

## GHMC orders closure of slaughter-houses & meat shops on Gandhi Jayanthi

Hyderabad, Sept.30 The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has directed the closure of all slaughterhouses and retail outlets selling meat and beef within the GHMC limits on October 2, 2025, in observance of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi. The order, issued under Section 533 (b) of the GHMC Act, 1955, is in line with Resolution No. 172 of the GHMC Standing Committee dated September 24, 2025. Officials have appealed to all stakeholders to cooperate with the directive, while municipal staff will be deployed to monitor and ensure strict compliance, thereby maintaining the sanctity of the occasion.

## Governor performs Ayudha Puja at Raj Bhavan



: Governor Jishnu Dev Varma performed the Ayudha Puja and Vahana Puja at Raj Bhavan, here, on Tuesday. As part of the traditional celebrations of the Dasara festival, the Governor performed the Ayudha Puja to the weapons of the security personnel and Vahana Puja to all the vehicles of the Raj Bhavan. Senior officers and other members of the staff joined the Governor in performing the special Ayudha Puja and Vahana Puja organised near the temple inside the Raj Bhavan premises. The Governor personally conveyed wishes to all the officers and the staff members. (NSS)

## TPCC chief confident of Congress victory in Jubilee Hills by-election



Hyderabad, Sept.30 : TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud has exuded confidence that Congress candidate will secure a significant majority in the upcoming Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election. He further expressed his belief that the Congress party would achieve around 85 percent success in the local body elections. During a media interaction at Gandhi Bhavan on Tuesday, Mahesh Kumar Goud accused former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao of burdening Telangana with debt, asserting that the current Congress administration is now working to settle the obligations incurred by KCR. He also attributed the financial struggles of

## Harish asks cadre to distribute Cong 'Dues Cards' in every household



Siddipet, Sept.30 Former minister and BRS MLA T. Harish Rao came down heavily on Revanth Reddy government for 'cheating people with false promises'. Addressing a gathering at the release of "Congress dues cards" at his Siddipet camp office, Harish Rao said the initiative is meant to remind every household of what the government 'owes' them. He directed the local BRS cadre, including village leaders, presidents, former sarpanches, MPTCs and senior party leaders - to distribute the dues cards door-to-door across the constituency. "People must know how much the Congress owes to each woman and each farmer. This discussion should happen in every house," he added. Mocking the CM, the senior BRS leader said, "After sitting in the Chief Minister's chair, Revanth Reddy has realised that KCR did the right things". He alleged that during the last Yasangi season, benefits under 'Rythu Bharosa' were restricted to those with three acres, while Rs.12,000 per acre was announced ahead of panchayat polls. The Congress "owes Rs.75,000 to every farmer", he noted. Harish Rao claimed that the Congress party owes Rs.44,000 to each woman under its unfulfilled poll guarantees. Only after paying Rs.44,000 to each woman should the Congress seek votes again, he demanded.

## DPR for a portion of River Musi rejuvenation to be ready by January

GNS News Agency, Sept 30

Hyderabad: Amidst concerns from environmental activists and objections being raised by residents, efforts are on to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a portion of the River Musi stretch covering 55 kms in the city by January. The consortium involving three companies, including Meinhardt, RIOS and Cushman and Wakefield and alongwith ZHA and SOM, are already conducting different surveys to prepare the DPR. After the consortium prepares the DPR for a portion of the river flow, the Musi Riverfront Development Corporation Limited (MRDCL) would submit it to the government. Accordingly, steps would be taken to raise nearly Rs.4,100 crore as a loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for executing the works.

Last October, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had said the State govern-



ment would pay Rs. 141 crore to the consortium for preparing the comprehensive DPR for the River Musi Rejuvenation project within 18 months. Accordingly, drone and ground level surveys are being conducted all along the river banks. Already, surveys covering 500 metres and 100 metres buffer zones from the river banks have been completed and at present a survey for the 35 metres buffer zone was under progress, said a senior official from MRDCL. "The DPR is currently being prepared for a portion of the 55 kms river flow from Narsingi to

## Mobile number' mandatory for reserved ticket bookings

Vijayawada, Sept.30 Vijayawada division, South Central Railway informed all the esteemed passengers and general public that, as per the directions of the Railway Board, furnishing of mobile numbers has been made 'compulsory' while booking reserved tickets across Passenger Reservation System (PRS) counters. The railways appeal the public to cooperate in this regard. According to Railways, this initiative aims to strengthen communication with passengers and provide timely updates and assistance during their journey. The key benefits to passengers are SMS alerts on the status of waitlisted tickets after chart preparation; Real-time information on train arrivals, departures, delays, diversions, or cancellations;

Godelli. The plan is to prepare project reports in a phased manner and execute works accordingly," the official said. In the initial survey reports, the consortium would recommend different aspects, including identification of encroachments, beautification, rehabilitation of residents and others. Even after repeated appeals from the Chief Minister to support the Musi project, residents are up in arms against it. Stressing the same, a senior official from GHMC pointed out that a few residents from Chaderghat had refused to move to the relief camps

despite floods in the region last week. "They stayed put on top of the building and we supplied food and other essentials through drones. Even after repeated appeals, the residents did not agree to move to the camps, fearing that their houses would be taken over by the government," the official said. Similarly, environmental experts and activists are also vehemently opposing the government plans to execute rejuvenation works covering only a portion of the entire river flow. They are expressing concerns that unless measures are initiated to control the flow of murky water and release of effluents into the river, rejuvenation efforts will be ineffective. They are also stressing that if rejuvenation was confined to only a portion of the entire river flow, pollution in the upstream and downstream areas would cast an adverse impact, defeating the very purpose of taking up the project.

## DGP Jitender honoured at lavish farewell event



Hyderabad, Sept.30 DGP Jitender's retirement ceremony was held at the Telangana Police Academy on Tuesday with great pomp. During the event, Jitender discussed the measures implemented to combat cybercrime and drug-related issues within the state. He noted that the police department has successfully filled vacant positions and mentioned that several challenges have been addressed from a humanitarian standpoint. He emphasised the department's commitment to supporting victims.

Reflecting on his 33 years of service in law enforcement, Jitender expressed his appreciation for the experiences he gained with the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana Police. "Upon my transfer from Punjab to Andhra Pradesh, the encouragement and support provided by senior officers here were incredibly motivational. We now regard the Telangana Police as our home," he stated. He expressed his gratitude to the Telangana government for the opportunity to serve as DGP, noting that in the past 15 months, he has managed to stabilise law and order and implemented several measures to lower the crime rate throughout the state. Jitender mentioned that the Telangana police have gained significant national recognition. "We are actively combating narcotics and cybercrime. Our thorough investigations into the betting mafia have led to numerous searches across the country and the arrest of those involved," he stated. As highlighted in the India Justice Report, Telangana ranks first in this regard. "Technology plays a vital role in crime-solving," Jitender added. Shivdhar Reddy, the new DGP of Telangana, congratulated Jitender for his contributions to the Telangana police department over the past 14 months.

## Election Commission releases final voter list for Jubilee Hills by-election

Hyderabad, Sept.30 The final voter list for the upcoming Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election was published on Tuesday, revealing that the total number of voters in the constituency is 3,99,000.

In a statement, Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sudarshan Reddy noted that the revised list, which considers July 1, 2025, as the qualifying date, comprises 2,07,382 male voters, 1,91,593 female voters, and 25 transgender voters. The gender ratio is calculated at 924 females for every 1,000 males. The list also includes 6,106 young voters aged 18 to 19, 2,613 senior voters aged 80 and above, and 1,891 voters with disabilities. Among these, 519 are visually impaired, 667 have mobility issues, 311 have hearing or speech disabilities, and the remaining 722 fall into other categories. There are additionally 95 foreign voters registered. The initial list published on September 2 included 3,92,669 voters. Following multiple updates, 6,976 new voters were incorporated, while 663 were taken out. This adjustment raised the total to 3,98,982. With the inclusion of service voters, the final tally reached 3,99,000. Election officials announced that for the by-election in the Jubilee Hills constituency, a total of 407 polling stations have been established at 139 centers.

## CM Revanth Reddy felicitates Tilak Varma for Asia Cup performance



Hyderabad: Indian cricketer Tilak Varma paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy here on Tuesday. The left-handed batsman played a crucial role in India's victory over Pakistan in the Asia Cup 2025 final. The Chief Minister felicitated Tilak Varma and applauded his innings in the win against Pakistan. The cricketer also presented a cricket bat to the Chief Minister. Sports Minister Vakati Srihari and others were present on the occasion.

## Group-1 recruitments achieved only under Cong Govt - claims Minister Ponguleti

Hyderabad, Sept.30 Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Tuesday alleged that the hopes of unemployed youth that jobs would increase after formation of Telangana remained unfulfilled during the 10-year rule of BRS party. The present Congress-led government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should be appreciated for realizing these aspirations, he added.

Addressing a gathering, the Minister congratulated the candidates who were appointed as District Registrars in the Stamps & Registration Department after being selected through Group-1 exams conducted by the State Public Service Commission. He recalled that the last Group-1 notification in United Andhra Pradesh was issued in 2011, with recruitment completed in 2018, emphasizing that the Congress government historically facilitated Group-1 appointments in both United Andhra Pradesh and Telangana states. Highlighting reforms under the current government, Ponguleti said the Telangana Government Public Service Commission (TGPSC), previously weakened, has been revitalized, and nearly 60,000 jobs have been filled in the



past year and a half. The Stamps & Registration Department has introduced a slot booking system, modern Sub-Registrar offices, and extensive technology usage to improve services and curb corruption, he observed. The Minister urged the newly appointed District Registrars to perform their duties with honesty and dedication, aligning with the government's vision and enhancing its reputation.

## V.C. Sajjanar takes charge as Hyderabad Police Commissioner

Hyderabad, Sept.30 : Senior IPS officer V.C. Sajjanar officially took up his role as the Commissioner of Police for Hyderabad at the Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre (TGICCC) located in Banjara Hills on Tuesday. Sajjanar, who is a member of the 1996 batch of the IPS from the former Andhra Pradesh cadre and subsequently assigned to Telangana, has earned a reputation as a decisive leader, boasting nearly thirty years of experience in various important policing and administrative roles.

He began his career as an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Jangaon, located in the Warangal district, and later in Pulivendula of Kadapa district. Following his promotion, Sajjanar has held the position of Superintendent of Police (SP) in several important districts, including Nalgonda, Kadapa, Guntur, Warangal, and Medak. Additionally, he has served as SP for the Crime Investigation Department (Economic Offences Wing), SP for OCTOPUS (Organisation for Countering Terrorist Operations), and Commandant of the 6th Battalion of APSP in Mangalagiri. After being promoted to Deputy Inspector Gen-



eral (DIG) and then Inspector General (IG) of Police, Sajjanar worked in the Intelligence department until March 2018. From March 2018 to August 2021, Sajjanar held the position of Commissioner of Police for Cyberabad. In September 2021, he took on the role of Managing Director of TSRTC.

## BRS leader demands legal safeguards for BC reservations in Telangana

Hyderabad: Former Minister V Srinivas Goud charged the Congress government with deceiving Backward Classes (BCs) in the name of 42 percent reservations without ensuring legal safeguards. He cautioned that even a small petition in the Supreme Court could nullify the reservations in the upcoming local body elections. Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Tuesday, Srinivas Goud questioned why the State government issued a GO to increase BC reservations instead of passing a bill in the Assembly and obtaining the President's assent or taking it to the Prime Minister for

a Constitutional amendment. He warned that similar moves had been struck down by courts in other States. "People can be fooled sometimes, but not all the time. The Congress government knows this GO is invalid, yet it went ahead with releasing the election schedule. Does it want to bankrupt BCs who win in elections and then lose seats in court when the reservations are invalidated?" he asked. The BRS leader accused the Congress and the BJP of colluding to block increased reservations. He pointed out that none of the promises made under the Kamareddy Declaration were implemented.

# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## CJI Gavai has unwittingly opened a Pandora's Box

It may not be a regular happening, but we have come across occasions when an off the cuff remark has snowballed into a major controversy, especially in politics and public life, with the person making the remark drawing flak from diverse sections and subject to a backlash, whose impact is lowered after the individual either apologises or withdraws the statement. This is being learnt the hard way by Justice B R Gavai, the Chief Justice of India (CJI). Ironically, this was triggered by an observation he made on September 16 while heading a Supreme Court bench that was dealing with a petition seeking repair and restoration of a seven-foot beheaded idol of Lord Vishnu at the Gavari temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which is part of the famed Khajuraho group of monuments in Madhya Pradesh. As part of routine legal proceedings, he stated that the matter was within the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the court had nothing to do with the issue. Justice Gavai refused to entertain the PIL on those very grounds. However, on persistent pleas by the petitioner, Justice Gavai made a remark that has sparked a nationwide debate as it seemingly 'hurts' religious sentiments.

Dismissing the plea, the apex court bench contended that it was an out and out 'publicity interest litigation' and added that as it was an archaeological find, it was for the ASI to take a call on the plea. Meanwhile, when petitioner, Rakesh Dalal, claimed that the idol was mutilated during Mughal invasions and has remained in that state despite repeated representations to the government to restore it, the first Buddhist to occupy the country's most exalted judicial position, remarked "Go and ask the deity himself to do something."

## Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Participates in Bathukamma Celebrations in Uppal Division



"Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 30, Indian Chronical, "Bathukamma celebrations were held with great grandeur in various colonies of Uppal Division, including Saraswathi Colony, Swaroop Nagar, Satya Nagar Colony, Padmavati Colony, Sai Baba Colony, Sai Ram Colony, and New Shanti Nagar. "Uppal Division Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy actively participated in the festivities along with local women. She joined them in playing and singing around the Bathukamma, celebrating the spirit of the festival. Bathukamma is a unique floral festival that pays tribute to nature and is a reflection of Telangana's rich culture and traditions. "Women beautifully arranged seasonal flowers in layers to form colorful Bathukammas. These were then placed together in a common area, where participants danced and sang traditional songs around them. As part of the rituals, they bid farewell to Bathukamma with the customary chant, "Vellira Bathukamma... Mallira Bathukamma" (Come again, Bathukamma... Return again, Bathukamma). The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from colony women, members of colony welfare associations, and others.

## Central Govt Proposes Acoustic Vehicle Alert System(AVAS) for EVs



DNV Srikanth, "Manikonda," September 30 "Indian Chronicle. "Central Government had proposed sound alert systems for electric vehicles including cars, buses, trucks from Oct 2027 so that pedestrians would get an alert when these vehicles move at low speeds. "From Oct 2027, Govt had made it mandatory to have Acoustic Vehicle Alerting System(AVAS), that would alert pedestrians about vehicles moving on low speeds, Road Transport ministry had issued a notification. Although this requirement is excluded for electric two wheelers and electric three wheelers. "This notification aims that all new models including passenger vehicles and goods vehicles manufactured after Oct 2026 must be equipped with AVAS and all models manufactured from Oct 2027 should have this alert system mandatorily. "This AVAS is a system that emit artificial sounds to let pedestrians, cyclists and other commuters to know about vehicles entry, this helps in avoiding the accidents to some extent. This also improves and targets for better road safety.

## Government Acts on Encroachments in Cherlapally After Minister Intervention



""Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, Sept 29, Indian Chronicle: Kapra revenue officials demolished illegal constructions in Survey No. 288 at Small Cherlapally village following a complaint made by Budida Prem Kumar Goud, Telangana Young Leaders state vice president, and Kadiyala Nanda Kishore. The complaint was submitted to State Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy regarding encroachments on government land and drainage canals. The officials moved into action after local MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy sent a letter to the CCLA Principal Secretary, urging action to protect government property.

Prem Kumar Goud and Nanda Kishore expressed gratitude, stating that only because of the MLA's intervention was the land protected from encroachments. Following the request for strict measures against illegal structures, Kapra MRO led a demolition drive using JCBs to clear encroachments in Survey No. 288. Prem Kumar Goud and Nanda Kishore also appealed to the government to allocate the reclaimed land for public use, emphasizing that government property should serve community needs. Local residents of Cherlapally supported the demand and thanked the minister for ensuring action against land grabbers.



Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 29, Indian Chronicle – "On Monday evening, grand Saddula Bathukamma celebrations were held with great joy by

women at Sri Mahankali Ramalayam in Habsiguda. A large number of women enthusiastically participated in the Bathukamma festivities and made the event a grand

## Aswaraopet hospital deliveries reach half a century from six per month.

S Naga Manoj Kumar, Aswarapet constituency, September 30, IndianChronicle: - Aswaraopet hospital services reach another milestone Local people are expressing joy.District administration is successful in providing better medical services in remote areas."MLA Jare, District Collector Jitesh V. Patil, and DCHS Dr. Ravi Babu have a special focus."Better medical services have become available in Vaidya Vidhana Parishad hospitals even in remote areas of Bhadradi district. As per the instructions of the district ministers, District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has continuously reviewed and made available the necessary medical equipment and staff to strengthen the medical sector in the district. Additional incentives were announced, and specialist doctors were appointed in all corners of the district. As a result, today the poor people are getting quality treatment in government hospitals instead of going to private hospitals. With the increasing trust of the people in government hospitals, all the hospitals in the district are getting crowded."Peta Hospital Reaches Fifty Births Milestone" In the past, Ashwaraopet Hospital reached a record high of only ten births in the month of April, but in September it reached the half-century milestone. A total of 52 births were made this month, out of which 26 were healthy births and 26 were delivered through caesarean sections. This is a testament to the trust of the people in government hospitals. While at least fifty thousand is spent on a single birth in private hospitals, a lot of good is done to the poor in the form of government hospitals instead of that cost. In the past, when there were no specialist doctors, as per the instructions of the District Collector, DCHS Dr. Ravi Babu paid special attention and appointed two obstetricians, a pediatrician, and two anesthesiologists, and they are constantly monitoring the hospital and providing better medical services in the hospital. In this process, the staff in the hos-



pital are always available and are well-behaved and are being received by the people. At a time when toxic fever is rampant, better medical treatment is being provided. MLA Jare's special effort on the development of the hospital Local legislator Jare Adinarayana frequently visits the hospital and reviews the situation from time to time and makes suggestions to the authorities. Recently, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy laid the foundation stone of a 100-bed building, and a blood bank and modern equipment have also been made available. Feedback from the public is being collected from time to time, and appropriate suggestions are being made to the hospital staff. Congratulations to the hospital staff. On the occasion of reaching the half-century milestone in deliveries, local legislators Jare Adinarayana, District Collector Jitesh Patil, and DCHS Dr. Ravi Babu congratulated the hospital staff. Hospital Superintendent Dr. Radha Rukmini, obstetrician Dr. Mounika, anesthesiologists Dr. Shankar Rao and Dr. Siva Rama Krishna Prasad, pediatricians Dr. Prakash, nursing staff Manga and Pramila, operation theater in-charge Sujatha, Veerakumari, and other staff were specially congratulated."End....

## Special Puja Held in Meerpet HB Colony Division During Navratri



""Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Meerpet, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: As

part of the Navratri celebrations, Om Shakti Youth Association and Lakshminagar Welfare Association organized special puja programs in Meerpet HB Colony Division. Uppal constituency Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy participated in the puja, visited the goddess temple, and took part in the annadanam program. Division leaders Polepaka Anjaiah, Rayini Uday Kiran, Srinivas Mudiraj, Krishnanagar Colony President Mallareddy, Gupta, Anjaiah, Rajesh, Mallikarjun, Suresh Goud, Harsha Reddy, Nikki Goud, Sai Krishna, Priyatam, Gemini and several others were present.

## 60 cannabis plants Seized



"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.September, 29.""Asifabad: Cultivation of cannabis plants"Jainur SI Ravikumar said that a case has been registered against a person who is illegally cultivating marijuana. Based on information received, the police conducted a search operation behind the house of Mosram Somu of Dhaboli village,Jainur Shekuguda and found 60 marijuana plants. The value of this is estimated to be around Rs 60,000. The SI said that a case has been registered against him after seizing the marijuana plants.

## MPR Participates in Special Pooja During Devi Navaratri Celebrations in Ramanthapur Division



"Kishore Vaddepalli,Uppal, September 30 | Indian Chronicle – ""As part of the Devi Navaratri festivities, a special pooja was held in the Ramanthapur Division. Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress Party In-Charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy participated in the celebrations and special pooja at various places, including Indira Nagar Sri Krishna Youth Association, Icon Youth Association, Indira Nagar, Ganga Lakshmi Bhavani Temple, Indira Nagar He offered prayers to the Goddess and also took part in the Annadanam (food donation) program."Several key individuals took part in this event, including: Rafiq, Vallapu Srikanth Yadav, Ambika, Gayatri Goud, Poosa Sattanna, Diviti Mallayya, Savula Srinu, Gudamani Bhaskar, Manohar, Madhu, Tarun, Charan, Venu Madhav, Mani Dhar, Shaga Sridhar, Bullet Ashok, Pantuluri Bhaskar, Chintu, Naveen, Saleem, Surender, Swamy, Ramana, Madhu, Balu, Angalla Sandeep, Sai, Sunil and many others.

