

## BRAOU organising placement drive on Friday in collaboration with RASCI

Hyderabad, Oct.9 (NSS): Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) in collaboration with Retailers Association Skill Council of India (RASCI) organizing Placement Drive for “Stipend Based Apprenticeship Program” at its campus on Friday. This Placement drive will be organised for the candidates who registered under BRAOU-RASCI Stipend based apprenticeship program launched for the academic year 2025-26. The Placement drive will be start from 10:00 A.M onwards, at CSTD Building.

## Major setback to Congress Govt as Telangana HC stays local body polls

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Hyderabad: In a major setback to the Congress government, the Telangana High Court on Thursday temporarily stayed the process of local body elections across the State after taking strong note of petitions challenging the enhancement of Backward Classes (BC) reservation from 23 per cent to 42 per cent through Government Order (GO) No. 9, issued on September 26. The State government had released a notification on September 29 announcing the schedule for conducting local body elections in five phases across the State. The division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice G M Mohiuddin directed the government to file its counter within four weeks, while the petitioners were granted two weeks thereafter to file their replies, observing that the interim stay shall operate till such time.

The arguments, which went on for two days, concluded on Thursday evening. The petitioners' contentions were primarily based on the breach of the ceiling limit of 50 per cent on reservations, in violation of Supreme Court judgments starting from the Indra Sawhney case to the Vikas Kishanrao Gawali case. The 50 per cent cap, laid down as one of the triple tests by the apex court, cannot be breached, the petitioners argued. They also contended that GO 9 violated the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018, which capped the total reservation at 50 per cent. The State, on the other hand, relied heavily on the empirical data collected during the Socio-Economic, Education, Employment, Political and



Caste (SEEEPC) survey. It argued that the BC population, which is about 57 per cent in the State, created an extraordinary circumstance forming the basis for enhancing the reservation. The State's counsel further argued that Supreme Court judgments do not impose an absolute ceiling in such exceptional cases.

The government also contended that the ordinance amending the reservation was valid and that the pending assent from the Governor on the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act amendment bill was no impediment to implementing the enhanced BC quota in the local body elections. The court heard both sides extensively before issuing the interim order. The detailed reasoned order explaining the stay is awaited.

## KTR accuses Congress of pushing TSRTC towards privatisation

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday alleged that the Congress government was deliberately pushing the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) towards bankruptcy to justify its eventual privatisation. He claimed that the government was attempting to sell RTC assets and hand over profitable divisions to private players under the guise of reforms. After the “Chalo Bus Bhavan” protest, a delegation of BRS leaders met RTC Managing Director N Nagireddy and submitted a memorandum demanding a rollback of the recent bus fare hike. During the discussion, the MD reportedly confirmed that Rs. 1,353 crore in dues under the ‘Mahalakshmi’ free bus travel scheme remained pending from the government. The BRS leaders recalled that the previous BRS regime had released Rs. 9,246 crore in grants to strengthen the RTC and prevent losses.

Speaking to the media after the meeting, Rama Rao termed the fare hike unjust and anti-poor, saying it imposed an unbearable burden on the middle class. “We welcome the free bus travel for women, but the government must increase the number of buses. Instead, it has doubled the fares for men and students. It is cruel to give with one hand and take away with the other,” he said. The BRS working president hit out at Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accusing him of “running a circus, not a government.” He condemned the police for arresting BRS leaders who were peacefully participating in the protest and questioned why



the government feared a simple petition being submitted to the RTC MD. “The people of Telangana are facing rising prices, job losses and economic stress. Instead of providing relief, this government is adding to their suffering through arbitrary fare hikes,” he said. Rama Rao argued that public transport was a government responsibility and not a profit-making enterprise. “Even when RTC was running at a loss, the previous K Chandrashekhar Rao government never passed the burden on to commuters. If RTC is now in profit, why increase fares?” he asked. He also took a jibe at the police, urging them to show the same enthusiasm in tackling the soaring crime rate in Hyderabad as they did in arresting opposition leaders. He reiterated that the BRS would continue its agitation until the fare hike was withdrawn, warning that attempts to privatise RTC would face strong public resistance.

## Ahead of Jubilee Hills bypoll, Naveen Yadav’s outburst puts AIMIM-Congress alliance under scanner



GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Hyderabad: The friendly alliance between the Congress and AIMIM has taken a beating after Congress candidate for the Jubilee Hills bypoll V Naveen Yadav accused the MIM of “deceiving” him in the past. The critical comments from the Congress candidate have come just before the Jubilee Hills election campaign is set to begin.

“The AIMIM has deceived us. Forget about Jubilee Hills, people will have to forget AIMIM even in the new city,” Naveen Yadav can be heard saying in a video, which is being circulated widely on social media platforms. Interestingly, his comments are in sharp contrast to TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud's assertions. “AIMIM is a friendly party and we are confident that Congress will win the Jubilee Hills by-elections comfortably,” he said during an informal chat with media persons on Monday. There were quite a few contenders for the Jubilee Hills by election from the Congress. Amidst this, the AICC announced Naveen Yadav's candidature for the by-election. However, Naveen Yadav went on to claim that the Congress party had sought the support of his family. “Like AIMIM and Telugu Desam parties, which have sought our support, the Congress is seeking our support today. We are offering our service to the people,” Naveen Yadav said in the video.

## Kavitha demands fresh Group-1 exams

Hyderabad, Oct.9 : Significant irregularities occurred during the Group-1 exams and the selection of posts. The State government must promptly cancel the recruitment process and conduct the fresh exams, stated Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakuntla Kavitha. In collaboration with the Telangana Jagruthi, a round table meeting was held at the press club, Somajuguda, Hyderabad, here on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, Kavitha, who was the chief guest, said that in the case of Group-1, mistakes were made at every step from the date of notification to the results.

## TTD 2026 DIARIES & CALENDARS NOW AVAILABLE FOR DEVOTEES

Hyderabad, Oct.9: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has announced the availability of its 2026 calendars and diaries, which are now on sale both offline in Hyderabad and online.

TTD has released a wide range of options, including 12-page and 6-page wall calendars, table-top calendars, deluxe diaries, and small diaries. In addition, large-sized calendars featuring Sri Venkateswara Swamy (solo), Sri Padmavathi Ammavaru (solo), and combined deity images are also available for devotees. In Hyderabad, the 2026 TTD calendars and diaries can be purchased at SV Temples located in Himayathnagar and Jubilee Hills.

## Revanth raises concerns over recent US tariff hikes, increase in H-1B visa fee

Hyderabad, Oct.9 Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy expressed concerns over the United States' recent moves to increase tariffs on Indian goods and to raise the H-1B visa fee. He made the statements during a meeting with an American delegation comprising senior U.S. business leaders, think tank representatives and philanthropic figures. The delegation, which engages in bilateral relations, investment, and policy exchange between India and the US, met the Chief Minister and IT, Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu at the Secretariat here on Thursday. The Chief Minister, emphasising the significance and contribution of Telangana diaspora in America's progress, said the recent decision to raise the H-1B visa fee could have an adverse impact on both sides of economies and lead to unrest and misunderstandings between the countries. He also shed light on the apprehensions that arise from abrupt decisions like the recent tariff hikes.

He highlighted that successive state governments followed a continuity in developmental policy initiatives, paving way for the growth of a global city that Hyderabad is today. Despite political and ideological differences, our governments adopted best practices from the past and never deviated from policies, he said. Explaining his plans for the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, the Chief Minister said the government aims to become \$1 trillion economy by 2034 and \$3 trillion by 2047. He said Hyderabad is now competing with New York, Tokyo and South Korea, challenging by global standards in improving our infrastructure and manufacturing capabilities. “We are undertaking several game-changer projects for Hyderabad and my state – Regional Ring Road, Regional Ring Rail, manufacturing zones, Bharat Future City, Dry Port, Dedicated Road and Rail connectivity with Sea Port in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, Musi Rejuvenation and the expansion of Hyderabad Metro rail.”

The Chief Minister further said that the Musi rejuvenation project will open up new avenues for advancing



Telangana's economy. With the riverfront development, we want to unveil opportunities that come with night economy, he added. “Hyderabad has the heritage and culture to develop a great riverfront.” Further, Revanth Reddy stressed on the government's plans to place Telangana as the standout choice for the ‘China+1’ strategy. “I request the support of US industry partners in development of the Bharat Future City. In the near future, I would like to invite all the Fortune 500 companies to have presence in Future City.” Minister Sridhar Babu outlined the government's grand plans to establish the state as a skill capital, especially in the artificial intelligence (AI) domain by setting up an AI University in Hyderabad. Building on the city's emergence as a hub for Global Capacity Centres (GCCs), we plan to encourage the GCCs towards becoming value centres, thereby exporting services and building products. The Minister added that companies from Hyderabad supplied a major share of Covid vaccines globally, emphasising that efforts are on to further nurture indigenous companies. Prof. Walter Russell Mead, Distinguished Fellow at the Hudson Institute and Columnist, Wall Street Journal, Mark Rosenblatt, founder & CEO, Rationalwave Capital Partners, Harlan Crow, Chairman, Crow Holdings, Ravenel Curry, founder and Co-CIO, Eagle Capital Management, and Henry Billingsley, Partner, Billingsley Company were part of the delegation.

## Government keen on expanding solar power usage: Bhatti

Hyderabad, Oct.9 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the Telangana government is keenly interested in promoting solar power generation and utilisation as part of efforts to strengthen the power sector in the State. The Deputy Chief Minister met a delegation from Germany at the Secretariat here on Thursday. The German representatives said they had come forward with certain proposals after learning about the Telangana government's interest in the solar energy sector.

Bhatti Vikramarka explained to them that the State currently provides free power supply to 29 lakh agricultural pump sets and up to 200 units of electricity under the Gruha Jyothi scheme. He said the government is exploring ways to supply solar power to both agricultural pump sets and Gruha Jyothi beneficiaries. Bhatti Vikramarka said the government's idea is to develop a model where farmers and Gruha Jyothi consumers can earn a steady monthly income as part of this solar initiative. The Deputy Chief Minister directed Energy department principal secretary Naveen Mittal to study how the German solar technologies can be integrated into Telangana's power sector and assess how the proposals from the German team can help strengthen the sector both economically and technologically. He also instructed the principal secretary



to prepare a detailed report after studying the proposals submitted by the German representatives.

The meeting was attended by Transco CMD D. Krishna Bhaskar, SPDCL CMD Musharraf Faruqui, REDCO CMD Anila, and German delegates Dr. Sebastian and Dr. Raghu Chaliganti, among others.

## BRS takes “Chalo Bus Bhavan” route to protest RTC fare hike

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Hyderabad: In a dramatic escalation of political tensions, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Thursday took its protest against the Telangana Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) fare hike to the streets. Amid police restrictions, party leaders boarded RTC buses as part of the “Chalo Bus Bhavan” protest, demanding a rollback of the fare hike and terming it “anti-poor, unjust and part of a conspiracy to privatise the corporation.”

Police forces were deployed in large numbers at the residences of BRS working president KT Rama Rao, senior leaders T Harish Rao, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, P Sabitha Indra Reddy and other elected representatives and senior leaders since early morning. They were briefly placed under house arrest before being allowed to board the buses. Later, BRS leaders boarded public buses as part of the protest. Rama Rao, Srinivas Yadav and Padma Rao took the 2J bus service from Rathifile bus stand, while Harish Rao boarded an 113 I/M service from Mehdiapatnam. En route, the leaders interacted with commuters, collecting feedback on the fare hike and criticising what they termed an unnecessary financial burden on common citizens. However, police disrupted the movement of other BRS leaders midway, detaining several of them and dropping them at distant locations to delay their arrival at Bus Bhavan. Sabitha Indra Reddy and MLA D Sudheer Reddy, who were travelling from Amberpet, were taken to Lalaguda police station and released later. Several other detained BRS leaders were kept at different police stations till afternoon.

Speaking to mediapersons onboard the RTC bus, Rama Rao lashed out at the Congress government and the



police. “All I wanted to do was board an RTC bus peacefully and submit a letter demanding a rollback of the fare hike.”

TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK

Regional Business Office, ADILABAD

SARASWATHI BHAVAN, GANDHI PARK ROAD, ADILABAD -504001 (T.S)

**PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE/RENT**

Telangana Grameena Bank Intends to take on Rent/Long Lease Premises of about 1200 to 1500 Sft. of rentable area for Ankoli Village Branch (Only Ground Floor at Ankoli Village, Adilabad and surrounding areas). Last date for submission of bids is on **28-10-2025**. For details visit our Bank's website: **www.tgb.bank.in** Contact: **9701535741**

Date: 10-10-2025

Place: Adilabad

Sd/-

Regional Manager,

Regional Business Office, Adilabad

TELANGANA GRAMEENA BANK

Regional Business Office, ADILABAD

SARASWATHI BHAVAN, GANDHI PARK ROAD, ADILABAD -504001 (T.S)

**PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE/RENT**

Telangana Grameena Bank Intends to take on Rent/Long Lease Premises of about 1800 to 2000 Sft. of rentable area for Utnoor Branch (Only Ground Floor at Utnoor, Adilabad and surrounding areas). Last date for submission of bids is on **28-10-2025**. For details visit our Bank's website: **www.tgb.bank.in** Contact: **9491041770**.

Date: 10-10-2025

Place: Adilabad

Sd/-

Regional Manager,

Regional Business Office, Adilabad



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Cough syrup deaths: A systemic problem that needs a solution

The official reaction to the terrible mishap in Madhya Pradesh, resulting in the death of 19 children, is as knee-jerk as it is absurd. The deaths were allegedly caused by the consumption of Coldrif, a cough syrup whose samples contained diethylene glycol (DEG), an industrial toxic chemical that severely damages the kidneys. Two drug inspectors and a deputy director of the Food & Drug Administration have been suspended, the state's drug controller transferred, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) constituted, and a Chhindwara-based pediatrician Dr Praveen Soni, arrested for alleged negligence.

Meanwhile, the Tamil Nadu-based manufacturer of the syrup has been booked. Several states have banned Coldrif. Given the nature of the sordid episode, the state government's action against the culpable has been mired in controversy. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has opposed the arrest of the doctor, blaming pharma company and government lapses instead for the lapses. The IMA has a point: the doctor can only prescribe what is available at a government hospital; they can't ensure the quality of medicines in the pharmacies at these hospitals.

Besides, the severity of the action against the doctor also raises questions; whereas those responsible for supplying government hospitals have only been suspended, the pediatrician has been arrested. The unvarnished truth is that the official reaction is necessarily inadequate because the problem is essentially systemic, and those running the system—politicians—are little bothered about the plight of people. The recurring pattern points to the failure of the regulatory ecosystem, not isolated negligence. State drug control departments are chronically understaffed, underfunded, and riddled with political interference.

## JSW MG Motor India launches the Windsor Inspire Edition: Honouring Shri Nitin Gadkari's Vision for a Sustainable EV Future



Hyderabad:JSW MG Motor India today announced the launch of the Windsor Inspire Edition — a limited edition of India's best-selling EV — created to celebrate one year of Windsor's remarkable journey in the country. The Inspire Edition draws from the deep love and trust the Windsor has earned from customers, having crossed the milestone of 40,000 units in less than a year. With only 300 units to be produced, the Inspire Edition stands as both a tribute to Windsor's success and a symbol of the spirit of inspiration that continues to propel India's electric mobility movement.

Unveiled by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, at his residence in Delhi, the edition celebrates both Windsor's success and India's accelerating EV journey. A strong advocate for sustainable transportation, Shri Gadkari has been at the forefront of shaping India's electric mobility roadmap. His commitment to positioning the country as a global leader in EV adoption has inspired both automakers and citizens. This shared vision has encouraged JSW MG Motor India to further its commitment to delivering advanced and futuristic NEVs (New Energy Vehicles) to the market. Supporting the initiative, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, shared, "I have always believed that clean mobility is not only essential for our environment, but also an opportunity for India to lead the world in sustainable innovation. It is heartening to see brands like JSW MG Motor India embrace this vision with such commitment. The Windsor Inspire Edition is a symbol of how inspiration can translate into action — and how every step forward in EV adoption brings us closer to a greener tomorrow." Celebrating the milestone, Anurag Mehrotra, Managing Director, JSW MG Motor India, said, "At JSW MG Motor India, we are constantly thinking ahead — creating symbols of aspiration and progress. The Windsor Inspire Edition is a tribute to the incredible journey our customers and India's EV movement have embarked on with us. Having crossed over 40,000 units in just one year, the love and trust for the Windsor have been the driving force behind this edition. Every line and every detail reflect our unwavering commitment to innovation, design excellence, and a sustainable future. The Inspire Edition is not just a collector's car — it is a bold statement of ambition, progress, and the limitless possibilities of green mobility in India."

## KCR extends condolences on demise of Errolla Srinivas' father

Hyderabad, Oct.9 : Errolla Srinivas, the former chairman of the SC, ST Commission and a leader of the BRS, experienced a personal loss with the passing of his father, Errolla Vijjaiah, at the age of 75. Vijjaiah died due to illness early Thursday morning in Gangapur village, located in the Chinnakodur mandal of Siddipet district. In a statement, BRS president K Chandrashekhara Rao expressed his condolences to Errolla Srinivas and his family, offering prayers for the soul of the deceased. Similarly, BRS working president KT Rama Rao conveyed his profound sorrow over the loss and shared his sympathies with the family. He offered prayers for the departed soul and for the family's strength during this difficult time. Former Minister and senior leader T Harish Rao also expressed his condolences to Srinivas and his family, describing the loss as profoundly saddening and wishing them resilience in the face of their grief.

## Experience the Magic of Diwali in Dubai



Hyderabad:Celebrate the Festival of Lights in Dubai, a city that shines brighter than ever during Diwali. From dazzling fireworks and family-friendly melas to gold shopping sprees and exquisite dining experiences, Dubai embraces the spirit of joy, light and togetherness that defines this much-loved festival.

