

## Cyberabad police rescue two women from flesh trade

Hyderabad: The Cyberabad Women and Children Safety Wing staff rescued two victims from flesh trade and arrested four persons during a weeklong special drive between October 5 and 11.During the same period, raids in the night time led to the arrest of seven transgender persons who were involved in indecent acts in public Hyderabad: BM Birla Science Centre unveils magnificent 7-foot Stegodon tusks, other ancient wondersAt the same time, the She Teams conducted 136 decoy operations, nabbing 52 individuals for harassing women and also 18 complaints from women were addressed.

## CM Revanth Reddy emphasises on development of V-Hub and AI Hub in Hyd

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has emphasised the need for the V-Hub to become an iconic building as he reviewed the progress of the AI Hub and T-Square on Saturday afternoon. The meeting took place at the Integrated Command Control Center (ICCC) and was attended by Minister Sridhar Babu, Special Chief Secretaries Jayesh Ranjan and Sanjay Kumar, along with other senior officials.

During the meeting, Reddy instructed concerned officials to commence construction of the V-Hub by the end of November. He highlighted the importance of securing funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the project. The Chief Minister stressed that all necessary precautions must be taken during the construction process to address any potential challenges, particularly regarding parking facilities.He also urged officials to facilitate the establishment of international brands, such as Apple, within the V-Hub. Additionally, it was proposed that the facility should operate around the clock and incorporate a utility zone.In relation to the AI Hub, Reddy



ordered inspections of engineering staff college buildings for temporary accommodation and advocated for the creation of a corpus fund dedicated to the AI Hub.

He recommended forming a board comprised of representatives from world-renowned AI institutions to aid in its establishment and development.

## Prez Murmu to offer prayers at Dwarkadhish Temple, attend Gujarat Vidyapith Convocation today

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

President Droupadi Murmu, who is on a three-day visit to Gujarat, will offer prayers at the famous Dwarkadhish Temple in Dwarka on Saturday.This spiritual visit forms a key part of her itinerary before she proceeds to Ahmedabad, where she will attend the 71st convocation ceremony of Gujarat Vidyapith as the chief guest.The President's visit underscores a blend of spiritual, cultural, and academic engagements in the state. Her presence at Gujarat Vidyapith, a university founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920, holds special significance as it continues to promote Gandhian values and education.On Friday, as part of her Gujarat tour, President Murmu visited the iconic Somnath Temple, where she performed 'darshan' and 'puja'. She also paid floral tributes to the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel located near the temple, honouring the legacy of India's first Deputy Prime Minister and a key architect of national integration.Later in the day, the President travelled to Gir National Park, where she interacted with members of the local tribal community at Sasan Gir.Commending their nature-friendly lifestyle, she described it as a model for sustainable living and a source of inspiration for all. In her address, the President encouraged tribal families to prioritise education, noting with appreciation that the Siddi



tribal community has achieved a literacy rate exceeding 72 per cent.President Murmu highlighted the Central government's various initiatives aimed at the welfare of tribal communities. She urged residents to not only take advantage of these schemes but also raise awareness within their communities.She emphasised the importance of tribal inclusion in India's development, stating that with "active participation from our tribal brothers and sisters, we are working towards a just and respectful society where their traditions are preserved and rights protected. This is crucial to making India a developed nation by the year 2047."

## Hyderabad's Formula E race placed Telangana on global map, says KTR



GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) working president and former Minister KT Rama Rao said the successful hosting of India's first Formula E race in Hyderabad marked Telangana's emergence on the global stage as a hub for innovation, clean mobility and advanced technology.Speaking as the chief guest at the 10th FMAE National Student Motorsports Competition 2025 in Coimbatore on Friday, Rama Rao said the Formula E event was not merely a spectacle but a statement of intent."When the world's fastest electric cars raced on Hyderabad's streets, it proved that Telangana is ready for the future. The event generated nearly Rs 700 crore in economic activity and drew international attention to the city's technological capabilities," he said.Rama Rao said the race was only the beginning of a larger journey. "The foundation has been laid, and Hyderabad will soon emerge as the hub of India's Mobility Valley," he said, underscoring the State's long-term vision for sustainable, technology-driven industrial growth.

Highlighting Telangana's innovation ecosystem, Rama Rao recalled how the State built globally recognised institutions like T-Hub, the world's largest startup incubator, and T-Works, India's largest prototyping centre."In the time it takes to sip your chai, an idea can walk from T-Hub to T-Works," he quipped, emphasising the seamless link between idea incubation and execution.Addressing hundreds of young engineers, innovators and motorsport enthusiasts from across India, Rama Rao urged students to create opportunities instead of waiting for them. "Why stand in line when you can start one of your own?" he asked. "Do not just be job seekers, be job creators. Once you start dreaming big, you will be surprised by your own potential."Drawing a parallel with Telangana's journey, Rama Rao reminded that many had once doubted the possibility of statehood.

"Yet here we are, 11 years later, standing tall as a role model for the nation across multiple sectors. That is the power of belief, resilience and vision," he said.Rama Rao urged the youth to seek impact over income and authenticity over authority while maintaining their hunger for speed and scale. "You are sharper, more responsible and more conscious than people give you credit for. It is you who will drive India forward," he told the students.Concluding his address, Rama Rao quoted from the recent Formula 1 film: "Hope is not a strategy. Create your own breaks.""Whether in motorsport, governance or life, success does not come by chance. We must design our opportunities, execute with courage, and create our own breaks. That is how the future is built," he said.

## Telangana Cabinet to meet on Oct 16; Irrigation and BC reservations on agenda



GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Hyderabad: The State Cabinet, slated to meet on October 16, will be chaired by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

The session is expected to address pressing issues, including ongoing irrigation projects and reservations for Backward Classes (BCs). Sources said that the cabinet will have extensive deliberations on key irrigation initiatives in the State along with policies on BC reservations.

## BM Birla Science Centre unveils magnificent 7-foot Stegodon tusks, other ancient wonders

Hyderabad: Step into the BM Birla Science Centre and get transported to millions of years back when giants roamed the land. And the best relic here at the newly opened pavilion is the spectacular seven-foot-long tusks of an extinct Stegodon Elephant.These are the tusks that most have seen as illustrations accompanying information on species that walked the earth very long ago and went extinct. Here at the science centre, one can now view the meticulously calibrated and assembled Stegodon tusks, which belonged to a genus believed to have existed from 11 million years ago to as recently as 6,000 years ago.

## PM Modi to unveil projects worth Rs 42,000 crore in agriculture, allied sectors today

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch and lay the foundation of projects and schemes worth over Rs 42,000 crore in the agriculture and allied sectors here on Saturday.PM Modi will launch two major schemes in the agriculture sector, with an outlay of Rs 35,440 crore. This includes the PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana, which has an outlay of Rs. 24,000 crore, according to a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). "It has the objective of enhancing agricultural productivity, increasing adoption of crop diversification and sustainable agriculture practices, augmenting post-harvest storage at the panchayat and block level, improving irrigation facilities and facilitating availability of long-term and short-term credit in the selected 100 districts," the statement highlighted.The Prime Minister will also launch the 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses' with an outlay of Rs. 11,440 crore.It is aimed at improving productivity levels of pulses, expanding the area under pulse cultivation, strengthening the value chain – procurement, storage, processing – and ensuring reduction of losses.PM Modi will also inaugurate and dedicate to the nation projects valued at over Rs 5,450 crore in the agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and food processing sectors, while laying the foundation stone for additional projects worth around Rs 815 crore.PM Modi is set to participate in a special Krishi programme at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi, and interact with farmers and thereafter, participate in a public programme, where he will address the gathering on the occasion."The programme underscores the Prime Minister's continued commitment to farmer welfare, agricultural self-reliance, and strengthening rural infrastructure. It will focus on promoting modern agricultural practices, supporting farmers, and celebrating significant milestones in farmer-centric initiatives," according to the PMO.The projects being inaugurated by the Prime Minister include Artificial Insemination Training Center at Bengaluru and in J&K; Centre of Excellence at Amreli and Banas; Establishment of IVF Lab at Assam under Rashtriya Gokul Mission; Milk Powder Plants at Mehana, Indore, and Bhilwara; Fish Feed Plant under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at Tezpur, Assam; Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Integrated Cold Chain, and Value Addition Infrastructure, among others.The projects whose foundation stone will be laid by the Prime Minister include Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure (Irradiation) in Krishna, Andhra Pradesh; Trout Fisheries in Uttarakhand; Integrated Aqua Park in Nagaland; Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbour in Karaikal, Puducherry; and state-of-the-art Integrated Aquapark in Hirakud, Odisha, among others.During the programme, the Prime Minister will interact with farmers engaged in pulses cultivation, who have benefited from various government schemes aimed at establishing a value chain-based approach in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and Fisheries.



## Telangana govt likely to move Supreme Court on BC reservations

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

The Telangana state government has announced its intention to challenge the recent decision by the High Court which stayed Government Order (GO) 9 concerning Backward Class (BC) reservations. The government plans to approach the Supreme Court on Monday to seek redress.Following a thorough review of the High Court's ruling, officials have opted to engage senior counsel to present their arguments. Notably, legal experts in the field of reservations, such as Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Siddhartha Dave, are expected to represent the government in this matter.

The High Court's decision has placed a stay on GO 9, as well as on GO 41 and GO 42, citing non-compliance with the so-called "triple test" required for reservations. The court noted precedents from previous Supreme Court rulings which established that exceeding a 50 per cent cap on reservations is unconstitutional. In light of this, the petitioners have been given two weeks to file a counter, while the government has four weeks to respond. The next hearing is scheduled for December 3.The High Court's order has been formally published, detailing its objections to the implementation of the challenged reservations.



## Rift between Bandi Sanjay and Eatala Rajender resurfaces ahead of local body polls



GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Karimnagar: The long-standing rift between Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Malkajiri MP Eatala Rajender has once again surfaced ahead of the upcoming local body elections.Rajender's recent remarks on issuing B-forms to party candidates have sparked a fresh dispute between the two factions in the Huzurabad Assembly constituency.Addressing a press conference in Huzurabad on Friday, Rajender asserted that he had been representing the constituency for 25 years and, as a local leader, would issue party B-forms to candidates contesting the local body elections.In a swift response, BJP district president Gangadi Krishna Reddy, without naming the MP, said that the decision on candidates would be taken by the party high command. He clarified that B-forms would be issued to district leaders as per the instructions of the State leadership, adding that the BJP had no tradition of distributing B-forms based on individual recommendations.

He further stated that the party would recognise the services of long-time leaders and activists, indirectly hinting that Rajender's followers, who joined the BJP in 2021, would not be given tickets for the local polls.Meanwhile, Rajender's alleged anti-party remarks have been circulating within BJP circles. According to party sources, during

his recent visit to his native Kamalapur on the occasion of Dasara, the MP reportedly told his followers that he would help them secure tickets from the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) if they failed to get BJP tickets.Following this, district leaders are said to have lodged a complaint with State BJP president N Ramchander Rao, accusing Rajender of acting against the party line. Though neither the MP's comments nor the complaint copy has surfaced publicly, followers of the Union Minister allegedly leaked the information to the media.It may be recalled that Sanjay Kumar's comments in July on groupism within the Huzurabad BJP unit had sparked a major controversy. During a local event, he had stated that tickets would only be given to those working for the party and not for individuals, questioning why factionalism had developed in Huzurabad when it was absent elsewhere in the State.Rajender had reacted sharply to those remarks, criticising Sanjay Kumar. Party insiders said the rivalry between the two widened further after Rajender was denied the State BJP president post — a decision his group believes was strongly opposed by Sanjay Kumar.

## TGSRTC to build 12 new bus terminals across Hyd

Hyderabad: To cater to the growing passenger footfall, the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is planning to develop its infrastructure in the capital region. As part of it, the authorities have proposed to construct about 12 new bus terminals across Hyderabad to improve urban connectivity.

It is learnt that proposals in this regard have been sent to the state government and construction will begin once approval and budget allocations are received.

The proposed new bus terminals are planned at locations including at Kukatapally, Balanagar, Kalimandir, Hitec City, Lingampalli, Jeedimetla, KPHB Colony, IS Sadan, Gandimaisamma, Uppal and Ghatkesar.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Attack on the idea of India

The shocking incident of shoe hurling at Chief Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai in the Supreme Court premises reflects the normalisation of hate in a deeply fractured society. It shows that even the highest constitutional spaces are not free from social prejudices. The attack has left the legal fraternity and the public deeply disturbed. The act, committed by 71-year-old advocate Rakesh Kishore in the name of honouring 'Santan Dharma', occurred while the Chief Justice was presiding over a hearing. Justice Gavai, who belongs to the Dalit community, upholds, at least symbolically, the promises of the Constitution, wherein equality and dignity transcend multiple socio-cultural barriers. The attack on him is a shameful reflection of the growing intolerance corroding our national fabric. When even the educated sections of society resort to such uncivil behaviour, it signals a dangerous moral decay. This mindset stems from blind religious fanaticism, political manipulation, and a deliberate assault on reason and constitutional values. India's strength lies in its tolerance, diversity, and respect for differing opinions — not in moblike reactions. Such disgraceful conduct against the head of the judiciary undermines the dignity of the law. The nation must wake up to this rising tide of bigotry before it drowns our collective sanity. The CJI was apparently targeted for remarks he made while refusing to entertain a public interest litigation seeking judicial intervention for the reconstruction of an idol of Lord Vishnu in the Khajuraho temple. His comments were interpreted as being hurtful to Hindu sentiments. Over the past decade, an ideological ecosystem promoting radical right-wing thinking has been created. This has emboldened certain groups that have repeatedly taken the law into their own hands, from cow vigilantism to street-level intimidation.

## Box Cricket Stadium Inaugurated by Uppal Corporator RAJITHA PARAMESWAR REDDY



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 11 (Indian Chronicle):““A new Box Cricket Stadium has been inaugurated at the Uppal HMDA Baghayat by Uppal Corporator Mandamula Rajitha Parameswar Reddy. The RA Square Sports Hub organizers — Mamindla Ravi Teja Mudiraj, Eega Abhinay Mudiraj, and Chindra Boyina Ashish — set up the cricket ground at the Uppal HMDA Baghayat. “Corporator Rajitha Parameswar Reddy attended the inaugural ceremony on Saturday as the chief guest and officially opened the stadium. “Several local leaders and sports enthusiasts participated in the event, including Mamilla Srisailem Mudiraj, Artikayala Venkatesh Mudiraj, Eega Santosh Mudiraj, Bommla Sudhakar, Nayapu Venkatesh, Lingampally Ramakrishna, Eega Anjanaya, Tummala Deva Reddy, Salla Prabhakar, Alugula Anil Kumar, Bodige Mallesh, Badugula Upender, Mohan Nayak, Chintakindi Srinivas, Prashanth Reddy, and Chinna.

## Peddapalli's Aspiration Takes Flight – Ramagundam Airport Project Gains Momentum with Pre-Feasibility Sanction.

“P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Peddapalli, October 11:““In a significant development for the people of Peddapalli, Member of Parliament Shri Gaddam Vamsi Krishna announced that the Government of Telangana has officially sanctioned ₹40.53 lakhs for the Pre-Feasibility Study of the proposed Greenfield Airport at Ramagundam. The sanctioned amount has been formally remitted to the Airports Authority of India (AAI), marking a crucial step forward in realizing the long-standing dream of enhanced regional air connectivity. “The Telangana State Department of Transport, Roads & Buildings (TR&B) issued the order approving the allocation. The Pre-Feasibility Study will assess the viability of constructing the airport on approximately 591 acres of identified land in Anthargam Mandal, Peddapalli District. “Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vamsi Krishna expressed his heartfelt optimism:““> “The vision of establishing an airport at Ramagundam, which the people of

## Should have a generous nature on mental illnesses.“ Judge Devarapalli Keerthi Chandrika Reddy.



Yellandu Indian, cronical October 9: On Friday, the Judicial Service Corporation organized a legal conference under the auspices of the Zonal Judicial Service Organization at the local Mission School on Friday at the Tribal Girls' Hostel Day. Judge Devarapalli Keerthi Chandrika Reddy as the chief guest at the event and said that the program should be a liberal nature of psychological patients, to have a sense of service, in the community or in the family or in the family or in the student or the student, or if you have



such people, or if you can help them, or if you can do such people. He said that they would be taken to the center and look after them. In particular, the student and students should be able to adopt physical exercises and sporting programs without stress, and to be mentally firm, the students should be given a games kit and succeed in competitive exams. The event was attended by Judge Gary, President of the Bar Association K Umamaheswara Rao, General Secretary Keerthi Karthik, Hostel Warden Jyoti and staff.

## Transforming Digital Learning: Peddapalli Collector Leads Initiative to Restore ICT Equipment in Government Schools.



“P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Peddapalli, October 11:““In a landmark initiative spearheaded by the Hon'ble District Collector of Peddapalli, the District Education Department has launched a comprehensive drive to repair and restore digital learning devices — including computers, tablets, and laptops — across government schools. “Under the strategic guidance of Planning Coordinator Mr. Mallesh Goud and IT expert Mr. Uttam, a meticulous survey was

conducted to identify non-functional or repairable digital equipment. As a result, detailed data was successfully compiled, accounting for 387 devices from 55 high schools and 114 devices from primary and upper primary schools (PS & UPS) throughout the district. This information was systematically consolidated and reported through all Mandal Resource Centres (MRCs). “To facilitate timely repairs and ensure optimal utilization of digital infrastructure, the District Administration has sanctioned dedicated funds — ₹15,000 per high school and ₹5,000 per PS & UPS school. These funds are expected to significantly enhance the digital readiness of classrooms and support enriched learning experiences for students. “This initiative marks a crucial step toward bridging the digital divide and empowering students with uninterrupted access to technology-enabled education. “Key personnel involved in this mission include CRPs Mr. Mallanna, Ms. Supraja, Ms. Radhika, and Ms. Swapna; MIS Coordinator Ms. Srujana; CCO Mr. Srinivas; and IERPs Mr. Srinivas and Ms. Soujanya. “> “The rejuvenation of digital resources is not just a technical intervention, but a transformational step toward inclusive and future-ready education,” stated the District Education Officer.

## Brutal Murder Cracked in Record Time: Ramagundam Police Apprehend All Five Accused Within 24 Hours.

“ “ P . S . A . S H O K A N “ I n d i a n Chronicle“Ramaguntam, October 11:““In a swift and commendable operation, the Ramagundam Police have cracked a gruesome murder case within 24 hours, arresting all five individuals involved in the killing of a 35-year-old man near the DRDA and TGSEF office in Centenary Colony, Ramagiri Mandal, under Peddapalli Zone. “The breakthrough was formally announced by ACP M. Ramesh (Godavarikhani Division), who praised the efficiency, coordination, and rapid response of the police teams involved. “Victim Profile“Name: Kota Chiranjeevi“Father's Name: Rajaiah“Age: 35 years“Caste: Scheduled Caste (Nethakani)“Residence: New Maredepally“Occupation: Mee Seva Center Operator, Pothana Colony“Accused Details“1. Polavena Sandhya Rani (34) – Spouse: Kumar | Caste: Tenugu | Village: Penchikalpet“2. Anavena Mallayya (62) – Father: Ramulu | Caste: Tenugu | Village: Penchikalpet“3. Anavena Naresh (37) – Son of Mallayya | Caste: Tenugu | Village: Penchikalpet“4. Polavena Kumar (36) – Father: Sayilu | Caste: Tenugu | Village: Penchikalpet“5. Pidugu Chandu (26) – Father: Lachayya | Caste: Tenugu | Village: Penchikalpet“Recovered Evidence“Three motorcycles“Lethal weapons (iron rods and sharp implements) used in the murder“Timeline of Events“On October 10, 2025, Kota Ram Charan, the younger brother of the deceased, filed a formal complaint at Ramagiri Police Station, prompting immediate registration of a murder case. “Under the leadership of ACP M. Ramesh, and in accordance with directives from Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha and DCP Karunakar (Peddapalli), a high-priority investigation was launched. “A coordinated team — consisting of Manthani CI Raju, Godavarikhani II Town CI Prasad Rao, Ramagiri SIs T. Srinivas & P. Divya, Kamanpur SI Prasad, and Muttaram SI Ravi Kumar — tracked the suspects to Penchikalpet X-Road near the IOC Petrol Bunk and apprehended them while they were attempting to flee on motorcycles. “Motive & Background“Investigators established that the deceased, Kota Chiranjeevi, had been persistently harassing and



threatening the prime accused, Sandhya Rani, over several years, following an initial interaction at her workplace in 2019. His wife had passed away the same year. “Chiranjeevi reportedly developed an obsessive interest in Sandhya Rani, making repeated calls and sending messages, expressing a desire for a relationship and threatening violence when rebuffed. Over time, his threats escalated to targeting her family, prompting the accused to disclose the harassment to her husband. “Despite village mediation efforts a month ago, the victim allegedly continued his behavior, making false public claims about a relationship with Sandhya and defaming her reputation. “On the day of the incident, Chiranjeevi arrived at Centenary Colony's Samakhya Office, where Sandhya worked. Alarmed, she immediately contacted her husband and family, urging them to intervene. “Upon arrival, a heated confrontation took place. In a premeditated act, Sandhya's father struck the victim multiple times with an iron rod and sharp object, while other family members restrained the victim. The fatal head injuries resulted in Chiranjeevi's instantaneous death at the scene. “Legal Proceedings & Next Steps“All five accused were formally arrested, taken into custody, and produced before the court for judicial remand. The investigation remains active as authorities pursue all leads to ensure comprehensive justice. “Official Statement“> “This case stands as a testament to our department's unwavering commitment to swift justice. We will not tolerate acts of violence or vigilantism. Every crime will be met with prompt, lawful action,”



## Chand Pasha donates Rs. 50,000 for the construction of Hanuman & Vinayaka temples“



“Serilingampalli October 11: Aravitikota village (Racherla mandal) In the context of the new Hanuman & Vinayaka temples being inaugurated on November 11-12-13, the people of the village thanked the Congress party senior leaders Sheikh Chanda Pasha for donating Rs. 50,000/- for the construction of the temple. Ismail, Srikanth Goud and others participated in the program.