## Silver Donation at Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy Temple, Kukatpally



"Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kukatpally, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: At Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy Temple in Kukatpally, about 35 kilograms of silver was donated by Radhakrishna and Jhansi Lakshmi for plating the doors of the Sri Goda Devi temple. The donation was handed over to the temple executive officer in the presence of MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao. The program was attended by Madhavaram Roja Devi Rangarao, former chairman Nayeneni Srinivasa Rao (Tulasi), Gottimukkula Pedda Bhaskara Rao, Naraharishetty Ramakrishna, and Maryada Ashok.

## "Special Seats Should Be Allotted To SC s: Buddhist Samaj President Jadi Shekhar Speaking"

Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas.September,"30.""Wankidi Mandal Khamana Gram Buddhist Samaj President Jadi Shekhar demanded that special reservation seats be allotted to SCs in politics. He spoke in Khamana village of the mandal on Monday.He said that there is a 30 percent SC population in the village and not a single seat in the ten wards has been allotted to SCs. He alleged that SCs are not being properly represented in education, employment and politics as per the reservations provided by the Constitution. Maruthi, Tirupati, Kishan, Titinder and Akshay Kumar participated in the program.

## Uppal MLA participates in Durga Mata pujas



“Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: “Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy visited several Durga Mata pandals in Charlapalli division and Dr. AS Rao Nagar division on the occasion of Navratri. He performed special pujas at the pandals along with local devotees. Addressing the gather-



ing, the MLA said that with the blessings of Goddess Durga, people should lead their lives with peace, happiness and prosperity. He added that such festivals bring people together and strengthen cultural traditions. BRS party leaders, activists and local residents actively took part in the program and extended their support in organizing the festivities.

## Study Circle on Telangana Armed Struggle Heritage Book Held



“Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: A study circle was organized at the CITU Conference Hall in Kamalanagar under the banner of Telangana Praja Samskritika Kendram (TPSK) and its cultural wing Spooroti Group. The discussion focused on the book “Telangana Porata Varasatvam” (Heritage of the Telangana Struggle), authored by Ramulu, who attended the program as the chief guest. The session was coordinated by Spooroti Group convener Godugu Yadagiri Rao. Social activist Jayaraju made a presentation on the details covered in the book. He also explained related information written by Srimannarayana. Speaking on the occasion, author Ramulu explained the background of writing the book in 2009, during the Telangana separate statehood movement, to highlight the legacy of the Telangana armed struggle that was often undermined. He said the struggle was a historic movement in which peasants picked up arms against the oppressive rule of the Nizam. At that time, out of a population of around 1.5 crore in Telangana, only five percent were educated, mostly through Urdu medium, while Telugu was treated as a lesser language. The Andhra Mahasabha emerged as part of the Telugu language movement, and peasants also fought against zamindars and jagirdars who



collected taxes on behalf of the Nizam, exploited people, and enforced bonded labor. Ramulu pointed out that communists organized the resistance under the name Sangham and achieved many victories through prolonged struggles. Although the Nehru government merged Telangana into the Indian Union, attempts were made to restore power to landlords by recognizing the Nizam as Raj Pramukh. The peasants, however, resisted and succeeded in protecting their lands. He underlined that this struggle does not belong to any political party—Congress, BJP, or TRS—but to the people who fought it. Importantly, he noted that the movement was not a Hindu–Muslim conflict but a united struggle of various social groups under communist leadership. Participants Krishna Macharyulu, Shivannarayana, Roja Rani, Malleshm, Jayaraju, Girish, M. Bhaskar Rao, Gummadi Hariprasad, Sharada, Komati Ravi, A.K. Durgachari, Prabhakar, and G. Sivarama Krishna shared their views on the book. Godugu Yadagiri Rao announced that by 2026 the Telangana armed struggle will complete 80 years. He said plans are being made to take the legacy of the struggle to the public through essays, plays, short films, exhibitions, and other cultural forms throughout the year. The program concluded with slogans to carry forward the heritage of the Telangana armed struggle.

## Palvoncha native passes away at old age home



“Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Medipally, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: Chalasani Satyanarayana (68), a native of Palvoncha, passed away today at Adarsh Welfare & Educational Society Old Age Home. He had moved to Hyderabad nearly 30 years ago for employment and was residing in Boduppal. He had no parents, wife, or children. Although he had brothers, sisters-in-law, and their children, none came forward to support him. In this situation, his friends and well-wishers, Kunduru Vidhyasagar Reddy and Nalgiri Raju, took care of him, helped him with health issues, and looked after his needs. For the past five years, he had been suffering from diabetes. Even when his relatives were informed about his condition, no one came to see him. With the support of Vidhyasagar Reddy and Raju, and later with the assistance of the old age home, he was taken care of during his last days. He breathed his last today at 11 a.m. His final rites were conducted in the presence of Vidhyasagar Reddy, the old age home management, and friends.

## Additional DGP Venkataramana participates in Bhavani Mata special puja“



““Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: Medchal-

Malkajgiri District Additional DGP Venkataramana took part in a special puja at the Sri Bhavani Mata pandal in Ellareddyguda, Meher Baba B Colony, Kapra Mandal. The event was organized under the leadership of senior Congress leaders, Medchal-Malkajgiri District Agricultural Market Committee Director Poorn Yadav and Nemuri Babu Goud. Speaking on the occasion, Venkataramana said that on the occasion of Dasara Navratri celebrations, he had the opportunity to seek the blessings of the goddess. He prayed for the well-being, happiness, and safety of all people. He appreciated the organizers for arranging such a spiritual program and giving him the opportunity to participate. The program was attended by Rajesh Bhavani, Akhil Bhavani, Chandan Bhavani, and local residents including Som Raj Goud, Prakash Rao, Sangram, among others.

## CPI urges Centre to resolve Ladakh issue

New Delhi, Sept.30 : Communist Party of India (CPI) Control Commission Chairman Dr. K. Narayana on Tuesday urged the Union government to take immediate steps to resolve the Ladakh issue through meaningful dialogue and consultation with all stakeholders. He stated that the ongoing tension and administrative uncertainty in the region are affecting the livelihood and democratic rights of local people. The government must ensure constitutional safeguards, environmental protection, and fair representation for the people of Ladakh. Dr. Narayana emphasised that ignoring the concerns of Ladakh's citizens could lead to fur-

ther alienation and unrest. He appealed to the government to uphold federal principles and democratic spirit while addressing the demands for statehood, Sixth Schedule status, and equitable development.

The CPI leader also demanded that all those who have been arrested should be released immediately before the scheduled negotiation meeting, so that discussions can take place in a free and fair atmosphere. He reiterated CPI's firm stand that peaceful resolution through democratic dialogue is the only way to maintain stability and trust among the people of Ladakh.

## Kushaiguda Inspector stresses better public service

““Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kushaiguda, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: Kushaiguda Inspector L. Bhaskar Reddy said that government officials must take responsibility to provide better services to the public. He added that only by delivering improved services can officials earn people's trust and appreciation. On Monday night, Inspector Bhaskar Reddy along with SI Sailu felicitated Empalli Kranti Ranadev at Shiva Sai Nagar. Ranadev recently cleared the Telangana State Public Service Commission Group-2 examination and was selected as an ASO Law Officer in the Telangana Secretariat.



## Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy Resolves PNT Colony Road Issue by Bringing it to the Notice of Uppal Constituency In-Charge

“Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 30, Indian Chronicle,““Due to unseasonal rains, the roads in PNT Colony of Habsiguda Division had become severely damaged, causing inconvenience to the residents. Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy, former Youth Congress President of Medchal-Malkajgiri district, visited the colony, inspected the condition of the roads, and brought the issue to the attention of Uppal Constituency Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, leading to the resolution of the problem.“On this occasion, Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy stated that residents of Habsiguda Division have been facing many difficulties due to unseasonal rains and that he took up the issue and got it resolved after visiting the area. The program was attended by Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy (former Youth Congress President, Medchal-Malkajgiri District), Vijay Kumar (President, Habsiguda Division Congress Party), Devadaya Dharmadayashakha Director Dharma Naik (Division General Secretary), Vasu Naik



(President, Habsiguda Division Youth Congress), Indiramma Committee Member Rajanna, Habsiguda Division Secretary Suman Naik, and several others.

## Support for meritorious students in higher education – MLA B. Laxma Reddy“



““Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kushaiguda, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: Uppal MLA B. Laxma Reddy said that students who show excellence in higher education will be given full support and their families will be assisted in all possible ways. On Tuesday, he congratulated Empalli Kranthi Rana Dev, who cleared the Group-2 examination and was selected as ASO Law Officer in the Telangana Secretariat. Laxma Reddy visited his residence at Shiva Sai Nagar and felicitated him with a shawl.

## Grand Saddula Bathukamma Celebrations at Durga Bhavani Temple, Mallikarjuna Nagar Colony“

Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 30, Indian Chronicle““Saddula Bathukamma festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur by women at the Durga Bhavani temple in Mallikarjuna Nagar Colony, under Chilukanagar Division. “The women of the colony came together in unity, arranged beautiful Bathukammas with colorful flowers, and reached the Durga Bhavani temple to celebrate the festival with joy and devotion. Sisters and women of the community celebrated the Maha Saddula Bathukamma with immense happiness and festive spirit. “The colony women expressed their heartfelt thanks to the individuals who supported the grand event: Sanghi Swami Yadav, Anil Kumar, Bakery Tati Sampath, CH Guranath, Vanamalla Kiran, Govind Reddy, Arun Kumar, Shubham Singh, Mangali Palli Mahesh, Balakrishna, Chinna, Srikanth Yadav, Sharath Reddy, Madan Yadav, Anji Sriram, and others.



## Chilukanagar Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Participates in Saddula Bathukamma Celebrations“



““Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, September 30, Indian Chronical,““On the occasion of the Saddula Bathukamma festival, Chilukanagar Division Corporator and former

GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen participated in Bathukamma celebrations held across various colonies and bastis (neighborhoods) in the division. “Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen Mudiraj stated that after the formation of the Telangana state, the first Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) brought special recognition to the Bathukamma festival. She emphasized that KCR promoted the uniqueness of Bathukamma not only across

Telangana but also throughout the country and even globally, thereby highlighting the greatness of the tradition and enriching the cultural heritage of Telangana. “She remarked that while we see traditions of worshipping deities across the world, the practice of worshipping flowers as deities is unique to the Telugu people. “She further added that all necessary arrangements were made at the Bank Bathukamma Park in Chilukanagar Division. To ensure that there was no inconvenience for the public while playing Bathukamma, arrangements such as constructing temporary ponds in the colonies and bastis using JCBs and providing covers for immersion were made. GHMC, in coordination with the Electricity Department, also arranged lighting at all immersion points across the division. “After the celebrations, Corporator Geetha Praveen conveyed Dasara greetings to all the residents of Chilukanagar Division and the Uppal Constituency. She wished that the blessings of the Goddess be upon everyone and encouraged all to celebrate the Dasara festival joyfully with their children and families.

# Former Ghatkesar Municipal Chairperson Pavani Jangaiah Yadav Visits Durga Pandals on Dasara Navratri“



““Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Ghatkesar, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: On the occasion of Dasara Navratri, former Ghatkesar municipal chairperson Mulli Pavani Jangaiah Yadav visited several wards today to offer prayers at various Durga pandals. Speaking on the occasion, Pavani Jangaiah Yadav said that



this year devotees had set up pandals in a grand manner and were performing pujas with special devotion. She wished that the blessings of the goddess bring well-being to all people. Former councillor Kadupolla Mailesh, senior leader Sara Srinivas Goud, SC Cell president Srinivas, Youth president Bokka Sanjeev Reddy, Yugender, Kadupolla Raju, and many devotees also took part in the program.

# Habshiguda Division Corporator C. Chetana Harish Participates in Saddula Bathukamma Celebrations

Nacharam (Indain Chornical, September 30): On the occasion of Saddula Bathukamma, Habshiguda Division Corporator Kakkireni Chetana Harish actively participated in the festive celebrations organized across several colonies within the division.““The Corporator joined local women in the traditional Bathukamma festivities, extending greetings and encouraging the preservation of Telangana’s rich cultural heritage. She also appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the community and emphasized the importance of celebrating festivals together with unity and devotion.



# Navaratri Celebrations: Former ex Corporator Visits Temples

““Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Boduppal, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: As part of Devi Sharannavaratri festivities, former ex corporator Bhukya Suman and his wife visited prominent temples in the city on Tuesday. The couple offered special prayers at Jubilee Hills Peddamma Temple, Balkampet Yellamma Temple, and Pochamma Temple, seeking blessings during the festive season. Along with them, DS Naik and his wife also participated in the rituals. The devotees expressed that the Navaratri celebrations bring spiritual unity and positive energy, with temples across the city witnessing a large number of visitors.

# Navratri Durga Puja and Balkampet Renuka Ellamma Temple Visit by Former Ward Member and Idol Donors“



““Narra Srinivas Reddy ( NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Keesara, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: As part of the Navratri nine-day celebrations, special worship of Goddess Durga was performed today.

After the puja, former Keesar ward member Ragula Ramesh Mudiraj, along with Keesaragutta temple former trust board member Krishna and Venkatesh Goud, who donated the idol of Renuka Ellamma, visited the Balkampet Renuka Ellamma temple.

# Sri Durga Navaratri Festivals Under the Aegis of Veera Shivaji Youth



““Mandava Srisaillam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau (Indian Chronicle..September 30):- “Today, on the day of Moola Nakshatra, during the Sri Durga Devi Sharan Navaratri festival organized by Veera Shivaji Youth in Meena Nagar, Bhuvanagiri town, a puja program was conducted by children to the Goddess in the form of Sri Maha Saraswati Devi and later a script practice was conducted. In this program, which was organized under the aegis of Veera Shivaji Youth President Sudagani Raju, a large number of children participated in the program. Priest Srinivas Pantulu corrected the letters and gave blessings. Veera Shivaji Youth members Bandaru Raghu, Karipe Suresh, Tangellapalli Mohan, Kusuma Saiteja, Karipe Naresh, Madasu Ruthvik, Jangiti Varun, Parimal Raj, Sonu, Sai Kiran, Hirekar Amar and others participated in this program.



residents extended their cooperation to make the event a success.

# Durga Mata Pandals Visited in Charlapally Division



“ Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: GHMC standing committee member and Charlapally division corporator Bonthu Sridevi Yadav visited Durga Mata pandals arranged at Sai Nagar Colony, Kushaiguda village, and Vaishnav Enclave in Charlapally division. On this occasion, she interacted with the local residents, women, and youth who participated in the celebrations. Community



members highlighted the cultural significance of Navratri and expressed happiness over the active participation in the festivities. The corporator noted the efforts of colony associations in organizing the pandals and encouraged them to continue promoting unity and tradition through such events. Large numbers of devotees, including children and elderly people, gathered to offer prayers and take part in the festive atmosphere.

# With Goddess’ Blessings, a Knowledgeable Society Will Flourish“Distribution of Books to Students“



“Nacharam, (Indian Chornical, September 30)With the divine blessings of the Goddess, a society enriched with knowledge will emerge, said Greater Congress leader Nemali Anil Kumar. ““The Sri Devi Sharan Navaratri celebrations organized under the aegis of Shanthi Youth Club are being held grandly at the Mallapur Municipal Grounds. As



part of these festivities, a textbook distribution program was held on Tuesday, where Greater Congress leader Nemali Anil Kumar attended as the chief guest.““On this occasion, Anil Kumar personally distributed textbooks and notebooks to students. He also performed special prayers to Goddess Durga. In recognition of his contribution, the festival committee members felicitated Anil Kumar with a shawl.

# Grand Saddula Bathukamma Celebrations at Kapra Lake

“Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, Sept 30, Indian Chronicle: Bathukamma, Telangana’s festival of flowers, stands as a symbol of joy and unity for women. Celebrated every year for nine days during the Ashwayuja month, the final day known as Saddula Bathukamma holds special significance. Women from different localities decorate Bathukammas with colorful flowers, sing traditional songs, dance, and carry them to local lakes, creating a vibrant atmosphere that reflects Telangana’s cultural heritage. Following the call of Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, Saddula Bathukamma was celebrated in a grand manner at Kapra Lake. Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi Kapra convenor Regalla Satish Reddy took part in the festivities. He welcomed the visitors and local participants and felicitated former MLA Bethi Subhash Reddy and former MLC Katepalli Janardhan Reddy with shawls. Leaders including Mahender Reddy, Rajanikant Reddy, Sitaram Reddy, Ramesh Yadav, Raju Vamsaraj Raju, Harish, and Manjunath joined the event, adding more enthusiasm to the celebrations. The



festival, filled not only with flowers but also with food sharing, unity, and joy, once again highlighted the cultural pride of Telangana.

# Model Code of Conduct to Remain Enforced Until Conclusion of Panchayat Polls: Collector Koya Sri Harsha.“



““P.S.ASHOKAN"Indian Chronicle"Manthani, September 30.““District Collector Koya Sri Harsha affirmed that the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) will continue to be in force until the successful culmination of the Panchayat elections. The Collector convened a strategic coordination meeting on Tuesday with representatives from all political parties at the District Collectorate.““Addressing the gathering, Mr. Harsha emphasized that the MCC will be strictly implemented throughout the election process. He clarified that polling will be conducted exclusively in Phase-2 and Phase-3, while Phase-1 will not witness any electoral activity. He urged political parties and candidates to adhere meticulously to the code and refrain from any violations.““Candidates intending to issue public statements, organize rallies, or undertake campaign-related activities must first secure prior approval from the respective Revenue Divisional Officers (RDOs), he stated. In case of grievances or procedural issues, stakeholders are advised to approach the Mandal-level MPDOs, or at the district level, the Zilla Parishad Chief Executive Officer (ZP CEO) and the District Panchayat Officer (DPO) for appropriate resolution.““The meeting witnessed the participation of ZP CEO Narender, DPO Veera Buchaiah, Shashibhushan Kache, and a broad spectrum

of political party representatives and administrative officials, all of whom pledged cooperation to ensure the smooth and fair conduct of the upcoming electoral phases.

# TG PRISONS DEPT CELEBRATES INMATES ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT UNDER BRAOU

Hyderabad, Sept.30 The Telangana Prisons department today announced that 28 inmates, comprising 25 male and 3 female, from various prisons across the state have successfully completed their Undergraduate programmes through BR Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU). Participating at the 26th Convocation Ceremony of BRAOU here on Tuesday, Dr. Soumya Mishra, Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services, commended the graduates for their determination and perseverance in transforming their lives through education, encouraging them to continue their journey of self-improvement and responsible reintegration into society.This achievement marks a significant milestone in the mission of correctional services. Across all jails, programmes of reformation, rehabilitation, and reintegration are being conducted with the objective of shaping prisoners into constructive and responsible individuals. The success of these graduates reflects the sustained efforts and commitment of the Telangana Prisons Department in achieving these noble goals, the department claimed.

## MLA B. Laxma Reddy Launches Development Works for Community Buildings“



“Nacharam, (Indain Chornical, September 30): Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy announced that efforts are being made to construct community buildings across the constituency, transcending caste and religious lines.”“On Tuesday, the MLA laid the foundation stone for the construction of the first floor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Bhavan in Mallapur Division. The works, costing Rs.40 lakhs, have been sanctioned under the Special Development Fund (SDF) through the Constituency Development Programme (CDP).”“The foundation-laying ceremony was jointly carried out by MLA

Bandari Laxma Reddy and Corporator Pannala Devender Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA reiterated his commitment to the holistic development of the constituency.”“Those present at the event included Meerpet Housing Board Corporator Jerripothula Prabhudas, former Corporator Gundarapu Srinivas Reddy, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Association President Karre Shankar, General Secretary Menda Raghuvaran, leaders Pamati Narender, Hanumandla Vijay, Jitender, Balachander, Sandeep, Sai, Srinivas, along with several local leaders and residents.

## Model Code of Conduct Election Code of Conduct Implementation in the District..Instructions in Teleconference:- State Election Officer Rani Kumudini““



Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..September 30):- The Model Code of Conduct (Election Code of Conduct) will be implemented in the district. “State Election Officer Rani Kumudini said that the MPTC and ZPTC elections will be held in two phases and Sarpanch elections in three phases in the state. A video conference was held with the election officers and district collectors of all districts on the implementation of the local body election code of conduct.” The District Collector has instructed the concerned officials to make elaborate arrangements for the conduct of MPTC, ZPTC and



Gram Panchayat Sarpanch elections in the district as per the State Election Commission and government orders.”The State Election Commission held a video conference with the Collectors, SPs and concerned officials of all the districts from Hyderabad.”The District Collector informed the State Election Commissioner that they are ready to conduct the elections.”The Model Code of Conduct and the Election Code of Conduct will be implemented in accordance with the election rules.”ACP Rahul Reddy, Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy, Local Bodies Head Collector Bhaskara Rao and others were present in this video conference.



Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..September 30):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao conducted a surprise inspection of the village hospital in Cholluru village of Yadagirigutta mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. The collector went to the village hospital as part of the surprise inspection on Tuesday. Since no staff was present at the time of the visit, the District Collector issued orders to the District Medical Officer to issue show-cause notices to the MLHP.

