressive contrast to Western Europe, where it remains 2.4 per cent below 2019, it said. India’s expanding middle class continues to reshape global wealth dynamics, contributing significantly to the rise of emerging markets in the global middle wealth segment. Meanwhile, liability growth moderated to 12.1 per cent, in line with long-term averages, though the household debt ratio climbed to 41 per cent, up 8 percentage points over the last decade. Net financial assets advanced by 15.6 per cent, reaching US \$ 2,818 per capita, Allianz said. Over the past two decades, India’s real per capita financial assets have surged fivefold, marking one of the most impressive wealth growth trajectories among emerging markets. Wealth inequality remains stark in India despite rapid growth. In 2004, the richest 10% of Indians controlled 58% of the country’s wealth. Two decades later, their share has climbed to 65%, highlighting the growing concentration of riches, the Allianz report indicated. The gap between the average and median wealth has also widened, with the ratio rising from 2.6 to 3.1 over the same period — a sign that prosperity is not evenly distributed. At the same time, overall wealth has soared. Net financial assets per capita in India are now 13 times higher than they were in 2004, outpacing even China, where wealth rose twelvefold. This surge places India among the world’s fastest wealth-growing nations. Yet, as the Allianz report cautions, reconciling such breathtaking growth with fairness and distributive justice



remains a major challenge, it said.

Owning securities, particularly stocks, is key for asset growth. In this respect, the last two years have been extremely gratifying for savers. In both 2023 (11.5 per cent) and 2024 (12.0 per cent), securities grew almost twice as fast as the other two asset classes: insurance/pensions (6.7 per cent and 6.9 per cent, respectively) and bank deposits (4.7 per cent and 5.7 per cent, respectively). However, the extent to which savers benefit from rising securities prices varies widely between countries and regions due to differences in portfolio structures. Notably, it is primarily North American savers who invest in securities, accounting for 59 per cent of portfolios. In Western Europe, for example, this figure stands at around 35 per cent.

In India, it’s just 13 per cent as Indians mostly depend on bank deposits. Price increases, therefore, have less of an impact on overall asset growth. This means that hard savings efforts are required. “You have to work for your money,” says Kathrin Stoffel, co-author of the report. “It’s smarter to let the money work for you. Like the Americans. Price increases in stock markets are mainly responsible for asset growth in the USA.” US leads, adding 50 pc to world’s financial asset growth Over the past 10 years, the financial assets of American households have grown in line with the global average. But in 2024, their growth was even higher.

Rakul Preet Singh recalls doing 1,000 squats in one-off challenge: ‘Couldn’t feel my legs for a week’



Rakul Preet Singh, 34, recently shared some of her memorable fitness achievements in a conversation with Soha Ali Khan. While describing the importance of warm-ups and cool downs to avoid niggles in her 30s, she casually mentioned that she once completed 1,000 squats in a one-off squats challenge from her trainers, which left Soha shocked. “Generally, you are not supposed to do more than 3-4 sets for an exercise. But I have once done 1,000 squats as part of a squat challenge. I did 1,000 squats. I did 100, took a break, and then repeated the process until I reached 1,000. In that whole session, I did 1,000 squats. That’s another story that I couldn’t feel my legs for another week,” the Indian 2 actor said in a chat with Mashable India.

During the conversation, she also mentioned losing eight kilos for De De Pyaar De (2019), in which she starred opposite Ajay Devgn. “I was transitioning from the South to Mumbai during that time. I was asked to lose weight because, before that, I was playing a town girl, and I had to look chubby. I was eating a lot at that time. So, I lost eight kilos for it,” shared Singh. The actor, who is married to producer Jackky Bhagnani, said that she eats clean for six and a half days except for one cheat meal on Sundays, which has a “piece of pizza, pasta...any carbs, protein, anything”. Taking a cue from Singh’s revelation of doing 1,000 squats, we asked a fitness expert and dietitian whether it is even advisable to try. Consultant dietitian Garima Goyal, also a fitness expert, said extreme challenges like doing 1,000 squats in a single session may sound exciting, but they can actually put the body at serious risk. “Overloading the muscles without proper progression and rest can cause microtears, excessive soreness, and in some cases even lead to rhabdomyolysis, a condition where muscle breakdown products enter the bloodstream and can harm the kidneys,” said Goyal. According to Goyal, if someone cannot walk properly or feels pain lasting for days after such a workout, it is a clear sign that the body has been pushed beyond safe limits. “Squats are a fantastic strength-building exercise, but they need to be performed with correct technique, moderate repetitions, and under a structured plan that allows for recovery,” said Goyal.

‘He always just loved himself’: Indrani Mukerjea says she was ‘abandoned’ by ex husband Peter after Sheena Bora case; what shapes relationship patterns

In a recent interview, former media executive Indrani Mukerjea — accused in the high-profile murder case of her daughter Sheena Bora — opened up about the emotional and personal toll her legal battle has taken on her relationships. While reflecting on her past marriages and family dynamics, Indrani shared strikingly honest insights about abandonment and the lack of emotional support she experienced during her most vulnerable moments. She told Hindi Rush, “You know I’m the only child of my parents. So, my own parents... they had a very formal relationship, which is what I felt, because I have been through two marriages myself. When I had my relationship with Sanjeev, who was my first husband, I would say I had a very passionate relationship with him. And then I got married, and then obviously there was Vidhie... but it didn’t work out for different reasons. Even when I parted from Sanjeev, it had got nothing to do with love. It was not that I loved him less, or he loved me less. But, I realised that we would both be better people if we lived separately.”