## Hope Foundation Chairman Konda Vijay Kumar presents water cooler to Hanuman Temple



Serilingampalli : On , October 11 Hope Foundation Chairman Konda Vijay Kumar presented a water cooler to Gangaram Hanuman Temple under Chandanagar Division in Serilingampalli. The water cooler worth Rs. 51,000 was presented to the temple president Radhakrishna Goud. The temple committee thanked Hope Foundation Chairman Konda Vijay Kumar for providing the water cooler to quench the thirst of the devotees. Temple committee members Tulasiram, Ravi Naini, Shravan Mudiraj, Raju Mudiraj and others participated in this program.

## Grand Celebrations of Mallapur Corporator's Birthday



“ Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, October 11: “ The birthday celebrations of Mallapur Division Corporator Pannala Devender Reddy were held on a grand scale. On this occasion, BRS Party Working President Kalvakuntla Taraka Rama Rao and former Minister Tanniru Harish Rao conveyed their heartfelt birthday wishes to Corporator Devender Reddy. “At the Mallapur Division Ward Office, local leaders, colony welfare association members, and representatives of various community organizations met the Corporator and extended their greetings. “As part of the celebrations, Corporator Pannala Devender Reddy planted a sapling at Sri Nandeeshwaram premises in Mallapur and formally launched the Annadanam (food distribution) program. Local leaders, temple committee members, and colony representatives actively participated in the event.



## Egolapu Sadayya Goud Honored with Prestigious National Best Nandi Award – 2025 for Two Decades of Distinguished Public Service.



“P. S. . . ASHOKAN “Indian Chronicle”Sulthanabad, October 11:”In a momentous recognition of over two decades of unwavering commitment to humanitarian service and impactful community development, Dr. Egolapu Sadayya Goud, President of the Egolapu Kumar Goud Charitable Trust, has been conferred the National Best Nandi Award – 2025, along with a prestigious Certificate of Appreciation.”The felicitation took place on

Saturday at the esteemed Potti Sreeramulu Telugu University, Hyderabad, as part of the South India Awards – 2025 ceremony, organized under the esteemed leadership of Mr. Cheripelly Dinesh, Director of Maksh Global Foundation. “Dr. Goud’s enduring service — particularly his exceptional contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and 21 years of consistent charitable efforts across the Peddapalli district — earned him this national-level recognition.” “The award was presented by a distinguished panel of dignitaries, including MLC Dr. Addanki Dayakar, noted public figure Nalla Babu, senior journalist Rajini Naidu, and social activist Vemula Swathi. The ceremony was marked by grandeur and heartfelt applause as the audience acknowledged Dr. Goud’s selfless service.” “In his acceptance speech, Dr. Sadayya Goud extended his sincere gratitude to Mr. Cheripelly Dinesh, Executive Director of Maksh Global Foundation, for acknowledging his lifelong commitment to public welfare. He dedicated the award to his team, well-wishers, and the communities he has tirelessly served.” “> “This recognition is not just mine; it belongs to every volunteer and supporter who stood with us during crises, especially the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a reminder that service to humanity never goes unnoticed,” said Dr. Goud. “The Egolapu Kumar Goud Charitable Trust continues to be a beacon of hope in the region, with its mission rooted in compassion, healthcare outreach, educational support, and rural upliftment.

## Manthani Vidyarthi Yuvatha Celebrates 34th Foundation Day with Visionary Commitments and Cultural Eminence.

“P.S.ASHOKAN”Indian Chronicle”Manthani, October 11:”In a momentous celebration marking the 34th Foundation Day of Manthani Vidyarthi Yuvatha, distinguished guests, cultural icons, and community leaders convened at the organization’s headquarters to reflect on its illustrious journey and outline a progressive roadmap for the future.” “Renowned author and chief guest, Ms. Lavanya, in her keynote address, emphasized the pivotal role of voluntary organizations in assuming responsibility for the effective implementation of welfare initiatives. She urged civil society to actively participate in grassroots development, thereby fostering inclusive growth.” “Presiding over the event, Mr. Poreddy Venkata Reddy lauded the organization’s legacy, noting that over the past 42 years, it has served as a central hub for thousands of transformative initiatives. He further announced an ambitious and far-reaching plan to establish a permanent headquarters for the organization, assuring attendees of his unwavering support in this endeavor.” “Acclaimed short film producer and director Mr. Naramalla Krishna, who graced the occasion as an honored guest, pledged his contribution towards the production of a short film capturing the organization’s four-decade-long legacy. He stated that the film would serve not only as a tribute to the past but also as inspiration for future generations.” “Mr. Kondela Maruthi, Founding President of the organization, speaking during the 43rd anniversary celebrations, expressed profound gratitude to the thousands of well-wishers whose unwavering support has enabled the execution of a multitude of impactful programs across various sectors. He reiterated the organization’s commitment to social upliftment through continuous and collaborative efforts.” “He also revealed that plans are underway to orga-



nize a special strategic meeting with Hon’ble MLA and State IT Minister, Mr. Sridhar Babu, in the esteemed presence of the organization’s patrons and benefactors, aimed at amplifying the reach and resonance of the organization’s initiatives.

## Gang involved in illegal transportation of banned cannabis arrested



“S Naga Manoj Kumar, Aswarapet constituency, October 11, Indian Chronicle: - The Task Force and Aswarapet Police seized 222 kg of government-banned cannabis worth about one crore eleven lakh rupees. Today, i.e., on 11.10.2025 at 08:30 am, on Jangareddy Gudem Road near SLT Paper Board under Aswarapet Police Station limits, based on reliable information, the Kothagudem Task Force Police and Aswarapet Police conducted a vehicle check. They chased a Swift Dzire car that was running away from Jangareddy Gudem towards Aswarapet on suspicion and stopped it a short distance away. They arrested A1) Oongarala Sarin Kumar (transporter) from Hyderabad and A2) Bellampally from Babar Khan (transporter) and seized 111 packets of banned cannabis weighing 222 kg in their car. A3) Purchased it from Pangli Srinu (Supplier) of Visakhapatnam for Rs 4 lakh and was caught by the police

while going to sell it to A6) Imtiaz (RECEIVER) of Nagpur, Maharashtra, for a higher amount. Considering that there are more vehicle checks in the backdrop of local body elections, A1-Sarin Kumar’s friends A-4 md. Feroze (pilot) of Hyderabad & A5) Santosh (pilot) of Hyderabad also used an Innova car as a pilot vehicle for this cannabis vehicle. District SP Rohit Raju IPS specially congratulated the Ashwaraopet police officers and staff for cleverly catching the vehicle that was illegally transporting cannabis. “A case under Crime Number 250/2025, under sections 8(C) r/w 20(b)(ii)(C), 27(A), and 29 of the NDPS Act, has been registered against the arrested accused at Ashwaraopet Police Station by CI Nagaraju Reddy. The vehicle used to transport the ganja is a Maruti Swift Dezire Car No.: AP 09 BV 5868, and the cell phones/cash used by the accused—two cell phones, a JIO router, and Rs.4000 in cash—have also been seized.

Two accused have been arrested, while four others are absconding. Among the arrested, A1 also has two NDPS cases in the past. Details of the arrested accused“A1). Oongarala Sarin Kumar (Transporter) from Hyderabad“A2). Babar Khan (Transporter) from Bellampalli“Details of the absconding accused“A3). Pangli Srinu (Supplier) from Visakhapatnam“A4). Md. Feroze (pilot) from Hyderabad“A5). Santosh (pilot) from Hyderabad“A6). Imtiaz (RECEIVER) from Nagpur, Maharashtra. Officers who participated in the vehicle checks. Task Force Inspector Ramakanth, SSP Praveen, Rama Rao, Ashwaraopet SSP Ramamurthy, and staff participated.

## People Should Utilize Free Medical Services – Shekhar Babu

“Nacharam, Indian Chornicale, October 11: ““Red Cross Society permanent member and East Annapurna Colony resident Dr. Katarla Shekhar Babu urged the public to make the best use of free medical camps organized by various voluntary organizations.” “A free medical camp was organized under the auspices of East Annapurna Colony Association, Mallapur Division, with the support of the Indian Red Cross Society. The camp was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Srikar, Pulmonologist from Apollo Hospital, and Dr. Sifa, General Physician.” “The free medical camp received an overwhelming response from the residents. Medical check-ups were conducted at the Annapurna Colony Community Hall, and free medicines were distributed to those in need. Over 100 people, including senior citizens and women, availed themselves of the medical services.” “Colony President, Red Cross Society permanent



member Dr. Katarla Shekhar Babu, along with colony representatives and local leaders, actively participated in the program.

## Chilkanagar Model Vaikunthadham to Be Made Available Soon: Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen



““Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 11 (Indian Chronicle):”“Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj

inspected the ongoing construction works of the Model Vaikunthadham being built with an estimated cost of ₹3 crore in Chilkanagar Division, along with GHMC engineering officials on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen, along with DE Vennela Goud and AE Radhika, directed the contractor to speed up the works and ensure strict adherence to quality standards while completing the burning platform, bathrooms, resting hall, prayer hall, and the installation of Lord Shiva’s idol. She emphasized that since the Vaikunthadham project is being taken up prestigiously, there should be no compromise on quality at any stage of construction. She also instructed officials to remove overgrown wild plants around the premises and to take all necessary measures to avoid inconvenience to the public until the construction is completed.” “Among those present were TRS state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, senior leaders Edula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Masa Shekhar, and Cheryala Srinivas Shyam, along with others.

## MP Etela Rajender, Former MLAs, and Leaders Attend the Funeral of BJYM Leader Revelli Raju



““VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 11 (Indian Chronicle):”“The funeral of BJYM (Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha) leader Revelli Raju, who died by suicide, was held on Saturday in Uppal.” “Malkajigiri MP Etela Rajender, former MLAs Bethi Subhash Reddy, N.V.S.S. Prabhakar, Telangana BJP Mahila Morcha president Dr. Mekala Shilpa Reddy, Uppal division president Marineni Phaninder, Reddygari Devender Reddy, Gone Srikanth, Telangana Sampath, Teega Vittal Rao, Bongu Ramesh Goud, Gaddam Saikiran, Kollu Balraju, Borampeta Muralikrishna, and several other leaders participated in the final rites.” “Hundreds of



leaders from various political parties and followers joined the funeral procession, which started from Revelli Raju’s residence in Vijayapuri Colony and proceeded to the Kuruma cremation ground at Beerappa Gadda. “During the procession, leaders remembered Revelli Raju as a dedicated worker who tirelessly served the party. They said his demise was an irreparable loss to the BJP, noting that no one could match his commitment to the organization. They praised him as a great leader who brought many young people into the BJP, strengthening the party at the grassroots level. He was also described as a staunch Hindu activist.

## RG-2 Outshines RG-1 in Company-Level Volleyball Selections at Godavarikhani.

P. S. . . ASHOKAN “Indian Chronicle”Godavarkhani, October 11:”Intense Match Marks Beginning of Competitive Sports Spirit Among SCCL Teams” “In a spirited display of athleticism and teamwork, the RG-2 volleyball team clinched a decisive victory over RG-1 during the company-level selection matches held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Godavarikhani.” “The matches were officially inaugurated on Saturday by the Staff Officer of RG-1, who interacted with the players and extended his best wishes. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of sportsmanship and expressed hope that the selected players would excel not only in the upcoming Yellandu Area-level tournaments, but also at the prestigious Coal India national-level championships, thereby bringing honor and recognition to Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL).” “The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from sports coordinators and officials, who commended the talent and dedication of the players.” “Key attendees included:” “H. Ramesh, Sports Supervisor, RG-



1” “M. Narender Reddy, Sports Supervisor, RG-2” “Samala Satyanarayana, Sports Coordinator” “Kishore, John Kennedy, and Ashok, who supported the event’s organization and execution.” “This successful event highlights SCCL’s ongoing commitment to promoting sports and fostering a spirit of healthy competition among its employees.

## Not Sympathy but Support for the Mentally Challenged – Free Legal Services for the Mentally Disabled: DLSA Secretary Kiran Kumar



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, October 11: “The mentally challenged should not be looked down upon with pity but should be extended a helping hand, said District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Secretary and Senior Judge Kiran Kumar. “On the occasion of World Mental Health Day, celebrations were held grandly at Saadhana Institute for the Mentally Challenged in Nacharam. Speaking on the occasion, Judge Kiran Kumar explained the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, emphasizing equal rights, dignified living, access to education, employment, and legal protection for persons with mental disabilities.” “He also highlighted the services offered through the Legal Services Unit for Mentally Challenged Persons (LSU-M) established under the District Legal Services Authority. The judge elaborated on various legal schemes under DLSA aimed at protecting the rights of children and adults facing intellectual challenges. He assured that the Legal Services Authority would continue to extend all possible legal assistance and support to the mentally disabled.” “Guest of Honor and retired GHMC Assistant Commissioner V. Krishna Prasad spoke on the importance of mental health awareness and appreciated Saadhana Institute for its commendable service to the mentally



challenged.” “Saadhana Institute Director Surekha Reddy and Secretary P. Madhusudhan Reddy outlined the welfare activities undertaken by the organization and showcased the educational facilities provided to the students. The students’ cultural and dance performances drew wide appreciation from the guests.” “Among those who participated were DLSA nominated members B. Suresh Kumar, para-legal volunteers S.D. Rakesh, Ramakanth, Manikyam, Sujatha Naidu, law students, school staff, and students.



## District DCC President Appointment Observer Anjali Nimbalkar Receives Grand Welcome from Uppal Constituency In-charge Parameshwar Reddy



“““VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 11 (Indian Chronicle):“““AICC-appointed observer Anjali Nimbalkar visited the Medchal–Malkajgiri district on Saturday to oversee the process for the appointment of the new District Congress Committee (DCC) president. On her arrival, she received a grand welcome from Uppal constituency Congress in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy. At the district party office in Medchal, Anjali Nimbalkar reviewed biodata and applications from aspiring candidates for the DCC president post. Later, she conducted a face-to-face interaction with key district leaders. “Prominent



leaders who participated in the event included Organizers, Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy, Khairatabad Constituency In-charge P. Vijaya Reddy, Malkajgiri Constituency In-charge Mainampalli Hanumanth Rao, Medchal Constituency In-charge Totakoor Vajresh Yadav, Quthbullapur Constituency In-charge Kolan Hanumanth Reddy, Kukatpally Constituency In-charge Bandi Ramesh, Former MLAs Kuna Srisailem Goud and Malipeddi Sudheer Reddy, Former TPCC General Secretary Narsa Reddy Boopathi Reddy, TPCC Spokesperson Satyam Srirangam, Pisari Maipal Reddy and several others.

## Power Outage Scheduled in Certain Areas Today

“Nacharam, Indian Chornicle, October 11: ““Due to departmental maintenance works, power supply will be interrupted in several areas under the Mallapur Substation and Nacharam Division on Sunday, informed Electricity Department Officer Nagaraju in a statement. “In the Mallapur industrial area, power supply under the Bell Feeder will be affected. Electricity under the Standard Tiles Feeder will remain shut down from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM due to maintenance work. “In Nacharam Division: “As part of departmental repair works, there will be a power outage in the Nacharam

Industrial Area on Sunday. “Under the Multisteel Feeder, power will be interrupted from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM along Road Nos. 7 and 8. “Under the White Turbo Feeder, power will also be off from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

“Under the Nile Feeder and Mutha Metal Feeder, power will be shut down from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM along Road Nos. 1, 9, 12, 13, and 15. “Officer Nagaraju requested residents and industrial units in the affected areas to take note of the outage and cooperate with the maintenance work.

## Divine Milestone at Vemulawada: Arjitha Sevas Commence at Sri Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple.

““P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Rajanna Siricilla, October 11 .“““In a landmark moment for the devotees of Vemulawada, Arjitha Sevas (paid ritual services) have officially commenced at the Sri Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple, a subordinate shrine under the revered Sri Raja Rajeshwara Swamy Devasthanam. This significant spiritual initiative is part of the broader development and expansion efforts aimed at elevating Vemulawada as a premier spiritual and cultural destination. “To mark the occasion, temple authorities and archakas (priests) led a grand pallaki (palanquin) procession carrying the Utsava Murtis (festival deities) from the Rajanna Temple to the Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple. This ceremonious event underscored the sacred connection between the temples and symbolized the seamless spiritual continuum. “The inauguration of Nitya Kalyanam (daily celestial weddings) and Arjitha Sevas was held in the newly constructed upper level of the Nithyannadana Satram (daily free meal complex). The services were formally launched by Government Whip and local MLA, Sri Aadi Srinivas, who also participated in the inaugural Kodi Mokkubadi (ritual rooster offering) and offered special prayers to Lord Bhimeshwara. “Addressing the gathering, Sri Aadi Srinivas emphasized the temple’s growing prominence and spiritual importance. “““Vemulawada, known as ‘Dakshina Kashi’, is witnessing a renaissance in temple development. As part of our vision to enhance the spiritual infrastructure, comprehensive arrangements have been made at the Bhimeshwara Swamy Temple to serve the needs of the ever-increasing influx of devotees visiting Rajanna. “““He reaffirmed the government’s commitment to preserving tradition while embracing infrastructural modernization. As a continuation of the major temple expansion works, he recalled the foundation stone laid on November 20, 2024, by Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy, accompanied by ministers and thousands of devotees. The developmental highlights include: “““Widening of approach roads with a sanctioned budget of 742 crore ““Ongoing temple expansion works valued at 776 crore ““These efforts are being carried out under the spiritual guidance and with the explicit blessings of Jagadguru Sri Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Mahaswamiji, the esteemed pontiff of the Sringeri Sharada Peetham. All renovation and extension plans have been meticulously aligned with traditional Agamic practices and Vedic protocols. “Despite the scale of the construction, Ekanta Seva (exclusive rituals) for the deities at the main



temple continue uninterrupted. In a spiritually uplifting gesture, the Utsava Murtis of Parvati-Parameshwara and Kshetrapalaka Anantha Padmanabha Swamy were ceremoniously paraded to Bhimeshwara Temple, where they were received with due reverence and special pujas. “To ensure uninterrupted darshan and spiritual services, the Bhimeshwara Temple will now serve as an auxiliary sanctum for devotees, offering all standard Arjitha Sevas until the main temple expansion concludes. “Sri Aadi Srinivas expressed his heartfelt desire for Rajanna-Bheemanna’s divine blessings to be bestowed upon all, and prayed for universal peace and prosperity. He further stated: “““We envision transforming Vemulawada into a model Temple City. The development of Rajanna Temple will be guided by sacred traditions and the expert counsel of the Temple Protection Committee. We urge devotees and citizens alike to extend their wholehearted support in this divine endeavor. “““He acknowledged the unwavering support of government officials, particularly in facilitating road-widening and infrastructure projects, and emphasized that the current initiatives are being executed with foresight for the next hundred years, ensuring a seamless spiritual experience for generations of devotees. “In conclusion, he announced that His Holiness Sri Sri Sri Vidhushekhara Bharati Mahaswamiji of Sringeri Peetham will be visiting Vemulawada on October 19, during which he will offer darshan at the Rajanna Temple and provide further spiritual direction and insights regarding the temple’s development.

## A Heartfelt Plea for Justice: Defending the Nizam’s Legacy from Unjust Encroachment in Kancha Gachibowli (Survey Nos. 25 & 26)

Hyderabad: In a heartfelt appeal for justice through a press conference, members of the Asaf Jahi royal family — Nawab Mir Milad Ali Khan, Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan, and H.H. Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan, 9th Nizam of the Asaf Jahi Dynasty — along with their legal counsel Mr. Muhammad Veqar Hussain, Advocate, addressed the media at a press conference held at the Press Club, Somajiguda, Hyderabad on 11th October, 2025, regarding the ongoing Suo Moto Writ Petition (Civil) No. 3 of 2025 before the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India.

