



# Indian Chronicle

## English Daily

### India's global reset: Rebuilding ties with Canada, US and the West

India and Canada have agreed on an “ambitious roadmap” to restore and rebuild bilateral relations, which sharply deteriorated following the killing of a Khalistani Sikh extremist in the North American country in 2023. This is a pleasant surprise, as the then prime minister, Justin Trudeau’s party, the Liberal Party, returned to power this year. It may be recalled that Trudeau played a pivotal role in souring Indo-Canadian relations. The objective of the new roadmap is to advance “cooperation in various domains, including trade, investment, agriculture, science and technology, civil nuclear collaboration, artificial intelligence, critical minerals, and energy,” said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar after meeting his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand in New Delhi. This should be seen as part of a major reset in India’s engagement with the world: there is new urgency in boosting relations with other countries, especially the West. After months of bitterness over US President Donald Trump’s peevish remarks about India, the two countries have also decided to hold trade negotiations this week. India has reportedly promised to import US energy and gas as it aims to placate Washington’s concerns over the issue of Russian oil purchases. Trump’s conciliatory tone in his statements has played a part in ensuring this. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer’s recent visit should also be viewed in the same light. It has helped widen engagements between the two nations in critical areas such as trade, technology, defence, and security. His trip was preceded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to London in July, when the two countries signed a crucial comprehensive economic & trade agreement (CETA) that is currently awaiting ratification.

### Dolby Atmos Music: Powering the Future of Music & In-Car Entertainment What is Dolby Atmos Music?



Hyderabad: Dolby Atmos Music is a revolutionary audio experience that goes beyond the limitations of stereo. It allows artists to place individual sounds in a 3D space, making music feel more spacious, layered, and emotionally engaging. Whether you’re listening on a smartphone, headphones, soundbar, or in your car, Dolby Atmos surrounds you with sound — just the way the artist intended.

It is available on leading streaming platforms such as Gaana and plays seamlessly across a wide range of Dolby-enabled devices.

Now in Hyderabad: A Showcase with Aditya Music & Mahindra

To bring this innovation to life, Dolby hosted an exclusive showcase in Hyderabad on October 15, in collaboration with Aditya Music and Mahindra. The event highlighted how Dolby Atmos is transforming the way music is created, experienced, and enjoyed — from the studio to the car. The showcase featured “Jambar Gimbar Lala” from the film Mithra Mandali, composed by R R Dhruvan and mixed in Dolby Atmos. The track was presented in both a cinematic setting and through an in-car listening experience — demonstrating the versatility of Dolby Atmos across environments.

Aditya Music, a leading force in South India’s music industry, has taken a pioneering step in adopting Dolby Atmos as a future-ready format. Available exclusively on subscription platforms, Dolby Atmos fosters a paid ecosystem that benefits both artists and labels. With its strong presence in the South Indian Music especially Telugu & Tamil, they have delivered globally hit Songs/albums like oo antava, srivalli from Pushpa, Seeti Maar (from Duvvada Jagannatham), Butta Bomma from Ala vaikuntapuramlo, Dj Tillu Title song from DJ Tillu, Kurchi Madatapett from Guntur Karam, Dabidi Dibidi from Daku Maharaj and many more. Aditya Music is championing Atmos as a catalyst for sustainable growth in the regional music economy. Mahindra, meanwhile, has redefined in-car audio by being the first global OEM to bring Dolby Atmos across all price points. With the 3XO RevX A, Mahindra has extended Dolby Atmos playback even to non-branded audio systems — proving that true innovation lies in delivering immersive experiences, not just premium hardware. Aditya Gupta, Director at Aditya Music said, “At Aditya Music, we’ve always believed in staying ahead of the curve and bringing the best experiences to our listeners by delivering quality music. We have always embraced and adopted the new global technology in the music. Dolby Atmos allows us to reimagine how our music is heard; every beat, every voice now comes alive in a way that connects more deeply with fans..”

### 83rd EME CORPS DAY CELEBRATED AT MCEME, SEC

Hyderabad, Oct.15 The 83rd EME Corps Day was observed on October 15, 2025 at the Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME), Secunderabad. Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney, VSM, Commandant of MCEME and Colonel Commandant of the Corps of EME, paid tributes to the fallen soldiers at the EME War Memorial.

## India’s Economy, Markets Show Resilience; Demand Revival Likely in 2H26: PL Capital



Hyderabad: PL Capital, one of India’s most trusted financial services organizations, in its latest India Strategy Report titled “Holding Steady in Global Headwinds”, cited that despite global headwinds such as heightened U.S. tariffs, H-1B visa fee hikes, and geopolitical volatility, India’s economy and equity markets continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience. The report further highlights that with normal monsoons, a 100-basis point cut in interest rates, rationalisation of GST rates, and tax reductions announced in the FY26 Budget, the conditions are now conducive for a strong revival in consumption. Implementation of GST 2.0 is expected to further offset the impact of global tariffs, while the upcoming 8th Pay Commission in 2026 is likely to pro-

vide an additional boost to household spending, helping sustain economic momentum through FY27. It believes that the conditions are ripe for demand revival in 2H26 noting that consumer demand has seen a strong rebound from 22nd Sept, which is visible across auto and discretionary segments. Though PL Capital expect 2QFY26 numbers to be volatile due to GST transition and trade de-stocking in many industries. It expects strong demand trends in consumer staples, durables, apparel, footwear etc. in coming quarters. Auto has seen a big reset in GST rates and start of festival season has been strong, we expect strong growth in demand to sustain for both PV and 2W. It notes that GOI has unveiled strong commitment to invest behind Defense, Semiconductors, Ports, Dams, Nuclear Power etc. However, the incremental Govt push is likely to be limited as Govt capex is more than 3x since FY21. First five months have seen 43% higher capex outlay by GOI, and rest of the year will be flattish unless there is an incremental allocation by GOI. Revival of demand will likely increase private sector capacity utilization and increase private sector capex, which has been waiting on the sidelines.

India’s current account: A structural surplus ex gold import

India’s current account dynamics have long been perceived through the lens of a persistent deficit, reflecting the economy’s high import dependence on commodities like oil and gold. However, gold imports, unlike typical consumption goods, largely represent an asset or investment class not only within household savings portfolios but also central banks. While aggregate demand of Gold has not crossed the peak of 2010/2011 (~1000 tons), the buying by RBI and investment demand has been rising steadily. RBI did not add gold to its reserves between 2010 to 2018. However, it has been adding gold with addition of ~375 tons taking total reserves to ~880 tons by March 25.

## Canon India debuts EOS C50 and a complete “creator-to-cinema” video ecosystem at Broadcast India Show 2025

Hyderabad: Delivering an unparalleled celebration of cinematic and broadcast innovation, Canon India unveiled its most immersive and technologically advanced showcase at the Broadcast India Show 2025, (South Asia’s foremost platform for media, broadcast, and content creation technologies) held at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, from 14th–16th October. Taking centre stage was the much-anticipated India debut of the EOS C50, Canon’s latest compact digital cinema camera engineered to redefine professional video production.

With a bold experiential concept inspired by high-end production sets, the Canon booth brought together a complete ecosystem of imaging solutions across cinema, virtual production, and live broadcasting, offering visitors a first-hand glimpse into real-time production environments powered by Canon’s cutting-edge technologies. Through this dynamic and immersive showcase, Canon reaffirmed its leadership in imaging innovation and its commitment to empowering India’s growing broadcast, OTT, creator and cinematic communities with future-ready tools for every stage of visual storytelling.

#### Immersive Experience Zones

Canon’s booth was divided into three interactive zones, designed to replicate real-world production environments and offer visitors hands-on experiences:

**Cinema EOS & DILC Zone:** A complete film set showcasing Canon’s Cinema EOS & R System lineup for cinematic storytelling.

**Virtual Production Zone:** Demonstrations of comprehensive workflows using Canon’s PTZ, C400 cameras along with Cine Servo for virtual production.

**R50V Zone:** A space tailored for digital-first creators, highlighting the EOS R50V’s compact form and versatility for amateur filmmakers

**Product Showcase:** A Three-Layered Creative Ecosystem

Canon’s product lineup at the event spans the entire content creation spectrum empowering every level of vi-



sual storyteller:

For content creators: EOS R50V, designed for effortless, high-quality vlogging and everyday content creation.