Across the city, visitors and residents can take part in traditional Indian activities such as diya painting and rangoli workshops, explore vibrant cultural showcases of dance and music, and enjoy exclusive shopping offers on gold, jewellery and festive décor. Discover beautifully crafted gifts ranging from traditional sweets and diyas to scented candles and home accessories and dine across more than 400 Indian restaurants offering specially curated menus for the occasion.

## Wise announces country's first travel card using the mid-market rate with 40+ currencies and 100% digital experience



Hyderabad: Wise, the global technology company building the best way to move and manage money worldwide, today opened the waitlist for the highly requested Wise Travel Card in India. The card launch timing is significant as Indian travelers spent almost \$17 billion on travel spending abroad according to data from the Reserve Bank of India, yet many continue losing thousands to hidden fees and inflated exchange rates through traditional forex and bank cards. For example, a family visiting their daughter studying in London could lose over ₹17,500 to fees on a ₹25 lakh trip with traditional bank cards. The Wise card solves this. It will give Indian travellers the mid-market exchange rate - the one they see on Google - with only a small, transparent

MELAS AND CULTURAL CELEBRATIOGlobal Village Diwali Mela (17–20 October): A must-visit for families, Global Village transforms into a lively Diwali Mela featuring music, art, shopping and authentic Indian cuisine. Explore vibrant rangoli art, enjoy live performances on the main stage and shop at the Indian Pavilion for handicrafts, jewellery, home décor and souvenirs. Sample regional favourites at the Indian Chaat Bazaar or dine at one of the many Indian restaurants across the park. Fireworks displays will light up the sky on 18 and 19 October, and again on 24 and 25 October at 9 pm Noor: Festival of Lights at Al Seef (17–19 October): Set against the historic charm of Al Seef along Dubai Creek, the Noor Festival of Lights returns with a packed schedule of performances and activities celebrating India's rich cultural heritage. Expect grand processions, live music, poetry, dance and stand-up comedy, along with interactive workshops and talks exploring Diwali's themes of light and renewal. The festival offers a shared cultural experience that unites communities in celebration of togetherness and joy.

### CULINARY CELEBRATIONS

Dubai's dining scene comes alive with festive flavours this Diwali, as restaurants across the city offer limited-edition menus and celebratory feasts. At Atrangi by Ritu Dalmia in Jumeirah Al Qasr, guests can enjoy a bespoke Michelin-starred dining experience for AED690, where each dish is tailored to personal preferences for a truly one-of-a-kind meal. Atlantis, The Palm welcomes families to Kaleidoscope from 18–20 October for a buffet featuring traditional Indian dishes, sweets, and live performances (AED280; 50% off for children).

conversion fee with no other surprise charges.

? Widest currency range of any forex card in India covering everywhere you actually travel: hold and spend in 40+ currencies, from the destinations Indians visit most - the UAE, Thailand, Singapore, USA, and UK - to dozens more. Switch between any currency instantly within the Wise app.? Complete everything within the app - no branch visits, no paperwork: the entire account opening process happens digitally using digilocker and video KYC. All documents like PAN card, address proof, proof of travel (passport, air ticket, and visas) are verified digitally.

Taneia Bhardwaj, South Asia Expansion Lead at Wise: "India is growing incredibly fast as a travel market, but the products we use when we're abroad haven't kept up with the needs of today's savvy Indian travelers. The payments experience abroad should be as seamless as paying in India, and that's why we've built the Wise card specifically for the Indian market. From the fully digital onboarding that happens entirely in-app, to loading money via IMPS, to supporting 40+ currencies so Indians are covered whether they're in Dubai, London, or Bangkok - we've designed every feature around how Indians actually travel and spend. Most importantly, our customers will see exactly what they're paying with a fully transparent exchange rate and no hidden fees. No markups, no surprises, just clarity.

## Mudiraj Sangham Honors Minister Sridhar Babu with Milk Abhishekam for Exceptional Support to Community Development.“



“P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Boyinapet, October 9:““In a heartfelt gesture of reverence and gratitude, the Boyinapet Mudiraj Sangham performed a Milk Abhishekam to the portrait of Hon'ble Minister for IT and Industries, Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, in recognition of his unwavering support towards the upliftment and empowerment of the Mudiraj community.““The event was held in celebration of the

Minister's recent sanction of ₹20 lakhs, in addition to the previously granted ₹15 lakhs, towards the construction of the Mudiraj Community Hall in Boyinapet. The extended funding came as a timely and much-needed relief, ensuring the successful continuation of the building's development, which serves as a key cultural and social hub for the community.““Leaders of the Sangham expressed their profound appreciation for Sridhar Babu's commitment to inclusive development and his responsiveness to the needs of marginalized communities. “This act is not merely financial assistance; it is a symbol of recognition, respect, and empowerment for our people,” said one of the senior community representatives.““By performing the Milk Abhishekam, the Sangham invoked traditional symbolism to convey their deep sense of honor and gratitude. The ritual, often associated with divine respect in Indian culture, reflected the community's emotional connection and esteem for the Minister's benevolence.““The Mudiraj Sangham leaders further pledged to utilize the sanctioned funds effectively and ensure that the community hall becomes a vibrant center for education, unity, and empowerment for future generations.

## Swift Ministerial Approval Secured for Critical Infrastructure Upgrades in Manthani.



“P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Manthani, October 9:““In a decisive step towards improving civic infrastructure in Manthani town, Mr. Musukula Surender Reddy, President of the District Kisan Cell and Manthani Reddy Seva Sangham, submitted a formal representation to Hon'ble Minister for IT and Industries, Mr. Duddilla Sridhar Babu, requesting immediate sanction of funds for the construction of cement concrete (CC) roads and side drainage systems in key high-density localities.““The appeal focused on severely deteriorated road stretches from Sri Ayyappa and Dattagudi Temples to CRK Complex, extending up to Thammig Cheruvu Katta, and from CRK Complex to Erukalgudem Hanuman Temple. These routes, frequented by both residents and temple devotees, have become virtually impassable due to prolonged neglect, causing major inconvenience to the public.““Highlighting the urgency of the

matter, Mr. Surender Reddy urged the Minister to prioritise these works, citing the area's heavy footfall, religious significance, and the pressing need for proper drainage to prevent water stagnation during monsoons.““Demonstrating prompt leadership and commitment to grassroots development, Minister Sridhar Babu immediately directed the concerned departmental officials to draft a comprehensive project plan and initiate necessary proceedings for the implementation of the works.““In a statement following the minister's response, Mr. Surender Reddy extended his heartfelt gratitude to Sridhar Babu, acknowledging his consistent responsiveness and dedication to resolving public grievances in Manthani without delay.

## A Surprise Check...District Officer Naresh Yadav,

“Indian Chronicle“ kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October.09.““District Officer Naresh Yadav, who conducted a surprise inspection of 108 and 102 ambulances in the mandal on Wednesday, inspected the functioning of the medical equipment and medicine in the ambulance, examined the records of three months, made several suggestions and directed that 108 should be responded to immediately when a call is received.

## Milk Abhishekam to CM's Portrait



““Nacharam, Indian chornical, October 8: Mallapur Congress Division President Kappara Sai Kiran Goud stated that with the support of Chief Minister Revan th Reddy and Uppal Congress Party in-ch arge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, the overall develop ment of Mallapur Division has been taking place effect ively.“On the occasion of the sanction of Rs 8.20 lakhs for a new drainage line at Road No. 7, Annapurna Colony, a milk abhishe kam was performed to the portrait of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy under the leadership of Kappara Sai Kiran Goud. Senior Congress leaders of Mallapur including Danturi Raju Goud, Merupula Balaraj, Parvathalu, Mujeeb, Jani, Suresh, Srinivas, Srinivas Reddy, Josh, Pasivuddin, Manohar Upender Reddy, Kayeem, Shailaja, Sony, Intyaz, Lavanya, Sunitha, Jayanthi, Sameer, and reside nts of the colony participated in the progr amme.



MLA Laxma Reddy Distributes Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak Cheques to Beneficiaries““Nacharam, Indian Chornicale, October 8:“At the Uppal Tahsild ar office, Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Redd y, along with Corpor ator Jeri pothula Prabhudas, distribut ed Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak scheme cheques to 19 bene ficiaries from Meer pet H.B. Colony Divis ion.

## Man Dies by Suicide Due to Financial Troubles in Kushaiguda

““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 8, Indian Chronicle: A tragic incident occurred under the Kushaiguda Police Station limits, where a man ended his life due to financial distress. According to police reports, the deceased has been identified as Manne Narendra, 30, a resident of Jai Jawan Colony. Narendra previously worked as a salesman at CMR in A.S. Rao Nagar but had quit his job a few months ago. After his father's death, Narendra had been living with his mother and was bearing the family's financial responsibilities. Reportedly, he had invested money in the stock market and suffered heavy losses, which led him into depression. On October 6, in a state of distress, he checked into a room at R-



Square OYO near ECIL and died by hanging himself from a ceiling fan. Upon receiving the information, Kushaiguda police reached the spot and shifted the body for post-mortem examination. Based on a complaint from the victim's mother, Manne Jagadamba, a case has been registered. After completing postmortem formalities on Tuesday, the body was handed over to the relatives. Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

## Opposition To Actions That Insult The Democratic System.Advocate Javid Ali Khan.Public Interest Lawyer



““Indian Chronicle“ kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October.09.““Kagaznagar Actions like throwing slippers at the Chief Justice of India cannot be considered as a protest. Such behavior is an insult to democracy, a mockery of the judiciary, and against the spirit of the Constitution, Advocate Javid Ali Khan said in a statement. This matter is strongly condemned. On this occasion, Javid Ali Khan said... Such actions send a bad message to the country, especially the youth. In a democracy, every citizen can express his opinion, but it should be done in a spirit of dialogue, respect and It should be done through legal means, not through anger, humiliation or violence. The legal system is the moral compass of the country and it is the responsibility of every citizen to respect it, he said, giving a message to the youth.



## Grand Preparations Underway to Ensure Success of Telangana Municipal Workers' State Conference — Erravelli Muthyam Rao.



“P.S.ASHOKAN”Indian Chronicle”Manthani, October 9 :“As part of the run-up to the upcoming Telangana Municipal Workers and Employees Union State Conference, wall posters were unveiled today in the premises of the Manthani Municipal Office. The event was graced by CITU Peddapalli District General Secretary, Comrade Erravelli Muthyam Rao, who addressed the gathering with details about the forthcoming state-level assembly.”“He announced

that the prestigious conference will take place on October 14th and 15th at Turkayamjal, Ranga Reddy District, drawing participation from municipal employees and union representatives across Telangana.”“The inaugural day will feature a massive open public meeting and a grand rally, while the second day will be dedicated to the Delegates’ Session, focusing on organizational review and strategic planning for the future.”“Comrade Muthyam Rao further informed that CITU State General Secretary, Paladugu Bhaskar, and Vice President, Bhupal, will attend as chief guests and provide direction for the union’s path forward.”“He emphasized the importance of this conference in shaping the union’s future roadmap and called upon all members to contribute actively towards making the event a resounding success.”“Prominent participants in today’s poster unveiling included District Committee Member Budida Ganesh, and union leaders Chandu, Mallesh, Gattayya, Bhagya, Pochamma, among others, who expressed their solidarity and commitment to the cause

## ZPHS Eklaspur Student Rajitha Shines Bright: Selected for Telangana State-Level Boxing Championship.

“P.S.ASHOKAN”Indian Chronicle”Manthani October 9 :“In a proud moment for Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS), Eklaspur, Manthani Mandal, Class 9 student Narmalla Rajitha has earned a coveted spot in the Telangana State-Level Boxing Championship, organized under the aegis of the 69th School Games Federation of India (SGFI).“Displaying exceptional prowess and determination, Rajitha clinched the gold medal in the 46–48 kg girls’ category at the district-level championships held in the erstwhile Karimnagar district. Her stellar performance has secured her qualification for the prestigious state-level event, scheduled to take place on October 10th, 11th, and 12th in Hanumakonda.”“School Headmistress Smt. Sri Jyothi expressed immense pride in Rajitha’s achievement, lauding her dedication and discipline. Physical Education Teacher Dr. Dommati Ravi commended her remarkable journey, noting that her success exemplifies the talent emerging from rural government schools.”“On this signifi-



cant achievement, school staff, the School Management Committee (SMC) Chairman, and fellow students extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for her continued success at the state level.”“Rajitha’s journey stands as a beacon of inspiration, not only for her peers but also for the broader student community aspiring to make their mark in sports at higher levels.

## Mega Job Fair Today at Uppal Government Degree College



Vaddepalli Kishore | Uppal | October 9 (Indian Chronicle)“A mega job fair is being organized today at Uppal Government Degree College, announced the college principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar. The event, held in collaboration

with Nirmaan Organization, will witness participation from around 15 to 20 reputed companies. The job fair is open to unemployed youth residing in Uppal, Malkajgiri district, and other nearby areas. Dr. Vijay Kumar urged eligible candidates to take advantage of this opportunity. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Tirupathayya, the Convener of the Career Guidance and Placement Cell, stated that the job fair will commence at 10 AM on October 10, 2025. He encouraged all students who have completed Intermediate or Degree education to attend the event and secure job placements. Companies from various sectors such as Software, Banking, and Education will be participating, offering monthly salaries ranging from ₹18,000 to ₹35,000. Students from both government and private colleges, as well as all job seekers, are invited to attend the fair and explore employment opportunities.”“For further queries, candidates may contact Dr. Tirupathayya at 9059823318.”“Vice Principals Dr. Ravi Prasad, Dr. Satyanarayana, Dr. Rajashri, Dr. Vishwanath Kumar Geeta, Dr. Srinivas Rao, and Dr. Sagar will also be participating in the event.

## Renowned Director Trinaath Rao Nakkina Visits Nagarjuna Sagar



“Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 9 (Indian Chronicle):““Renowned film director Trinaatha Rao Nakkina recently visited Nagarjuna Sagar along with his friends. He was accompanied by Gaddam Ravi, a State Youth Congress leader from Ramanthapur, Vikranth Srinivas, a writer, and Rajesh, a realtor. Speaking on the occasion, they ex-



pressed their joy at witnessing the majestic sight of the Nagarjuna Sagar gates being lifted. They remarked that it was a wonderful and mesmerizing event, as the Nagarjuna Sagar dam is one of the largest stone masonry dams in the world.”“Director Trinadha Rao emphasized that visitors should exercise caution during such visits for their safety.

## 250-meter Road Construction Works Launched at Ramakrishna Nagar in Charlapally Division

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, October 9, Indian Chronicle: GHMC Standing Committee Member and Charlapally Division Corporator Bonthu Sridevi Yadav inaugurated the 250-meter road construction works at Ramakrishna Nagar in Charlapally Division.

Speaking on the occasion, she said that developmental works are being carried out equally in every colony of the division. She mentioned that once the road works are completed, it will ensure smoother and more convenient movement for the residents. She instructed the officials to coordinate effectively and ensure quality in the execution of the works. She added that the development of every locality reflects the overall progress of Charlapally Division.



## KTR Addresses Global Capability Centres Summit 2025; RLR Highlights Hyderabad’s Growth as Global Innovation Hub“



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 9, Indian Chronicle: Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) addressed the 3rd Edition of the Global Capability Centres (GCC) Summit 2025 held in Hyderabad today. The summit brought together industry leaders, technology experts, and key stakeholders to discuss



Hyderabad’s emergence as a global hub for innovation and enterprise excellence. Ragidi Laxma Reddy (RLR), Incharge of Malkajgiri Parliamentary Constituency, participated in the summit and appreciated the vision for promoting global collaborations and generating large-scale employment opportunities for youth. He highlighted K.T. Rama Rao’s efforts and leadership in driving Hyderabad’s transformation into a world-class investment destination.

## Bonthu Sridevi Yadav Inspects 350-Meter Road Works in Chinna Charlapally Colonies

““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, October 9, Indian Chronicle: GHMC Standing Committee member and Charlapally Division Corporator Bonthu Sridevi Yadav personally inspected the ongoing 350-meter road construction works in the Muslim and SC colonies of Chinna Charlapally. During the visit, she interacted directly with local residents to understand their issues and examined the quality of the ongoing works. She gave immediate instructions to the concerned officials to address any shortcomings and ensure the works are completed efficiently. She directed the officials to complete the road construction works quickly, ensuring that no inconvenience is caused to the public. Speaking with local residents, she listened to their opinions and assured them that all development works would be completed within the scheduled time. She stated that the timely



completion of these development activities will significantly improve transportation facilities and overall connectivity within the colonies.

## 500-Meter Road Development Works Launched at Sai Nagar Colony, Charlapalli Division



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, October 9, Indian Chronicle: GHMC Standing Committee Member and Charlapalli Division Corporator Bontu Sridevi Yadav launched 500 meters of road development works at Sai Nagar Colony in Charlapalli Division. Speaking on the occasion, she said that development works are being taken up with the aim of



reaching every colony in the division. She mentioned that the road work was essential to improve daily transportation for residents. She instructed the contractor to ensure quality in the construction of the roads. Responding to the requests of local residents, she stated that efforts are being made to complete the works at the earliest. She added that achieving overall development in Charlapalli Division is the main objective.