The press conference focused on the ownership dispute of Kancha Gachibowli lands (Survey Nos. 25 & 26) in Serilingampally, Ranga Reddy District, admeasuring 2725 acres and 23 guntas, which historically belonged to H.E.H. The Nizam VII, Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur. The Nizam family has filed an intervention application asserting their legal ownership and objecting to what they describe as unauthorized and unlawful encroachment by the State of Telangana. Addressing the press conference, Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan, the IXth Nizam and custodian



of the Asaf Jahi family affairs, said: “This is not a battle for status or wealth; it is a battle for truth and justice. The Kancha Gachibowli land is a symbol of our forefathers’ vision and service to India. My great-grandfather H.H. the Nizam VI & H.E.H. The Nizam VII, built universities, hospitals, and infrastructure for the people of Hyderabad and even donated 425 kilograms of gold to India’s Defence during the 1965 war. The least this nation can do is honour that legacy by protecting what rightfully belongs to his heirs.” He further stated, “Our family stands united — not to seek privilege, but to protect history from being erased under the guise of development.”

## Anganwadi Workers Stage Protest Against Unjust Wage Deduction.

““P.S.ASHOKAN“Indian Chronicle“Manthani, October 11.“““In a strong show of dissent, Anganwadi teachers and helpers under the Manthani ICDS Project staged a protest today in front of the ICDS Project Office, denouncing the arbitrary deduction of one day’s wage from their September salaries. The demonstration was organized under the aegis of the Telangana Anganwadi Teachers and Helpers Union (CITU). “Addressing the gathering, District General Secretary Ms. G. Jyothi condemned the unilateral action taken by project officials, stating that the deduction was both unjust and intentional, despite the workers having discharged their duties with complete dedication. “She emphasized that Anganwadi workers continue to shoulder the burden of operating centers out of their personal expenses, as reimbursements for essential operational costs—such as LPG (cooking gas), center rent, and vegetable bills—have been pending for several months. The delay in settling these dues has forced many workers into financial distress. “> “How can frontline service providers sustain their duties when they’re neither compensated fairly nor provided with necessary resources? This is not just administrative apathy—it is exploitation,” said Ms. Jyothi. “She also highlighted the acute staff shortages due to unfilled vacant posts of teachers and helpers, which has further intensified the workload on the existing workforce. The absence of support staff is pushing the current employees beyond reasonable limits, compromising the quality of services provided to beneficiaries. “The union demanded: “Immediate reim-



bursement of all pending operational bills “Restoration of the deducted wages without delay “Filling of all vacant posts to ensure workload balance “Calling upon the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) to adopt a more empathetic and responsive approach, Ms. Jyothi warned that failure to address the workers’ grievances would lead to escalated agitation and statewide mobilization. “The protest witnessed participation from Anganwadi workers representing four mandals, along with union leaders and activists including Vanaja Rani, Shyamala, Shobha, Suguna, Chantamma, Krishnakumari, Sharada, B. Ganesh, Sandeep, and Ravi. “> “We will not remain silent while our rights are trampled. The government must recognize the critical role Anganwadi workers play and address these issues with the seriousness they deserve,” declared the union representatives.

## Beerla Ailaiah participated in the review meeting on the Civil Supplies Organization and the Irrigation Department



“Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle October 11):- Telangana State Civil Supplies Organization & Department and Irrigation Department Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy participated as the chief guest in the review meeting organized by the Telangana State Civil Supplies Organization & Department and Irrigation Department held at the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District “Collector’s Office. The ministers who attended the meeting welcomed Uttam Kumar Reddy with a shawl and a bouquet of flowers from the Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah. Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Tungaturthi MLA Ameli Samel, District Collectorate and other high-ranking officials participated in this review meeting.



## Telangana State records rare record in paddy yield:- State Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N Uttam Kumar Reddy



“Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 11):- Telangana State has achieved a rare record in paddy yield, said State Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy. “State Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Captain N Uttam Kumar Reddy said that Telangana State has recorded a rare record in paddy yield. He spoke at a special review meeting on the paddy procurement process at the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector’s Office on Saturday evening. He clarified that this was possible only with the farmer-friendly policies adopted by the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. Telangana has emerged as the state with the highest grain production of 148.3 lakh metric tons in the history of independent India, he said. “He said that after coming to power, one of the three crops cultivated has competed with the other and has created a record in grain production in all three crops. The yield of 148.3 lakh this monsoon is a testament to that. He said that the state government has prepared the ground for the purchase of grain. He said that the grain will be purchased at a cost of 22 thousand to 23 thousand crores. He said that the government has decided to purchase 80 lakh metric tons of the total harvest, of which 40 lakh metric tons are of the Sanna and 40 lakh metric tons of the Doddur varieties. He said that 8342 purchase centers are being opened across the state for the purchase of grain. He revealed that 1205 purchase centers have already been opened in the district centers of Kamareddy, Nizamabad, Medak, Siddipet and Nalgonda. “He said that the officials are paying special attention to creating infrastructure at the grain procurement centers. He said that a special review meeting will be held in Hyderabad on the 16th of this month on the grain procurement process. He said that the procedures prepared by the government on grain procurement have already been sent to the officials at the field level. He said that the grain procurement process, which started on October 1, will be completed in the second week of January. Referring to the procurement issue in Yadadri Bhonagiri district, he said that 7.79 lakh metric tons of grain were harvested in the cultiva-

tion of two lakh 83 thousand 18 acres. The review meeting, chaired by District Collector Mantri Pragada Hanumanth Rao, was attended by Government Whip Birla Ilayya Yadav, MLAs Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Mandula Samuel, Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy, Library Chairman Aveez Chisti, ZP CEO Shobha Rani, RDOs Krishna Reddy and Shekhar Reddy, District Irrigation SE Ravinder, District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy, Civil Supplies Manager Harikrishna, Civil Supplies Officer Roja Rani and concerned officials.

## Congress Party State PCC Delegate Tangallapalli Ravikumar.. MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy attended the wedding of Srivani's daughter



“Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle October 11):- Munugodu MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy, Corporation Chairman Bandru Shobharani, Congress Party District President Andam Sanjeeva Reddy, Former Municipal Chairman Barre Jahangir, Pothamsetty Venkateswarlu, Former Market Committee Chairman Pramod Kumar, Mahila Congress President Neelam Padma, Hey Re Kar Srinu, Anusree Seva Dal Leader Pittala Balaraj and others participated in the wedding of Congress Party State Leader PCC Delegate Tangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar’s daughter at the Pedda Amberpet Nidhi Convention Hall.



## Trump tariff impact becomes clearer: Andhra pegs shrimp export losses at Rs 25,000 crore, 50% export orders cancelled



GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Andhra Pradesh has estimated that due to Trump US tariffs, shrimp export losses are approximately Rs 25,000 crore, with about 50 percent of export orders cancelled. Nearly Rs 600 crore in tariff burden has fallen on about 2,000 containers being exported, government officials said Monday. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has once again appealed to the Centre to support aqua farmers in Andhra Pradesh who are facing severe distress due to US-imposed tariffs.

US tariffs touched 59.72 percent after Trump announced 25 percent additional tariffs over and above the 25 percent announced earlier, as well as the 5.76 percent countervailing duty and 3.96 percent anti-dumping duty. Naidu suggested relief in GST and extending financial packages to the state's aqua farmers. He urged the Union Government to take decisions at the national level to protect aqua farmers from losses. The CM also requested measures to increase domestic consumption of aqua

products. Naidu has written separate letters to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, and Fisheries Minister Rajeev Ranjan Singh. He requested the finance minister to look into issues such as GST and financial relief, the commerce and industry minister to pursue agreements with other countries in the aqua sector, and the fisheries minister to focus on expanding the domestic market. The CM pointed out that aqua farmers and families dependent on the sector in Andhra Pradesh are facing hardships. He also explained the measures currently being taken by the state government. Andhra Pradesh accounts for 80 percent of the country's shrimp exports and 34 percent of marine exports, with exports valued at around Rs 21,246 crore annually. About 2.5 lakh aqua farmer families and 30 lakh people dependent on allied sectors are in difficulty. Chandrababu stated that US tariffs have had the greatest impact on shrimp exports. The CM stated that the state government has already initiated relief measures — for example, after discussions with feed producers, aqua feed MRPs have been reduced by Rs 9 per kg, and subsidised supply of trans-formers is also being considered. He requested bank support for exporters and aqua companies, including a 240-day moratorium on loan and interest repayments, interest subsidies, and a temporary waiver of the 5 percent GST on frozen shrimp. In addition, he urged the Centre to focus on diversifying export markets beyond the US. He suggested entering into Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with the European Union, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, and Russia to boost exports. The CM also sought interim financial support for exporters, clarity on tariff/tax relief schemes, and noted that exporters were ready to supply seafood to the EU.

## ‘No parchi-kharchi:’ Haryana CM says 1.8L govt jobs given on merit

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Sunday said the incumbent BJP government provided government jobs to 1.80 lakh youths “purely on merit and without ‘parchi-kharchi’ (nepotism and sifarish)”. Speaking at the 75th foundation day celebration of Saini Shikshan Sansthan, the chief minister said, “Government schools have been offering free coaching to meritorious students, alongside a range of scholarship schemes. Under the Super-100 programme, 534 students have successfully cleared competitive exams such as IIT and NEET.”

Saini said, “Education is a powerful tool to uplift the backwards sections of society. And, in line with that vision, the government has implemented 27 per cent reservation in educational institutions and public sector jobs.” The CM said, “For children from backwards class families with an annual income up to Rs 3 lakh, the government is offering education loans of up to Rs 15 lakh for studies in India and Rs 20 lakh for studies abroad at an annual interest rate of 4 per cent. Students from families earning less than Rs 1.80 lakh annually have been exempted from school fees up to Class XII, and college and university fees for daughters from such families have also been waived.” The chief minister noted, “The government facilitated the enrolment of 2,650 underprivileged children into recognised private schools. Under the Vidyarthi Parivahan Suraksha Yojana, 35,000 students from Classes I to XII are receiving free transport, while 6,506 girl students from classes IX to XII are benefiting from the Chhatraa Parivahan Suraksha Yojana.” The CM also felicitated meritorious students and acknowledged the contributions of generous donors. Saini further stated, “Atal Tink-



ering Labs have been established in all 22 districts of Haryana, and over 5,000 schools now have Wi-Fi connectivity. To advance digital education, the government has distributed 5 lakh tablets to students in Classes X to XII, installed digital boards in approximately 40,000 classrooms, and set up 1,201 Information and Communication Technology laboratories.

A Functional Literacy and Numeracy programme has been launched for students in classes one to three to strengthen foundational learning.” The CM said, “Through the National Skills Qualification Framework, schools are now equipping students with practical skills, with the system already implemented in 1,001 institutions. The state has also established 1,420 Government Model Sanskriti Primary Schools and 218 Government Model Sanskriti Senior Secondary Schools. Under the PM Shri School Scheme, 250 PM Shri Schools have been opened across Haryana.”

## ‘Will protest before CM’: Stuck in jam, MLA Nand Kishor Gurjar manages traffic; slams Ghaziabad cops for negligence



GNS News Agency, Oct 11

The scene at Loni Tiraha in Ghaziabad morning was unusual. Stuck in a massive traffic jam on the Delhi-Saharanpur Road, the BJP's Loni MLA Nand Kishor Gurjar stepped out of his car and took matters into his own hands — managing the traffic himself, pulling up police officers present at the spot, and warning that he will protest outside Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's residence if the administrative negligence is not dealt with. “I have been standing in the sun since morning and an officer passed in front of me, but did not even stop. This negligence will not be tolerated,” Gurjar was heard saying, as he supervised the flow of vehicles. The MLA, who said he was on his way back after inspecting the condition of roads, also spoke to several drivers on the spot and assured them that roads in Loni would soon be made pothole-free. Speaking to The Indian Express, Gurjar alleged that corruption and dereliction of duty had become rampant in local policing. “There was a jam, and people were standing there for hours. We called the police, but they came late. There is information that posts are being given for Rs 2.5-3 lakh. Seniors with experience are sitting idle while 21-22-year-olds, who just completed training, are made chowki in-charges. They spend their days on cell phones, disrespect even MPs, and claim to be busy with ‘video conferences’ instead of being on the field,” he said. The MLA claimed that he had recorded WhatsApp calls with three sub-inspectors admitting to having paid bribes for postings. “Yogi-ji has given clear instructions that officials should be on the field. If this matter is ignored, I will sit at the CM's office in protest,” he said. Responding to the allegations, Keshav Kumar Chaudhary, Additional Commis-

sioner of Police, Ghaziabad, said the videos have reached senior police officers and the allegations will be looked into. “We saw his video. The allegation will be probed properly after which adequate actions will be taken,” he stated. Gurjar also alleged that money was being taken to “settle Rohingya Muslims” in Ghaziabad. “They are destroying Ghaziabad by doing so... Earlier, I had filed a complaint against a person who had misbehaved with a woman. The police claimed that he had been locked behind bars, but I later got to know that he was able to go scot-free,” Gurjar said. “Our complaints are not being taken seriously. Let alone MLAs, they don't even pay attention to MPs. One can only imagine how they must be behaving with the common people who leave all their work and come to the police station for help,” he told reporters on Saturday after reaching the office of Siddhartha Gautam, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Loni.

## ED summons ex-TMC MP and actress Mimi Chakraborty in probe into ‘illegal online betting platforms’

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Actress and former Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mimi Chakraborty was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in Delhi on Monday in connection with its money laundering investigation into alleged illegal online betting platforms. The probe is centred on how these platforms allegedly use surrogate advertising to collect funds from users. Officials said several platforms host betting and gambling links that are advertised across social media and app stores. As part of the same investigation, the ED has already recorded the statements of former Indian cricketers Shikhar Dhawan and Suresh Raina. The summons triggered political sparring in Bengal. TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, “The law will follow its own course. I am not one to say anything about the notice. However, thanks to the agency on behalf of the audience of Bengali films for helping in the promotion of the film Raktabeej 2. After the film becomes a superhit, Mimi will also thank them...”

## SC clears Chandigarh doctor of negligence in 20-year-old maternal death case



GNS News Agency, Oct 11

The tragedy dates back to December 2005, when 32-year-old Charanpreet Kaur, a Chandigarh lecturer and bank manager on deputation, was admitted to Deep Nursing Home in the eighth month of her pregnancy. After being induced, she delivered a baby boy at 2:40 am on December 22. The tragedy dates back to December 2005, when 32-year-old Charanpreet Kaur, a Chandigarh lecturer and bank manager on deputation, was admitted to Deep Nursing Home in the eighth month of her pregnancy. After being induced, she delivered a baby boy at 2:40 am on December 22. The Supreme Court has exonerated a Chandigarh doctor and her nursing home from charges of medical negligence in the death of a young mother and her newborn nearly 20 years ago, bringing closure to a protracted legal battle that had shadowed her career. A bench of Justices Sanjay Kumar and Satish Chandra Sharma allowed the appeal of obstetrician-gynaecologist Dr. Kanwarjit Kochhar and Deep Nursing Home on September 9, overturning rulings of the State Consumer Commission and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC). The court also directed complainant Manmeet Singh Mattewal to refund the ₹10 lakh compensation already received, in monthly instalments.

The tragedy dates back to December 2005, when 32-year-old Charanpreet Kaur, a Chandigarh lecturer and bank manager on deputation, was admitted to Deep Nursing Home in the eighth month of her pregnancy. After being induced, she delivered a baby boy at 2:40 am on December 22. The newborn did not survive despite immediate re-

suscitation attempts. Soon after, Kaur suffered an uncontrolled postpartum haemorrhage, a life-threatening complication where the uterus fails to contract after delivery. Records show that blood was urgently requisitioned, additional specialists were consulted, and she was shifted to PGI Chandigarh — the only regional centre equipped for advanced intervention — but she was declared dead at 5:30 am. Mattewal alleged gross negligence in the management of bleeding, transfer arrangements, and record-keeping, filing a claim of nearly ₹1 crore before the Chandigarh State Consumer Commission in 2006. In 2007, the State Commission held the doctor negligent for not verifying Kaur's blood group and for delays in transfusion, awarding compensation of ₹20.26 lakh. The NCDRC in 2012 upheld the order in part but shifted liability solely onto Dr. Kochhar, citing antenatal lapses such as failure to insist on haematological and cardiological tests. The Supreme Court has now struck down those findings. Writing for the bench, Justice Sanjay Kumar observed: “Our sympathies aside, we are called upon to examine the validity of the finding that Dr. (Mrs.) Kanwarjit Kochhar, the obstetrician-gynaecologist who conducted the delivery, is guilty of medical negligence. All the experts who constituted the five Medical Boards found that there was no negligence on her part or on the part of the nursing home.” The court was particularly scathing about the NCDRC's approach, noting that Mattewal's complaint had focused only on post-delivery management and transfer, yet the Commission fastened liability for antenatal care. “The NCDRC clearly transgressed its jurisdiction in building a new case for the complainants, contrary to their pleadings. It was not for it to travel beyond the pleadings in the complaint case and build up a new case on its own,” the bench held. Reiterating established precedent, Justice Kumar cited Jacob Mathew vs. State of Punjab (2005): “Simply because a patient did not favourably respond to the treatment given by a physician or if a surgery failed, the doctor cannot be held liable per se.” The judgment also underscored that courts and consumer fora “are not experts in medical science and must not substitute their own views over that of specialists.” Allowing the appeal, the bench dismissed Mattewal's complaint and ordered that the ₹10 lakh already paid be refunded in instalments, split between the insurer and the Kochhars. “In the circumstances, parties shall bear their own costs,” the ruling concluded.

## Delhi woman driving BMW that killed senior Finance ministry official booked for destroying evidence

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Delhi BMW accident news: A day after a senior Finance Ministry official was killed when a BMW hit his motorcycle in the Delhi Cantonment area, Delhi Police Monday said the woman driving the car has been booked under sections of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and for attempting to destroy evidence after the accident. Navjot Singh, 57, who was posted as Deputy Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs under the Finance Ministry, was killed and his wife injured when the BMW rammed into them on Sunday afternoon. The BMW was being driven by a woman, Gaganpreet, who was accompanied by her husband, Parikshit Makkar, and two young children, police said.

According to police, the car was registered in the name of Gaganpreet's husband. They live in West Delhi's Rajouri Garden. “After the accident, the duo — Gaganpreet and Parikshit — took Navjot and his injured wife to Nulife Hospital in GTB Nagar, nearly 17 km from the accident site. It has been revealed that the hospital owner is known to them, as Gaganpreet's parental home is in the same locality where the hospital is located,” a police officer said. Gaganpreet and her husband were also admitted in the same private hospi-



tal, where they are under observation of the doctors, the officer said. The statements of Gagandeep and her husband are yet to be recorded but a case under sections 281 (negligent and rash driving), 125B (act endangering life or personal safety of others), 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 238 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) has been lodged at Delhi Cantonment police station.

## JSW MG Motor India rises to second in luxury EV segment, driven by combined success of MG Cyberster and MG M9

MG Cyberster becomes highest selling sports car of India

Hyderabad; JSW MG Motor India has risen to become the second largest\* brand in the luxury EV segment—an impressive milestone powered by the combined success of the MG Cyberster and the MG M9 Presidential Limousine. Both models continue to receive exceptional market response and robust demand, reflected in a waiting period of 3-4 months. Building on this momentum, JSW MG Motor India also announced that the MG Cyberster, the world's fastest MG, is now the highest-selling sports car in India. Since its launch in July 2025, just two months ago, 256 units have been sold through the company's luxury retail channel, MG SELECT. Commenting on the development, Milind Shah, Interim Head of MG SELECT said, “Securing the second spot in India's luxury EV segment is a testament to the phenomenal response our models have received. Both the MG Cyberster and the MG M9 Presidential Limousine are drawing discerning customers who seek something truly exclusive, whether it's the sheer exhilaration of open-top performance or the presence of uncompromising luxury. At MG SELECT, we're proud to create this exclusive ownership experience.”

Rooted in the legacy of the iconic MGB Roadster, the MG Cyberster is a futuristic roadster packed with power and performance, crafted for sports car enthusiasts seeking pure, open-top exhilaration. Its sculptural silhouette, electric scissor doors, soft-top roof, and impressive drag coefficient unite classic styling with modern innovation. Under the hood, a dual-motor all-wheel-drive setup delivers 510 PS and 725 Nm of torque, rocketing the Cyberster from 0 to 100 km/h in just 3.2 seconds, ensuring every drive feels truly electrifying. Signature design elements like sharp DRLs, a Kammback rear with active aero components, and Brembo 4-piston front brake calipers that deliver confident stopping power—bringing the car to a halt from 100 kmph in just 33 meters. Its 20-inch staggered alloy wheels, paired with Pirelli P-Zero tyres, ensure superior grip and performance. JSW MG Motor India has inaugurated 14 MG SELECT Experience Centres in key cities across the country. These Experience Centres offer sensorial experiences, personalised services, iconic product line blended with new age luxury, innovation, and sustainability to car buyers in India. Both the iconic products, MG Cyberster — the world's fastest MG, and the MG M9 — the Presidential Limousine, are up on display for enthusiasts to explore up close. SAIC Motor, a global Fortune 500 company with a presence in over 100 countries and JSW Group (India's leading conglomerate with interests across B2B and B2C sectors) formed a joint venture - JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. in



2023. The joint venture aims to build a smart and sustainable automotive ecosystem while staying focused on developing a diverse portfolio of vehicles to give car buyers better access to advanced technologies and futuristic products with attractive value propositions. JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. is committed to introducing world-class technology, strengthening the manufacturing landscape, bringing the best of innovation across its business operations, and generating significant employment opportunities through extensive localisation.