## Indiramma house works should be completed quickly:- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao“

“Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..September 30):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the work of Indiramma houses under construction should be completed quickly. On Tuesday, the District Collector inspected the construction work of Indiramma houses in Cholluru village of Yadagirigutta mandal. The District Collector inspected the Indiramma houses under construction in the village... He found out how many Indiramma houses are under construction in the village and at what stages they are. He suggested that all the beneficiaries should complete the construction work of the houses quickly. The concerned officials participated in this program.



## Bathukamma celebrations conclude in Bambara.“

““Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas.September, “30.”“Bathukamma celebrations conclude “In New Colony, Bambara village, Wankidi mandal, on Monday night from 6 pm to 5 am, women and children celebrated Bathukamma celebrations with games,songs, dances, and as part of the closing ceremony, they lit lamps on Bathukamma in the Gundala stream and immersed them in the water, praying, "Let me cool my house down, let me pray..



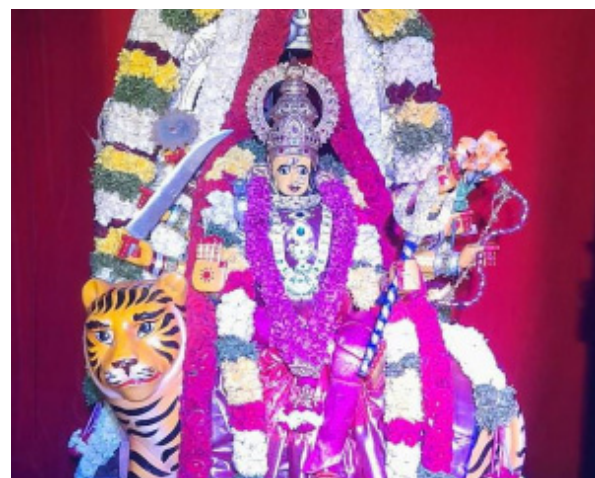
## MP EATALA SLAMS GOVT OVER LOCAL BODY POLLS

Hyderabad, Sept.30 Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender on Tuesday lashed out at the state government over its notification for local body elections, accusing it of misleading people with the promise of 42% BC reservations that courts are unlikely to uphold. Revanth Reddy government was playing a drama in the name of the 42 percent quota for the BCs. What if the court rules that it is not constitutional? The court canceled the local body elections in Maharashtra after they were held. The candidates who

spent money on the elections had suffered a huge loss, Eatala reminded.Speaking to newsmen at his residence in Kamalapur, Hanumakonda, Rajender said the Supreme Court had earlier struck down similar reservations in Bihar and Maharashtra. "What is the objection of ministers to the people going to court? They know it won't stand legal scrutiny", he said.He advised sarpanch aspirants not to rush into election spending, and warned that the polls may not be conducted at all.

## Siddhidhatri – The Bestower of Divine Fulfillment Worshipped on Auspicious Durga Ashtami.“

“ “ P . S . A S H O K A N “ I n d i a n Chronicle“Manthani,September 30:”“On the sacred occasion of Durga Ashtami, devotees across the nation venerate Goddess Siddhidhatri, the ninth and final manifestation of the revered Navadurga. This divine form is worshipped with utmost devotion on the ninth day (Navami) of Ashwayuja Shukla Paksha, marking the culmination of the Navaratri festivities.”“The name Siddhidhatri is a confluence of two profound Sanskrit terms—‘Siddhi’, meaning spiritual accomplishments or perfections, and ‘Dhatri’, meaning the giver. As per ancient Hindu lore, Goddess Siddhidhatri is the celestial embodiment of grace who grants spiritual enlightenment, divine wisdom, material prosperity, and ultimate liberation (moksha) to her ardent devotees.”“Iconographically, the goddess is depicted seated gracefully upon a lotus, radiating divine serenity. She is adorned with four arms, each symbolizing cosmic attributes—holding a lotus, mace (gada), Sudarshana Chakra (divine discus), and a conch (shankha). Her form is not only aesthetically captivating but also deeply symbolic of the supreme cosmic powers she governs.”“According to the Puranas, the blessings of Siddhidhatri lead to the realization of Brahma Jnana—the transcendental knowledge of the Absolute. Her divine grace is sought not only by human beings but also by celestial and ethereal entities such as siddhas, gandharvas, yakshas, asuras, and devas, all of whom offer their reverent worship to seek her benevolence.”“The Navaratri festival, celebrated during the



first nine days of Ashwayuja month, reaches its spiritual zenith with the final triad of observances—Durga Ashtami, Maha Navami, and Vijaya Dashami. Among them, Durga Ashtami holds unique significance as it honors the fulfiller of all desires, the divine mother Siddhidhatri, who is believed to remove ignorance and awaken the highest consciousness within her devotees.”“Worshipping Goddess Siddhidhatri on this sacred day is believed to open the doors to transcendence, spiritual realization, and cosmic harmony, elevating the soul towards its highest potential.

## Make CPM candidates who constantly fight for the people win: CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha's call“

“Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..September 30):- CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha has called for making CPM candidates who are constantly standing in front of the people and working for the comprehensive development of villages win as Sarpanches, MPTCs and ZPTCs.”On Tuesday, the local Sundarayya Bhavan, Bhuvanagiri CPM Bhuvanagiri Mandal Committee meeting was held under the chairmanship of District Committee Member Dayyala Narasimha. Narasimha participated as the chief guest in this meeting and said that under the auspices of the CPM party, continuous movements will be organized for the comprehensive development of the district and mandal. He said that the CPM is constantly fighting to complete the Baswapuram project in the mandal and provide water through canals to all villages, provide adequate compensation to the displaced persons, support the Triple R displaced persons, establish link roads in villages, and construct high-level bridges on canals in various villages. He said that they have also waged many struggles on the issues of the peasantry, agricultural laborers, professionals, and organized and associated workers. He said that they have put pressure on the government through the Grama Gramana Porubata program to provide houses, ration cards, and pensions in the villages. He urged the people to cooperate in the upcoming local body elections and if the CPM candidates who stand by the people and work for development are elected, there will be an opportunity to



develop the villages in all ways. They are contesting independently under the auspices of the CPM party as Sarpanchs of Anajipuram, Hanmapuram, Chimalakondur, Penchikal Had, Basvapuram, Vadaparthi, Muthireddygudem, Mustyalapalli, Namathpalli, and Nandanam villages in the mandal, as MPTCs of Anajipuram, Basvapuram, Hanmapuram, Muthireddygudem, Veeravelli, and Nandanam villages, and as ZPTC of Bhuvanagiri mandal. They requested the people of all sections in the respective villages to provide cooperation and make the CPM candidates win for the development of the villages. Mandal Secretary Pallerla Anjaiah, Mandal Secretariat members Edunuri Malleshham, Kondamadugu Nagamani, Mandal Committee members Siliveru Yellaiah, Pandala Maisayya, Abdulapuram Venkatesh, Mote Yellaiah, Kondapuram Yadagiri, Kallem Lakshmi Narasaiah, Madhyapuram Bal Narasimha and others participated in this meeting.

## Corporator Kakkireni Chetana Harish Participates in Bathukamma Celebrations in Habsiguda Division“

“Kishore Vaddepalli,Uppal,September 30, Uppal – Indian Chronical,““Grand Saddula Bathukamma celebrations were held in various areas under the Habsiguda Division, including Venkat Reddy Nagar, Ram Reddy Nagar, Ganesh Nagar, and Habsiguda Seat No. 8.

The festivities were a visual treat, marked by vibrant participation from the local community.Habsiguda Corporator Kakkireni Chetana Harish took part in the celebrations, playing Bathukamma and joyfully engaging with the women present. She emphasized that Bathukamma is a unique and significant festival that worships flowers and nature, showcasing the rich culture and traditions of Telangana.”On this occasion, women honored the corporator with great respect. The event saw the enthusiastic participation of colony women, members of colony welfare associations, and other local residents.



## The Sacred Triad Begins: Durga Ashtami, Mahanavami & Vijayadashami — A Divine Confluence of Valor, Devotion, and Victory.



“ P . S . A S H O K A N “ I n d i a n Chronicle“Manthani,September 30:”“Commencing today, the final three days of Navaratri—Durga Ashtami, Mahanavami, and Vijayadashami (Dasara)—unfold as a spiritually charged sequence that symbolizes the triumph of righteousness, the attainment of spiritual fulfillment, and the celebration of divine victory.”“Durga Ashtami: The Fierce Compassion of the Divine Mother”“Falling on the eighth day of the Shukla Paksha in the Ashwayuja month, Durga Ashtami is a day of profound spiritual resonance. It

marks the worship of Goddess Durga in her fierce and protective form, hailed for vanquishing the demon Loha, symbolizing the eradication of negativity and the birth of strength (represented by metal or “loha”).”“The term Durga itself is derived from the root words “Dur” (meaning suffering, adversity, misfortune) and “Ga” (to eliminate). Thus, Durga is “She who destroys all forms of distress”. Worshipping her is believed to ward off evil forces—spirits, negative energies, demonic influences, and all that obstructs one’s spiritual or material progress.”“Durga Ashtami is also a day of Ayudha Puja—the veneration of tools, instruments, and weapons. Students re

## BJP MP DEMANDS DEMOLITION OF ADITYA VINTAGE BUNGALOW

Hyderabad, Sept.30 The controversy over Sri Aditya Vintage Project near Narsingi in Gandipet mandal took a new turn on Tuesday as BJP MP Raghunandan Rao demanded the demolition of what he alleged to be an ‘illegal construction’ in the Musi river catchment area.Speaking to the media persons, the MP said while the state government was focused on the Musi Riverfront project, it was ignoring rampant illegal structures.

# How a canal breach rewrote Madhopur’s map of Punjab



GNS News Agency, Sept 30

The topography near the Madhopur headworks, built by the British between 1872 and 1879 to divert Ravi’s waters into the Upper Bari Doab Canal (UBDC), changed overnight recently. The manicured embankments and green fields gave way to a raw, broken landscape: roads torn apart, trees uprooted like matchsticks, and gaping breaches carved by raging water. The panic that gripped Punjab on August 27, when two floodgates at the Madhopur headworks collapsed, was only the tip of a crisis that had already been unleashed the previous night without any warning.

At Bhedian Buzurg, the last village of Punjab on the Indo-Pak border, perched about 100 feet above the Ravi and barely a kilometre from the headworks, the locals’ confidence in its geography was shattered forever. The villagers had always believed their elevation protected them. “I am a witness to the 1988 floods. Our village didn’t get a drop then. Earlier too, our elders had never spoken about floods. We thought we were safe for life,” said Dinak Raj, president of Bhagat Mahasabha Welfare Society and a retired Water Resources Department official. “That night changed everything”.

The nightmare began on August 26, around 9 pm, when the Madhopur Barrage Left Canal ripped open near Bhedian Buzurg. Within minutes, Ravi’s waters roared through the breach, swallowing farmland and homestead. The current was so fierce it uprooted decades-old trees and flattened a house. “We got only five minutes’ warning,” recalled Raj. “I was on an evening walk when someone from Sujampur told me the canal might break. Before I could even alert the staff or call for machines, the breach had happened. I couldn’t

# Rana Gurjeet demands judicial probe into Punjab floods, blames BBMB for catastrophe

GNS News Agency, Sept 30

Punjab monsoons, Punjab rains, Punjab rainfall, Punjab floods, Punjab keeps flooding, Punjab flooding. Why Punjab keeps flooding, punjab govt, Indian express explained, explained news, current affairsAn aerial view of an area partially submerged in floodwater at Ghanaur village, in Patiala district, Punjab, Senior Congress leader and Kapurthala MLA Rana Gurjeet Singh Friday demanded that the Punjab and Haryana High Court appoint a sitting judge to investigate the causes behind the “flood disaster” in Punjab. In a statement, the MLA accused the AAP government of “complete failure” in handling the flood situation and said the deluge cannot be termed a natural disaster but is, instead, the result of grave administrative lapses and human error.

“The devastation that Punjab is currently grappling with is not due to nature alone, but due to a complete lack of preparedness and mismanagement by the state government,” said the MLA. He also held the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) accountable, stating that it shares the onus for the catastrophe. “The BBMB failed in forward planning and reservoir management at the Bhakra and Pong dams over rivers Sutlej and Beas. Their inability to properly regulate the inflow and outflow of water contributed significantly to the disaster,” he added. Rana Gurjeet Singh said the flood waters have also flown down from Ranjit Sagar Dam built over river Ravi. He said BBMB must be made to compensate for the losses suffered by the people of Punjab and should propose a comprehensive overhaul of how water resources are managed in the region. To prevent such disasters in the future, Rana Gurjeet Singh proposed the constitution of an expert committee comprising internationally renowned experts, engineers, and domain specialists. This committee would be tasked with assessing the full scope of the disaster, identifying the failures, and recommending corrective measures, he said. He emphasized that the panel should also suggest effective strategies for regulating dam operations under changing climate conditions.

Highlighting the lack of coordination in relief operations, Kapurthala legislator Singh said, “There is no shortage of

reach my home. I spent the whole night on a hillside”.

As water levels rose, desperate measures followed. “A youth named Karan drove a JCB into the raging canal and cut it near Madhopur railway bridge to divert water into the Ravi,” Raj said, his eyes brimming. “He did it on the Deputy Commissioner’s order, risking his life. If he hadn’t, our village would have vanished from the map”. Pathankot Deputy Commissioner Aditya Uppal confirmed the call. “We had to make an intentional breach to save lives,” he said. But the relief of survival came with devastation: around 60 families lost everything. A widow with three children stood among the ruins of her house as Raj accused the UBDC authorities of negligence. “Those officers are responsible. The Chief Minister must act,” he said.

The Left Marginal Bundh of the Madhopur Barrage had shown cracks earlier that day. “By afternoon, leaks had started from several places,” said Senior Engineer Gurbinder Singh Sandhu. “It broke in the evening.” A flash flood from the Basoli side compounded the crisis, bringing down boulders, tree trunks, and debris that jammed the gates. “Trees and trash got stuck, boulders wedged in. The gates couldn’t operate properly,” Sandhu said. Despite 20 of the 54 gates being open when the bundh gave way, the damage was done. The UBDC corridor was flooded, and the canal carved a 400-metre scar before being forcibly connected to the Ravi. Even now, 10 days later, water continues to drain into the river. “Until the upper breach is plugged, it won’t stop,” said Sandhu. The Madhopur section, which primarily serves power generation before feeding irrigation downstream, lies in disarray. “Irrigation won’t suffer, there’s enough water in the system,” Sandhu said. But as officials scramble to repair the bundh and plan canal restoration, the people of Bhedian Buzurg are left staring at a new reality: geography can no longer guarantee safety. Punjab Water Resources Minister Barinder Kumar Goyal last week said a private company, “Level 19 Biz Private Limited”, which had been engaged in 2024 to assess the structural strength of Madhopur headworks gates, wrongly certified them as capable of withstanding 6.25 lakh cusecs of water. However, the gates failed to manage even half the certified capacity, leading to their collapse and the tragic death of a department employee. Goyal said a notice has been served to the company and punitive action is being initiated.



relief material or volunteers, but the movement of politicians and VIPs in affected areas is disrupting relief efforts. The government must regulate such movements to ensure efficient delivery of aid.” Rana Gurjeet Singh also called upon Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to immediately announce a policy for de-silting of farmlands that have been inundated with silt-laden floodwaters. Farmers are facing irreparable damage. Without immediate soil restoration measures, agriculture will suffer in the long term, he said. “Farmers should be allowed to sell the sand which has flown into their farmlands,” he suggested. He further suggested that the charge of director irrigation in BBMB for management of dam, reservoirs, and irrigation systems be handed over to engineers from Punjab, who have a better understanding of the topography and irrigation needs. “Local expertise must be prioritized for efficient and sensitive water management,” he said. The MLA also underlined the urgent need to study climate change patterns that are affecting rainfall and river flow dynamics. Citing the example of the Ranjit Sagar Dam over the Ravi River, he noted that residents of Ferozepur and Fazilka were caught off guard due to sudden and unregulated water releases. He recommended the development of a water recharge system that could absorb floodwater into the soil, thereby reducing the impact of inundation and contributing to groundwater replenishment. “The people of Punjab deserve answers and accountability and this should never happen again,” said Rana Gurjeet Singh.

# Babasaheb's Ideals Should Be Brought To Life: Buddhist Guru Bharadwaj“



““Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. September, 30.” “Buddhist Guru Bante Bharadwaj Yashwant Maharaj of Mancherlari town called for giving life to the ideals of Dr. Babasaheb Bheemrao Ramjee Ambedkar and walking towards Buddhism to achieve his ideals. Speaking at the Buddhist Dhamma Yatra campaign meeting organized in Kamana village of Wankidi mandal, he said that we should focus on the knowledge society and should not forget the path shown by Babasaheb.

# Commercial pilot fixed spy camera on toe to record ‘obscene’ videos of women in a Delhi market, held



GNS News Agency, Sept 30

Delhi pilot arrested, Delhi pilot arrested for recording women, pilot arrested for recording women, Indian express news, current affairsBased on her complaint, a case was registered for voyeurism and stalking under the BNS at Kishangarh police station. A 31-year-old pilot working with a private airline has been arrested for allegedly making obscene videos of women by placing a spy camera between his toes, police said on Friday. Around 74 videos have been

found in Mohit Priyadarshi’s mobile phone that he claimed he was using for “self-gratification”, police added.

The incident came to light after a woman, who works as a customer care representative, alleged that she was at a market in Southwest Delhi when a man attempted to record an “objectionable” video of her by using a “lighter-shaped device with a hidden camera fitted in it”. Based on her complaint, a case was registered for voyeurism and stalking under the BNS at Kishangarh police station.

During investigation, CCTV footage of the area was scanned and the suspect’s picture was circulated. Subsequently, with the help of local intelligence, police zeroed in on Mohit Priyadarshi and apprehended him. According to police, Priyadarshi revealed during questioning that he used a spy camera, attached to his toes, to record women in crowded areas. “Priyadarshi is employed as a pilot with a private airline. He admitted that he was making such videos for self-gratification. A lighter-shaped camera has also been recovered from him. A resident of Kishangarh village, he said he had been doing this since December 2023,” said Amit Goel, DCP (Southwest).

# Police Should Stop Filing Illegal Cases Against CITU Leaders...:-Velishala Krishnamachari- CITU District Vice President.“



““Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. September, 30.” “CITU stands by the just struggle of tribal hostel workers. We have nothing to fear from threats. We will intensify the struggle.” -Velishala Krishnamachari- CITU District Vice President. Komaram Bheem Asifabad District Collectorate, daily wage and outsourcing workers working in tribal hostels, have been protesting against illegal police cases, as the strike entered its 19th day. “The protest was held by blindfolded people against the illegal cases filed by the police. On this occasion, Velishala Krishnamachari, CITU District Vice President, said that on the 18th day of the strike, the tribal hostel workers took to the road to ask whether they would fast during the festival. It is not right for the police to come and file illegal cases. On the one hand, the state government, which claims to bring welfare benefits for the tribals, and the Congress government, which boasts of being a people’s government, instigated the police to incite them and file illegal cases and resort to intimidation, “filing cases and engaging in threatening actions, that they are plotting to break the strike, and that they are protesting blindly against the stubborn stance of the state government. They warned that if the trend of filing illegal cases against CITU leaders is not stopped, this state government will have no future. They

should respond immediately and pay pending salaries, those with five years of service should be made permanent immediately, and the minimum wage should be Rs. 26,000. The government should not be looking at our problems, that is why we are protesting with blindfolds. The Telangana state Congress government should at least respond to the hostel daily wage outsourcing workers who have been on an indefinite strike for 19 days. and how reasonable it is for the state government, which should have resolved the strike, to act like a lemon.

They demanded that time scale wages be paid, wages should be paid as per the District Collector Gazette, G.O. No. 64, which imposes wage cuts, be abolished, hereditary jobs should be given, the part-time system should be abolished and other issues should be resolved, otherwise they warned that the strike would be intensified. In this program, Telangana Tribal Ashram School Hostels Daily Wage and Outsourcing Workers Union CITU State President Tekam Prabhakar, Union District President Secretary Vasant Rao Ada Taranu Treasurer Marapa Rambai Vice Presidents Arigela Kotayya Kamala Sasikala Pushpa Mango Lakshmi Manku Shankar Tirupati, Sadashiv Indu Ramesh Sivaram Yamuna, Nayak Telang Rao, and others participated.

# Youth Should Work For The Development Of The Country With The Inspiration Of Bhagat Singh : Including The State Vice President Of The Protection Act, Dr. Kamalak



““Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. September, “30.” “Right to Informa-

tion Protection Act State Vice President Dr. Kondagula Kamalak said that the youth should work for the development of the country with the inspiration of Bhagat Singh. Speaking at a press conference organized to commemorate the 118th birth anniversary of Bhagat Singh, he said that students should choose their goals and reach high levels and when the youth work in their favorite field with complete discipline. The development of the country is possible. They should move forward with the collective goal of developing the country against communalism and casteism. Students are bad for the youth. “They said that one should not become addicted to addictions. They should stay away from intoxicants like marijuana and drugs. They said that intoxicants ruin lives. They said that families can be ruined if one person takes intoxicants. They said that students and youth should mobilize against marijuana, drugs and intoxicants. They said that everyone should cooperate with government officials and the police apparatus by following government rules and regulations to eradicate marijuana, drugs and intoxicants. Everyone should work for a drug-free society.