## We Strongly Condemn The Attack On Chief Justice Of The Supreme Court, Justice Gavai.-Dalit leader Satya Raj Uparapu

““Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October.09.““Gudihatnoor: Dalit leaders of Gudihatnoor mandal Sathyaraj Uparapu said that they strongly condemn the attack on the country’s highest court, the Supreme Court, Chief Justice B.R. Gavai. Protesting the attack on Gavai, they protested with placards under the leadership of leaders of Dalit organizations at the Ambedkar statue in the Gudihatnoor mandal center on Wednesday. Speaking on this occasion, Sathyaraj said that the attack by the lawyer was an attack on the foundations of democracy and the Indian society should condemn this attack with open arms. They said that the person who committed the attack should be severely punished, a case of SC and ST atrocities should be registered and slogans should be raised to provide protection to the judiciary. They said that such incidents will damage the independence of the judiciary. Threatening and attacking the voices of justice is not right, it is the responsibility of the government to provide protection to lawyers and judges. They demanded that the government take appropriate steps to prevent such incidents from recurring. Leaders of Dalit associations Kallepalli Prashanth, Madine Rahul, Sunil, Vijay, Bave Rahul, Ravi, Srikanth, Vijay Mahesh Rakesh Sandeep Vinod, and others were present at the event.



## Attack on Chief Justice Gavai Condemned: PCC Labour Cell Vice President V.S. Prakash Reddy“

“Nacharam, Indian chornicale, October 9:“PCC Labour Cell Vice President and Medchal District President V.S. Prakash Reddy expressed deep concern over the attack on Supreme Court Chief Justice B.R. Gavai, calling it unfortunate and condemnable.”“He said that attacking the judiciary the institution responsible for protecting the constitutional rights of the people is highly regrettable. He criticized the Central Government for failing to condemn such incidents, calling their silence disappointing. Prakash Reddy stated that such actions are a blot on the nation’s dignity and added that it is unacceptable for communal elements to engage in such acts. He demanded that the conspirators behind the attack be identified and strict measures be taken to prevent such incidents in the future.





# Make CPI candidates win in local body elections:- CPI District Secretary Yanala Damodar Reddy



“CJI B.R. Gavai attack incident is a conspiracy to damage the judicial system..CPI District Secretary Yanala Damodar Reddy”“Manduva Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 9):- CPI District Secretary Yanala Damodar Reddy called for making CPI candidates, who are the voice of the people who fight for the people and organize movements, win in the local body elections. On Thursday, the district executive meet-

ing was held at the CPI district office under the chairmanship of Uppala Mutyalu. Speaking on this occasion, Yanala Damodar Reddy said that since the Assembly and Parliament elections, the CPI is ready to work together with the Congress in the local body elections as well, and that there is a need to adjust the seats for the posts of ZPTCs, MPTCs, Sarpanches and ward members where the CPI is strong, and that we will move forward in the local body elections along with the Congress, CPM and other Left parties.

He said that the attack on the Chief Justice of India BR Gavai was an attack on the foundations of democracy, and that the Indian society should face this attack with open arms, that the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is a symbol of the country's judiciary, and that attacking him means attacking the foundations of democracy, and that the lawyer Rakesh Kishore who committed the attack should be severely punished. District Assistant Secretaries Bolagani Satyanarayana and Cheda Chandraiah, Rashtra Samithi members Godha Sriramulu, District Executive members Kolluri Rajaiah, Bandi Jangamma, Kallem Krishna, MD Imran, Chekka Venkatesh, Eshala Ashok, Chigurla Lingam, Peraboyina Mahender, and others participated in the program.

# The attack on the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court should be severely punished

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Minority Journalist Front President MD Sujauddin”“Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri (Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. October 9):- A protest program was taken out to strongly condemn the attack on the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and demand strict punishment. On this occasion, a protest program was taken out at the statue of local Babu Jagjivan Ram under the auspices of the Minority Journalist Front Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Committee, strongly condemning the attack on Supreme Court Judge Justice B R Gavai. At this program, District President MD Sujauddin, Public Association Leader Bhattu Ramachandraiah, and Senior Congress Party Leader MD Sharif said that the attack on the Supreme Court Judge was a heinous act and that this incident was an attack on the Constitution of India and that democrats should strongly condemn it. They said that this is a dark day for Indian democracy and that the person who committed the attack should be severely punished. They said that strict action should be taken against the person who tried to attack Justice Gavai, who is the Chief Justice of the judiciary, which is the foundation of democracy, otherwise it will remain a stain on the Indian Constitution. According to the Indian Constitution, all religions and castes have equal rights in India, but some people, acting like religious fanatics, trample on the Indian Constitution and commit such attacks, violating humanity. They said that the gov-



ernments need to be strict about such unethical acts and punish the people who commit unconstitutional attacks severely. Committee advisor Ibrahim Biyabani, president Dr. Sheikh Hamid Pasha, treasurer Byrapaka Cyril, assistant secretary SK Hussain, members Fasiuddin, Congress Party Minority Cell State Secretary Rafiuddin Gowri, BRS party leader Amjad, CPM party leader Maya Krishna, minority leaders Amin Maiman, Hanif Maiman, SK Mahadi Hassan, Haji, Shakeel, Kabir, and others participated in the program.

# These Leaves Are The Panacea For Those Problems..



“”Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,09.”“Coriander has many medicinal properties. Medical studies have shown that coriander not only enhances the taste of food but also has

health benefits. Coriander is commonly used in Indian cuisine. It is used to enhance the taste of almost every vegetable. It is used to make it look fresh along with its aroma. Not only this, but a delicious chutney can also be made by adding garlic, ginger, green chilies, and many other spices. That is why.. its name makes people's mouths water just by hearing it.. People use green coriander in all kinds of vegetables as well as non- veg dishes. In this way, these green leaves are the lifeblood of almost every dish. Its taste and aroma refreshes everyone's mood.

Green coriander not only enhances the taste and freshness of food but also provides many health benefits. Now let's find out what are the benefits of including green coriander in food.. If you are suffering from digestive problems, definitely include green coriander in your diet. Provides relief from problems like dry skin and eczema. Coriander is rich in antioxidants. With its help, you can detox your body naturally during summer. Helps in blood purification. Also provides relief from joint pain and swelling. Helps in keeping the heart healthy. Relieves urinary problems.

# Patients coming to the hospital should be provided better treatment



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao”“Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. (Indian Chronicle..October 9):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that patients coming to the hospital should be provided better treatment. On Thursday, District Collector Hanumantha Rao made a surprise inspection of the village hospital in Mallapuram village of Yadagirigutta mandal. He checked the AP OP registers

in the hospital and asked how many patients were coming to the hospital every day. He wanted to make sure that all types of medicines were available. “How many deliveries were made in the last month in this village hospital? He inquired in which hospitals they were made. He asked the concerned officials how many EDDs there were this month. “ The Collector felicitated MLHP Dr. R. Mulyanka, who is maintaining cleanliness in the village hospital and providing better treatment to the patients, and the ANMs and ASHA workers who are performing their duties properly in the hospital and felicitated them with shawls. The concerned officials participated in the program.

# EAGLE team nabs four drug manufacturers - seizes 220 kgs off ephedrine worth rs 72 cr

Hyderabad, Oct.9 (NSS):Acting on credible intelligence, the sleuths of the Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE) raided a flat at Sai Datta Residency, Spring Field Colony, near Suchitra Crossroads, Jeedimetla area in the city, and apprehended four drug manufacturers, seizing 220 kilograms of Ephedrine, a psychotropic substance.According to ELITE, the accused included Vastavayi Shiva Ramakrishna Parama Varma (52 years), Dangeeti Anil (31) (both are natives of Kakinada in AP); Musini Dorababu (29) from East Godavari and Maddu Venkata Krishna Rao (45) from Tirupati. The absconding accused is M Prasad (49) from Sullurupeta, Tirupati district. About 220 kgs of Ephedrine drug worth Rs 10 crores in Indian market and Rs 70 crores in International market and four cell phones were seized.

# Job opportunities can be obtained by getting training in technical courses



- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao”“Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 9):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that job opportunities can be obtained by getting training in various technical courses. On Thursday, District Collector Hanumantha Rao inspected the Advanced Technology Center set up at the ITI College in the Bhuvanagiri Mandal Center. He asked the concerned officials how many students are undergoing training in the ATC Center. He inspected the courses in



which the students are being trained. He also checked whether all the facilities are available to the students. He advised all the students to complete their training with hard work and dedication. He said that there will be jobs in this advanced technology sector in the coming period. He said that not only through other degree studies but also through technical education, one can get government jobs as well as private jobs. He said that those who have been trained at ATC will have a bright future. The concerned officials participated in this program.

# District-wide nomination process for local body elections begins: Election Officer Hanumantha Rao



“Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 9):- The nomination process for local body elections has begun across the district from today. In the first phase, elections will be held for 84 seats in 10 ZPTCs and MPTCs in the mandals of the district, said District Collector and Election Officer Hanumantha Rao. On Thursday, the District Collector and Election Officer visited the Yadagirigutta and Rajapet MPDO offices. District Collector and Election Officer Hanumantha Rao instructed the officials to conduct the nomination process smoothly as per the orders of the State Election Commission. He inquired about the notification release to be held today regarding the ZPTC and MPTC elections and the arrangements made for the nomination process. He said that



help desks have been set up in each center and if the candidates filing nominations have any doubts, they can ask at the help center. “He instructed the officers to complete the nominations without any mistakes. “The collector explained in detail what the RO and ARO should check during the nomination reception. “He said that the nomination process has started from Thursday for the first phase of elections in Addagudur, Mothkur, Aleru, Atmakuryam, Bommalararam, Gundala, Motakondur, Rajapet Turkapally Yadagirigutta mandals. He said that nominations will be accepted for three days. He said that appropriate arrangements have been made for this. He said that nominations will be accepted from 10.30 am to 5 pm on these three days when the nomination process will be held. “The concerned officers participated in this program.



Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 9):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao inspecting the ZPTC



and MPTC nomination process at the Rajapet MPDO office in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

# 19th Death anniversary Of Honorable Shri Kanshiram BSP Founder President



“Indian Chronicle” kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,09.”“Death anniversary of Honorable Shri Kanshiram BSP founder president Honorable Shri Kanshiram's 19th death anniversary was celebrated at Jetwan Buddha Vihar on Thursday under the auspices of Bharatiya Buddhist Mahasabha, Ambedkar Yuvajana Sangam, and Siddhartha Yuvajana Sangam. Bharatiya Buddhist Mahasabha District President Ashok Mahulkar and Honorary President Jayaram Uprelu said that he founded the Bahujan Samaj Party on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14, 1984. He went to the people with the slogan of one vote- one note and campaigned with the money they gave him, and the leaders said that he launched a nationwide movement saying, “Let's eradicate caste- build a Bahujan society” and achieved state power. Why are you on 15 percent when you are 85 percent?Walk to Parliament and the Assembly. Walk on your own feet, they said, and he made many people aware. Government land means people's land. Don't people have a right to people's land? He used to say. He used caste as a political weapon to conquer caste with caste, they said, and he strengthened the party by including other castes in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Kashmir, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, using the Chamars in UP as the foundation. He made Mayawati the Chief Minister, and the BSP, which started in 1984, grew into a national party by 1996,they said.”Bus stand in the mandal center to commemorate the death anniversary”fruits were distributed at the bus stand premises in the mandal center. Samata Sainik Dal District President Durgam Sandeep, Bharatiya Buddhist Mahasabha President Durgam Durgaji, Secretary Roshan

Uppe, Buddhist Samaj President Shyam Rao Lahuji Durge, Rajeshwar Uppe, Treasurer Naga Sen Uppe, BSP Party Mandal Presidents Shyam Rao Donduji Durge,Pratap Ram Tenki,Rajendra Prasad,Vithal, Ramesh Durgam Manoj,Nutan, Durgam Swagat, and others participated in this program.

# Telangana roads set for major overhaul under HAM model:Komatireddy

Hyderabad, Oct.9 Telangana is poised for a major transformation in its road infrastructure with the implementation of the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) across the state.

Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy announced that the government will take up the construction and strengthening of roads in a phased manner over the next three years, making Telangana's roads “as smooth as mirrors.”

A crucial meeting on HAM road projects was held at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Thursday, chaired by Komatireddy Venkat Reddy in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka. Senior officials including Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, Finance Secretary Haritha, R&B Chief Engineers Jayabharathi and B.V. Rao, and several departmental engineers attended the meeting.

During the session, Special CS Vikas Raj made a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining proposals for the HAM projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the state government aims to set a national benchmark in road construction, focusing primarily on accident-free, high-quality roads. “Good roads are the foundation of development,” he emphasized, adding that projects will be executed phase-wise to ensure comprehensive coverage and quality.



## Use of air force would have slowed Chinese offensive considerably in 1962: CDS Gen Chauhan



GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan addresses at the inauguration of the Tri-Services Academia Technology Symposium (T-SATS) exhibition at the Manekshaw Centre, in New Delhi. (photo/Jitender Gupta) The CDS said use of air power was considered escalatory during 1962 and is no longer true, Operation Sindoor being an apt example of it. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan said on Wednesday that use of the Air Force would have slowed the Chinese offensive considerably in the 1962 war. The CDS said use of air power was considered escalatory during 1962 and is no longer true, Operation Sindoor being an apt example of it.

The CDS delivered a video-recorded speech during the unveiling ceremony of the revised and expanded edition of From Reveille to Retreat, the autobiography of late Lieutenant General SPP Thorat, Kirti Chakra. The event was attended by Southern Army Commander Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, Central Army Commander Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta, military historian Shiv Kunal Verma, along with numerous senior serving and retired officers from the three services.

Gen Chauhan said in his speech, "I was requested to speak about forward policy and about not using the air force during the 1962 war. To comment on the adequacy or inadequacy of a forward policy at this time is slightly difficult. Our views will be colored due to many reasons like geography has changed entirely and so has geopolitics. The security situation has changed. Force levels have changed. The type of warfare itself has changed. All I can say is that the forward policy should not have been applied uniformly to Ladakh and NEFA. The two regions had very different histories of the dispute, different security context and entirely different terrain. In Ladakh, China had already occupied much of Indian territory, whereas in NEFA the legitimacy of India's claim was stronger. To equate the two and

pursue identical policies was, in my view, a bit flawed."

The CDS added, "I think Gen Thorat had in his mind the use of the Air Force, which the government did not permit. They would have had a significant advantage during the 1962 conflict. Shorter turnaround times, a favorable geography and the ability to bring maximum payloads to bear with maximum weight on the enemy. Use of air power would have slowed the Chinese offensive considerably, if not stymied it completely. This would have given the army much more time to prepare. In those days, I think, the use of the Air Force was considered escalatory. This is I think no longer true, and Op Sindoor is an apt example of this. To conclude, From Reveille to Retreat is not simply an autobiography. It's a reflection on leadership, strategy and service. It sheds light on the decisions of power, critiques them with honesty and draws lessons that largely remain relevant today."Photo of the release of the revised and expanded edition of From Reveille to Retreat, the autobiography of late Lt Gen SPP Thorat. From L to R: Usha Thorat, Central Army Commander Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta, Southern Army Commander Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, military historian Shiv Kunal Verma and Yashwant Thorat. Release of the revised and expanded edition of 'From Reveille to Retreat, the autobiography of late Lt Gen SPP Thorat'. (Second from left to right) Central Army Commander Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta; Southern Army Commander Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth; and military historian Shiv Kunal Verma. Usha and Yashwant Thorat, the daughter-in-law and son of late Lt Gen SPP Thorat stand on either side. Usha is noted economist and former deputy governor of RBI and Yashwant is former Chairman of NABARD. Lt Gen Shankarrao Pandurang Patil Thorat (1906–1992) was a distinguished commander of the Indian Army, known both for his combat leadership and strategic foresight. Gen Thorat was selected in 1924 as one of only five Indians to attend the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, where he graduated with an 'Exemplary Character' rating. He served his attachment with the 2nd Battalion, Middlesex Regiment before joining the 1/14th Punjab Regiment on the North-West Frontier.As Eastern Army Command, Gen Thorat faced both the Naga insurgency and Chinese assertiveness in NEFA. He innovated counterinsurgency strategies by combining local military initiatives with community-based cooperation, anticipating modern civil-military doctrines. In 1959, Gen Thorat submitted a prescient report on Chinese military intentions and their likely invasion routes, later borne out in the 1962 war. He opposed Defence Minister Krishna Menon's Forward Policy, warning it would lead to "certain defeat and death" for inadequately supplied Indian units on the frontier.

## Like 1905 but different: how BJP's 'swadeshi' call has local business interests at heart, not a boycott

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

The BJP Thursday launched a nationwide outreach programme with homemade or 'swadeshi' products at its core to commemorate the birth anniversary of its ideologue Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay. The 'Atmanirbhar Bharat and Swadeshi Abhiyan' will continue for three months until the birth anniversary (December 25) of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said Arun Singh, BJP national general secretary and the party's in-charge for the campaign.

Similar to the movement that was initiated in reaction to, and successfully reversed, the partition of Bengal announced by then Viceroy Lord George Curzon in 1905, this movement will also have a technical dimension that aligns with current global economic conditions. While the 1905 movement boycotted mainly cotton-based foreign goods, this one does not have the need to boycott anything in particular, as long as it is manufactured in India by its citizens. Singh said the campaign will see the next step of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call to tread on the path of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) for the nation to become developed by 2047, adding that the 'Swadeshi' push is at the core of the objective. "The Prime Minister has appealed to 140 crore citizens to buy products which are made in India... These are those items which are made in our country and with the sweat of our sons and daughters... BJP president J P Nadda has, following the PM's call, given us the task of making this a people's movement," Singh said, addressing a press conference over the initiative in Delhi. "You all remember that after the partition of Bengal in 1905, this call for 'swadeshi' was given in protest. After that, the British had to bow to Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chatterjee ji, who had thrown their weight behind the movement for 'swadeshi'," he said. "The struggle for 'swadeshi' also became the basis for the freedom movement. This, too, will be conveyed to the people, and the significance of 'swadeshi' will be underlined. Mahatma Gandhi ji, inspired by the 'swadeshi' movement, made it a movement for each citizen," he added.

## Uppal MLA Bhandari Laxma Reddy Travels to Bus Bhavan by RTC Bus



"VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 9 (Indian Chronicle):""As part of the protest against the hike in RTC bus fares, Uppal MLA Bhandari Laxma Reddy, along with party leaders, activists, corporators, and former corporators, traveled from Uppal to Bus Bhavan in an RTC bus on Thursday, following the call given by KTR and the party. "During the journey, he interacted with passengers about the increased bus ticket fares. He recalled that KCR had initiated cargo services in RTC to bring the corporation onto a profitable path.