She continued, “I was already in my break up with Sanjeev when I met Peter. With Peter, it was never love at first sight or my heart didn’t kind of start... you know I didn’t get butterflies in my stomach when I met him. Over a period of time, as we started... four meetings we didn’t even date, we decided to get married. He proposed, and I said yes, and that was it. I was only 29 when I met him, he was 47. So, it was a huge age gap.” I learnt a lot. But I also realised that the day I was in trouble, not just Peter, his entire family abandoned me, she said, referring to the aftermath of the Sheena Bora case. “That was a realisation for me that he always just loved himself.”

How do early observations of parental dynamics influence a person’s own romantic relationship patterns and expectations later in life? Neha Parashar, a clinical psychologist at Mindtalk, tells indianexpress.com, “Early experiences with parental relationships shape what we come to believe is “normal” in adult partnerships. A formal or emotionally distant parental dynamic might lead a child to either replicate that pattern in their own relationships or seek out the



opposite, perhaps overly intense or emotionally charged bonds, in response to what felt lacking.” These early models can influence expectations around affection, conflict resolution, and emotional vulnerability, she adds. “Some people may gravitate toward familiar dynamics, even if they’re not fulfilling, while others may struggle to navigate intimacy if they haven’t witnessed emotionally healthy connections. However, with self-awareness and support, people can unlearn inherited patterns and build more conscious, emotionally attuned relationships.” How do different types of attachment or relationship beginnings affect long-term emotional resilience and support systems? Indrani described her relationship with Sanjeev as “very passionate” and said her bond with Peter “was never love at first sight.” Parashar notes, “Passionate beginnings often come with strong highs, but can also bring volatility. More measured relationships may offer steadier emotional grounding, though they might lack the intensity some people associate with love.” Attachment styles formed early in life also play a role, she adds, those with secure attachments may be better able to maintain balanced partnerships regardless of how they began. “Ultimately, long-term emotional resilience in a relationship depends less on how it starts and more on how both partners communicate, respond to stress, and evolve together.”

A fitness coach shares ‘the top 11 fat loss mistakes I made in my 20s, that I’m avoiding at 37’

When it comes to fat loss, hindsight can be an influential teacher. Fitness coach Liam Topham is using it to his advantage. In an Instagram post, the 37-year-old shared the biggest mistakes he made with fat loss in his 20s, and what he’s doing differently today. Among his top 11 lessons? “Skipping breakfast,” he says, “regulates hunger, energy and helps you build muscle. Do you think athletes skip meals?” Topham also warns against the temptation of going too low on carbs or calories. “Carbs fuel your muscles so you can lift heavier. More strength means more muscle and a fast metabolism.” As for ultra-processed “health” bars, he writes, “Processed foods with healthy labels are mostly marketing garbage. Stick to whole foods and grab an apple instead.” His list touches on everything from poor sleep and overtraining to the importance of creating a better food environment and tracking what you eat. Ashlesha Joshi, senior nutritionist at Tone 30 Pilates, helps decode each of the points mentioned by the fitness trainer in his list:

‘Skipping breakfast’ Concurring with Topham, Joshi states, “Skipping breakfast can lead to blood sugar fluctuations and increased hunger later in the day. It may also encourage overeating or impulsive food choices, which affect metabolism and energy levels. A balanced breakfast helps stabilise appetite-regulating hormones and supports steady energy release throughout the day.” “Going low carb” “Carbs fuel your muscles so you can lift heavier. More strength means more muscle and a fast metabolism,” says Topham. Joshi states that cutting carbs drastically can lead to fatigue, poor workout performance, and mood swings. While reducing processed carbs is beneficial, the body needs complex carbohydrates for energy, brain function, and gut health. Sustainable fat loss depends on a well-balanced plate, not extreme restriction. ‘Eating super low calories’ According to the coach, “eating super low calories” will make you feel drained, lose muscle mass, and slow down your metabolism, only to reach for junk food later because your body’s still craving nourishment. To this, Joshi adds that consistently eating too little can slow down metabolism and trigger muscle loss. It also disrupts hormone balance, affecting appetite and energy levels. “The body enters a conservation mode, making fat loss harder in the long run. Eating enough to fuel your body while maintaining a calorie deficit is a healthier approach.” Eating quickly can override satiety signals, leading to overconsumption, says Joshi. “Chewing slowly and being mindful during meals al-



lows the brain time to register fullness, supporting portion control and better digestion.” Eating “healthy” food bars, cereals, or meal replacements According to Topham, “Processed foods with healthy labels are mostly marketing garbage. Stick to whole foods and grab an apple instead.” Joshi mentions, “Many are high in sugar, low in fibre, and contain additives that spike blood sugar and leave you hungry soon after. Whole foods like fruits, nuts, and homemade meals are more nutrient-dense and satisfying.” Not planning ahead, then grabbing convenience foods Last-minute food choices often result in high-sodium, high-fat options. Joshi notes, “Planning meals and snacks in advance ensures balanced nutrition and helps avoid impulsive eating. Meal prepping even twice a week can make a significant difference in consistency.” Joshi agrees, adding, “The food we keep around us influences our habits. Stocking the kitchen with nutrient-rich foods and minimising the visibility of junk food reduces temptation and makes healthier choices easier to maintain.” Excessive training can cause fatigue and inflammation, and it may increase hunger, leading to overeating. “Short, focused workouts combined with proper nutrition and rest are far more effective for fat loss and overall wellness,” recommends the expert. ‘Not prioritising sleep’ Joshi tells indianexpress.com, “Poor sleep affects hunger hormones like ghrelin and leptin, increasing cravings for sugar and processed foods. Inadequate rest also affects insulin sensitivity and metabolic function. Prioritising seven to nine hours of quality sleep is essential for recovery and fat regulation.”

