

Twin reservoirs release surplus water following Hyderabad rains

Hyderabad: Rains on Tuesday night led to the opening of gates of twin reservoirs Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar on Wednesday to release surplus water into the River Musi, according to an official statement issued by the HMWSSB.The statement said that two gates of Osman Sagar and two gates of Himayat Sagar were opened to release surplus water into the river. HMWSSB officials had operated the gates of these twin reservoirs over the past couple of months and shut them in the last two weeks due to the monsoon windup.

KTR and Harish Rao meets KCR to discuss on Jubilee Hills by-poll



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Hyderabad: In a significant development ahead of the Jubilee Hills by-election, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) chief K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) convened a crucial meeting with the party's working president, K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), and former minister Harish Rao at the Erravelli farmhouse on Wednesday morning.

The discussions reportedly focused on formulating campaign strategies, including road shows, for the upcoming by-poll. Additionally, the leaders addressed key political issues and the concern of potential defections among MLAs from the party.Tomorrow (Thursday), KCR is set to meet with the Jubilee Hills in-charge to provide further direction regarding their campaign strategies in the constituency, underscoring the urgency and importance of the meeting.

Telangana's EAGLE force, Khammam Narcotics team seize 500 kg ganja in Jharkhand



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Khammam: Telangana's Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE) and Regional Narcotics Control Cell (RNCC) Khammam team seized 500 kg ganja at Rourkela, Jharkhand in a three-day operation.Acting on credible intelligence, the RNCC Khammam team initiated surveillance on ganja suppliers operating in the Andhra-Odisha Border (AOB) region.

The team received specific input that a truck would be transporting a consignment of ganja on the intervening night of October 20 and 21 in an attempt to evade police checks during Diwali. The RNCC, Khammam team led by Inspector Vijay Ram Kumar and SI Ravi Prasad rushed to the AOB border on October 19.They maintained continuous watch and confirmed that the suspect vehicle departed from Janpati in Malkangiri district of Odisha at 9 pm on October 20 en route to Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Though initially expected to transit through Telangana, the suspects diverted the vehicle northward via Biju Expressway to avoid heavily monitored routes. Upon detecting the change in route, the RNCC Khammam team immediately redirected their pursuit and alerted the police stations along the way. However, due to the vehicle's high speed, interception attempts were unsuccessful.The RNCC Khammam team continued the chase throughout the night, relaying real-time location updates to senior officers, who in turn coordinated with the NCB Ranchi division. Based on this, the joint team intercepted the vehicle at Simdega on Ranchi-Rourkela Road in Jharkhand and seized 500 kg of ganja.The team arrested an accused Naseem Kamruddin of Haryana. The receivers of the consignment, Mushthaq Khan and Arif, natives of Haryana now residing in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh were absconding. Cases under relevant sections were registered against them, said a release.

'Gau rakshak' injured as gunman opens fire at Pocharam on Hyderabad outskirts

Hyderabad: A man, believed to be a 'gau rakshak,' was injured when a gunman opened fire on him at Pocharam on the city outskirts on Wednesday.

The victim, identified as Prashanth Singh, reportedly had an argument with a man named Ibrahim, who later took out a short gun and fired at him. Prashanth sustained injuries and was shifted to a private hospital for treatment.

Man gets 32 years in jail in POCSO case in Nalgonda

Nalgonda: In a landmark verdict, the POCSO Court in Nalgonda sentenced a man to 32 years of rigorous imprisonment for raping a minor girl and coercing her into marriage.The accused, Gurijala Chandu, a resident of Panagallu village near Nalgonda town, was arrested following a complaint filed in 2022 at the Nalgonda Two Town police station. The police registered a case under the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and conducted an enquiry. It was alleged that Chandu had sexually assaulted the underage victim and subsequently forced her into a marriage to cover up the crime. During the trial, presided over by Judge Rojava Ramani, the court reviewed evidence, including witness testimonies and forensic reports.

CM Revanth Reddy reviews Osmania General Hospital development

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy conducted a review meeting on Wednesday with senior officials regarding the construction and development of the new Osmania General Hospital building. During the meeting, the Chief Minister provided key directives and suggestions aimed at expediting the project.He emphasised the importance of completing the new hospital within two years, proposing the formation of a co-ordination committee to oversee the progress. Reddy stated that the facility should be equipped with modern amenities that cater to the healthcare needs of the next century.



The Chief Minister instructed officials to conduct progress reviews every 15 days, ensuring that the construction of necessary roads is carried out without causing disruption to local residents. In addition, he announced the appointment of officers to supervise the work of hospitals not only in

Hyderabad but across the district.Reddy also set a deadline for the completion of all medical colleges and hospitals by next June. Moreover, he tasked the police with preparing traffic and security plans in advance to facilitate the ongoing developments.Attending the meeting were Principal Secretaries Srinivasa Raju and Seshadri, Secretary Manik Raj, Health Secretary Christina, R&B Special CS Vikas Raj, MA&UD Secretary Ilambarthi, DGP Shivdhar Reddy, Hyderabad Collector Harichandana, and other senior officials

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar Inaugurates Cotton Purchase Centre and Emphasises Quality Education

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has announced that cotton is now being purchased through the Kapas Kisan mobile app, following the inauguration of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) Cotton Purchase Centre in Husnabad, Siddipet district.

During the event, he detailed the process whereby farmers will be allocated date slots for cotton purchases at ginning mills.Currently, the support price for cotton stands at Rs. 8,100. Minister Prabhakar also mentioned that alongside cotton, rice and maize will be acquired from farmers. Efforts are underway to raise awareness among farmers regarding the benefits of diversifying into ice cream production, horticulture, and sericulture.

In addition to agricultural initiatives, Minister Prabhakar stressed the importance of quality education. He conducted a video conference with officials regarding the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Gurukul schools and asserted that paramount



attention should be given to ensuring that all educational institutions achieve 100 per cent results. He also committed to progressing the Gauravelli project promptly to ensure adequate water supply for crops.

Election Commission reviews voter mapping ahead of pan-India SIR rollout



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

New Delhi: Ramping up its preparations for special intensive revision of voter lists across India, the Election Commission top brass on Wednesday assessed the progress made on mapping the current electors with the voters as per the last SIR in different States.The exercise will help State poll machinery find out the number of electors who were in the electoral roll after the last intensive revision and continue to be in the latest voter list.As was the case in Bihar, the voters will not have to submit any documents but only semi-filled enumeration forms.There is a view in EC that mapping of current electors with those in the last SIR will ensure that more than half the electorate in most states may not give any documents in SIR.The

commission, a statement said, also reviewed the status of appointment and training of district election officers, electoral registration officers, and booth-level officers, and booth-level agents who are appointed by a political party.The two-day meet is the second since September to decide on the massive exercise.

Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners S S Sandhu and Vivek Joshi met all state chief electoral officers here to review preparedness.One strong opinion within the top EC brass is to hold SIR in phases, beginning with the states going for assembly elections next year. More states may be included in the first phase.At the same time, it will not hold the electoral roll cleanup exercise in states where local body elections are taking place or are due, as the grassroots poll machinery is busy with it and may not be able to focus on SIR, officials said.Assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are due in 2026.Besides these five states, SIR could be held in a few other states in the first phase.A voter list cleanup exercise has concluded in Bihar, where the final list with nearly 7.42 crore names was published on September 30.The CEC had earlier this month said work is in progress to launch the SIR of electoral rolls in all states, and a final decision on its rollout will be taken by the Election Commission.Earlier, responding to a question at a press conference to announce the Bihar assembly polls, the CEC said that a pan-India SIR was announced on June 24, while a roll-out of the Bihar SIR was still underway.

IT Rules 2021 amendment to add 'accountability' for State, Central governments

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will amend social media takedown rules to add more "accountability" to officers sending notices to social media companies over content on their platforms, officials said on Wednesday (October 22, 2025). The new safeguards will be introduced by way of an amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 within this week itself, senior officials briefing the press said.

"The accountability of the government increases with this change," IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told presspersons. As a part of these new rules, the government "will be giving a reasoned intimation whenever any such order is passed, and orders will be passed at a fairly

senior level, Joint Secretary and above for the Central government, and Deputy Inspector General at the State level", he said. The safeguards specifically pertain to Rule 3(1)(d) of the IT Rules, under which government officials are empowered to flag content in such a way that social media firms would not be able to claim "safe harbour" from legal liability for content users post. Such notices would force social media firms to defend content as though they were publishers, and not just an intermediary for such content. The amendment has not yet been notified in the Gazette of India, but officials said it would be within the week, and would go into effect on November 15.The social media platform X had challenged the use of Rule 3(1)(d) as an unconstitutional and arbitrary way for police officers to issue "censorship" orders from around the country.

Jubilee Hills bypoll campaign intensifies as candidates go door-to-door



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Hyderabad: Elevating the by poll campaign pitch, candidates from the major political parties intensified their outreach among the Jubilee Hills assembly constituency here on Wednesday.With three weeks remaining until the by poll scheduled for November 11, the candidates engaged in door-to-door campaigns, small rallies, and in the colonies travelled in motorcades.

The campaign mainly focused on the morning hours and the candidates and supporters sought to catch the voters before they left for work. Consequently, the busy hours were before 9?am in Borabanda, Rahmath Nagar, Shaikpet, Erragadda, Venkatagiri, Krishnagar, and adjoining areas, while the day continued with less intense campaigning.

BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha went door-to-door in Shaikpet division and interacted with voters in Sidhi Vinayak Nagar and Vinobha Nagar. In her interactions, she explained the Congress party's failures in implementing six guarantees and distributed 'Baki Cards' (debt cards). A large motorcade accompanied the BRS candidate, playing folk songs praising KCR's key achievements.Meanwhile, BRS in-charge of Srinagar Colony and MLC Naveen Kumar Reddy participated in the door-to-door campaign in Srinagar Colony, urging voters to support BRS and secure Maganti Sunitha's victory with a large majority.

Prez Droupadi Murmu's helicopter wheels sink into newly concreted landing pad



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Pathanamthitta: The wheels of the helicopter which carried President Droupadi Murmu for her Sabarimala visit got stuck in a depression in the newly concreted helipad at the Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium at Pramadam here when it landed on Wednesday morning.After the President left for Pamba by road, visuals on TV channels showed several policemen and fire force personnel pushing the helicopter's wheels out of the small depressions created when it landed on the concrete.

A senior police officer of the district said that the stadium was fixed as the location for landing the helicopter at the last moment and therefore, the helipad was created there late on Tuesday.The landing was originally planned at Nilalak near Pamba, but it was changed to Pramadam due to inclement weather."The concrete had not set completely and therefore, it could not handle the helicopter's weight when it landed and depressions were formed where the wheels touched the ground," the officer said.The President, who arrived in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday evening for a four-day official visit to the southern state, left for Pathanamthitta district, where the hill shrine is located, this morning.From Pramadam, Murmu is travelling to Pamba, the foothills of Sabarimala, via road.

Congress candidate Naveen Yadav's cousin Gautam Yadav joins BRS ahead of bypoll

Hyderabad: In a significant development ahead of the Jubilee Hills by-election, Congress candidate Naveen Yadav's cousin, Gautam Yadav, joined the BRS on Wednesday. Party working president KT Rama Rao inducted him into the party by draping the party scarf, in the presence of BRS leaders Talasani Sai Yadav and Nagesh Mudiraj.

PASSPORT LOST

I am **Kamle Vaibhav** S/o Prakash, Residence of Mahalakshmiwada, Adilabad, Telangana. I lost my passport while travelling from Adilabad to Nagpur. I searched for it in many places but could not find it. Therefore, I am informing the public through this announcement that my passport has been lost. If anyone finds this passport, please inform the phone number given below.

Passport Number: C4763060
Phone Number: 6305614723

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Govt must stop blaming past regimes for economic failures

Top functionaries of the Narendra Modi government must stop blaming the previous regimes for the problems plaguing the country, but they don't. In keeping with this mindset, Union Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal last week found fault with the trade agreements India had with Japan and South Korea. "Since the signing of the agreements exports to both these countries have hardly grown, only the imports have grown," he pointed out at an event in Delhi. Factually, he is not incorrect. India's Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with South Korea became effective in January 2010 and with Japan in August 2011.

Before the Korea pact, India's exports in 2009-10 were \$3.42 billion while imports were \$8.57 billion. By 2024-25, exports rose modestly to \$5.8 billion, but imports jumped to \$21.06 billion. With Japan, the pattern is similar. India's exports stood at \$5.09 billion in 2010-11, and imports at \$8.63 billion. In the last fiscal, exports were only \$6.42 billion while imports had more than doubled to \$18.91 billion. These figures show that the benefits of the trade pacts have been asymmetric, leaving India with widening trade deficits vis-à-vis both nations. However, what Goyal's statement conveniently overlooks is that his own government has been in power for over a decade, long enough to renegotiate, recalibrate, and even rethink these agreements had it truly believed they were opsided. Instead, New Delhi continued to live with them, occasionally expressing discontent but rarely taking substantive action to address the issue. It is disingenuous, therefore, to suggest that the economic imbalance with Japan and South Korea is solely the result of Congress-era decisions.

Uppal BJP Resolves Long-Pending Power Issues in Srinagar Colony 2/B Line



VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 23 (Indian Chronicle): "Responding to the long-standing requests of residents from Srinagar Colony 2/B Line in Uppal, the Uppal Division BJP, under the leadership of Division President Marneni Phaninder, successfully resolved major electricity problems that had persisted for nearly 20 years. "For decades, residents lived in darkness, drawing power from connections nearly 100 meters away, facing severe inconvenience. The entire street remained without proper street lighting. Taking note of these hardships, Phaninder and his team intervened, coordinated with electricity department officials, and within a month, ensured the installation of electric poles, cables, and streetlights, bringing light and relief to the colony. "Residents had earlier submitted a representation regarding their grievances at the Uppal BJP office. Upon receiving it, Phaninder immediately took up the issue with concerned authorities and monitored the work until completion. "Speaking on the occasion, President Marneni Phaninder stated that the BJP is not just a party of words but a party of action, dedicated to solving people's issues and serving them consistently. "Grateful residents expressed heartfelt thanks to the BJP leaders for their timely support and commitment. "Those present at the event included General Secretary Tiga Vittal Rao Mudiraj, Senior Leader Sridhar Gupta, Treasurer Duvvala Ramesh, and local residents Aruna, Sujatha, Saraswathi, Mahesh, Mallesh, Naveen, and Shekhar Babu, among others.