He stated that this initiative had generated ₹100 crore annually for the government. "However, he alleged that Revanth Reddy now has his eyes on even that cargo service and is trying to sell it off, bit by bit. He criticized Revanth, saying, "Don't focus on commissions; work for the poor." He demanded an immediate rollback of the haphazardly increased fares."

Upon reaching Bus Bhavan, MLA Bhandari Laxma Reddy, on behalf of the poor and middle-class people, submitted a petition to TSRTC MD Y. Nagi Reddy, demanding the rollback of the increased RTC fares. This event took place under the leadership of BRS Working President KTR. A large number of corporators, former corporators, and leaders participated in the program.

## Chandigarh administration sends back another Haryana Civil Service officer, second in 10 days



GNS News Agency, Oct 9

A cold war is ongoing between officers of the Haryana cadre and the Union Territory cadre, with all important posts being allegedly given to officers of the Union Territory cadre and HCS officers being sidelined. A cold war is ongoing between officers of the Haryana cadre and the Union Territory cadre, with all important posts being allegedly given to officers of the Union Territory cadre and HCS officers being sidelined. Just 10 days after Haryana Civil Service (HCS) officer Dr Richa was sent back by the Chandigarh administration, another HCS officer, Sumeet Sihag, was repatriated to his parent cadre on Thursday.

Sources said that Sihag had written to the Chandigarh administration requesting to send him back citing personal reasons. This was during the ongoing tussle between officers of the Haryana cadre and the Union Territory cadre. On September 15, HCS officer Dr Richa was sent back to her parent cadre of Haryana by the Chandigarh administration, almost eight months after joining the Union Territory on deputation.

On Thursday, the order for Sihag's repatriation said, "The Administrator, U.T. Chandigarh, is pleased to relieve Sumeet Sihag HCS, Joint Commissioner Municipal corporation Chandigarh, from Chandigarh Administration to enable him to join his parent State of Haryana." When asked about his repatriation, Sihag said he was going back owing to "personal reasons". A cold war is ongoing between officers of the Haryana cadre and the Union Territory cadre,

with all important posts being allegedly given to officers of the Union Territory cadre and HCS officers being sidelined. Sources said that even Richa was not allotted an office or driver for days and was posted as the registrar of cooperative societies. Feeling sidelined, she went on leave, and upon her return, was made to sit in the court of the assistant registrar of cooperative societies in the absence of an office. Sihag, who too was unhappy with the state of affairs in the Union Territory, had proceeded on leave after indicating that he would not continue any longer. Important departments like excise and health, all of which were with Haryana IAS officers, have also gone to officers of the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram-Union Territories) cadre.

Even among IAS officers, the crucial charge of the excise and taxation commissioner, which is normally held by the deputy commissioner, a Haryana-cadre IAS officer, has been given to AGMUT-cadre officer Hari Kallikkat, who is also the managing director of the Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation. Similarly, the health department, earlier handled by the home secretary (a senior Haryana-cadre IAS officer), is now with AGMUT-cadre officer Ajay Chagti. After the repatriation of then home secretary Arun Gupta, who also held the health portfolio, the charge has remained with Union Territory-cadre officers. The Haryana Government has sent a fresh panel of HCS officers to the Chandigarh administration for deputation. The officers whom the panel selects will replace Richa and Sumeet. Once a name is finalised, it will go to the Chandigarh administrator for approval. An officer's name is finalised based on their work experience and administrative qualities. Other HCS officers who have left it is not the first time that an HCS officer has sought premature repatriation. Shashi Vasundhara, 2016-batch HCS officer, also expressed her willingness to go back to Haryana. She was serving as the joint commissioner in the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation. Similarly, Shalini Chetal returned to Haryana while serving as the joint commissioner of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, and Shambhu Rathi also returned to his parent cadre. Another HCS officer, Sanyam Garg, was relieved by the Chandigarh administration before the completion of his term.

## High Court stay on BC reservations is unfortunate “We are disappointed with the High Court verdict:- Government's Vippu Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya

"" BC children, don't be discouraged.. don't be disappointed.. Our CM.. is behind us to achieve our rights.. Government's Vippu Aleru Beerla Ilayya""Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 9):- Government's Vippu Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya expressed his regret that the High Court's stay on BC reservations is unfortunate, "and we are disappointed with the High Court verdict. Government's Vippu Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya issued a press release on the High Court's stay on BC reservations. As part of this, he said that our Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress government made all efforts for BC reservations, and even though the Center did not cooperate, the Governor did not care, and the opposition parties did not come together, our CM fought alone. We provided reservations systematically without any technical difficulties, we conducted a caste census and set up a dedicated commission to calculate the number of BCs, and the BCs' mouths have disappeared, and the BJP at the Center and the opposition parties in the state are the reason for that, he said. However, we are not disappointed.. Our struggle will continue, our government



will continue the legal battle, and we will definitely achieve 42 percent reservations for BCs. If the BJP government at the Center had cooperated, this situation would not have come to this, BRS and BJP parties should understand the grievances of BCs at least now, no BC should be discouraged, and under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, reservations should definitely be achieved.

## Kanshi Ram's 19th Death Anniversary Grandly Observed in Nacharam



"Nacharam, (Indain chronicle, October 09: ""The 19th death anniversary of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) founder Manyawar Kanshi Ram was grandly organized in Nacharam under the leadership of Uppal Constituency BSP President Mindrala Nursing Rao. "At the event, party leaders paid rich floral tributes to the portrait of Kanshi Ram. Medchal-Malkajgiri District President Ravindra Naik and Secretary Sukka Dayanand participated in the programme. "Speaking on the occasion, the leaders recalled that Kanshi Ram was the great visionary who introduced Bahujan politics to the nation and enabled the marginalized communities to taste

political power for the first time in India. They stated that he inspired political awareness among Bahujans through his nationwide cycle yatra from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, raising the slogan "Votes are ours, seats should also be ours", which created a wave across Indian politics. "They further remembered that under his dynamic leadership, the Bahujan Samaj Party emerged as a nation at political force, and within a short span, it led to Mayawati becoming the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh four times, giving true representation and power to the Bahujan community. "BSP leaders Mindrala Anita, Sunny, Babu, and others participated in the programme.

## RAINS TO LASH TELANGANA FOR NEXT 3 DAYS

Hyderabad, Oct.9 The Hyderabad Meteorological department has forecasted continued rainfall across Telangana for the next three days. A trough extending from South Odisha to the Gulf of Mannar, passing through Coastal Andhra, Rayalaseema, and the Comorin region, is likely to persist at an average height of 0.9 km above sea level, the department said. Under its influence, several districts, including Bhupalpally, Mulugu, Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad,

Rangareddy, Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Vikarabad, Nagarkurnool, Wanaparthy and Jogulamba Gadwal - are expected to receive moderate to heavy rains. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds with speeds of 30 to 40 kmph are likely in Kothagudem, Khammam, Suryapet, and Mahabubabad districts on Friday. Similar weather conditions are expected to persist in Kothagudem, Khammam, and Mahabubabad on Saturday.



# Enumerators skipping Karnataka caste survey to face disciplinary action



GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Enumerators of the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey in Karnataka, carried out by the State Commission for Backward Classes, will face disciplinary action if they are absent or fail to carry out the exercise. The Karnataka Cabinet, which met Thursday, decided on the move for those enrolled to carry out the exercise in Greater Bengaluru Authority limits. The Cabinet has empowered the Chief Commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) to initiate action against the absentees as per the provisions of the Karnataka Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 2021, and Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Ap-

peal) Rules, 1957. The survey exercise that began on September 22 hit a roadblock after a section of teachers protested, urging to be relieved from enumeration duty, and technical glitches. While teachers are enumerators in various parts of the state, the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes will carry out the exercise in the GBA limits with help from public servants, along with teachers. Addressing a news conference Thursday, Law and Parliamentary Affairs minister H K Patil said that while server issues hampered the enumeration process in the first two days of the exercise, there was a "lot of improvement since then". He said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will chair a meeting with Deputy Commissioners and Chief Executive Officers of various districts on Friday to address the challenges faced during the survey. According to sources, the meeting is also likely to discuss disciplinary action against enumerators in different parts of the state who failed to conduct the enumeration. The survey was hit due to protests by teachers in parts of the state, such as Udupi and Belagavi. The state government has deployed around 1.75 lakh teachers for the purpose. The enumeration is scheduled to be carried out till October 9. On queries about whether low enumeration during the beginning of the survey would force the state to advance the last date of enumeration, Patil said that the government was yet to discuss the issue.

# Food processing cluster to come up in Aerocity, small farmers to gain

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

The upcoming Aerocity area in the Purandar International Airport is expected to have a food processing cluster. Jitendra Dudi, District Collector, Pune, Wednesday told The Indian Express that they are exploring export-oriented food processing parks within the Aerocity area, which will help small holders earn a steady income from their fields.

Purandar is famous for custard apples and figs, which have been awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Both custard apples and figs are also being exported. The exports happen mostly via air, given the low shelf life of the fruits. Figs from Purandar have made their way to international markets with Farmer-Producer Companies (FPCs), like Purandar Highlands, taking the lead in exports.

Dudi said talks are in advanced stages about ways of developing the food processing cluster. This, district collectorate officials said, would help the farmers become exporters. "The cluster would have export facilities as well as facilities for packing and grading as well," said the officer. Work is in advanced stages to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the same. The DPR would be sent to the central government also.

Meanwhile, 91 per cent of the farmers have already given their consent for the acquisition of their land for the international airport project. The airport would be coming up over 3,000 acres of land distributed in seven villages in Purandar taluka. Officials in the district collectorate said special programs were run to ensure farmers are convinced to give their consent.



"Our aim was to ensure the district collector spoke directly to the farmers. Instead of them becoming project-affected, the farmers were to become beneficiaries of the project," the official said. For many farmers, the promise of 10 per cent developed land within the Aerocity complex proved to be a deal-catcher. "The developed land is akin to having developed land parcels in the Viman Nagar area of Pune. This was over and above the compensation the farmers were to get for their land," the official added. The Purandar airport project had faced protests from some villages, especially those from Pargaon. Farmers had resorted to stone pelting as well as staging protests against the project. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis had sanctioned this project in his first term as the chief minister. The project has again gained ground after Fadnavis returned to power in 2024.

# ‘Inclined towards full-fledged stay’ on bike taxi ban: Karnataka High Court

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday orally observed that it was inclined to grant a full stay on the order banning bike taxis, noting that the State had yet to frame a policy in this regard. The court was hearing a petition by major app-based aggregators such as ANI Technologies, the holding company of OLA Cabs, in the context of an April order of the Karnataka High Court that directed that aggregators cannot operate in the state unless the government notifies relevant guidelines under Section 93 of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Appearing before a division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Joshi, Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty submitted that the interests of the bike riders would be covered under the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, that came into effect on September 12. Shetty also argued that various app-based aggregators were in contempt of the court's order as they were continuing to operate bike taxis. Opposing this, Senior Advocate Dhyani Chinappa, representing bike riders, argued that these platforms were the only way for the riders to carry on their business, as unlike the autos on these platforms, they could not rely on auto stands. After hearing the submissions, the bench orally observed, "We are inclined towards a full-fledged stay at this stage." The bench added that a month had already been



granted for the State to come up with a policy. As previously reported by The Indian Express, a division bench of the high court had in August questioned the government regarding the existence of a de facto ban on two-wheeler vehicles, noting that it was the State's prerogative to regulate them, but this should not amount to a complete ban. "We will not dictate how you regulate. ... but today there is no policy, only prohibition," the bench had stated. Noting that lives were at stake, the court had at the time granted a month for the state government to decide on framing a policy. On September 12, the Karnataka transport department constituted a 10-member team to analyse bike taxi policies in Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Kolkata.

# Admitted to Pune's Sassoon Hospital after suicide attempt, man kills himself on its premises



A man in his mid-30s who was undergoing psychiatric treatment and treatment for a leg injury at Pune's Sassoon General Hospital allegedly died by suicide on the hospital premises in the early hours of Thursday. The police said that the man was admitted to the state-run hospital earlier this month following a suicide attempt.

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

A man in his mid-30s who was undergoing psychiatric treatment and treatment for a leg injury at Pune's Sassoon General Hospital allegedly died by suicide on the hospital premises in the early hours of Thursday. The police said that the man was admitted to the state-run hospital earlier this month following a suicide attempt.

The incident took place around 6 am. Officials from

the Bundgarden police station, which has jurisdiction over the hospital, said that the deceased hailed from Solapur district. "Hospital authorities only have his first name. No known address and contact of next of the kin is available at this point. We have launched a probe to establish his identity," an officer said. "Initial information suggests that the patient was admitted to Sassoon General Hospital by railway police personnel. It has come to light that he had allegedly attempted suicide on railway track and had sustained a severe leg injury. He was admitted to the Sassoon Hospital on September 5 and had since been under treatment. In the early hours of Thursday, the patient died by suicide. A case of sudden death pending probe into causes has been registered at the Bundgarden police station," the officer added. The police said that as part of the investigation they would check the CCTV cameras on the hospital premises and also record statements of hospital staff and doctors to establish the sequence of events leading to the man's death. Earlier this month, a woman prisoner from Haryana who was under treatment at the Regional Mental Hospital in Pune's Yerawada was found dead in a suspected case of suicide. The woman, who was lodged in Maharashtra's Parbhani prison, was brought to the hospital for treatment with the court's permission after she reportedly experienced mental health issues. She was admitted on July 31 and was found unresponsive in her hospital ward on the morning of September 3.

# ‘Intent to malign reputation’: Sameer Wankhede moves Delhi High Court against Aryan Khan’s ‘The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood’



GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Wankhede has claimed that the series disseminates a misleading and negative portrayal of anti-drug enforcement agencies, thereby eroding public confidence in law enforcement institutions. Wankhede has claimed that the series disseminates a misleading and negative portrayal of anti-drug enforcement agencies, thereby eroding public confidence in law enforcement institutions. Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Sameer Wankhede Thursday moved the Delhi High Court with a defamation suit seeking an injunction and damages for "misleading" and "negative" portrayal of anti-drug enforcement agencies in the recently released drama series 'The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood'.

The series, which premiered on September 18 on Netflix, marks the directorial debut of Aryan Khan, son of

# Why Mumbai water tank faces same crisis every year

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Between September 21 and 23, following Pitru Paksha, the period when Hindus pay respects to their ancestors, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) removed 10,000 kg or 10 metric tonnes of dead fish and organic solid waste from the Banganga Tank in Mumbai. In the last three years, the BMC has deployed four trucks every year to clear similar accumulations from Banganga. However, despite these recurring incidents, the authorities have yet to come up with a solid plan to prevent this annual mishap. Here's why: Located in Walkeshwar in Mumbai's upscale Malabar Hill neighbourhood, Banganga is a rectangular step-water tank whose origin dates back to the 12th century. This tank is protected as a heritage site by the state Directorate of Archaeology and Museums. The steps are constructed with black basalt stones, while deepastambhs or pillars located within the periphery are constructed with lime-plaster and bricks. Banganga is one of the last remaining natural water bodies in Mumbai, and the tank is known to store fresh water even though it is in proximity to the Arabian Sea. Therefore, devotees make religious offerings in the tank's water on the last day of the Pitru Paksha period every year. The offerings mainly comprise flowers and food items, which later pollute the tank. The increase in pollutants reduces oxygen levels in the water, harming the aquatic life in the tank—Banganga is home to 220 different species of fish—often resulting in large-scale fish deaths.

What are the authorities doing?

Every year, after the Pitru Paksha rituals end, the civic authorities remove the dead fish along with floral waste. Following this, the BMC also increases the oxygen in the water by installing water pumps and artificial aerators. However, no concrete action has been taken so far. "Previously, we tried setting up artificial tanks around the periphery of Banganga to prevent immersion in the natural water body. But that process had failed terribly since people gathered over there in large numbers, and the artificial tanks were not enough to cater to the crowd," a civic official said.

Who is responsible for the Banganga tank?

According to the authorities, since the tank is a listed heritage structure, its ownership is with the state Director-



ate of Archaeology and Museums, while the responsibility of the management of the water body lies with the Gaud Saraswat Brahmin (GSB) Trust. Civic officials said that the BMC does not have any administrative power to maintain or protect the tank. "Since the tank is managed by the archaeology department and trust, it is their decision to allow or disallow Pitru Paksha rituals at the tank. The BMC, as a civic body, cannot take these decisions. If they need any logistical support, the BMC can provide, but we do not have administrative power to stop these rituals," the civic official explained. In 2024, the Maharashtra government, along with the BMC, had proposed a renovation of the Banganga Tank. The project, which stands incomplete today, was backed by Guardian Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha, who also happens to be the local MLA. Prior to this, between 2018 and 2019, massive restoration works of these projects were proposed by the GSB trust as well as the state government.

However, those projects too have failed to take off. "The GSB trust does not have the authority to maintain it, considering it is a listed heritage structure. The onus is on the archaeological department of Maharashtra to maintain the site," a representative of the trust told The Indian Express. When contacted, a state archaeology department official said, "Whether to stop religious offerings in the tank is not a decision that needs to be taken up by the archaeological authorities. Our job is limited to the physical state of the structure. The methodology of usage of the site stands with the trust, and they have to decide."