# Joining The Congress Party: Joint Adilabad district MLC Dande Vitthal ““

“Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. September, 29” “Jadi Vanitha Santosh, a member of Elluru village in Penchikalpet mandal, joined the Congress party along with the leaders in the presence of the joint Adilabad district MLC Dande Vitthal. On this occasion, they said that the development of Sirpur constituency is possible under the leadership of the MLC. They said that they are voluntarily joining the Congress party today. Speaking on this occasion, MLC Dande Vitthal advised the workers to work together to strengthen the party in the constituency. Recent former public representatives and others participated in this program.



# ABC suspends Jimmy Kimmel's late-night show indefinitely over his remarks about Charlie Kirk's death



GNS News Agency, Sept 30

ABC has suspended Jimmy Kimmel's late-night show indefinitely after comments that he made about Charlie Kirk's killing led a group of ABC-affiliated stations to say it would not air the show.Mr. Kimmel, the veteran late-night comic, made several comments about the reaction to Kirk's assassination on his show on Monday (September 15, 2025) and Tuesday nights. He said that "many in MAGA land are working very hard to capitalise on the murder of Charlie Kirk."ABC, which has aired Mr. Kimmel's late-night show since 2003, moved swiftly after Nextstar Communications Group said it would pull the show starting Wednesday. Mr. Kimmel's comments about Kirk's death "are offensive and insensitive at a critical time in our national political discourse," said Andrew Alford, president of Nextstar's broad-

casting division. Nexstar operates 23 ABC affiliates.

On Twitter Wednesday night, White House deputy chief of staff Taylor Budowich posted: "Welcome to Consequence Culture. Normal, common sense Americans are no longer taking the b—— and companies like ABC are finally willing to do the right and reasonable thing."In his monologue on Monday, Mr. Kimmel said that "we hit some new lows over the weekend with the MAGA gang desperately trying to characterise this kid who murdered Charlie Kirk as anything other than one of them and doing everything they can to score political points from it."Mr. Kimmel said that Mr. Trump's response to Kirk's death "is not how an adult grieves the murder of someone he called a friend. This is how a 4-year-old mourns a goldfish, OK?" He also said that FBI chief Kash Patel has handled the investigation into the murder "like a kid who didn't read the book, BS'ing his way through an oral report.He returned to the topic on Tuesday night, mocking Vice President J.D. Vance's performance as guest host for Kirk's podcast.He said Mr. Trump was "fanning the flames" by attacking people on the left. "Which is it, are they a bunch of sissy pickleball players because they're too scared to be hit by tennis balls, or a well-organised deadly team of commandos, because they can't be both of those things."Mr. Kimmel, like CBS late-night host Stephen Colbert, has consistently been critical of President Donald Trump and many of his policies on his ABC show. CBS said this past summer that it was cancelling Mr. Colbert's show at the end of this season for financial reasons, although some critics have wondered if his stance on Mr. Trump played a role.

# EU-India partnership set for upgrade

GNS News Agency, Sept 30

The European Union has set out a plan to upgrade its strategic ties with India, even as it warned that India's military exercises with Russia and its purchase of Russian oil are risks to the growing strategic ties between Brussels and New Delhi.The European Commission and the EU's top diplomat Kaja Kallas released 'A New Strategic EU-India Agenda' on Wednesday (September 17, 2025) in Brussels, and urged the European Parliament and Council (i.e., the heads of member states) to adopt it.Ms. Kallas called India a "crucial" partner for the EU, as she outlined the strategy that encompassed trade, technology, security, defence and climate. She was speaking at a televised press conference in Brussels The document declared that "the EU and India have the potential and determination to shape one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century".

Brussels and New Delhi are in the midst of negotiating a free trade agreement (FTA), with the EU's trade chief Maroš Šefčovic visiting New Delhi last week for talks with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal."We are also negotiating an agreement of exchange of classified information and deepening ties between defence industry [sic]," Ms. Kallas said, adding that there were hesitations here among the College of Commissioners (comprised of Commissioners from the 27 EU countries).With Russia escalating its attacks on Ukraine in recent weeks, the Europeans are grappling with how to navigate New Delhi's closeness to Moscow."India's participation in Russia's military exercises and its purchase of Russian oil stand in the way of closer ties, because ultimately, our partnership is not only about trade, but also about defending rules-based international order," Ms. Kallas said. "It is of utmost importance to the EU that any enablement of the war be curtailed," the strategy document says.The negotiations with New Delhi would address these challenges with the aim of adopting a joint roadmap at the next EU-India summit in early 2026, according to Ms. Kallas.Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he was "delighted" by the adoption of the new strategic document."We remain committed to an early and peaceful resolution of the Ukraine conflict," he said, reflecting on his phone call on Wednesday with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

India and the EU have been seeking to bolster ties in the face of increasing geopolitical uncertainty and challenges in their trade relationships with the U.S. The Trump administration has slapped a 25% tariff on India (in addition to a 'reciprocal' tariff of 25%), straining ties between New Delhi and Washington. The relationship has begun to show signs

# Trump names Afghanistan, India, China, Pakistan among major drug transit, illicit drug producing countries



Mr. Trump delivered the "Major's List" to Congress, designating these countries as responsible for sourcing and transporting illicit drugs into the U.S., the White House said

GNS News Agency, Sept 30

President Donald Trump has named China, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan among 23 major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries, saying that by manufacturing and trafficking illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, these nations are threatening the safety of the U.S. and its citizens.In a 'Presidential Determination' submitted to Congress on Monday (September 15, 2025), Mr. Trump said he has identified 23 countries as "major drug transit or major illicit drug producing" nations.These nations are Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.Mr. Trump delivered the "Major's List" to Congress, designating these countries as responsible for sourcing and transporting illicit drugs into the U.S., the White House said.The State Department announced the Presidential Determination of these 23 countries, with five countries —

Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, and Venezuela — listed as having "failed demonstrably to make substantial efforts," calling upon them to improve their counternarcotics efforts.By manufacturing and trafficking illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, these countries are threatening the safety of the United States and its citizens, the State Department said in a statement.The State Department clarified that a country's presence on the list does not necessarily reflect its government's counterdrug efforts or level of cooperation with the United States.

The listing is based on "the combination of geographic, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs or precursor chemicals to be transited or produced, even if a government has engaged in robust and diligent narcotics control and law enforcement measures," it said.Mr. Trump said Afghanistan, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, and Venezuela have failed "demonstrably" during the previous 12 months to both adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements and to take the relevant measures to combat the threat.On China, Mr. Trump said the country's role as the "world's largest source" of precursor chemicals fuelling illicit fentanyl production has been well documented.Mr. Trump also said that China is also a major supplier fuelling global epidemics of other synthetic narcotics, including nitazenes and methamphetamine.The Chinese leadership "can and must take stronger and sustained action to cut down these chemical flows and prosecute the drug criminals facilitating them."On Afghanistan, Mr. Trump said that despite the Taliban's announced ban on illegal drugs, drug stockpiles and ongoing production — including expanding production of methamphetamine — have sustained the flow of drugs to international markets."Revenue from this drug trade funds transnational criminal groups and supports international terrorists. Some members of the Taliban continue to profit from this trade, and I am once again designating Afghanistan as having failed demonstrably to uphold its drug control obligations given the serious threats to United States interests and international security," Mr. Trump said.He said that transnational organised crime's trafficking of fentanyl and other deadly illicit drugs into the US has created a national emergency, including a public health crisis that remains the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 44.

# Bangladesh Election Commission bars deposed PM Hasina from voting



GNS News Agency, Sept 30

Bangladesh's Election Commission (EC) said it has "locked" the national identity cards of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, effectively barring her from voting in the general elections scheduled for February next year."Anyone whose national identity (NID) card has been locked cannot vote from abroad," EC Secretary Akhtar Ahmed told reporters at his office in Nirbachon Bhavan in Dhaka.Though Mr. Ahmed did not mention any other name, UNB news agency and the Dhaka Tribune newspaper, quoting unnamed EC officials, reported that NIDs of Hasina's

younger sister Sheikh Rehana, son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and daughter Saima Wazed Putul have also been "locked" or "blocked".Rehana's children Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, Azmina Siddiq and nephew Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, her brother-in-law and Hasina's former security adviser retired major general Tarique Ahmed Siddique, his wife Shahin Siddique and their daughter Bushra Siddique are also reportedly barred from voting.Mr. Ahmed, however, said those who "fled abroad to evade justice" or for other reasons could still vote provided their NID cards remain active.Hasina's Awami League government was toppled on August 5, 2024, after a violent student-led movement forced her to escape to India.Subsequently, Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took charge as Chief Adviser of the interim government and suspended Awami League activities pending trial of Ms. Hasina and other senior Awami leaders on charges, including crimes against humanity.Ms. Hasina is currently being tried in absentia at Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, where prosecutors have sought capital punishment for alleged atrocities during the July 2024 uprising.Most senior Awami League leaders remain underground or in exile as mobs torched and vandalised their properties, including the 32 Dhanmondi residence of Bangladesh's founder and Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

# Israeli troops press forward into Gaza City as Palestinians flee, death toll passes 65,000

GNS News Agency, Sept 30

The Palestinian death toll in the Israel-Hamas war surpassed 65,000 on Wednesday (September 17, 2025), according to Gaza's Health Ministry, as Israeli troops and tanks pushed deeper into Gaza City and residents fled the devastated area.Israel's military said that air force and artillery units had struck the city over 150 times in the last few days, ahead of ground troops moving in. The strikes have toppled high-rise towers in areas densely populated by tent camps where thousands of Palestinians are sheltering. Israel claims the towers are being used by Hamas to surveil troops.Overnight strikes killed at least 16 people, including women and children, hospital officials reported. The death count in Gaza reached 65,062, with another 165,697 wounded, since Hamas' Oct 7, 2023, attack, said the Health Ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government.Israel's offensive has destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced around 90% of the population and caused a catastrophic humanitarian crisis, with experts announcing famine in Gaza City.The Ministry does not say how many of the dead were civilians or militants. Its figures are seen as a reliable estimate by the UN and many independent experts.Meanwhile, Palestinians streamed out of the city — some by car, others on foot. Israel opened another corridor south of Gaza City for two days beginning Wednesday (September 17, 2025) to allow more people to evacuate.Children and parents among the latest fatalitiesMore than half of the Palestinians killed in overnight Israeli strikes were in famine-stricken Gaza City, including a child and his mother who died in their apartment in the Shati refugee camp, according to officials from Shifa Hospital, which received the casualties.

In central Gaza, Al-Awda Hospital said an Israeli strike hit a house in the urban Nuseirat refugee camp, killing three, including a pregnant woman. Two parents and their child were also killed when a strike hit their tent in the Muwasi area west of the city of Khan Younis, said officials from Nasser Hospital, where the bodies were brought.The Gaza Health Ministry, meanwhile, said that multiple Israeli strikes hit the Rantisi Hospital for children in Gaza City on Tuesday night. It posted pictures on Facebook showing the damaged roof, water tanks and rubble in a hospital hallway.The ministry said the strikes forced half of some 80 patients to flee the facility. About 40 patients, including four children in intensive care and eight premature babies, remained in the hospital with 30 medical workers, the Ministry said."This attack has once again shattered the illusion that hospitals or any place in Gaza are safe from Israel's genocide," said Fikr Shalltoot, Gaza director for the aid group Medical Aid for Palestinians.The Israeli military said it was looking into the strikes, but in the past it has accused Hamas of building military infrastructure inside civilian areas.

But many Palestinians in the north were cut off from the outside world. The Palestinian Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, based in the occupied West Bank, said Israeli strikes on the main network lines in northern Gaza had collapsed internet and telephone services on Wednesday (September 17, 2025) morning. The Associated Press tried unsuccessfully to reach many people in Gaza City.An estimated 1 million Palestinians were living in the Gaza City region before warnings to evacuate began



ahead of the offensive, and the Israeli military estimates 350,000 people have left the city.The UN estimates that more than 238,000 Palestinians of some 1 million believed living in the city have fled northern Gaza over the past month. Hundreds of thousands more have stayed behind.Aid groups and Qatar condemn offensiveA coalition of leading aid groups on Wednesday (September 17, 2025) urged the international community to take stronger measures to stop Israel's offensive on Gaza City. It came a day after a commission of UN experts found Israel was committing genocide in the Palestinian enclave. Israel denies the allegation.

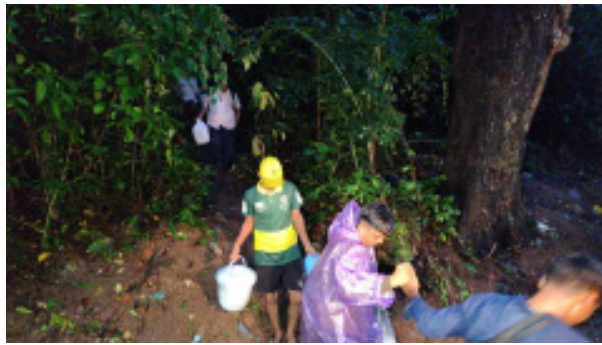
"What we are witnessing in Gaza is not only an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe, but what the UN Commission of Inquiry has now concluded is a genocide," read the statement from the aid groups. "States must use every available political, economic, and legal tool at their disposal to intervene. Rhetoric and half measures are not enough. This moment demands decisive action." The message was signed by leaders of over 20 aid organisations operating in Gaza, including the Norwegian Refugee Council, Anera and Save the Children.Also on Wednesday (September 17, 2025), Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement saying they condemned "in the strongest terms" Israel's ground offensive in Gaza. The ministry wrote on X that the operation marked a "extension of the war of genocide" against the Palestinians.Qatar is incensed over an Israeli strike last week that killed five Hamas members and a local security official.Israel's return to Gaza CityAn Israeli military graphic suggested its troops hope to control all of the Gaza Strip except for a large swath along the coast by the end of the current operation.Israeli forces have carried out multiple large-scale raids into Gaza City over the course of the war, causing mass displacement and heavy destruction, only to see militants regroup later. This time, Israel has pledged to take control of the entire city, which experts say is experiencing famine.An Israeli military official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with military guidelines, said Tuesday they believe there are 2,000 to 3,000 Hamas militants left in Gaza City, as well as tunnels used by the group. Hamas' military capabilities have been vastly diminished. It now mainly carries out guerrilla-style attacks, with small groups of fighters planting explosives or attacking military outposts before melting away. The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 251 others. Forty-eight hostages, fewer than half believed to be alive, remain in Gaza.

# Dharmasthala case: SIT seizes five skulls, 100 bones at Banglagudde

GNS News Agency, Sept 30

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged mass burials in Dharmasthala village found five skulls and 100 bones at Banglagudde near Dharmasthala They were found lying on the ground in the forest area, according to SIT sources.The officials also recovered a rope, a walking stick, a poison bottle, and an identity card from the spot. They were recovered in the presence of Forest Department officials who were directed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to assist the SIT.

During questioning by the SIT following his arrest, the complainant in the case, Chinnaiyah, had said that the skeletal remains he produced before the magistrate in Belthangady at the time of recording his statement were given to him by Vittala Gowda, the uncle of Soujanya, who was raped and murdered in October 2012.Later, the SIT questioned Gowda and took him twice, a few days ago, to Banglagudde as he told the SIT that he got the remains from Banglagudde. In an interview to a local news website, Gowda claimed that he saw skeletal remains of eight persons, including a young child, and a few articles related to black magic at Banglagudde during his two visits for 'mazahar' by SIT.Earlier, during the digging of sites shown by Chinnaiyah, the SIT had recovered some skeletal remains found lying on the ground at Banglagudde.Meanwhile, the Belthangady police have registered a case against activist Mahesh Shetty Thimaroddy, following the recovery of two swords and a gun by SIT during a search at his house in Ujire on August 26.In a complaint, SIT Superintendent of Police C.A. Simon said the search was conducted as Chinnaiyah had stayed in Mr. Thimaroddy's house for a few days before his arrest. Apart from two swords and the gun, the SIT seized a total of 44 articles, which included laptops and mobile phones.This complaint was registered on Tues-



day for offences under Sections 25 (1)(1-A) and 25 (1)(1-B) (a) of Indian Arms Act.

# Nikon partners with Youth India Programme to empower future creators

Hyderabad: In a move to nurture creativity and equip students with future-ready skills, Nikon India has announced its support for the Youth India Programme as the official equipment partner. The initiative, led by Arya Chitra, General Manager of the Youth Global Programme, is being rolled out across Indian schools and universities. The programme, launched in partnership with the Global Schools Group (GIS), will provide structured exposure to photography, videography, digital storytelling, and media ethics.

# Is age catching up with India’s dams?



“At Independence, the new Government of India ... made the building of big dams a central part of its strategy for transforming India, a commitment to which it adhered for decades,” historian Daniel Klingensmith wrote in his 2007 book ‘One Valley and a Thousand’. The Damodar Valley Corporation, the Bhakra Nangal, and the Hirakud in the 1940s were followed by dams on the Rihand, Koyna, Tungabhadra, Chambal, and Krishna rivers in the decade after. In fact, in the two decades from 1951, India had started work on 418 large dams and by 2000 had completed around 4,000. In Klingensmith’s telling, building dams had become “a way by which the modernity and worth of the nation could be enhanced, tested, and displayed.”

Today, however, India faces the challenge of large parts of its hydrological infrastructure ageing en masse. According to the National Register of Large (Specified) Dams, some 1,065 were 50-100 years old and 224 were more than a century old in 2023. Many major dams of the post-1950 period are now in the last stages of their originally intended lifespan, raising safety and performance concerns that transcend problems of engineering alone. In practice, India’s dam projects have typically assumed a useful life on the order of a few decades. The Bhakra Dam completed in 1963 was expected to serve for at least 100 years as a reservoir but its builders underestimated sedimentation rates, so much so that the reservoir’s capacity had dropped by nearly 25% in the first 35 years of its use. Likewise, the Lower Bhavani Dam in Tamil Nadu had lost 28% of its capacity between 1956 and 2005 and the Nizam Sagar Dam had lost roughly half its capacity just in the first three decades of use since 1931.

These examples illustrate one fact clearly: the initial design life of many dams isn’t equal to the actual life. The cost of running a dam at its original performance levels can shoot up as it ages — and this is before the additional ‘climate load’ is factored in. Dams more than 50 years old today have outdated spillway capacities and structural safety factors and require urgent attention to ensure they can continue to function safely. This photograph shows buildings near the Arbaat Dam, 40 km north of Port Sudan, after it collapsed following heavy rains and torrential floods on August 25, 2024. This photograph shows buildings near the Arbaat Dam, 40 km north of Port Sudan, after it collapsed following heavy rains and torrential floods on August 25, 2024. Dams’ multiple failure modes can be split into three types: structural, hydraulic, and geotechnical. These modes are hard to pry apart in practice but it’s useful to treat them separately if only to identify specific ways to surmount them.

A structural failure is when a dam ruptures or collapses due to weaknesses implicit to its structure. Common causes include poor design and/or construction, material degradation, and structural components being forced to withstand forces they weren’t equipped to. For example, progressive concrete deterioration can weaken a concrete dam over time. One way this happens is when silica in rocky aggregates in the structure reacts with alkali compounds in the cement to form a water-absorbing substance. As the substance expands, the concrete starts to crack from within. This category also includes structural cracks, slope instability in earth embankments, and gate and sluice failures.

Worldwide, about 42% of concrete dam failures have been attributed to foundational and structural issues. Structural failures in Indian dams have been traced to seepage, corroded piping, and/or weak foundations. A hydraulic failure occurs when the dam can no longer safely store water. The best known cause of this mode, especially in the era of climate change, is overtopping: when flood waters pass over the dam’s pinnacle, potentially breaching the structure en route. When inflow exceeds the dam’s capacity, insufficient spillway capacity or blocked spillways can also lead to overtopping. Similarly, when a dam’s outflow is very fast, it can erode the structure’s downstream face, also resulting in hydraulic failure. In earth and rock-filled dam failures worldwide, overtopping has been the single most common cause (about a third of the time). India’s first recorded dam failure, of the Tigma Dam in 1917, was also due to overtopping, and overall this cause has been the main one in most of the 36 recorded dam failures in the country. Finally, a geotechnical failure occurs when the dam’s foundations, abutments or the materials within the dam are unstable. Internal erosion in the foundation has accounted for about 29% of masonry dam failures worldwide. Earth-fill dams are particularly susceptible to flawed piping in the dam’s body, where water can seep through the dam or its foundation and eventually cause a breach. Earthquakes and landslides can also trigger structural as well as geotechnical failures. Dams in seismically active zones are particularly vulnerable to quake-induced cracking or slope failures. When the magnitude-6.6 Koynanagar earthquake in Maharashtra shook the Koyna Dam in 1967, the structure developed cracks and began to accumulate hydrostatic pressure, raising fears of a breach. Real-world failures are a combination of these modes. An initial structural deficiency could lead to excessive leaks (geotechnical failure) that weaken the dam. Thus when the part of the river upstream of the dam receives heavy rainfall or when there’s a glacial lake outburst flood (like the one that roiled Sikkim in 2023), the waters overtop the dam and results in a catastrophic breach.