For advanced creators and hybrid filmmakers: EOS R5 Mark II, a hybrid camera that bridges professional-grade photography and video performance.

For filmmakers and OTT professionals: EOS C400, C80 and the newly launched EOS C50, designed for high-end production workflows and dynamic shooting conditions.

Commenting on Canon India’s participation, Mr. Toshiaki Nomura, President & CEO, Canon India, said: “At Canon India, we take pride in driving the future of imaging innovation, empowering visual storytellers across every domain, from OTT and broadcast to cinema and content creation. The Broadcast India Show 2025 marks a significant milestone in our video-first journey, providing us with an excellent platform to showcase our technological prowess and leadership in imaging. This year, we are proud to unveil the EOS C50 for the first time in India, alongside our acclaimed Cinema EOS and PTZ camera range. Our comprehensive imaging ecosystem is built to meet the evolving needs of modern production, from virtual sets and VR to live studios and streaming. Through cutting-edge technology and creative collaboration, Canon continues to redefine the boundaries of visual expression and shape the future of video production in India”

## Pawan’s advice may be aimed at encouraging Vijay to consider an alliance with the BJP

### Devendar Konne.. Political analyst



Hyderabad: Pawan Kalyan reportedly phoned Tamizha Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) chief actor Vijay, cautioning him against contesting in elections alone without forming any alliances. According to sources, Pawan suggested that going solo could jeopardize Vijay’s political future, potentially repeating the fate of Chiranjeevi when he launched PRP. The conversation highlights the high-stakes calculations involved in regional politics and the importance of strategic partnerships. Insiders suggest that Pawan’s advice may be aimed at encouraging Vijay to consider an alliance with the BJP. By fostering alliances with established parties, new entrants can gain stronger footholds and wider visibility, which can be crucial in navigating the complex landscape of state and national politics.

Whether Pawan Kalyan’s counsel to Vijay is the right strategy remains a subject of debate among political analysts and fans alike. However, history says that any party leader who keeps his party under a bigger party in the name of an alliance cannot become a Chief Minister. Alliances are fine,

For example, Chandrababu Naidu always became Chief Minister only with alliances, but he ensured that his major ally was always under him in the state, not above him. Similarly, since the BJP and AIADMK are already in an alliance in Tamil Nadu, if Vijay also joins them, in the case of victory, he can at most become Deputy Chief Minister but not Chief Minister, as that position would go to the AIADMK. Thus, if Pawan Kalyan’s advice to Vijay is true, it may lead him toward the Deputy CM post, but never the CM position, making him number two in the alliance government, just like Pawan Kalyan himself.

## Review Meeting on Development Works – Bontu Sridevi Yadav

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, October 15, (Indian chronicle): GHMC Standing Committee Member and



Cherlapally Division Corporator Bontu Sridevi Yadav held a review meeting with engineering officials at the corporator’s office in Reddy Colony, Cherlapally Division. During the meeting, she reviewed the progress of various development works including BT roads, CC roads, storm water drains, and connecting walls. She instructed the officials to speed up the works and ensure timely completion. DE Balakrishna, AE Abhishek, Work Inspectors Praveen and Praveen Goud, and others participated in the meeting.



str8bat, India’s leading sports tech innovator, launched its first-of-its-kind AI-powered str8bat Pro, Next-gen smart tech for batting at The Turf Edge by Retro Sports, Hyderabad. Embedded with cutting-edge sensor technology and designed for elite-level precision, the product marks a breakthrough in how batting data is captured, interpreted, and applied—without altering the bat’s feel or form. Seen in the picture are M.A Moiz, Founder P3 sports hub, Madhusudan, Co-founder and CBO, str8bat, Ankit Prasad, Founder Actifyz during the unveiling event.

## Singapore Court Sanctions Zettai’s Creditor-Approved Restructuring Scheme



Hyderabad: Zettai Pte Ltd. today announced that, in a significant development in WazirX’s recovery journey, the Hon’ble High Court of Singapore has officially sanctioned the creditor-approved restructuring scheme proposed by Zettai Pte. Ltd with modification. This comes after 95.7% of voting creditors — representing 94.6% in value — re-voted in favour of the Scheme in August 2025.

This approval marks the culmination of months of collaborative efforts between Zettai and the WazirX user community, paving the way for the reopening of the platform.

“The sanction represents a key milestone in WazirX’s journey since it marks one of the fastest restructurings in the global crypto industry, despite suffering one of the biggest cyberattacks in the history of this space. We remain fully focused on our mission towards acting in the best interests of our creditors. As soon as the scheme is legally effective based on today’s verdict, we will start platform operations within 10 business days. To everyone who stood by us with patience and belief — thank you.”, said Nischal Shetty, Founder of WazirX.

#### The Road Ahead

As next steps, Zettai Pte. Ltd. will file the order with the Accounting and Corporate Regulatory Authority (ACRA). Within 10 business days of the Scheme becoming effective, the WazirX platform will restart, and token distributions to Scheme Creditors will take place. Zettai will notify all Scheme Creditors regarding the relevant legal filings and timelines. With the restart, WazirX will continue to focus on building the best platform for the Indian crypto ecosystem. To further strengthen the security of funds, the company has partnered with BitGo, a globally recognized and industry-leading custodian. For more information on WazirX, please visit: <https://wazirx.com/>

## Meru Students Spread Diwali Joy with ZPHS Children Through Celebration and Sharing



Hyderabad: In a heartwarming display of empathy and festive spirit, students from Meru International School – Miyapur and Tellapur visited the nearby Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) to celebrate Diwali with 170 students through a series of engaging and joyful activities.

The celebration beautifully embodied the essence of Meru Diwali — a time to share light, laughter, and love beyond one’s own walls. Meruvians interacted with the ZPHS students through diya painting, fun games, a lively dance performance, and a thoughtful skit that highlighted the true significance of Diwali. The younger students participated enthusiastically, their faces glowing with excitement and happiness. It was a memorable morning of shared smiles and meaningful connections — a reflection of how compassion, community, and creativity come together at Meru. The warmth and enthusiasm with which Meruvians engaged with the children reflected the school’s belief that education extends far beyond classrooms — into the values of kindness, empathy, and service. Speaking about the initiative, Meghana Gorukanti Jupally, Founder of Meru International School, said that “At Meru, we believe that learning is not confined to academics but includes nurturing empathy and social responsibility. Festivals like Diwali remind us of the power of giving and togetherness — and it’s heartening to see our students carry this light into the community with such genuine warmth”

## Mass Baby Shower, Annaprasana, and Aksharabhyasam Ceremony Held – Participated by Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 15 (Indian Chronicle): “Healthy women create strong families, which in turn build a strong nation, said Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy. A mass baby shower, annaprasana (first feeding), and aksharabhyasam (initiation into education) program was organized for pregnant women under the auspices of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Samithi at Vijayapuri Colony, Ramantapur Ward Office. “Speaking on the occasion, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy said that through the Anganwadi system, physically and mentally weak children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers are being supported to improve their overall health — thereby contributing to the formation of a healthy and strong India. She stated that this initiative was originally envisioned by former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. “She further mentioned that this program, which spans 1,000 days, aims to provide care and nutritional support to children until they reach two years of age, ensuring their healthy growth and development. “Reddy expressed concern that many have abandoned traditional practices and adopted foreign lifestyles, leading to increased health issues due to the consumption of junk foods. She advised

men to take responsibility for providing nutritious food and proper care to pregnant women. She emphasized that anemia remains a major problem for women and pregnant mothers, and instead of depending solely on medicines, they should consume the natural nutritious foods provided by nature. Along with physical strength, she stressed the importance of improving mental health. Rajitha mentioned that the government is spending thousands of crores of rupees on the National Nutrition Month program. She urged that Anganwadi centers should not operate mechanically but rather focus on raising awareness among pregnant women and new mothers about the government-prescribed nutritional menu. “She said the Seemantham (baby shower) ceremony should be celebrated to bring joy and positivity among expectant mothers, as this contributes to the birth of healthy children. Reddy also added that breastfeeding is the best preventive measure against breast cancer. The event was attended by State Coordinator Mervin Sohani, Alwal CDPO Swathi, Supervisor Venkata Ramana, Uppal PHC Medical Supervisor Prameela, local residents Rama Devi and Rajeshwari, several mothers and pregnant women, Uppal sector Anganwadi teachers, and Community Educator Vijaya.

## Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Urges to Fill Teacher Vacancies at Chilkanagar MPHS Government School

“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 15 (Indian Chronicle): “Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, responding to the request of Chilkanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, urged the education department to address the shortage of teachers at the Chilkanagar MPHS Government School. “The MLA stated that although the school has a good student strength, it currently lacks sufficient teaching staff. Despite the shortage, the school achieved an 82% pass percentage in the 2024–25 SSC results, with 36 out of 44 students clearing the exams from both Telugu and English medium sections. “Top performers included Alekhyia (540 marks), Soumya (493 marks), and Praveen (485 marks), bringing pride to the school. MLA Laxma Reddy emphasized that with adequate teacher support, the school could achieve even better academic results. He submitted a representation to DEO Vijayalakshmi, requesting immediate appointment of teachers for English, Physics, and Biological Science subjects.



Responding positively, DEO Vijayalakshmi assured the MLA that arrangements would be made promptly to fill the teacher vacancies. BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj also participated in the program.

## Interventional Radiology Revolutionizing Medical Treatments with Minimal Invasive Procedures — Dr. Sri Harish



“CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, BUREAU KARIMNAGAR, OCTOBER 15, (Indian chronicle) “Interventional Radiology (IR) is rapidly gaining popularity in the medical field for its ability to deliver highly precise and minimally invasive treatments without the need for major surgeries. These procedures, guided by advanced imaging technologies, help reduce recovery time, minimize pain, and lower treatment costs, said Dr. Sri Harish, Interventional

Neuro Radiologist, Yashoda Hospital, Somajiguda, Hyderabad. Speaking to the media at Yashoda Health Centre in Karimnagar on Wednesday, Dr. Harish said that Interventional Radiology has emerged as a “third line of treatment” apart from surgery and medication. It has shown remarkable success in treating conditions like brain stroke, blood clots, internal bleeding, cancers, uterine bleeding, and varicose veins, he explained. “Dr. Harish noted that IR allows doctors to accurately diagnose and treat problems in vital organs such as the liver, kidneys, brain, uterus, heart, and lungs. For example, in cases of excessive uterine or postpartum bleeding where hysterectomy (removal of the uterus) is traditionally required, IR can precisely identify the bleeding vessel and block it, avoiding the need for major surgery. “Through this technique, we can plug a leaking blood vessel, open a blocked one, dilate a narrowed vessel, repair the aorta, or dissolve a clot in the case of a brain stroke,” he said. Dr. Harish also emphasized that Interventional Radiology is proving to be a highly effective and precise treatment option for various types of cancers, including prostate cancer.

## District Court Defers Verdict in Kapra Stadium Land Dispute to November 13

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 15, Indian chronicle: Verdict in Stadium Land Case Postponed to November 13 The district court has postponed the verdict in the long-pending case (AS 45/2023) related to Survey No. 199/1 under Kapra mandal, which involves disputes over land designated for a public stadium and cremation ground. The case, which has been under status quo orders for nearly two years, was scheduled for judgment on Wednesday but has now been deferred to November 13. According to Jammigadda-Cremation Ground Protection Committee convener Taduri Gagan Kumar, the postponement was due to the court stenographer (typist) being occupied with urgent official work. He stated that the committee has been closely following the proceedings and remains hopeful that the court will deliver a fair judgment in favor of public land protection. He further mentioned that local residents and several civic organizations have been demanding that the disputed land be preserved for community use,



stressing that both the stadium and the cremation ground are essential public facilities serving thousands of people in the area.

## Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy inspects ongoing development works worth 98 lakh in the division

“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 15 (Indian Chronicle): “Development works are progressing rapidly in the Uppal division. Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy has been constantly monitoring these works. As part of this, on Wednesday, Parameshwar Reddy and Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy extensively toured Ramanthapur and Sriramanapuram areas. “They inspected the stormwater drain development works being carried out at a cost of ₹98 lakh, along with DE Vennela Goud, AE Raj Kumar, HMWSSB DGM Rajinikanth Reddy, Manager Srivani, and DE Chandana. New stormwater drainage systems are being constructed in Ramanthapur Sriramanapuram and Church Colony to prevent drainage issues in the future. Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy stated that the stormwater drain and CC road works will be completed soon. “Colony residents including Ramanthapur Colony President Ramulu, P. Raghavender, Lukas, Sudhakar, Johnny, Bala, Baburao, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Ratna Reddy, Poosa Srinivas, Luddu Reddy, Bhaskar, Santosh, Pandu, Suresh, Anand, Krishna, Raju, Saibaba, T. Naveen Kumar, Johnny George Rayanna, Balaswamy George, Yadayya, Krishna, Swamy, Venkata Reddy, Lingaswamy,



Hariprasad, Ramakrishna, Jayapal Reddy, Vinod, Arogyamma, Innashamma, Mary, Rojamma, Mary, Lakshmi, Mallamma, and Anjanadevi participated in this program.

## Drainage Problem at Ramanthapur Gandhinagar Multi-Function Hall: Parameshwar Reddy Urges Officials for Immediate Action



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 15 (Indian Chronicle): “Residents of Gandhinagar in the Ramanthapur division are facing severe inconvenience due to a drainage issue near the Gandhinagar Multi-Function

Hall. Though the hall was constructed, no proper outlet was provided for the drainage system, leading to frequent blockages and unhygienic conditions in the area. Local residents brought this issue to the attention of Uppal Constituency Congress in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, through Ramanthapur Division President Mohammed Rafeeq and local representatives. On Wednesday, Parameshwar Reddy personally visited Gandhinagar to inspect the situation. Residents explained the hardships they were experiencing due to the overflowing drainage. Parameshwar Reddy immediately discussed the issue with HMWSSB DGM Rajinikanth Reddy and other officials, urging them to take prompt action to resolve the problem. The officials assured that necessary measures would be taken soon to fix the drainage issue. “Among those present during the visit were Mohammed Rafeeq, Gandhinagar President Mogili Lingam, Pabbu Gangadhar, Ramesh, Bikshapathi, Siddhiramulu, Ashok, Gattaiiah, Shankarachari, Narasimha, Jangir, Naresh, Syed, Mohammed, Nayeem, Vallapu Srikanth Yadav, Sandeep, Bhaskar, and Bullet Ashok, along with several local residents.

## Man Arrested for House Burglary; Charla Police Recover Stolen Gold Worth 7.6 Lakh

“Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi kothagudem Bureau, 15 October, Indian Chronicle: The Charla Police of Bhadradi Kothagudem District have arrested a person involved in a burglary and recovered gold ornaments weighing 66.414 grams, valued at ₹7.6 lakh. “According to Bhadrachalam ASP Vikrant Kumar Singh on 14.10.2025 at around 5:00 PM, Charla police were conducting vehicle checks near Subbampeta village when a man attempted to flee upon seeing them. The police immediately chased and apprehended him. During questioning, the individual was identified as Muthyaboyina Premchand alias Bunny, aged 21, son of late Satish, a resident of Shivalayam Street, Venkatapuram, in Mulugu District and a native of Suraveedu village, Venkatapuram Mandal. “Investigation revealed that Premchand visited Gandhinagar in Charla Mandal three days earlier to stay with a friend. While there, he observed houses locked by residents. On the night of 09.10.2025, he targeted the house of Kodirekalla Bhaskara Rao, broke open the lock, and stole gold jewelry and ₹80,000 in cash. A burglary case was registered at Charla Police Station based on the victim’s complaint. “Premchand completed his intermediate education in Charla and had recently joined Mother Teresa College, Bhadrachalam for a degree course. Police said he became addicted to alcohol and other vices, and motivated by quick financial gain, resorted to theft. “Upon further interrogation, he confessed to the crime, admitting



that he spent the stolen cash for personal expenses but still possessed the gold ornaments. He was caught while traveling to Koyyuru in Charla Mandal to meet a friend. The police seized the stolen gold from his possession. “The accused was produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody. “Present during the operation were Charla CI Raj Varma, SIs Narsi Reddy, Keshava, and other police personnel

## Chief Minister’s Relief Fund a Boon for the Poor: Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 15 (Indian Chronicle): “In the Uppal constituency, M.D. Misbah from Mallapur, who has been suffering from a serious health condition, required treatment at Basavatarakam Hospital. Upon being informed by Congress leader Nemali Anil Kumar, financial assistance was arranged under the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund (CMRF) scheme. “Earlier, an amount of ₹5,00,000 (five lakh rupees) had been sanctioned through an LOC, and on Wednesday, an additional ₹3,00,000 (three lakh rupees) was approved. Uppal constituency Congress in-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy handed over the LOC document to Misbah’s family members at his residence in Uppal. Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy said that the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund has become a blessing for the poor, providing crucial support in times of medical emergencies. He noted that the scheme continues to serve as a strong pillar of support for underprivileged families. “The patient’s family expressed gratitude to Parameshwar Reddy and Anil Kumar for their efforts in

securing the LOC assistance. Congress leaders Nemali Anil Kumar, Tandra Srikanth Reddy, and P.S.N. Chowdary participated in the program.