# Court rejects closure report in Delhi Fortis hospital case, orders police to carry out investigation

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

A Delhi court has directed the Delhi Police to conduct an investigation and file a detailed report within three months in a case where two doctors were accused of medical negligence and record-tampering at Fortis Hospital in Shalimar Bagh. The court rejected the closure report filed by the investigating officer in 2023, which stated that no case was made out against the accused persons. The case stems from an FIR filed in 2019 by Sapna Jain, who alleged that her son sustained permanent hypoxic brain damage during his birth in 2017 as a consequence of the hospital's negligence. Hypoxic brain damage occurs when the brain is deprived of sufficient oxygen, leading to the death of cells and potentially long-term cognitive, behavioural and motor disabilities. The petition filed by the mother said that the National Medical Commission (NMC) and the Delhi Medical Council (DMC) have raised doubts about the qualifications of the accused doctors, Dr Akhilesh Singh and Dr Vivek Jain. Dr Singh was found to have only an MBBS degree, while his additional qualifications were unrecognized. Dr Jain claimed Membership of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (MRCPCH), a postgraduate qualification for pediatricians in the United Kingdom, but he did not possess the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT), which is mandatory for enrolment as a specialist in both the UK and India. In its order passed on September 22, the court observed that several critical issues remained uninvestigated. These include whether Dr Jain, lacking a CCT, was legally permitted to present himself as a neonatologist or super-specialist in India after the government in 2008 made this certification an eligibility condition for registration; and whether Dr Singh, who holds only an MBBS degree, falsely represented himself as a specialist in violation of the law. The court also noted unresolved allegations of falsification and fabrication of medical records, including the suppression of resuscitation notes. Key medical questions also remain unanswered, such as determining the cause and timing of the child's brain injury, including whether it occurred before, during, or after birth. The court also emphasized the need to examine all medical and nursing staff involved in the child's care during the stay in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), and to record the statement of Dr Alok Kumar, whose child allegedly suffered similar neg-



ligence, as stated in the protest petition. Additionally, the court called for an investigation into any prior complaints or incidents of negligence involving the doctors or the hospital. It asked why essential neurological tests like EEG, MRI, or USG, which are carried out in similar cases, were not performed on the child. Finally, the court directed that a fresh medical opinion be obtained from a board that includes at least one pediatric neurologist, along with a clinical evaluation of the child. "The court cannot be unmindful of the fact that the closure report has been filed without the comprehensive investigation as allegations of unqualified practice by Doctors, falsification and concealment are serious in nature and warrants thorough investigation," the court said.

Responding to the court order, Fortis Hospital said in a statement that it was examining the order, and appropriate steps would be taken after obtaining legal advice. The statement said that no negligence was found in the expert opinion of the Delhi Medical Council and Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital. "The proceedings before the Ld. Trial Court in a protest petition was done without hearing the concerned doctors. The order of the learned Trial Court is being examined, and the next steps will be taken as may be legally advised to ensure the rights and interests of all parties are appropriately considered," the hospital said in its statement. "There are already two expert opinions in respect of the medical treatment rendered to the patient from the Delhi Medical Council and Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital, wherein they found no negligence... Further, the FIR has been challenged before the Hon'ble High Court, and the related petition is sub judice," the statement said.



# Drones disrupt Danish airports again, Russia denies involvement



COPENHAGEN, GNS News Agency, Oct 9(Reuters) - Denmark said on Thursday that drone incursions overnight, which briefly closed two airports and affected military installations, were hybrid attacks aimed at spreading fear, though authorities could not identify the perpetrators. The incident, the second in two days in Denmark alone, is part of what some European officials see as a pattern of Russian disruption that has exposed the vulnerability of European airspace at a time of high tensions between Moscow and NATO. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here. Poland shot down suspected Russian drones in its airspace on September 10. Danish authorities said on Thursday they decided not to take down any of the drones in their airspace for safety reasons, despite the disruption caused to air traffic.

Russia's embassy in Copenhagen rejected as "absurd" speculation about Moscow's involvement in the Danish incursions. Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said she had spoken on Thursday with NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte about the drone incidents and that they had agreed to work together to ensure security. The incursions forced Aalborg airport, used for commercial and military flights, to shut for three hours, while Billund airport, Denmark's second-largest, was closed for an hour, police said. Both reopened on Thursday morning.

Drones were also seen near Esbjerg and Sonderborg airports, as well as Skrydstrup airbase, home to Denmark's F-16 and F-35 fighter jets, and over a military facility in Holstebro, police confirmed. They are all located in the western Jutland region. "This shows at least that we do not have the capacity at present to prevent the intrusion of drones over our airports," Peter Viggo Jakobsen, an associate professor at the Royal Danish Defence College, told Reuters. "This is a hole in our preparedness." The incursions come after Denmark this year its military budget to address acute shortcomings. Last week, it announced plans to acquire long-range precision weapons, while its decision to

host Ukrainian missile fuel production near the Skrydstrup airbase has drawn criticism from Russia.

Item 1 of 9 Denmark's Defence Minister, Troels Lund Poulsen and the Minister of Justice, Peter Hummelgaard, attend a press conference at the Ministry of Defence in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 25, 2025. The Minister of Defence and the Minister of Justice provide an update on the recent drone activities at several airports in Denmark. Ritzau Scanpix/Emil Helms/via REUTERS[1/9]Denmark's Defence Minister, Troels Lund Poulsen and the Minister of Justice, Peter Hummelgaard, attend a press conference at the Ministry of Defence in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 25, 2025. The Minister of Defence and the Minister of Justice provide an update on the recent drone activities at... Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab Read morePolice said the drones followed a similar pattern to those that halted flights at Copenhagen airport overnight into Tuesday. "It certainly does not look like a coincidence. It looks systematic. This is what I would define as a hybrid attack," Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen told a press conference, adding that Denmark faced no direct military threat. The head of Denmark's armed forces, Michael Hyltdgaard, acknowledged weaknesses in the country's ability to counter drone attacks: "We have a wide range of capabilities in the Armed Forces, but we would like to have more." Danish opposition lawmaker Pelle Dragsted of the Red-Green Alliance slammed the government's handling of the incidents, saying on X: "Billions (are being) allocated to defence ... But no control over the most basic thing: Defence of our own vulnerable infrastructure." Map of Denmark showing where drones were spotted near airports and military bases in Aalborg, Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Sonderborg, Skrydstrup, Billund and Holstebro, as concerns grow over vulnerability of critical infrastructure.

Prime Minister Frederiksen called the Copenhagen incident the most serious "attack" yet on Denmark's critical infrastructure and linked it to suspected Russian drone activities across Europe, though no evidence was provided. Authorities in Norway also shut the airspace at Oslo airport for three hours on Monday evening after reports of a drone flying in the area. Danish analyst Jakobsen also pointed the finger at Moscow. "So the Russians - if it's them, and I think it is - are doing what they've been really good at for a long time: they're going right to the edge of what would trigger a military response from NATO, but not over it," he said. Poulsen stressed on Thursday that there was no evidence linking the recent drone activities to Russia. He also said Denmark had not yet decided whether to follow Poland's example this month and invoke NATO's Article 4, which allows members to request consultations over any security concerns. The drone incursions come as Denmark, current holder of the European Union's rotating presidency, prepares to host EU leaders in Copenhagen next week.

# Former French President Sarkozy handed 5-year jail term in stunning downfall

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

PARIS, - Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy was sentenced to five years in jail on Thursday for criminal conspiracy over attempts to raise campaign funds from Libya and will soon become the first former president of France to serve time in prison. The sentence was harsher than many expected and Sarkozy, who was president between 2007-2012, will spend time in jail even if he appeals the ruling - which he said he would do. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

As he exited the courtroom, Sarkozy, visibly moved, expressed his anger at what he said was a "scandalous" ruling. "What happened today ... is of extreme gravity in regard to the rule of law, and for the trust one can have in the justice system," he told reporters. "If they absolutely want me to sleep in jail, I will sleep in jail, but with my head held high," he said, adding that he was innocent. "I will not apologise for something I didn't do." Sarkozy was found guilty of criminal conspiracy over efforts by close aides to procure funds for his 2007 presidential bid from Libya during the rule of late dictator Muammar Gaddafi. He was acquitted by the Paris court of all other charges, including corruption and receiving illegal campaign financing.

However, the prison sentence is enforceable immediately, with the judge saying Sarkozy would have just a short period to put his affairs in order before prosecutors call on him to head to jail. That should happen within a month. Sarkozy, who has always denied the charges, was accused of making a deal with Gaddafi in 2005, when he was France's interior minister, to obtain campaign financing in exchange for supporting the then-isolated Libyan government on the international stage. The judge said there was no proof that Sarkozy made such a deal with Gaddafi, nor that money that was sent from Libya reached Sarkozy's campaign coffers, even if the timing was "compatible" and the paths the money went through were "very opaque". But she said Sarkozy was guilty of criminal conspiracy for having let close aides get in touch with people in Libya to try and obtain campaign financing. The 70-year-old has been on trial since January in a case he said was politically motivated. The court found him guilty of criminal conspiracy between 2005 and 2007. After that he was president and



covered by presidential immunity, the court added. This was the second time this year that a French court handed down a ruling with immediate effect on a major political figure. Far-right leader Marine Le Pen was convicted in March of embezzling EU funds and given an immediate five-year ban on running for office. Le Pen was prompt to react to Sarkozy's sentencing, saying it was "a grave danger" that judges were opting for immediately enforceable rulings and not waiting for appeals. Despite his legal battles, and having his Legion of Honour, France's highest distinction, stripped in June, Sarkozy remains an influential figure on the French political stage.

He recently met with his former protege, Prime Minister Sebastian Lecornu, and has also lent credibility to Le Pen's National Rally (RN), saying the far-right, anti-immigrant party now forms part of the "republican arc." Sarkozy has faced several legal battles since leaving office. Last year, France's highest court upheld his conviction for corruption and influence peddling, ordering him to wear an electronic tag for a year, a first for a former French head of state. The tag has now been removed. Also last year, an appeals court confirmed a separate conviction for illegal campaign financing over his failed re-election bid in 2012. A final ruling from France's highest court is expected on that case next month. Vincent Brengarth, lawyer for economic justice campaign group Sherpa, which was party to the Libya trial, welcomed the ruling. "This confirms we have an independent justice system, that can be brave," he said.

# Kimmel is back on ABC to big ratings, but some affiliates still refuse to air his show

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

New York: Jimmy Kimmel is back on his ABC late-night show, but it's still a mystery when — or if — viewers in cities such as Washington, Seattle and St. Louis will be able to see him again on their televisions. ABC stations owned by the Nexstar and Sinclair corporations took Kimmel off the air last week on the same day the network suspended him for comments that angered supporters of slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Those stations kept him off the air Tuesday, when ABC lifted the suspension. The unusual dispute attracted the attention of US senators, who said they wanted to investigate the relationship between the affiliates and President Donald Trump's administration. Kimmel returned with no apologies, but in an emotional monologue where he appeared close to tears, the host said that he was not trying to joke about the assassination. He also paid tribute to Kirk's widow. And it got a large audience, with ABC reporting nearly 6.3 million people tuned in to the broadcast alone, despite the blackouts in many cities. As is often the case with late-night hosts' monologues, there was a larger audience online, with more than 15 million people watching

Kimmel's opening remarks on YouTube by Wednesday evening. ABC says more than 26 million people watched Kimmel's return on social media, including YouTube. Typically, he gets about 1.8 million viewers each night on television. The numbers released by ABC do not include viewership from streaming services. A spokesman for Nexstar said Wednesday that Kimmel will continue to be preempted from its stations while the company evaluates his show. Together, the Nexstar and Sinclair groups account for about a quarter of ABC's affiliates, many in smaller cities such as Nashville, Tennessee; Lubbock, Texas; or Topeka, Kansas. "We are engaged in productive discussions with executives at the (ABC parent) Walt Disney Co., with a focus on ensuring the program reflects and respects the diverse interests of the communities we serve," Nexstar said. The dispute focused attention on the business relationships between television networks and the local stations that carry their programming. In the past, local stations occasionally balked at airing a network show, but it was usually an individual market or two worried about pushing boundaries in language or sexual content, said .

# Chinese drone experts worked with sanctioned Russian arms maker, sources say



GNS News Agency, Oct 9

- Chinese drone experts have flown to Russia to conduct technical development work on military drones at a state-owned weapons manufacturer that is under Western sanctions, according to two European security officials and documents seen by Reuters. The Chinese experts have visited arms maker IEMZ Kupol on more than half a dozen occasions since the second quarter of last year. During that time, Kupol also received shipments of Chinese-made attack and surveillance drones via a Russian intermediary, according to the documents and two officials. Make sense of the latest ESG trends affecting companies and governments with the Reuters Sustainable Switch newsletter. Sign up here. In September last year, Reuters documented that Kupol had developed a new drone, the Garpiya-3, in China with the help of local specialists. Now the news agency is the first to report specific details of the extensive involvement of Chinese experts in tests and technological work on military-use drones inside Russia.

The officials, who asked that neither they nor their organisation be identified due to the sensitivity of the information, said the collaboration suggested a deepening relationship between Kupol and Chinese companies in developing drones - which have proven to be critically important to Russia's war in Ukraine. China's foreign ministry said it was unaware of the collaboration. "China has always maintained an objective and fair position on the question of the Ukraine crisis, never providing lethal weapons to any party in the conflict and strictly controlling dual-use items, including drone exports," the ministry said in a statement. The Kremlin, the Russian defence ministry, and IEMZ Kupol did not respond to requests for comment. The documents, including business invoices and bank statements, showed that Kupol received more than a dozen one-way attack drones last year produced by Sichuan AEE, a Chinese drone maker. The drones were supplied by Russian defence procurement company TSK Vektor, which is under U.S. and EU sanctions, according to the officials and documents. TSK Vektor and Sichuan AEE did not respond to requests for comment. The U.S. and European governments have repeatedly expressed concern at Chinese companies supplying Russian arms makers, and have imposed sanctions on some of them. Reuters reported in July that Kupol was producing thousands of Garpiya one-way attack drones using Chinese parts, including engines. Garpiyas - which are modelled on Iran's Shahed drone - can fly hundreds of miles to pre-programmed targets before diving out of the sky and exploding on impact. Kyiv has said around 500 are being used each month in Ukraine. The two European officials said the shipments of small numbers of Chinese attack drones and the presence of Chinese experts could indicate Kupol's interest in expanding production to new drone models. Reuters was unable to confirm independently the reason behind the drone shipments, nor the exact nature of the work carried out by the Chinese experts.

Samuel Bendett, an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, a Washington-based think tank, said China had become a vital part of Russia's military supply chain. "There is just such an enormous role and

# Israel deepens Gaza City offensive as Netanyahu heads to US

CAIRO/JERUSALEM, GNS News Agency, Oct 9(Reuters) - Israeli forces advanced deeper into Gaza City on Thursday as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu headed to New York to address the United Nations General Assembly, with U.S. President Donald Trump pursuing a deal to end the Gaza war. Israeli strikes killed at least 19 people across the Palestinian enclave on Thursday, local health authorities said. They included 11 people from two families in Zawayda town in the central Gaza Strip, where planes hit a residential building.

The Reuters Gulf Currents newsletter brings you the latest on geopolitics, energy and finance in the region. Sign up here. Israel's military did not comment on the incident but said it had struck 170 targets across Gaza in the past 24 hours and attacked "terror infrastructure" used by militant groups to attack soldiers. Its forces were deep in Gaza City, it said. Tanks have entered Gaza City as part of an offensive that Israel says is intended to eliminate Hamas following its deadly attack on Israel in October 2023 but which has caused extensive destruction, a humanitarian catastrophe and widespread hunger. Netanyahu says Gaza City is the Palestinian militant group's last bastion, but hundreds of thousands of civilians remain there, fearing there is nowhere safe for them to go. U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff said on Wednesday Washington was confident of securing breakthrough on Gaza in coming days after Trump shared a 21-point Middle East peace plan with leaders of Muslim-majority countries in New York.

Trump also promised Arab leaders he would not allow Israel to annex the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Politico reported. Palestinians want the West Bank for an independent Palestinian state, with Gaza and East Jerusalem. Netanyahu has declared there will never be a Palestinian state although Britain, France, Canada and other nations this week formally recognised Palestinian statehood. Some of Netanyahu's coalition allies want Israel to annex the West Bank.

Israel has become diplomatically isolated over its military siege of Gaza, with European nations and others increasingly critical of its conduct. The International Criminal Court has issued a warrant for Netanyahu for alleged war crimes in the Gaza war. Israel rejects the court's jurisdiction and denies committing war crimes in Gaza. Netanyahu has retained the backing of the U.S., Israel's most important ally, and Trump told the U.N. this week that moves to recognise a Palestinian state risked rewarding what he called Hamas atrocities and could encourage continued conflict. Netanyahu is expected to address the General Assembly on Friday and meet Trump next week. Leaving Israel on Thursday, Netanyahu said he would denounce leaders who had recognised a Palestinian state. He said he would discuss the war in Gaza with Trump, including defeating Hamas and freeing hostages held in Gaza since the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023. He said he also intended to discuss efforts to expand diplomatic relations with countries that do not officially recognise Israel.

influence and impact of Chinese components in Russian military systems...especially in aerial drones," Bendett said. A letter from TSK Vektor to Kupol reviewed by Reuters showed that in the second quarter of 2024 the procurement company billed the weapons manufacturer for more than half a dozen drones produced by AEE. The European sources requested that specifics of the letter, as well as the other documents shown to Reuters, be withheld, including their dates. An AEE corporate document detailing shipments to TSK Vektor, seen by Reuters, confirmed the delivery of the A140 and A900 one-way attack drones. It also listed more than half a dozen other drones - the A60, A100 and A200 - due for delivery. Kupol reports seen by Reuters describe flight tests of the A60, A100 and A200 drones at the Chebarkul military test site in Russia's Chelyabinsk region in the last quarter of 2024.