Checkmate organisers troll FIDE’s Emil Sutovsky after Nakamura-Gukesh incident: ‘We sincerely apologize if players and fans had a good time’



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju reacts (right) after Hikaru Nakamura (left) throws his king into the fans at the Checkmate: USA vs India clash in Arlington, Texas. (Screengrabs via ChessBase India YouTube)World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju reacts (right) after Hikaru Nakamura (left) throws his king into the fans at the Checkmate: USA vs India clash in Arlington, Texas. (Screengrabs via ChessBase India YouTube)Chess found itself in the middle of a fresh controversy on Sunday, after world no 2 Hikaru Nakamura tossed D Gukesh’s king into the crowd at the Esports Arena Arlington in Texas after defeating the world champion in an exhibition game where the Indian team were swept by Team USA. The Indian team had players of the calibre of Gukesh, Arjun Erigaisi and Divya Deshmukh, but lost 5-0 to a team with Nakamura, Fabiano Caruana and Carissa Yip.

The biggest talking point of the clash was Nakamura giving Gukesh’s king an almighty heave-ho into the fans, which other players like YouTuber Levy Rozman (popularly known as Gotham Chess) explained were suggested to the players by the organizers of the game itself.Players like former world champion Vladimir Kramnik and Kevin Goh Wei Ming have slammed Nakamura’s act, while Anish Giri said he didn’t see what the fuss was about.“The event was a show. Fans were ecstatic. Players were encouraged to behave accordingly. All true. Now, for better or worse, name me one top player who would do what Hikaru did,” Sutovsky posted on X.To this, the organisers replied with sarcasm: “On behalf of the organizers, we admit having forced the players to have fun, to please the crowd and to forego the FIDE Etiquette. We sincerely apologize if the players, the live audience and the vast majority of online viewers had a good time.”After the controversy had started to spread on social media, YouTuber Levy Rozman, who was part of the American team, explained that Nakamura’s gesture was a gimmick by the organisers.“Without context, it will look like an unprovoked gesture. But we were encouraged by the organisers to do that stuff. I forgot that if I won my game against ChessBase India’s Sagar Shah, or he won, we were supposed to break the king. It was for the entertainment angle. The winner of Gukesh and Hikaru’s game was supposed to toss the king into the fans. I don’t know if Gukesh would have done that. Hikaru spoke to Gukesh later and explained that it was all for show and no disrespect was meant,” said Rozman.

‘If Root came to me, I would just walk away’: Siraj reveals why he did not talk, or even look, at Joe Root in England

GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Mohammed Siraj has revealed that he deliberately refrained from talking to — or even looking at — England stalwart Joe Root, to maintain his aggression on the field during the five Tests of the Anderson Tendulkar Trophy. Siraj has also reacted to Root’s comment that Siraj fakes his anger during games.“No, no I do get angry and it does not fade off quickly. Only after I get a wicket, my anger vanishes. As for Joe Root, he is a world-class batsman. When he is facing me, he never looks at me with any kind of anger. He keeps smiling at me. So whenever I see him, automatically a smile comes to my face. He is the first person who makes me calm and smile when I look at him. So during the England tour I decided I am not going to look at him or talk to him. Even if he was at the non-striker’s end and I was fielding at mid-off, he would come to talk to me but I would not talk to him. I would just walk away somewhere else,” Siraj told The Indian Express with a chuckle in an Idea Exchange.

Siraj also said that he had picked up the art of maintaining on-field aggression from South African pace stalwart Dale Steyn.“Off the field, I am very different... shaant (calm), relaxed, chilled banda. But on the field, when you are representing the country... when I am hit for even one four, I get very angry. How did this batsman hit me? So I tend to fight. Aggression as a fast bowler, I learnt from Dale



Steyn, who I used to follow. Aggression is very important. If a batsman hits you and you are relaxed and smile... What kind of cricket is that? Kuch toh chahiye (You need some aggression). But off the field, I am ek dum chill (really chill),” Siraj told During the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, while talking about Siraj’s on-field aggression, Root had said at a press conference: “He’s a character. He’s a warrior, a real warrior. He’s someone you want on your team; he’s that kind of character. He gives everything for India, credit to him for that. The way he approaches cricket, he’s got this fake-angriness about him sometimes, which I can see right through. You can tell he’s a really nice lad.”

‘Why is he still in the team?’: Ajit Agarkar and Co acted in ‘great haste’ in stripping Rohit Sharma of captaincy, says former selector



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

Rohit Sharma’s tenure as India’s ODI captain has come to an end, with Shubman Gill being announced as the new skipper ahead of the team’s three-match series in Australia on Saturday. The 38-year-old, however, remains part of the team that is travelling Down Under for the series and former India wicketkeeper Saba Karim has questioned why Rohit is in the squad at all for the tour if he is unlikely to be part of the team’s plans for the 2027 World Cup.“If you haven’t made him the captain, then why are you still keeping him in the team?” said Karim, who has also been part of the Indian selection panel, on the Youtube channel Kadak. “It clearly shows that you don’t see him as part of the fu-

ture, that he won’t be there for the 2027 World Cup. In that case, you shouldn’t keep a player in the team whom you don’t see as part of your plans for 2027. Then whether he remains captain or not, or even a player or not, doesn’t really matter. That’s why I said the selectors have acted in great haste with Rohit Sharma, and there was no need for it.”