Power Supply Interruption Today – Chilkanagar Electricity Department AE Vinay Kumar Reddy

Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 22 (Indian Chronicle): "Due to departmental maintenance works, power supply will be interrupted on Thursday, October 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in areas under the 11 KV Hema Nagar feeder, according to a statement released by Chilkanagar Electricity Department Assistant Engineer (AE) Vinay Kumar Reddy. "During this period, power supply will be unavailable in the following areas:

Mallayya Nagar, Vasavi Nagar, Bhavani Nagar, Gayatri Hills, Tirumala Meadows, Reddys Colony, Hema Nagar, Lakshmi Ganapathi Colony, Hema Nagar Saanvi Apartments, and North Balaji Hills. "AE Vinay Kumar Reddy requested electricity consumers and business owners to cooperate with the staff during the maintenance period.

JSW MG Motor India celebrates Diwali with 'Human Connections' in a digital age

Introduces a first-of-its-kind initiative 'Directory of Kindness' celebrating local vendors, artisans, and the unseen heroes who make every festival special.



Hyderabad: JSW MG Motor India is celebrating this Diwali with a heartfelt initiative that shines a light on the people and connections that keep festive traditions alive. Rooted in the brand's belief that progress must remain human at its core, the celebration extends beyond greetings and gifting to recognize kindness, community, and everyday relationships. As part of this celebration, MG has launched the 'Directory of Kindness', an initiative inviting people to share details of their local vendors, artisans, and service providers. The crowdsourced map is designed to honour the potters, mithaiwalas, and neighbourhood shopkeepers who form the invisible fabric of our festivals, ensuring that

communities thrive together during the season of giving.

Speaking on the initiative, Udit Malhotra, Head of Marketing, JSW MG Motor India said, "Festivals are about the joy we create together, not just what we buy. At JSW MG Motor India, our focus has always been to combine progress with purpose. At a time when India's e-commerce market is expanding rapidly, our initiative delivers an important message about pausing to value community connections and the people behind everyday festive purchases- from the potter shaping diyas to the neighbourhood mithaiwala who knows your family's preferences.

As part of the initiative, the brand has created a short film featuring OTT actor Gagan Arora and veteran performer Anil Khopkar. It tells the story of a young professional who, encouraged by his grandfather, steps out of his online routine to reconnect with the people who make Diwali special. Shot with an instinct for warmth and authenticity, the film reminds viewers that joy multiplies when shared in person through simple acts of presence, empathy, and care.

Conceptualized by the creative agency Green Chutney, the film brings together nuanced performances, emotive storytelling, and relatable visuals that evoke nostalgia and warmth. The film will be available across JSW MG Motor India's social media channels and select digital streaming platforms starting this week.

L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF) records highest ever Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 735 Crore (Consolidated), up 5% Quarter-on-Quarter (QoQ) and 6% Year-on-Year (YoY) for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025 (Q2FY26)

Hyderabad: L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF), one of the leading Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) in India has recorded highest ever Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 735 Crore, up 5% QoQ and 6% YoY for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025. During the quarter, the retail book size reached Rs. 1,04,607 Crore, up 18% YoY. The Company has recorded quarterly retail disbursement of Rs. 18,883 Crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025, up 25% YoY. Retailisation stands at 98% for the quarter ended September 30, 2025.

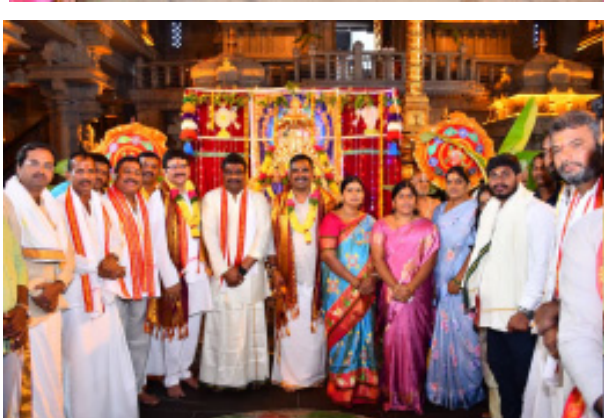
The Company's customer-facing PLANET app, which has emerged as a powerful digital channel for customers, crossed more than 2 Crore downloads as on September 30, 2025 comprising more than 17.6 Lakh downloads on the rural side. As of date, this channel has done collections of over Rs.6,400 Crore while servicing over 934 Lakh requests and has sourced loans of over Rs. 19,300 Crore. PLANET App was also awarded the app with the 'Best Digital Experience in Finance' at the Global Fintech Fest, 2025. 'Project Cyclops' has been implemented in Two-wheeler Finance, Farm Equipment Finance, and SME Finance. It will be rolled out in Personal Loans in Q3FY26, Home Loans, and Rural Group Loans & MFI in FY27. The beta version of the AI driven real time automated portfolio monitoring engine 'Project Nostradamus' has been rolled out for the Two-wheeler business in August, 2025, a month ahead of the scheduled deployment date.

S&P Global Ratings has upgraded LTF's long-term issuer credit rating to "BBB/Stable" from "BBB-Positive" and short-term issuer credit rating to "A-2" from "A-3". Fitch



Ratings has assigned LTF long-term foreign and local currency Issuer Default Ratings of "BBB-" with a Stable outlook. These long-term ratings are investment grade and are at par with India's Sovereign Credit Rating. This will enable the Company to tap global capital markets and further diversify its liability franchise and deepen investor base. Commenting on the financial results, Mr. Sudipta Roy, Managing Director & CEO, LTF said, "During the quarter, our focus remained firmly on execution and growth, enabling us to deliver a strong performance in a quarter traditionally considered a weak one in the BFSI industry. The performance highlights the improved momentum in all our lines of business, across rural and urban geographies, driven by the transformation initiatives carried over the last few quarters. Our investments in technology, talent, revamp and expansion of branch infrastructure, brand building and continued focus on customer centricity as a part of our 5-pillar execution strategy have started to yield early dividends for us.

elangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah participated in Yadadri Giri Pradakshina



"Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 22):- On the occasion of the birth star Swathi of Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy of Yadagirigutta in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah and

India's Power Grid Becomes the World's Largest, But Challenges Persist

Hyderabad: Right-of-way issues and approval delays have slowed down power transmission. Private investment and public awareness are key to expanding the transmission network. India has set an ambitious target of generating over 600 GW of renewable energy by 2032. While significant efforts are being made to boost power generation, expanding transmission lines to deliver electricity to remote areas is equally critical. Without transmission towers and lines, power supply simply cannot reach consumers. Despite government initiatives, only 8,830 circuit kilometers of transmission lines were added in 2024-25, the lowest addition in a decade.

According to energy experts, the transmission network carries electricity generated hundreds of kilometers away at very high voltage to end-users. The biggest bottleneck in expanding the grid is Right-of-Way (RoW), which involves land acquisition. Local resistance is common, often due to lack of awareness. Many still believe compensation is based on outdated rules. However, the RoW policy was amended in June 2024, with new guidelines released in March 2025 to ensure better compensation and greater transparency for landowners. Environmental clearance delays are another major hurdle.

Energy sector analyst Saddaf Alam notes that under the National Electricity Plan (Transmission), 2024, India aims to expand its transmission network to 6.48 lakh circuit kilometers, boost transformation capacity to 23.45 lakh MVA, and increase High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) capacity to 66,750 MW by 2032. Achieving this requires faster approvals, greater public awareness, stronger state cooperation, and active participation through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models. Private investment has already improved technology, speed, and cost-efficiency, and with renewable energy and digital solutions gaining prominence, the private sector's role will be even more critical. By early 2025, India's transmission lines of 220 kV and above spanned 4.92 lakh circuit kilometers, while transformation capacity reached 1,269 GVA — making it one of the world's largest synchronized power grids. The integrated grid can now handle power exchanges up to 118,740 MW. As a result, power shortages have fallen drastically: from 4.2% in 2014 to just 0.1% in 2025. India has also emerged as a net power exporter.

Students should study with discipline and rise to a higher level



:- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao "Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle October 22):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that students should set high goals and work continuously to achieve them. "On Wednesday, the District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the Zilla Parishad High School in Ramannapet Mandal Center. "How many teachers are there in the school?"

The attendance register was checked to see if everyone is coming or not. The DEO was instructed to suspend the staff who did not come to the school without any permission. He asked how many students there were in total in the school. Out of them, how many students were studying in class 10. He asked the students whether they were being served quality food according to the daily menu. They want to provide quality and delicious meals to the students as per the menu. .

The Collector gave math lessons to the students in class 10. The students were made to do calculations. He said that all the students should prepare for the annual exams from now on. He said that if you study well, write the exams and get good marks, our district will get a good name. The parents of the students who did not come to school today called and asked why they did not come. He said that no student should miss school. "The concerned officials participated in this program.

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao participated in the Giri Pradakshina. Later, they visited Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy in the temple and performed special pujas. After that, the temple priests blessed him and the temple officials handed over laddu prasad.

Habsiguda Division Congress Leaders Convey Diwali Greetings to Parameshwar Reddy



“Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 23 (Indian Chronicle):” Under the leadership of former Medchal-Malkajgiri District Youth Congress President Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy, the Congress leaders of Habsiguda met Uppal Constituency Congress Party Incharge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy on Thursday. They felicitated him grandly and extended their Diwali greetings. “On this occasion, Parameshwar Reddy advised the leaders to bring any issues related to Habsiguda to his attention so that they could be resolved. “Those who participated in the event included Habsiguda Division Congress Party President Gannaram Vijay Kumar, Division General Secretary and Endowments Department Dharmendra Naik (Dharma), Division Indiramma Committee Member Gundurajanna, and Division Minority Leader Javeed.

BRS Candidate Maganti Sunitha Gopinath Will Win with a Huge Majority Bannala Praveen Mudiraj

“Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 22 (Indian Chronicle):” As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign, BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, along with corporators Devender Reddy, Prabhudas, and local leaders from Uppal and Maheshwaram constituencies, participated in an extensive door-to-door campaign in Ellareddyguda and Srinagar Colony covering polling booths 294, 295, and 296. “They appealed to the public to vote for the BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha Gopinath and ensure her victory by casting their votes for the Car symbol. Speaking on the occasion, Bannala Praveen Mudiraj said that people at every doorstep are openly expressing their wish for KCR to return as Chief Minister and are determined to vote for Maganti Sunitha Gopinath. He added that after the Congress government came to power, it made 420 promises, but not a single one has been fulfilled, and people feel deceived. Voters have resolved to teach Congress a lesson by voting for the Car symbol, he said. “Among those who took part in the campaign were Srinagar Colony Incharge and Ex-Corporator Mahesh Yadav, Prabhudas, Devender Reddy, senior booth



incharges Eddula Kondal Reddy, Cheryala Srinivas, Masa Shekhar, Kokonda Jagan, Shyam, Banti, Sai, and several other local leaders who actively participated in the massive door-to-door outreach program.

Youth Awareness Conference in Karimnagar



CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUUREAU, OCTOBER 22, "INDIAN CHRONICLE" Mahadeva Charitable Trust founder president Urumalla Viswam has called on young men and women to participate in a large scale and make the Youth Awareness Conference to be held Today (on Friday) at 10 am in Karimnagar. “Speaking at a media conference here on Wednesday, he said that the youth have the determination to achieve anything in the world and that the youth should play a role in guiding governments towards education, questioning, education, medicine and employment. To bring the youth on a platform to be politically aware, a large-scale youth awareness conference is being organised in Karimnagar district centre at the Godamgadda SBS Function Hall in the city to raise awareness among the youth. “He said that motivational speakers, personality development experts, career guidance gurus, educationists, doctors, lawyers, and leaders from across parties, who are well-known in the state of Telangana, will participate in this conference. Viswam said that Mahadeva Charitable Trust is organising this programme as part of education, medicine, employment and creativity. He said that food and accommodation will be provided. The trust members participated in this meeting.

OU Professors Protest Over Pro-motion Delays; Demand Response from University Administration

“Indian Chronicle October 22 Tarnaka OU: Professors of Osmania University (OU) have been staging daily lunchtime protests, alleging injustice in the recent promotion process. The faculty members said that despite submitting an official letter to the Vice-Chancellor regarding the issue, the administration has not provided any response, instead choosing to ignore their concerns. “The protesting professors demanded an explanation from the university authorities on why the promotions were halted without justification. During the protest held in front of the Department of Chemistry, OUTA President Prof. Manohar stated that the poem written and circulated on WhatsApp groups by Prof. Venkata Dasu was a personal expression. He added that if the poetry reflects truth and moral integrity, all faculty members stand in solidarity with him. The demonstration saw participation from several senior faculty members, including Prof. Manohar, Prof. Surender (General Secretary), Prof. Venkata Dasu, Prof. Madhuri, Prof. Sujatha, Prof. Roja Rani Padmaja, Prof. Gangadhar, Prof. Aravind, and others. The professors reaffirmed that their



protests would continue until the university administration provides a transparent and fair explanation regarding the stalled promotions.

Prabhakar Reddy Urges DCC President Post for Rangareddy District Local Leaders



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 22, (Indian Chronicle): Congress senior leader and TPCC representative Jakkidi Prabhakar Reddy met Telangana PCC President and MLC Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud and AICC Secretary and Telangana State Co-incharge P. Viswanathan in Hyderabad. As part of the ongoing selection process for the Rangareddy District Congress Committee (DCC) presi-



dent post, Prabhakar Reddy urged the party leadership to allocate the position only to local leaders from Rangareddy district. He emphasized that the post should go to those who have worked dedicatedly for the Congress party's growth in the district over the years, consistently supporting the organization and strengthening its base at the grassroots level.

Boduppall Leaders Extend Support to Congress Candidate Naveen Yadav in Jubilee Hills By-Election



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Boduppall, October 22, (Indian Chronicle): As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign, former Boduppall Municipal Corporation Ex Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav led a team to meet Congress candidate Naveen Yadav at his residence and conveyed their

support. Former Ex corporator Singireddy Padma Reddy joined the meeting along with former Ex corporators Suman Naik, Bingi Jangaiah Yadav, Kiran Kumar Reddy, Sisa Venkatesh Goud, Gurralla Venkatesh Yadav, Jadige Mahender Yadav, contested corporator Pogula Dilip Reddy, and several others.