## Repair work to disrupt water supply in parts of Hyderabad on October 13 and 14

Hyderabad: Several areas in the city will have no water supply for 36 hours from 6 am on October 13 to 6 pm on October 14 due to repair work on the Krishna Drinking Water Supply Project Phase-3 Ring Main-1 to the reservoirs.

The affected areas include Gachibowli, Kondapur, Madhapur, Ayyappa Society, Kavuri Hills, Prashasan Nagar, Film Nagar, Jubilee Hills, Tatti Khana, Bhojagutta, Shaikpet, Hakimpet, Karwan, Mehdiapatnam, Asif Nagar, Golconda, Langar Houz, Durga Nagar, Budwel, Suleman Nagar, Golden Heights, Number 9, Kismatpur, Gandhamguda, Bandlaguda, Shastripuram, Allabanda, Madhuban, Dharmasai (Shamshabad), Saheb Nagar, Autonagar, Saroor Nagar, Vasavi Nagar, Nagole, NTR Nagar, Vanasthalipuram, Devender Nagar, Uppal, Snehapuri, Bharath Nagar, Rampally, Boduppal, Chengicherla, Manik Chand, Mallikarjuna Nagar, Peerzadiguda, and



# ‘50 lakh footfall in first week of September, snags’ as its twin challenges – Is Kolkata Metro Durga Puja ready?



GNS News Agency, Oct 11

As Kolkata prepares for the annual Durga Puja surge, the city's Metro network, which is operated by Indian Railways, is witnessing record crowds and mounting operational headaches.Metro said a "record" 6.96 lakh people used its services across its network on Friday – 5.25 lakh on Blue Line, the north-south corridor connecting Dakshineswar and Sahid Khudiram stations; and 1.66 lakh on Green Line, the east-west corridor linking Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V.While the full commissioning of the Green Line has created a seamless corridor linking Howrah and Salt Lake, the dramatic rise in passengers has exposed capacity limits and bottlenecks just weeks before the festival.With millions of people expected to flock to the streets during the week-long Durga puja, many will use the Metro's newly expanded network to travel from the suburbs to the city's pandals.

The central question looming over the city is: Is the Metro ready for the Puja rush?

Last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated sections in the two corridors. Among them was the completion of the Green Line's last leg – the 2.6 km Esplanade-Sealdah section. This vital link now connects the city's two major railway stations, Howrah and Sealdah, and has created a seamless 16.6 km corridor from Howrah Maidan to Sector V.This integration has had an immediate and dramatic effect on ridership.Data from the first week of September shows passenger footfall on the Metro regularly exceeding 6.5 lakh per day, with a record-breaking 8,07,030 passengers on September 1.The surge, however, has exposed the Metro's vulnerabilities.The Blue Line, the city's oldest and most heavily used corridor, is bearing the brunt of the new traffic. Its interchange at Esplanade, already the heart of Kolkata's shopping district, has become a major congestion point, struggling to cope with the influx of shoppers and office-goers. Older, smaller stations like Chandni Chowk and Central are also facing similar challenges with limited space and infrastructure."During the pre-Puja season, Metro trains are usually crowded, but this year it is impossible to board during office hours. From 6.15 pm to 7.00 pm, I often let two or three trains pass because the gates won't close due to the massive crowds. I can only get on about one out of every three trains," said Arbindo Das, a regular Blue Line passenger.Operational setbacks

# NCW seeks report from Jadavpur University over death of undergrad; police summon 4 students

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Saturday took suo motu cognizance of the death of a third-year English honours student of Jadavpur University and has sought a report from the university authorities and the Kolkata Police Commissioner within three days.NCW chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar has written to the Commissioner, seeking a thorough investigation, forensic examination, and post-mortem report.According to the NCW statement, "Chairperson Vijaya Rahatkar, has written to the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, seeking a thorough and impartial investigation, forensic examination, and post-mortem report, along with an inquiry into the role of university authorities in ensuring campus safety. The Commission has also sought timely updates to the victim's family and strict action if any foul play is found. A detailed Action Taken Report has been sought within 3 days."

Archana Majumdar, one of the member's of the NCW, while speaking to The Indian Express said, "Overall the Commission is anxious about what is happening in West Bengal starting from the RG Kar rape and murder to the rape in law college in the city and now JU.""No child is safe there. Parents send their children for studies, and they come back home dead. We will visit the university for inspection, we will also visit the deceased girl's family and the JU authorities," she said.Meanwhile, Kolkata Police, which is investigating the case, has seized the victim's mobile phone and summoned four students from the University's drama club for interrogation.Deputy Commissioner of South Suburban Division Bidisha Kalita stated that the police are probing all angles and have obtained CCTV footage. "We are probing all angles. We are visiting the spot with the autopsy surgeon. We have got the CCTV footage."DC Kalita and the autopsy surgeon visited the incident site, where police

# SHO among six cops suspended in Ghazipur over man's death, 5 shifted

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

ghazipurLocals alleged he was severely beaten by the police personnel during the protest, leading to his death; the police maintained that the cause of death was under investigationSix police personnel, including the station house officer (SHO) of Nonhara police station in Ghazipur, have been suspended and five others shifted to reserve lines after a 32-year old man died following an altercation outside the station on September 9.The deceased, Siyaram Upadhyay alias Jokhu, was admitted to hospital on September 9 after allegedly being assaulted by policemen during a protest outside the police station.

Following the incident, Ghazipur District Magistrate Avinash Kumar ordered a magisterial inquiry and a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted to probe the incident. The SIT is headed by Varanasi DCP Gaurav Banswal and includes Additional DCP Anshuman Mishra and ACP Nitin Taneja.Superintendent of Police (SP) Iraj Raja said action will follow the inquiry's findings. He noted that no FIR has been registered so far because the victim's family has not filed a complaint. "We have removed the personnel from active duty to ensure the inquiry proceeds without influence," an official added



have compounded the pressure.The Kavi Subhash terminal on the Blue Line has been closed for maintenance since July 28, forcing short terminations at Shahid Khudiram and Mahanayak Uttam Kumar and disrupting schedules.A technical snag on September 8 at Kavi Nazrul station, also on the Blue Line, added to commuter misery: a journey from Baranagar to Chandni Chowk that normally takes 24 minutes stretched to 40, leaving thousands stranded during peak hours. Overcrowding has also made it difficult to close train doors, further delaying services.Furthermore, the introduction of the Noapara–Airport Yellow Line on August 25, which also interchanges with the Blue Line, added another layer of complexity. Metro officials are now working on a trial basis to separate the Yellow Line services from the Blue Line to insulate the old system, a move similar to how the Green Line and Blue Line services are physically separated.Amid rising complaints from commuters over irregular frequency and short-termination of trains on the Blue Line, Metro is urging passengers to "cooperate", especially during peak hours.In a statement, Metro said not all trains could be run across the full stretch of the corridor owing to operational constraints following the closure of Kavi Subhash station (New Garia), the original terminal, over a month ago."Passengers are requested to cooperate so that Metro can run smoothly. At present, commuters are resisting vacating the coaches at Mahanayak Uttam Kumar station during peak hours, which causes a cumulative effect and adversely affects the services," the Metro said on Thursday.Of the 272 services, the Metro said, 32 will be run between Dakshineswar and Tollygunge instead of the entire stretch connecting the northern and southern parts of the city.Metro authorities have also begun a series of operational measures.Officials said they are regulating the number of services and have begun efforts to reopen the Tollygunge car shed to improve train operations. This will allow for additional rakes to be placed at Mahanayak Uttam Kumar and Noapara stations before the start of daily services.They are also exploring the possibility of extending Green Line services beyond midnight."We are encouraging passengers to use digital ticketing by offering a 5% discount, hoping to reduce queues and manage crowds more efficiently," said an official."Night-long services on the Blue Line are being planned for key Puja days," said a Metro official, while the CPRO added, "We are monitoring the situation closely. For now, services will remain the same, but depending on future requirements, some decisions might be taken."The network's operational systems and station infrastructure must catch up quickly if it is to handle the spectacular footfall Durga Puja brings."While the new lines are transformative, the recent footfall data and service hiccups show the system is under strain. With Puja approaching, how authorities manage the peak days will be crucial," said civil engineer Ratul Bose, who regularly takes the Metro ride from Dumdum to Esplanade (Blue Line).The Metro officials, however, are assertive that "improvement will be visible". "Metro Railway is analysing each incident thoroughly and working towards improvement," it said in a statement on Thursday.



measured the distance between the pond and the festival venue, as well as the pond's depth.The police are reviewing the university's CCTV footage to track the student's movements from her entry into the university and identify the people she was with that day.Police sources have said that five persons have been questioned.The father of the deceased student, Arnab Mondol, expressed concerns about the investigation, saying, "We demand a thorough probe. My daughter couldn't swim, was scared of darkness, and it's unlikely she'd go to that spot alone. Her bag was dry when handed over to us, which is suspicious. We believe her university friends should be thoroughly questioned."Overcome with emotion, he added, "My 22-year-old daughter was a bright student. I'm still in shock that I had to perform her last rites instead of her doing mine one day."The primary post-mortem report reveals that death occurred due to drowning, with no external or internal injuries found. Traces of alcohol were found in the student's stomach, but the quantity will be determined through the viscera report. The university has tightened entry and security regulations across its premises following the incident.



A senior official said the postmortem report revealed congestive heart disease as the cause of death but also recorded four injuries on the body, raising questions that investigators aim to resolve.Authorities say the protest began as a dispute between two groups over the installation of electricity poles, with one group accusing another of erecting poles on private land without consent.On September 9, villagers staged a sit-in outside the Nonhara police station seeking action; police told protesters the matter fell under another department



# ‘Twenty days after wedding,’ man throws father-in-law down the stairs in Kolkata, kills him



GNS News Agency, Oct 11

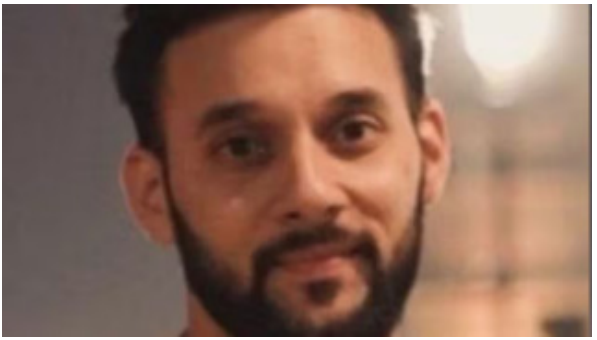
A 30-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly murdering his 75-year-old father-in-law in a fit of rage following a heated argument at the victim's Golf Green residence in Kolkata.The arrested accused, identified as Sanjit Das, who married the victim's daughter Soumashree just 21 days prior, was taken into custody after police launched an investigation.According to police, an argument began between the victim, Samik Kishore Gupta, and his daughter on Thursday evening around 6:30 pm.The situation es-

calated when Das allegedly pushed Gupta down the staircase, causing severe head injuries. The couple then reportedly fled the scene.The couple then reportedly fled the scene, leaving the victim's wife to find her husband's body the next morning.Gupta's body was discovered on the staircase landing the next morning by a neighbour on Friday.The victim's son, Sujay Gupta, was also found unconscious under a cot in the house and was hospitalized.A police investigation was launched immediately and Das was arrested, who reportedly confessed to the crime during interrogation.According to police reports, a heated argument erupted between the victim and his daughter on September 12 evening, around 6:30 pm, with Sanjit and Soumashree present. In a fit of rage, Das allegedly pulled the victim out of bed and pushed him down the stairs, causing severe head injuries. After the initial fall, Sanjit reportedly brought the victim back to his bed, only to lift him again and push him down the stairs towards the landing.A murder case has been registered based on the statement of Gupta's wife, Jayashree. While the motive behind the murder is still under investigation."The victim's son, Sujay Gupta, was found unconscious under a cot in a first-floor room. He was admitted to MR Bangur Hospital for treatment. The reason behind his unconsciousness is also being probed.," the police said.

# FIR in Bulandshahr against UK-based influencer over post on Nepal protests

GNS News Agency, Sept 26

A case was registered against Arpit Sharma, a UK-based social media influencer and a chartered accountant, in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district over his comments on the Nepal protests, officials said According to police, the FIR was registered against Sharma, who hails from Bulandshahr, over his now-deleted post in which he spoke about Nepal's Gen-Z protests in India's context.Sharma has more than 4 lakh followers on Instagram and over 1 lakh followers on X, formerly Twitter. He also has a YouTube channel with 11,000 subscribers.Bulandshahr Superintendent of Police (City) Shanker Prasad said, "His statements were deemed a threat to the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the country."The FIR was registered under section 152 (act endangering sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Kotwali Nagar police station in Bulandshahr on a complaint by a police constable Aslam Malik.Sharma "deliberately tried to provoke unrest through his video and comments, and sparked public outrage", the complainant alleged.Sharma responded to the FIR via a post on X. "I have done nothing wrong... Hate cannot shake me. They are viciously defaming me, but I



will try to stand tall.""With Gandhiji's values as my strength, Bhagat Singh's courage & Baba Saheb's constitution, I stand for peace, truth and unity," wrote Sharma who is son of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Vikas Sharma who unsuccessfully contested the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections on party ticket from the Bulandshahr seat.The protest in Nepal was sparked by a short-lived social media ban which led to thousands of people taking to the streets to show their anger over widespread graft and poverty.

# DUSU elections: Manifestos focus on women empowerment, student welfare

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Free Wi-Fi, sanitary pad vending machines, rollback of the National Education Policy (NEP), and a menstrual leave policy—these are among the promises featured in the electoral manifestos of the top contenders in the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections.With polling just days away, the three main players for DUSU polls—Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Congress's National Students' Union of India (NSUI), and the Left alliance of the Students' Federation of India (SFI) and All India Students Association (AISA)—unveiled their manifestos. While NSUI released their manifestos on Friday,SFI-AISA and ABVP released it on Saturday.The heart of these manifestos centres on student issues: affordable education, safer campuses, access to hostels, among otherABVP, which has long commanded DU's electoral space, rolled out a manifesto leaning on welfare promises: subsidized metro passes, free Wi-Fi, subsidized health insurance, accessibility audits, and expanded hostel facilities."The ABVP manifesto highlights the real issues faced by students of Delhi University. It reflects our belief that students are not merely citizens of tomorrow but also active citizens of today," said ABVP National General Secretary Virendra Singh Solanki.

"By prioritizing subsidized metro passes, provisions for specially-abled students, and women-centric measures, this manifesto demonstrates that ABVP-led DUSU is committed to working 365 days a year," he added.On the party's objectives for the academic year, ABVP's presidential candidate Aryan Maan said, "This year, we are determined to ensure adequate sports facilities and nutrition, campus accessibility audits for specially abled students, and free Wi-Fi access across DU. With these initiatives, we aim to establish Delhi University as a premier global institution."Deepika Jha, ABVP's Joint secretary candidate stressed on women's empowerment and safety. "Our priorities include establishing women's hostels in every college, installing pink booths, providing sanitary pad vending machines, appointing permanent gynaecologists, and introducing scholarships for transgender students," noted Jha.For the Congress-backed NSUI, the manifesto launch echoed Leader of the Opposition of Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's rhetoric of opening a "Mohabbat Ki Dukan.""We are confident of winning 4-0," said NSUI National President Varun Choudhary. "We are following the path of Bahujan-Nayak Shri Rahul Gandhi and are determined to safeguard the Constitution of India. Once again, we will open the 'Mohabbat Ki Dukan' in Delhi University, where diversity, love, and dignity for all will remain our top priority."NSUI's manifesto includes promises such as the scrapping of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)-linked fee hikes, granting up to 12 days of menstrual leave per semester, rolling back NEP (National Education Policy) 2020, and upgrading hostels as well as classrooms. Its "Her Manifesto" focuses on women's empowerment, pledging zero tolerance for harassment, legal aid cells, increased female security personnel, sanitary napkin vending machines, and medical-counseling centers in every college.In its manifesto, the SFI and AISA alliance presented itself as the conscience of student politics. The party's candidates Anjali, Sohan, Abhinandana, and Abhishek argued that their manifesto, centered on affordable education and hostels for all-is more student-centric than their rivals'.The alliance promised to resist fee hikes, push for elected Internal Complaints Committees and establish gender sensitisation cells in all colleges. SFI-AISA alliance also vowed to implement a menstrual leave policy for women students and further demanded the inclusion of women's colleges like Lady Shri Ram College, Gargi College, and Daulat Ram College in the student union.Their consistent efforts-from the Concessional Metro Pass campaign to Common University Entrance Test (CUET) admission assistance-were high-



lighted as evidence of the Left alliance's grassroots connection. In their joint appeal, the alliance's student leaders trained their guns at the NSUI and ABVP."The still rampant use of money-muscle power by organisations like the NSUI and ABVP makes it urgent for students to vote for those who have been sincere to the cause of student welfare," they stated.While the three major parties are ready to battle it out for the DUSU polls, the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAPs) relaunched student wing- the All Students Action Party, (ASAP)-which was set to debut in the student election, has decided to not contest this year."We won't be contesting this year," said ASAP member Ishwar Chand. "We are focusing on building the party together, bringing up units in every college, and making our presence stronger by voicing student concerns. We will fight next year if our base is stronger."ASAP was launched earlier this year as a revamped version of the Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Samiti (CYSS).Chand pointed to their ongoing protests, including calls to boycott the India-Pakistan cricket match after the Pahalgam killings, as reflection of the party's grassroots level presence. "We are active on the ground and want to keep this momentum going," he said.

# Irrigation experts dismiss Revanth Reddy's 904 TMC of Krishna water pitch as ignorant posturing

Hyderabad: With the all important phase of hearing by the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-II (KWDT-II) set to commence on September 23, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has surprisingly asked the State irrigation team to demand a staggering 904 TMC of Krishna water.

But the KWDT-II's terms, set in 2023, focus mainly on redistributing the 811 TMC fairly, prioritizing local needs over diversions outside the basin. Irrigation experts are of the impression that the 904 TMC demand might be a bold starting point for negotiations, but calling it Telangana's "legal right" may amount to overstepping.They are apprehensive that such a demand may appear a flip-flop claim and may weaken Telangana's case if it alienates the tribunal. The focus should stay on the solid 575 TMC claim, backed by data on catchment, drought and violations by Andhra Pradesh.

The claim for 904 TMC speaks more about ignorance of the political leadership and its urge to convert water needs into political rhetoric. As hearings begin, Telangana's farmers hope for a fair flow, not political overreach, say irrigation experts.The Krishna River has a reliable yield of 2,130 TMC, though its average flow is 2,578 TMC. Overusing it risks ecological damage, like zero water downstream during droughts.









# Rachael Haynes backs India to do well at the ICC Women's ODI World Cup, predicts Australian, England and South Africa to make the semifinals



Rachael Haynes belongs to an extraordinary league of women that made the Australian cricket team the greatest in history. She was the first player to retire from that golden generation. The 38-year-old is a winner of two ODI and four T20I World Cups. After making 98 on her Test debut at No. 7 against England at Worcester in 2009, the left-hander moved up the order. She served the Australian top-order with distinction for the best part of a decade. She was also a brilliant fielder who came up with some stunning catches. She captained Australia during the team's successful defence of the Ashes in 2017. Excerpts from an exclusive interview Haynes gave The Hindu at New Delhi:

You have been to India on several occasions, as player, coach and television commentator. Women's cricket has changed a lot in India, hasn't it?

Yeah. I was here for the WPL. I got to be part of that first season [2023] and that was a really exciting tournament to be part of. It has been a couple of years, and it is nice to be back, though in the commentary box, in a bit of a different role. I think the India-Australia series has been a really interesting one to follow because both of these sides are obviously tuning up for the World Cup. It has been interesting to see them find the right combinations and also, I suppose, build that rivalry that we know India and Australia have. And India is probably the second best team in the world. I think they are a team with momentum at the moment and that's really important heading into a big tournament. How do you look back at the experience in the WPL? You were part of the inaugural WBBL back in Australia as well. I suppose it was really different to Season One of WBBL that I was part of. The game has come such a long way over that time. And yeah, I suppose there was a lot of noise about India having a version for the women. When they eventually introduced the tournament, I mean, hats off to them. They did a wonderful job in creating a real spectacle, obviously drawing some of the best players in the world to the tournament. And it was done in a little bit of a different style, you know, with the auction format for players. And for a change, there was really good money in women's cricket.

That is right. And I am sure the players, you know, before the current players have laid a really nice foundation, I suppose, for this generation to be able to step into and enjoy a bit of financial reward. You joined Gujarat Giants as the head coach in the first WPL. But you had a big setback when your captain and best player Beth Mooney got injured in the very first match and had to pull out from the tournament.

Beth picked up that calf injury and it is not easy to replace a player like that. To lose both her keeping and her batting, it is effectively two skills in a team, which threw our balance out a little bit. But that is part of elite sport; that happens. And yeah, we just weren't able to quite get going

# National Centre for Divyang Empowerment gives jawans injured in line of duty a fighting chance

Until a year ago, Amit Kirtaniya, 33, would tremble with fear every time he heard the sound of a utensil dropping on the floor. The clatter would disrupt his sleep and bring back traumatic memories. On June 5, 2023, Kirtaniya, a constable with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and two of his colleagues were patrolling the hills of Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh after receiving information that Maoists were on the move. Suddenly, there was an explosion. "We were thrown in the air in different directions," Kirtaniya recalls.