A group of Chinese experts visited Kupol's facilities in the city of Izhevsk to assemble the drones and train Kupol staff to use them, a Kupol document said. The experts then visited Chebarkul, it added. Airline bookings seen by Reuters showed the Chinese experts were due to fly out of Chelyabinsk the day after the tests. The letter and flight reports described the Chinese experts as employees of TSK Vektor, the Russian procurement company. However, the European officials said they assessed that the individuals were AEE staff. They cited AEE's response to feedback from the test flights of the A200 drones, reviewed by Reuters, which said it was drawing on information from AEE technicians. Subsequently, AEE billed TSK Vektor more than 5 million yuan (\$700,000) for several A200s fitted with anti-jamming equipment as well as other goods in the second quarter of 2025, according to an invoice and an account statement reviewed by Reuters. In another Kupol link to a Chinese drone manufacturer, a flight test report approved by the Russian weapons manufacturer and TSK Vektor assessed the performance of an HW52V drone - made by Chinese firm Hunan Haotianyi - in the third quarter last year. The HW52V is a vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone that can be used militarily for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and as a strike drone, the European security officials said.

Air tickets seen by Reuters showed that Liu Mingxing, the CEO of Hunan Haotianyi, and Artem Vysotsky, head of TSK Vektor's drone department, flew out of the Irkutsk airport in Siberia in adjacent seats in June following the last day of an event where the company's drones were displayed. Hunan Haotianyi and TSK Vektor did not respond to requests for comment. Reuters was unable to reach the executives. A separate Kupol document from the third quarter last year described a visit to its facilities by Chinese citizens, including engineers and technical staff, described as TSK Vektor employees. The European security officials said they assessed that the Chinese citizens were staff of Hunan Haotianyi because several of the experts who visited Kupol on that occasion - and on other trips in 2024 and 2025 - had accompanied the Hunan Haotianyi CEO during his visit to Russia. Reuters couldn't confirm they were Hunan Haotianyi staff. The purpose of the experts' third-quarter visit, the document said, was to adapt a new Chinese flight control computer and a new engine for the Garpiya. Several other letters between Vektor and Kupol described over half a dozen week-long visits by Chinese and Russian experts in 2024 and 2025. The groups, the letters said, would be conducting work on a flight control computer. A final letter, which described a visit by Chinese experts from the same group in the third quarter of 2025, said they would also conduct work on a new drone, referred to as the GA-21. The European officials assess the GA-21 is a version of Iran's Shahed-107, which can be used for surveillance or as an attack drone.



About 1,200 people were killed and 251 were taken hostage in the Hamas-led attack on Israel. About 48 hostages remain in captivity, with 20 of them believed to be alive. Israel's military campaign in Gaza has killed more than 65,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities. Hamas' armed wing has warned the Israeli military that an expansion of its operation in Gaza City would put Israeli hostages at risk, while Israel's military has called on Gazan residents to "rise and break away from Hamas" to end the war. In Jordan, mother-of-five Afkar Alwan told Reuters her young son Yaman Alwan had been evacuated from Gaza last month for urgent medical care after severe malnutrition worsened his congenital kidney condition, and medical shortages growing. "By God, the situation in Gaza is very tragic," she said. "There are no laboratories and the hospitals, of course...the situation there is deplorable."

# Zoom unveils AI Companion 3.0 at Zoomtopia 2025

Hyderabad: Zoom Communications, Inc. (NASDAQ: ZM) unveiled AI Companion 3.0 at Zoomtopia 2025, introducing advanced agentic AI to enhance productivity and collaboration across Zoom Workplace and Business Services. "AI Companion 3.0 understands users' context, priorities, and goals to help them focus on what matters most and drive business outcomes," said CEO Eric S. Yuan.

The AI assistant integrates across Zoom and third-party tools to turn conversations into action, manage tasks, and deliver deeper insights. Key features include AI-powered note-taking, meeting preparation, proactive task management, and research and writing assistance. It also offers a unified work surface across browsers and the Zoom desktop app.



# India’s muted voice, its detachment with Palestine



France has joined the United Kingdom, Canada, Portugal and Australia in recognising Palestinian statehood — the first step in the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of the long-suffering Palestinian people. One hundred and fifty-plus of the 193 countries that are members of the United Nations have now done so. India had been a leader in this regard having formally recognised Palestinian statehood way back on November 18, 1988, after years of support to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). India’s decision was fundamentally a moral one and in keeping with our world view.

Even before Independence, India raised the issue of Apartheid South Africa in the UN and cut off trade relations with the apartheid regime. During the Algerian struggle for independence (1954-62), India was one of the strongest voices for an independent Algeria, ensuring that the international community could not forget that decisive battleground in the crusade against imperialism. In 1971, India intervened firmly to prevent genocide in what was then East Pakistan, midwiving the birth of modern-day Bangladesh. When much of the world merely stood by amidst the bloodshed in Vietnam, India was the voice of moral clarity, seeking peace and opposing foreign brutality against the Vietnamese people. Even today, India contributes one of the largest contingents to the UN’s Peacekeeping Forces. The promotion of ‘international peace and security’ is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of India.

On the critical and sensitive issue of Israel-Palestine as well, India has long maintained a delicate but principled position, emphasising its commitment to peace and the protection of human rights. India was among the first countries to recognise the PLO in 1974 and has consistently supported a two-state solution that guarantees Palestine’s right to self-determination while encouraging peaceful coexistence with Israel. Over the years, India has backed numerous UN resolutions affirming Palestinian rights and condemning the occupation and settlement expansion in the West Bank. At the same time, India has maintained full diplomatic relations with Israel. Through multilateral forums such as the UN, the Non-Aligned Movement, and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) observer platforms, India has urged negotiated settlements, adherence to international law, and a cessation of violence. India has also provided humanitarian and development aid to Palestine, including scholarships for students, support for education and health care, and capacity-building for institutions in Gaza and the West Bank.

In the last two years, since the outbreak of hostilities between Israel and Palestine in October 2023, India has all

but relinquished its role. The brutal and inhumane Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians on October 7, 2023, were followed by an Israeli response that has been nothing less than genocidal. As I have previously raised, more than 55,000 Palestinian civilians have been killed, including 17,000 children. The residential, schooling and health infrastructure of the Gaza Strip has been obliterated, as have agriculture and industry. Gazans have been forced into a famine-like situation, with the Israeli military cruelly obstructing the delivery of much-needed food, medicine, and other aid — a ‘drip-feeding’ of aid amidst an ocean of desperation. In one of the most revolting acts of inhumanity, hundreds of civilians have been shot down while trying to access food. The world has been slow to respond, implicitly legitimising the Israeli actions. The recent moves by several countries to recognise Palestine as a sovereign state are a welcome and long-due departure from the policy of inaction. This is a historical moment, and an assertion of the principles of justice, self-determination and human rights. These steps are not merely diplomatic gestures; they are affirmations of the moral responsibility that nations bear in the face of prolonged injustice. It is a reminder that in the modern world, silence is not neutrality — it is complicity. And here, India’s voice, once so unwavering in the cause of freedom and human dignity, has remained conspicuously muted.

The Modi government’s response has been characterised by a profound silence and an abdication of both humanity and morality. Its actions appear to be driven primarily by the personal friendship between the Israeli premier and Mr. Modi rather than India’s constitutional values or its strategic interests. This style of personalised diplomacy is never tenable and cannot be the guiding compass of India’s foreign policy. Attempts to do the same in other parts of the world — most notably, in the United States — have come undone in the most painful and humiliating ways in recent months. India’s standing on the world stage cannot be wrapped up into the personal glory-seeking ways of one individual, nor can it rest on its historical laurels. It demands persistent courage and a sense of historical continuity. Meanwhile, it is appalling that just two weeks ago, India not only signed a bilateral investment agreement with Israel, in New Delhi, but also hosted its highly controversial far-right Finance Minister who has invited global condemnation for his repeated incitements of violence against Palestinian communities in the occupied West Bank. Most fundamentally, India must not approach the issue of Palestine as merely a matter of foreign policy but as a test of India’s ethical and civilisational heritage. The people of Palestine have endured decades of displacement, prolonged occupation, settlement expansion, restrictions on movement and repeated assaults on their civil, political and human rights. Their plight echoes the struggles that India faced during the colonial era — a people deprived of their sovereignty, denied a nationhood, exploited for their resources, and stripped of all rights and security. We owe Palestine a sense of historical empathy in its quest for dignity, and we also owe Palestine the courage to translate that empathy into principled action. India’s historical experience, its moral authority and its commitment to human rights should empower it to speak, advocate and act in favour of justice — without delay or hesitation. The expectation is not of partisanship in this conflict, of choosing between Israel and Palestine. The expectation is of principled leadership, consistent with the values that have long guided India, our nation, and on which its freedom movement was anchored.

# The age of India’s leaders has steadily risen

When Jagdeep Dhankhar stepped down as Vice-President, citing age-related health issues, discussions on ageing in politics sharpened in India. The suggestion of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat two months ago that leaders should step aside at the age of 75 had also triggered a debate. Narendra Modi continues as Prime Minister despite crossing the age of 75 and so do several other leaders, underscoring the lack of a clear retirement norm.

The BJP’s unofficial age limit of 75 years — symbolised by the creation of the Margadarshak Mandal, often seen as a euphemism for the party’s retirement cell — has kept the spotlight on the question of when politicians should call it a day. At the State level too, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s age and health have emerged as key talking points ahead of the Bihar elections. Several instances of incoherence at public events have raised doubts about his ability to take crucial policy decisions and effectively discharge his duties. This is in sharp contrast to the image of ‘sushasan babu (boss of good governance)’ that he cultivated during his early years.

In fact, gerontocracy — commonly defined as rule by a group of old men or a council of elders — has become an important theme in the global discourse on democracy. In the 2024 U.S. presidential elections, age dominated the campaign conversation: Joseph Biden, the oldest President in American history, left office at 82, while his successor Donald J. Trump took office at 78 years and 220 days, setting a record as the oldest to be inaugurated. That year, celebrated worldwide as the ‘year of democracy’ for its many pivotal elections, saw the rise of several geriatric leaders to power, including Brazil’s President Lula da Silva, 79; Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, 75; and Narendra Modi, 74. The persistence of gerontocracy is evident even among unelected leaders and dictators. From long-ruling strongmen in parts of Africa to supreme leaders in oil-rich Asian republics, many continue to hold on to office well into old age. Authoritarian leaders such as Turkey’s Recep Tayyip Erdogan, 72, and Russia’s Vladimir Putin, also 72, have extended their grip on power for decades, underscoring how age is rarely a barrier to political dominance outside democratic systems.

This trend of elderly leaders dominating politics, whether through democratic elections or authoritarian rule, is hardly new. Gerontocracy was a defining feature of governance in the Greek city-states and the Roman Senate, where advancing age was closely associated with wisdom and experience, creating a form of traditional authority that legitimised the rule of the old. An analysis of the ages of India’s Prime Ministers shows a steady upward trend. At independence in 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister at 58, serving with a median age of 66 during his tenure. By 2014, Narendra Modi entered office at 63, and the median age of Prime Ministers had climbed to 76. The range has been wide: Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest to assume office at 40, while Morarji Desai was the oldest, taking charge at 81. Tellingly, Nehru died while in office at 74 in 1964, whereas Manmohan Singh, the last Prime



## The age profile of the Lok Sabha has shifted markedly over the decades, with the 18th Lok Sabha being the “oldest” yet

Minister before Modi, stepped down in 2014 at 81. Across India’s history, the median age of Prime Ministers has hovered around 67.

In comparison, the median age of Chief Ministers increased only modestly, from 57 in the 1950s to 59.5 in the 2020s, with the peak decade being 2010–2020 when it touched 62.25. A breakdown by party — regional versus national, and within national parties between the Congress and the BJP — shows negligible variation, with the average age of Chief Ministers across the board hovering around 58 years. The presence of younger leaders such as Nayab Singh Saini, Mohan Yadav, and Yogi Adityanath might suggest that the BJP promotes younger talent, especially when contrasted with the Congress’s image as India’s ‘Grand Old Party’. However, our analysis shows minimal difference in average age between the two. In general, the younger appointments across parties are balanced out by veterans such as the late Prakash Singh Badal in Punjab, the late V.S. Achuthanandan in Kerala, and the late M. Karunanidhi in Tamil Nadu, all of whom served well into their late 80s and 90s. The age profile of the Lok Sabha has shifted markedly over the decades (Chart 1), with the 18th Lok Sabha, which began its term last year, being the ‘oldest’ yet.

The average age of parliamentarians rose from 46.5 years in 1952 to 56 years by 2014. Meanwhile, the share of younger members (25–40 years) declined sharply from about 25–30% in the early years to under 10%. In contrast, the share of members aged 56–70 grew from less than 25% to nearly 40% by 2019. The data makes clear that India’s Parliament is ageing, with fewer young politicians making it into the House over time. If we were to pick out a random Indian, there is a 50% probability that they are less than 30 years old. However, this probability is 0.007% if we were to do the same for a member of the Lok Sabha.

# Follow the rains, not the calendar, to fight floods



Each year, urban India braces for the monsoon — contractors are deployed, drains desilted, and emergency protocols rehearsed. Yet, when the rain finally arrives — often untimely and more intense than expected — headlines are dominated by flooded roads, waterlogged homes, and stranded commuters. The deeper issue is that our cities are often still designed for a climate that no longer exists. Northern States are seeing heavy flooding even in September, with all of Punjab’s 23 districts being hit by floods. Delhi and Gurugram have been inundated by intense rains, and Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh are experiencing frequent cloudbursts. In the east, Kolkata is facing torrential rains. Timing, amount, and intensity But the rains came early too. In May, Mumbai recorded 135.4 mm of rainfall in just 24 hours, followed by 161.9 mm the next day. Delhi recorded 81 mm fall within a few hours on the same day, overwhelming the drainage systems. This shift in rainfall timings is not new; yet our preparedness remains tethered to outdated schedules. Drain cleaning, for instance, still follows the June monsoon calendar.

Cities must follow the rain to be able to bridge the gap between schedules, and readiness and reality. An analysis by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water shows that about 64% of Indian tehsils have seen a rise in the frequency of heavy rainfall days by 1–15 days, especially in Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Karnataka. The consequences for urban systems are significant, from localised flooding to disruptions in essential services. In the last two decades, floods have caused most of the loss to life and property from natural disasters in India. Today, a single flood can cause damages of some ₹8,700 crore, with such events becoming increasingly frequent. The challenge is not just the amount of rainfall, but also the intensity. Intensity, Duration, Frequency (IDF) curves, which track rainfall patterns over time, offer an interesting picture. For instance, CEEW’s analysis of daily rainfall from 1970 to 2021 in the coastal city of Thane shows that one-hour rainfall now reaches 50 mm once every two years, and about 80 mm per hour once every 50 years. This means such heavy rainfall can be expected to occur within hours, leaving little room for cities to respond. There is also a sharp difference between how much rain falls in one hour versus three hours,

revealing that rainfall that once spread across a day may now have a higher chance of falling within an hour. We propose three interlinked actions to prepare Indian cities better for the monsoons and flood-proof them.

First, city authorities should incorporate sub-daily rainfall analysis into city monsoon planning. Municipalities must move beyond long-term averages and integrate recent patterns and short-duration, high-intensity rainfall events that unfold within a few hours, into infrastructure design. Real-time data on sub-daily rainfall, which occurs over intervals shorter than 24 hours, must inform citizens about drainage operations and upgrades. For instance, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has announced this year that it will widen its drains to handle up to 120 mm of rainfall in an hour. While India’s monsoon officially spans 100–120 days, just a few hours of intense rain across select days account for most of the seasonal rainfall. Yet, maintenance and planning assume a uniform spread. This illusion of consistency leads to systems that fail not due to excessive seasonal totals, but hourly extremes. Recognising this compression is the first step towards resilience. Second, align cleaning of storm water drains and municipal solid waste management calendars. An overlooked cause of urban flooding is unmanaged waste — plastic, debris, and litter frequently block drains. Yet storm water and waste are handled by separate departments on different schedules. While the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs recommends drain cleaning before, during, and after the monsoon, its effectiveness hinges on coordination with waste collection. Even a freshly cleaned drain can clog again if garbage is left uncollected nearby. Ideally, storm water and sanitation departments must coordinate, especially during high-risk periods. Rainfall alerts from the India Meteorological Department should automatically trigger joint sanitation drives and drain inspections in vulnerable areas. In Vijayawada, such coordination — through monsoon response teams composed of officials from the sanitation, engineering, and planning departments — has reduced waterlogging and eased conditions for residents.

Third, city authorities must update IDF curves every 5–10 years to ensure that infrastructure keeps pace with evolving rainfall patterns. Without this, new drainage systems will continue to rely on outdated data, leaving them ill-equipped to handle present day storm water run-off volumes. In response to recent intensifying rains, the BMC has also proposed expanding storm water capacity and preparing a new drainage master plan based on updated trends. Drainage design should also be based on micro-catchment-level hydrological analysis that accounts for topography, which affects peak discharge during storms. New systems must be separated from the sewerage networks to avoid overload and ensure efficiency. We are not losing to the rain, but to the idea that the rain fits into seasonal boxes. Instead of asking when the monsoon will begin, we need to ask, are we prepared for the rain already falling?

# Will AI help fix India’s energy demand or will its own needs surge?

As artificial intelligence (AI) and its attendant data demand continue to expand in India and worldwide, a curious dilemma has arisen: will AI help transform energy delivery for the better or will the data centres crucial to its operations impose a new burden on the world’s power grid?

In a 2024 report, the International Energy Agency (IEA) highlighted the growing interconnections between energy and AI worldwide. It projected that demand from data centres would more than double by 2030 to around 945 TWh and that AI would be the principal driver. The demand from AI-optimised data centres was projected to more than quadruple by 2030. A McKinsey report has also estimated that the annual global demand for data centre capacity could rise at 19–22% from 2023 to 2030, reaching 171–219 GW, against the total current demand of 60 GW. To avoid a deficit, at least twice as much data centre capacity built since 2000 will have to be in place in less than a quarter of the time. Given AI’s significant hunger for computing power, energy demand is naturally increasing. Ms. Anwesha Sen, an assistant programme manager at Takshashila University studying the impact of technology policy and AI on society, said. She is however optimistic that it’s “not as drastic when compared to other energy-intensive industries”. Worldwide, data centres consume 1–2% of total power and that’s expected to increase to 3–4% by 2030. To compare, the steel industry consumes around 7% of total power, Sen said. According to McKinsey, India’s data centre demand is projected to increase from 1.2 GW in 2024 to 4.5 GW by 2030, driven largely by AI and digital adoption across sectors.