Tarnaka X Road Chokes as Illegal Parking Sparks Daily Traffic Nightmare



“Indian Chronicle October 22 Tarnaka OU: Commuters navigating Tarnaka X Road are facing daily frustration as illegal parking in front of Sanman Hotel continues unabated, causing severe traffic congestion and inconvenience to hundreds of motorists. Customers visiting the hotel are reportedly parking their vehicles on the roadside without any regard for traffic regulations, often leaving them for hours. This has turned the main thoroughfare into a bottleneck, affecting RTC buses and private vehicles moving from Secunderabad side towards ECIL X Road and vice versa. Motorists say they are forced to weave through blocked lanes, often risking accidents, due to the unregulated parking. Local commuters expressed their irritation at the seeming indifference of authorities. “Police officers conduct regular traffic duties at Tarnaka X Road, but right in front of Sanman Hotel, these vehicles are parked openly in a straight line, as if rules don't apply here. It's infuriating to see the disregard for law and order,” said a resident caught in the morning jam. The problem, they

claim, is not limited to one hotel. Pavements and roads in all directions from Tarnaka Chowrasta are being encroached upon by commercial establishments, creating morning and evening traffic snarls that disrupt the daily lives of commuters. Many residents and vehicle owners feel helpless, watching their daily commute turn into a stressful ordeal. Commuters are demanding immediate action from authorities to regulate the parking practices of commercial complexes and enforce rules on the streets. They stress that urgent intervention is necessary to prevent accidents, reduce traffic jams, and restore the dignity of public roads. “It is not just about convenience it is about safety, fairness, and respecting public space. The authorities must act now before the situation worsens,” said another frustrated motorist. The Tarnaka X Road traffic bottleneck is fast becoming a symbol of unchecked commercial encroachment and administrative apathy, leaving daily commuters to navigate chaos on a road that should otherwise be a lifeline for the city's traffic flow.

Vishnuvardhan Reddy Leads Door-to-Door Campaign for BRS Candidate Maganti Sunitha Gopinath at Ellareddyguda



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 22, (Indian Chronicle): Former Ex MLA and PJR's son Vishnuvardhan Reddy conducted an intensive door-to-door campaign at Srinagar Colony, Ellareddyguda, in support of BRS party MLA candidate Maganti Sunitha Gopinath. During the campaign, he appealed to the public to extend their support to



strengthen the BRS in the upcoming elections. Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy and MLC Naveen Reddy also joined the campaign and interacted with local residents, highlighting the development works taken up by the BRS government in the constituency. Corporators, former corporators, BRS party leaders, and activists actively participated in the program and expressed confidence in the party's victory.

The Premia Academy hosts 'Maitri 2025'

Hyderabad: Over 300 students from various schools across the city participated in Maitri 2025 – an Art, Literary, and Cultural Fiesta hosted by The Premia Academy. The event with the theme 'Forging Futures, One Step at a Time' provided a vibrant, global stage for young talents to demonstrate their creativity, collaboration, and confidence through diverse artistic and literary expressions. The festival featured over 20 vibrant competitions across art, literature, music, dance, and theatre, fostering cultural understanding and imagination, a press release said. The event was attended by Simrat Kaur, a celebrated trailblazer in art, film, and fashion and known for her Gold Medal in Fine Arts and her impactful work in VFX on major films like Life of Pi and The Mummy, and is currently leading The Kaftan Company.



The Premia Academy hosted Maitri 2025, a cultural and literary festival with the theme 'Forging Futures, One Step at a Time.' Over 300 students participated in 20+ competitions, showcasing talent in art, literature, music, dance, and theatre, attended by Simrat Kaur

Maganti Sunitha’s Victory Certain with the Blessings of Jubilee Hills Residents — MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 22, (Indian chronicle): BRS MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy expressed confidence that Maganti Sunitha would secure a decisive victory in the Jubilee Hills by-election with the support of local residents. As part of the campaign in Ambedkar Nagar, Somajiguda Division, he joined BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha Gopinath along with MLC Naveen Reddy and former Tandur MLA Pilot Rohith Reddy. Speaking at the event, Laxma Reddy said that the development works carried out in Jubilee Hills over the past decade under Gopinath's leadership are clearly visible. He criticized the current Congress government for



demolishing poor people's houses under the pretext of the Hydra project, while protecting the interests of the wealthy. He alleged that the government is making the poor homeless and restless in the name of urban projects. He urged voters to defeat the Congress in this election, stating that if Maganti Sunitha wins, it will send a strong message to the government that the "Hydra" project should not harm poor families again. The campaign saw participation from corporators Prabhudas and Devender Reddy, BRS state leaders Sai Jain Shekhar and Mahipal Reddy, as well as local leaders Appu Khan, Pradeep Choudhary, division presidents, booth presidents, in-charges, and coordinators.

Karate Mallikarjun Goud Appointed as Regional Chairman and Admin of HRPCI for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh

“““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Chengicherla, October 22, (Indian chronicle): The National Chairman of the Human Rights Protection Council of India (HRPCI), Talluri Prasanna Kumar, today appointed Karate Mallikarjun Goud as the Regional Chairman and Admin for the combined states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Prasanna Kumar said that Mallikarjun Goud has been actively involved in politics and social service for over 30 years. He has also served as the president of karate associations across both Telugu states for the past 18 years. His dedication to promoting sports and supporting organizations selflessly, without expecting anything in return, has been commendable. He has continuously encouraged students and athletes, provided valuable suggestions to strengthen organizations, and contributed significantly to sports development across the region. Recognizing his consistent efforts and commitment, HRPCI decided to entrust him with this important responsibility. Expressing his gratitude, Karate Mallikarjun Goud thanked National Chairman Prasanna Kumar and the HRPCI organization for the opportunity. He stated that he would work with dedication to expand HRPCI activities in both states, create awareness among the public, and contribute to the organization's growth and mission in the future.



Grand Sadar Celebrations in Medipally



“““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Medipally, October 22, (Indian chronicle): Former ex Mayor Amar Singh participated in the Sadar festival celebrations held in Medipally. The event was attended by Government Whip Beerla Ilayya, Vajresh Yadav, former Medchal ex MLA Sudheer Reddy,



and former BMC ex Mayor Ajay Yadav Totakoori. Prominent personalities including Beerla Shankar and Amberpet Shankar were also present at the celebrations. During the event, Amar Singh spoke about the cultural significance of the Sadar festival and emphasized the importance of unity within the community. He said that the festival stands as a symbol of tradition, culture, and harmony in society.

Officials should cooperate with farmers to purchase the grain harvested by farmers



: Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao““Manduva Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 22):-““Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the grain harvested by farmers should be purchased smoothly without leaving a single grain. On Wednesday, the District Collector made a surprise inspection of the FPO grain purchase center in Dubbaka village of Ramannapet mandal. He asked how many piles of grain have arrived so far. He asked whether the moisture content of all the piles of grain that arrived was checked. He said that the piles of grain that have received moisture content should be weighed regularly, loaded in lorries and sent to the relevant mills. He said that no negligence should be allowed. He said that there should be no storage of grain in the purchase centers. He said that the grain should be sent only when it arrives. Farm-

ers are asked to keep tarpaulin covers available. “The concerned officials participated in this program.

DOCUMENTS LOST

I, Surya Mangala, have lost my original Link copies No. 2380/2008, 4609/2013

Property documents lost.

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NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 22, (Indian chronicle):

Doctors should pay special attention to the health of pregnant women and provide appropriate advice and treatment to pregnant women



- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao““Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 22):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao has ordered the doctors and staff of the Medical Health Department to pay special attention to the health of pregnant women in the district and provide appropriate advice, suggestions and treatment to pregnant women. He participated in the review meeting held on maternal deaths at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Wednesday and reviewed it. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that special attention should be paid to the health of pregnant women in the district to prevent maternal deaths.“He said that the health of pregnant women (prenatal care services) should be improved and ANMs and ASHA workers should follow up on the health of pregnant women“He said that high-risk pregnant women should be identified and special attention should be paid to their medical treatment. A review was conducted on 4 maternal deaths in the district. The district medical and health officials and staff were instructed to pay special attention to the health of pregnant women, provide timely treatment and ensure that maternal deaths do not occur in the future. They were also asked to conduct timely vaccination for pregnant women.“They were instructed to conduct home visits of ANMs and ASHAs, register pregnant women in a timely



manner, and provide them with vaccinations, pills, and treatment. On this occasion, they were asked to take special measures to identify high-risk cases in a timely manner and ensure that the mother and child are safe without any problems during pregnancy and childbirth. If necessary, they were advised to send them to a referral hospital for delivery. They were asked to keep the medical officers, supervisors, ANMs, and ASHA workers in UPHCs informed about the health status of pregnant women from time to time and provide appropriate instructions, advice, and treatment. They were asked to speak to pregnant women with love and affection so that they can gain confidence in government hospitals.

They want to ensure normal delivery as much as possible. Special care should be taken to identify high-risk cases in time and provide treatment at the right time so that the mother and child are safe. Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao, District Medical Officer Dr. Manohar, District Deputy Medical Officer Choutuppall Division and Program Officer MHN Dr. Yashoda, Deputy Dr. Shilpini, Bhuvanagiri Division Dr. Indrani, Gynecologist, Dr. Kavitha, Pediatrician, Dr. Prabhakar, IMA President, DCHS Dr. Chinna Nayak, Mandal Medical Officers, Health Supervisors, ANMs, and ASHA workers were present in this meeting.

Strict action will be taken if officials and staff neglect their duties

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao““Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 22):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that strict action will be taken if officials and staff neglect their duties. On Wednesday, the District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the Zilla Parishad High School in Ramannapet Mandal Center.“The attendance register was checked to see how many teachers were in the school and whether all of them were coming or not. The DEO was ordered to suspend the staff who did not come to the school without any permission. He asked how many students were in the school and how many of them were studying in class 10. He asked the students whether they were being served quality food as per the daily menu or not. He wanted to provide quality and delicious meals to the students as per the menu. The Collector gave math lessons to the students in class 10. The students were made to do calculations. He said that all the students should prepare for the annual exams from now on. He said that if you study well, write the exams and get good marks, our district will get a good name. The parents of the students who did not come to school today called



and asked why they did not come. He said that no student should miss school. As part of this, “Record Assistant K. Chakrapani and “Office Subordinate Koteswar” were suspended for neglecting their duties. The concerned officials participated in this program.



Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle October 22):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayiliah inaugurated

paddy procurement centers under the auspices of IKP in Yadagirigutta mandal, Jangampally, Datarpalli, villages of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

Beerla Anita presented a financial gift for the wedding of a girl child



““Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 22):- Beerla Foundation Chairperson Beerla Anita presented a financial gift for the wedding of the daughter of Nerella Balamani and Kee'She" Balanarsayya Mudiraj, both of Kolanupaka village, Aleru



mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Similarly, Beerla Foundation Chairperson Beerla Anita presented a financial gift for the wedding of the daughter of Indrala Lakshmi-Swamy, both of Raipalli village, Atmakur mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

Found dead with gunshot wound, IPS officer Puran Kumar was known for speaking up against caste bias, administrative issues



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Haryana cadre IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, 52, who was allegedly found dead with a gunshot wound at his Sector-11 residence in Chandigarh Tuesday, was known for his proactive interventions in various issues related to administration, seniority, and rights of officers, besides the transparent functioning of the system. The 2001-batch officer, who hailed from Andhra Pradesh, never shied away from challenging assignments or postings and was particularly vocal about issues pertaining to the representation of Scheduled Castes (SC) in police ranks. An engineering graduate, Kumar served in several districts of Haryana, including Ambala and Kurukshetra, and also served as the Inspector General of Police (IGP) heading Ambala and Rohtak ranges, besides heading the Home Guards, Telecommunications, and several other key departments. He was due to retire in 2033.

In recent years, he had been involved in several administrative and procedural disputes with the Haryana government. In April last year, Kumar returned his official car to the state police department, asking for a car as per his entitlement. Alleging "discriminatory and selective" allotment of official vehicles to IPS officers in Haryana, he wrote to the state's then chief secretary T V S N Prasad, urging him to look into the matter. At the time, Kumar was the IGP (Telecommunications) and also headed the state police's Dial-112 Emergency Response project. Last year, he raised questions about the promotion of IPS officers of the 1991, 1996, 1997, and 2005 batches in Haryana. In his letter to Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, Kumar stated that the promotions were "illegal because they override the

guidelines of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs based solely on the concurrence of the Finance Department". In his letter to Saini, Kumar had mentioned: "On October 11, 2022, I had submitted a representation to the then Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department, TVSN Prasad...requesting that the officers of the 2001 batch be considered for promotion to the DIG rank as per the guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs". He also demanded that their pay be refixed and arrears be given.

Kumar further wrote that he believes that his representation was not acted upon because he and his batchmates belong to the SC category. He also claimed that in the state's Home Department, even files that do not require legal opinion are unnecessarily sent to legal officers. Kumar alleged that he was being discriminated against on the basis of caste, citing that IPS officers of the 1997 batch had their pay fixed in advance and were granted advance increments. Although those orders were later put on hold, his own promotion was delayed. Last year, he also lodged five complaints – particularly of "harassment and humiliation" – against a senior IAS officer in less than two months and raised objections on the formation of a committee comprising three former IAS officers on February 8 to probe into his charges. In March 2023, the government posted him as IGP (Home Guards). However, quoting the gradation list of IPS officers and the IPS 2017 (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulation of Haryana, in October that year, Kumar informed the then chief secretary Sanjeev Kaushal that IGP (Home Guards) was not a cadre post in the state.

He added that the Home Department had informed the Punjab and Haryana High Court the same year that the post of IGP (Home Guards) was never created by the state government. Kumar alleged that he was "assigned the post despite there being vacant cadre posts in Haryana in the IGP rank to allegedly insult, humiliate and harass him in public view for over seven months now." In 2022, he initiated action over the alleged unauthorised construction of a temple in Police Lines, Sirsa, bringing attention to administrative oversight and triggering a probe into the matter. Kumar's wife, Amneet P Kumar, is a senior IAS officer. She is currently in Japan as part of an official delegation led by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.

'It's courtesy': Mamata meets BJP MP Khagen Murmu but skips meeting MLA Shankar Ghosh admitted to same hospital

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday visited the Siliguri hospital where BJP MP Khagen Murmu was admitted with injuries. However, she did not meet BJP MLA Shankar Ghosh, who is admitted at the same hospital.

The two BJP leaders were attacked by a 500-strong mob in Jalpaiguri district's Nagrakata village on Monday, when they had gone to check on people hit by floods and landslides in the Dooars region. The mob allegedly pelted stones, attacked them with sticks, and ransacked their vehicle. Banerjee spoke to Murmu and his family members inside the ICU cabin. She later said, "It's courtesy. I heard he got injured and I came to see him. He is stable now. He is diabetic and that is why doctors are keeping him under observation. He has a small injury under the ear."

Following the attack, Bengal BJP leadership had alleged that Trinamool Congress was behind the attack. "When we visited the area, suddenly some people came up to us and said they were Didi's sainik and why are you here, we said we are Modi ji's sainik," Ghosh claimed. The attack has sparked a political row between the ruling TMC and the opposition BJP. While the BJP has accused the TMC of orchestrating the assault, the Trinamool has hit back, alleging that BJP leaders were using the natural disaster as a backdrop for photo opportunities instead of offering help.



The TMC posted on X, "When adversity strikes, humanity must rise above politics. Smt. (Banerjee) embodies this very ethos. Today, she visited BJP MP Khagen Murmu in the hospital, personally inquiring about his health and well-being. For her, compassion knows no political boundaries, because service to humanity is the truest service to God." Meanwhile, the BJP questioned why no one was arrested after the attack. BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya said, "Mamata Banerjee went to see the condition of Khagen Murmu, that is fine, but what action was taken after this attack on our adivasi MP? No one has arrested those who attacked Shankar Ghosh and Khagen Murmu till date."