The world’s history of dams indicates more than 70% of failures occur in the first decade of operations as this is when flaws in the design or construction are most likely to become evident. But as dams age, delayed maintenance, material ageing, and unanticipated flooding or seismic events can dramatically increase failure risk. After all, as climate change intensifies, it increases the risk of natural disasters of unprecedented magnitude — and to not have precedent means to lose history as a guide.

Caring for older damsIndia’s Central and State governments have developed an evolving framework of policies, laws, and projects to ensure dam safety, led by the safety regime established by the Dam Safety Act 2021. The instrument provides a framework to surveil, inspect, operate, and maintain all specified large dams, and requires institutional mechanisms at both the Central and the State levels to uphold it. At the Act’s heart is the National Committee on Dam Safety, the apex body with the responsibility of evolving dam safety policies and reviewing the work of State-level agencies. The Committee is joined by the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA), a regulatory body under the Union Jal Shakti Ministry tasked with enforcing policy and resolving interstate disputes. In this scenario, every State with large dams is required to establish a State Dam Safety Organisation (SDSO) headed by qualified engineers to oversee dams in its jurisdiction. (If a dam is located in one State

but operated by another, the NDSA supplants the relevant SDSO.)

The 2021 Act also specifies regular inspection schedules. Dam owners — often a State’s irrigation department or power utility — are required to conduct pre-monsoon and post-monsoon checks every year, among others. The law also requires each dam to have an emergency action plan and an alarm system, and provides for remedial actions that SDSOs can order if a dam is found to be falling short. Before the Act, the Central Water Commission (CWC) had set guidelines for dam owners on regular maintenance and safety reviews. To this end, many States have had Dam Safety Review Panels: expert groups typically populated by experienced dam engineers, hydrologists, and geologists and which audit ageing dams and recommend rehabilitation measures. The Dam Safety Organisation within the CWC also maintains a database of dam incidents and assists States in investigative studies. After any major natural disaster, a dam is also subjected to special inspections.

In 2012, the Indian government mooted the flagship Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) to upgrade ageing dams. DRIP places particular emphasis on capacity building, including training State dam engineers in contemporary safety practices and developing ancillary emergency action plans. Upgraded dams as a result have piezometers, inclinometers, and seismic monitors on site watching for signs of distress. These in turn also require dam health monitoring software to be integrated with dams’ operations and for each dam to maintain a log, like its report card. From 2012 to 2021, DRIP I rehabilitated 198 dams in Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Uttarakhand. Work included grouting cracks, strengthening spillway piers, improving drainage and filtration systems in earth dams, replacing gates and valves, installing modern sensors and instruments, and improving operational processes. The government approved DRIP phases II and III in 2020 to cover 736 dams in 19 States, with financial assistance from the World Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank for physical rehabilitation and to undertake comprehensive safety evaluations. As of early 2024, reviews for more than 400 dams had reportedly been completed.

Dovetailing on DRIP are guidelines to deal with the consequences of natural events rendered more intense and/or frequent by climate change. This includes rechecking the probable maximum flood for spillway designs, improving spillway capacity, and adding auxiliary channels. Older masonry and concrete dams are also evaluated against current earthquake codes and strengthened if required by anchoring, buttressing or adding reinforced concrete overlays. The National Hydrology Project and flood forecasting initiatives have also been working to improve flood management upstream. On the flip side, DRIP doesn’t make room for dams to be decommissioned; instead it focuses on extending the lifespan of dams at all costs. India in fact lacks an official dam decommissioning policy. The Dam Safety Act empowers authorities to declare a dam unsafe and potentially stop its operation, but there’s no procedure to decommission it altogether. Experts have recommended India develop a risk-based framework, i.e. when a dam’s failure risk exceeds acceptable limits and it’s no longer feasible to strengthen it. Calls by experts to decommission specific dams, such as the Mullaperiyar, have thus far only been dealt with in courts.

Economics of ageingAs a dam ages, the cost of its upkeep rises. Older dams often require structural strengthening, e.g. by retrofitting their spillways or reinforcing concrete; upgrading gates and mechanical equipment; and continuously dredging and managing sediment. Second, the loss of reservoir capacity thanks to siltation diminishes water supply, irrigation potential, and hydroelectric power generation capacity. Addressing sedimentation by dredging and restoring catchment areas, among other measures, is also expensive. At one point, the Government of India had deemed the Bhakra reservoir’s large-scale dredging to be “cost-prohibitive”.

To evaluate the potential cost of a complete failure, analysts use risk assessment models that consider the probability of failure together with its consequences. In practice, a dam’s hazard classification (low, significant or high) is based on the worst consequences should it fail. Consequence analysis frameworks, such as the one the US’s Department of Homeland Security uses to assess dam safety, enumerate the consequences in three categories: human (populations at risk, potential loss of life), economic (property damage, infrastructure loss, cost of replacement and remediation), and critical services (loss of water supply, power, irrigation). Thus, a comprehensive failure scenario analysis might estimate the asset replacement cost of the dam and its associated structures, the remediation cost for downstream cleanup, and the lost power generation or water supply as part of business losses. Depending on the relevant rules, the analysis may also include intangible costs like environmental damage and long-term economic setback to the region. India currently makes limited formal demands of economic analyses of dam failures. Before the government approves a dam, the project proponent is required to submit an environmental impact assessment (EIA) that includes a dam failure analysis. Since 2021, the Dam Safety Act has required certain dams to have emergency action plans and inundation maps on file. But the government has also been progressively weakening EIA governance, including approving projects sans EIAs and allowing defaulters to pay a fine and continue offending ones.

Perhaps the worst failure in India’s history was the collapse of the Machchur-II Dam in Morbi in Gujarat in 1979. This earthen dam was built in the 1970s and was breached after extreme rainfall. Water spilled from the dam in a flash flood that killed more than 2,000 people (although some estimates go up to 20,000). The failure also demolished most of Morbi town. More recently, the Tiware Dam in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra failed in 2019, wiping out entire villages and killing 19 people. Following tropical cyclone Daniel, the Derna and the Abu Mansour Dams in Libya collapsed in September 2023 and killed more than 3,800. The incident prompted countries worldwide to double-check their own dams — and thus the Himachal Pradesh government found 21 dams in the State had violated their safety norms, including possessing inadequate spillways. The discovery drew calls for older dams to have their safety margins reviewed by independent experts. Dam failures also impose long-term costs as local governments have to restore damaged transport links, compensate and rehabilitate the affected families, and reverse losses in agricultural productivity. Even near-miss events can exact high costs. While the 2018 floods strained but didn’t breach several dams in Kerala, the State’s economy was hit by the emergency reservoir drawdowns and controlled downstream spilling it had to effect. This said, economic evaluations of dam safety are now moving towards risk-based decision-making, which means vouchsafing investments for dams that pose the highest risk, which in turn is a function of the likelihood of failure and the magnitude of downstream consequences. Such an approach helps ensure limited funds are directed to averting the most severe potential disasters, even if the limitedness is arguably artificial and not inevitable.

# Inconsistent enforcement, suppressed speech, unchecked hate mar Tamil content moderation



“These platforms were not made for us.” Many content creators and digital rights advocates expressed this sentiment as we interviewed them for a recent study evaluating how Tamil speakers experienced content moderation on social media. Content moderation is a complex process of enforcing a platform’s content policies, complying with local laws, and keeping users safe online, while also engendering trust in the platform. If this sounds nearly impossible, it is. All the more true for content moderation in languages other than English which goes under-examined or under-considered when developing and deploying content moderation systems, leading to inequitable outcomes.

In the study exploring how social media companies conduct content moderation in Tamil, a majority of the over 100 Tamil-speaking users surveyed reported inconsistent moderation. They pointed to chronic over-moderation. Users spoke of perceptions of suppressed speech or unexplained takedowns of political speech, while high amounts of harassment and hate speech remain on the platform. For many, this inconsistent moderation caused frustration and distrust.

For some users, erroneous moderation was not just the norm, but the price they paid for being online. Women, LGBTQ+ users, and those belonging to caste-oppressed groups told us that that very often, content moderation doubly penalised them. They felt as if the frequency and prevalence of harassment and slur-ridden targeted attacks required them to develop a thick skin to go online every day. Some users noted that these attacks were compounded in the case of intersecting identities. For instance, one user said: “You know the treatment of any Indian woman is very different. The treatment of an English-speaking Dalit woman is going to be very different from a Tamil-speaking Dalit woman.” Researchers have pointed to these incidents in the past and showed how online platforms and their design often give rise to coordinated gender-based and caste-based attacks. Though counter-intuitive, these users’ efforts to shine a light on targeted harassment fell short, with their own posts being taken down while the offending content remains online. This double standard resulted in confusion and frustration, and ultimately distrust. Some of these users sought psychological support such as therapy or took breaks from going online. They spoke of poor content moderation as a plain fact, and not as an anomaly. Digital rights advocates, the media, and even former platform representatives say part of this is by design. Our report highlighted three shortcomings in how companies pursue content moderation in non-English languages generally, but Tamil specifically, and offered recommendations on how that can be addressed.

# Pakistan-Saudi Arabia defence pact leads India to study national security implications: MEA



Hours after Pakistan signed a mutual defence agreement with Saudi Arabia, India has said that it was aware of the development and reiterated its commitment to “comprehensive national security”. The Indian response came after Saudi Arabia and Pakistan issued a joint statement during the visit of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to Riyadh that said, “any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both”.

“The Government was aware that this development, which formalizes a long-standing arrangement between the two countries, had been under consideration. We will study the implications of this development for our national security as well as for regional and global stability. The Government remains committed to protecting India’s national interests and ensuring comprehensive national security in all domains,” said the Ministry of External Affairs in response to the Saudi-Pakistan mutual defence agreement.

Following talks between Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the two sides issued a joint statement on September 17 in which they highlighted bilateral relation over the past nearly eight decades and said, “This agreement which reflects the shared

Social media companies say they struggle with non-English language moderation because of the unavailability of digitised data to train automated moderation systems. There is simply far more English-language data on the Web to train automated systems. Among Indic languages, Dravidian languages such as Tamil are especially under-resourced. As a result, the automated tools companies build to moderate content often are trained on far more English-language data than in Tamil or any other languages. AI experts say even the available data in Tamil does not adequately represent how users speak the language online. Tamil users, we found, often spoke in Tamlish — mixing Tamil and English or transliterating Tamil using Roman script — or spoke in coded language or by mixing classical and spoken Tamil interchangeably. As a result, moderation fell short simply because companies had not invested in robust tooling to moderate Tamil speech online. Second, companies do not prioritise hiring subject matter, linguistic, or regional expertise even when they invest in a South Asia or Asia-Pacific presence. One former company representative told us that companies pursue a “coverage model” when seeking to deploy resources for content moderation, often ensuring there is at least one person tasked with the region and then deploying additional resources in the event of a crisis or government scrutiny that warrants more attention in a region or language. Long-time Tamil computing experts assert that this is a departure from previous eras of company engagement. Finally, companies do not always disclose to users when or why their posts were taken down, engendering distrust and suspicion among users, particularly set against a backdrop of media reports and researchers pointing to instances where the Government of India has been responsible for ordering removal of posts.

Companies can take multiple steps to improve moderation in Tamil and for the region. First, companies should be focused on making tools that help users control their own information environment. Already, companies that have long used centralised moderation claim to want to make moderation more dynamic and nimble, including shifting towards a community notes approach to fact-checking rather than a top-down approach where platforms or professional fact-checkers decide on content’s veracity and take action on that basis. Yet, these approaches fall short particularly when they are not designed in tandem with local users and local nuances. Investments in moderation should be accompanied by robust engagement with local language experts and researchers, especially when those groups and expertise are in abundance. These organisations include those building high-quality datasets such as Karya or Tattle, which also builds user-controlled filters to block gender-based and caste-based harassment. Or efforts such as Vaani NLP or the Center for Tamil Natural Language Processing Research (CTNLPR), which contributes research and natural language processing tools in Tamil. Woeful underinvestment in language capabilities and improving moderation across Indic languages remains a chronic issue plaguing companies’ operations in India and other parts of the South Asia region. Users have ultimately paid the price, feeling an indecipherable double standard when they experience content moderation. Aliya Bhatia is Senior Policy Analyst and Dhanaraj Thakur is Research Director at the Center for Democracy & Technology, a non-profit non-partisan policy and research organisation based in Washington DC and Brussels; views expressed are personal

commitment of both nations to enhance their security and to achieving security and peace in the region and the world, aims to develop aspects of defense cooperation between the two countries and strengthen joint deterrence against any aggression. The agreement states that any aggression against either country shall be considered an aggression against both.” Earlier on September 15, the Pakistani Prime Minister had participated in the extraordinary Arab-Islamic summit that was held by the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Doha where Israel’s September 9 bombing of Qatar was condemned.

Saudi Arabia has close ties with India and had sent Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubair to New Delhi, hours after India targeted locations inside Pakistan under Operation Sindoor in the early morning of May 7. The Saudi minister also visited Pakistan after his unannounced visit of New Delhi before India and Pakistan called for ceasefire on May 10. Saudi Arabia, one of the top energy suppliers to India is also a major employer of Indian blue and white collar expat workers in the Gulf and in recent years had gradually built military relation with India. The inaugural Saudi-India military exercise SADA-TANSEEQ was held from January 29 to February 10 2024 in Rajasthan where a Saudi contingent had participated in the exercise with the Indian Army. However, in comparison, the Saudi relation with Pakistan has been marked prominently by the generous support that Riyadh extended to Pakistan especially after the humiliating defeat in the 1971 India-Pakistan war. Saudi Arabia first came to Pakistan’s rescue with a \$300 million assistance that King Faisal extended after meeting Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto’s foreign minister Aziz Ahmed in Riyadh in 1974. Over the years, Pakistan has intensified defence cooperation with Saudi Arabia and as a recognition of that Saudi Arabia conferred then Pakistani Army Chief Qamar Javed Bajwa with the prestigious King Abdulaziz Medal of Excellent Class in 2022.

# Samsung launches Galaxy A06 5G at Rs 9,899 with festive offer

Hyderabad: Samsung on Tuesday announced a special festive-season price for the Galaxy A06 5G, making it available at Rs 9,899 under a limited-period offer. The deal also includes a Samsung 25W travel adapter worth Rs 1,399 for just Rs 299. For added affordability, buyers can own the device for as low as Rs 909 per month through EMI options.

The Galaxy A06 5G is Samsung’s most affordable 5G smartphone in the Galaxy A series, aimed at users

upgrading from feature phones or 4G devices. Supporting 12 5G bands with carrier aggregation, it ensures seamless connectivity across all telecom networks. Powered by a MediaTek D6300 processor with RAM Plus support of up to 12GB, the smartphone is designed for smooth multitasking, gaming, and streaming.

**Key Features**  
Display: 6.7-inch HD+ screen for an immersive viewing experience  
Cameras: 50MP main

+ 2MP depth rear cameras; 8MP front camera  
Battery: 5000mAh with 25W fast charging  
Durability: IP54 rating for dust and splash resistance

**Software & Security:** 4 generations of OS upgrades, 4 years of security updates, Samsung Knox Vault protection  
India-specific innovation: Voice Focus for clearer calls in noisy environments  
Samsung said the Galaxy A06 5G reflects its commitment to bridging the digital divide by offering reliability, perfor-



Samsung has launched the Galaxy A06 5G at a festive price of Rs 9,899, with EMI options starting at 909. The phone features a 50MP camera, 5000mAh battery, MediaTek D6300 processor, IP54 durability

mance, and security at an affordable price point.

# Why we need to look beyond marks, grades and percentiles



During admission season, marks, grades and percentiles are the talk of the town. A staggering number of students have scored very high marks and outstanding grades. Some have managed to score centum even in arts subjects. But this raises a question: is there a strong correlation between marks and competencies? Sadly, the answer is no.

ProblemsWhere is the gap and how should it be addressed? Most teachers, including those in colleges and universities, are generous in awarding marks and grades so that they do not invite criticism that their students have not performed well in exams. The assessment pattern itself also subtly promotes high grades. Most questions are remember-recall questions that only test rote memory. There are hardly any higher order questions that test the ability to think, analyse, evaluate and apply concepts and theories learnt in classrooms to real life. In many institutions, the Continuous Formative or Internal Assessment, which accounts for close to 40% of the total marks, is not rigorous. Teachers generously award anywhere between 70-90% on the argument that students need to be helped to come out in flying colours. The key question, therefore, is: do CGPAs help students progress to higher studies or in their employment prospects? Many students who score excellent marks are unable to secure admission in premier institutions for their Master's and research programmes or crack job interviews. This is a reflection of their cognitive capabilities and the educational system. Their CGPAs have given them a false sense of excellence. StrategiesHow can this be set right? By creating and promoting an ecosystem

with a decent correlation between student competencies and grades. Bloom's Revised Taxonomy talks about six levels of knowledge and question papers should deal with all of them. Higher order questions that talk about analysis, critiques and evaluation and the translation of concepts and theories into realities are crucial. When confronted regularly with challenging questions that are not memory-based, students will be forced to think and sharpen their cognitive capabilities. Certain key education outcomes such as multiculturalism and adaptability cannot be quantified and assessed using traditional benchmarks of excellence but they are vital to one's growth and societal development.

Students should be helped to think beyond CGPAs and transition to the real world where skills and competencies, both cognitive and meta-cognitive, matter. They should realise that critical thinking, problem-solving and communication skills and emotional intelligence are crucial to navigate the complexities of life. They should be encouraged to go beyond textbooks, exams, and grades and step into the real world where they will be assessed not by their marks and grades but by their cognitive capabilities and humane qualities.

This requires student-centric classrooms that promote thinking skills with an emphasis on analysis, interpretation and application and offer adequate space to raise questions and express diverse points of view on academic and non-academic topics. The obsession with marks and grades should be replaced by a focus on life-skills that will prepare future-ready citizens who can contribute to making the world a better place to live in. In the final analysis, higher educational institutions should promote an ecosystem that weans students away from a memory-based educational system and nurtures their thinking capacities. Administrators, teachers and parents should realise that there should be a transition from classrooms to the real world fraught with multiple challenges. The whole exercise calls for a re-think on the notion of excellence. Traditionally, excellence in academic circles was equated with enviable CGPAs where students were graded on the basis of predetermined criteria. We need to re-visit and re-define excellence not so much in terms of marks and grades but in terms of students' ability to navigate the complex challenges of life. This obviously calls for going beyond marks, grades and percentiles.

# Another slip up by India in the trade pact with the U.K.

The India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) raises several questions regarding India's commitments in the CETA's intellectual property chapter (Chapter 13). A problematic article in this chapter is Article 13.6, "Understandings Regarding TRIPS and Public Health Measures", in particular its first paragraph: "The Parties recognise the preferable and optimal route to promote and ensure access to medicines is through voluntary mechanisms, such as voluntary licensing which may include technology transfer on mutually agreed terms" India's agreeing to this provision would result in dilution of its position on two critical issues. First, India consistently backed the use of compulsory licensing as opposed to voluntary licensing, to address high prices of patented medicines. Second, India argued that advanced countries must transfer technologies to developing countries on "favourable terms", for their industrialisation, and also for reducing their carbon footprints. High prices of patented medicines are a serious anomaly of the patent system, due to excessive rent-seeking by patentees. Compulsory licensing of patented medicines can vastly improve the affordability of high-priced medicines by facilitating the production of such medicines. This was experienced following the grant of compulsory licence to Natco Pharma in 2012 for producing an anti-cancer medicine, sorafenib tosylate. The price came down to less than ₹8,800 for a month's treatment, from the ₹2,80,428 charged by the owner of the patent on the medicine, Bayer Corporation (<http://bit.ly/4IVTc4l>). For remedying such instances of excessive rent-seeking, India's lawmakers included compulsory licensing as a key safeguard while amending the Patents Act to make it compatible with the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Both Houses of the Parliament unanimously adopted this legislation after a Joint Parliamentary Committee had carefully considered its provisions (<http://bit.ly/4I7Z1uh>). India's TRIPS-consistent Patents Act allows grant of compulsory licence to anyone interested in producing a patented product in India, three years after the grant of a patent. This licence can be granted if: reasonable requirements of the public with respect to the patented invention are not satisfied; or the patented invention is not available to the public at reasonably affordable price, or the patented invention is not "worked" in the territory of India, implying, it has not been commercially exploited in the country (<http://bit.ly/4ITSBJl>). Patent rules monitor "working" requirement and, accordingly, patentees must submit the working status of their inventions. They had to do so annually until this requirement was diluted through India's FTA with the European Free Trade Association, with India agreeing that the periodicity of reporting "shall not be less than 3 years" (<http://bit.ly/4o4NcXU>). This dilution, has now been reinforced through the CETA, and it takes away an important ground for issuing compulsory licences. By backing voluntary licensing to address the problem of access to medicines, India has, de facto, given up its position as a strong votary of compulsory licensing in the WTO. A coalition of develop-



ing countries, including India earned the right to issue compulsory licences through the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health in 2001, despite strident opposition from advanced countries. The Declaration emphasised, "each Member has the right to grant compulsory licences and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such licences are granted" (<http://bit.ly/3IUwjiW>). Voluntary licences cannot ensure access to affordable medicines due to the weak bargaining position of domestic companies in developing countries vis-à-vis dominant pharmaceutical corporations. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), a medical humanitarian organisation, observed that using the terms of voluntary licences, pharmaceutical corporations can set various limitations, including to control the supply of active pharmaceutical ingredients, besides imposing restrictions on licensees. Therefore, options for getting affordable access are compromised when voluntary licences are used (<http://bit.ly/3U0Uj6aQ>). The MSF's observations were proven when Cipla produced the anti-COVID drug, remdesivir, in India under a voluntary licence from Gilead Sciences, the owner of the patent on the medicine. The price of remdesivir fixed by Cipla for India was, in purchasing power terms, higher than that Gilead had charged in the United States. The CETA undermines India's demand for technology transfer "on favourable terms" in several multilateral forums. This demand was first made through the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the New International Economic Order (NIEO) in 1974. A key aspect of the NIEO was the call for facilitated technology transfer from advanced to developing countries to promote the industrialisation efforts of the developing countries (<http://bit.ly/41ejRRI>). However, despite their best efforts, little progress was seen regarding technology transfer. The disappointment of developing countries was reflected in India's Fourth Biennial Update Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2024: "Despite substantial national efforts and investments, barriers like slow international technology transfer and intellectual property rights (IPR) hinder the rapid adoption of [climate friendly] technologies". As India has compromised its long-held position that technology transfer to developing countries must be on "favourable terms", its demand for climate-friendly technologies from advanced countries could lose its sting.