Agarkar on expectations from Kohli and RohitIndia chief selector Ajit Agarkar had said that Rohit and Kohli had been picked simply because they are available in this format. However, he refrained from talking about their roles going into the 2027 World Cup. “I mean, that’s the format they are at the moment playing (Virat and Rohit). We picked them, but as far as 2027 World Cup is concerned, I don’t think we need to talk about it today. Obviously, with the captaincy change, that’s generally the thought,” he said.Agarkar also said that the rule that was laid a few months ago of players having to play domestic cricket whenever they are available applies on Rohit and Kohli as well. “I think that we’ve made it clear a couple of years back now, that whenever the guys are available, they should be playing domestic cricket. That’s the only way you’ll keep yourself sharp and playing cricket, if you’ve got a long enough break. Whether that’s possible with the international cricket you’re playing or not, that only time will tell. But if guys are free, I mean, that’s, they should be playing domestic cricket,” said Agarkar.

rounds a World Cup,” Jemimah said.

“Whether we do well or face challenges, we want to keep all that outside and create our own energy. Everyone in this team genuinely looks out for each other and celebrates each other’s success. That comes so naturally and really strengthens our bond,” she said.On the journey of women’s cricket in India, the star player said when she first entered the team Mithali di and Jhulan di were their seniors. “And, to now see the transition with Harman di and Smriti leading together is really special. They’ve created an environment where everyone wants to give their all for the team,” she said.“We also want to win it for those who paved the way, for Mithali di, Jhulan di (Jhulan Goswami), Neetu ma’am (Neetu David), and all those who helped bring women’s cricket to where it is today,” Jemimah said.

Australia World Cup winner predicts defeat for Shubman Gill in his first series as India’s ODI captain



GNS News Agency, Oct 10

It may be a close contest and make for a great series but ultimately, Australia will prevail over India in the upcoming three-match ODI series between the two sides, says former captain Aaron Finch. India go into the series after a few headline-making changes, most notably with Shubman Gill taking over as captain and Shreyas Iyer becoming vice-captain. Rohit Sharma, Gill’s predecessor, remains part of the squad, as does his own predecessor Virat Kohli.“It will be a great series,” Finch is quoted as saying on the International Cricket Council’s website. “It always is against India and I think having Virat back in there brings out the best in him against Australia. It’s always a great battle when you look at it on paper as it’s very evenly matched, but I’d say Australia (win the series) 2-1.”Not confidently though as India are a great side and it will just be a great series to watch.”Both Kohli and Rohit may feel they have unfinished business with Australia, with India having lost to them in the

World Cup final in 2023 and the veteran pair going on to have a forgettable time with the bat in the 2024/25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy.‘Gill has already shown what a good leader he is’

Finch, who had won the 2015 World Cup and led Australia to the 2021 T20 World Cup title is also interested in seeing how Gill fares in his debut ODI series as captain and thinks the fact that Rohit and Kohli will be beside him in the field should prove a boost for the impressive 26-year-old. “Shubman has already shown what a good leader he is in T20 cricket and Test cricket, so I’m sure this will be no different,” Finch noted.“He’s a brilliant player, particularly in the white-ball formats and the way that he captained against England in the Test series is just a huge tick in his box to take the next step and takeover the Indian leadership right the way through (all three formats).”Australia away from home is a daunting way to start your career as ODI captain but Gill’s start to life as India’s Test captain earlier this year was arguably far more difficult — a five-match Test series in England. Not only did he lead India to a 2-2 draw in the thrilling series, Gill himself scored a record 754 runs over the course of it. Finch feels that the fact that Kohli and Rohit will be around this time will only help the 26-year-old.“I think when you look back to that England Test series he (Gill) didn’t have many other options that he could turn to for advice, probably when he was out on the ground, but he did a wonderful job himself. But I think just having those guys (Rohit and Kohli) there will be a real calmness for him as well, because it’s the ability to bounce ideas, both on and off the field on how you want the team to function going forward, because they’ve been such a huge part of the team for a long period of time,” he said.

Mohammed Siraj at Idea Exchange: God had written ‘ja hero ban ja tu, become a hero’

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In a gruelling India-England Test series, where all five matches went to the final day, Mohammed Siraj finished with 23 wickets, leading India to level the series. In this session, moderated by Deputy Associate Editor Devendra Pandey, he reflects on key moments from the tour and the need to stay level-headed.Devendra Pandey: Every player dreams of starring in an iconic series. We saw Cheteshwar Pujara in Australia in the past. This England tour will be known as Siraj’s series.When I landed in England, my aim was to become the highest wicket taker there. That was my zone. During the whole series, I was mentally strong — I wanted to be 100 per cent fit, 100 per cent available, and play all five matches. My rhythm was also very good when I played the practice matches. When I found out that Jassi bhai (Jasprit Bumrah) was not going to play all the matches, since I was the second senior fast bowler in the team, I wanted to give my 100 per cent.