## Case Registered Against Hyderabad Cricket Association by Uppal Police

“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 15 (Indian Chronicle): “A case has been registered against the Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) at the Uppal Police Station. According to police reports, a complaint was filed by Kota Ramarao, alleging irregularities in player selections for league matches. In his complaint, Ramarao stated that



his son, Rahul Karthikeya, who had shown excellent performance in the U-19, U-23, and U-16 leagues, was unfairly excluded from the selection process after he refused to pay bribes allegedly demanded by the selection committee. “Based on the complaint, the Uppal Police have registered a case against selection committee members Sandeep Rajan, Sandeep Tyagi, and Habeeb Ahmed under sections 318(4), 318(2), 316(2), 316(5) read with 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Police said an investigation is currently underway.

# BJP Extends Full Support to Bandh for Justice for BC Reservations



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 15, (Indian chronicle): BC JAC State President, former minister and Rajya Sabha MP R. Krishnayya met BJP Telangana State President Ramachandra Rao at the BJP state office today. The two leaders discussed in detail the ongoing movements by various BC associations across the state for achieving 42% reservations and ensuring the welfare of BC communities. Krishnayya announced that the BJP, under the leadership of Ramachandra Rao, is extending full support to the upcoming statewide “Bandh for Justice” program being organized to demand justice for BCs whose rights have been stalled due to a High Court stay order. He emphasized that the fight for BC rights will continue strongly in a democratic manner and stated that the BJP will always stand in support of the BC community’s legitimate demands.

# Police Always Accessible to Agency Area Residents: Additional SP Operations Narender



“““Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri kothagudem Bureau, 15 October, Indian Chronicle:As directed by District SP Rohit Raju, IPS, the Additional SP (Operations) Narender and Bhadrachalam ASP Vikrant Kumar Singh, IPS, visited Errampadu village in Charla Mandal, located along the Chhattisgarh state border. They were accompanied by CRPF 141 Battalion Assistant Commandant Vivek Ranjan, Charla CI Raju Varma, and other police officers and staff.“During the visit, the officers interacted with around 250 families living in the Maoist-affected and flood-prone village. With the support of Nestlé India, essential commodities and daily-use items were distributed to the residents.“Speaking on the occasion, Additional SP Narender said that under the leadership of District SP Rohit Raju, the police department remains fully committed and accessible to tribal people living in the agency areas. He emphasized that the govern-



ment and police are working to provide basic amenities such as education, healthcare, and transportation to residents of Maoist-affected tribal regions.“He also stated that several developmental programs have been successfully implemented in the agency areas as part of this initiative. The Additional SP urged the people living in flood-prone regions to stay vigilant and maintain cleanliness in and around their surroundings after heavy rains to prevent diseases like dengue and malaria.”

He cautioned the villagers not to support banned Maoist groups, directly or indirectly, and warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone found cooperating with them.“The Additional SP extended special thanks to Nestlé India for coming forward to assist tribal communities in remote agency areas by providing essential supplies.

# SAY NO TO DRUGS... YES TO LIFE “Let’s Make Bhadradri Kothagudem a Drug-Free District:Sp Rohit raj



““Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri kothagudem Bureau, 15 October, Indian Chronicle:The Bhadradri Kothagudem District Police, under the leadership of District SP Rohit Raju, IPS, have launched a month-long campaign titled “Chaitanyam” to eradicate narcotic usage and raise awareness about drug abuse. The campaign, running from October 15 to November 15, 2025, aims to educate people about the dangers of drugs and encourage collective action to make the district drug-free.“Speaking on this occasion, SP Rohit Raju, IPS, stated that the fight against narcotic substances like ganja requires active participation from every citizen. He emphasized that the Chaitanyam

initiative was started to bring awareness among youth who are falling prey to substance abuse and destroying their valuable futures.“As part of the campaign, the SP released “Chaitanyam” awareness posters, symbolizing the official launch of a series of district-wide activities. These include intensive awareness drives, anti-drug rallies, counseling sessions, and special inspections in identified ganja hotspots. Regular vehicle checking points will also be established as part of the enforcement strategy.“SP Rohit Raju urged the public to cooperate by sharing information with the police if they notice anyone engaged in cultivating, transporting, selling, or consuming banned substances. He stressed that such collaboration is crucial for completely eradicating drugs from society.“The SP reiterated that the mission’s success depends on every individual’s contribution and appealed to people from all walks of life—especially the youth—to join hands with the police in building a healthier, drug-free community.“Participating in the Chaitanyam poster release program were Ilandu DSP Chandrabhanu, Kothagudem DSP Rehman, Manuguru DSP Ravinder Reddy, Palwanacha DSP Satish Kumar, SB Inspector Srinivas, CCS Inspector Ramakant, SIs Praveen, Rama Rao, and other police officers.

# All Government Employees Must Participate in Telangana Rising Vision 2047 Survey: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil



“““Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri kothagudem Bureau, 15 October, Indian Chronicle:“The Telangana Rising Vision - 2047 Survey, initiated by the State Government, aims to shape a comprehensive roadmap for the state’s growth and development in the coming decades. District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has urged all government employees in the district to actively participate in the ongoing survey.“In a statement, the Collector said that the Government of Telangana is preparing the “Telangana Rising Vision 2047” document to outline the state’s long-term goals in sectors such as development, welfare, education, healthcare, agriculture, industry, IT, and environmental protection. He explained that the document, being prepared under the guidance of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, will serve as a blueprint for the state’s vision and strategy for future progress.“To compile public opinions and suggestions, the State Government has launched a Citizen Survey, which started on October 10 and will continue until October 25, 2025. The Collector noted that a wide range of people, including citizens, government employees, students, farmers, and NRIs, are participating

enthusiastically.“Collector Patil directed all government employees to take part in the survey without fail and provide their valuable feedback and ideas. He emphasized that the insights collected through this survey will help the government design effective policies and development plans for the state’s future.“He also instructed all department heads to prominently display the survey link and QR code in their offices and conduct wide publicity to encourage maximum participation. Referring to the circular issued by the Chief Secretary, he reiterated that participation in the survey is mandatory for all government employees.“Citizens and employees can share their opinions through the official survey link: “?? <https://www.telangana.gov.in/telan>

# Power Supply Interruption in Habsiguda Section: AE V. Ganesh

““VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 15 (Indian Chronicle):““Assistant Engineer (AE) V. Ganesh of the Habsiguda Electricity Department announced that due to departmental maintenance works, power supply will be interrupted on Thursday, October 16, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in areas under the 11 KV Snehapuri feeder.“During this period, Snehapuri Colony, Srinagar Colony, Bhavani Nagar, P&T Colony, Nacharam Main Road (from HDFC Bank to the Mosque), RBL Bank Building, and surrounding areas will experience a power outage.“AE V. Ganesh requested electricity consumers and business owners to cooperate with the department and make necessary arrangements during the maintenance period.