# Inflammation linked to frailty, social deprivation and heart disease risk in women: Study

New Delhi: Chronic inflammation may be associated with an increased risk of frailty, social disadvantage, and cardiovascular disease (CVD), according to a recent study. The study, published in the journal Communications Medicine, examined 74 inflammation-related proteins in blood samples from over 2,000 women aged between 37 and 84 years. It explored how inflammation is linked to frailty, area-level social deprivation, and CVD risk. Researchers identified 10 inflammatory proteins associated with both frailty and living in a deprived area.

Of these, four proteins—TNFSF14, HGF, CDCP1, and CCL11—known to be involved in cellular signaling, growth, and movement, were also linked to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease. "To better understand how frailty and deprivation contribute to heart disease, we took a data-driven approach, screening a large number of inflammatory proteins in the blood. By identifying overlapping biological markers linked to both social and health vulnerability, we were

able to uncover a potential shared pathway between these risk factors," said Dr Yu Lin, Research Associate in the Department of Twin Research and Genetic Epidemiology at King's College London. One of the proteins, CDCP1, was found to be significantly associated with future heart disease events, such as narrowed or blocked arteries. These findings suggest that certain inflammatory proteins may act as a biological bridge connecting social inequality, ageing, and heart disease. The team also validated their findings in an independent group of women to ensure consistency across different populations. Frailty, social disadvantage, and heart disease often go hand in hand, but the biological mechanisms linking them are not yet fully understood. Our findings suggest that the stress of socioeconomic hardship may trigger harmful inflammation that damages health over time," said Dr Cristina Menni, Senior Lecturer in Molecular Epidemiology at King's College London. "If confirmed, this could open up new ways to prevent disease, not only through medical treatments that reduce inflammation.

# What makes monsoon the best season for train journeys in India



Megha Desai, 36, a senior art director at a Mumbai-based branding studio, found her perfect monsoon escape not in a remote hill station, but in a glass-roofed coach on the Executive Vistadome AC (EV) compartment of the Dadar–Madgaon Janshatabdi Express, which runs daily. "You don't need a five-star resort in the hills. Just book a Vistadome seat," she says.

In July 2024, during a break from back-to-back campaign shoots, Megha booked the Vistadome coach on a whim after seeing a friend's Instagram stories of misty Konkan views. Securing the ticket — which cost her around ₹4,160 for a round trip — meant checking the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) site daily, but the effort paid off. "The train was packed and everyone wanted that glass box view." As the train rolled out of Mumbai and into the lush Western Ghats (the journey from Dadar to Madgaon takes around 11 hours and 20 minutes), Megha was glued to the panoramic windows. "It was just rivers overflowing, waterfalls crashing down rocks, and dense green cliffs draped in mist. I've flown to Goa plenty of times, but this was different." The Vistadome coaches, which according to a video shared by the Ministry of Railways on X (formerly Twitter) in July 2024 number 111 in operation across India, available on select routes like Mumbai–Goa, Mumbai–Pune, and Bengaluru–Mangaluru, offer large windows, rear observation decks, and rotating seats — features that made it easy for Megha to soak in views from both sides. "Near Ratnagiri, the train slowed and there were three waterfalls visible at once. I couldn't look away." Would she recommend it? "Absolutely. But book early," she laughs. "I got lucky with a cancellation." She also advises checking the Konkan Railway's special monsoon timetable, as train speeds are often reduced. There is something about monsoon train travel that feels really special. You are sitting by the window, chai in hand, as the world outside blurs into green hills, rushing waterfalls, and misty skies. Even the noisiest cities seem gentler behind rain-speckled glass. It was this season that nudged Anand Ramaswamy, a 42-year-old product manager from Hyderabad, to take a quiet break in June aboard the Vistadome coach from Visakhapatnam to Araku Valley — a route that threads through the monsoon-soaked Eastern Ghats. After taking the overnight Godavari Express from Secunderabad to Vizag, he boarded the morning Vistadome service, drawn in by its promise of glass ceilings, rotating seats, and uninterrupted views of tunnels, waterfalls and deep green valleys. "You enter a tunnel, then burst out into fog or a cliff dripping with water, everyone just goes still," he says.

In Araku, he checked into a coffee estate homestay, explored the Tribal Museum and Padmapuram Gardens, and spent the evening listening to the rain on a tin roof. "Coming from Hyderabad's dry heat, it felt like I'd travelled two seasons away in a day," he says. He returned the next evening, rested, and insists he would do it again. "It's one of those rare Indian train rides where the journey really is the whole point." Anand points out that the Vistadome coach is generally attached only for the onward journey from Visakhapatnam to Araku Valley. For the return trip, passengers must book a seat in a regular coach on a different train. He took the Kirandul Express, which departs later in the day. Departure from Visakhapatnam is around 6.45am or 6.50am, with arrival at Araku Valley around 10.55 am. According to the latest ticket prices listed on the IRCTC website, a one-way ticket in the Vistadome coach (EV class) from Visakhapatnam to Araku Valley costs approximately

# Planning a monsoon break? Here's why South Goa should top your list

You can tell a lot about a place by how it behaves in the rain. North Goa, with its sunny bravado and beach-bar buzz, tends to take a back seat come monsoon — shuttered shacks, quiet lanes, Aperol dreams on pause. But South Goa unfurls. Airbnb seems to have picked up on this shift in rhythm. Their recently launched digital magazine, Goa Unseen, is a soft pivot away from the usual must-do lists. It is thoughtful, image-rich, and most notably, tilted toward the South. According to Airbnb, monsoon bookings in South Goa have seen a steady 20–25% rise over the past few years. There is a growing curiosity for experiences that feel slower, more grounded, and a little more, well, real.

Take Netravali Wildlife Sanctuary, one of the crown jewels in the South. In the rains, it feels almost cinematic. There is a low hum in the forest, mist drifting lazily between trees, waterfalls crashing just out of sight, and trails that do not demand much. Then there is Loutolim, a sleepy village in the South that feels lifted from another decade. All wide balconies, tiled roofs, and giant banyan trees that appear to breathe. Airbnb's highlights here include stops like the Big Foot Museum and heritage homes such as Casa Araujo Alvares, but the real charm is in the stuff between — the slow lanes, the locals who still wave, the unhurriedness of it all. Local journalist and food writer Nolan Mascarenhas, who contributed to Goa Unseen, believes the South has retained its character because of its people. "There's more cultural awareness here," he says, "A stronger sense of protecting what matters." He points to Mainipi, where the Lamani community — with advance notice — welcomes visitors to witness traditional tribal dances, jewellery-making, and stories of nomadic life. Nearby, the Kunbi tribe, one of the oldest in Goa, offers an immersive lesson in sarī draping, laced with lore passed down through generations. For foodies, Nolan's suggestions stay close to the ground. Try toddy and feni tastings in Cansaulim, often served straight from the source, or even on floating tables in the backwaters. Head to Tanshikar Spice Farm near Netravali for a breezy plantation tour followed by a home-style Saraswat thali. And he insists stopping at Jila Bakery, in Loutolim, where the chocolate-dipped profiteroles (₹20 a pop) are a must try. Nolan also swears by kayaking down the Talpona and Galgibaga rivers, quiet estuaries flanked by mangroves, where you are more likely to spot otters and kingfishers than other humans. And for something a little darker, there is Devil's Canyon — a gorge near Molem where water barrels through basal rock, steeped in local lore and photographic drama. Swimming is not recommended. But hiking around it is. It is not just Airbnb championing this version of the South. A few homegrown initiatives have been quietly making the case

735 to 750.

Travelling on India's boutique trains during the monsoon — or really, any time — is far more than just getting from one place to another. It is slow travel blended with five-star comfort and cultural depth. Delhi-based independent journalist Shibani Bawa still recalls the surreal glamour of her seven-night journey aboard the Deccan Odyssey's Maharashtra Splendour itinerary in 2016, which runs from October to April, beginning and ending in Mumbai, with stops at Nashik, Ellora Caves, Kolhapur, Goa, Sindhudurg, and Ratnagiri. "It was extremely well-maintained and truly luxurious," she says. "The service was just fabulous — you could tell everything had been carefully thought through." Ticket prices for the 2025–2026 season (as per [deccan-odyssey-india.com](http://deccan-odyssey-india.com)) reflect the all-inclusive nature of the experience, from gourmet meals to guided sightseeing. A Deluxe Cabin for single occupancy costs approximately US\$9,330 (around ₹7.74 lakh), while double occupancy is priced at US\$13,300 (₹11.03 lakh). The Presidential Suite is offered at US\$20,000 (₹16.60 lakh), regardless of single or double occupancy. The Maharashtra Splendour tour date for this year is September 20. The train is all old-school elegance, with two dining cars serving plated meals on silverware. "For every meal, you can pick between Indian and western set menus, and even the western dishes are excellent. I even asked for the soup recipes," she adds. A few off-board meals were also arranged, including lunch with the royal family in Sawantwadi. "It felt personal, not touristy." Though the days were indulgent, the nights were sometimes bumpy. "One night I genuinely thought I'd fall off the bed, it shook so much," she laughs, noting that a later track upgrade likely fixed that. The Deccan Odyssey would arrive at quieter platforms, greeted with garlands and music. "Each stop felt like an event," she says. Sightseeing was thoughtfully managed, including rest stops with clean facilities. "You could tell they were used to luxury tourists, the standard was high throughout." Would she do it again? "Absolutely," Shibani says. "The contrast, luxury on the train, culture off it, was the best part. I'd love to do one in the South next — maybe during the monsoon. Can you imagine that view from the dining car?" Under the Bharat Gaurav Scheme, launched by Indian Railways in November 2021, private operators lease full trains to run curated, theme-based circuits — while Indian Railways provides the coaches and tracks. The first private train under the scheme was flagged off on June 14, 2022 by South Star Rail, a Coimbatore-based company. The five-day pilgrimage from Coimbatore to Shirdi carried around 1,100 passengers, with halts at Tiruppur, Erode, Salem, Yelahanka, Dharmavaram, and Mantralayam before reaching Wadi and Shirdi. With AC and Sleeper classes, onboard crew, and fresh vegetarian meals, it set a new standard for private rail hospitality. "It marked a real shift," says Vignesh, director, Tour Times, Chennai, a private tourist train operator offering itineraries across India, which now runs several Bharat Gaurav tours. "We focus on seamless, end-to-end travel. Passengers don't lift a finger — luggage stays onboard, we handle everything else." Tour Times, recognised by the Ministry of Tourism, has launched heritage circuits across the South and East, including the upcoming 11-day Coromandel Coastal Bliss Tour, which costs ₹26,700 per head. It departs on August 28, covering Kolkata, the Sundarbans, Bhubaneswar, Borra Caves, Araku Valley, and Visakhapatnam. Meanwhile, the North East Discovery itinerary, part of the Bharat Gaurav initiative, launched on April 22, becomes all the more compelling during the monsoon, when the lush landscapes of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Nagaland, and Meghalaya come alive in their full glory. The 15-day, 5,800 kilometre luxury journey is operated aboard the Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train, featuring air-conditioned coaches with showers, sensor-enabled washrooms, foot massagers, and two dining cars serving hot, freshly prepared meals. The per-person cost for this journey ranges from approximately ₹1.16 lakh for AC III class up to ₹1.67 lakh for AC I (Coupe) class. These prices cover train travel, hotel stays, meals, sightseeing, and other tour services. Part of the Government's Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and Dekho Apna Desh initiatives, the itinerary is designed to offer regional sightseeing, making it an

for years. Soul Travelling, founded in 2017, started with two heritage walks in 2019 and now runs five in South Goa alone. "The rain doesn't cancel the walk," says co-founder Varun Hegde, "It sets the mood." Their Chandor walk takes you through Goa's old capital, past ancient Brahmin homes and mossy Portuguese villas, typically costing around ₹1,300–₹1,500 per person. The Margao Food and Culture Walk is a sensory feast — markets, spice-scented kitchens, and rainy-day snacks you will never find on Google, usually priced at about ₹799–₹1,299 per person. In Assolna, stories unfold by the river, with similar heritage walks generally ranging from ₹1,299–₹1,799. And in Cuncoim, their newest and perhaps most powerful walk, you encounter tales of pre-colonial resistance and forgotten local heroes, with prices for such curated, deep-dive historical walks often falling in the ₹1,500–₹3,500+ range, depending on the depth and duration. For those seeking an adrenaline rush amidst Goa's monsoon magic, Adventure Breaks ([adventurebreaks.in](http://adventurebreaks.in)), founded in 2013 by yachtsman Kim Sabir and mountain climber Ashwin Tombat, offers the perfect escape. Renowned as Goa's premier outdoor-adventure company, they present a thrilling array of activities from kayaking to rock climbing.

Yet, it is its South Goa ocean treks that truly shine during the season. Opt for the Ocean Trek Sea Cave near Loliem, a moderately-paced 4-5 kilometre half-day expedition involving a challenging boulder scramble and a climb into India's longest West-coast sea cave, typically priced around ₹1,390–₹2,000 per person. Alternatively, the Ocean Hike to Eagles Cliff presents a moderate 4.5 kilometre journey through lush Canacona forests, culminating in breathtaking cliff-top vistas, usually costing around 1,220–₹2,000. Families and first-timers might prefer the Four Beaches Jungle Hike, an easy-to-moderate trek weaving through dense greenery to secluded coves, typically priced about ₹1,890–₹2,000. For history buffs, the Ocean Trek to Cabo de Rama Fort offers a five kilometre moderate route past pebbled beaches to a centuries-old Portuguese fort, priced from around 1,310–₹1,750 for scheduled trips. Lastly, the Ocean Trek Fortaleza Cabo traverses rugged headlands and quiet fishing coves with gentle climbs, typically ranging from ₹1,220–₹1,500. Do bear in mind that prices can vary based on group size and booking type, with private treks generally costing more.

For a gentler immersion into South Goa's hidden soul, Mackinlay Barreto, through his by-appointment-only tour company The Local Beat ([@thelocalbeat.goa](http://thelocalbeat.goa)), promises to unveil a Goa many believe no longer exists.

# India eyes broad-based investments from EU, access to legal & accounting services; convergence on automobile, alcoholic beverages pending



broad-based investments from EU, legal & accounting services, automobile, alcoholic beverages, European Union (EU), european union india, European Union sanctions, Indian express news, current affairsThe EU is also India's second-largest export market and the largest source of investment in the services sector.India is eyeing investment commitments from the European Union in broad-based sectors, access into legal, accounting and IT services sectors, under the comprehensive trade deal that both partners aim to sign by the end of the year. However, negotiators are yet to converge on thorny issues such as market access in automobile and alcoholic beverages sectors, along with several non-tariff measures that push compliance costs higher for Indian companies, a senior government official said.

The push for investments by Indian negotiators comes as the EU has committed to investments in the US market under the US-EU trade deal. The trade agreement with the EU assumes significance as India is facing stiff 50 per cent tariffs in the US market, which threatens to disrupt exports worth over \$40 billion, and exporters are hoping for the finalisation of the deal with the EU for relief, particularly for the labour-intensive sectors. The EU is also India's second-largest export market and the largest source of investment in the services sector. "While no additional chapter was closed in the last round of discussions, substantial progress was made in several chapters, including the goods. More discussions are required in the automobile, beverage sectors, and finer aspects related to services, and non-tariff measures need to be discussed. Both sides have their list of non-tariff barriers that are being worked on," the official said. Access to the Indian automobile and alcoholic beverage sectors is one of the top demands for the European Union. After India opened both these sectors that have traditionally seen high protection for the UK, the EU will likely seek more ambitious opening as they compete with the UK in similar product categories. India and the UK signed a trade deal earlier this year, giving limited quota access to the UK's automobiles and whiskey. The official said that In-

dia is working to reduce the compliance cost for the industry in the EU market. "For instance, in fisheries, every second consignment is subjected to examination, which will add cost for India. If the quantum of examination is high in any area, that means additional cost for us. So compliance costs due to regulations in several sectors such as agriculture, industrial and fisheries," the official said. "India is also seeking to improve Indian pharma exports to the EU. Currently, it takes a long time for the EU to approve Indian pharma products. Besides, the EU's Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for agricultural products are a worry for countries globally. We need to align with it. India has studied the EU's deal with Mercosur to understand the EU's position and get some reference points. The European Commission, in a report to the European Parliament on Wednesday, said that the EU is India's largest trading partner and India is the EU's largest trade partner in the Global South. In 2024, bilateral trade in goods reached \$120 billion — an increase of nearly 90 per cent over the past decade and around 6,000 European companies operate in India. "Despite this progress, significant untapped potential remains. India accounts for less than 2.5 per cent of the EU's trade in goods and services, and Indian investment in the EU totals only Euro 10 billion. Key barriers in India include high tariffs and internal measures that restrict import competition, limit foreign direct investment, and constrain business opportunities on both sides," the report said. The report said that the EU is committed to scaling up investments in India through 'Global Gateway', by de-risking private-sector investment with guarantees and blended finance. Global Gateway is the European Union's strategy to boost smart, clean and secure connections in digital, energy and transport sectors, and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. The Team Europe Global Gateway investment portfolio in India already exceeds Euro 15 billion, spanning sectors such as renewable energy, water, urban transport and digital infrastructure. "Future projects could expand into other strategic sectors to support India's modernisation, green and digital transitions, and strategic value chains, as well as to promote connectivity in the region. The European Investment Bank (EIB) will remain a key player in advancing this agenda," the report said. The EU and India should also jointly assess external vulnerabilities and strategic trade opportunities to identify other priority sectors, the report said. "A secure supply of critical raw materials remains a strategic priority for sustainable and resilient industrial ecosystems. India's endorsement of the G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan reflects alignment on key principles, including sustainability, diversification, and market transparency, and provides a basis for practical co-operation," the report said.

# Govt to push geothermal pilots under new policy; Iceland, Norway firms eye sites in Uttarakhand, Arunachal

India's new national policy on geothermal energy seeks to build on interest from research firms in the United States, Iceland, and Norway to test its commercial viability in the country, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Secretary Santosh Kumar Sarangi said on Wednesday. Companies from Iceland and Norway are looking at R&D and pilot projects in the Gulf of Cambay, Arunachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, he added.