AI-driven data centres in India are projected to consume an additional 40–50 TWh of electricity annually by 2030, according to Raghu Raman, professor and Dean at the School of Business at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham. The increasing adoption of AI and digital technologies in India is contributing to a significant rise in energy demand, especially in already energy-intensive sectors like real estate, Vimal Nadar, national director of research at the Mumbai-based India office of Colliers, a global investment company, said. India is the third-largest energy consumer worldwide, after China and the US, with coal, crude oil, and natural gas comprising the bulk of its energy mix. The energy consumption of data centres is imposing huge pressure on energy systems worldwide, Anish De, global head for Energy, Natural Resources, and Chemicals at KPMG, said, adding: “India will not be any different.” According to Sen, an equal concern is the correspondingly increasing demand for fresh water required to cool the servers in these data centres.

That said, there is scope to press AI to the service of smarter energy management as well. “AI is playing a pivotal role in transforming how energy is delivered, utilised, and managed, both globally and within India,” Mr. Nadar said. On the one hand, AI could help develop energy transition technologies and as well as new materials that mitigate India’s dependence on critical minerals it currently has to import from abroad, Dr. De said by way of example. “It will also aid faster project development. This is already playing out in the main geographies and will propagate to others quickly,” he added. “We will see energy efficiency and resource efficiency gains that will also be substantial, though not enough to offset the demand. AI itself will support the gains in expansion of clean energy.” On the flip side, carbon emissions will also increase. “Despite best efforts it is practically impossible to meet this demand from renewables, both from quality and quantity standpoints,” according to Dr. De. The IEA also noted in its report that AI “could intensify some energy security strains” as “cyberattacks on energy utilities have tripled in the past four years and be-



come more sophisticated because of AI” even as AI tools are becoming critical for energy companies to defend against such attacks.

As energy demand intensifies, real estate stakeholders are increasingly prioritising energy efficiency, sustainability, and emission reduction in both new developments and retrofitting of existing assets, Mr. Nadar said. “Concurrently, there is a growing emphasis on renewable energy adoption. Real estate developers are increasingly incorporating rooftop solar solutions and solar-integrated building systems, further reducing the sector’s reliance on conventional energy sources.” The IEA has also said a range of energy sources will be tapped to meet data centres’ rising electricity needs although, according to its report, “renewables and natural gas are set to take the lead due to their cost-competitiveness and availability in key markets.” India and many other countries are taking advantage of AI to enhance energy efficiency and promote sustainable real estate practices, per Mr. Nadar. In India, the Energy Conservation Building Code and the Roadmap of Sustainable and Holistic Approach to National Energy Efficiency scheme aim to integrate AI and data analytics into smart metering, renewable energy management, and sustainable building design. Also within the real-estate sector, AI-driven solutions like smart lighting systems, predictive HVAC optimisation, and automated building controls promise to reduce energy consumption by up to 25%. Green certifications such as GRIHA and LEED further encourage AI-based monitoring of energy and resource usage. Data centres are also adopting AI to optimise cooling systems and server utilisation. As of April 2025, nearly one-fourth of the country’s total data centre capacity in major cities had been green-certified, reflecting an explicit focus on creating sustainable infrastructure. Almost 67% of the Grade A office stock across India’s top seven cities is also green-certified. ‘Need some nudging’ Under the National Smart Grid Mission, AI-enabled systems manage demand and integrate renewables, enhancing grid reliability while reducing wastage, according to Raman. The Nxtra (Airtel) Data Centres uses AI-powered cooling and predictive analytics to cut energy use, paired with renewable power purchase agreements to run green data centres. BrightNight’s PowerAlpha AI deployed in India to forecast and optimise hybrid solar-wind-battery plants and ensure 24/7 access to renewable energy while minimising grid stress. Tata Power ReNew Power and Hindustan Zinc both use AI for real-time load forecasting, reducing outages and optimising power supply in Mumbai, Dr. Raman added. BESCOM in Karnataka has also started using AI to detect faults and ‘heal’ grid sections and thus mitigate downtime. Similarly, smart meters in Uttar Pradesh have been using AI to detect power theft as well as manage demand-side issues. “A digital energy grid approach aims to build a unified and interoperable power infrastructure, and its potential can be amplified using AI,” Ms. Sen said.











## ‘I think Bumrah will get a rest against South Africa’: R Ashwin makes big prediction about India’s squad for SA Tests in November



GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has predicted ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah to rest during the Test series against South Africa next month. The 39-year-old has said that he expected Axar Patel to feature in the playing XI for the two Test matches against the current World Test Championships (WTC) holders, adding that India had a lot of all-rounders to choose from currently. South Africa will play two Test matches at Kolkata and Guwahati, respectively, in November following India’s white-ball tour to Australia later this month.

“Axar Patel will play. When South Africa comes, I think there will be a slightly stiffer test. They are WTC champions. They are the holding champions. I think they will pose

much higher competition. Still, there are not many spin options with South Africa. In India, if you want to win, you need batting that can play long, and you need spin bowling to stay tight as well. South Africa looks a little short on spin resources.” “We don’t know how they will bat either. But India is spoiled for choices. There are a lot of all-rounders. If you play Washi, Axar, and Jadeja, you will play Kuldeep as well. Batting will go up to number 10. I think Bumrah will get a rest against South Africa,” Ashwin said on his YouTube channel “Ash ki Baat”.

The 106-Test veteran praised KL Rahul for how easy he made batting look in difficult conditions. He hoped that the right-hander would be able to finish the Test series against West Indies on a high. “I always feel that KL Rahul makes tough runs look very easy. But I am so happy that KL Rahul found this game, because KL Rahul has the quality and class that he can get out in such a match, as it can be very easy for him. But he didn’t give up. He converted that into a hundred. I really hope, for KL Rahul’s good and the game he has, that this situation he finds himself in could be the second or third wing of KL Rahul.” “I really think he should have a strong finish to the end right now. He looks in great form. His fitness looks good. It looks like he has understood his game inside out. And it looks like he has got a lot of hunger. This hundred is not about KL Rahul’s game; this hundred is about defining KL Rahul, the batter, for the Indian team,” Ashwin said.

## Smriti Mandhana breaks all-time world record for most runs in ODIs in a calendar year in IND vs SA Women’s World Cup match

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Smriti Mandhana broke the world record for most women’s ODI runs in a calendar year during the World Cup match against South Africa. (AP) (Smriti Mandhana broke the world record for most women’s ODI runs in a calendar year during the World Cup match against South Africa. (AP) (ndian opening batter Smriti Mandhana broke the record for the most runs made by a woman batter in a calendar year during the Women’s World Cup match against South Africa in Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The 29-year-old went past Belinda Clark’s tally of 970 runs, which she made in 1997, with a six off Ayabonga Khaka in the eighth over of the innings.

Clark also made the first-ever double hundred in an ODI that year, when she made 229 not out against Denmark in the Women’s World Cup match held in the MIG ground in Mumbai. Mandhana came into the match on Thursday with 959 runs in 17 ODIs at an average of 59.93 with four centuries and three half-centuries in 2025. However, she had begun her Women’s World Cup campaign on a scratchy note by scoring 8 and 23, respectively, in the first two matches against Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The south-paw is playing in her third ODI World Cup and was part of the side that finished runners-up to England in the 2017 edition, which was held in the United Kingdom. Mandhana is also nearing 5000 runs in ODIs, which will make her only



the second Indian batter and the fifth overall to get to the landmark. India came into the fixture after having won their opening two fixtures against Sri Lanka and Pakistan. South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt won the toss and elected to field first on Thursday, after rain delayed the start of play by one hour. Both teams made one change to their playing XI from their previous matches. South Africa brought in Tumi Sekhukhune for Masabata Klaas, while India brought back Amanjot Kaur, who missed the Pakistan match due to illness, for Renuka Singh Thakur. Both teams will play one more match in Visakhapatnam after Thursday. India will take on Australia on Sunday, while South Africa will face Bangladesh on Monday.

## Win one point against Carlos Alcaraz and stand to gain a A\$1 million: One Point Slam to pit amateurs against professionals for big money at Australian Open



GNS News Agency, Oct 9

What are the chances of an amateur – of any age – winning a point against World No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz on a court that hosts a Grand Slam final? They can find out by entering the ‘One Point Slam’, to be held just before next year’s Australian Open. It will pit 10 amateurs and 22 professionals – including Alcaraz, who won two of the four Grand Slams in 2025 – in a knockout competition at Melbourne Park, with the eventual winner taking home a million Australian dollars. It is another initiative to create buzz around a big tennis event after the US Open held a standalone mixed doubles tournament before the main event with bigger prize money and shorter matches, featuring some of the top singles players in the world, causing consternation among those who depend on doubles to make a living. In the ‘One Point Slam’,

‘rock, paper, scissors’ will be used to determine who serves or receives, and the winner of the point will advance to the next round. In a handicap system of sorts, the professionals will be allowed just one serve, while the amateurs two, the norm in the game. The Australian Open held its inaugural One Point Slam event this year, but the prize fund was A\$60,000 with Russian Andrey Rublev the only top-10 player involved. To put the million-dollar top prize in perspective, the players losing in the singles semifinals of the 2025 Australian Open earned A\$1.1 million. “Whether you’re an amateur or a pro, the ultimate winner will walk away with the prize,” Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley said, adding there were “more big names to be announced soon.”

The tournament website said “celebrities” would be involved. There will be five knockout rounds. This year’s event was held at the smaller Kia Arena, but in 2026, it will be held on the main show court – the Rod Laver Arena on the first weekend of the opening Grand Slam of the tennis season. The final stages will be held in the night session, instead of the 1 pm slot this year, the BBC reported. There will be qualifiers held across the country to finalise the 10 amateurs who will take on the professionals. Any Australian – or international players registered with Tennis Australia – can enter the competition at their local tennis club. The main draw of the Australian Open runs from January 12 to February 1. But not everyone is enamoured by the initiative with the legendary Martina Navratilova believing it reduces tennis to the level of a stunt. She asks: “Is the tennis itself not good enough?”

It didn’t take long for the Titans to inflict their first ALL OUT, courtesy of a tackle by Ajit Pawar. Bharat Hooda didn’t put a foot wrong as his team continued to dominate, extending their lead to thirteen points with a tackle by Ankit. Haryana Steelers eventually showed their mettle, finding a way back into this contest. Mayank Saini’s Super Raid and a Super Tackle by Rahul Ahri helped them reduce the deficit to eight points. Shivam Patare then made his presence felt on both ends of the mat before Vinay executed an ALL OUT to make it a two-point game.

In the end however, the margin of difference between the two sides was too big to cover up for the defending champions. Bharat Hooda stole the show with 20 points on the night, making sure the Telugu Titans register their fifth win on the bounce, handing the defending champions their fifth loss in-a-row.

It was an authoritative start from the Telugu Titans, getting off the blocks in a flash to put the defending champions under pressure. Bharat Hooda set the tone with a multi-point raid, and Vijay Malik followed it up with a two-point raid of his own, giving their side a 6-0 lead in the opening stages. For the Steelers, Vinay opened their scoring with a bonus point as they struggled to find their groove.

## ‘You won’t get a better series than this’: R Ashwin reacts to talks surrounding Sai Sudharsan’s place in playing XI ahead of Delhi Test against West Indies



GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has said that the upcoming second Test match against West Indies in Delhi is a crucial game for southpaw Sai Sudharsan. The 39-year-old came out in support of the youngster admitting that he had a very good temperament, but adding that he wasn’t aware of the headspace he was in. Ashwin said that the left-hander won’t get a better series than the one against West Indies to cement his place in the side. Sudharsan made only seven runs in the series opener at Ahmedabad, which the hosts won by an innings and 140 runs. “I think Sai Sudarshan is temperamentally very sound. But I have no idea how he is treating him inside. What sort

of bubble he is in and all that, I am not very sure. But for Sai Sudarshan, to cement his place, you won’t get a better series than this.”

“So, I really hope he capitalizes on that innings in Delhi. He is young, very motivated, high-quality player. I really hope he gets runs in this game. Because otherwise, with the competition that is there in the Indian Test side, I think he could find it a little uphill after this. For that reason, I think this Test match is very, very important. I really hope he plays this Test match. I think they should give him another go,” Ashwin said on his YouTube channel “Ash ki Baat”. Ashwin admitted that Karnataka left-hander Devdutt Padikkal was breathing down Sudharsan’s neck as far as competition for the top order spot was concerned. He, however, did admit more players competing for a spot was good for the game. “I remember, we played a practice match in Perth before the Australia test match. Devdutt and Abhimanyu Eswaran in Perth. India bowled us out in the first innings. The next day, they played for two hours without wickets. And on really tough conditions against Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah. They didn’t give wickets. And they played fabulously well. Devdutt Padikkal was unbelievably good. So, Devdutt Padikkal is breathing under Sai Sudarshan’s throat a little bit. I think it’s good for the game. It’s good for in-game cricket. But it’s a very important test match for Sai Sudarshan,” Ashwin said.

## England are now Ashes favourites against Australia: Michael Vaughan

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Former England captain Michael Vaughan feels it is 2010-11 all over again, the last time England tasted success Down Under. In his column for The Daily Telegraph, he elaborates on the reasons Australia are vulnerable at home more than ever before this century. “When you look back to 2010-11, the only England win in Australia in my time, a couple of breaks went our way. Australia were unsure about their best XI, they had not transitioned properly away from the great side of the early 2000s and they lost a top bowler, Ryan Harris, with injury.” Read Pat Cummins in place of Harris. The Australia skipper would miss the opening Test in Perth due to a stress injury to his back. “With the news of Pat Cummins’s injury sinking in, one or two will think England are now favourites this winter. I would not argue against that right at this moment but I would also say be very wary,” he added.

He wonders whether he would be fit in time for the second Test in Brisbane as well. “If you have a stress fracture and are not able to bowl on November 21 in Perth, how are you going to be fit for the second Test starting on December 5? A stress fracture requires careful management. As much as the Ashes matter, and the temptation to rush him back will be huge, Cummins has to realise there are other series down the line. If he misses this one, he still has a few years left in the game. The last thing he should do is go all out to play one or two Tests in this series and cause some long-term damage and miss a whole year,” he reflected.

His absence would weaken the batting department as well, he pointed out. “But it is the balance he brings to the team that is hard to replace. Scott Boland is a very good stand-in as a bowler but if Cummins is unavailable then all of a sudden Australia are saddled with a very long tail: Mitchell Starc, Boland, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon. Alex Carey is a good player at No 7 but when he looks behind him and sees Starc at No 8, wow, that batting order is light,” he wrote.

## Andrew Flintoff parts ways as Northern Superchargers coach after disagreement over pay with new owners, who also have Sunrisers Hyd



GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Former England all-rounder Andrew Flintoff has parted ways with The Hundred franchise Northern Superchargers after he couldn’t agree on terms with the new owners, the Sun Group, who also have IPL team Sunrisers Hyderabad in their portfolio. Flintoff, one of the most charismatic England cricketers of his generation and an Ashes hero, had been the Superchargers head coach for the last two seasons, which had seen a turnaround in their results. The team finished fourth in 2024 before reaching the Eliminator (third) this year. The franchise, based at Headingley in Leeds, was last the season before Flintoff took over and sixth and fifth in the two previous editions.

Flintoff said he wanted to continue in the role but added that he couldn’t do so if he was paid much less than the other head coaches in the competition. “Unfortunately, I’m not going to do it, which is sad. The past two years I felt we were building something really nice and I’d have loved to see it through. We’ve got new owners. I spoke to them. They phoned up, they said they wanted us to do it, so I said: ‘Yeah, fine. Make us an offer,’ the 47-year-old said on the Beard Before Wicket podcast, co-hosted by Superchargers and England spinner Adil Rashid.

But Flintoff felt the offer wasn’t to his expectations. “I genuinely don’t do it for the money, although it’s nice, but I’m worth more than just over a quarter of the [salary of] other head coaches,” he said. “I wasn’t encouraged they wanted me anyway, but then also you want to feel valued. So, I said that it’s not going to work for me, and they weren’t going to move on it.” The Sun Group, who own 100 percent stake in the franchise, after Yorkshire sold the 51 percent control they held to them, in addition to the 49 percent ac-

quired via the auction, took operational control on October 1. They also own the Sunrisers Eastern Cape team in the SA20. The owners claimed they had offered Flintoff a raise in salary.

“We had discussions with Freddie and extended an offer, which was an increase over his current salary at Northern Superchargers. While we would have loved to have him on board, we respect his decision,” a spokesperson said. Daniel Vettori is the Sunrisers Hyderabad head coach at the moment, but he is currently in charge of another The Hundred team, Birmingham Phoenix.

The Superchargers job was Flintoff’s first coaching stint before he was also appointed in-charge of the England Lions side and he will be with the shadow squad during the upcoming Ashes series in Australia. Other The Hundred franchises like the Manchester Originals, soon to be rebranded as Manchester Supergiants, and Trent Rockets, could be one the lookout for a head coach soon. Flintoff has said that he has had “a couple of offers” but hasn’t decided anything yet.

## Tilak Varma named Hyderabad Ranji Trophy captain for first three matches

GNS News Agency, Oct 9

Hyderabad: Tilak Varma has been named captain of the Hyderabad Ranji Trophy for the first three matches this season to be played here from October 15.