50 students from rural Pune leave for Isro Thiruvananthapuram through Zilla Parishad scheme



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Over 17,000 students had applied for the opportunity. Following three stages of selection tests, top-performing students were chosen for various educational tours. The ISRO visit is scheduled until October 9, covering key scientific and research centres such as the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), also known as the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).

A group of 50 students from rural Zilla Parishad schools in Pune district embarked Tuesday on an educational study tour to the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) centre in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The tour is organised under the District Planning Fund exclusively for students of classes 6 and 7 from Zilla Parishad primary schools. Over 17,000 students had applied for the opportunity. Following three stages of selection tests, top-performing students were chosen for various educational tours. The most notable tour will be that of contingent of 25 members to NASA in the US, with dates yet to be determined. In other such tours, 50 students will be taken to Delhi, and 10 others to Mumbai for similar educational exposure. The Isro visit is scheduled until October 9, covering key scientific and research centres such as the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), also known as the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Isro headquarters, and other science and technology sites in Thiruvananthapuram. To guide and mentor the students during the tour, scientists from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) are accompanying the group, providing valuable insights into space sci-

ence and research. The group comprises 25 boys and 25 girls, accompanied by six teachers, two representatives from the tour agency, and officials from the Education Department, including Extension Officer Chandrakant Ugale and Deputy Education Officer Sunil Gache. For most of these students, the Pune-Thiruvananthapuram flight marks their first-ever air travel experience, adding immense excitement and pride to this educational journey. This innovative educational initiative has been conceptualised by Pune Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer Gajanan Patil and Education Officer (Primary) Sanjay Naikde. Before departure, students were briefed at Pune Airport on flight safety, boarding procedures, and travel etiquette. Santosh Dhoke, the Airport Director, along with representatives from the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), and IndiGo, were present to see off the young scientists. With this initiative, Pune Zilla Parishad aims to promote scientific curiosity and nurture young minds from rural areas, inspiring the next generation of innovators and researchers.

Hindon Airport cancels several morning flights ahead of Air Force Day celebrations

Several flights from Ghaziabad's Hindon Airport have been canceled between 8.30'am and 11.30'am from October 6 to 8 due to a full dress rehearsal ahead of the Indian Air Force's Foundation Day celebrations on Wednesday, officials said. Currently, over 40 flights operate daily to and from Hindon Airport to 16 cities after operations at the airport were increased this March with the entry of carriers like Air India Express and Indigo. newly appointed Airport director, Dr. Mahesh Chilaka, said several Indigo and Air India Express flights have been cancelled for the Foundation Day that is being celebrated at the Hindon Air Force Station after three years. .

Prices of homes in NCR rising fastest among top 7 markets in India; Noida and Greater Noida are providing the major push



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

The National Capital Region (NCR) recorded the steepest rise in housing prices among India's top seven cities in the third quarter of 2025, with average rates increasing by 24% year-on-year, according to data from real estate consultancy Anarock. A 1,000-sq ft house now costs around Rs 90 lakh on average in the NCR, compared to Rs 72 lakh last year. Average prices in NCR stood at Rs 8,900 per square foot in the July-September period this year, compared to Rs 7,200 a year earlier. On a quarterly basis too, the market showed strong momentum, rising 3% over the second quarter, when prices averaged Rs 8,650 per sq foot. This was the biggest quarterly increase witnessed among India's top metropolitan cities. The Indian Express has previously reported that the supply of new houses in the NCR has skewed massively towards luxury and ultra-luxury segments, leaving the affordable and premium segments starved of inventory.

The share of newly-launched houses priced below Rs 40 lakh dropped sharply from 62% in 2020 to 11% last year, according to Anarock data. Meanwhile, units in the luxury and ultra luxury sections – worth Rs 1.5 crore and above – saw a massive jump, with 70% houses added to the market in 2024 being in this category, up from only 13% in 2019. In fact, as many as 59% of houses in this category that were added to the market last year were worth more than Rs 2.5 crore. Earlier reports have pointed out that Greater Noida and Noida have led the steep increase in housing prices, mainly due to the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar. Within the NCR, Delhi has the highest average property prices – at Rs 25,200 per sq foot earlier this year, which would translate into more than Rs 2.5 crore for a relatively small 1,000-sq ft apartment. Taken as a whole, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) remains the most expensive housing market at Rs 17,230 per sq ft. However, prices of property increased relatively slowly, at about 6% annually. Prices in Bengaluru, India's technology hub, was the second-fastest growing after the NCR, with prices up 10% year-on-year to Rs 8,870 per sq ft on average. Other major southern and eastern markets saw more moderate increases, says the report. Prices in Hyderabad rose 8% to Rs 7,750 per sq ft, while Chennai saw a 5% increase to Rs 7,010. Pune and Kolkata registered smaller annual increases of 4% and 6% respectively. Sequential quarterly growth, or quarter-over-quarter growth across these cities was mostly in the range of 1%, says the report. Across all seven cities, the average price stood at Rs 9,105 per sq ft in the third quarter this year, reflecting a 9% year-on-year rise from Rs. 8,390 in Q3 of 2024 and a 1% increase over the previous quarter.

Bombay High Court refuses to stay GR granting Kunbi status to Marathas under OBC category, seeks state's reply

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

The Bombay High Court Tuesday refused to grant interim stay on the September 2 Government Resolution (GR) on the implementation of the Hyderabad Gazette to grant Kunbi status to Marathas from the Marathwada region. The court also issued notices to the Maharashtra Government in various pleas challenging the GR and sought its reply in affidavit through the Social Justice and Special Assistance Department within four weeks. The division bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam A Ankhad passed the order on pleas against the GR which was issued following hectic talks between ministers and Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Patil to resolve the quota crisis. The GR mentioned implementing the Hyderabad Gazette, a 1918 order by the then Nizam of Hyderabad. Kunbi is classified as an Other Backward Class (OBC) caste in Maharashtra.



The pleas alleged that the impugned GR was issued due to "political pressure", and it "arbitrarily extended OBC status to a politically dominant and socially advanced community without sufficient data" in violation of Article 14 of the Constitution and that discriminated against genuine OBC communities by diluting their share of reservation. The petitioners, through Senior Advocate Anil Anturkar and Venkatesh Dhond, also argued that various committees constituted by Maharashtra government and State Backward Class Commissions had made a clear distinction between Marathas and Kunbis, and had observed that the Marathas did not fall within the OBC category. Dhond, appearing for petitioner Maharashtra Mali Samaj Mahasangh, said that they were in no way challenging the inclusion of Maratha-Kunbis or Kunbi-Marathas under OBC, but their apprehension was that through the impugned GR, procedure has been laid down "to (facilitate) the infiltration of other persons belonging to Maratha community in the OBC category and therefore the state's response was necessary to clarify certain aspects of GR." However, opposing the pleas, Advocate General Birendra Saraf, appearing for the state government, submitted that the petitioners were not the aggrieved persons and they could not challenge the GR based on the grounds indicated in their pleas. Anturkar, representing the petitioner Kunbi Sena, sought urgent interim relief citing upcoming civic elections in Maharashtra, and said that otherwise ineligible persons may get the benefit of the GR, obtain OBC certificate and contest from seats reserved for the category, which would create an "irrevers-

ible situation" if they win. Anturkar also referred to The Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Denotified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), NT, OBC and SBC (Regulation of Issuance and Verification of) Caste Certificate Act, 2000.

He argued that the impugned GR was issued without following mandatory procedure provided in the law pertaining to the government's rule-making powers. He argued that once the field is occupied by the statute, the government is denuded of its purview to exercise powers under Article 162 (executive power of the state) of the Constitution to issue such a GR. Anturkar claimed the GR was issued by ignoring the constitutional mandate under Article 338B of the Constitution, which provides that the state government shall consult the National Commission for Backward Classes on all major policy decisions affecting the socially and educationally backward classes. The petitioners also argued that the government has opened a "backdoor entry" for a community to get certificates under the OBC category. The court noted that the issue regarding the validity of GR based on provisions of the 2000 Act and rules framed under it, along with the applicability of the provision in Article 338B of the Constitution, can be decided after taking state government's response. The court also said that at present it was "not inclined" to make any observations regarding the executive powers of the state under Article 162 of the Constitution, and the same can be done after a "full-fledged" hearing. "At this stage, we are not elaborating upon issues raised by senior counsel (Anturkar) and would decline interim relief (seeking stay on GR)," the high court noted and posted a hearing for next month.

Trinamool using 'special community' to spread terror: Bengal BJP slams attack on MP Khagen Murmu



Alleging that there have been no arrests in the case due to political reasons, Bhattacharya said the only reason the BJP was attacked was because its candidates got healthy leads from the constituency.

after a mob attack in Jalpaiguri district's Nagrakata village. The BJP leaders had gone there on Monday to check on people hit by flood and landslide in the Dooars region of Bengal.

Alleging that there have been no arrests in the case due to political reasons, Bhattacharya said the only reason the BJP was attacked was because its candidates got healthy leads from the constituency. "The TMC is instigating a community against the BJP across Bengal... TMC is making a concerted effort to terrorise people everywhere. They are doing this before the SIR is conducted so that Election Commission officials do not reach certain areas. We demand an probe by the National Investigation Agency (NIA). This cannot go on." State may say Khagen Murmu was eve-teasing Naming four of the suspects allegedly involved in the attacks, the BJP posted on X: "Ramjan Ali, Saiful Haque, Ainul Ansari, Pinki Khatun... It is always the special community which Trinamool uses to carry out attacks. Mamata is playing a dangerous game in West Bengal — her intention is clear: she wants to make it like Bangladesh, and she is working in that direction. BJP and every BJP karyakarta are a hindrance to her plans, which is why she attacks us. People have decided — Trinamool's time is near, and no violence or force can save it." Bhattacharya said: "Shall we assume that BJP leaders would be attacked in Muslim areas? If all Muslims in the state endorse this, it is time they rethink their preferences." Referring to the ST commission seeking a report from the Bengal government, Bhattacharya said: "The ST Commission is doing its job. But we all know what reports the state submits. It may well be possible for the state government to write in its report that Khagen Murmu had eve-teased a woman and that's why the locals attacked him."

‘Was handed weapons and sent to Ukrainian territory’: Rohtak man’s kin seek help after he was lured into Russian army



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

After two men from Haryana’s Fatehabad were reported to have been trapped in the Russia-Ukraine war zone, one more family from the state has come forward claiming that their son was allegedly lured into joining the Russian Army, along with two others from Ambala and Sonipat. The family of Sandeep, 29, from Jethpur (Taimurpur) village in Rohtak, said he sent them a video informing them of his situation and pleading to be rescued. Sandeep had travelled to Russia along with youths from Sonipat, Ambala, and Uttar Pradesh. He went on a study visa on September 23, 2024, and was working part-time at a restaurant while studying. During his stay, his family claimed, he was ‘tricked’ into joining the Russian army as a cook. Soon after, he was handed weapons.

His maternal uncle, Shribhagwan, told media persons that they had paid Rs 6 lakh to an agent from Charkhi Dabri to send Sandeep abroad. “Initially, he worked at a restaurant in Russia, but now the army has handed him weapons and sent him to occupied Ukrainian territory — just 2.5 km from the city,” Shribhagwan said.Sandeep’s father, Bakshe Ram, added, “Our family is financially very weak. Sandeep is the youngest of five siblings. He has completed his BA degree. One of his brothers is a hairdresser in Jhajjar, another works in Gurgaon. One sister is divorced, while another sister is married. The family was hoping that sending him abroad will improve our financial situation. We took a loan to send him to Russia.”“Our family is going through a terrible situation. We sold all our jewellery and borrowed money to pay around Rs 6 lakh to an agent to send Sandeep to Russia. Since then, he hasn’t been able to send even a

rupee back. The house is now in a dilapidated condition,” the father added.‘Non-Russians sent out on patrol at night’His sister Saroj said he informed them over a video call that their group was not even allowed to light fires. “They are given only one meal of porridge per day. He fears being attacked during night patrols. He spends the day in a bunker, and at night, non-Russian recruits are sent out on patrol. He begged us to bring him back home somehow,” she said.Shribhagwan said they have written to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Embassy, and the Prime Minister’s Office requesting to bring Sandeep back. They also met BJP national secretary Omprakash Dhankar, who forwarded their letter to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The family is pleading with the government to help bring their son back.

Bakshe Ram said multiple surgeries have rendered him unable to work. Sandeep’s mother has also undergone surgery. They had pinned their hopes on him, but now he too is trapped. They are urging the Indian government to contact Russian authorities and help bring their son home.A man from Ambala and another from Sonipat too have been trapped in the war zone, Sandeep’s family said, but their details are yet to be ascertained.Earlier, the families of Ankit Jangra and Vijay Poonia of Kumharia village in Fatehabad alleged that they were forcibly recruited into the Russian army. The two were sent to the warzone, following which their families have lost contact with them for over three weeks now.Fatehabad native Ramesh, who returned from Russia, revealed that a network is “actively recruiting youth into the Russian army” using monetary temptations. “They give 10 days of basic weapons training, then send them to the frontlines with the harsh choice – kill or be killed,” he said.Ramesh added that this network is not limited to Indians. “They are targeting young men from Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan as well. They promise a luxurious life and high salaries. Youths from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan often resist because they understand the Russian language. But Indians, Nepalis, Pakistanis, and Sri Lankans fall into the trap easily,” he added.The families of Jangra and Poonia now see a ray of hope after the MEA released a list of 27 Indian youths forcibly recruited into the Russian army and sent to fight in the Ukraine war. Their names are on the list, and the government is now in talks with the Russian authorities to bring them back home.

Canadian PM Carney visits Trump as relations between them remain at a low point

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Washington: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will meet with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office on Tuesday at a time when one of the world’s most durable and amicable alliances has been fractured by Trump’s trade war and annexation threats.Carney’s second visit to the White House comes ahead of a review next year of the free trade agreement, which is critical to Canada’s economy. More than 77 per cent of Canada’s exports go to the US.Trump’s talk of making Canada the 51st state and his tariffs have Canadians feeling an undeniable sense of betrayal. Relations with Canada’s southern neighbour and longtime ally haven’t been worse.“We’ve had ups and downs, but this is the lowest point in relations that I can recall,” said Frank McKenna, a former Canadian ambassador to the United States and current deputy chairman of TD Bank.