When we played the last series in Australia in 2024, I took 20 wickets. But Jassi bhai’s performance was extraordinary. I played well in the IPL. That gave me confidence. After the Champions Trophy, I had a good break. I realised what was wrong with my bowling. I practised and worked on my fitness.Devendra Pandey: I heard that you were given a choice to sit out of the fifth Test and you said no. Did you think through that decision, considering you must have been very tired?Shubman (Gill) asked me, ‘Kaisi hai teri body?’ (How is your body?). I said, ‘Ekdam (absolutely) first-class’. He asked me if I would play. I said yes. He said, you are the main bowler for us, like Jasprit Bumrah, you decide. I said I’m available and am 100 per cent fit. I will give it everything.As for my body being tired, to be honest, I would have played one more Test if it was there. I didn’t feel tired. But I was in a zone. When you enter that zone, you don’t know what you are doing, but just have that feeling that I have to do something here.’

Mohammed Siraj, left, celebrates the dismissal of Ben Duckett, right, during the fourth day of the third cricket Test between England and India at Lord’s cricket ground in London. (AP Photo) Mohammed Siraj, left, celebrates the dismissal of Ben Duckett, right, during the fourth day of the third cricket Test between England and India at Lord’s cricket ground in London.

Devendra Pandey: What was going through your mind on the last morning of the final Test, when you bowled India to a series-levelling win? Did it feel like a dream?It was a script written for me from somewhere up there. From getting bowled in Lords (the Test that India lost), then reaching Oval. Then I took a catch (of Harry Brook) and touched the boundary. Everything was written for me. It was a script from God. When I woke up on that final morning, they needed 35 runs. I told myself that this game wouldn’t go beyond an hour and that I will win this match.

Match was to start at 11 am and the team bus would leave by 9 am. I woke up at 6 am! I asked myself, ‘Why did I wake up so early today?’ I had woken up suddenly. After that, I wrote down, ‘I can do this, win the game’. When the ball came out of my hand, the execution was exactly how I was thinking; it’s a good sign. God had written, ‘Ja hero ban ja tu, become a hero’. On being aggressive | Aggression is very important. If a batsman hits you and you are relaxed and smile... What kind of cricket is that? Kuch toh chahiye (You need some aggression). But off the field, I am ek dum chill (really chill)Sandeep Dwivedi: You’ve spoken about that sad moment of getting bowled in that bizarre fashion at Lord’s — when India lost after you and Ravindra Jadeja had nearly won the match. Have you been able to make peace with it?It is still shocking to me. I don’t know how it happened. If you see carefully, while the ball is travelling towards the stumps, a small pebble comes in the way and the ball bounces up off it, reaches the stumps to just about hit and a bail drops. That moment keeps popping on Insta reels. When I see those reels, I get emotional. We had almost lost that match, but we were back in the Test. I was feeling so comfortable, there was no way I felt I could get out. I got hit by a ball from Jofra Archer, but I was fine and felt I was not going to get out. However, the almighty had some other plans.India’s Mohammed Siraj and Dhruv Jurel celebrate their win against England in the fifth cricket Test match at The Oval in London. (AP Photo) India’s Mohammed Siraj and Dhruv Jurel celebrate their win against England in the fifth cricket Test match at The Oval in London. (AP Photo)Sandeep Dwivedi: During your early days of struggle in Hyderabad, you once told your mother not to worry about your future. You said, ‘Ek din aisa aayenga ki paise rakhne ki jagah nahi rahegi aapke paas’ (a day will come when there will be so much money that you would not have a place to store it). How were you so confident about yourself?I remember that day — I was getting a sound beating from my mother when I said that. As usual, I was playing cricket and my mother didn’t like it. She said, I don’t worry about my future. That’s when I asked her to stop beating me and that I would earn so much money one day that there wouldn’t be any place in the house to keep it. I told her, ‘You don’t



worry, I will do it.’It is said that of all the things one says during a day, one of those things comes true. So that day what I said was accepted by the almighty. Confidence is very important if you want to play top-flight cricket. If you don’t have confidence in yourself, you can’t do anything in life. Only if you have belief, will you achieve the goal you have set for yourself. If you believe that I can bowl a yorker and I will get a wicket, you will succeed. Only if you visualise in your mind, think that if I bowl like this I will get a wicket, you will get a certain confidence to execute it. You also need to train for that. If you train hard, you will be able to execute in the match.The dust bowl in Old Hyderabad where Mohammed Siraj played with friends. (Special arrangement) The dust bowl in Old Hyderabad where Mohammed Siraj played with friends. (Special arrangement)

Sandeep Dwivedi: At times, those with humble beginnings get overawed by sudden fame and change. What about you?

Keeping in mind where I come from and where I have reached, I just don’t like attitude and arrogance. I make an effort to stay down-to-earth. I have the same set of friends that I used to have back in the day. I still hang around with them. It’s not that now I have become an India player, so I would make new friends and will move around in a Range Rover with them. I do have a Range Rover and I drive around, but I still go to places where I played tennis ball cricket with my old friends as a child. I chill with them and stay the same as I always was. I don’t make them feel uncomfortable. I will have tea in the same cup as them. We fool around and laugh the way we used to when I wasn’t an international cricketer. I tell them not to give me any special treatment and that we are equals, just like it used to be. These days, people do a lot of things once they become successful. My aim is to always remain grounded. I am also aware that there will be times I will do well, but success can also disappear. That means, again, I will work hard and again I will succeed.Sandeep Dwivedi: You are comfortable in the company of foreign cricketers as well. At the end of the England tour, batting great Joe Root said that Siraj is such a nice guy that it is very tough for him to get angry about something and ‘sometimes it seems he fakes his anger’. (Laughs) No, no I do get angry and it does not fade off quickly. Only after I get a wicket, my anger vanishes. As for Joe Root, he is a world class batsman. When he is facing me, he never looks at me with any kind of anger. He keeps smiling at me. So whenever I see him, automatically a smile comes to my face. He is the first person seeing whom I become calm and smile. So during the England tour I decided I am not going to look at him or talk to him. Even if he was at the non-striker’s end and I was fielding at mid-off, he would come to talk to me but I would not talk to him. I would just walk away somewhere else (laughs).