# Caesarean Operations Begin at Charla CHC

People of Charla express happiness



“““Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri kothagudem Bureau, October 15, Indian Chronicle:Charla, one of the remotest areas of Bhadradri Kothagudem district, has witnessed a significant milestone in public healthcare. Caesarean operations have commenced at the Charla Community Health Centre (CHC), marking a new chapter in the delivery of advanced medical services in the region.“District

Collector Jitesh Patil, MLA Dr. Tellam Venkata Rao, and DCHS Dr. Ravi Babu congratulated the hospital staff on this achievement. Their combined efforts and special initiatives have strengthened healthcare infrastructure even in the agency areas of the district.““Earlier, expectant mothers had to travel nearly 60 kilometers to Bhadrachalam for delivery services. However, with the appointment of a gynecologist, pediatrician, and anesthetist at Charla CHC — thanks to the proactive steps of the Collector and DCHS — comprehensive maternal and child health services have now become locally accessible.““On Tuesday, the first C-section was successfully performed at Charla CHC. The patient, Tanneeru Rajeshwari from Kotturu village, delivered a healthy 2 kg baby boy through an emergency operation conducted to ensure the safety of both mother and child.““The operation was led by Dr. Shravanthi (Gynecologist), Dr. Ravi Kumar (Pediatrician), and Dr. Siva Rama Krishna (Anesthetist), assisted by Nursing Officers Jhansi and Srikanth.““Hospital Superintendent Dr. Sai Vardhan expressed gratitude to MLA Dr. Tellam Venkata Rao, District Collector Jitesh Patil, and DCHS Dr. Ravi Babu for their constant support and encouragement. The people of Charla have warmly welcomed this development, expressing their happiness over the availability of specialized healthcare services in their area.

# Telangana Sets All-Time Record in Paddy Production with 148.03 Lakh Metric Tonnes

““““Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri kothagudem Bureau , October 15, Indian Chronicle :“Telangana has achieved an all-time record in paddy production, with a yield of 148.03 lakh metric tonnes during the current Vanakalam (Kharif) season — the highest in the state’s history. This remarkable achievement stands as a testament to the hard work and dedication of Telangana’s farmers, said Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy.““The Minister held a video conference with District Collectors from the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Tuesday to review the progress of paddy procurement across the state. Participating in the meeting were Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Agriculture Secretary Raghunandan Rao, Civil Supplies Commissioner Stephen Ravindra, and other senior officials.““Speaking on the occasion, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy said that Telangana has created history by achieving the highest-ever paddy output in independent India. He instructed officials to remain alert and ensure smooth, transparent, and hassle-free procurement operations so that farmers face no difficulties at any stage.““The Minister directed district administrations to provide adequate basic amenities at procurement centers, such as drinking water, rest sheds, weighing machines, and moisture testing equipment. He emphasized that procurement details should be recorded promptly and that payments to farmers must be completed within 48 hours of the transaction.““He further instructed officials to pay special attention to transportation, storage, and coordination with rice millers, ensuring that the procured paddy is moved without delay. “If required, do not hesitate to incur additional expenditure to improve infrastructure,” he said. The Minister reiterated that the state government is fully committed to paying MSP and bonus amounts to farmers on time.““Recalling the previous Yasangi (Rabi) season, Uttam Kumar Reddy said that coordinated efforts by Collectors had delivered excellent results. “Given this season’s record yield, officers must remain even more vigilant. In case of



any issue, contact me or the Civil Supplies Commissioner immediately — we are available 24/7,” he assured.““He stressed that the government is treating paddy procurement as a top-priority programme, and directed Collectors and Civil Supplies officials to personally visit and monitor procurement centers to prevent any farmer inconvenience.““From Bhadradri Kothagudem, District Collector Jitesh V. Patil and Additional Collector D. Venugopal joined the video conference from the camp office. Collector Patil stated that all departments have been coordinating effectively to ensure the success of this season’s paddy procurement operations.““He informed that 193 procurement centers have been established across the district, with an estimated 2,38,177 metric tonnes of paddy expected to be purchased. He added that facilities such as drinking water, rest areas, weighing equipment, and moisture meters have been made available. Efficient arrangements have also been made for transportation, storage, and coordination with rice millers, ensuring that farmers receive payments within 48 hours of sale.““Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Vidhya Chandana, Civil Supplies Officer Rukmini, and other departmental officials also participated in the video conference

# CM Relief Fund a Boon to the Poor – Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy



“ Nacharam, Indian Chornicle, October 15: ““The Chief Minister’s Relief Fund is a boon to the poor, said Uppal con-

stituency Congress Party in-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy.“M.D. Misbah from Mallapur, who has been suffering from health problems, was admitted to Basavatarakam Hospital. With the initiative of Congress leader Nemali Anil Kumar, the issue was brought to the attention of the Congress in-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy.“For immediate medical treatment, an L.O.C. (Letter of Credit) was sanctioned under the Chief Minister’s Relief Fund scheme.

Earlier, financial assistance of ?5 lakhs and ?3 lakhs had also been sanctioned under the same scheme. The L.O.C. sanction letter was handed over to the beneficiary’s family members by Uppal Constituency Congress in-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy.“On this occasion, the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to Paramesh Reddy and Nemali Anil Kumar.“Congress leaders Nemali Anil Kumar, Tandra Srikanth Reddy, and P.S.N. Chowdary participated in the program.

# Residents Blame Boduppal Municipal AE for Negligence as Streetlights Remain Off for Four Days



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Chengicherla, October 15, (Indian chronicle): For the past four days, residents of Anushakti Nagar and Srihari Enclave in Chengicherla have been living in darkness as streetlights have not been working. Locals allege that the Assistant Engineer (AE) of the Boduppal Municipal Office has completely failed to respond to their repeated complaints. People say that the AE has shown total negligence in addressing the issue, even after multiple requests from residents. The situation has become worse with broken roads and no lighting, making it extremely unsafe for people to walk or drive at night. Residents say the AE’s inaction during the festive season shows carelessness

ness and lack of responsibility. We are calling and visiting the office, but the AE is not taking any steps to fix the problem. The entire area is in darkness, and it’s dangerous, said one resident. Locals are demanding that the higher officials in the Boduppal Municipal Office take serious action against the AE for ignoring public complaints. They also want immediate restoration of all non-functioning streetlights in the affected colonies. Residents warn that if the AE fails to act immediately, they will approach senior municipal authorities and expose the negligence through media and public protests.

# Child Rights Commission conducts surprise check at Hyd Children's Home

Hyderabad, Oct.15 (The Telangana State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TSCPCR) conducted a comprehensive inspection and enquiry at the Government Children’s Home here at Saidabad. During the visit, the Commission members and staff interacted with the children residing in the institution to assess their living conditions, welfare and overall safety. The primary objective of the enquiry is to ensure the protection of child rights and to verify compliance with all relevant child welfare norms and standards.

## Uppal Corporators Conduct Door-to-Door Campaign in Jubilee Hills By-Election



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, October 15: “As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign, corporators from the Uppal constituency participated in an extensive door-to-door campaign along with local BRS leaders in Ambedkar Nagar, Srinagar Colony. Mallapur Corporator Pannala Devender Reddy and H.B. Colony Corporator Prabhudas carried out a widespread padayatra (walk campaign), visiting households to interact with the residents. “Speaking on the occasion, they explained to the public the deceptive promises made by the Congress government in the past. They also distributed “Baaki Cards” (debt awareness cards) to the people.” BRS state leaders Saizen Shekhar, former corporator Srinivasa Reddy, Kasam Maipal Reddy, Indiraiah, Raheem, Kumaraswamy, Bhupal Reddy, Pilli Nagaraju, Preeti Reddy, and Bhaskar Goud, among others, participated in the program.

## Complaint Filed Against Former Ex Eenadu Reporter Vijay at Jawahar Nagar Police Station

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Jawahar Nagar, October 15, (Indian chronicle): A complaint has been lodged at the Jawahar Nagar Police Station against Eenadu's former reporter, Vijay, by a known land encroacher from Jammigadda. It is already well-documented that Vijay had illegally occupied government land located in Survey Nos. 199/1 and 376 in Jammigadda. Officials had earlier confirmed these encroachments. Despite this, he constructed six houses on the encroached property and later approached the court in an attempt to cover up his illegal actions. However, the court did not respond favorably to his plea. Now, in a clear attempt to divert attention from his own land-grabbing activities, the encroacher has filed a counter complaint against Vijay an act that local associations have strongly condemned. Leaders from the Charlapally Colonies Federation (CCS) President Empally Padma Reddy and the Right to Information Forum Medchal District Convener Tadooru Gagan Kumar jointly filed the complaint on Wednesday, demanding strict action against Vijay for his



alleged involvement in the illegal occupation of government land. CI Saidaih of Jawahar Nagar Police Station stated that an inquiry will be conducted and appropriate action will be taken based on the findings.