The three men lay bleeding on the hill. A few hours later, a rescue team arrived and flew them by chopper to a government hospital nearby. The area had been filled with Improvised Explosive Devices (IED), Kirtaniya says. Having stepped on one, he lost both legs, sustained 95% physical disability in his right arm, and lost vision in his right eye. "A day later, I was airlifted by an air ambulance to Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) where I was admitted for 15 days," he says. "I was awake and conscious. The doctors sought my permission to amputate my legs above the knee. I had watched a viral video which gave me hope that I would be able to walk again with artificial limbs. So, I agreed."

The CRPF, one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in India, helped him get artificial limbs last April at the National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE) in Hyderabad. Divyang, which means divine body part, was a term introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 to refer to persons with disabilities. Located at the CRPF Group Centre in Hakimpet, on the outskirts of Hyderabad in Telangana's Rangareddy district, the NCDE is the only facility of its kind in the country. Conceived by former CRPF chief, Dr. A.P. Maheshwari, and inaugurated in December 2020, the NCDE is an exclusive facility for training CAPF personnel who suffer injuries and become physically challenged in the line of duty. In just five years, the NCDE has trained over 219 'Divyang warriors', as they are called on campus, producing medal-winning para athletes and skilled IT professionals. Infrastructural support The NCDE has a sprawling campus. It has about 180 barracks, each divided into 10x10 feet cubicles fitted with a table, chair, wardrobe with adjustable handles, a motorised bed, a shoe rack, and a window. Of the barracks, more than 100 are wheelchair-friendly, complete with attendant support. It is common to see Divyang warriors rise from their wheelchairs to salute superiors. The campus is equipped with wide ramps and elevators, and motorised buggies and vans to ferry trainees across its grounds. A hospital behind its main complex was built to handle emergencies. The Renault Group, a French multinational automobile manufacturer, has pledged motorised wheelchairs, sports chairs, and a bus by November 2025, signalling further expansion of mobility support to the personnel on campus. Kirtaniya says the artificial limbs were uncomfortable at first, but have now become a part of him. "I remove them while resting or sleeping. It takes 5-7 minutes to wear the entire gear, which requires servicing too. In the monsoon season, the equip-

after that first match. But all in all, it was really great to work with the local players. And in the WPL's inaugural match at Navi Mumbai, Harmanpreet Kaur played that blinder to lead Mumbai Indians to a huge victory. She also played one of the finest ODI innings, against Australia in the 2017 World Cup semifinal at Derby. I wasn't playing in the match, but I was on the bench that day. And it was just some of the most phenomenal hitting I have ever seen. The ball-striking was amazing. It didn't matter what Australia tried to do to counteract it, she had an answer. And that innings was no exception. She is a fantastic player. And I have had the opportunity to play alongside her as well at the Sydney Thunder in the WBBL. But in the next edition in 2022, Australia regained the World Cup, and you made 68 in the final against England at Christchurch and had a big partnership with Alyssa Healy for the first wicket.

It was great. Alyssa was absolutely smoking the ball and playing wonderfully. So I basically just put myself down at the other end. But yes, it is nice to contribute in big tournaments and I suppose to go on and experience that team success together. Because that is ultimately why you play sport: to be part of that win. Expert view: Haynes, who has won two ODI world titles, picks Australia, India, England and South Africa to make the semifinals in the upcoming World Cup. Expert view: Haynes, who has won two ODI world titles, picks Australia, India, England and South Africa to make the semifinals in the upcoming World Cup. | Photo Credit: P.K. Ajith Kumar

How do you look forward to the World Cup starting here in India on September 30? You wouldn't mind an India-Australia final perhaps?

I would absolutely love to see that. This is a real opportunity for the Indian side. You know, it's a huge privilege to play in a home World Cup and to have that support around. And we certainly experienced that in the T20 World Cup in Australia back in 2020. That was easily the most rewarding and fun tournament I have ever been part of as a player: we played that final at Melbourne in front of 86,000 people that supported us.

Apart from Australia and India, who do you think could make the semifinals?

I think England will be there. You know, Charlotte Edwards is such a fantastic coach and they will have Heather Knight coming back into their team. And I think South Africa will get through, just.

What makes this Australian side, of which you were a part until three years ago, so good?

I think one thing the squad and the selection and coaching group have done well is make sure they are always giving younger players an opportunity around the environment. They have brought Nicole Faltum and Charli Knott, who are sort of performing well in domestic cricket.

How do you view the changes the women's game has seen since the time you started out?

I think the game has just continued to evolve, and that has coincided with an increased investment from a lot of different boards around the world. So Australia, England and India are probably really leading the way in that respect. The success of the national side is really underpinned by the strength of your domestic programme, and there is no coincidence from my point of view that the top three teams in the world at the moment are well-funded and have good, strong domestic structures. I suppose in fairness to New Zealand, they are the current T20 World Cup holders. But a lot of their players end up on that sort of domestic circuit around the world.

ment retains moisture and needs further maintenance," he says. The constable, who used to trek for miles in jungles wearing a bulletproof jacket and carrying a gun, has been training to be an archer at the NCDE for the last one and a half years. His batch consists of 20 trainees. Seven of them have already been selected for national games ranging from archery to discus throw. The trainees are also provided skill development classes in IT, which are run in collaboration with BITS Pilani. Kirtaniya's efforts have resulted in some success. The father of two children won two medals — a bronze and a silver — at the Khelo India Para Games this year. He is happy, but says he misses the jungles. "I trained to be a fighter, but now I am a sports person," he says. The physical training infrastructure at the campus is comprehensive. A ramp leads to a fully equipped gym, tailored for the needs of persons with disabilities, with specially designed machines calibrated to their strengths and requirements. Physiotherapists guide them through sessions that focus on improving gait, strengthening arms, and shedding excess weight gained during recovery. Separate physiotherapy rooms offer focused exercises to restore mobility. At a meditation hall, two daily sessions of deep relaxation, mindfulness, and progressive muscle relaxation are conducted to reduce stress, anxiety, and minimise trauma. The counselling wing, led by specialists, focuses on post-traumatic stress disorder and trauma care. The wing also often handles cases of candidates who feel suicidal. "Our goal is to instil confidence in the people here so that they can lead a dignified life even with a physical disability," says Dr. K. Nagarjuna, a clinical psychologist at the wing. The risk of dangerous operations The CRPF is the main force deployed for anti-Maoist operations. In the 38 districts in India affected by Left Wing Extremism (LWE), 15 were located in Chhattisgarh in 2024. Following a directive by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, security forces have intensified operations in LWE-affected States, particularly Chhattisgarh, since 2023. Continuous operations have led to a sharp decline in LWE-affected districts from 126 in 2013 to 18 districts in April 2025. Four of the six most affected districts are in Chhattisgarh, according to data from the Ministry. However, these operations have also led to many grievous injuries. Since 2016, at least 46 CRPF personnel have lost limbs in IED explosions in LWE-affected areas. In 2023, 10 personnel had to undergo amputations as their limbs were damaged in explosions. On July 27, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan said that CAPF personnel who get severely injured during operations and have to undergo amputation will be allowed to continue in service until retirement with all the benefits. Mohan said the government will ensure that the best medical facilities and technology are available for limb replacement surgery for CAPF personnel. Until July 30 this year, the NCDE had facilitated the fitment of 106 artificial limbs while 135 fitments are under process. Rehabilitation includes personnel who suffer bullet wounds and injuries from road accidents while on their way to duty or on leave.

# Beyond maternity leave: Reintegration is the real test of inclusion for mothers



When conversations about women representation in the workforce come up, maternity leave and related challenges is always a point of contention. However, the real challenge is not the leave itself, but the noise and clutter around it. Streamlining the entire journey and experience, from pregnancy to reintegration into the workplace, determines whether women remain, prosper, or quietly depart. According to the Marching Sheep Inclusion Index 2025, 63% of listed Indian companies do not have women in Key Managerial Positions (KMP). Representation thins out as roles become senior. Another stark reality: multiple studies show that nearly 46% of women in India drop out of the workforce within two years of maternity. Motherhood is still among the largest reasons why women drop off the corporate ladder. These statistics are important because they identify where the talent pipeline starts thinning. The pressures new mothers face

To really understand why so many women step away from work after motherhood, we have to peel back the layers of pressure they carry every single day. Family expectations: In most households, it's still presumed that caregiving is a woman's natural responsibility. Even if both parents are employed, majority of the household chores and caregiving usually fall on the mother. Extended families, though supportive in many ways, can sometimes perpetuate the gender norms: "The child needs the mother more." Societal norms: The stereotype of a good mother is too often defined as one who is always available for the child and takes care of nutrition, academics, hobbies, and everything. Anything less leads to guilt, feeling inadequate. Pursuing professional goals with full focus after childbirth seems like an uphill task. Whether or not openly criticised, new mothers find themselves constantly defending their choices, to neighbours, relatives, even friends. Struggles within: In addition to what others may want, there is also the inner struggle. Long sleepless nights, physical fatigue, and the bouts of emotions that accompany motherhood make new mothers question themselves. Most question: "Am I selfish in prioritising my career? Will my child suffer?" Guilt and self-doubt becomes a constant companions. Organisational systems: Then there's the workplace. Coming back to work after maternity leave is supposed to be like homecoming, but it feels more like entering a war zone. Inflexible policies, no work flexibility, no access to childcare and sometimes even apathy from managers and team seems like being alone. True, the mother has been away for six months or more, and the team would have shared the extra workload and they would have waited for her to return, but now that she is back, what next? The truth is, women don't drop out because they can't cope. They drop out because the world around them makes it far harder than it should be. The ripple effect of dropouts The impact of working women exiting workplaces is not invisible.

• For organisations: Trained talent is lost, business continuity suffers, and replacement costs add up. A Deloitte report estimated that replacing a mid-level employee costs anywhere between 150–200% of their annual salary. Culture also takes a hit when women disappear from leadership pipelines. • For the economy: India's female labour force

# Why degrees alone won't build India's workforce



India's education system has expanded dramatically in recent years, democratising access across geographies and social groups. But while degrees have become more accessible, employability has not. Each year, over 10 million students graduate, yet, fewer than half meet industry-defined benchmarks for job-readiness. This gap is not a reflection of low aspiration or poor intent. It is a systemic issue rooted in how we define, deliver, and measure education.

Disconnect There is a dangerous illusion that completing a degree is the same as building a career. For many young people in India, especially in smaller towns, higher education is treated as an automatic gateway to employment. However, only 8.25% of graduates find jobs related to their field of study. Most are either left underemployed or pushed into unrelated roles, not due to lack of intelligence, but due to lack of direction.

Our education system remains syllabus-driven and exam-oriented, rarely aligned with actual market needs. The result is a generation of graduates, confident in theory but underprepared in application. In sectors like engineering, the disconnect is even sharper, with over 80% of graduates deemed unfit for core roles. A critical gap in India's education-to-employment journey is the absence of hands-on exposure. With limited industry touchpoints, especially in non-metros, students graduate without workplace awareness, communication skills, or portfolios that recruiters expect as a baseline. This is further widened by an ecosystem that rewards course completion and enrollment numbers, not placement outcomes. Institutions have little incentive to build employer networks, integrate applied learning, or support structured mentorship. Students are left navigating the most critical phase of their lives — career launch — largely on their own. Looking ahead

The way forward lies in rethinking education not as a product but as a full-stack system that drives employment. This means introducing students early to the landscape of career possibilities through localised, relatable role models

participation rate is about 37% in 2024 (PLFS data), one of the lowest among emerging economies. If women participated at the same rate as men, India's GDP could rise by nearly 27% (McKinsey Global Institute). Dropouts stall this growth. • For society: Every time a mother leaves the workforce, stereotypes about women not lasting long in careers get reinforced. This slows down progress on gender parity. Even international research points to the same trends. It is estimated that by 2023, 40% women will either be single or choose not to have children. In India, with increasing number of women delaying to get married or even putting off marriage or having children at an older age, the demand for greater workplace support becomes even more pressing. What organisations can control is true that companies cannot rewrite family dynamics or erase social expectations overnight. But they do have a circle of control and that is where the biggest difference can be made.

• Train and sensitise managers to respond with empathy when a woman announces her pregnancy and returns from maternity leave. • Create systems that enable women to transition back without penalty on role, increments or bonuses. When companies proactively manage this integration, the impact does not remain confined to the office. It sends a signal to families, to society, and to young women entering the workforce that careers and motherhood can co-exist. Handling the journey not just the leave The return to work is not a single event. It is a journey that begins the day a woman shares her pregnancy news and continues until she feels fully integrated again. • The moment of disclosure matters: If the manager reacts with worry or disappointment, women tend to hide or delay the news. This creates fear and uncertainty about the future role and career. A response rooted in curiosity, empathy and reassurance sets a different tone. • Policy support is critical: Flexible hours, phased return options, childcare facilities, and support for remote work help women transition at their own pace without impacting role, deliverables and accountability. • Addressing the emotional layer: Many women experience imposter syndrome "Am I good enough anymore?" Coaching, counselling, and peer support groups can help deal with this emotional turmoil. • Active listening: HR and managers must tune in to subtle signals of distress. Withdrawal, hesitation, or declining participation in meetings are clear signals of waning engagement and need to be addressed. • Role models matter: Women who see seniors balancing motherhood and leadership are more likely to believe that their own careers are sustainable. When organisations view maternity as a complete journey from pregnancy to reintegration they retain not just employees, but also their trust. Retention: When women feel seen and supported, and set up for success after maternity, they stay. They grow professionally and climb ladders instead of stepping away from them. Productivity: A mother who returns to a workplace that offers flexibility and trust brings with her an incredible sense of focus and resilience. With the appropriate systems in place, a mother doesn't merely come back, she flourishes. Profitability: According to Marching Sheep Inclusion Index 2025 firms with higher women representation in senior positions don't merely look good on paper, but they actually perform better. Reputation: How an organisation treats a returning mother during this critical stage becomes part of its brand's identity. Therefore, the message is clear: A company shouldn't just hire talent, but must stand by it. That reputation draws in not only women but talent of every gender who value fairness and humanity at work. Ultimately, the question is simple: Do we want maternity to be the point where careers stagger, or do we want it to be just another phase in a thriving professional journey? India's workforce cannot afford the loss of talent that happens when mothers leave. Reintegration is not charity, nor is it policy on paper. It is about building a workplace where women do not feel like they are returning after a break because they never truly left.

# ESIC payroll data: over 20 lakh new employees enrolled in July

and vernacular resources. Skilling must follow, but in industry-aligned formats that are accessible and affordable. Mentorship should no longer be optional. It must be embedded through digital coaches, alumni engagement, and structured guidance that helps students match their strengths to the right opportunities. Finally, placement support must go beyond urban job portals. We need regional placement ecosystems that reflect local economic realities, connecting graduates to jobs in BFSI, digital services, logistics, healthcare, and beyond. Job creation isn't a peripheral goal; it is the test of whether our education system works. If education is reimaged as a system, it must be wired into demand, employer partnerships, local enterprise incubation, and clear employment pathways. This means creating jobs and not just churning out graduates. India's edtech sector has a critical role to play in enabling this transformation. But the entire focus needs to shift from enrollments to measurable, long-term outcomes. We can no longer measure progress by scores or degrees alone. The real metric is 'how many young Indians find jobs that align with their skills'? It is time we stopped asking, "How many graduated?" and start asking, "How many progressed?" It is not the certificate that secures the future; it is the pathway.

# ESIC payroll data: over 20 lakh new employees enrolled in July

New Delhi: At least 20.36 lakh new employees were added in the payroll data of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) in July, an increase of 4.86 per cent from 19.37 lakh new workers enrolled in June, an official statement said on Friday.

Over 48 per cent of new registrations comprise young people under 25 years of age, according to a Ministry of Labour and Employment statement. About 31,146 new establishments have been brought under the social security ambit of the ESI Scheme in the month of July, thus ensuring social security to more workers. "It is noticeable that out of the total 20.36 lakh employees added during the month, 9.85 lakh employees amounting to around 48.37 per cent of the total registrations belong to the age group of up to 25 years," the statement said. The gender-wise analysis of the payroll data indicates that net enrollment of female members has been 4.33 lakh out of the total 20,36,008 employees added in July. Moreover, a total of 88 transgender employees have also been registered under the ESI Scheme in July, which attests to the commitment of ESIC to deliver its benefits to every section of society.



# Building health for 1.4 billion Indians



India's health-care system stands at a defining juncture. The task is dual: expand access for the millions who are underserved, while ensuring affordability amid rising costs. This needs an integrated framework, strengthening insurance, leveraging scale, embedding prevention in primary care, accelerating digital adoption, enabling regulatory clarity, and unlocking sustained investment. Through a systemic, interconnected approach, India can build a health-care model that is inclusive, financially viable, and globally aspirational.

Insurance as the foundation of affordabilityPooling risk remains the most effective way to make costly care accessible. Even modest premiums — ₹5,000 to ₹20,000 for individuals or ₹10,000 to ₹50,000 for families — can unlock coverage worth several lakhs, shielding households from catastrophic financial shocks. Yet, penetration remains low: only 15%-18% of Indians are insured, with the premium-to-GDP ratio at 3.7% compared to the global average of 7%. The gap is significant, but so is the opportunity, as gross written premiums already stand at \$15 billion in 2024 and are projected to grow at over 20% CAGR till 2030.Affordability cannot rest on insurance alone. True impact comes when payers, providers and patients partner, expanding coverage, embracing prevention and making insurance a tool for everyday health security, not just a crisis shield.India's health-care system has mastered something that the world is only now beginning to appreciate — delivering quality care at extraordinary scale. Where an MRI in the West may handle seven to eight scans a day, in India the same machine manages many times that volume. This ability to stretch resources without diluting quality is not coincidence. It is the product of decades of ingenuity in doctor-patient ratios, workflow design, and infrastructure use.

The next leap is clear: extend this efficiency to India's vast heartland. Tier-2 and tier-3 cities remain underserved, yet they represent the true frontier. If India can replicate its urban efficiency in these geographies, it will not just close the access gap. It could set a global benchmark for how scale, innovation and inclusion can reshape health care.Schemes such as Ayushman Bharat (Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, or PM-JAY) have redefined access. Covering nearly 500 million people, with 75 lakh a family for advanced care, PM-JAY has enabled millions of cashless

treatments in both public and private hospitals. Its impact is visible: timely cancer treatments for beneficiaries have increased by nearly 90%.Expanding private hospital participation in government-backed schemes is essential to reach the next 500 million. But this must be anchored in fair reimbursements and transparent processes, ensuring viability for providers and real value for patients.A study in Punjab revealed a stark reality — even insured families faced catastrophic expenses on diabetes, hypertension, and other non-communicable disease (NCD) outpatient care. The solution is two-fold: redesign insurance to include outpatient and diagnostics, and launch a nationwide push for prevention. But this is incomplete without public participation. Alongside payers and providers, people must embrace a preventive mindset — controlling risks, staying alert and raising awareness. Every rupee in healthier lifestyles saves multiples in treatment. If schools, employers, communities and citizens rally behind prevention, India can blunt the looming tsunami of NCDs and secure a healthier future.India was early to adopt telemedicine and is now pushing boundaries with Artificial Intelligence. Tools that detect early signs of sepsis, triage diagnostic reports, or enable remote consultations are already in practice. These innovations not only improve patient outcomes but also optimise the productivity of doctors and nurses.Digital health is also democratising access. Remote consultations mean that a cardiologist in a metropolitan city can guide treatment for a patient in a village that is hundreds of kilometres away. Combined with the government's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, such innovations could enable universal health records and continuity of care across the country.Regulation and trust as the missing linkHealth-care innovations are promising, but challenges persist. Insurers in New Delhi are considering a 10%-15% premium hike due to pollution-driven respiratory illnesses which shows how environmental factors raise health-care costs. Without safeguards, such pressures could hit affordability for millions. This is where regulation is crucial. The Finance Ministry has urged the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to strengthen claims of settlement and grievance redress, recognising that trust drives insurance penetration. Without confidence in fair and transparent claims, households will not prioritise health insurance. Robust regulation, paired with fair pricing, is essential to deepen coverage and build confidence.

In 2023, India's health sector drew \$5.5 billion in private equity and venture capital, fuelling digital health, pharmacy networks, and hospitals. But capital remains skewed toward metros. The true test is directing this to tier-2 and tier-3 cities, building primary networks, and training specialists so that growth translates into inclusion.India's health care is at an inflection point. Insurance must cover everyday care, providers must scale efficiently, prevention must cut long-term costs, and technology must drive access. With aligned investment and bold public-private partnerships, we can design a system that is not episodic or exclusionary, but universal, resilient, and sustainable. Health care must move from being a privilege to becoming every Indian's right.