Nihal Koshie: Hyderabad has produced batsmen like Mohammad Azharuddin and ML Jaisimha and a few spinners. What made you take up fast bowling?

To be honest, I never dreamt of playing for India. I didn’t have money, nor did I have any support because dad used to drive an auto. My mother used to work too. I used to give most of what I earned from tennis-ball cricket to my parents. Slowly my pace increased, I started doing well and played a district-level tennis-ball tournament. I had never played with the leather ball till then. Once I was playing a tournament in Vijay Anand (cricket ground) and I did well. The owner of Charminar Cricket Club was watching and asked me, ‘Will you join my club?’. I told him I had financial problems. He said, ‘Tension mat le (don’t worry), we will provide everything for you’. I said, ‘I will think about it and let you know’. We used to stay in a rented house. On feeling the pressure in the Asia Cup India-Pak match | Yes, I felt the pressure of watching. When you are representing the country, the match gets over and you return to the dressing room, you can’t even celebrate the win... but you have to follow the government rulesThere are 1.4 billion people in the country... How will I play for the country? Rehta hai na neeche wale ki soch (people who are poor, think small). Then I told him (Charminar club owner) that I would play. I wore spikes for the first time. I began making a name for myself and people started discussing that there is one Mohammed Siraj and he bowls very fast.

Farah Khan's cook Dilip asks when Deepika Padukone would come on their show, filmmaker jokes about her 8-hour work shift condition: 'She doesn't have time to come'



In her latest vlog, filmmaker Farah Khan and her cook Dilip visited actor Rohit Saraf's house in Mumbai. During the delightful house tour, Farah joked about the widespread industry debate around Deepika Padukone's 8-hour work shift demand. She said that the actor is too busy to come on her show. Before knocking on the door, Farah told Dilip that they were at Rohit's house. On seeing the actor, Dilip said, "You aren't Rohit Shetty!" The filmmaker instantly clarified, "Every Rohit isn't Rohit Shetty, this is Rohit Saraf." She then met Rohit's mother, Anita Saraf, and revealed that the actor hadn't given her any dates for nearly a year.

After Rohit Saraf introduced his cook Bunnu, Dilip gave him tips to get an increase in his salary. "He doesn't

increase your salary? I'll tell you how he will increase it. Go and tell him, 'Pagaar badhaao' as soon as you wake up in the morning. He will do it on his own. Tell him once, twice, and he will do it the third time. If he doesn't, then take my number, you can come there."

Farah Khan couldn't stop praising Rohit Saraf's dancing skills, as they have worked together earlier in Ishq Vishq 2. The choreographer shared, "I discovered him in a song for that film. He is such a great dancer." He replied, "I was so scared because people warned me that if I don't rehearse properly then Farah ma'am won't leave me. She is very scary, scolds, and even hits. I am confident about my dance, but for her song, I rehearsed so much." The Mismatched actor then gave a tour of his white-themed house. They sat down for a conversation and recalled his early struggles in the city of Mumbai, when Rohit used to live alone at the age of 15. "I used to get Rs 5000 per day for a show on channel V," he revealed. Farah chimed in, "That's a lot! When I started dancing in films, Rs 300 a day used to be a lot for us at that time." An intrigued Dilip then asked Farah Khan when Deepika Padukone would appear as a guest on their show. "She will come on the show the day you will go to your village," she replied, and jokingly added, "Deepika Padukone only shoots for 8 hours a day now. She doesn't have time to come on the show." "I will also shoot for 8 hours a day now," he said. "You actually only shoot for only 2 hours a day right now, you will also do it for 8 hours from now on," Farah replied. Later, Farah Khan and Rohit Saraf exchanged gifts. Towards the end of the vlog, they enjoyed litti with aloo-baingan chokha, along with Burmese dishes and steamed momos.

The Ladakhi engineer who inspired Aamir Khan's 3 Idiots character

Sonam Wangchuk detained: The Ladakhi engineer who inspired Aamir Khan's 3 Idiots character Sonam Wangchuk detained: The Ladakhi engineer who inspired Aamir Khan's 3 Idiots character Engineer and social activist Sonam Wangchuk, the Ladakhi whose life story inspired the cult Bollywood film 3 Idiots, was detained by the police in Leh on Friday.

The Centre accused Wangchuk, a Ramon Magsaysay Award recipient, of instigating the violent protests in Leh on Wednesday that led to police firing, leaving four people dead and five others injured. While Sonam Wangchuk is a well-known figure in Ladakh, he rose to national prominence when Bollywood actor Aamir Khan portrayed a character inspired by him in the 2009 film 3 Idiots. Aamir's character, Phunsukh Wangdu, popularly known as Rancho, was depicted as a brilliant and inquisitive engineering student who mentors his classmates at the Imperial College of Engineering (ICE). During an old interview with The Lallantop, Wangchuk opened up about his thoughts on 3 Idiots. He revealed that he did not completely relate to the character of Rancho. "Yes, I have watched the film. It was a nice film with a good message. Main toh kya kisi aur ne kaha ki aap ye boliye ki film mein jo kirdar dikha rahi hai mein unse bahut zyaada khoosurat hu. Mein kaise inse jodo khud ko (What do I say but somebody else told me to say that I am a lot more beautiful than the character shown in the film. So how do I attach myself with that character?)" he said.