“Canadians aren’t being instructed what to do; they are simply voting with their feet,” he said. “I talk every day to ordinary citizens who are changing their vacation plans, and I talk to large business owners who are moving reward trips away or executive business trips. There is an outright rebellion.” There is fear in Canada over what will happen to the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Carney is looking to get some relief on some sector-specific tariffs, but expectations are low.“Improving relations with the White House ahead of the USMCA review is certainly an objective of the trip, but opposition parties and part of the Canadian public will criticise Prime Minister Carney if he doesn’t achieve some progress on the tariff front at this stage,” said Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal.Trump said Monday that he anticipated Carney wanted to use the meeting to discuss trade.

“I guess he’s going to ask about tariffs, because a lot of companies from Canada are moving into the United States,” Trump told reporters after signing an executive order related to Alaska. “He’s losing a lot of companies in Canada.”Carney has said the USMCA, which is up for review in 2026, is an advantage for Canada at a time when it is clear that the US is charging for access to its market.Carney has said the commitment of the US to the core of USMCA means that over 85 per cent of Canada-



US trade continues to be free of tariffs. He said the U.S. average tariff rate on Canadian goods is 5.6 per cent and remains the lowest among all its trading partners.But Trump has some sector-specific tariffs on Canada, known as Section 232 tariffs, that are having an impact. There are 50 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, for example.McKenna said he is hearing Canada might get some relief in steel and aluminum. “It could be 50 per cent to 25 per cent or agreeing on tariff-free quotas to allow the steel and aluminum to go through at last year’s levels,” he said.

The ties between the two countries are without parallel. About USD 2.5 billion (nearly USD 3.6 billion Canadian) worth of goods and services cross the border each day. Canada is the top export destination for 36 US states. There is close cooperation on defense, border security and law enforcement, and a vast overlap in culture, traditions and pastimes.About 60 per cent of US crude oil imports are from Canada, and 85 per cent of US electricity imports are from Canada.Canada is also the largest foreign supplier of steel, aluminum and uranium to the US and has 34 critical minerals and metals that the Pentagon is eager for and investing in for national security.“The bigger prize would be getting a mutual agreement to negotiate as quickly as possible the free trade relationship,” McKenna said. “If the United States were to threaten us with the six months’ notice of termination, I think it would represent a deep chill all across North America.”

Canada's PM Mark Carney makes second White House visit to talk trade with U.S. President Trump

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Canada’s Prime Minister Mark Carney is making his second visit to the White House in five months on Tuesday (October 7, 2025) under increasing pressure to address U.S. tariffs on steel, autos and other goods that are hurting Canada’s economy.A Canadian government official and several analysts played down the chances of an imminent trade deal with U.S. President Donald Trump and said the mere fact that discussions are continuing should be considered a success for Carney.

The prime minister last visited the Oval Office in May, when he bluntly told Trump that Canada would never be for sale in response to Trump’s repeated threat to purchase or annex Canada.Since then, the prime minister has made numerous concessions to Canada’s biggest trading partner, including dropping some counter-tariffs and scrapping a digital services tax aimed at U.S. tech companies.PM Carney’s office has said the working visit will focus on forging a new economic and security relationship with the U.S.White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said Monday (October 6, 2025): “I’m sure trade will be a topic of discussion ... and all of the other issues that are facing both Canada and the United States.”While the majority of Canada’s exports are entering the United States tariff-free under the U.S.-Canada-Mexico free trade agreement, tariffs have pummeled Canada’s steel, aluminum and auto sectors and a number of small businesses.“The reality is that right now, Canadian products have among the lowest tariff rate,” said Jonathan Kalles, a former adviser to

Carney’s predecessor, Justin Trudeau. “You don’t want to poke the bear when things could be much worse,” he said, adding that any meeting with Trump is a calculated risk.“Carney will probably get a better deal through private negotiations, not the pomp and ceremony of going to the White House,” he said.

Mr. Carney won an election in April promising to be tough with Trump and secure a new economic relationship with the United States. Shachi Kurl, President of the Angus Reid Institute, said polls show Canadians have largely been willing to give Carney time to deal with Trump.“But that amount of time is finite,” Mr. Kurl said, noting pressure may build with job losses mounting and economic growth hobbled by U.S. tariffs. The U.S. is the destination for nearly three-quarters of Canadian exports.

Canada’s opposition leader, Pierre Poilievre, has criticised Mr. Carney’s approach to Mr. Trump, noting the prime minister’s earlier pledge to “negotiate a win” by July 21.Asa McKercher, a specialist in Canada-U.S. relations at St. Francis Xavier University, said Mr. Carney’s meeting with Mr. Trump would be a success if there is any recognition that Canada has moved to address some of Trump’s persistent grievances.“Carney has just set up this new defense agency and boosted military spending, so it would be great if Trump could reduce some of those sectoral tariffs on autos,” Mr. McKercher said, citing Trump’s past complaint that Canada is a “military free-rider.”

Houthis detain nine more U.N. staff as part of Yemen crackdown



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen have detained nine employees of the United Nations as part of a long-running crackdown on the organisation, the U.N. said.The detentions bring the number of detained U.N. workers in Houthi-held territories in Yemen to 53 since 2021, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement late Monday (October 6, 2025). No details about the circumstances or timing of the latest detentions were given.

Mr. Dujarric said the crackdown has impeded “the U.N.’s ability to operate in Yemen and to deliver critical assistance” to the local population in the Arab world’s poorest country. He called for “the immediate and unconditional release” of all U.N. staff as well as workers from other international organisations and diplomatic missions who have been detained by the rebels. “They must be respected and protected in accordance with applicable international law,”

Mr. Dujarric said.A spokesman for the rebels did not respond to calls and messages seeking comment.

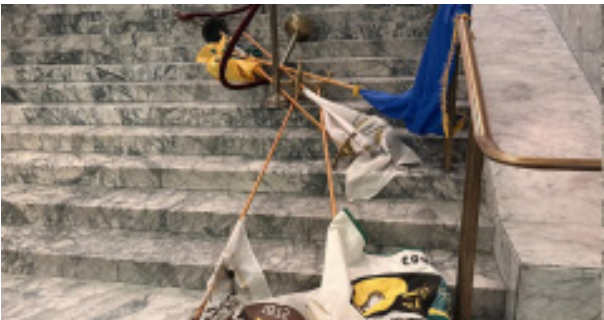
The rebels have previously said that their crackdown on the U.N. and other international groups is linked to suspected members of an alleged espionage network. In August, the rebels raided U.N. offices in the capital, Sanaa, and detained 19 employees, according to the U.N. They later released Lana Shukri Kataw, the deputy director of UNICEF in the country.The raids were the latest in a long-running Houthi crackdown against the U.N. and other international organisations working in rebel-held areas in Yemen. The crackdown has forced the U.N. to suspend its operations in the Houthi stronghold of Saada province in northern Yemen, following the detention of eight staff in January 2025.

The U.N. also relocated its top humanitarian coordinator in Yemen from Sanaa to the coastal city of Aden, which serves as seat for the internationally recognised government.Yemen has plunged into civil war in 2014 when the Houthis seized Sanaa and much of northern Yemen, forcing the internationally recognised government into exile.A coalition led by Saudi Arabia and including the United Arab Emirates intervened the following year in an attempt to restore the government. The war has been stalemated in recent years, and the rebels reached a deal with Saudi Arabia that stopped their attacks on the kingdom in return for ceasing the Saudi-led strikes on their territories.The rebels are engaged in tit-for-tat attacks with Israel over the war in Gaza. They have also attacked ships sailing in the Red Sea off Yemen over allegations of links to Israel.Israel has previously launched waves of airstrikes in response to the Houthis’ firing of missiles and drones at Israel.

Intruder with mental health issues vandalises Washington state Capitol

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

An intruder broke into the Washington State Capitol and smashed a glass door, set fire to a rug and flag, and knocked over busts of George Washington and Martin Luther King Jr. before he was taken into custody by State troopers.The man, who has a history of mental health challenges, was booked into Thurston County Jail on suspicion of first-degree burglary, first-degree arson and first-degree malicious mischief, said Chris Loftis, spokesman for the Washington State Patrol. “The suspect’s actions were very purposeful at the Capitol, but appears to be an individual experiencing a mental health crisis of some sort,” Mr. Loftis said in an email to The Associated Press.The man parked in a flower bed in the flag circle in front of the Legislative Building at about 10:15 p.m. on Sunday (October 6, 2025) and was spotted by someone with the Department of Enterprise Services, which stewards the state Capitol Campus. They alerted the State Patrol.The suspect had two hammers and broke in through a ground-floor office window, proceeded upstairs where he damaged items as he



moved through the building, Mr. Loftis said.Lt. Gov. Denny Heck said the flags on the side of the Rotunda were knocked over and one was burned. "He broke a glass door to enter the State Reception Room, where he also set fire to several objects, including the original rug, which is a priceless treasure." Diandra Asana, spokesperson for Mr. Heck, said that the State Patrol did not find the incident to be politically motivated.

World Bank ups FY26 growth outlook to 6.5% on but downgrades next year’s forecast due to Trump tariffs

The World Bank has upgraded its growth outlook for India to 6.5% in 2025-26, from the earlier 6.3%, citing stronger domestic conditions and also the impact of the GST rate cuts. However, it has revised downward its forecast for 2026-27 to 6.3%, saying the impact of the US tariffs will dampen growth.In its South Asia Development Update released on Tuesday (October 7, 2025), the World Bank said India’s real GDP growth “exceeded expectations” in the April-June 2025 quarter, accelerating to 7.8%. It noted that growth was bolstered by strong private consumption and investment and boosted by lower-than-expected prices.

For the current financial year, the World Bank said India’s growth has been revised upwards to 6.5% from the earlier prediction of 6.3%. “India is expected to remain the world’s fastest growing major economy, underpinned by continued strength in consumption growth,” the report said. “Domestic conditions, particularly agricultural output and rural wage growth, have been better than expected.”

“The government’s reforms to the Goods and Services Tax (GST)— reducing the number of tax brackets and simplifying compliance— are expected to support activity,” it



added. However, it said that the forecast for 2026-27 has been downgraded from 6.5% to 6.3% as a result of the imposition of the 50% tariff on about three-quarters of India’s goods exports to the US. “India had been expected to face lower U.S. tariffs than its competitors in April but as of the end of August it faces considerably higher tariffs,” the report noted. “Almost one-fifth of India’s goods exports went to the United States in 2024, equivalent to about 2% of GDP.”

In Bangladesh’s flooded plains, schools in boats keep learning afloat

Each morning, he waits on the edge of his flooded village in Bhangura, western Bangladesh, for the solar-powered classroom that sails right to his doorstep.His home lies deep in Chalan Beel, a sprawling 26-square-kilometre (10 sq miles) wetland where seasonal floods often cut off roads and submerge entire villages.

But for Islam and hundreds of other children, education floats. The initiative, launched in 2002 by architect Mohammed Rezwan using \$500 of his scholarship money, has grown into a nationwide model run by the non-profit Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha (SSS).Now, more than 100 boats serve as schools, libraries, and clinics. The project has educated over 22,000 students and won a UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy this year for its work.

In Chalan Beel, around two dozen boats serve as classrooms, visiting riverside villages six days a week. The school boats are made of local timber and are equipped with benches, blackboards, and bookshelves. Solar panels power lights and computers.Item 1 of 5 Kulsum Khatun, an eight-year-old girl, takes notes while attending a class in a floating school, built on a boat by an NGO named Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha, in Bhangura area of Pabna, Bangladesh, [1/5]Kulsum Khatun, an eight-year-old girl, takes notes while attending a class in a floating school, built on a boat by an NGO named Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha, in Bhangura area of Pabna, Bangladesh, September 25, 2025. REUTERS/Mohammad Ponir Hossain Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab“Right now, we have 2,240 pupils enrolled in 26 boat schools,” said Madhusudan Karmaker, a senior manager at SSS. “Over 22,500 students have graduated so far, and during severe floods, these boats also double as shelters for displaced families.”

Other NGOs have adopted similar models for their



work in the country’s wetland areas.Classes are run in three shifts a day, lasting about three hours each. Teachers navigate narrow waterways to collect students, conduct lessons in Bengali, maths, and general knowledge.“We never had the chance to study,” said parent Sufia Khatun, waiting on the riverbank for her son Islam to return. “But this boat lets my children dream of a better future.”Teacher Sakhina Khatun, who has been with SSS for over a decade, said similar floating school initiatives have since inspired projects in countries like Nigeria, Cambodia, and the Philippines.“These schools never close — not even during floods,” she said. “That’s what makes them special.”Founder Rezwan, a World Fellow at Yale University, said: “I haven’t had many things during my life and these children don’t have much either. But giving them access to schooling, healthcare and seeing that replicated around the world - that gives me motivation.”

Looking beyond limitations: on embracing the strengths of the cerebral palsy community



The theme for World Cerebral Palsy Day 2025, which falls on October 6, is #UniqueANDUnited. This carries a profound message for all of us—to adopt a perspective that focuses on discovering and celebrating the unique abilities of individuals living with Cerebral Palsy (CP).Understanding CP

Cerebral Palsy is an umbrella term describing a group of disorders caused by damage to the developing brain, often before or during birth. While CP itself is not progressive, meaning the brain injury does not worsen over time, the individual’s functional abilities may change throughout their lifetime. This dynamic nature of CP highlights the importance of continuous care and adaptive support.Each child with CP possesses distinct strengths that go beyond their disability. As physicians, therapists, and caregivers, we are called to seek out and nurture what is possible rather than concentrating solely on limitations. M.C. Mathew, a pioneer in child development and rehabilitation services in India, offers a practical and compassionate approach to supporting children with CP. His three-step method begins with identifying the child’s abilities. This is followed by examining boundaries—often treatable conditions such as iron deficiency, recurrent chest infections, or Vitamin D deficiency—that may hinder developmental progress. Finally, he considers concerns that directly impact the child’s function. This comprehensive strategy not only helps unlock the child’s

potential but also empowers families to focus on achievable goals and outcomes.One of the most significant challenges in countries like ours, compared to developed nations, is the late identification and intervention when it comes to CP. Often, children are diagnosed as late as at five years old, by which time irreversible developmental setbacks may have occurred. This delay underscores the critical need for early screening and proactive intervention. Early identification improves the possibility of better outcomes and functional independence.

It is here that the second part of the theme, “United,” becomes essential—standing together as a community to advocate for children with CP and their families. Unity means fostering inclusion, not only in schools but in all public spaces. Although laws exist that recognise elementary education as a fundamental right, many families face rejection from schools who cite physical disabilities as a barrier. This must change: supportive environments where children with disabilities are integrated into mainstream schools are vital to lay the foundations of acceptance and opportunity.Inclusion also remains a challenge beyond education. Parents often encounter barriers when seeking medical care, largely due to a lack of awareness about the diverse needs of children with CP. While many specialised centres provide essential services, children are sometimes confined to these facilities, limiting their social participation and independence. Physical accessibility remains a significant hurdle—mobility aids such as walkers or wheelchairs can be difficult to use in areas with inadequate infrastructure and poor road conditions.Advocacy and celebrationAs we observe World Cerebral Palsy Day, let us remember our larger mission embodied by the hashtag #UniqueANDUnited: to be mindful of the strengths and needs of children and adults with CP. Together, as a united community, we can promote early identification, advocate for inclusion, improve accessibility, and celebrate the unique contributions of every individual living with Cerebral Palsy. Our collective efforts will help ensure that these individuals are not just seen for their challenges but recognised for their abilities and potential.