## 48 OU Faculty Members Denied Promotions Under CAS; OUTA Stages Protest



““Never in 50 years - 48 professors denied promotion in one stroke, teachers call it a 'blow to academic morale'.” “Indian Chronicle: 15 Oct, Tarnak, OU: Osmania University as members of the Osmania University Teachers' Association (OUTA) staged a protest alleging gross injustice in the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) promotions. According to OUTA leaders, as many as 48 faculty members were unfairly denied promotion in a move they termed “unprecedented and unacceptable. The aggrieved teachers took out a rally from “the Arts College to the Administration Building, raising slogans against the university's decision. Speaking on the occasion, OUTA President Dr. Manohar condemned the rejection, stating, “Citing poor performance in interviews to reject candidates is unjustified. In the last 50 years, such mass rejections

have never occurred. At most, one or two cases were withheld for valid reasons, but rejecting 48 eligible faculty members at once is shocking.” “He added that even top-performing teachers and reputed researchers were among those denied promotions, which has deeply demoralized the academic community. OUTA urged the Telangana government and the OU Vice-Chancellor to immediately review and rectify the decision, ensuring promotions for all qualified candidates. Later, OUTA representatives submitted a formal petition to OU Registrar Naresh Reddy demanding corrective action.” “Prominent participants included Prof. Venkateshwara Rao, Prof. Venkat Das, Roja Rani, Sujatha Dudhai, Aparna, Surender Reddy, Aravind Nathanayelu, Ravinder Srinivas Naik, Veeriah, Upender, Raghavender Sharma, Gangadhar, Shashikala, Sushma, and Chhaya, among others.

## Tribal JAC Demands Repeal of Three-Child Rule in Local Body Elections



“Indian Chronicle October 15 Tarnaka, ou: All India Tribal Joint Action Committee (JAC) leader Suresh Naik has demanded that the Telangana government repeal Section 21(3) of the Panchayat Raj Act, which disqualifies individuals with more than two children from contesting in

local body elections. Members of the Tribal JAC staged a protest in front of the Arts College at Osmania University, urging the state government to uphold democratic rights. Speaking on the occasion, several Atmagaurava Vedika leaders stated, “The state cabinet should discuss this issue and take a people-friendly decision. Every citizen should have the right to contest elections, regardless of the number of children they have. They also reminded that during the tenure of former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, similar restrictions were lifted to allow wider participation in elections. “The Telangana government should adopt the same approach,” they added. Expressing solidarity with the ongoing agitation for BC reservations, Suresh Naik announced the All India Tribal JAC's full support for the Telangana Bandh called by BC organizations on October 18. Among those present were All India Tribal JAC members Ravindra Naik, OU JAC representative and Ph.D. scholar Babu Naik, Sharath Naik, and Ramesh Naik.



## Veterinary Department officials should be available to farmers:- Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah

“Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 15):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah participated as the chief guest in the free Gali Kuntu vaccination program in the Cholleru village of Yadagirigutta mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. On this occasion, he inaugurated the vaccination program. Later, he distributed medicine for the cattle of the farmers who came to the program and participated in the meeting and spoke. He said that cattle are the backbone of agriculture for farmers and it is our responsibility to protect them. He said that all farmers should use the free Gali Kuntu vaccination program conducted under the auspices of the State Animal Husbandry Department for their cattle. He said that the farmers of our region are more dependent on agriculture as well as dairy.

## Residents Up in Arms Over Foul Stench from Goat Market in Chengicherla



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Chengicherla, October 15, (Indian chronicle): Severe environmental pollution has turned life miserable for residents of Chengicherla village under the limits of Boduppal Municipal Corporation. The unbearable stench emanating every day from the goat market area near Chengicherla has sparked outrage among locals. The foul smell is reportedly caused by the large-scale processing of animal bones for oil extraction and the storage of animal skins and waste materials in unhygienic conditions. Residents allege that despite repeated complaints, the municipal and pollution control authorities have failed to act. The continuous dumping and burning of animal waste have made the air unbreathable, creating serious health hazards. Locals report that the unbearable stench worsens during evenings, and the spread of mosquitoes and flies has

reached alarming levels. Children and pregnant women are falling sick frequently due to the contaminated environment. In protest against this negligence, local leaders of Chengicherla, led by Kotta Chander Goud, visited the site on Wednesday morning and inspected the goat market. They confronted the staff and demanded immediate action to stop the stench and remove the waste within three days. They warned that if no steps are taken, villagers will be forced to take matters into their own hands and shut down the illegal operations. The leaders criticized the inaction of the Boduppal Municipal authorities and the electrical and sanitation departments, accusing them of turning a blind eye to the suffering of residents. They demanded that the Pollution Control Board and health officials immediately inspect the site and take strict action against those responsible for the pollution. Former Gram Panchayat Member Kuri Shiva Shankar, Kotta Prabhakar Goud, former Co-opted Member Ranga Brahmanna, Youth Congress Leader Kotta Sushanth, TPCC Gandhi Bhavan Social Media Coordinator Ganesh Naik, TPCC Legal Cell Vice Chairman Vadloju Umesh Chary, Bandaru Sai, Lingaswamy, 2nd Division Youth Congress President Katta Jagan, Sridhar, Krishna, Narsing Rao, Somesh and a large number of villagers participated in the inspection and expressed strong anger over the officials' negligence. Villagers urged the municipal authorities to treat this issue as an emergency and take immediate measures to control the stench, disinfect the surroundings, and relocate the waste processing unit outside residential limits before the situation turns into a major public health crisis.

## BRS Leaders Intensify Campaign for Maganti Sunitha in Jubilee Hills By-Election

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, October 15, (Indian chronicle): In a strong push ahead of the Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election, senior BRS leader Lethakula Raghupathi Reddy led an intensive door-to-door campaign at Booth No.148, appealing to residents to extend their full support to BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha. Speaking during the campaign, Raghupathi Reddy said that Maganti Sunitha represents the vision of development and welfare championed by BRS and that her victory would ensure the continuation of progressive works in the constituency. He urged people to reject divisive politics and support the candidate who truly understands local issues. Several local BRS workers and supporters joined the campaign, raising slogans in favor of the party. Lekendra Nagireddy, Bikku Santosh, and other local leaders actively participated, interacting with voters and highlighting the achievements of the previous BRS government in areas like infrastructure, welfare schemes, and urban



development. The campaign received an encouraging response from the public, with many residents assuring their support to the BRS candidate in the upcoming by-election.

## Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah participated in the housewarming ceremony of Indiramma's houses



“Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 15):- Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah inaugurated the grain purchase centers. “Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah participated in the housewarming ceremony of Indiramma's houses. Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah inaugurated the grain purchase



centers under the auspices of PAC, FPO in Mandanapalli village, Kollur, Aleru mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. After that, in Mandanapalli village of Aleru mandal, Edula Gouramma, Krishnamurthy, Sampath Satya Vathi, Bhadraraju participated in the housewarming ceremony of Indiramma's houses of beneficiaries. As promised on this occasion, Yata rams and silk fabrics were presented as gifts to the beneficiaries.



Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 15):- Telangana State Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Minister Varyulu Komati Reddy Venkata Reddy inaugurated the Grain Har-



vesting Center under the auspices of FPO at the market yard in Aleru town of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah, Aleru Market Committee Chairperson Chaitanya Mahender Reddy and others participated.

# Hit job done, killer calls conspirator from crime scene: How police cracked Malad businessman’s murder



GNS News Agency, Oct 15

When the Charkop police began investigating the recent murder of a Malad-based businessman, Mohammad Ayub Sayyed, what initially proved challenging for them was that the CCTV footage from the crime spot showed two assailants, but their identities were unknown. However, there was one visual showing one of the assailants making a phone call, and the police latched on to that opportunity and traced the accused, including the businessman’s son and his business partner. Ayub Sayyed, 69, who lived in Malad with his family, owned a business in metals and operated factories in Vasai and Charkop, located in the Kandivali area. He had two sons; the elder son managed the Vasai factory, while the younger son assisted his father at the Charkop factory.