Geothermal energy taps the earth's heat from hot water springs on the surface or reservoirs deep underground, using steam to spin turbines and generate electricity. It is a renewable source and can also be harnessed from hot rocks for heating and cooling, greenhouses, and aquaculture. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has mapped 381 hot springs nationwide with surface temperatures between 35°C and 89°C, whose exploration and development the new MNRE policy, released on September 17, aims to support. "Some Norwegian and Icelandic research companies have shown interest in the Gulf of Cambay, Arunachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. They have even sent their teams to do some pilot studies. There is a lot of interest," Sarangi said in a media briefing. Additionally, the government will also explore technological collaborations with the US and Indonesia, especially for enhanced geothermal systems for larger power plants. India has an estimated 10.6 gigawatts (GW) of geothermal potential, which could rise with further exploration. Key sites lie in the Himalayan Geothermal Province — covering Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Arunachal Pradesh — as well as the Cambay Graben in Gujarat, home to several abandoned oil wells, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Globally, less than 17 GW of geothermal capacity is harnessed, led by the US, Indonesia, and the Philippines, while countries like Iceland and Norway have pioneered innovative technologies in the sector. In June 2024, the US International Trade Administration (ITA) said, "Puga and Chumathang in eastern Ladakh seem to be the most promising geothermal fields in India. Efforts are also being made to utilize geothermal energy from existing oil and gas wells in ONGC's Gandhar oil field in Ankleshwar, Gujarat, followed by Cambay Basin in Gujarat." It called on American companies to "explore opportunities in the Indian market, where geothermal energy is being viewed as a supplemental solution to energy storage and available backup options." According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), "China, the US and India have the largest market potential for next-generation geothermal electricity, together accounting for three-quarters of the global total." The IEA estimates India's geothermal market potential to grow to 4.2 GW by 2035 and nearly 100 GW by 2045. "With geothermal energy, we can provide electricity and heating in the hard-to-reach areas of the country. For instance, in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, power currently costs Rs 30-32 per unit; with geothermal energy, it could fall to below Rs 10-11. Similarly, in Ladakh, where heating is essential during peak winters, tapping geothermal resources could provide both heating and electricity," the MNRE Secretary said. "Also, in the Gulf of Cambay, there are thousands of abandoned oil wells. The drilling has been done, but the heat generated from there is not being used today," he added. Oil and gas companies are increasingly looking to repurpose abandoned wells for geothermal energy. In Barmer, Rajasthan, IIT Madras is piloting a project to retrofit unproductive oil wells to generate 450 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity, with support from MNRE and Vedanta Ltd's Cairn Oil & Gas. Reliance Industries Ltd, in its 2024-25 annual report, also said it plans to leverage its oil and gas exploration and production business to expand into geothermal. Geothermal energy faces high upfront costs and exploration risks — it takes about



Rs 36 crore to develop one megawatt (MW) of capacity. The National Policy on Geothermal Energy aims to financially support R&D and pilot projects, along with streamlining efforts across stakeholders, including the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and state governments. A viability gap funding (VGF) scheme is also being explored. "The challenge is to demonstrate commercial feasibility, and that experiment is already under way. The policy's framework will allow us to carry out the technical as well as commercial design needed for it," Sarangi said. The MNRE has sanctioned five projects so far, including the one supported by Vedanta, and with the policy, it expects to expand the list.

# Al plane crash: Pilot Sumeet Sabharwal's father seeks another probe

Mumbai: Perturbed with the preliminary findings of the AAIB inquiry into the Ahmedabad plane crash, Pushkaraj Sabharwal, father of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal who was one of the pilots of the ill-fated Air India Dreamliner, has demanded a 'formal investigation' by the central government. In one of the worst aircraft accidents in India, a total of 260 people, including 241 passengers, died after Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft operating flight AI171 to London Gatwick crashed soon after take off from Ahmedabad on June 12. In a letter to the civil aviation secretary and AAIB Director General, 91-year-old Pushkaraj said that selective leaks about the accident have led to speculation that Sumeet (56) was under tremendous psychological pressure and, therefore, was contemplating committing suicide. "These innuendos have very adversely affected my health and mental setup and the reputation of Captain Sumeet Sabharwal. They tarnish Captain Sabharwal's reputation, which is a fundamental right guaranteed to a citizen of India under Article 21 of the Constitution of India," the letter, dated August 29, said. Pushkaraj has demanded that the central government order a formal inquiry into the accident under Rule 12 of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017. Under Rule 12, the central government can institute a formal investigation into circumstances of any accident of an Indian registered aircraft if it appears that it is expedient to hold such a probe. There were no immediate comments from the Civil Aviation Ministry and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on the letter. Amid speculations about the cause of the fatal crash after the release of its preliminary probe report on July 12, the AAIB had asserted that it was too early to draw any "definite conclusions" on what led to the accident as the investigation was still on and that the final report will come out with the root causes.

# The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood premiere: From Radhika Merchant to Alia Bhatt, celebs put their best fashion foot forward



The much-anticipated premiere of Aryan Khan's directorial debut The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood was held last evening at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Mumbai. As expected, the spectacular gathering brought together the crème de la crème of Bollywood, with big names marking their attendance in style. The red carpet turned into a dazzling display of glamour, elegance, and bold fashion choices. Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Kajol, Ajay Devgn, Madhuri Dixit Nene, Bobby Deol, Ananya Panday, Bhumi Pednekar, Shanaya Kapoor, Khushi Kapoor, Lakshya, Agastya Nanda, Raghav Juyal, and more — the guest list was as cinematic as the night itself.

The business elite also brought their A-game, with Nita and Mukesh Ambani, Akash and Shloka Ambani, Radhika Merchant, Isha Ambani, and Navya Naveli Nanda serving memorable looks that matched the mood of the evening. Here are the 10 best-dressed stars from the evening who marked their presence in truly unforgettable style moments. fashion The Khan family turned heads on the red carpet, blending timeless elegance with vibrant, show-stopping style (source: Varinder Chawla)

The Khans were the perfect, stylish hosts! Shah Rukh Khan looked sharp in a classic black tuxedo, while Gauri Khan radiated grace and sophistication in a black dress.

# ‘You can carry, but not charge’: Why passengers are prohibited from using power banks on flights

Not allowed in checked-in baggage, portable chargers or power banks are strictly to be carried in hand baggage on flights. But have you ever wondered why you are not allowed to use these electronic devices, even though you have them with you? To gain a deeper understanding, we consulted Dr. Harshada Babrekar, Ph.D., a physics consultant at Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL), who explained that these compact devices are designed to store electrical energy and transfer it to mobile devices, much like depositing and withdrawing money from a bank.

"You can carry, but not charge, because they consist of a rechargeable battery housed in a protective casing, along with circuitry that regulates power flow. These devices are especially useful when access to wall outlets is limited," said Dr Babrekar. Most power banks use lithium-ion (Li-ion) or lithium-polymer (Li-Po) cells. A Li-ion battery stores and releases energy using lithium ions. It has three main parts, viz, Anode (negative side), Cathode (positive side), and Electrolyte (a liquid or gel that helps ions move).

When the battery is discharging (powering a device): Lithium ions move from the anode to the cathode through the electrolyte, explained Dr Babrekar adding that electrons flow through the external circuit, creating electricity that powers the device. "This process is stable under normal conditions, but if the battery is damaged, overcharged, or short-circuited, the chemical balance can collapse," he told indianexpress.com. This thermal runaway is a self-sustaining chain reaction where rising temperatures trigger chemical reactions that produce more heat, ultimately leading to

Aryan Khan, the man of the evening, stood tall in his polished, confident style. Suhana Khan brightened the event in a striking yellow dress, while AbRam added a charming touch. Together, they sealed their spot as Bollywood's most stylish family of the night. fashion Radhika, Shloka, and Akash Ambani commanded the red carpet with bold, regal, and impeccably tailored style (source: Varinder Chawla)

The power trio of the Ambani family turned heads with their distinct styles. Radhika Merchant stunned in a bold red gown paired with statement jewelry, while Shloka Mehta chose couture that leaned regal and refined. Akash Ambani complemented their elegance in a sharply tailored suit. Nita Ambani redefined royal grace in a jade-green saree detailed with intricate embroidery. Her statement diamond neckpiece, complete with a floral accent, accentuated her look. It is safe to say she proved her status as one of the most stylish women in the business fraternity, yet again. Ranbir and Alia stole the show as the most stylish couple. Alia wore an archival Gucci belted white jersey dress, while Ranbir paired a crisp white tuxedo jacket with classic black trousers. Both their dresses complemented each other and achieved that classy, timeless look. fashion Kajol and Ajay Devgn brought effortless glamour and contemporary edge to the red carpet (source: Varinder Chawla) Kajol dazzled on the carpet in a navy flared skirt teamed with a black embellished top, keeping it simple yet stylish. Ajay Devgn complimented her looks perfectly in a midnight-toned suit. Together, the couple served glamour with a contemporary edge.

fashion Ananya Panday radiated youthful energy and chic confidence in a striking asymmetrical white dress. (source: Varinder Chawla) Ananya brought youthful energy in an asymmetrical white dress paired with sky-high heels and a sleek blowout. Fresh, chic, and confident, she proved why she's fast becoming a red-carpet favorite. fashion Vicky Kaushal owned the carpet in a perfectly tailored suit, exuding classic charm and undeniable style (source: Varinder Chawla) Vicky Kaushal went classic with a perfectly tailored suit, winning that ideal gentleman look. His trademark charisma and commanding confidence complemented the ensemble. Kaushal yet again stood up to his reputation of being one of the most stylish men in the industry.



fire, explosion, and the release of toxic gases. "It can be initiated by overcharging, physical damage, manufacturing defects, or exposure to high external temperatures. Once started, the reaction can quickly escalate," said Babrekar. Simply put, at cruising altitudes (~35,000 ft), aircraft cabins experience lower air pressure than at ground level. So, gases expand more under reduced pressure, which means that they can rupture the casing, leading to an explosion. "Even a minor internal short, caused by impurities or damage, can escalate into an explosion under these conditions," said Babrekar. "While power banks are convenient, they carry inherent risks. Understanding how thermal runaway occurs and how environmental factors like altitude and poor ventilation contribute to battery failure is crucial, especially in sensitive settings like aircraft cabins. Proper handling, quality components, and awareness of these risks can help prevent dangerous incidents," said Babrekar.

# When Virat Kohli opened up about the time his family supported him, despite not completing schooling: ‘I am the third child in the house’



You can always trust Virat Kohli to speak his heart out. While on many occasions, he has detailed the role his wife Anushka Sharma has played in his life, he also once spoke about how his family "well-supported" him in pursuing his dreams. "I am the third child in the house. My brother is seven years older than I, and my sister is nine years older, so I was always the one from whom there were no expectations. I did whatever I wanted to," Kohli told Aamir Khan and Aparshakti Khurana on a 2018 Zee TV chat show.

"Fortunately, everyone likes cricket. My brother and father used to watch. I was never held back by my parents in any way. My brother was very supportive. He used to drive me to my matches. My father used to take me to a lot of my games. So, that way, I was well-supported," added Kohli. On the sidelines, he admitted that while the family "kept telling me to focus on studies, too," he couldn't complete his schooling owing to professional opportunities. "My father was very adamant that I complete my school and college. I couldn't do either. I haven't done the 12th. I passed the 11th. After that, I started playing under-19 in India when I was 16," Kohli said.

Delnna Rrajesh, psychotherapist, healer, and life coach, said that family support turned out to be liberating for Kohli. "Support means that a person can be focused and work on his/her growth. This shows how a person can be focused on doing their job thoroughly, respectfully, and

without fuss," said Delnna. "From chasing fame to choosing focus. From proving ourselves to rooting ourselves. From seeking validation to embodying value, which becomes easier with people who support you and are there for you," said Delnna. His family showed us what it means to live from the inside out. "To support without entitlement and to show up fully for him without pressure is rare," said Delnna.

# Here's why obesity affects people differently

New Delhi: Ever wondered why some people with obesity remain relatively healthy while others develop serious conditions like diabetes and heart disease? Genetic differences may be the reason, according to a new study. An international team of researchers led by the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and the University of Copenhagen analysed genetic data from 452,768 people and discovered variants in 205 regions of the genome linked to higher body fat but better metabolic health. Using these findings, they developed a genetic risk score that accounts for the impact of these variants. Individuals with higher scores were more likely to develop obesity — but were less likely to suffer complications such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, or heart disease. This is partly due to the way fat cells behave in different people. Importantly, these protective genetic effects were already visible in children. Kids carrying the protective variants were more likely to develop obesity but did not show the usual warning signs of metabolic disease, the study revealed. The research was published in Nature Medicine. "Our study shows that obesity is not a single condition — it is made up of different subtypes, each with its own risks," said Nathalie Chami, Instructor of Environmental Medicine and Artificial Intelligence and Human Health, at the Icahn School.

## Pakistan batsmen need to get their act together; Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi their best batsman



GNS News Agency, Sept 30

The incidents that unfolded on the pitch were not as dramatic as the events that preceded them. But putting aside the distractions, which reduced the match to a side-show, Pakistan produced an efficient performance to beat UAE, which they accomplished by 41 runs, and ensured their qualification to the Super Four. Even though dew impeded Pakistan's bowlers, resulting in the ball slipping out of their hands repeatedly, UAE's batsmen did not possess the nerves or the muscle to mount a serious challenge. Shaheen Afridi's pace, Haris Rauf's hard lengths, and Abrar's guiles were difficult for UAE's batsmen to comprehend. Not to discount their exuberant fielding. At one stage, they were 85 for 3 in 13.5 overs, but it seemed they were only a gentle nudge away from falling off the cliff. So they did. There, though, are buzzing concerns before their fixture against India on Sunday.

The more Pakistan looks to change, the more they remain the same. For all the emphasis on cultural reboot, progressive batting, ousting the erstwhile pillars of the team for their supposedly sedate batting, the personnel they have turned to for change have shown little discernible progress. So much so that it required the seasons hands of Fakhar Zaman, the navy-cadet turned match-winner in the 2017 Champions Trophy final, and Shaheen Shah Afridi to post a total that allayed fears of a potential stumble in the must-win encounter against UAE. They registered 146/9, but not after enduring a stuttery start, anxious moments in the middle overs and aided to a lesser extent by Afridi's lower-order fireworks.

Remove Zaman's 36-ball 50 and Afridi's 14-ball 29, the innings falls apart, and Pakistan's total of 146/9 would have been a distant prospect. It does not help that four of the top six failed to register double figures, some perishing

hideously. Saim Ayub, touted the next big batting star of his country, his strokes even begetting comparisons with AB de Villiers, lasted only two balls, slashing a wide ball straight to deep third man. It was his third duck in as many outings in the tournament. His opening partner Sahibzada Farhan did worse, as he ate up 12 balls for merely five runs. Zaman and captain Salman Ali Agha were put into the unenviable shift of both stemming the fall of wickets as well as increasing the run-rate. Zaman unfurled his typical drives and cuts, temporarily feeding momentum. Agha, riding a lean patch, lived on perilously, accumulating runs through streaky edges early on in his innings. But the 61-run stand resuscitated Pakistan on a sluggish surface and laid the foundation for a final flourish. There, they began to shoot themselves on the foot again. From 86/3, they teetered to 93/6 and then to 110/7. Zaman departed soon after completing his half-century, before Hasan Nawaz, the recalled Khushdil Shah and Mohammad Nawaz departed in quick succession, raising fears of an upset and an hostile welcome back home. Left-arm spinner Simranjeet Singh and Junaid Siddiqui were the wreckers-in-chief, with three and four wickets apiece, as Pakistan stared at a potential embarrassment.

The bail-out job was again thrust on the enormous shoulders of Afridi, Pakistan's most fluid and natural hitter. He biffed a 14-ball 29 to provide the late impetus that gave Pakistan a competitive total, one their multi-utility pack of spinners could defend. UAE's batting, for all their fleeting glimpses of promises, is a fragile unit, and over-dependent on their top-three. But a total under 120 or thereabouts would have offered them genuine hopes of pulling off a shock win and progressing to the Super Four. But they wilted in the storm Afridi whipped up. He slaughtered the fifth ball he faced down the ground. A stroke, in its sheer brutality, was akin to the ones Abdul Razzaq used to essay, albeit the right-handed version. He tried to pillory nearly every ball. Some he failed to connect; those that he did sailed to the fence. His second four was a full-blooded helicopter-flick, the bottom hand whirring in the infuriating power of it. Mohammad Rohid Khan was slaughtered for a pair of successive sixes and a four to deflate UAE's hopes of bowling their opponents for a modest total. It's instructive — as well as damning for the specialist batsmen — stat that Afridi has hit more sixes than his batting colleagues. Of the 15 Pakistan had struck, six owe to his sweet swings. He, unsurprisingly, has the best strike rate among them as well (206.45), and has scored more runs (64) than Ayub, Agha, Salman Nawaz and Mohammad Nawaz combined (63).

## Manchester United struggles on pitch, but posts record revenue

GNS News Agency, Sept 30

When a sporting entity becomes a globally-recognised brand, it doesn't necessarily have to succeed in its chosen field to be viable financially. This has been the case with Manchester United, who have posted record revenue despite being a mere shadow of the team it was during its glory years. The Old Trafford club earned a record £666.5 million last year, while finishing 15th in the Premier League, their worst outcome in the English top flight since being relegated in 1973-74. "To have generated record revenues during such a challenging year for the club demonstrates the resilience which is a hallmark of Manchester United," chief executive Omar Berrada said. "As we settle into the 2025-26 season, we are working hard to improve the club in all areas." The big financial returns were largely due to the start of the five-year front-of-shirt sponsorship deal with Snapdragon, which resulted in record commercial revenue of £333.3 million, while match-day revenue during the year ending June 30, 2025 was also at a record £160.3 million. The overall loss of £33m is down by 70.8 percent from the previous year, when the figure was £113.2m. However, United's performance at the start of the current season hardly shows any sign of a turnaround as they have lost two of their first four league fixtures, sitting with four points from as many games. They were also knocked out of the Carabao Cup by Grimsby Town, playing their trade in the fourth level of English club football. They have not qualified for any European competition this season.

According to a Deloitte study in January, Manchester United remain the fourth-highest revenue earning club in



world football, based on their earnings of £651m from the previous year. They are behind Spanish giants Real Madrid (£883m), cross-town rivals Manchester City (£708m) and reigning European champions Paris St-Germain (£681m). The club has made some cost-cutting decisions, making several non-playing positions redundant, as the number of total employees has gone down from 1,000 to 700 over the past two years, the BBC said. Wages were cut by £51.5 million to £313.2 million. The club has argued that this would free up funds to invest in the underperforming playing squad as well as comply with the financial rules of the Premier League and European football's governing body UEFA. The club believes it will post a turnover of between £640m and £660m in the year ending June 2026. "As we start to feel the benefits of our cost reduction programme, there is significant potential for improved financial performance, which will, in turn, support our overriding priority: success on the pitch," said Berrada.

to leak runs to his lack of experience in red-ball cricket. "I am not criticising him, the whole country is. He does not play red ball cricket. He refused to be in the team, at least play four or five first-class games," Akram said while speaking on The Sony Sports Network. The move could have far-reaching effects on some of Pakistan's biggest stars and for the short-term plans of a number of T20I franchises across the world. Seven Pakistanis, including Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Afridi, are due to play in the BBL this season, which begins in December. The possibility of Shadab Khan sharing a dressing room with India spin great Ravichandran Ashwin could also come to an end, with both players having been drafted to play for Sydney Thunder. There are also 16 Pakistan players in the shortlist for the ILT20 auction, which is due to take place on October 1 in the UAE. Three of those include Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub and Fakhar Zaman.

## Sports Ministry invites applications for National Sports Awards

New Delhi: The Sports Ministry on Tuesday began the process of inviting applications for this year's national sports awards with October 28 being the last date of submission. The awards are given annually by the President of India to recognise and reward excellence in sports but the date of the ceremony, which is held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, is not yet out. Once again, sportspersons penalised for doping violations would only be eligible if their ban period is over. "The achievements during the said suspension/ punishment would not be considered.

## Regarded as world's first one-day competition, Kerala's Pooja Knockout sports a new colour at 75 years



GNS News Agency, Sept 30

Innovation is in the genes of the Pooja Knockout cricket tournament. Regarded as the world's first one-day competition, it has been held uninterrupted since the inaugural edition in 1951 at the Palace Oval ground in Tripunithura, near Kochi. The 75th edition of the tournament that began on September 15, heralds a new chapter in its storied history: matches in nights under floodlights, with the pink ball replacing the red one.

Former India wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani, one of the several illustrious names who have taken part in the tournament in the past, was the chief guest at an event organised by the Tripunithura Cricket Club (TCC) to mark the milestone on Sunday night. He went back to the fabled turf at Palace Oval and faced the pink cherry for a few hits before an exhibition game between two teams comprising former Kerala players. "I have fantastic memories of the Pooja tournament. This was a very important event for us before each Ranji Trophy season. A good warm-up opportunity for all teams," said Kirmani. "Those days, all the major industries and banks had strong cricket teams. Sandip Patil, Dilip Vengsarkar, G R Viswanath, and Roger Binny all used to come and play the Pooja cricket. I get goosebumps when I talk about those days," added Kirmani.

The Palace Oval is believed to have come up on land that the British government gifted for the Princes Club, which was exclusive to the male members of the Cochin royal family, and was later renamed to TCC. After independence, KV Kelappan Thampuran, a member of the royal family and the first secretary of the Kerala Cricket Association, conceived the Pooja Knockout cricket tournament with 50-over matches at a time when limited-over cricket matches were largely unheard of around the world. Hosts TCC, boasting the likes of Kelappan Thampuran and Ravi Achan, who was Kerala cricket's first big name, beat Kottayam Cricket Club to win the inaugural edition in 1951 and went on to repeat the success for the next two years as well. Later, strong departmental teams like State Bank of India (SBI), India Cements and Chemplast Chennai became regular fixtures at the tournament and serial winners.