Why does mental health and disability support often end when you turn 18?



What happens when a child with autism, an intellectual disability, or ADHD turns 18? For most Indian families, the answer is stark -- the carefully-structured supports built around school-based systems abruptly end, leaving young adults and their caregivers to navigate an uncertain future.Data from studies in India indicates a significant mental health burden among children, with prevalence rates in the community ranging from approximately 6% to 16% and higher in schools. While many children require support, 80-90% do not receive it, and only about 0.05% of India’s health budget is allocated to mental health. Children with intellectual disabilities and other conditions including autism, anxiety, and depression face challenges, with 50% of children with mental disabilities never attending an educational institution, according to the People’s Archive of Rural India’s analysis of Census 2011 data.

“In India, most structured supports stop at 18 because they are largely designed around school-based systems and child-focused programmes,” says Mithun Prasad, consultant, psychiatry, SIMS Hospital, Chennai. “Once young adults leave school, there are very few options for continued care or vocational training. This transition gap leaves families worried and often struggling to find meaningful activities or support. Many young adults feel lost and isolated because the system does not prepare them for life beyond school.”Shorouq Motwani, child and adolescent psychiatrist, SRCC Hospital, Narayana Health, Mumbai, explains that the gap is systemic. “Most public and NGO services are organised around child development frameworks. Policy cut-offs, workforce shortages and fragmented ministries create an administrative cliff at the end of school age,” she notes. The result, she adds, is functional decline, social withdrawal and mounting caregiver stress.There are some scattered services available. “NGOs do run vocational training or day-care centres, but these are few and concentrated in cities,” says Dr. Prasad. “Higher education opportunities are rare and largely lack necessary accommodations.”

According to Yayathree S., consultant psychotherapist & counsellor, Rela Hospital, Chennai, tertiary care and rehabilitation centres do exist. “In Chennai, organisations such as The Banyan and SCAFF, and at the national level NIMHANS, offer inpatient and outpatient support. But what’s missing is a well-established community rehabilitation system. After acute care, many individuals get lost in the com-

munity due to poor family or community support. Some tragically end up wandering or begging on the streets.”Dr. Motwani points to international evidence-based approaches such as the Clubhouse model for social recovery and Individual Placement and Support (IPS) for employment. “While small pilots exist in India, they are not scaled up. Community-based housing, supported education, and systematic transition planning are still glaringly absent.”

For families, the burden is heavy. “Financial barriers make things even harder. Insurance rarely covers mental health or developmental services. Respite services for caregivers are almost nonexistent,” says Dr. Prasad. Parents often quit jobs or reduce work to provide full-time care, leading to burnout and financial strain.Dr. Yayathree emphasises the insurance gap. “Even now, no insurance company in India supports mental health services in a meaningful way. The cost of therapy, rehabilitation, and inpatient treatment is enormous. Caregivers not only shoulder financial losses but also emotional exhaustion.”Dr. Motwani adds that this creates a “missing-middle” problem — middle-income families, who cannot afford long-term private therapy yet fall outside welfare safety nets, are left especially vulnerable.

Experts agree that India needs a continuum of care that bridges adolescence to adulthood.“An ideal system would include smooth transition services, vocational training, inclusive higher education, community-based day programmes, regular mental health support, respite services and financial support for families,” says Dr. Prasad.Dr. Yayathree suggests a public–private partnership model. “Starting from early identification in schools, proper vocational and community-based rehabilitation with family involvement is essential. Insurance coverage would be a game changer.”

Dr. Motwani outlines features seen in successful international systems: “Transition planning starting in adolescence, local Clubhouse-style hubs, supported employment at scale, disability-friendly higher education, community-based housing, and robust financial protection.”What can be done? Doctors propose a multi-sectoral approach. “Collaboration between governments, NGOs, and private institutions is essential and support should not stop at 18, but continue across the lifespan.”On government level, a national transition policy with dedicated funding, scaled-up community day-care and respite schemes, and strict enforcement of insurance parity.And at NGOs level, replication of Clubhouse and IPS models, building respite networks, and providing transition counselling for families.

The private sector could also conduct internships, CSR-backed vocational hubs, workplace training, and public–private pilots for supported living and education, they say.As India moves towards expanding mental health infrastructure, experts say the measure of success will be whether young adults with autism, intellectual disability, or psychiatric conditions are able to live with dignity, participate in communities, with access to education and employment.

NITI Aayog CEO optimistic on bilateral trade agreement with US

New Delhi: NITI Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam on Monday exuded confidence that a trade agreement would be concluded between India and the US soon, as both countries are committed to having a mutually beneficial bilateral trade pact.Subrahmanyam also said that India should lower tariffs and non-tariff barriers and open its markets to improve competitiveness in manufacturing. “So the good thing is, both sides are still committed to having a trade deal. So negotiations happened last month, so I think both sides are hopeful,” he told reporters while launching ‘Trade Watch Quarterly’ .

The ties between New Delhi and Washington have come under severe stress after US President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods in August to 50 per cent, including an additional 25 per cent duty on India’s purchase of Russian crude oil.India had described the US action as “unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable”. Asked to comment on the impact of a whopping 50 per cent tariffs on Indian goods, Subrahmanyam said, “Building a trade channel is difficult, and unwinding a trade channel is also difficult... No

impact will happen till Christmas.”The NITI Aayog CEO, however, noted that ‘summer’ is going to be an issue if both countries do not settle the trade deal. “We are at a disadvantage...50 per cent tariffs are a major, major cost factor... There is no escaping that. People are hopeful that if the trade deal comes through by November, then there will be no disruption,” he said.In February this year, leaders of the two countries directed officials to negotiate a proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA). It was planned to conclude the first tranche of the pact by the fall (October-November) of 2025. So far, five rounds of negotiations have been held. The pact is aimed at more than doubling the bilateral trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 from the current USD 191 billion.The US remained India’s largest trading partner for the fourth consecutive year in 2024-25, with bilateral trade valued at USD 131.84 billion (USD 86.5 billion exports). Subrahmanyam said India’s trade deficit is manageable but unbalanced.While noting that India is absent in manufacturing intermediaries, Subrahmanyam said, “I do not think India should protect any sector.”

Away from the din



The sleek pair of earphones on a traveller’s ears is not just about music; it’s about technology’s clever promise, delivering only what we want to hear and filtering out everything else. Various companies have perfected this art of noise cancellation, filtering out unwanted sounds so the listener can enjoy pure music.But pause for a moment and ask if life itself is not in desperate need of this feature? Noise cancellation!

Every day, we spend a surprising amount of mental energy not on productive work or joyful moments but on distractions that creep into our thoughts. Unknowingly, we allow ourselves to be consumed by what others say, how they behave, or even by imagined judgments. This bundle of thoughts drains our vitality, leaving us dull by the end of the day.Often, it is not the big issues of life that affect us, but the small, repetitive disturbances. A bus or cab or train delayed by a few minutes makes us restless. A traffic jam slowly builds frustration until it spoils the mood of an entire evening. I have seen householders grow visibly tense upon hearing that the maid will be late or absent, as though the entire day is already ruined.

Worse still, many people almost seem to wait for reasons to get irritated. A car zooming past them on the road, a stranger violating traffic rules, or the weather refusing to cooperate, be it continuous rain or scorching sun, are enough to trigger frustration. These little provocations ac-

Tamil Nadu records 3,170 elephants in latest synchronised survey



The latest synchronised elephant population estimation exercise has revealed Tamil Nadu is home to 3,170 wild elephants, an increase of 107 individuals from the 2024 count of 3,063.The estimate was derived through a three-day synchronised survey conducted in May 2025 across all five elephant reserves in Tamil Nadu, covering 8,989.63 sq.km. of effective elephant habitats.The estimation exercise was carried out across 26 forest divisions. According to the State Forest Department, the overall elephant density was 0.35 elephants per sq.km. as per the direct Block Count method, and 0.37 elephants per sq.km. using the Line Transect Dung Count method.

The Block Count method, a direct observation approach, involves dividing elephant habitats into small sampling blocks (each about 5 sq.km.) and deploying forest teams to record all elephant sightings within these blocks over a fixed period. This helps determine population size and age–sex composition based on actual sightings. The Line Transect Dung Count method, on the other hand, is an indirect technique used to estimate elephant density in areas where direct sightings are difficult. Survey teams walk along fixed transect lines, counting dung piles and measuring their distance from the line. Using specialised software, dung density is converted into elephant density by factoring in dung decay and defecation rates. Highest sightings

The infinite naga in Indian art | Behind Bvlgari’s Serpenti Infinito exhibition in Mumbai

A 15th century Naga Sapta Naadi painting formed of seven serpentine lines represents the sevenfold divisions in the universe as a cosmic river of time and reality. Another, of a Nag-Pash Yantra, is a geometric schema of two copulating serpents from Hindu spiritual practice. The Serpenti Infinito exhibition by Bvlgari in Mumbai, curated by art gallery Nature Morte, offers a fascinating insight into these and other symbols of the naga or serpent through the historic associations and artistic traditions of India. The naga, a timeless motif embodying protection and renewal, has resonated across faiths and cultural expressions in India. But what does this symbolism have to do with the Italian luxury fashion house? Well, in 1948, Bvlgari brought the mysticism of the ‘serpenti’ to the world, via its iconic jewellery and watches — a story it has continued to tell through cross-cultural exhibitions, events and heritage dialogues across countries.This show marks Bvlgari’s India launch and presents over 75 works and 23 acclaimed artists in an exhibition celebrating the ‘Serpenti’ icon. Like its Shanghai and Seoul editions celebrating the Chinese Year of the Snake, the India exhibition, drawn from institutional and private collections, also examines the symbiotic relationship between the serpent and history, art and meaning.The tableau of artworks is diverse — from artist Radha Sollur and her impressive sculptural forms in paper to Turkish-American media artist Refik Anadol’s futuristic work, a fascinating 360-degree mirrored environment shaped by machine learning algorithms trained on natural snake forms. Critically acclaimed Madhubani artist Baua Devi, one of the few Indian women who has shown at the Centre Pompidou, presents her serpent forms along with other notable artists such as Subodh Gupta, Reena Saini Kallat, Olivia Fraser and Rithika Merchant.Serpenti Infinito has been put together by Nature Morte and Artistic Director Sean Anderson, who was formerly Associate Curator at New York’s MoMA and co-curator of the first-ever Qatar pavilion at Venice Biennale’s Exhibition of Architecture this year. Edited excerpts from a conversation:

Sean Anderson, curator of Serpenti Infinito in Mumbai, is Associate Professor in Architecture at Cornell University.How did the idea for a show about nagas and art come about?My ambition was to not isolate the image of the naga or the serpent but think about it holistically — think

accumulate and poison the atmosphere, robbing cheer of life.

But the noise does not stop at small irritations. Some worry endlessly about their child’s future, others sink into depression over their income, while some lose peace because their friends or siblings seem to have more wealth. These are deeper noises, more stubborn than traffic jams or weather complaints, but they too can be managed. With conscious effort, such worries can be reduced to threshold levels by working towards solutions instead of surrendering to anxiety or jealousy.And then there is a noise we carry with us. Many bring stress from the office into their homes, and and take domestic frustrations to the workplace. This leakage of mood from one space into another magnifies unhappiness, creating a cycle of irritation that never really ends. Without boundaries, we allow professional pressures to invade personal life, and small family tensions to disrupt our work.Digital noise

Adding to all these is the constant blitz of digital noise. Social media feeds, biased opinions, outrage, and addictive content on weight loss, crypto money, healthcare, these toxic ingredients are consumed every day. The more we feed on these toxins, the more our minds become restless and unhealthy. Slowly, they distort our thought process altogether, making it harder to focus on what truly matters.

This is the “noise” of daily living. And just as audio pioneers designed circuits to cancel out noise, we too can train our minds to cancel out these mental interferences. Imagine filtering them before they creep into us, by accepting small delays, ignoring careless remarks, avoiding comparisons, digital toxins to dictate our state of mind.

Noise cancellation in life doesn’t mean indifference or isolation from society. It means clarity. It means choosing not to hand over the control of our emotions to outside events. When we learn to filter distractions, we save our energy for what truly matters.By practising selective attention and conscious detachment, we can develop the art of cancelling life’s noise. Noise cancellation may be the greatest life skill we can learn to live authentically.

A total of 681 blocks were sampled across the State. The survey involved over 2,000 forest personnel, including guards, watchers, and anti-poaching watchers. The highest number of elephants were sighted in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, where 162 elephants were counted in 24 blocks spanning 241 sq.km., accounting for nearly 50% of the division’s elephant habitat. Other divisions with significant sightings included Gudalur (102 elephants), Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (94 elephants), Anamalai Tiger Reserve–Pollachi Division (107 elephants), Erode (74 elephants), and Coimbatore (72 elephants).

The Nilgiri Elephant Reserve, part of the larger Nilgiri Eastern Ghats landscape, recorded the highest elephant population and density, with an estimated 2,419 elephants (0.53 elephants per sq km) under the block count method, and 3,163 elephants (0.70 per sq km) under the dung count method. Together, the Nilgiri and Coimbatore reserves support nearly 70–80% of Tamil Nadu’s wild elephants, forming part of a contiguous population shared with neighbouring Karnataka and Kerala.Other aspects assessedIn addition to population estimation, the survey assessed demographic patterns through waterhole counts, which revealed that adults constituted 44% of the total population, followed by sub-adults (31%), juveniles (11%), and calves (14%). The sex ratio was recorded at 1:1.77 (male to female), while the adult female-to-calf ratio was 1:0.50. Average herd sizes ranged between three and sixteen elephants.

Forest officials said the findings indicate a stable and healthy elephant population structure, consistent with earlier surveys conducted in 2002, 2010, 2017, 2023, and 2024.However, the report highlighted the need for refining future estimates by incorporating division-specific dung decay rates, as the use of a single decay value across the State could lead to minor discrepancies between direct and indirect count methods. The report also noted that conducting the survey in late April, ahead of the early monsoon onset in the Western Ghats, could produce better results than holding it at the end of May.

across time and across various contexts of India, in particular. Knowing that the naga has had a transcendental aspect to it throughout time, a spiritual significance, and a locality attached to it, I wanted to create an image of the naga that embraces its multiplicity. And, of course, think about it with resonance within artistic practices.Protective goddess Manasa, the guardian deity against the perils of snakebite in the dense mangroves of Eastern India jungles, executed in the large format Kalighat style by artist Kalam Patua.Protective goddess Manasa, the guardian deity against the perils of snakebite in the dense mangroves of Eastern India jungles, executed in the large format Kalighat style by artist Kalam Patua.The 108 Karanas of Natyashastra by R. Srinivasan and L. Rathakrishnan features 108 bronze sculptures of the god of dance, Nataraja, depicting different mudras that symbolise the naga. The 108 Karanas of Natyashastra by R. Srinivasan and L. Rathakrishnan features 108 bronze sculptures of the god of dance, Nataraja, depicting different mudras that symbolise the naga. | Photo Credit: Jignesh Jhaveri

What did it mean to conceptualise a themed exhibition on Indian art for an international jewellery brand?