The murder occurred on September 21, when two assailants allegedly entered the Charkop office around 11.30 am and remained there for more than half an hour. They allegedly stabbed Ayub multiple times in the abdomen, back, and hands with sharp weapons before fleeing the scene. The CCTV footage showed the killers exiting the factory empty-handed after the murder. The police later recovered the bag containing the sharp weapons, which had been hidden in a water tank on the premises. Many people were called for an inquiry. A significant lead emerged from CCTV footage that showed the assailant making a call after the murder.

This raised suspicions about the identity of the person he was calling, suggesting that he was informing the person behind the plot, according to an officer from the Charkop police station. The police began examining the phone call records associated with the victim. Suspicion fell on the business partner, Shanu Mushtaq Chaudhary, 40, when investigators discovered that he allegedly received a phone call at the same time the assailant was seen making a call on the CCTV footage shortly after the murder, according to a police officer. “The timing of the call was our main focus, and as soon as it aligned, we contacted Chaudahry to inquire about the caller’s identity. Chaudahry told us that he recognised the person who called and that the call was work-related. A police team quickly moved in to apprehend the man based on the technical evidence. They successfully identified and captured Mohammad Khairul Islam Qadir Ali, 27, in the Govandi area,” said a senior officer involved in the probe. During the interrogation, Khairul reportedly admitted that Chaudhary was the main conspirator in the murder. He claimed that Chaudhary contracted the killing for Rs 6.5 lakh and paid Rs 1 lakh in advance two weeks prior, according to the officer. Chaudhary’s interrogation revealed that Ayub’s younger son, Hamid Ayub Sayyed, 41, was also part of the murder plot due to a property dispute with his father, added the officer. The Charkop police then arrested Chaudhary, Hamid, Khairul and his associate on murder charges. During separate interrogations, Chaudhary and Hamid admitted to their roles in the crime, the police said. Chaudhary claimed he had invested nearly Rs 1 crore in partnership with Ayub, but consistently showed losses in the business and did not receive any profits. Recently, Ayub had Chaudhary pay Rs 8 lakh for machinery repairs, he said. When Chaudhary asked about the profits, Ayub abused him, according to his statement to the police. As for Hamid, he was upset that his father had only given him a flat and not the Charkop factory, the police said. “We arrested Hamid Ayub Sayyed, 41, son of the deceased; Shanu Mushtaq Chaudhary, 40, a betel nut dealer; and Mohammad Khairul Islam Qadir Ali, 27, and Khairul’s associate. Hamid and Shanu had planned to eliminate the victim a month ago,” said an officer of the Charkop police station. The police said that in the excitement of committing the contract killing, the assailant forgot he was under CCTV surveillance and made a phone call to the conspirator demanding payment, which proved decisive in solving the case.

# Man held with drugs on NYE 2020 sentenced to 12 yrs in jail



GNS News Agency, Oct 15

A special court sentenced a man to 12 years in jail along with fine of Rs 1.37 lakh for the possession of over 200 grams of cocaine. Honare Igwe Gwahi, an Ivory Coast national, was found guilty under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, for possession of a commercial quantity of drugs. According to submissions made before the court, on December 31, 2020, the Anti-Narcotics Cell had carried out checks for suspected sale of drugs since it was New Year’s Eve. On January 1, 2021, around 1.20am, the department claimed its officers saw a man sitting in a

Nano car in Santacruz.

The police claimed they asked him his name and sought his identification documents, and the man attempted to escape in his car. He was stopped and asked to step out. He had a shoulder bag and when confronted, the man told the police that it had cocaine. During the trial, the police claimed that independent witnesses were then called and a search was carried out as per procedure laid down under the NDPS Act. The accused through his lawyers had claimed that the procedure was not followed. The court, however, said that it was relying on the chemical analyser’s report which showed that the drug seized from the accused was cocaine and the 202 grams of the drug found in his possession, fell in the category of a commercial quantity of drug, which has higher punishment. During the probe, police also found that the accused’s valid visa had expired in 2018 and was living in the country illegally thereafter. He was also found guilty under the Foreigners Act and sentenced to three years in jail. While the accused had submitted that he can be exempted under provisions where members of Commonwealth countries are given certain exemptions, the court ruled that Ivory Coast is not a Commonwealth country. Gwahi was sentenced to the punishment on September 23 and the detailed order was made available on Wednesday.

# Gujarat HC dismisses former judge’s plea: ‘Single adverse remark or doubtful integrity enough to justify compulsory retirement’



GNS News Agency, Oct 15

Stating that even a “single uncommunicated adverse remark” in a service record or “doubtful integrity” is enough to retire a judicial officer in public interest, the Gujarat High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition filed by former ad-hoc sessions judge J K Acharya, who was among the 18 judges made to compulsorily retire in November 2016. Acharya was serving as ad-hoc Additional District Judge at Nadiad in Kheda. He had challenged a July 18, 2016 notification of the state’s Legal department of Gujarat, which was based on a report of a committee of three High Court judges constituted to scrutinise the performance and evaluation of the judicial officers.

A division bench of Justice AS Supelia and Justice LS Pirzada, in its order of Tuesday, said, “An order of compulsory/premature retirement in public interest or in the interest of administration is not a punishment. The compliance of principles of natural justice is not necessary... A single uncommunicated adverse remark in the entire service record, or a doubtful integrity is enough to retire a Judicial Officer compulsorily in the public interest. Any promotion or grant of a higher pay-scale/selection grade cannot have any impact on the order of compulsory retirement.” In its report dated March 23, 2016, the committee had opined that 18 judicial officers, after considering their service records, such as Annual Confidential Report, disposal, complaints, vigilance complaints, and departmental inquiry, among others, are required to be retired prematurely in public interest. The order states that the committee recom-

mended the Gujarat government to “prematurely retire 18 Judicial Officers by giving three months’ pay in lieu of notice”, in “effective implementation of the provision of Rule 21 of the Rules of 2005”. The division bench held that the decision reflected the “collective wisdom of the judges”. “... An opinion formed by the High Court cannot be interfered with on the ground that it is formed without any material,” the order states. The court ruled that it “cannot delve into the wisdom of the Full Court of the High Court, which has formed its opinion after assessing and evaluating multiple factors of the service record of the petitioner, more particularly in wake of the fact that the petitioner has not alleged patent illegality or mala fide in the decision-making process adopted by the High Court.”

# India tops medals tally at ISSF Junior World Cup

Hyderabad: India capped off a successful week at the ISSF Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun on Wednesday as the leading nation on the medals table, adding a silver in the junior women’s 25m pistol through Tejaswani Singh, who won gold at the Sub Junior World Cup, on the final day of the competition, at Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in Delhi. Individual Neutral Athlete Aleksandra Tikhonova claimed the junior women’s 25m pistol gold, while Czechia’s Tereza Zaviskova and Tomas Nantl edged compatriots Lea Kucerova and Kamil Bednar to win the Trap mixed team junior gold. Tikhonova was steady from the start in the 25m Pistol Women Junior final, hitting 33 to secure gold. Tejaswani, who had dominated the qualification with 580-17x, kept pace but finished with silver on 30, while Italian athlete Alessandra Fait completed the podium with 28. Among other Indians in the final, Naamya Kapoor (21) finished fourth, and Riya Shirish Thatte (16) was fifth. Individual Neutral Athlete Iuliia Tretlakova was sixth with 9, while her teammate Viktoriia Kholodnaia finished seventh with 4. USA’s Mehr Chanda rounded off the final in eighth place with 1 hit.

# Scolded for playing games on mobile, Delhi boy dies by suicide



GNS News Agency, Oct 15

A 15-year-old boy in Delhi died by suicide, allegedly after he was scolded by his elder sister for playing games on her mobile phone, the Delhi Police said. The incident took place in Delhi’s Adarsh Nagar area on Wednesday. The police identified the deceased as Adarsh, 15, the son of Anil Kumar Jha, who works at an export company in

Sonepat. According to the police, the incident came to light after Jha, who stays in the Lal Bagh area, called the local police station. “On enquiry, we found that the boy attempted suicide after an argument with his elder sister,” Bhisham Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police, North West, said. Adarsh’s sister allegedly spotted him playing games on her mobile phone. “She scolded him for playing games and not paying attention to his studies,” Singh said. Adarsh was rushed to a hospital but died during treatment, the police said. A case was registered under Section 194 (Police to enquire and report on suicide) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita. Following a post-mortem examination, Adarsh’s body was handed over to the family, the police said. Recent data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) showed that Delhi had the highest number of suicides among 53 Indian cities in 2023, with 3,131 cases. The number accounts for 12 per cent of the total suicides in all Indian cities. Of the 3,131 deaths, 954 — about one third of the total — were attributed to ‘family problems’, as per the data.