# Property registration fee doubled in Karnataka from 1% to 2%



Property registrations in Karnataka are all set to get dearer from this weekend. The State government on Friday doubled the registration fee for all properties from 1% to 2%.This move comes in the context of the Department of Stamps and Registrations falling severely short of revenue targets both in 2024-25 and the first quarter of 2025-26.The State used to levy a stamp duty of 5% of the guidance value of a property, 1% registration fee, 0.5% cess and 0.1% surcharge, adding up to 6.6%. With the registration fee now doubling to 2%, the total fee payable for any property transaction is 7.6% from August 31, Sunday.Among the lowestMullai Muhilan M.P., Inspector-General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps (IGR&CS), Karnataka, told The Hindu that despite this hike, the total fee payable

# Can an AI image-to-video feature put children at risk?

On June 22, Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian posted a childhood photo of his mother and himself. In the picture, both are wearing red sweaters while hugging each other against a mountain backdrop.Alongside the image, Mr. Ohanian posted an AI-generated video that brought the picture to life: the mother and child cuddle each other as the wind ruffles their hair.“Damn, I wasn’t ready for how this would feel. We didn’t have a camcorder, so there’s no video of me with my mom,” posted Ohanian on X (formerly Twitter). “I dropped one of my favorite photos of us in midjourney as ‘starting frame for an AI video’ and wow... This is how she hugged me. I’ve rewatched it 50 times.”

The post quickly went viral, and garnered well over 20 million views. While many empathised with Mr. Ohanian’s act of turning a cherished family photo into a video, he was also severely criticised. Many X users accused him of creating “false” memories, damaging his ability to grieve his mother in a healthy way, or seeking comfort in an interaction that he manufactured.The capacity to turn images into videos is not limited to tools like Midjourney. In recent weeks, multi-billionaire Elon Musk announced ‘Grok Imagine’ for users to generate short videos from text/image prompts. Google, in July, rolled out ‘Create’ mode in its Photos app to transform photos into short videos for U.S.-based users. There are also other, smaller platforms that offer to turn users’ photos into AI videos.AI tools have been used for years to enhance old media through a process called AI upscaling: removing blurred parts, pixelation, and grain to deliver better output. While GenAI has made this process faster and easier, it also allows users to morph and manipulate images with advanced tools that can remove objects and fill in missing spaces.

The jump in technology comes with legal questions to consider, as permission is usually required before making any significant edits to a copyrighted creation. Furthermore, ethical conundrums also arise when a person manipulates a photo featuring someone who is no longer alive. Significantly, more users need to consider the impact on the photo’s most vulnerable subjects — children.Children’s rights and safety at riskFor instance, cybercriminals can now rapidly create realistic AI videos of minors by using their publicly available photos with ease. In the past, criminals have targeted minors by generating synthetic nude photos of them to extort money. One such case in the U.S. led to a teenager dying by suicide. His family was not aware that the child was being harassed.Data protection lawyer and AI specialist Kleanthi Sardeli, who works with the Vienna-based NGO noyb and advocates for consumers’ digital rights, said that turning still images into video clips could be done for innocent reasons but that there are “serious implications” to consider as well.“The lower the barriers to creating realistic content, the more we also need to think about ethics, consent and context. A photo can be turned into a convincing video without the knowledge or consent of the person depicted, increasing the risk of deepfakes, defamation and abuse,” said Ms. Sardeli, adding that the risks multiplied when photos of children were involved.She explained that under the EU’s GDPR regulations, children cannot legally consent to such use of their personal data, including their image, until they turn 16 years old.Though experts and lawmakers have called on AI companies to enforce strong guardrails to prevent AI chatbots from generating highly pornographic media, the reality is that many chatbots easily churn out sexual content. What’s more, AI firms and their bosses are aggressively promoting their service. For instance, one specific video Mr. Musk shared that promoted Grok Imagine’s capability depicted a fantasy-style clip of a winged woman wearing very little clothing.Across the internet, meanwhile, websites lure users with morphed porn videos, featuring celebrities, and invite users to digitally undress victims of their choice.“Beyond obvious dangers such as CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material), less malicious uses, such as animating a child’s photo for advertising or entertainment purposes, can also jeopardise children’s privacy, dignity and autonomy,” said Ms. Sardeli.

The Hindu reached out to both Google and xAI about the safeguards in place on these platforms to restrict users from turning photos of children into videos, and whether there are content filters to stop photos from being turned into pornographic content or child abuse material.A Google spokesperson said that the company took child safety online seriously and that the photo-to-video capability in Google Photos could be used with only two prompts: “Subtle movements” and “I’m feeling lucky”.Furthermore, these videos would include an invisible SynthID digital watermark, as well as a visual watermark, the company said.“Our safety measures include extensive ‘red teaming’ to proactively identify and address potential issues, as well as thorough evaluations to understand how features can be used and prevent misuse. We also welcome user feedback on issues, which we use to make ongoing improvements to our safety measures and overall experience. We have clear policies and Terms of Service on what kinds of content we allow and don’t allow, and build guardrails to prevent abuse,” said the Google spokesperson.“Google Photos is a place to store your memories and we want our users to be able to use its fun creative tools on photos of their friends and family, in-

for any property transaction in Karnataka is among the lowest among all neighbouring States in South India. For instance, in Tamil Nadu it is 11%, he said.The government order issued on Friday also doubled the registration fee for Joint Development Agreements (JDA) and General Power of Attorney (GPA) for JDAs from 1% to 2%. The impact of this is expected to be big, as these are usually large parcels of land and will impact the real estate sector dear.The realty sector has been slow for multiple quarters now. As against an initial revenue target of ₹26,000 crore, the department collected only ₹22,500 crore in 2024-25 and in the first quarter that ended on June 30 the Department has fallen back by 35% against the proportional target for the year, set at an ambitious ₹28,000 crore. Criticism from buildersBuilders blame this on the e-Khata mandate for property transactions which they term a “bottleneck”, among other factors. They argue that doubling registration fee is not the answer to missing revenue targets.While there was a proposal to increase the stamp duty by 1%, following a performance review meeting of the Department of Stamps and Registrations chaired by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in June earlier this year, the decision was taken to hike registration fee by 1%. Karnataka continues to be one of the few States to impose a lower stamp duty of less than 6%.Asked what is the additional revenue expected through this hike, Mr. Muhilan said they were working towards achieving the revenue target set, but did not put a number to it.



cluding their kids, while also prioritising safety,” the company said.xAI did not respond to a request for a statement.In the U.S., the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has highlighted that it is “deeply concerned” about how Generative AI was being used to sexually exploit children.“Over the past two years, NCMEC’s CyberTipline has received more than 7,000 child sexual exploitation reports involving GAI [Gen AI], and the numbers are expected to grow as we continue to track these trends,” stated the organisation on its website.Meanwhile, Ms. Sardeli noted that existing laws in the EU provided some safeguards but were not specifically designed with AI content in mind. This means EU child protection laws clearly prohibit explicit material, but they are less clear when it comes to synthetic media that is not overtly illegal but is still exploitative or harmful, according to her.In India, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) has issued advisories that require platforms to remove morphed content (including AI deepfakes), and especially if the content is graphic or sexually abusive. Furthermore, platforms such as Meta, Google, and X have appointed grievance officers in India to handle complaints raised by affected users.“AI providers are beginning to build in safeguards, like detection systems and content filters, but these are uneven across platforms and not always effective. The law is lagging behind the technology. In particular, there is no comprehensive global framework that addresses the misuse of children’s likenesses in GenAI,” explained Ms. Sardeli.“Stronger rules around consent, transparency, and accountability are needed, along with technical standards that make it harder to misuse children’s photos.”Safety tips for turning photos into AI videosDo not share intimate or sensitive photos with Generative AI platforms when you are trying to turn them into videos, as you may be giving up your ownership and usage rights over the image by doing soIt is best practice to only convert a photo into an AI video if you have the informed consent of all those featured in the photo, as well as the photographer

Do not turn other people’s copyrighted or personal images into AI videos, as this may lead to legal action being taken against youIf a photo of you or someone you know has been turned into an AI video without consent, report the content to the tech platform as well as the company’s assigned Grievance Officer in India whose job is to make sure they comply with Indian lawsIf you are a parent or caretaker, refrain from sharing photos that feature minors or other vulnerable people on public platforms, as these images can be easily stolen or misused by cybercriminals using AI toolsAvoid using third-party platforms to turn personal photos into AI videos, and especially if the images feature children or other vulnerable people. Instead, opt for private or device-based photo-to-video AI tools for security reasonsHave an open discussion with children and adolescents about the increasing risks of AI deepfakes, and urge them to confide in trusted adults or approach the po-

# Jio forays into smartglasses with JioFrames

New Delhi: Digital firm Jio on Friday announced entry into the smartglass segment by unveiling JioFrames that will allow hands-free access to calls, music, recording of videos, etc, backed by AI voice assistant in multiple Indian languages.

“JioFrames is an AI-powered wearable platform and ecosystem, made for India. With support for multiple Indian languages at launch, you can simply speak to Jio’s multi-lingual AI voice-assistant,” Reliance Jio Chairman Akash Ambani said while sharing the “first look” of the device at the company’s annual general meeting (AGM) on Friday.It is a hands-free, AI-powered companion designed for the way India lives, works, and plays, he said.The segment is dominated by Ray-Ban Meta AI Glasses with 73 per cent market share globally in the first half of 2025, as per Counterpoint Research.

Jio introduced a slew of new features and tools like reels and photo gallery customisation to step up competition with global platforms.Jio has been coming up with all elements of digital ecosystem to enable users generate data and store them securely with privacy within the company’s ecosystem that can be leveraged by artificial intelligence for offering personalised services.

# Which sectors are worst hit by U.S. tariffs?

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

The 50% tariffs imposed by the U.S. on imports from India came into effect on August 27, sending ripples through the Indian economy and the government. Several sectors, many of them labour-intensive, have the U.S. as a major export destination, and many are already seeing a significant dip in demand. The government is cognisant of this and is devising a plan to support these sectors, at least in the short term.

How do we know which sectors will be worst affected?

The intensity of the impact of tariffs can be arrived at by looking at three metrics in combination: the amount exported to the U.S. in absolute terms, the share of the U.S. in that sector’s total exports to the world, and the final tariff that sector is facing.If a sector exports a large amount to the U.S., the U.S. forms a major part of its total exports, and the tariffs are high, then the pain felt by that sector will likely be high. However, if the U.S. forms a small share in a sector’s total exports, then the impact is likely to be limited.

Which sectors are likely to see a severe impact?

According to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India exported about \$2.4 billion worth of shrimp to the U.S. in 2024-25, making up 32.4% of its total shrimp exports. Earlier, the U.S. only imposed a 10% countervailing tariff on shrimp from India. However, the addition of the 50% tariff now takes this total to 60%.Reports indicate that exporter purchase prices of shrimp in Andhra Pradesh — the source of the majority of India’s shrimp — fell by about 20% following the 25% tariff imposed on August 7. Prices are likely to fall further due to the current 60% tariff.India exported \$10 billion worth of diamonds, gold, and jewellery to the U.S. in 2024-25, accounting for 40% of total exports in this sector. Tariffs have now risen from 2.1% to 52.1%. Reports from hubs like Surat already show that production cuts are underway. Surat’s diamond polishing industry itself employs about 12 lakh people.One of the worst-hit sectors is likely to be India’s textiles and apparel exports sector. These exports to the U.S. stood at \$10.8 billion in 2024-25, with apparel alone accounting for \$5.4 billion. Further, the U.S. accounts for 35% of India’s apparel exports. The sector now faces a 63.9% tariff, up from the previous 13.9%.“Tiruppur exporters are rushing shipments while cancelling new styles,” said the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) in its report. “Noida-Gurugram has frozen planned capacity expansions and is considering downsizing. Ludhiana reports a slump in yarn and fabric demand, with working capital under stress, and Bengaluru units are preparing for shift cuts as buyers push for offshore production.”India exported \$1.2 billion worth of carpets to the U.S. in 2024-25, which makes up 58.6% of total carpet exports. Tariffs have increased from 2.9% to 52.9%.Other significantly affected sectors include handicrafts, leather and shoes, furniture and bedding, and agricultural products such as basmati rice, spices, tea, pulses, and sesame.

Which sectors will see a more modest impact?

India’s export of organic chemicals to the U.S. stood at \$2.7 billion. This made up 13.2% of India’s total exports. The sector now faces 54% import tariffs, up from the previous 4%. The exporters’ body, CHEMEXCIL, and industry bodies have already approached the government for some intervention.India exported \$4.7 billion worth of steel, aluminium, and copper to the U.S. in 2024-25, about 17% of India’s total exports of these metals.“While the U.S. is not the largest market for Indian metals, it is critical for hundreds of SMEs in the Delhi-NCR engineering belt and eastern foundry hubs,” GTRI said.“The tariff threatens to disrupt jobs in stainless steel, aluminium casting, and copper semi-finished goods, putting severe pressure on small and



medium exporters reliant on U.S. orders."India exported \$6.7 billion worth of machinery and mechanical appliances to the U.S. in 2024-25, making up 20% of its total exports. This sector is also expected to face a drop in demand.

Is the government planning to help these sectors?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Commerce and Industries Minister Piyush Goyal have been repeating the ‘swadeshi’ mantra and asking Indians to ‘go vocal for local’, so that the economy can reduce its dependence on exports. Apart from this, The Hindu reported on August 13 that the government is working on a multi-ministry plan to ease the short-term pain of exporters.In the medium to long term, the government is working with exporter bodies to diversify their export destinations and make better use of existing free trade agreements. The Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra has also said that the central bank stands ready to provide whatever help it can.

# India win SAFF U17 Women’s Championship with 5-0 triumph over Nepal

Hyderabad: India stamped their authority with a commanding 5-0 victory over Nepal at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu on Friday to clinch the 2025 SAFF U17 Women’s Championship title in style.The victory lifted India to 15 points from five matches, an unassailable lead at the top of the table. Bangladesh’s slip-up earlier in the day (a 1-1 draw against hosts Bhutan) ensured the title for India.Pearl Fernandes (15’, 43’) and Divyani Linda (79’, 90+2’) both scored a brace, while Nira Chanu Longjam (5’) netted the opener.From the opening whistle, India dominated completely. The ball rarely entered their half as wave after wave of blue shirts pressed forward, pinning Nepal back and keeping the action away from goalkeeper Munni.The floodgates opened early when, in the fifth minute, Nira Chanu struck from a set-piece, guiding the ball cleanly into the net. Ten minutes later, she turned provider, curling a cross into the box for Pearl Fernandes to finish with composure.India continued to pile on the pressure with sharp movements and fluid attacking play. Just before half-time, in the 43rd minute, a Divyani cross found Pearl, who swept home her second goal.The second half began scrappily, with chances, offsidess and near misses, before India struck again. In the 79th minute, Shveta Rani delivered a deep cross that Bonifilia Shullai flicked goalwards, allowing Divyani Linda to finish at the line.India closed the game smartly thereafter, and in added time, Divyani once again rose to the occasion, sliding in an Anita cross to make it 5-0.



# India-US deal could involve a grand bargain on oil: New Jersey Governor



Disagreeing with US President Donald Trump's move to impose high tariffs on allies, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy — a top leader of the rival Democratic Party — said here Wednesday that when it comes to the India-US bilateral trade deal, there will be a "landing place" on the 50% tariffs but there could be a "grand bargain" including on oil. The 25% penalty tariff was slapped on India last month for importing Russian oil.

Incidentally, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, who was in the US recently for trade talks, said Wednesday that India's energy security goals will have a "very high element" of US involvement in the years to come. For the past few years, the US has been the fifth largest supplier of crude oil to India and the second-largest supplier of LNG. Asked about the ongoing trade talks, Murphy told The Indian Express in an exclusive interview: "The vibrations around suggest there's a landing place sooner rather than later...the vibrations are that there's going to be a deal here, which means that it would be less punitive than the current. But it's probably a grand bargain...that has oil as part of it.

Murphy was in Mumbai with his wife Tammy Murphy as part of their six-day four-city "economic mission" to India that included visits to New Delhi, Kochi, Bangalore and Mumbai. A former US Ambassador to Germany (2009-13), Murphy has worked in Goldman Sachs where he headed the firm's Asia unit. Supporting US President Donald Trump's measures with respect to Russia, he cautioned that imposing heavy tariffs on America's allies "is not the right way to get there." Asked if India was being singled out given that China also imports Russian oil, he said: "China needs to be taken to task...China cannot come out of this and cannot get away with what they're doing." On Russia, he echoed Trump's objective of ensuring accountability. "Russia deserves to be taken to task, and they need to continue to be taken to task. But I'm not of the opinion that putting big tariffs on your allies is the way to do that," Murphy said.

Murphy also made it clear that he does not "agree with the policy" on H-1B visas, signalling concern over its impact on students and immigrant communities. He will complete eight years as Governor in January of New Jersey, a state where the Indian diaspora is a force to reckon

with. Touching upon immigration concerns, particularly the H-1B visa issue that directly affects New Jersey's large Indian community, Murphy struck a more optimistic note. "It (H-1B Visa issue) started out like, holy cow, Friday, \$100,000 a year. It's now down to \$16,667 a year. The people we have spoken to say it won't get worse than that. It could get better," the Governor said. "I agree with the principle to give every American kid the shot at everything that could be fulfilled, but this is not the way to do it," he said. When asked whether the current India-US chill, on trade and visas, is a hiccup in a longer bilateral arc of engagement or a long-term structural change in the relationship, Murphy said: "I hope it's a short-term reality. It won't be easy to regain the trust on both sides.... I agree with President Trump's objective to take Russia to task. That's not the issue. The issue is how you do... This is the case with a lot of the Trump administration policies. It's less arguing about the principle, it's more arguing about the execution. But I hope it's more short term."

Stating that he is an optimist by nature, he said, "I think there's so much at stake. We're so intertwined. I mean, we've met company after company, university after university with deep ties at the moment and I'm hoping it can be contained." On the issues of H-1B visas and how it may impact Indian workers and students, he said, "You want to keep bad people out of your country? I'm all for that, but I've always thought the student visa process was a good one.... In the H-1 visas as well, if anything, I would expand that program. Secure borders and then expand that program to get the talent we need," he said. Asked if there will be a decline in the number of students going to the US because of the H-1B visa issues, he said, "I bet it will, unfortunately...they will end up going somewhere else or they'll stay here. I would not be surprised if more American universities could have a presence in India. You could see one plus three programs, two plus two, three plus one." Over 2,000 Indian students are waiting for their visas for the semester that began a month ago. I think we will get where we've been working with the State Department. But that's a challenge that we're going to have to cut through and it won't be overnight." Asked if some of the decisions taken were reversible, the Governor said: "I can't speak for the Trump administration or for the administration. You've already seen the H-1B visa get announced on Friday and get changed within 24 hours. Yes, it doesn't get worse than it is today. Could it get better? Yes. My guess is there will be legal action, lots of people are looking at that, including us. So I'm not sure about reversing... does it go back to where it was Thursday? I don't know, but they clearly dropped the economic price and they delayed it till April." He said that student visas will have to get better. Stating that it used to be a race for three months to get visas processed, he said, "Now this is going to end up being a longer tail, probably a year-round process. These all depend on who the president is, obviously."

# As Trump expands tariff net, why questions loom over the effectiveness of a trade deal with the US

The effectiveness of trade deals with the US has come under fresh scrutiny as US President Donald Trump on Friday expanded the tariff net to multiple products, including patented drugs and heavy trucks that were previously exempted from reciprocal tariffs. Trump's move assumes significance as India is in the middle of negotiations with the US, and the elimination of reciprocal tariffs is a key ask from the Indian side, though sectoral tariffs are not part of the talks. While the tariffs on pharma drugs may not affect India in the short term, experts said that the use of Section 232 is already impacting India's steel and aluminium manufacturers, and expansion of tariffs could further hurt exports even after the trade deal. Government officials said that a new investigation could lead to more products with steel and aluminium facing higher tariffs in the US.

Deborah Elms, Head of Trade Policy at the Singapore-based Hinrich Foundation, said that fresh sectoral tariffs under Section 232 raise several questions about whether or not they are covered under any existing bilateral trade deals. The US has already pushed for steep asks from India to sign a trade deal. Differences over India's purchase of Russian oil have already been a flashpoint between India and the US. On expanding use of Section 232, Simon Evenett, Professor at Switzerland-based IMD Business School, said that the US is fast expanding national security investigations on a range of products that raised several concerns. "The choice of Section 232 over other trade tools isn't accidental. According to legal experts, Section 232 tariffs are difficult to challenge in courts—unlike the IEEPA tariffs currently facing Supreme Court review. It's a calculated move to create more legally bulletproof trade barriers," Evenett said. Evenett emphasised that there are 12 concurrent Section 232 investigations across sectors from semiconductors to wind turbines, and this represents a "fundamental shift toward prioritising security concerns over openness, customer choice, and competitive pricing." "Rather than the broad-based tariff announcements we saw in April 2025, this Administration is now deploying a slice-by-slice approach. This likely reflects lessons learned from adverse financial market reactions to blockbuster tariff packages," he said.