Bvlgari had a specific trajectory of how this exhibition could be made based on their earlier show in Shanghai but I felt it was extremely important that we not think of the naga as one singular concept and questioned whether we could make an exhibition where the jewellery is not separate from the art. In India, the naga could be represented with many meanings, either as an individual or collective memory or as an artistic expression. The exhibition looks at the history of the naga in India through stories, narrative, spatially and through textures. I wanted an international jewellery brand to be refracted through Indian art.It is interesting that the show juxtaposes international jewellery with Indian art. I felt it was important to nuance what the serpent in Indian art might be, and also that the art not be a backdrop for the jewellery. The exhibition aims at amplifying the jewellery and vice versa and is an opportunity for reciprocity, to tell us something about ourselves. Representing India was no easy task and there was so much to show. I wanted it to appeal and speak to as many different voices and constituencies as possible.

Virat Kohli can prove that out of sight isn't out of mind... if he knows where his off-stump is



A couple of months back, Virat Kohli gave one tiny glimpse of his rather secretive life in London, where he has moved in search of privacy and space. It was an Insta post of him with a reputed local coach with a strong Indian connection Naeem Amin. The frame, probably captured after an intense session at an indoor facility, had Virat resting his arm around the IPL franchise Gujarat Titans' assistant coach Amin's shoulder. There was a note of gratitude too: "Thanks for helping out with the hit brother ...". This was around mid-August, the time when there brewed a storm of speculations in India about the international future of Virat and Rohit Sharma — the two semi-retired players, approaching 40, who just play ODIs these days. The question queue was long.

Shouldn't the two be included in the India A team that was to play Australia A at home in a 50-overs series or play domestic one-dayers? The biggest worry expressed by those who doubted their participation in the 2027 World Cup was their lack of match-day outings. Even the chairman of the selection committee Ajit Agarkar had raised this issue.

But do seasoned batsmen like Kohli and Rohit, leg-ends of the game who have spent more than half their lives smashing the white-ball into stands around the world, need time in the middle to retain their sharpness and regain their erstwhile aura? Is the importance of match practice overstated? There was also the flip side. Can a 'hit' at the indoor facility be enough for a batting great to keep the competitive and batting edge razor sharp? Will the glare of the spotlight, the switching on of the floodlights in a stadium chanting his name, be enough to reignite the muscle memory? There's also the pressure — the crippling disruptor that can mess up that best of preparation. Rohit Sharma being replaced by the 26-year-old Shubman Gill as the ODI captain within months of his ICC tournament glory, is a loud enough hint for the seniors — they are now just one series failure away from being irrelevant to Indian cricket. This is a brutal world out there, the only long rope for those in their late 30s is the one circling the boundary line. This is a unique situation, an uncharted territory even for a consummate cricket traveler like Virat. It has never been done before but then Virat has several firsts to his credit. The resolve was still there. Within days of landing in Australia, there would be another social media statement: "The only time you truly fail, is when you decide to give up." This was getting interesting but it wasn't going to be easy. It has never been. Like was the case last time he visited Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy earlier this year. It would prove to be his last in India whites. Virat started the tour with a hundred at Perth but by the end of the 5th Test at Sydney, questions were being asked about his temperament, skills, drive and ability to learn from his mistakes. His last dismissal in Australia had summed up his series, it was a recurrence of an old symptom of a chronic batting problem that he had battled all through his long career. In the past, a younger Virat had time to reflect and rediscover his lost touch but now he doesn't have that luxury. He couldn't hide his frustration.

In the second innings of the final Test, the crafty old Scott Boland, the expert exploiter of old weaknesses, would stick to the line outside off-stump and work on the ball to

get a sharp lift and move it away from the batsman. An uncertain Virat would stay in the crease and try to reach for the ball. As expected he would edge the ball into the hands of second slip. Virat would let out a cry — the echoes might be heard at those glorious Australian stadiums this time too. This time he is in Australia to play white-ball cricket but Virat has struggled to figure out where his off-stump is in this format too. Even in IPL, he gets bowled to the Test-match line. It could be the same in the three ODIs again. Bowlers don't forget. It's not that Virat had adopted an ostrich approach to the problem, he hasn't buried his head in the stand and wished the problem away. At the start of the forgettable BGT series, he was stationed outside the crease. It's a tactic that batsmen use in England to counter the swing but Virat was doing so to negotiate the bounce that bowlers got on the hard Aussie pitches. He was trying to ride the bounce but would fail. Not known to play with soft hands, the edges from the bat would carry to the catchers behind the stumps. He would backtrack to the crease after a few failures but lack of a strong back-foot game would hamper his play. Now, he wasn't suitably front or back, Virat was caught in two minds and the nightmare would continue.

Back in the day, even the great Sachin Tendulkar, has worked with Virat to iron out his foot-work flaw. After one disastrous tour to England, India's two great batsmen had collaborated and the results were pleasing. Tendulkar suggested changes in the hip alignment and back-leg movement and runs would flow again. But with time, old habits surfaced again. In 2021, he tampered his stance, took a virtual off-middle guard. He now had his head in the line of off-stump, this too seemed like a workable plan. Anything outside the eye-line, he would leave alone thus negating the away going balls. However, since he was covering all the three stumps, Virat was a likely candidate to be out lbw. In case he missed a ball coming in sharply or kept in line or if he failed to connect an on-drive to a ball on his pads, Virat would get out lbw.

Batsmanship is a delicate art, it needs incredible anticipation, immaculate judgement of where the ball would pitch, subtle feet movement to reach it and fine transfer of weight. Virat has been around long enough, scored a mountain of runs to know this. Long back, when Virat was younger, run-making was second nature, the batting genius had given a peep into the mind in a podcast with Graham Bensinger. "Batting is about a split second of decision. The precision of that split-second has to be so good for every ball during the game. With visualisation you have to have worked on both the mental and technical side of his game," he would say. An indoor session in the company of friendly coaches is very different from facing hostile pacers bowling on the 4th-5th stump line. It's never easy to be on the stage when the curtains are about to fall and the final bow may be just a dismissal away.

Virat is under no illusion, he knows that age is catching up and the end could be near and not far. During the June-July-August England tour, Virat had turned for his old friend Yuvraj Singh's charity event. He was called on stage. The MC's ice-breaker was him informing the superstar that India misses him. "I just coloured my beard two days back... when you start doing that after every four days, it is time," he said, stroking his chin. The conversation would shift to Yuvraj and Virat would recall his one-time senior's last year as an international cricketer. He would take the wide-eyed fans in the glittering London hall to a ODI game in Cuttack with Yuvraj scoring a 150 and had a 250 runs plus partnership with MS Dhoni, who too scored a big hundred in that game. "I was sitting with KL Rahul in the dressing room watching the two. I told him this is like going back to the childhood days, watching these two stitching partnerships and saving India," Virat would say. How time flies, now in Australia there will be a couple of 20-something stars, Shubman and Yashasvi Jaiswal, who too would be reliving their childhood when Rohit and Virat take the field. Will they be stitching partnerships and saving India?

Shubman Gill on leading Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli: 'It is a big honor for me to be able to lead such legends of the game and learn from them'



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

India will start their white-ball tour Down Under, with a three-match ODI series at Perth. One of the interesting narratives to look at in the series is how Shubman Gill is going to lead the side. Gill, ahead of the game, said he will be taking the suggestions from former skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, and also mentioned it is an honor to lead the duo. "These are the players I used to idolize when I was a kid, and the kind of hunger that they had was something that inspired me. It is a big honor for me to be able to lead such legends of the game and learn from them. Even in this series, there will be so many instances where I think I will be able to learn from their experience, and whenever I

think I would be in a difficult situation, I wouldn't shy away from getting any suggestions or advice from them," said Gill on Star Sports.

"There are some things that I observed as a player, and really liked when I was playing under them. How they converse and what kind of communication or messaging they had with the players is something that helped me get the best out of myself when I was playing under them. As a captain, that is the kind of leader I want to be, where all my players feel secure, and the communication with what I want from them is clear," he added. "They are people who have won so many matches in the past. They have been playing for India for the past 10-15 years; the experience they bring to the table is something every captain and every team wants. That's what we are looking forward to. We want them to go out there and do their magic," Gill told broadcasters Star Sports after 2-0 win against West Indies in New Delhi.

"The experience the two of them have (is immense), and there are very few players who can match the number of matches they have won for India. There are very few players in the world with such skill and quality along with that experience, and we look at it from that perspective," Gill said at the start of the same Test match. "So many qualities that I have inherited from Rohit bhai — the calmness that he possesses, and the kind of friendship that he has among the group is something that I aspire to; these are the qualities that I want to take from him," he added.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam wins historic bronze at Archery World Cup Final in Nanjing

GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Hyderabad: India's top compound archer Jyothi Surekha Vennam continues to dominate winning another remarkable milestone by winning the Bronze Medal at the prestigious Archery World Cup Final held in Nanjing, China, on Saturday. In a thrilling match, Jyothi defeated Ella Gibson of Great Britain with a stunning 150-145 score. This contest marked the first-ever 150/150 performance in a World Cup Final, setting a new benchmark in world archery.

With this achievement, Jyothi Surekha Vennam becomes the first Indian woman compound archer to win a medal at the World Cup Final, bringing immense pride to the nation.



Ravi Shastri reacts to BCCI guidelines says would not have minded a chef: '...at least the cuisine could have been different with a glass of red'



Following a 3-1 loss in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, the Board of Control for Cricket in India has issued strict guidelines to players. Among these, the one that caught the most attention and provoked discussions was regarding the duration of stay for family members and the number of personal staff allowed. Former Indian Head Coach Ravi Shastri, when asked about the guidelines, said he did not have anyone coming with a chef, and also added that he would not have minded it either.

"I don't remember anyone coming in with a chef in my time because that chef would have been very busy with me. I wouldn't have minded one or two, because then at least the cuisine could have been different with a glass of

red. You don't have to go to room service all the time. After a while, on tours, you want to minimize things. When there are too many people around, you tend to get distracted," Shastri said on The Grade Cricketer ahead of the first ODI between India and Australia. "He (Gambhir) must have seen it's getting out of hand. So he just put a limit on what can be done and what cannot be done. The good thing for him is that he has got a captain now who is stable, composed, and calm. Gill is the man for the next decade for India. What Gambhir will be looking out for is a nice bench of fast bowlers. With Shami retiring, and Bumrah's workload management, you need another three to be groomed quickly," he added. Speaking ahead of the Lord's Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy against England in an interaction with Cheteshwar Pujara, Head Coach Gautam Gambhir backed the BCCI's decision to limit the players' families on tour. "Families are important, but you've got to understand one thing. You are here for a purpose. It's not a holiday. You're here for a huge purpose. You've got very few people in that dressing room or in this tour that gets this opportunity to make the country proud. So yes, I'm not against not having families with us." "It is important to have families, but if your focus is towards making our country proud and you have a much bigger role than any other thing, and you're committed to that goal, you're committed to that cause, I think everything else is fine. But for me, I think that cause and that goal is more important than any other thing," said Gambhir.

Rashid Khan reacts to late-night attack on civilians: 'Absolutely immoral and barbaric...must not go unnoticed'



In a tragic incident in Afghanistan on Friday, air raids from Pakistan struck the Afghan civilians directly, causing the deaths of nearly 40 people. Among the victims were also three cricketers from Urgan district in Paktika Province. T20I skipper Rashid Khan, reacting to the incident, took to social media to express his grievance. "I am deeply saddened by the loss of civilian lives in the recent Pakistani aerial strikes on Afghanistan. A tragedy that claimed the lives of women, children, and aspiring young cricketers who dreamed of representing their nation on the world stage," Rashid wrote on his X account. (Formerly known as Twitter) "It is absolutely immoral and barbaric to target civilian infrastructure. These unjust and unlawful actions represent a grave violation of human rights and must not go unnoticed," Rashid further wrote. "In light of the precious innocent souls lost, I welcome the ACB's decision of withdrawing from upcoming fixtures against Pakistan. I stand with

our people at this difficult time, our national dignity must come before all else." As per Tolo News, the Pakistani air raids targeted residential neighbourhoods in Kandahar's Spin Boldak district. Most of the casualties reportedly were women and children. Following the attack, the Afghanistan Cricket Board canceled a cricket tournament in which Pakistan was to participate.

The ACB said it considered this a great loss for Afghanistan's sports community, its athletes, and the cricketing family. "In response of this tragic incident and as a gesture of respect to the victims, the Afghanistan Cricket Board has decided to withdraw from participating in the upcoming Tri-Nation T20I Series involving Pakistan, scheduled to be played in late November," the board announced its decision. Karimullah Zubair Agha, Head of Public Health in Spin Boldak, was quoted as saying by Tolo news, "Civilian casualties are extremely high. Yesterday's airstrikes further increased the numbers. We now have 170 injured and 40 dead." The attacks mark a sharp escalation in tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan, drawing widespread condemnation and concern. Witnesses and survivors alleged that Pakistan deliberately targeted civilian structures and non-combatants in violation of international humanitarian law. Haji Bahram, one of the survivors, said, "I've never witnessed such injustice. A country that calls itself Muslim bombed our women, children, and homes. Issues like this should be resolved through dialogue." Another survivor, Abdul Zahir, stated, "They bombed Muslim women and children. Pakistan carried out this act with complete audacity."

Indian T20I skipper Suryakumar Yadav compares his relationship with Head Coach Gautam Gambhir as bond between brothers: 'life has come full circle'



GNS News Agency, Oct 22

Suryakumar Yadav, before becoming the star he became at the Mumbai Indians in 2018 in the Indian Premier League, had a stint at the Kolkata Knight Riders from 2014-17. Unlike the top-order version we are witnessing now, under captain Gautam Gambhir, he played the role of the

finisher then, while a lot of things have changed both in Surya and Gambhir's career paths, the duo reunited this time as captain-coach combination last year, post 2024 T20 World Cup. The 35-year-old speaking on Express Adda said his relationship with Gambhir has been similar to that of an elder and a younger brother. "Our relationship is that of elder and younger brothers. I played for four years under him at KKR. Learnt a lot from him there. Even now, life has come full circle. He is the coach and I am the captain of the T20 team," said Surya in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director of The Indian Express Group, and Devendra Pandey, Deputy Associate Editor. "So when we discuss squads, a lot of the time, it happens that he picks an eleven, and I pick an eleven; there are absolutely no differences. On the ground also if I want to make a decision, I look at the dugout. You see things differently from outside, and he just moves his head a bit, and I get the message. That is the trust we have between us. Touchwood, it's going really well," he added. In addition to the relationship with Gambhir, Surya also answered a few quick questions.