The team: Tilak Varma (captured), Rahul Singh (vice-captain), C.V. Milind, Tanmay Agarwal, M. Abhirath Reddy, Himateja, Varun Goud, Tanay Thyagarajan, Rohit Rayudu, Saranu Nishant, Punnaiah, Aniket Reddy, Kartikeya Kak, Ali Kachi Diamond (wk) and Rahul Radesh (wk).

Stand-byes: P. Nitish Reddy, Sai Pragnay Reddy, Rakshann Readdi, Nitesh Kanala and Mickhil Jaiswal.



## Diljit Dosanjh says he was termed ‘anti-national’ after Sardaarji 3: ‘My film was shot before Pahalgam attacks, India-Pak matches being played now’



Actor and singer Diljit Dosanjh recently spoke about the controversy surrounding his film *Sardaarji 3*, which starred Pakistani actor Hania Amir and came out after the Pahalgam attacks. Diljit, who was performing in Malaysia, commented about the controversy that entailed — he was personally targeted and the film released globally but not in India — and wondered how India is playing Pakistan in the Asia Cup after the dastardly attacks. At the concert, Diljit was seen saluting the Indian flag. He later addressed the

crowd and said, “Woh mere desh da jhanda hai (That’s my country’s flag). Always respect. If you allow me, I have something to say. When my film *Sardaarji 3* was shot in February, the matches were being played. After that, the tragic Pahalgam terror attack happened. At that time, and even now, we have always prayed that the terrorists should receive strict punishment. The difference is that my film was shot before the attack, and the match was played after the attack.”

He said that he was called ‘anti-national’ after the attacks. “The national media tried their best to portray me as anti-national, but Punjabis and the Sikh community could never go against the nation,” Diljit Dosanjh added. He even shared that while he kept quiet all this time, there are many answers he wants to give. The singer added, “I have many answers, but I kept quiet, kept everything inside me. I didn’t speak. I have many answers. Whoever tells you anything, you shouldn’t take that poison inside you. I have learned that from life. So I didn’t say anything. There is a lot to say, but I don’t want to do that.” The Pahalgam attack took place on April 22 in which 26 tourists were killed. Amid the tension between the two countries, social media accounts, YouTube channels, and all film releases with actors from across the border were banned in India. Diljit’s film, starring Hania, was released globally on June 27 but didn’t come out in its primary market, India. India and Pakistan are playing each other in the Asia Cup. While the two teams played each other, they didn’t shake hands or greet each other.

## The unconventional villains in the cinema of AR Murugadoss

A few minutes into Sivakarhikeyan’s *Madharaasi*, you see a police battalion taking on a mysterious figure, who is single-handedly fighting a group of special unit cops trying to take down a gun supply operation. The staging is careful not to show the face of the acrobatic figure taking on the cops with a sort of stealthy charm. The crowd at my screening started going berserk. You know this is not our hero, and you recognize the darkly lit figure as he picks up a dead cop’s helmet from the ground. AR Murugadoss slowly cuts to a poker-faced Vidyut Jammwal staring right back at the camera with nonchalance, with Anirudh Ravichander’s beats revving loudly in the background. The inspector in-charge of the operation points at the screen and declares with a breathless indignation, ‘Virat, Virat has come.’ This is the villain’s introduction scene. You get the drill. Let us look at how AR Murugadoss navigates the conception and handling of the bad guys in his busy mainstream action films.

In the constantly changing grammar of commercial cinema, with the reframing of good vs evil narratives and how immorality is represented on screen, AR Murugadoss makes the entry of his villain a grand set piece with its own grammar and particular detailing that is emblematic of his cinema. Murugadoss’ villains are a genre unto themselves. The director, known for his testosterone-fueled action entertainers, specializes in something that most filmmakers in the mainstream struggle to do in star-centric films. He comes up with exciting bad guys for his leading man, as he is aware of the axiom of storytelling that ‘for the hero to shine bright, you need an equally well designed villain’, forcing his actions.

The antagonist archetype in Murugadoss films counterbalances the virtues of the hero and upends the villains as ‘punching bags’ cliché, prompted by less imaginative dramaturgy that fails to create a convincing challenge for the hero on screen. Murugadoss comes up with inventive ways for the hero and villain. For instance, in *Madharaasi*, he expertly sets up the larger-than-life status of Virat, played by Vidyut Jammwal. Casting Vidyut Jammwal as the cold-blooded, menacing Virat in *Madharaasi* is a meta wink and a call-back to an earlier antagonist played by the same actor in Vijay’s blockbuster *Thuppakki* (2012). There he played an undercover lead of a terrorist sleeper cell unit whose sharp wit and observational skill give the hero a hard time. You need a guy like Vidyut Jammwal to pull off the action sequences in *Madharaasi*, but the audience’s familiarity to the no-nonsense loner from *Thuppakki*, bleeds into setting up the perfect foil for Sivakarhikeyan in *Madharaasi*. The films of AR Murugadoss use imaginative settings and character types to populate his antagonist figures. Social forces and political evils play spoilsport in the hero’s journey in Murugadoss’ film, so he devises well-written personifications of these evils in ‘bad guy’ types and creates situations that are smartly conceived to sidestep the conventional beats. In most commercial films today, villains have been reduced to bland, screaming psychopaths with no distinct identity, who are mere superficial placeholders for the hero to overcome. For instance, the kind of villains in a Lokesh Kanagaraj film, a Nelson film, or a Shankar film are far too identifiable and less defined than the bad guy in the films of Murugadoss.

Remember the image of the twin evil brothers in *Ghajini*, or the menacing martial artist-cum-biological terrorist Dong Lee from *Ezham Arivu*, the uber cool industrialist Chirag played by Neil Nitin Mukesh in *Katthi* (The flute based score by Anirudh is enough to remember the style with which he dominated Vijay in many scenes in that film), or S J Suryah as the sadistic psychopath in *Maahesh Babu* starrer *Spyder*? All these are generic action films that rises above conventionality with their treatment of the antagonist figures, who are given chances to one up the hero at regular intervals. AR Murugadoss is old school in the way he writes his antagonists. He is not afraid to let them overshadow the hero or take the spotlight. In an increasingly creatively bankrupt industry, that regurgitates age-old kitsch and moustache twirling for ‘villainy’, it is a welcome change to see a director write his villain with the same care as that of the leading man. Murugadoss villains don’t give up so easily and are never made to look silly or clueless on screen. These are dangerous people, who externalized the threat to the hero in human form. In *Thuppakki*, Vidyut Jammwal’s terrorist villain does not even have a name that registers during the runtime. It’s pretty common knowledge that this bare sketch of a character has been widely celebrated as one of the finest bad guys in contemporary Tamil cinema. The character barely



speaks unless important and makes his moves with deep introspection. You feel the wheels moving inside his head though Vidyut’s blank cadence does not give away the emotional state of the villain. You know exactly what he is feeling at all times and he holds his own against the cunning army officer, who is always two steps ahead of him.

When you look at recent Tamil cinema, there has been a dearth of solidly conceived villains, who are anything more than howling hooligans engaged in brawls and bloodshed. But, in *Thuppakki* and *Katthi*, the villain is almost a cipher for the hero to overcome. The hero and villain rarely meet face to face and their interactions are mostly limited to phone calls. Murugadoss plots a reversal of Liam Neeson’s famous ‘I don’t know who you are’ monologue from *Taken* into a different context in *Thuppakki*, where the villain who has recently discovered the hero on his trail, delivers a iterated version of the same ‘I will find you and kill you’ monologue. The roles are virtually reversed as Murugadoss understands how the drama is transferred to his mystery villain, who sees himself as the hero of the story at the point when he is introduced in the film. To which a untethered Vijay responds, ‘I am waiting,’ which is of course a part of pop culture lexicon now. Murugadoss comes up with stylish gestures for his villains like the way he sets up the second introduction for Virat in *Madharaasi*, where he is shown taking down an entire floor full of security officers with the most minimal effort possible after taking push up’s off his hospital bedside rooftop. You see Vidyut Jammwal getting as much appreciation from the crowd as the hero in that moment and sometimes even more. This is because Murugadoss is aware of how critical it is for a more than competent villain in building the myth of the hero even bigger. Even though Murugadoss also comes up with the most audacious villains on screen, he gives them solid backstories except for maybe S J Suryah’s habitual psychological madman who just wants to see the world burn. AR Murugadoss villains are born out of a particular problem or societal condition without repentance. Murugadoss villains have changed and shape shifted across his filmography and one can only hope to see the filmmaker use genius ways to present obstacles for the hero like return to form film *Madharaasi* showed us all. Less Sikander and more *Madharaasi* please.

## Rihanna, A\$AP Rocky welcome 3rd child, a baby girl named Rocki Irish Mayers

Los Angeles: Singer-songwriter Rihanna has embraced motherhood again. The singer is now a mother to her 3rd child. The ‘Love On The Brain’ singer, 37, welcomed her third baby, Rocki Irish Mayers, with rapper A\$AP Rocky, reports ‘People’ magazine. She shared the news on Instagram, posting the first few photos of her little one. The baby was born on September 13, 2025. But the news of the baby’s birth was shared by Rihanna on her Instagram on Thursday. As per ‘People’, in the photo, Rihanna could be seen holding baby Rocki, who was wearing a pink onesie. She also included a photo of her baby’s little pink gloves, which had ribbons lacing them up the top. On May 5, the couple, who have been together since 2020, revealed that they were expecting baby No. 3. Rihanna debuted her baby bump while walking around New York City, and the Long. Live.

## Salman Khan reveals who will care for his kids when he becomes a parent



Mumbai: Bollywood superstar Salman Khan may very well be the eternal bachelor of the Hindi film industry but he has fondness towards kids, and would want to be a parent to a child one day. The actor appeared on the first episode of the streaming chat show ‘Two Much With Kajol and Twinkle’, along with fellow superstar Aamir Khan, and spoke about his perspective towards life and parenthood. When the show host Twinkle Khanna asked Salman about the rumour of him wanting to adopt a child,

the superstar replied in negative. However, he did express his wish to become a parent. He said, “Children, I will have one day soon. It’s just that eventually one will have kids, but let’s see”. He then went on to explain how he has a whole “village” to take care of his child as and when the child is born. He said, “There’s a whole village, a district, my family. The women in my family are there to take care of the children. Alizeh as grown up, Ayaan has grown up. Now we have Aayat. By the time I have kids, Aayat will be able to take care of them”. Alizeh and Ayaan Agnihotri are the children of actor-producer Atul Agnihotri and Alvira Khan Agnihotri (Salman’s sister). Elsewhere in the show, Salman also spoke about his previous relationships. He opined that when one partner grows more than the other, that is when the insecurity sets in. “So they both need to grow together. Both need to get off each other’s backs. I believe that”. He also shed light on his struggles with trigeminal neuralgia, a chronic pain disorder affecting the trigeminal nerve, which carries sensation from the face to the brain. The superstar said that he faces severe facial pain that feels like an electric shock. However, the situation is much better now, he battled it for over seven years. “I wouldn’t wish it on my worst enemy”, the superstar said.

## Kimmel is back on ABC to big ratings, but some affiliates still refuse to air his show

New York: Jimmy Kimmel is back on his ABC late-night show, but it’s still a mystery when — or if — viewers in cities such as Washington, Seattle and St. Louis will be able to see him again on their televisions. ABC stations owned by the Nexstar and Sinclair corporations took Kimmel off the air last week on the same day the network suspended him for comments that angered supporters of slain conservative activist Charlie Kirk. Those stations kept him off the air Tuesday, when ABC lifted the suspension.

The unusual dispute attracted the attention of US senators, who said they wanted to investigate the relationship between the affiliates and President Donald Trump’s administration. Kimmel returned with no apologies, but in an emotional monologue where he appeared close to tears, the host said that he was not trying to joke about the assassination. He also paid tribute to Kirk’s widow. And it got a large audience, with ABC reporting nearly 6.3 million people tuned in to the broadcast alone, despite the blackouts in many cities. As is often the case with late-night hosts’ monologues, there was a larger audience online, with more than 15 million people watching Kimmel’s opening remarks on YouTube by Wednesday evening. ABC says more than 26 million people watched Kimmel’s return on social media, including YouTube.

Typically, he gets about 1.8 million viewers each night on television. The numbers released by ABC do not include viewership from streaming services. A spokesman for Nexstar said Wednesday that Kimmel will continue to be preempted from its stations while the company evaluates his show. Together, the Nexstar and Sinclair groups account for about a quarter of ABC’s affiliates, many in smaller cities such as Nashville, Tennessee; Lubbock, Texas; or Topeka, Kansas. “We are engaged in productive discussions with executives at the (ABC parent) Walt Disney Co., with a focus on ensuring the program reflects and respects the diverse interests of the communities we serve,” Nexstar said.

The dispute focused attention on the business relationships between television networks and the local stations that carry their programming. In the past, local stations occasionally balked at airing a network show, but it was usually an individual market or two worried about pushing boundaries in language or sexual content, said Ted Harbert, a former top executive at ABC and CBS. What’s different this time is groups that have gobbled up multiple stations acting collectively on content for largely political reasons. “This is how much the country’s political divisions have seeped their way into something that has been, for the last 50 or 75 years, a relatively orderly business,” Harbert said.

Leadership of ownership groups is generally more conservative than the media and entertainment figures on the stations they broadcast, said Ken Basin, author of “The Business of Television.” Both Sinclair, with conservative political content, and Nexstar have reason to curry favour with the Trump administration, he said. Nexstar is seeking regulatory approval for the purchase of a rival, he said. “I worry that this is not going to be the only dispute of this nature in the years ahead,” Basin said. It’s possible that Disney could play hardball if negotiations on Kimmel’s return drag on, such as threatening to withhold other ABC programming — even the “nuclear option” of football games. Its unclear how the affiliate agreements are worded. But Matt Dolgin, senior equity analyst at Morningstar Research Service, said he doubts the dispute reaches that point. The station groups have a far less diversified business portfolio



than Disney, and the expiration of affiliate agreements next year looms as a deadline, he said. They have few good options if they lose ABC programming. “From a business perspective, the best course on this issue (for Disney) is to stay above the fray,” Dolgin said. “The dollars associated with this show are very low.” As they climb, the stunning number of YouTube views of Kimmel’s monologue serve to make television broadcasting less important, hurting the negotiating position of the stations. For the station groups, the biggest goal should be to negotiate their way out of this — while finding a way to save face, he said. Sinclair initially took a strong stance, saying Kimmel would not return to its stations without apologising to Kirk’s widow and donating money to Kirk’s political organization. That’s not likely to happen. Last week, Kimmel seemed to be in real danger of losing his show entirely until advocates for free speech protested, including many who cancelled subscriptions for Disney services. The backlash was stronger than they expected, stronger than I expected,” Basin said. “There was a sense of despair within the industry that this was a canary in a coal mine’ moment.” Four Democratic senators said late Tuesday that they wanted to look into what happened with the station groups.

“If Nexstar or Sinclair traded the censorship of a critic of the administration for official acts by the Trump administration, your companies are not only complicit in an alarming trampling of free speech but also risk running afoul of anti-corruption law,” Sens. Elizabeth Warren, Ed Markey, Ron Wyden and Chris Van Hollen wrote to the companies. On Wednesday, another group of senators led by California Democrat Adam Schiff said they wanted to question FCC Chairman Brendan Carr about “implicit threats” made to Disney over Kimmel. In his monologue Tuesday, Kimmel tried to thread the needle between both sides in a raw political moment, and seemed to realise its difficulty. “I don’t think what I’m going to say is going to make much of a difference,” he said. “If you like me, you like me. If you don’t, you don’t. I have no illusions about changing anyone’s mind.” Within hours, many proved his point. Andrew Kolvet, a spokesperson for Turning Point USA, the organisation that Kirk founded that is now headed by his widow, posted on X that Kimmel’s monologue was “not good enough”.

## Mohanlal says after he was honoured with the rank of Colonel in territorial army, there was a 40% increase in enlistment from Kerala

Malayalam superstar Mohanlal was honoured with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the National Film Awards ceremony in Delhi on Tuesday. Soon after receiving the award, Mohanlal reflected on his journey in cinema, the evolution of the Malayalam film industry, and the impact of his off-screen achievements on society. In a conversation with DD News, Mohanlal recalled how Malayalam cinema once struggled with limited budgets. “When we started filmmaking, there were no gadgets on set. The technology existed, but Malayalam films could not afford it. We didn’t even have a monitor to review our shots. We had to wait for months until the processed reels came back, and only during dubbing sessions could we actually see our work. Things changed much later. Now, after each shot, one can instantly review it and make corrections,” he said. The actor further reflected on how the industry has transformed, especially after the OTT boom. “Today, Malayalam cinema holds a very important place in the film industry. We are now ready to produce big films for global audiences and generate larger revenues. *Drishyam 1* was a huge success, and when we made *Drishyam 2*, it was released in multiple languages

and even sold to markets like China and Korea. Many Malayalam films are now being remade in Hindi and Telugu. It is a proud moment and also a great opportunity to keep creating strong content,” he shared. Mohanlal also spoke about his association with filmmaker Priyadarshan, with whom he has collaborated on nearly 50 films. “Over 90% of our films together have been superhits. Eventually, he remade my films in Hindi. Priyadarshan’s first film was with me, and now his 100th will also be with me. That is something truly historic,” he said with pride. Beyond cinema, the actor reflected on his stint as an honorary Colonel in the Territorial Army. Mohanlal revealed that after he was conferred with the rank, there was a 40% increase in enlistment from Kerala. “It has been 17 years. Every year when I visit my battalion, many soldiers tell me they joined because of me or because of the films we did on the Army. It is very touching,” he said. On a lighter note, the veteran actor shared his personal favourites. While he remains deeply attached to Kerala cuisine, he admitted that Japanese food fascinates him, and he even enjoys cooking it. When asked about his favourite Bollywood actor, Mohanlal said, “