Experts also said that several Section 232 investigations could have a hidden agenda, such as in the case of robots. While national security concerns around robotics are legitimate, there's potentially another motive at play. "Im-



posing high robot tariffs (historically in the range of 25-100 per cent under Section 232) would artificially inflate domestic robot prices, pushing companies toward hiring local workers over automation—a backdoor employment creation strategy," Evenett said. In signs that India may not receive relief for Section 232 tariffs under the trade deal, New Delhi has begun approaching the WTO against sectoral tariffs and has also indicated retaliation. Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada, in a written reply to a parliamentary question earlier this year, said that the US has refused discussions in the WTO over steel and aluminium tariffs, citing national security. "India has accordingly reserved its right to suspend substantially equivalent concessions (right to impose equal trade measures in response) due to the US's non-compliance with its obligations under the Agreement on Safeguards (AoS)," Prasada said. The Commerce and Industry Ministry on Friday said that India and the US "exchanged views on possible contours of the deal" and it was decided to continue the engagements with a view to achieving early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement. "The Minister had meetings with Ambassador Jamieson Greer, United States Trade Representative and Sergio Gor, U.S. Ambassador-designate to India. Apart from meetings with the U.S. Government representatives on bilateral trade matters, the delegation held discussions with key U.S.-based businesses and investors on promoting trade and investment between India and the United States," the Ministry said. The delegation had constructive meetings with the U.S. Government on various aspects of the deal. Both sides exchanged views on possible contours of the deal, and it was decided to continue the engagements with a view to achieving early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement.

# Starbucks to close stores, lay off 900 workers

New York: Starbucks is laying off around 900 non-retail employees and closing some US and Canadian stores as it focuses more of its resources on a turnaround. The Seattle coffee giant will notify employees whose positions are being eliminated early Friday and said that it plans to close an undetermined number of stores in North America in the coming days. A review of Starbucks locations revealed that many are falling short of financial performance targets or are failing to create the environment customers expect, according to a letter sent by Starbucks CEO Brian Niccol on Thursday. "Each year, we open and close coffee houses for a variety of reasons, from financial performance to lease expirations," Niccol wrote. "This is a more significant action that we understand will impact partners and customers. Our coffee houses are centres of the community, and closing any location is difficult." Starbucks said Thursday that it expects to end its fiscal year with 18,300 stores in North America, down 124 from last year. It's rare for Starbucks to



shrink its store count during a fiscal year. Niccol is a turnaround specialist who was brought into Starbucks a year ago this month to give the brand a jolt.

# 'It's taking up all my time now': Kareena Kapoor is currently reading this page turner



From The Buckingham Murders to Talash, Kareena Kapoor Khan has starred in her share of murder mystery films. However, did you know that the Bollywood actor is a huge fan of the thriller genre and not particularly fond of self-help? In a recent chat with The Nod Mag, Kareena opened up about her current read. "I enjoy more crazy crime thrillers. I'm reading Jessica Bull's latest crime thriller. It's called A Fortune Most Fatal. It's a really cool period crime drama with a World War II kind of setting, and you know, it's got brothers and sisters and their fortune, and who inherits what. It's taking up all my time now," the Jab We Met star shared with the publication. Kareena also mentioned that when it comes to transformative books, she's not a fan. "I don't read those kinds of books," she added. Here's a quick excerpt of A Fortune Most Fatal, according to Goodreads: Intrepid amateur sleuth Jane Austen returns in this new novel from the author of Miss Austen Investigates (Jessica Bull).

When Jane Austen arrives at Rowling House to visit her wealthy brother, Neddy, she hopes that some time away will distract her from her broken heart and the dashing Tom Lefroy's lacklustre proposal. Little does she know that her sister-in-law, Elizabeth, has other plans to help Jane come out to society and find a respectable husband of good status and wealth. Meanwhile, when a mysterious foreign princess is taken in by Mrs. Knight, Neddy's adoptive mother, Jane and her family fear that Neddy's inheritance

# What to do after a monkey bite: First aid, rabies risk, and expert advice

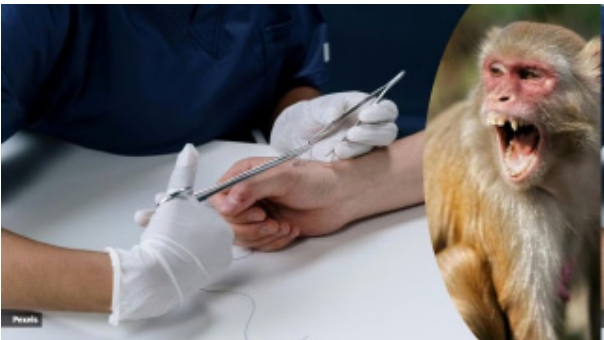
In 2024, India reported 504,728 cases of animal bites other than dogs. Of these, around 11 people succumbed to their injuries, and many were left in critical condition. A significant share of these cases came from monkeys, whose population is currently estimated at over 50 million. With ever-dwindling green spaces, monkey-related nuisances within communities have been on the rise, and so have the number of monkey bite cases. "Any person bitten by a monkey needs immediate first aid," confirms Dr Rahul Agrawal, Head of the Department & Clinical Director – Internal Medicine, CARE Hospitals, Hitech City, Hyderabad. Ideally, a person should visit a doctor within a few hours of the bite. "The sooner the better. Rabies is a deadly disease, and thus immediate medical attention and vaccination are critical," Dr Agrawal cautions. It can also transmit tetanus, bacterial infections, and the herpes B virus in some cases. Taking quick and correct action immediately after a monkey bite can significantly reduce the risk of serious infection or complications. So, before you rush to the hospital, here's what you should immediately do to treat a monkey bite: First aid and next steps after a monkey bite Immediate care helps prevent infections and ensures faster healing. Here's what you should immediately do in case of a monkey bite.

Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and running water for 15–20 minutes.

could be at risk, jeopardizing them all. Jane is determined to unmask the beleaguered princess as a con artist and reveal her true identity. But when Jane's sleuthing leads her to believe that Neddy is involved in an unspeakable crime, she must try to save a traumatized young woman. And she must do it without destroying her wealthy brother, whom all the Austens rely on.

A series of short stories that made the fortunes of the Strand magazine, in which they were first published, and won immense popularity for the main characters, Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. The detective is at the height of his powers, and the volume is full of famous cases, including 'The Red-Headed League', 'The Blue Carbuncle', and 'The Speckled Band'. A touch of romance: A Lady's Guide to Mischief and Mayhem by Manda Collins

As one of England's most notorious newspaper columnists, Lady Katherine Bascomb believes knowledge is power. And she's determined to inform and educate the ladies of London on the nefarious and deadly criminals who are preying on the fairer sex. When her reporting leads to the arrest of a notorious killer, however, Katherine flees to a country house party to escape her newfound notoriety—only to witness a murder on her very first night. And when the lead detective accuses Katherine of inflaming, rather than informing, the public with her column, she vows to prove him wrong. A curious assortment of ten strangers is summoned as weekend guests to a little private island off the coast of Devon. Their host, an eccentric millionaire unknown to them all, is nowhere to be found. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're unwilling to reveal—and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. Fresh from a six-month sojourn in Italy, Lady Julia returns home to Sussex to find her father's estate crowded with family and friends—but dark deeds are afoot at the deconsecrated abbey, and a murderer roams the ancient cloisters. A member of Lady Julia's own family confesses to the crime. Certain of her cousin's innocence, Lady Julia resumes her unlikely and deliciously intriguing partnership with Nicholas Brisbane, setting out to unravel a tangle of deceit before the killer can strike again.



Apply an antiseptic solution, such as povidone-iodine. Avoid using home remedies (such as turmeric, lime, or chili) as they can worsen the wound. If bleeding is heavy, press gently with a clean cloth to control it.

Visit a doctor immediately — ideally within a few hours — for rabies vaccination, tetanus protection, and further wound care. Warning signs to look out for after a monkey bite Dr Agrawal advises monitoring the wound for redness, swelling, or pus discharge. Severe pain, fever, or red streaks moving up the arm or leg also require urgent medical help. "Later symptoms like confusion or weakness are also serious. Don't ignore them," he further warns.

# It's OK to use paracetamol in pregnancy. Here's what the science says about the link with autism

United States President Donald Trump has urged pregnant women to avoid paracetamol except in cases of extremely high fever, because of a possible link to autism. Paracetamol – known as acetaminophen or by the brand name Tylenol in the US – is commonly used to relieve pain, such as back pain and headaches, and to reduce fever during pregnancy. Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration on Tuesday re-affirmed existing medical guidelines that it's safe for pregnant women to take paracetamol at any stage of pregnancy.

Paracetamol is classified as a Category A drug. This means many pregnant women and women of childbearing age have long used it without increases in birth defects or harmful effects on the foetus. It's important to treat fevers in pregnancy. Untreated high fever in early pregnancy is linked to miscarriage, neural tube defects, cleft lip and palate, and heart defects. Infections in pregnancy have also been linked to greater risks of autism.

How has the research evolved in recent years?

In 2021 an international panel of experts looked at evidence from human and animal studies of paracetamol use in pregnancy. Their consensus statement warned that paracetamol use during pregnancy may alter foetal development, with negative effects on child health. Paracetamol A mother's underlying illness or reason paracetamol is being taken that influences child development are important factors (image source: pexels) Last month a group of researchers from Harvard University examined the association between paracetamol and neuro-developmental disorders including autism and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in existing research. They identified 46 studies and found 27 studies reported links between taking paracetamol in pregnancy and neuro-developmental disorders in the offspring, nine showed no significant link, and four indicated it was associated with a lower risk.

The most notable study in their review, due to its sophisticated statistical analysis, covered almost 2.5 million children born in Sweden between 1995 and 2019, and was published in 2024. The authors found there was a marginally increased risk of autism and ADHD associated with paracetamol use during pregnancy. However, when the researchers analysed matched-full sibling pairs, to account for genetic and environmental influences the siblings shared, the researchers found no evidence of an increased risk of autism, ADHD, or intellectual disability associated with paracetamol use. Siblings of autistic children have a 20 per cent chance of also being autistic. Environmental factors within a home can also affect the risk of autism. To account for these influences, the researchers compared the outcomes of siblings where one child was exposed to paracetamol in utero and the other wasn't, or when the sib-



lings had different levels of exposure. The authors of the 2024 study concluded that associations found in other studies may be attributable to "confounding" factors: influences that can distort research findings. Paracetamol There is no clear evidence that paracetamol has any harmful effects on an unborn baby A further review published in February examined the strengths and limitations of the published literature on the effect of paracetamol use in pregnancy on the child's risk of developing ADHD and autism. The authors noted most studies were difficult to interpret because they had biases, including in selecting participants. When confounding factors among siblings were accounted for, they found any associations weakened substantially. This suggests shared genetic and environmental factors may have caused bias in the original observations. Working out what causes or increases the risk of autism. A key piece to consider when assessing the risk of paracetamol and any link to neurodevelopmental disorders is how best to account for many other potentially relevant factors that may be important. We still don't know all the causes of autism, but several genetic and non-genetic factors have been implicated: the mother's medication use, illnesses, body mass index, alcohol consumption, smoking status, pregnancy complications including pre-eclampsia and foetal growth restriction, the mother and father's ages, whether the child is an older or younger sibling, the newborn's Apgar scores to determine their state of health, breastfeeding, genetics, socioeconomic status, and societal characteristics. It's particularly hard to measure the last three characteristics, so they are often not appropriately taken into account in studies. Other times, it may not be the use of paracetamol that is important but rather the mother's underlying illness or reason paracetamol is being taken, such as the fever associated with an infection, that influences child development. I'm pregnant, what does this mean for me? There is no clear evidence that paracetamol has any harmful effects on an unborn baby.



# Why a one-time Punjab cricketer in Australia is quoting singer Karan Aujla to say “mahaul poora wavy hai”



GNS News Agency, Oct 11v

Five years ago, Punjab cricketer Nikhil Chaudhary, after a long domestic season, took a flight to Australia to celebrate his birthday. It was early 2020, easily the worst time to travel. Within days of his landing, Covid-19 deaths would see a global spike and Australia would shut its entry and exit points. The only son of a Ludhiana builder was stuck thousands of miles away from home.

After a couple of months, restrictions would lift, internal travel would resume and Nikhil would join a local Brisbane club. He would go on to play in the local league, inform his parents that he was staying back, change his visa type from ‘tourist’ to ‘study’ to eventually ‘sports.’ His decision not to call home for money would take him to a place he had never been – a Mexican restaurant where he chopped onions when not waiting tables, on an Australia Post van delivering close to 250 packets a day and drive an Uber taxi. This wasn’t a life the boy in his early 20s, growing up in a comfortable home with two sisters and dotting parents, was used to.

This weekend, Nikhil, 29, is expected to become a first-class cricketer in his adopted country, only the second Indian after Rusi Surti, the Test player who turned up for Queensland in 1972, towards the end of his career. Picked for Tasmania’s state squad for the Sheffield Shield this season, Nikhil, after an impressive performance in the Big Bash League and other domestic white-ball tournaments, is likely to make it to the playing XI soon. Speaking to The Indian Express after a training session, he talks about the life-size frame of Aussie legend David Boon in the Tasmania dressing room, the awe of walking on the turf that has been Ricky Ponting’s backyard and his inability to express his true feelings. “Please understand, words will fail to describe what I am going through. You wouldn’t be able to understand either, only I know what all I had to go through. I think it’s just the fruit of all the struggles that I have been through for the last 5 years ...,” says the all-rounder who while playing for Punjab, shared the dressing room with Harbhajan Singh, Yuvraj Singh, Shubman Gill and Arshdeep Singh.

He also mentions the sweaty time in the kitchen, tears rolling down his cheeks chopping onions, rude customers encountered on delivery, and that one day in August 2023 when he was on the verge of throwing it all away. That was when he poured his heart out to his local guardian, Billa Chacha – not his real uncle but his friend’s uncle at whose home he was locked up during the pandemic. “I share everything with him, he is closer to me than to his own nephew,” he says. That was the time Nikhil played Brisbane’s very competitive T20 league that had games over the weekend. He remembers, it was a Friday and he had returned from

his 6 am shift feeling terribly low. After a few hours, he had to leave for the game but was in no mood. After three years on the circuit, with his cricket career not going anywhere, he had a heart-to-heart chat with his Chacha. “I told my chacha, meri toh bas ho gayi hai (I’ve had enough) ... I am quitting cricket. I will focus on my life, do some business here and try to get citizenship,” he said. Chacha was non-committal, he didn’t drag the conversation. Nikhil’s troubles that day didn’t seem to be ending. His team had an early collapse and the late-order batsman, dealing with the crisis in his life, had another fire to douse. “That day I scored 79 from 29 balls,” he said. This wasn’t merely a match-winning and game-changing knock, it was a life-altering innings. The next day, a Saturday, was a break and the final was on Sunday. So Nikhil got behind the wheel and switched on the Uber app. “While driving, I got a call from my manager. I thought I knew what he would say – ‘Well played, Nikki, well done. You got the team into the finals’ and everything ... But he said ‘Nikki, we did it. Check your phone ...,’” he said.

Nikhil would stop his car and to his utter disbelief, saw a contract to play Australia’s premier T20 league, the Big Bash, for Hobart Hurricanes. “I stepped out of the car and took a very deep breath,” he says. Did he take the next Uber trip? Nikhil laughs and says, “Bro, I switched off Uber, actually deleted the app and said, ‘I will not run this again.’” He would call home, inform them about the big ‘Big Bash’ development and the family would heave a sigh of relief. Before that T20 windfall, Nikhil would often get a call from his mother, Manju, who would endlessly ask permission to send him money. Those conversations would be cut short. Living with other struggling migrants in Australia, the cricketer with dreams didn’t want to be different from those seeking a degree, permanent residency or one day owning a curry shop. “I have never liked to be privileged. Everyone around me in Australia was struggling, they would do odd jobs while chasing their dreams. I too wanted to do the same. My father has done enough for us that I don’t need to work for the next 50 years, but I am doing what he did so he wasn’t against me doing things on my own,” says Nikhil.

His father Saneh, an engineer, moved from Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi for a better life. It was in the nation’s capital that Nikhil and his sisters were born. The family would shift base again, this time to Ludhiana, their present and permanent address. Nikhil was two then. “I did internationally what he did domestically. I think he knew how it feels when you go from one place to another and make it big there,” he says. The Big Bash League would give Nikhil instant fame – overnight popularity in Australia, India and the wide world of short-video watchers. Last year, after a game in which he scooped Pakistan and Perth Scorchers pacer Haris Rauf for a six over point, his phone was flooded with messages. “I still haven’t answered many of the messages I got that day.”

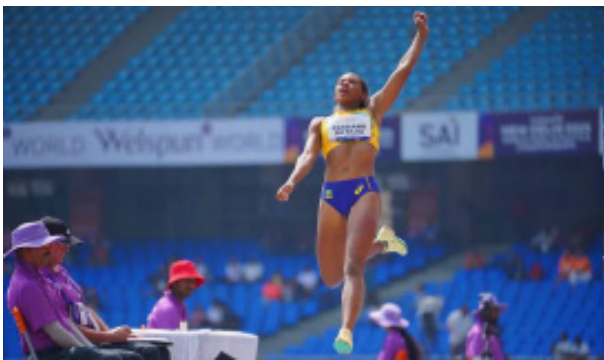
Having followed the Asia Cup intently, Nikhil has set his goals for this year’s Big Bash. “I want to hit Haris for a six and get Babar Azam out. That’s what I am manifesting,” he says, carrying cricket’s recent India vs Pakistan theme. A die-hard fan of cult Punjabi singer Karan Aujla, Nikhil says life on the Australian cricket circuit is great – “yahan ke players, coaches, team bahut chill hai.” As Karan Aujla says ‘mahaul poora wavy hai (the atmosphere is all wavy),’ says the man making waves in Australia.

## Brazil, Turkey topple Poland’s Kucharczyk-Urbanska at New Delhi 2025

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Hyderabad: Zileide Cassiano Da Silva (Brazil) and Fatma Damla Altin (Turkiye) became only the second and third athletes in history to beat Karolina Kucharczyk-Urbanska (Poland) in a global women’s Long Jump T20 competition when they relegated her to bronze medal in the IndianOil New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships here on Sunday. Zileide Cassiano Da Silva and Fatma Damla Altin, who had finished behind the Polish athlete in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, found the pace, rhythm and the flight to leap to 5.88m and 5.72m to take gold and silver. The legend Karolina Kucharczyk-Urbanska, who was returning to World Para Athletics Championships after missing 2024, had a best of 5.55m.

It was only the third defeat in a global competition for Karolina Kucharczyk-Urbanska in 10 global competitions since making her debut in 2011. She has won gold in four World Championships and three Paralympic Games. Though she has breached the 6m often, an ankle injury has meant that she had to satisfy herself with a season’s best jump for bronze. Karolina Kucharczyk-Urbanska said the bronze felt like gold because she is dealing with an injured ankle. She also said she liked how she fought till the end to be on the podium despite competing in unfamiliar heat and humidity. “I had a lot of fun today,” she said. I fought hard to get on the podium,” she said. Interestingly, Mikela Ristoski (Croatia), the athlete who had beaten the Polish jumper both in World Para Athletics Championships in Christchurch in



2011 and the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 – was engaged with Karolia Kucharczyk-Urbanska in the fight for bronze but was unable to edge her famed rival out of the podium. From the Shot Put circle, the Netherlands’ Lara Baars sent the iron ball over 9.77m for a new World Record in the women’s F40 class. The only competitor who went over the 9m mark, the 28-year-old rewrite her own World Record twice, thus accounting for the 30th World Record in New Delhi 2025. Meanwhile, on Sunday morning, the Jury of Appeal reversed an earlier decision and reinstated four marks of Brazilian Paulino dos Santos Thiago in the men’s Shot Put F57 final, including a best of 14.82m that gave him the silver medal and relegated India’s Soman Rana to bronze and Finland’s Teijo Koppiikka out of the podium.

## German para athletes Maximilian ‘motto is ‘never give up’

Hyderabad: At the ongoing IndianOil New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships at Jawaharal Nehru Stadium, German sprinter Max Maximilian, who won the gold medal in the men’s 400m T47 event, expressed his appreciation for India’s warm hospitality in a unique and heartfelt way. During his final race, Maximilian wore a white headband inscribed in saffron-colored Hindi letters with the phrase “Never Give Up.” (Kabhi Haar Mat Mano) - The top of the band also featured a lotus flower, which, according to the athlete, symbolizes purity and resilience and reflects his cultural connection to Buddhism.

For Maximilian, this gesture was more than just a lucky charm. It was his way of saying thank you to India. After defeating Japan’s Ryota Fukunaga and Botswana’s Bose Mokgwathi, Maximilian said, “We athletes are welcomed here with great warmth. Wearing words in Hindi on my forehead was a way to show respect and gratitude. Wherever we compete, we try to express our feelings for the host country in this way.” The idea, he said, came from his and German long jumper Markus Rehm’s coach, Olympic javelin medalist Steffi Nerius. Steffi had a tradition of wearing words in the host country’s language as a mark of courtesy. Maximilian embraced that tradition in Delhi—and made

it his own. The lotus symbol added another meaningful layer to the headband. For the 29-year-old athlete, it represented resilience and grace—qualities that mirrored his own journey of recovery from injury.

“I know that in Buddhism, grace and resilience are important. It’s about moving forward unscathed through adversity. For me, it was the perfect symbol,” he said.