Ayushmann Khurrana and Rashmika Mandanna join forces to fight a 1,000-year-old 'betail'

The Maddock Horror Comedy film universe, consisting of Bhediya, Munjya, Stree and Stree 2, is finally getting its new member. The trailer for Thammar released on Friday gives the viewers a peek into what the production house has in store for them and their plans for the future of this universe. In Thammar, Ayushmann Khurrana is just your regular Joe who, due to some not so fortuitous events, crosses paths with Nawazuddin Siddiqui, a betaal who has been imprisoned for 1000 years because of his plans to go against humanity. Ayushmann himself turns into a betaal and must now adjust to this new lifestyle with the help of Rashmika Mandanna. However, the switch isn't that problematic, as Ayushmann finds joy in the new powers that have been granted to him.

But, things for the couple go south when Nawazuddin seeks revenge for his incarceration by deciding to go back to his original plan of killing humans. The CGI in the trailer of Thammar matches the theme and quality of the previous films in the Maddock Horror Comedy film universe, but the movie has something that none of the others did. For the first time in the universe, there is a love story at the core of



3 Idiots, produced by Vidhu Vinod Chopra and directed by Rajkumar Hirani, featured Aamir Khan alongside R. Madhavan, Sharman Joshi, and Kareena Kapoor Khan. The film was a massive box office success, holding the title of the highest-grossing Indian film until 2013. It also went on to win three National Film Awards.



the film, and part of the conflict with Nawazuddin is also saving their (Ayushmann-Rashmika) love. Paresh Rawal is also a part of the new film and is playing the father of Ayushmann. His entire character arc in the movie seems to be about turning his son back into a normal human being while dealing with the theatrics of his new found identity.

Ekta Kapoor denies taking a dig at Ram Kapoor's weight loss transformation in viral Ozempic video: 'Why would I do that?'

Ekta Kapoor denies taking a dig at Ram Kapoor's weight loss transformation in viral Ozempic video Ekta Kapoor denies taking a dig at Ram Kapoor's weight loss transformation in viral Ozempic video Earlier this year, filmmaker Ekta Kapoor made headlines after appearing to take a dig at Ram Kapoor's weight-loss transformation in a social media video. She has now clarified, however, that her remarks were not aimed at the actor. In a recent conversation with India Today, Ekta denied criticising Ram and explained that she was actually referring to her upcoming show Bade Achhe Lagte Hain.

When asked about her Instagram video, Ekta denied taking a dig at Ram's weight loss and added, "I am going to take a moment to tell everyone that this was exactly one week before I launched the Bade Achhe Lagte Hain promo, where the promo itself had a line that the girl is trying on an

outfit and she's a large size and wants to fit into a medium. Again, dealing with body-shaming, self-doubt and self-assurance. This was taken in a completely different direction. The very next video I put up immediately after that was about how we, as women, should start accepting ourselves."

She added, "I have no idea how Ram Kapoor, who is neither a woman, nor on television currently, and not battling any weight issues, came into the picture. I was like, really? It's like I am talking about my hair and somebody somewhere else says, 'Oh, you called me bald.' Why would I do that?"

Ekta Kapoor also said she has no objection to people using weight-loss drugs like Ozempic and might even consider trying them herself, as she currently feels "stuck". The producer added that she is contemplating it partly due to

Former Miss India, who played Amitabh Bachchan's wife, was diagnosed with cancer twice, took Rs 5 from doctor who misdiagnosed her: 'It's stage 4 now'



Actor and politician Nafisa Ali has been diagnosed with cancer for the second time, seven years after she first battled the disease. In a recent interview with The Quint, she opened up about her long and emotional journey to diagnosis, sharing how her instincts were right all along—even when doctors initially failed to detect the cancer. She recalled the first time she was diagnosed with cancer in 2018. "I knew something was wrong with my body. I used to walk every day in Goa, but suddenly I started feeling unusually tired. That's when I knew it wasn't just something minor."

Despite visiting multiple doctors, she was repeatedly told it was nothing serious—some even prescribed antibiotics. "I went back to the radiologist and pleaded with him to recheck my scan. I started crying and said, 'I know something is wrong with me.' Eventually, doctors suggested she had tuberculosis. Nafisa wasn't convinced. She demanded a PET scan, and before the test, jokingly placed a bet with her doctors. "When the reports came in, they had no words. I had bet them it wasn't TB—I took Rs 5 from each of them. They were upset, but I told them, 'It's okay. I'll beat this.'" The misdiagnosis and confusion deeply impacted Nafisa, pushing her to become an ad-

vocate for cancer awareness and patient empowerment. "There are cancer marker tests available—ask your doctors about them. Don't blindly spend money without understanding your options. A biopsy is one of the worst things if not done properly. The moment they pierced the tumor with a needle, the cancer spread. That's how I reached stage 3," she said.