'Old dogs' Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma are in Australia but form is crucial, young guns nipping at their heels: Ravi Shastri

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will be back on the field after a break in which a lot has happened in the Indian men's cricket team. Among the big news points was Rohit himself, who was stripped of ODI captaincy, with the post being given to Shubman Gill ahead of the Australia tour, but still kept in the squad. It means that Kohli and Rohit will now be playing three ODIs in Australia under Gill, whom they both had captained in his formative years in international cricket. Former India head coach Ravi Shastri feels that Kohli and Rohit will be both be quite hungry in Australia knowing that they have a number of youngsters vying for their positions in the squad. The three-match ODI series starts in Perth on Sunday. "I mean, this is a good side, a very good side, India are a far better white ball side than Test match side," Shastri said on Fox Cricket. "And especially (with) the young guns, the Australian crowds, they (will) love seeing some of the young guns. A lot of the young players who are in the side, they will entertain.

"Plus, the old dogs are here. Rohit Sharma is here.

Virat Kohli too. They know that these youngsters are pushing so you might just see the best out of them. That's why they're here. They're part of the mix but, again, form is crucial," he said. Rohit and Kohli both retired from Test cricket earlier this year in the days leading up to India's epic five-Test tour of England. They had both struggled for form in the preceding five-match Test series in Australia, with Rohit especially losing his to the extent that he dropped himself from the squad for the final Test. However, the fact remains that both Rohit and Kohli are among the all-time greats in ODI cricket and the former's last act as India captain in the format was leading them to victory in the 2025 Champions Trophy. "But there's no substitute for experience when it comes to the big games, as we saw in the Champions Trophy," said Shastri. "Come the big games, the big boys step up, so it'll be interesting (to see what happens). They have to prove something, because they have the young guns nipping at their heels." Rohit has played 30 ODIs in Australia and scored 1328 runs at an average of 53.12 with five centuries and four half-centuries.

Bobby Deol says younger son quit studies after Class 12; elder son got into prestigious NYU Stern: ‘He got into all colleges he applied to’



Bobby Deol, who made a strong comeback with Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Animal and later grabbed headlines for his role in Aryan Khan's debut show The Ba**rds of Bollywood, recently opened up about his sons Aryaman Deol and Dharam Deol. The actor shared that while his younger son wasn't particularly interested in studies, his elder son graduated from a prestigious college in New York. Speaking to Radio Nasha, Bobby said, "I wanted my sons to study, my younger son left studies after 12th standard, but my elder son was selected in all the colleges that he applied to. And he got into NYU Stern School of Business.

I didn't know about the college but when I used to tell people that my son studies in that college, people would tell me, 'Wow, it's a great college.' I was like okay. I didn't know that."

In an earlier interaction, Bobby revealed that though his elder son Aryaman is receiving offers from the Hindi film industry, he is in no hurry to launch him. In an interview with Times Now, Bobby shared that Aryaman is currently focusing on learning the craft before stepping into the limelight. "He is working, he is training. There are a lot of offers coming in, but I don't want to throw him into the middle of the ocean without knowing how to swim," Bobby said. He added, "I want him to first understand the art and then take his first step. So, he is working on himself."

While Bobby has admitted in interviews that both his sons are keen on entering the film industry, he also acknowledged the immense pressure that star kids face. He reflected on how much scrutiny Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan has endured while launching his directorial debut. "I know how difficult it is, even being from the industry, to be superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son—the kind of pressure he has. If he is trying to do something as challenging as directing, then I have to be there for him," he said. On the work front, Bobby Deol has several projects lined up, including Bandar, Alia Bhatt-starrer Alpha, and the Tamil film Jana Nayagan.

Amidst online backlash, Anurag Kashyap says Bandar has nothing to do with MeToo: ‘When a film is about a false rape accusation case...’



The premiere saw the presence of the film's principal cast and crew, including Bobby Deol, who is working with Kashyap for the first time. Early reviews from the festival have described Bandar as a highly provocative

film, with some critics interpreting its narrative as controversial, particularly in relation to the #MeToo movement. In fact, a few have even gone so far as to suggest that the movie might be read as "anti-MeToo." This has led to some backlash online, with several netizens questioning the merit of the film and calling it "pro-men." However, in an exclusive conversation with SCREEN, Anurag Kashyap addressed the speculation head-on and clarified the film's intent and themes. "It has nothing to do with MeToo. See when a film is about a false rape accusation case, those conversations happen. But MeToo is about power, somebody using a position of power, to do something. This film has nothing to do with that kind of a powerplay, or that kind of sexual angle, so it has nothing to do with MeToo."

Kashyap also shared insights into how the screenplay came to life, revealing that acclaimed screenwriter Sudip Sharma, known for Uda Punjab, Sonchiriya, Paatal Lok, and Kohrra, was his first and only choice for the complex subject matter. "So I didn't have the time to write the script. And, I was of the opinion it's a very complex subject, very difficult, but only if Sudip Sharma agrees to write it is only when I'll direct it. And he fortunately agreed and that's how it happened." While there is currently no official word on when Bandar will release in India, Anurag Kashyap isn't slowing down. He's already preparing for the release of Nishaanchi Part 2, the sequel to his current theatrical release. The film stars Aishwary Thackeray, Vedika Pinto, Monika Panwar, Kumud Mishra, and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub in leading roles.

Mohanlal receives commendation from Army Chief: ‘A moment of immense pride and gratitude’

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal, who was recently conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, was on Tuesday given a commendation by Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi in New Delhi. Mohanlal, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army, said it was an "honour" to receive the commendation from the Army Chief and a "great gesture" from the fraternity of which he has been a part for the past 16 years. Speaking to the media after the event, the actor said he has been doing all that he can for the Army and for the betterment of civilians.

Mohanlal said that he and the Army Chief also discussed "how to bring more efficiency to the Territorial Army battalions and what can be done for the country." "So, it was a small discussion. We have bigger plans to come," he said. When asked whether he will be doing any films about the armed forces, Mohanlal said that he has done many films about the Army directed by Major Ravi and that they were planning to do some more.

On Tuesday evening, Mohanlal took to social media and wrote, "Today, I had the honour of being called by the Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, to the Army Headquarters, where I was awarded



the COAS Commendation Card in the presence of seven Army Commanders. Receiving this recognition as an Honorary Lieutenant Colonel is a moment of immense pride and gratitude. I remain deeply thankful to General Upendra Dwivedi, the entire Indian Army, and my parent unit of the Territorial Army for this honour and their unwavering support."

‘Game of Thrones’ spin-off ‘A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms’ to premiere January 2026 on JioHotstar



New Delhi: "A Knight of the Seven Kingdoms", a spin-off series to the acclaimed HBO show "Game of Thrones", is set to make its debut on on JioHotstar in

January 2026, the streamer has announced. The streamer shared the news with a post on its official X handle on Monday. This Winter, Spring is Coming #AKnightoftheSevenKingdoms premieres this January, only on JioHotstar," read the caption. "A tall tale that became a legend", the poster read. The series is adapted from George R R Martin's novella "The Hedge Knight," and will follow the journey of knight Ser Duncan the Tall, played by Peter Claffey, and his young squire, Egg, played by Dexter Sol Ansell. "A century before the events of 'Game of Thrones,' two unlikely heroes wandered Westeros... a young, naïve but courageous knight, Ser Duncan the Tall, and his diminutive squire, Egg. Set in an age when the Targaryen line still holds the Iron Throne, and the memory of the last dragon has not yet passed from living memory, great destinies, powerful foes, and dangerous exploits all await these improbable and incomparable friends", reads the official logline of the show.

Ba***ds of Bollywood’s Manish Chaudhari aka Freddy Sodawallah’s wife is 17 years younger than him, took her 2 years to convince her family



Manish Chaudhari, who was recently seen in Aryan Khan's web series The Ba***ds of Bollywood as Freddy Sodawallah, has been in the movies since the early 2000s. During a recent interview, Manish and his wife Shruti Mishra spoke about their unconventional love story as the two have an age gap of 17 years. For Manish, the age gap didn't matter but for Shruti, it took her two years to convince her parents to bless their union. The couple got married in 2023.

In a chat with Hauterrfly, Shruti recalled her first meeting with Manish in a theatre. "I was very happy to meet someone in Mumbai who was on the same wavelength as

me. Right from very early on, I used to say I love you a lot. Shruti took a little longer to say it to me," he said. Talking about their age gap, Shruti shared, "We have a 17 year age gap. I think when I asked him, 'How old are you?', and then he told me, I was like 'Really?' I knew there was an age gap but I didn't know how much." Manish added, "Age never really bothered me." Shruti Mishra said that despite the age gap, they knew they were in it for the long haul. "I think one of the first conversations Manish and I had was like, 'Listen, I don't know about the age gap but I think we have to live together for a very long time and I don't care about the age gap, you have to live longer than me because I am not going to be without you for even a day so I am going to go first and you are going to stay on,'" she shared.

Shruti shared that it took her two years to convince her family. "It took me a few years to convince my family that this is the man I am going to marry, or I am not going to get married. It took almost two years to convince everyone calmly," she said. They also spoke about the proposal as Shruti shared that it was the most "chilled out proposal." "During covid, we were sitting on a couch and he asked, 'Will you marry me?' I was like, 'Is that a proposal?' He said yes, and I said okay. I think we could top the charts for the most casual chilled out proposal you could ever have," she shared. Manish Chaudhari had previously gotten engaged in 2016, but that relationship did not end in marriage. The actor and Shruti got married when he was 54, and she was 37.

Avika Gor tears up as she takes the plunge with Milind Chandwani on national television: ‘What more could I ask for?’

Milind Chandwani and Avika Gor wedding Milind Chandwani and Avika Gor wedding Pati, Patni, Aur Panga (Photo: Avika Gor / Instagram) Actress Avika Gor made her comeback on Indian television a few months back with the reality show Pati, Patni, Aur Panga. The actress, known for her performance in Balika Vadhu, appeared on this reality show with her fiancé, Milind Chandwani. While on the show, the couple decided to get married on national television. Avika Gor and Milind Chandwani got married on September 30; their wedding will be telecast on Pati, Patni, Aur Panga over this weekend. Last weekend, their haldi and sangeet ceremonies were telecast on the show. On October 11 and 12, Avika and Milind's wedding ceremony will be shown on the show. In the promo, Avika is seen tearing up as she says, "I had never thought in my life that I would find such a partner or have such a beautiful wedding. What more could I have asked for in life?" Along with their families, Avika and Milind were also joined by their show's co-contestants. Neha Kakkar, Tejaswi Prakash, Karan Kundrra, Farah Khan, and Rakhi Sawant have also appeared as special guests. On a fun note, Hina Khan and Isha Malviya will demand Rs 1,11,000 from Milind to return his shoes. Krushna Abhishek will also join the celebrations. Earlier, Avika and Milind had spoken to SCREEN ahead of the show. During the conversation, Avika had revealed how she found Milind very inspiring as a person. She had also said that the way Milind dealt with his family was something she learned from it. The couple



had also spoken about their long-distance relationship and shared how they were advised against it.

George Clooney’s kids were raised on a farm in France, he didn’t want them to grow up in the ‘Hollywood’ culture

All celebrities, or anyone under the constant scrutiny of the public eye, have their own ways of managing their lives and relationships. While many celebrity-parent relationships face their share of challenges, some actors seem to know what works for them in the parenting department. Actor George Clooney recently spoke about his decision to raise his children away from Hollywood, in fact, far from the United States altogether.

While talking to Esquire, the actor reflected on living in France with his kids and said, "Yeah, we're very lucky. You know, we live on a farm in France. A good portion of my life growing up was on a farm, and as a kid I hated the whole idea of it. But now, for them, it's like they're not on their iPads, you know? They have dinner with grown-ups and have to take their dishes in. They have a much better life." George Clooney shared that he never felt comfortable raising his children in Los Angeles. "I was worried about raising our kids in L.A., in the culture of Hollywood. I felt like they were never going to get a fair shake at life. France — they kind of don't give a shit about fame. I don't want them to be walking around worried about paparazzi. I don't want them being compared to somebody else's famous kids," said the Ocean's Eleven actor. Clooney first got married to actor Talia Balsam in 1989, and the two went their separate ways in 1993. He got married again in 2014 to Amal Clooney. She gave birth to twins in 2017, Alexander and Ella. George Clooney is currently focusing on the release of his latest film, Jay Kelly, in which he is starring alongside Adam Sandler, Emily Mortimer, Laura



Dern, Louis Partridge, and Billy Crudup. The character he is playing seems to be dangerously close to himself, as he is playing an actor in his 60s who gets called out for only being able to play himself in films. Commenting on the character and whether the same applies to him, Clooney told Vanity Fair, "Do people say that I only play myself? I don't give a sh**. There aren't that many guys in my age group that are allowed to do both broad comedies like O Brother [Where Art Thou?] and then do Michael Clayton or Syria. So if that means I'm playing myself all the time, I don't give a sh**. Have you ever tried playing yourself? It's hard to do."

Triptii Dimri relives magic of ‘Bulbbul’ with a sprinkle of nostalgia

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Triptii Dimri, who enchanted audiences with her hauntingly beautiful performance in the 2020 period horror-mystery Bulbbul, took a stroll down memory lane as she rewatched the film. Taking to her Instagram stories, Triptii shared a picture of her television screen with Bulbbul playing on it.

"It's that kind of night... Me, Bulbbul, and a little nostalgia," Triptii wrote as the caption. She then posted a picture of the moon and wrote: "The after effects of watching Bulbbul." Bulbbul also stars Avinash Tiwary, Paoli Dam, Rahul Bose, and Parambrata Chattopadhyay. Set against the backdrop of the 1880s Bengal Presidency, the film re-

volves around a child bride and her journey from innocence to strength. It follows a young woman who grows into an enigmatic figure ruling her household, hiding her painful past as supernatural murders of men plague her village. Triptii had her first lead role in the romantic drama Laila Majnu (2018) but gained critical recognition for her performances in Anvita Dutt's Bulbbul and Qala. She later rose to mainstream fame with supporting roles in top-grossing action films such as Animal, Bad Newz, and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. Last month, Triptii introduced her new fur baby, Lychee, to her followers. She shared photos on Instagram posing with her pet in the car, along with videos of Lychee exploring his surroundings and playing