This wasn’t just for show—the message and symbols on the headband influenced his mindset. That mindset came alive in the final moments of the race. With Fukunaga ahead, Maximilian seemed to be missing out on gold, but the words on his forehead reminded him not to give up. In the last meter, he gave it his all and won by just three hundredths of a second. After the race, he admitted, “I had knee pain and couldn’t train properly for weeks. So this medal was completely unexpected. But the headband reminded me—never give up.” Maximilian’s headband became a talking point after the race. He appeared joyful and emotional, because for him, the moment was more than just about the medal—it was about the connection an athlete feels when embracing the culture of a country that has cared for and hosted them so graciously.

## Bharat Hooda says Telugu Titans focused on learning from mistakes, chasing maiden PKL title



GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Hyderabad: Telugu Titans, desperately chasing its maiden title in the Pro Kabaddi League, has an immensely satisfying campaign this season being third in the points table so far. And, one of the key players in the Titans’ line-up Bharat Hooda, who hails from a relatively obscure Killoi in Rohtak district (Haryana), shares his views on the team’s progress in a chat with ‘Telangana Today’.

“During the pre-season, the team got together for a camp where our coaches and seniors helped me identify areas where I could improve. So, my focus was on practicing and improving my skills, especially in those certain areas. As an all-rounder, I want to be able to contribute on both ends of the mat and I’ve worked hard in the pre-season to ensure I can do that for my team,” Bharat said. “The atmosphere in the team is brilliant and everyone’s enjoying it very much. Although I am a senior, everyone stays together. It’s a great experience to share that responsibility of a senior player with someone like Vijay Malik. The team has gelled together well and there’s a spirit of brotherhood that has been created. Hence, we are all growing together with lots of love,” he said.

## ‘Ye paagal hai’: Abhishek Nayar reveals how Rohit Sharma was once sacked as Mumbai captain after replacing Ajit Agarkar

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

Rohit Sharma’s international captaincy tenure came to an end on Saturday when the national chairman of selectors, Ajit Agarkar, unveiled Shubman Gill as the new ODI skipper, set to take over in two weeks in Australia when India play their first set of 50-over games since winning the ICC Champions Trophy under Rohit earlier this year. Since taking over as white-ball captain in 2021, Rohit has built a supreme record in international cricket with his 73.5 win percentage ranking the best among all captains who have led in at least 100 international matches. Having led India to the T20 World Cup title and the Champions Trophy win this year, Rohit was within touching distance of clinching the World Cup title too in 2023. However, it wasn’t the case forever that the Mumbaier was regarded as an able leader of a side. ‘They said he was moody’

Former India assistant coach, Abhishek Nayar, recently revealed how Rohit was dismissed as a ‘mad and moody’ captain in the Mumbai cricketing circles early in his career. Recalling an incident from 13 years ago around the time when he was not a permanent fixture in India’s ODI and Test squads, Nayar explained how Rohit was sacked from the Mumbai Ranji Trophy captaincy after standing in for an injured Agarkar during the season.

MUST READ | Ajit Agarkar’s chess move for Indian cricket: Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli can play, but performances will decide their tenure “Not many people know this but Rohit was removed from captaincy when he led the Mumbai Ranji Trophy team. We won that year by the way. Ajit Agarkar was the captain. Then he got injured and Rohit came in as stand-in captain for two games. Then they said ‘ye paagal hai’ (he is delusional). That was the notion in Mumbai, that ‘cricketer unbelievable hai, but captain moody



hai,” said Nayar in a recent podcast show with Aashish Kaushik. “Ironically, I took over from him and he played under me. When Ajit came back, Ajit was captain and I took over one he left. From that Rohit Sharma to now, oh god. I’m amazed by his vision and thought process, not only for the team but also the individuals. Rohit’s removal from captaincy received mixed reactions from fans and pundits alike, with the 38-year-old now not seen as a certainty as India begin preparations for the next ODI World Cup, slated to be held in Africa in late 2027. Nayar, who hailed Rohit’s astute captaincy nous, said he lauded the decision to appoint Gill provided that everyone was kept in the loop. “As long as that discussion happened with Rohit, as long as he was on the same page, if he also said, ‘Yes, we have to look forward, we want to give Shubman Gill a chance, and I’ll be there in that dressing room with you to help him through it,’ then I am all for it. I think it’s a great decision because you’ve kept the captain (Rohit) in the loop. You’ve given him that responsibility — ‘help us take this team forward like you did till now.’ I feel he deserves that much,” Nayar said on Star Sports.

## Hikaru Nakamura throws Gukesh’s king into crowd after checkmating world champion in bullet game as India are swept 5-0 by USA

GNS News Agency, Oct 11

World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju reacts (right) after Hikaru Nakamura (left) throws his king into the fans at the Checkmate: USA vs India clash in Arlington, Texas. (Screengrabs via ChessBase India YouTube) World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju reacts (right) after Hikaru Nakamura (left) throws his king into the fans at the Checkmate: USA vs India clash in Arlington, Texas. (Screengrabs via ChessBase India YouTube)

Gukesh Dommaraju was checkmated on the board in a bullet game by world no 2 Hikaru Nakamura, who then threw the world champion’s king into the crowd in celebration, at the exhibition chess event called Checkmate: USA vs India where the Indian team were swept by the Americans by a 5-0 margin. Gukesh had managed to play out draws in the 10-minute and the five-minute games before the match descended into a one-minute bullet game with a one second increment per move.

In the bullet game, Gukesh was checkmated



on the back rank by Nakamura’s queen with another bishop cutting off the escape square. In the one-minute clash, Gukesh had a healthy advantage on the clock at one time with the evaluation bar also showing that Gukesh had the upper hand. But against a player of Nakamura’s calibre in the faster time controls, that initial edge proved to be inconsequential as the American soon surged ahead on the clock and put Gukesh under significant pressure on the clock before delivering a checkmate.

The start of the Gukesh vs Hikaru Nakamura match at the Checkmate: USA vs

India clash in Arlington, Texas. (Screengrab via ChessBase India YouTube) The start of the Gukesh vs Hikaru Nakamura match at the Checkmate: USA vs India clash in Arlington, Texas. (Screengrab via ChessBase India YouTube) Previously, Arjun Erigaisi lost to Fabiano Caruana, newly-minted GM Divya Deshmukh lost to IM Carissa Yip, Chessbase India’s Sagar Shah lost to popular streamer Levy Rozman (Gotham Chess) and 13-year-old International Master Ethan Vaz lost to 14-year-old Tanitoluwa Adewumi. Gukesh recently dropped out of the top 10 rankings of FIDE when the ratings list for October was

revealed by the global governing body of chess. This came after the FIDE Grand Swiss, where the world champion lost three games in a row and played out four draws over the course of the 11-round tournament. The tournament was played in front of live audiences who were allowed to shout during games, in complete contrast to regular chess games where a library-esque silence prevails during games. Since the matches were played in Arlington, Texas, the USA team, with Nakamura as the captain, was deemed to be the hosts and thus all players of Team USA were given white pieces in the match.



## Salman Khan recalls being kicked out of school, says father Salim Khan wasn't able to pay fees: 'Mr Khan, it's your fault'



Over the years, the camaraderie between Salman Khan and Aamir Khan has only deepened. Once co-stars in the cult comedy *Andaaz Apna Apna*, the two actors initially had a complicated relationship, often exchanging subtle jabs. But since then, their bond has grown strong, with frequent public appearances together, most recently on the talk show *Two Much* with Kajol and Twinkle Khanna. During the chat show, both actors revealed that they actually attended the same school for a time but didn't know each other back then.

Salman shared, "Apparently we were in the same

school together. But we don't remember that because I was there till fourth grade, then I was thrown out of the school." When asked why, Salman recalled a faint memory that he was running with a friend when the friend accidentally tripped over his leg and fell, chipping his teeth. The school authorities misunderstood the incident as deliberate, which caused trouble for Salman. Apart from this, Salman also recalled that he was a fee defaulter, and Aamir confirmed that his family had struggled to pay the fees as well.

He continued, "I was punished outside, and my father (Salim Khan) asked, 'What has he done now?' I was in grade four. My dad spoke to the teacher, and she said, 'No Mr Khan, it is not his fault, it's your fault.' He asked, 'What did I do?' She said, 'Your fees, which you were supposed to pay, are not on time, so we kept him outside.'

Then he said, 'Then you should be making me stand there.' After this, my father went to the principal, did whatever he could to pay the money, but two weeks later, this incident happened again and they took me out of school." Aamir nodded in agreement, adding, "Yes, I do remember my parents couldn't pay fees on time either, and then they would announce our names in the assembly." While fans eagerly await to see Salman and Aamir share the big screen once again, Aamir recently revealed that a sequel to *Andaaz Apna Apna* is in the works. If everything falls into place, fans may soon get to relive the magic of their iconic pairing.

## Playback singer was born to samosa seller, sang at jagratas since age 4, now earns in crores

Bollywood has long celebrated stories of grit and transformation, often through rags-to-riches tales. One such iconic example is Amitabh Bachchan's *Sooryavansham*, where an illiterate man rises to become a powerful industrialist through sheer hard work. While such stories often seem like cinematic fantasies, playback singer Neha Kakkar's real-life journey proves that such miracles can happen off-screen too. Neha was born to a humble family in Rishikesh. At the age of four, her family moved to Delhi, where they began performing at religious gatherings to make ends meet. Her early introduction to music came not from formal training, but from these devotional events.

Speaking about her childhood on *Indian Idol*, Neha recalled, "I have been singing since I was four years old. Back then, there were no time limits. The performances often continued until morning, and sometimes, people didn't even acknowledge our efforts. Singing for long hours often meant I couldn't go to school the next day." Despite their hard work, the family continued to struggle financially. In a particularly emotional revelation, Neha shared: "We still can't forget those days when my father used to sell samosas outside Sonu didi's college (referring to her sister, singer Sonu Kakkar). The college students would tease her, and it was heart-breaking." At 16, Neha moved to Mumbai to audition for *Indian Idol*, a decision that would change her life. Though she didn't win the competition, her journey came full circle when she returned to the same stage—this time as a judge. Reflecting on her path, Neha told *Radio City*: "I have never learned music formally—I don't know what Sargam is. Rohan (her husband, singer Rohanpreet Singh) teaches me now, as he's trained. I just used to listen to people and sing—that's how my journey began."

She credits much of her success to the countless devotional performances she gave as a child: "I think doing *Mata Ka Jagrata* really paid off. After *Indian Idol*, I didn't have to run after music directors for work. It's like divine energy stayed with me. My songs just kept becoming superhits." On returning to *Indian Idol* as a judge, Neha said: "It felt surreal. When I first came as a contestant, I felt so small. My self-esteem was low. I was just hoping to maybe win the show. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine judging it someday." She added: "Back then, my attitude was: 'I am nothing.' So going from 'nothing' to everything was huge for me. Sitting in that judge's chair, I could see teenage Neha standing beside me, reminding me, 'Kahaan se kahaan



aagayi." Her big break came when she lent her voice to Pritam's hit song "Second Hand Jawani" from the 2012 film *Cocktail*, which quickly went viral. This opened the floodgates of opportunity. "I was approached by Yo Yo Honey Singh for *Aaj Blue Hai Paani*, and everything just skyrocketed from there," she recalled. What followed was a string of chartbusters—London Thumakda, Tukur Tukur, and many more. Neha became not just a household name but also one of India's most-followed female artists, ranking as the 22nd most-followed artist globally on Spotify. The fame came at a cost. "I suddenly became extremely busy—performing back-to-back shows in India and abroad. I didn't even have time to breathe. I ended up compromising my health. But now, I've finally taken a break—because I can afford to. It's a luxury," she admitted. She also went through depression after her breakup with actor Himansh Kohli, which she publicly expressed on her Instagram account. Later, on a reality show, she shared battling several health issues like Thyroid and Anxiety. While Neha attributes much of her success to divine blessings and her early struggles, she is quick to credit her family—especially the men in her life—for their unwavering support. "Today, the men in my family—whether it's Rohan, Tony Kakkar (her brother), or my father—they all want me to be bigger than them. They call me their flag-bearer. It feels incredible," she shared with pride.

## Randy Orton-Cody Rhodes channel their inner Sunny and Bobby Deol as elder brother comes to younger's rescue

**WWE Smackdown Highlights:** The WWE has been kind of crazy ever since *Summerslam*. Married couples choosing the ring to settle their scores instead of a Steve Harvey-hosted show. Old horses returning to lay down the law, and veterans taking their last breath in before hanging up their cleats. This week's episode of *Smackdown* was no different, as we saw old alliances come into play and newer ones crack under pressure.

The current WWE Men's Champion Cody Rhodes got into the ring with Bronson Reed and Bron Breaker to give them some unsolicited advice. He said, "I grew up the son of a Booker, and I grew up around people like him (Paul Heyman). I studied all of them, and I saw it all. You could always tell what they were doing or why they were doing it. No one has figured out who Paul Heyman is loyal to, but the one thing I



can guarantee it is isn't you." This obviously did not sit well with Bron, who took his shirt off, ready for a fight. Cody followed suit and took his jacket off. Even though it was 2 against 1, the champion attacked both men, and he seemed to have a handle on it for a while, until Bron took him out. The two men sized their prey up, but just as they got ready to strike, Randy Orton came running down the entry ramp. He

took both men out and hugged Rhodes before handing him his title. The next PLE (premium live event) on the WWE calendar is the Crown Jewel, an event born out of WWE's strong relationship with Saudi Arabia. But for the first time since its inception in 2018, the event will take place outside of the Middle East and in Perth, Australia. While the entire card for the event isn't out yet, John Cena is likely to face AJ

Styles at the event. The two men had an incredible series of matches during the feud in 2016 and 2017. Cena even paid his opponent a tribute by hitting Logan Paul with the Styles Clash in a recent match. In other news, Sami Zayn successfully defended his US title, and Tiffany Stratton defended her Women's title against Nia Jax and Jade Cargill. Seth Rollins and Cody are also bound to line up against each other at PLE.

## Dulquer Salman, Tovino Thomas join hands against a 'violent' force in new teaser.



No one had quite expected the kind of reception *Lokah Chapter 1 Chandra* received at the box office. The film has earned over Rs 280 crore worldwide and set a new standard for superhero films in the country. Now, the makers of the film are capitalising on the momentum of the first film and have released a small teaser-like video featuring Tovino Thomas and producer Dulquer Salmaan.

The two men are seen sitting on the floor, tired and drinking. Michael (Tovino) is trying his best to make conversation, but Charlie (Dulquer) isn't interested one bit. For context, Charlie is an Odiyan (a half-man and half-beast-

like character belonging to Kerala folklore), while Michael is a Chattan (goblin). Michael pesters Charlie with questions about whether he killed Hitler after holding up a book titled 'They Live Among Us'.

He proceeds to say, "Did you read this? It's about us. The first chapter is about her, Kalliyankaattu Neeli. My Girl! Chapter two is all about me." He then talks about his elder brother, a character which still hasn't been introduced to the audience. He describes his brother as a "violent" force, and even Charlie hesitates to go against him because he is an "insane guy". It seems like this unknown character will be the main antagonist of the next film. Before leaving with his swords, Charlie states that he will come to face whatever threat arises, confirming a major role for him. While these two are pretty much confirmed for the next film, it still remains to be seen which other characters will be returning. Chapter 1 ended with Chandra promising to come back if needed, so it is likely that she too will be a part of the film. Chapter 1 was directed by Dominic Arun, and the cast for the film included Kalyani Priyadarshan, Naslen, Sandy Master, Arun Kurian, Nishanth Sagar, Mammooty (voice), Aadam, Tovino and Dulquer.

## Bobby Deol recalls Dharmendra beating up his fan, later brought him home and gave him clothes: 'He's a man of action, doesn't need words'

Veteran actor Dharmendra, once famously known as the "He-Man" of Bollywood, has long enjoyed a deep and wide fan following. Even today, at the age of 89, his charm hasn't faded. A quick scroll through his Instagram feed reveals countless comments from admirers praising not just his legendary career, but also his solid commitment to fitness and grace in old age. But like many iconic stars, Dharmendra has had to deal with overzealous fans, and in some of those moments, Dharmendra has lost his temper. In a recent conversation with YouTuber Raj Shamani, Bobby Deol, Dharmendra's younger son and brother to Sunny Deol, recalled one such incident from his childhood when his father beat up a fan. "He's never made anyone feel not special. He makes everyone he meets feel very special. He gives them so much respect and so much love, and that's a rare quality to have. There have been times where, obviously, some fans have gone and done something stupid, and he's beaten them up," Bobby shared, leaving the host shocked.

Bobby explained the incident when his father beat up a fan and shared, "Because when new fans come, they don't know how to interact. They just get so excited. They might say something stupid or behave badly. And I was there watching it, wondering, 'Why is my dad doing that?' That man finally just fell at his feet and said, 'I love you, sir. I'm sorry.' My dad didn't want to do it either, but the fan must have said something that really hurt him." Despite what had happened, Dharmendra's instinct was to bring the fan home and take care of him. "Then Dad brought him inside, made him sit down, gave him milk to drink, food to eat, and even clothes. That's just how he is. He's a man of action, he doesn't need words. If anyone upset my dad, then that's it. People keep talking about my brother's 'dhai kilo ka haath,'



but you haven't seen my dad's hand. It's like twenty kilos," Bobby added with a smile. In the same conversation, Bobby had also opened up about the strict and sheltered childhood he had, driven by his father's fear for his children's safety. Dharmendra had been warned about the notorious child kidnappers Ranga and Billa, prompting him to keep Bobby within the confines of their home. "My father didn't let me leave the house at all. I returned from school and that was it. I even learned cycling inside my house. In college, when my friends started having house parties, I wasn't allowed to go. I had a 9 pm curfew. I would go to friends' houses, help them set up for parties, and leave," he said. While Bobby Deol is currently enjoying a fresh wave of success with Aryan Khan's show *The Bads of Bollywood*, Dharmendra is set to appear next in *Sriram Raghavan's* much-anticipated war drama *Ekkis*.

## Leonardo DiCaprio 'jumped' to work with Paul Thomas Anderson in One Battle After Another; Benicio Del Toro said yes before reading script



Director Paul Thomas Anderson's latest film, *One Battle After Another*, has begun its theatrical run worldwide, and if the initial reviews are any indication, the film is going to be another PTA classic. The stellar cast of the film recently sat down to have a conversation about working with the director and how his brand of filmmaking was so attractive that some of them didn't even bother reading the script before saying yes to them.

Shared on Mayhem Mendes' YouTube channel, the video includes almost everyone from the main cast. Leonardo DiCaprio, who plays the character of Bob in the

film, started the interview off by saying, "Paul Thomas Anderson, more than anything, as a filmmaker, has been such a unique and profound voice of his generation. There are so few directors who have an unexpected way of tackling different subjects, and there is always such a mystery and intrigue and an element of the unknown with his films and characters. He brought me this film, and it was something he was working on for 10 years. I immediately jumped at the opportunity to work with him."

While it seemed that Leo had finally got rid of his PTA fever, Benicio Del Toro still looked infected and was almost giddy while talking about the director. He said, "Three words: Paul Thomas Anderson. I mean, he just came to me and said, 'Hey, I got a script; I got a part that I want you to play.' You don't read it; I didn't read it. I showed up and said, 'Hey, what are we doing? Let's do it.'" Regina Hall added to that and said, "I could say it was a film about action, drama, and comedy; it's just all three. I have to specifically say that it is a Paul Thomas Anderson film because his way of storytelling is so unique that all his work has that brand to it, and you can tell the moment you see it that it is his film." Sean Penn shared his two cents about Anderson and said, "The freedom with which he writes is exciting. It has a lot of shifts in tone and great characteristics all the way down the line. It was a page-turner, and I think I called Paul right away and said, 'Where do I go?'" Teyana Taylor, who plays Perfidia, stated that working with Anderson feels "like home", because the director chooses to work with people with whom he has been working for decades.

## Ishaan Khatter celebrates friendship with Homebound co-star Vishal Jethwa

Mumbai: Actor Ishaan Khatter celebrated the spirit of friendship with his *Homebound* co-star Vishal Jethwa, sharing behind-the-scenes moments that highlight their off-screen bond. Ishaan posted a series of stills from the film on Instagram, adding a nostalgic touch with the iconic track *Yeh Dosti Hum Nahin from Sholay*. Captioning the post, he wrote: "Dosti amar rahe—Shoab aur Chandan," referencing the bond be-

tween their characters. On September 26, Ishaan reflected on the earliest days of preparation that helped him understand the film deeply. He shared snapshots featuring himself, Vishal, and director Neeraj Ghaywan immersing themselves in village life. One particularly warm picture captured the trio sharing a simple meal together. He wrote: "Aaj Homebound ke release ke din woh pehle din yaad aa rahe hain jinhone

humein is kahaani ko gehrai se samajhne ki kshamta di.. Preparation, August 2024." Directed by National Award-winner Neeraj Ghaywan and produced by Dharma Productions, *Homebound* has been announced as India's official entry to the Best International Feature Film category at the 98th Academy Awards. The film follows two childhood friends from a small village in North India who dream of becom-



ing police officers, hoping to earn the respect they never had.