She particularly emphasised the CA 125 test, which costs around Rs 1,200 and can help detect cancer early. "No one suggested it to me. Instead, they sent me for a PET scan costing Rs 25,000. That's why I now speak publicly about it. People should insist on these marker tests if they feel something's wrong. Don't be a fool like I was." Nafisa remembers the moment she was told the cancer had spread. "I laughed. The doctors told me it had reached everywhere because of the delay. I said, 'It's okay, I'll fight it.' Then I was in stage 3, and now it's stage 4," she said. Initially, she was in denial. "It was only after my first chemotherapy session—12 days later—when I ran my hand through my hair and a whole chunk came out, that I truly accepted it. I cried and said, 'I actually have cancer now.' That moment made it real." Seven years after battling stage 3 cancer, Nafisa was diagnosed again—this time, with stage 4 cancer that had spread to her abdomen. "I had just returned from Australia. A relapse was detected three years ago and treated, but after a routine PET scan, they told me it was stage 4. It's not operable. They said, 'Let's try chemo.' I am just praying for inner strength." Nafisa spoke candidly about the harsh realities of chemotherapy. "It's a very toxic process. I hate it. But I take it. I talk to my body and tell it to enjoy the journey—to let the cancer be attacked and depleted. It's not a joy in anyone's life." Despite her diagnosis, Nafisa remains grounded and spiritual. She's preparing her family for life without her. "My nephew once visited a medium who connected with my late brother-in-law and father-in-law. They seemed to be in a very happy place. That gave me peace. Maybe there's a new world out there—maybe we'll all party again with old friends and loved ones we miss." Although she continues to fight, she does have one lingering regret: "If there's anything I wish I had done, it's to be in Parliament—to serve my country with the strength and conviction I know I have. India needs that kind of fight."

'Varun Dhawan bullied me, Janhvi Kapoor the biggest schemer on planet': jokes Rohit Saraf; Varun claims, 'they put fake scorpions in my room'

The cast of the upcoming film Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari — Varun Dhawan, Janhvi Kapoor, Sanya Malhotra, and Rohit Saraf — is in full promotion mode ahead of the film's release on October 2. As part of their promotional tour, the stars recently appeared at the India Today Conclave for an interview. There they candidly shared their experiences and chemistry on set. Reflecting on their growing camaraderie, Janhvi Kapoor said, "I have realised in the past two days of promotions that we genuinely have a fondness for each other. Our equation is something we truly cherish and enjoy. But as a consequence, I feel like I am just hanging out with my friends—I get too relaxed and end up saying all kinds of rubbish on stage. It's actually become quite stressful promoting the film with them!" Janhvi went on to praise her co-stars, starting with Rohit Saraf. "I have found such a fun equation with Rohit. He has so much to offer and is such a bright, young talent," she said.

Speaking about her Bawaal co-star Varun Dhawan, she remarked, "It might sound sarcastic, but he's sort of like my guiding light." She also appreciated his egalitarian approach on set, adding, "He treats everyone the same, which is so rare in this industry." The panel took a humorous turn when Rohit Saraf playfully accused Varun of bullying him on set, while also calling Janhvi "the biggest schemer on the planet."

Responding to the charge, Varun shared a prank the duo once attempted. "Janhvi and Rohit tried to prank me by placing fake snakes, scorpions, and lizards in my room. Every day, I would find some weird new thing," he said. However, the prank didn't go as planned. "It never panned out," Janhvi admitted. "Varun's boy Kumar is so loyal to him that he told him everything in advance. Varun was totally aware and prepared. Pura plan popat ho gaya (the entire plan failed). I am still in a fight with Kumar!" However, certain aspects of the interview also sparked considerable backlash online. A clip from the session, now circulating widely on platforms like Reddit, has sparked extreme reactions. During the interview, the anchor encouraged the cast to share "cheesy pickup lines" used on them, and at one point, jokingly asked Rohit Saraf to take off his shirt. In one segment, the anchor pressed the stars for outrageous pickup lines. Varun Dhawan declined to share any and instead directed the question toward Janhvi Kapoor, who also refrained, citing the lines as "inappropriate." Instead, she referenced a line from a Varun Dhawan film, originally delivered by Akshay Kumar: "Is your father a baker? Because you have great buns."



While Janhvi admitted it was a line she had always wanted to use, she added that doing so might land her "in jail." The anchor quickly interjected, saying, "That's not inappropriate." Janhvi agreed, clarifying, "No, it's not—but that's not the line I was originally talking about. Still, I really like it." What followed, however, made things more uncomfortable. The anchor added: "But that's a good one to use on you, Janhvi—like, you have got a superb body and you work out. I have seen some of your workout videos, which are great." The exchange continued as Varun Dhawan turned the focus to Rohit Saraf, asking him to share a pickup line used on him. Janhvi quipped: "I think the one that Preeti [the anchor] just used on him—'Can you strip on India Today?'" Rohit leaned into the moment and teasingly asked the anchor: "Oh, were you trying to pick me up, Preeti?" To which she replied: "No, I didn't try to pick you up... but would you pick up your abs if I was?" Rohit responded with a firm, "No." The awkward nature of the conversation did not go unnoticed online. A Reddit user posted the video with the caption: "What's happening?" Other users chimed in with criticism, noting the discomfort among the cast. "The second-hand embarrassment when Janhvi said those lines, and the anchor responded like that... you could feel the discomfort in the room," wrote another. "Yikes. Followed by a session on workplace sexual harassment?" and "This was weird... and inappropriate in so many ways," were among other reactions. Sanya Malhotra, for her part, appeared noticeably reserved throughout the session. She skillfully dodged questions and avoided controversial comments, despite repeated efforts by the anchor to coax her into saying something "controversial". At one point, Varun Dhawan joked: "Sanya, are you here to form a sanghatan (union)? It seems like you are trying to do that."