The Tripunithura Cricket Club team that won the first ever Pooja Knockout in 1951. (Credit: TCC) The Tripunithura Cricket Club team that won the first ever Pooja Knockout in 1951. (Credit: TCC) The Pooja tournament helped popularise cricket in Kerala and drew large crowds. The Palace Oval, known for its short boundaries, saw spectators lining up the eastern and northern walls of the ground. Initially, the matches were played on matting wickets, and later, Palace Oval became the first ground in Kerala to have a turf wicket. P Balachandran, a former Kerala captain and coach, said performance in the Pooja tournament, which coincides with

## Fred Kerley, Olympic silver medallist, to compete in Enhanced Games where there'll be no dope testing

Fred Kerley, of the United States, celebrates after his third place finish in the men's 100-meter final at the 2024 Summer Olympics, on Aug. 4, 2024, in Saint-Denis, France. (AP Photo) Fred Kerley, of the United States, celebrates after his third place finish in the men's 100-meter final at the 2024 Summer Olympics, on Aug. 4, 2024, in Saint-Denis, France. Fred Kerley, an American sprinter who is a former world champion and a two-time Olympic medallist, has become the most high-profile athlete to join the Enhanced Games, where there will be no dope testing done on athletes. Interestingly, Kerley's move to join the event comes when he is serving a ban for missed doping tests and is reportedly mulling challenging the ban in courts.

Kerley was the 100 meters world champion at the 2022 World Athletics Championships in Oregon. He also has two medals at the Olympic Games — a silver in Tokyo 2021 and a bronze from Paris 2024. But given his current ban, Kerley is missing from the ongoing World Athletics Championships in Tokyo. "This now gives me the opportunity to dedicate all my energy to pushing my limits and becoming the fastest human to ever live," Kerley is quoted as saying on the Enhanced Games website. In recent months, Kerley has been in the headlines for all the wrong reasons. In May this year, the American sprinter was charged in Florida with punching a woman, a hurdler who also competed in the Olympics. That came just a few months after he was arrested for allegedly punching a Miami Beach police officer on Jan. 2, an incident in which police used a Taser on him. His lawyers say Kerley is innocent of those charges.

President of World Athletics Sebastian Coe, who was a legendary track and field athlete back in the day was asked for a comment on the development by the media recently,

the Navratri season, was a major metric for selecting Kerala players for the Ranji Trophy in the early years. "During that time, there were no inter-district matches. Several players got opportunities because of their performance in this tournament. The quality was also high because several big names would turn up," he said. ML Jaisimha, Brijesh Patel, Arun Lal, Mohammad Azharuddin, VB Chandrasekhar, Anil Kumble, Sunil Joshi, Shivalal Yadav, Krishnamachari Srikkanth, Rahul Dravid, Venkatesh Prasad, Robin Singh, L Sivaramakrishnan, Sadanand Viswanath and Pankaj Dharmani are some of the major Indian cricketers to have graced the tournament over the years.

As the international cricket calendar has become hectic and departmental teams have almost ceased to exist, tournaments like the Pooja Knockout have gone off the radar. Despite this, TCC has conducted the tournament even during the pandemic years and for the last several years, the matches have been 45-over affairs. Kerala Ranji Trophy captain Sachin Baby welcomed the move to conduct Pooja Knockout matches under floodlights. "When I started playing the tournament in the late 2000s, for my club, Swantons, the public had a lot of interest, and there used to be huge crowds. But over the years, that interest has somehow gone down, and I could see that when I came here to play for my departmental team, AG's Office. Having matches at night under floodlights will definitely attract more people to the ground and will boost the tournament's profile," said Sachin. Sachin also said that playing matches under floodlights will benefit many young cricketers, as it will prepare them well for tournaments such as the Kerala Cricket League, the Kerala Cricket Association's T20 franchise league. He said people from other states also hold the tournament in high esteem. "When we went outside Kerala to play matches, the players there said that the competition at Pooja cricket had made them better players. It is a regret for me that for the last few years I have not been able to play this tournament due to prior commitments."

The Palace Oval ground under floodlights. (Express photo by Narayanan S) The Palace Oval ground under floodlights. The 75th edition will be held in two phases. In the first phase, from September 15 to 29, 18 teams from Kerala will compete for four qualifier slots. In the second phase, from October 1-15, the four qualified teams will join eight other teams from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka for round-robin matches in four pools of three teams. The winners of each pool will go through to the semifinals on October 16 and 17 before the grand final on October 18. "Only the matches in the second phase and the knockouts will be played under lights. However, the pink ball will be used for all matches, including the day matches in the first phase," said Santosh Sreeba, TCC president. TCC has decided to use pink balls instead of white balls, which is the usual practice for matches under floodlights, because of visibility reasons as the players will continue wearing white jerseys, said Dr Kunal Viswam, cricket in charge of TCC. "We have taken the feedback from the former players who played in the inaugural exhibition match under lights. In the coming days, we will organise more trial matches involving our junior players to test the visibility of the pink ball under lights before the games at night begin on October 1," said Viswam. On September 11, in honour of Kelappan Thampuran's legacy, his daughters Hema Malini and Padmaja handed over a flag, which was to be hoisted during the tournament's opening ceremony, to the organisers.



where he said: "We're in a championships. There's nothing more I need to say. We'll look at it when we get out of here." The event will be held in Las Vegas in May next year with eye-catching prize money of \$5,00,000 per event. This includes a prize purse of \$2,50,000 awarded to champions. The Enhanced Games event will also have a \$1 million bounty for athletes who break world records in the 100-meter sprint on the track or in the 50-meter freestyle in swimming. So far, the Enhanced Games have announced Paris Olympics silver-medal swimmer Ben Proud as one of the athletes confirmed to compete in the event. The international swimming federation, World Aquatics, has already passed a rule that states that any swimmer who competes in the Enhanced Games will be prohibited from competing in events under their jurisdiction. This rule was challenged by the organisers of the Enhanced Games, who filed an \$800 million lawsuit against the federation and others for what it said was an illegal attempt to get athletes to boycott its league.

## PV Sindhu enters China Masters quarterfinals with straight-game win over Pornpawee Chochuwong

Hyderabad: PV Sindhu advanced to the quarterfinals of the Li-Ning China Masters defeating World No. 6 Pornpawee Chochuwong of Thailand in the Round of 16. The Indian ace registered a straight-games victory, winning 21-15, 21-15 in 41 minutes at the Shenzhen Arena, Shenzhen. Sindhu will meet the winner of the match between top seed An Se Young of Korea and Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in the quarterfinals. Sindhu, who had exited the recently concluded Hong Kong Open in the first round, was delighted with the straight-game victory and said she was alert from the start against her Thai opponent. "I am happy with the win, and it was very important for me from the beginning to be alert and give my 100 percent. She (Chochuwong) is a top player. I played her in the Indonesia Open; that time, it was a hard match. After winning the first game, I was much more alert in the second game," Sindhu said after the match.

"The points were going to be equal, so it was very important for me to stay close to her, as every point counts. I



am happy that I am on the winning side, and I gave my best. I have to prepare for tomorrow now. It's good that if you win the first game, you finish it off in the second game. Straight wins always give you that confidence. But you also have to be prepared for long matches and make sure that you are quicker on your feet," the double Olympics medalist said.

## Deepika Padukone dropped from Prabhas' Kalki sequel, official statement raises questions about her 'commitment'



Deepika Padukone had nothing but kind words to say about her Kalki 2898 AD co-star Prabhas, but they will have to wait a while before working together again, as she will not be returning for the film's sequel. On Thursday, the production banner behind the film and its sequel, Vyjayanthi Movies, announced that Deepika wouldn't be reprising her role as Sumathi in the sequel, as she couldn't come to an agreement about certain 'commitments'. The official statement, posted on the Vyjayanthi Movies social media channels, implied that someone who could devote more time to the project would be more suitable. This comes mere months after it was reported that Deepika had declined to star in Prabhas' upcoming film Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, over certain demands that she had made prior to production, owing to her new responsibilities as a mother. Deepika filmed parts of Kalki 2898 AD when she was pregnant, and her husband Ranveer Singh joked that the movie marked

their child's debut. Produced on a massive budget of more than Rs 700 crore, Kalki 2898 AD was described as the most expensive movie in Indian cinema history. It was moderately successful at the box office, grossing more than Rs 1000 crore worldwide and marking Prabhas' return to success after a gap of nearly 10 years. In its statement on Thursday, Vyjayanthi Movies wrote, "This is to officially announce that @deepikapadukone will not be a part of the upcoming sequel of #Kalki2898AD. After careful consideration, we have decided to part ways. Despite the long journey of making the first film, we were unable to find a partnership. And a film like @Kalki2898AD deserves that commitment and much more. We wish her the best with her future works."

Previously, Deepika Padukone's departure from Spirit sparked a debate over her supposed demands for a strict eight-hour shift. While many took her side in the debate, others opposed it. Director Sandeep Reddy Vanga even lashed out at her and indirectly accused her of leaking elements of his story to the press, and for maligning her replacement, Triptii Dimri. Deepika hasn't had a solo hit in several years, but has been a part of major blockbusters such as Pathaan and Jawan, both starring Shah Rukh Khan. She is reuniting with Shah Rukh in his upcoming film King, directed by Siddharth Anand. In an interview with Harper's Bazaar following the controversy,

Deepika said that she drowns out the noise when it gets too loud, and prefers working with like-minded people. "I just listen to my gut, what feels right. I think it's easier said and done. But, when you shut out the noise around you, and you listen to just your gut, I think the answers are always there. Wanting to collaborate with people that I know I am gonna have good time working with. Being surrounded by family and friends and being authentic is how I think am able to find my balance," she said.

## 'He will betray you': Shabana Azmi recalls being warned against marrying Javed Akhtar; credits Honey Irani for 'not poisoning' Farhan and Zoya's minds

Shabana Azmi and Javed Akhtar have been married for 41 years. The couple tied the knot in 1984, but their relationship began on a contentious note as Javed had been married to Honey Irani and was also a father to two children — Farhan Akhtar and Zoya Akhtar. Despite the controversy surrounding the relationship, Shabana decided to marry him. However, she once admitted in an old interview with Twinkle Khanna that her parents — late renowned poet and writer Kaifi Azmi and late actress Shaukat Kaifi — were against the marriage and didn't want her to marry Javed Akhtar.

Shabana revealed that since she was seen as the epitome of feminism in those days through her choice of roles, people branded her a hypocrite for marrying Javed. She said, "He was a married man, he had children, it was really tough. And that's why I feel that people shouldn't speculate. It's difficult enough for the people involved and then just for gossip's sake. And obviously, people are going to say, 'You call yourself a feminist and then how have you got yourself in this situation?' At that time, I did have a choice."

Despite facing backlash, Shabana chose not to speak out and instead maintained a dignified silence. She explained, "I could explain my point of view, which would justify the action I had taken, but I felt if I did that, it would lead to more speculation, so I decided to go quiet. In time people will come to know, and that is exactly what happened." In an old interview with Simi Garewal, Shabana Azmi further shared that not just her parents but many others also cautioned her against marrying Javed Akhtar. When asked if she believed Javed would ever betray her, she responded,



"I don't think Javed will betray me. I have complete faith in him. It is a slow thing, it has been built over the years. We had a contentious relationship and people said that he will betray me. But we have gone through trials of fire but today, I feel he won't betray me. Later, Shabana also credited Javed Akhtar's ex-wife Honey Irani for allowing her to have a separate and warm relationship with Farhan Akhtar and Zoya Akhtar. She said, "Now of this, the real good thing that happened, and I give Honey Irani a lot of credit for it, because through it all, she never poisoned the children's minds against me. She would have been justified... But she never, never did that. In fact, she sent the children with us to London when they were really young, and that became a bonding, and it's to her credit, and Javed's credit, and my credit that we have such a healthy relationship with Zoya and Farhan."

## Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood actor left the industry after his role was chopped off by Rakesh Roshan, became real estate developer in Canada but 'lost it all'

It is often assumed that those who come from film families are often served projects on a platter. But, despite getting an easy access into the Hindi film industry, not everyone manages to succeed in the movies, and one of those actors is Rajat Bedi, who is now making a strong comeback with Aryan Khan's Netflix series The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood. Rajat is the third generation from his family to have worked in the movies but despite a strong filmy background, he faced a lot of disappointment here and decided to move to Canada to become a real estate developer.

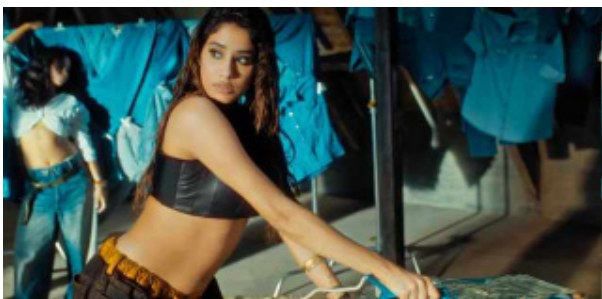
Rajat was the winner of the Gladrags Manhunt in 1994, and went to represent India in an international male beauty pageant the same year, where he won the second runners up. This was also the year when Aishwarya Rai and Sushmita Sen won international beauty pageants and became renowned celebrities in India. Like the two women, Rajat was also looking to gain an entry in the movies, especially since his grandfather Rajendra Singh Bedi, and father Narendra Bedi, had written and directed many films in the past. Rajat too, had assisted Ramesh Sippy in Shah Rukh Khan starrer Zamana Deewana, and spent two years with the star.

In an earlier chat with Mukesh Khanna on his YouTube channel, Rajat shared that he was more interested in modelling than acting at the time, but slowly gravitated towards acting over time. After his international beauty pageant, he waited for three years for his debut film to take off, but that never happened. He said that despite being from a renowned film family, he had no one backing him as his father had passed away by the time he was entering films, so no one ever gave him sound advice. After appearing in a few films, Rajat Bedi bagged a key role in Hrithik Roshan-starrer Koi Mil Gaya but that didn't help his career either. "There couldn't



be a bigger hit than Koi Mil Gaya but I didn't gain anything from it. I had lots to do in that film but my track with Preity Zinta was chopped off. My biggest disappointment was, when Koi Mil Gaya released, I was completely left out of the promotions so I was very disappointed. Because you have certain expectations as an actor, and you feel bad," he said. Soon after, he worked with Zayed Khan in a film called Rocky but that was a disappointment as well. "Zayed's father was editing the film so when the father is doing it..." he told Mukesh and hinted that having a supportive film family was essential for success. Rajat had the name but since his father and grandfather had passed on, there was no one who could hold his hand in Bollywood.

## Janhvi Kapoor irons money, eats jewels in quirky new track 'Perfect' from Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari,



After releasing two tracks — "Bijuria" and "Panwadi" — the makers of Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari have unveiled another song — "Perfect" — from the film. This time, the movie's lead actors Janhvi Kapoor and Varun Dhawan team up with Guru Randhawa, who is riding high on the success of his recent tracks "Sirra" and "Azul", to deliver a peppy new number. The track highlights the chemistry between Varun and Janhvi, who are seen dressed in street-style outfits. The energetic song captures them showing off their dance moves, including locking and popping, and is the perfect mix of rhythm and peppy vibe. With music and lyrics by Guru Randhawa, Gill Machhrai, and Rony Ajnali, the track stands out for its quirky visuals. In the video, Janhvi is even seen ironing money and eating jewels.

Speaking about working with Guru Randhawa on the

song, Varun Dhawan said, "This is my fourth collaboration with Guru. I've known him for a long time, so when we met, it was just a casual catch-up. But then he played 'PERFECT' for me, and I instantly felt it was the right song for our film. I called Shashank straight away and told him, 'We have to have this!'" Janhvi Kapoor also shared her excitement, saying, "Guru has created something so catchy and full of life, and dancing to it with Varun was an absolute blast. 'PERFECT' has this playful, high-energy vibe that adds to the fun spirit of the film — the minute you hear it, it makes you want to move." Guru Randhawa described the song as all about "good vibes." He said, "It's fresh, fun, and packed with an energy that instantly lifts your mood and gets you moving. The beats are infectious, and the rhythm has that playful swing that makes it impossible not to groove." Earlier, the makers had unveiled the trailer of Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, which introduces Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor as two heartbroken individuals whose exes are set to marry each other. To make their exes jealous, they decide to come together, leading to chaos and plenty of fun. The film is written and directed by Shashank Khaitan and marks the third installment of Dharma Productions' Dulhania franchise. Apart from Janhvi and Varun, it also stars Sanya Malhotra and Rohit Saraf in pivotal roles. The film is set to release on the occasion of Dussehra, October 2.

## Comedian recalls child marriage gone wrong, says he was in first grade: 'Cancelled when I was 12'

Comedian Onkar Yadav, who hails from Haryana, spoke about his parents' child marriage in a viral stand-up comedy bit that he shared on his YouTube channel a few months ago. In a recent interview with Prakhar Gupta, Onkar spoke about his own brush with child marriage, and said that the agreement dissolved a few years later, when he had entered his teens.

Discussing Haryanvi culture on Prakhar's podcast, Onkar was asked if it is true that he had a child marriage, and he said that this isn't entirely true. "Not a full-full child marriage," he said, as Prakhar asked what he means. "My brother was getting married, and the girl's family saw me and thought that I would be a good candidate for their daughter. We were both in the first grade. So they sealed the deal," he said. Onkar Yadav said that as a child, he was quite happy with the arrangement. "I was happy, my parents were happy... My marriage was decided when I was in the first grade, and by the time I was in the seventh grade, I thought that I was set in life. All I was worried about was my studies, because I knew that I didn't have to worry about getting married. But, when I was in seventh grade, the girl's family lost interest."

He said that the girl's family lived in 'the city', and didn't know that Onkar's parents had also got married as children. "In my household, it was a serious matter. It was assumed that I would pass the 10th and 12th grades, and



then it was up to me if I wanted to study further, but my marriage had been fixed. But when I went to the seventh grade, her parents said, 'Do you still believe in all this? Our daughter is anyway three inches taller than him.'" He concluded, "Phit toot gayi shaadi." Onkar Yadav said that after the arrangement was cancelled, he would get annoyed at the mere mention of the girl's name. In his stand-up video, Onkar had told stories about his parents' marriage when they were just 11 and 12. He said that his grandfather had seven children, all of whom were married off as kids.

## Samay Raina dons 'Say no to cruise' t-shirt at Aryan Khan's The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood premiere, netizens say, 'Bro should hesitate...'

The premiere of Aryan Khan's directorial debut The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood held on Wednesday saw the who's who of Bollywood in attendance. Comedian-content creator Samay Raina also attended the special screening in Mumbai. But, what caught everyone's attention was his t-shirt. At the premiere, Samay was spotted wearing a black T-shirt with the text "Say No to Cruise." Netizens quickly speculated that it was a reference to Aryan Khan's involvement in the Cordelia cruise drug case.

Under a Reddit post, a user wrote, "Oh God!!!! Samay is born different. Who would have thought? I can't stop laughing." Another comment read, "He has guts. I know it's cliché, but.... But bro should really hesitate." A user commented, "Is it a dig at his drug case?" Samay Raina, who is known for his controversial jokes, didn't make any remark at the event. For the unversed, Aryan Khan was detained in a high-profile drugs case after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) raided a rave party on the Goa-bound Cordelia Empress cruise ship. He spent over three weeks in Mumbai's Arthur Road Jail and was denied bail multiple times before finally being granted bail on October 28. Aryan Khan's The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood, starring Bobby Deol, Lakshya, Raghav Juyal, Rajat Bedi, Mona Singh, Gautami Kapoor, Manoj Pahwa, and Sahreh Bamba, among others, is now streaming on Netflix.



## The star kid got a Saiyaara-like launch in the 1980s, but faded soon despite best efforts from legendary father to revive his career

In the early 1980s, a host of star kids made their grand debuts as actors in romantic/actions films, and turned into stars overnight. Dharmendra's elder son Sunny Deol began his career with Rahul Rawail's Betaab (1983). So did Sanjay Dutt with father Sunil Dutt's Rocky (1981). Even a rank outsider like Jackie Shroff made a memorable debut with Subhash Ghai's Hero in 1983. In the same year as Dutt, his future brother-in-law Kumar Gaurav made his debut with Rawail's romantic drama Love Story. It launched not only Gaurav, but also Vijayta Pandit. The film was produced by Gaurav's father and legendary actor Rajendra Kumar. Given the launch of two promising stars, and the hummable music by RD Burman and vocals by Kishore Kumar's son Amit Kumar, it's safe to say Love Story was to the 1980s what Mohit Suri's blockbuster romance Saiyaara is to the 2020s.

However, Kumar Gaurav couldn't really capitalize on the success of Love Story. He followed it up with AC Tirulokchandar's 1982 romance Teri Kasam opposite

Poonam Dhillon. He reunited with Burman and Kumar, but couldn't really recreate the magic of their previous collaboration. The box office numbers were also not up to the mark.

Rajendra Kumar then tried redeeming his son's career with Vinod Pande's Star (1982), which featured music from Pakistani sensations Nazia Hassan and Zoheb Hassan. But that film also paled in comparison to the mega, unexpected success of Love Story. Gaurav's next few films followed the same fate — Lovers, Romance (1983), Hum Hain Lajawab, All-rounder (1984), Ek Se Bhale Do, Janam (1985), and Begaana (1986). Kumar Gaurav bounced back momentarily when he ventured out of the romance genre with Mahesh Bhatt's 1986 crime thriller Naam. While he received unanimous praise, it was the lead actor — Sanjay Dutt — who walked away with all the glory. Gaurav then went back into familiar territory of romantic films, appearing in a few more duds like Dil Tujhko Diya (1987), Goonj (1989), and Hai Meri Jaan (1991).