# ‘Equality is necessary’: On Ashok Vijayadashami, 76 Dalits convert to Buddhism in Ahmedabad’s Kankaria

GNS News Agency, Oct 15

On Ashok Vijayadashami, Thursday, 76 Dalits from various parts of Gujarat embraced Buddhism at a function held at a Buddha Vihar in Kankaria area of Ahmedabad city. Those who converted to Buddhism are from various parts of Gujarat like Gandhinagar, Junagadh, Kheda, Mehsana and Ahmedabad. The function was organised by Gujarat Buddhist Academy (GBA) in association with two other organisations from Ahmedabad. General Secretary of GBA Ramesh Banker said that the function took place peacefully, “complying with all the legal rules for conversion”.

The 76 Dalits were given diksha by Bhante Pragna Ratna Thero from Porbandar. Those who converted from Hinduism took the 22 vows which were taken by Dr B R Ambedkar while renouncing Hinduism and converting to Buddhism in 1956. Chandrika Jadav (48), a social worker from Kadi in Mehsana district, is one of those who converted to Buddhism at the function. She was joined by her husband Jitendra and brother-in-law Dharmesh. Speaking with The Indian Express, she said, “People talk about Hinduism, but we (Dalits) are denied entry in temples (at many places) and do not get recognition. So, what is the purpose of staying in such a religion? Lord Buddha has given the right of equality to everyone and so it is necessary to go to a religion where there is equality. We have become enlightened that our original place is in Buddhism, and so we are returning to that place.” Pravin Kumar Bagda (40) came from Junagadh to convert along with his family: his wife Sonal, 13-year-old son and three-year-old daughter. Bagda works as a senior research assistant at an agriculture university.

Bagda said, “I have been in Hinduism till now, but I have not experienced the virtues of equality, brotherhood and independence in the true sense. I have studied Buddhism in detail and then decided to take diksha.” He went on, “I have seen discrimination in offices so many times.



People behave to be good just superficially, but are full of resentment and hatred for us (Dalits) from within. Those sitting in senior positions, they do not allow us to go up. They make every effort to ensure that we do not reach higher positions.” Jashumati Maheta (62), from Shahibaug area of Ahmedabad city, said that she decided to convert to Buddhism owing to discrimination that her husband faced in his job in a bank. “My husband has already embraced Buddhism. He did so because he faced a lot of discrimination in his job. He faced a lot of difficulties. And so, I too decided to convert. I also decided to convert because Buddhism places a lot of importance on building good character. If a man nurtures good character, it definitely brings changes in him, especially towards women. Buddhism also gives a lot of importance to women and their independence and progress,” Maheta said. Harshida Maurya (40) from Meghaninagar too converted to Buddhism for “spiritual development, equality and brotherhood”. “I have felt that Dalits are not considered as Hindus in Hinduism. They do not get entry in temples, are beaten up for sitting on a horse or keeping a moustache or for carrying out marriage procession. Dalits do not get houses in certain areas. So, what is the point in staying in such a religion?” she said.

# Bombay High Court stays probe in Vidhan Bhavan scuffle between NCP (SP) and BJP supporters

GNS News Agency, Oct 15

Among other grounds, Deshmukh claimed there was no evidence of unlawful assembly with a common object. Among other grounds, Deshmukh claimed there was no evidence of unlawful assembly with a common object. The Bombay High Court on Wednesday directed the Mumbai Police to halt further investigation into a scuffle that took place between supporters of the ruling BJP and the Opposition NCP (SP) inside the premises of the Maharashtra Vidhan Bhavan in July.

A bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Gautam A Ankhad passed the order while hearing a plea filed by Nitin Deshmukh, a supporter of NCP (SP) MLA Jitendra Awhad who sought the quashing of the FIR registered against him in connection with the July 17 incident, in which supporters of BJP legislator Gopichand Padalkar and Awhad came to blows over comments made against each other in the legislative complex. In July, a magistrate court granted bail to Deshmukh and Sarjerao Takle, a supporter of Padalkar.

Deshmukh, through advocate Rahul Arote, argued that the case was “politically motivated” and had “baseless” charges. Pending a hearing on his plea, he sought a stay on the investigation. The plea claimed that while the charges claimed that Deshmukh was involved in manhandling police officers who intervened, there was no mention of assault or obstruction of duty to justify charges brought under section 132 (assault or criminal force to deter public ser-



vant from the discharge of his/her duty) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Among other grounds, Deshmukh claimed there was no evidence of unlawful assembly with a common object.

The fact that he had entered a high-security state legislature area with a valid entry pass undermined the charges that he had intended to obstruct officials, his counsel further argued. “Having regard to the allegations made in the First Information Report, we hereby direct the Investigating Officer not to carry out further investigation in respect of the crime registered on July 18, 2025, at Marine Drive police station till the disposal of this writ petition,” the high court noted in its order and posted further hearing to November 12.

# ‘Forced to do extra duties’: 6 months on, over 50,000 anganwadi workers in Punjab yet to get honorarium

Punjab Anganwadi Employees Union president Hargobind Kaur alleged that despite repeated reminders, the honorarium component provided by the Centre has not been released for six months. Punjab Anganwadi Employees Union president Hargobind Kaur alleged that despite repeated reminders, the honorarium component provided by the Centre has not been released for six months. Over 50,000 anganwadi workers and helpers working in nearly 27,000 centres across Punjab have not received their honorarium for the past six months. The workers get ₹11,000 per month, of which ₹4,500 is the honorarium component. This includes ₹3,000 from the Centre and ₹1,500 from the state government. However, since April, this amount has not been credited into their accounts, union leaders alleged. Fed up with the delay, the childcare workers staged a massive protest outside the office of the Social Security Department in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

Union members said the deputy director of the Social Security Department had sought two to three days to resolve the issue, after which they would chalk out their next course of action. They said that if the issue is not resolved,

they would restrict the entry of Social Security Minister Dr Baljit Kaur to villages. Punjab Anganwadi Employees Union president Hargobind Kaur alleged that despite repeated reminders, the honorarium component provided by the Centre has not been released for six months. “For the last two months, we have been in talks with the department, but the officials are only buying time. On September 17, we even served notice for a protest. Yet till today, nothing has been credited to our accounts,” Hargobind Kaur said. She added that while the workers continue to receive around ₹6,500 per month from the state government for other social security works, the honorarium remains unpaid. “Already the monthly payout is the bare minimum, and now a major chunk is being withheld. We have learnt that the Centre has released its share, but the state government is not releasing it by adding its own contribution,” she alleged. Hargobind Kaur was terminated by the Punjab government last year after joining the Shiromani Akali Dal, but continues to head the union. Reshma, president of the Fazilka district unit of the Anganwadi Workers Association, said the workers were caught in a tussle between the state and the Centre.”

# Zelenskyy, UN atomic agency head warn of heightened risk at huge Ukrainian nuclear plant



GNS News Agency, Oct 15

Kyiv: Ukraine's president and the UN nuclear agency head are sounding the alarm about increased safety risks at the Russia-occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in southern Ukraine, which lost its external power supply more than a week ago as the war raged around it. Emergency diesel generators are providing power for crucial cooling systems for the facility's six shutdown reactors and spent fuel, and there is no immediate danger to Europe's biggest nuclear plant, according to International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi. But "it is clearly not a sustainable situation in terms of nuclear safety," he said. The backup generators have never needed to run for so long, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

"The generators and the plant were not designed for this," Zelenskyy said late Tuesday, describing the situation as "critical." Zaporizhzhia is one of the 10 biggest nuclear plants in the world, and its fate amid the fighting has caused fears of a potential nuclear catastrophe. Russian forces seized it days after the full-scale invasion of neighbouring Ukraine began on Feb. 24, 2022. The tension around the nuclear plant's safety has added to broader concerns about

the course of the war, which shows no signs of ending after a US-led effort this year to stop the fighting came to nothing. European leaders, spooked by violations of their airspace by unidentified drones and Russian warplanes, gathered Wednesday in Denmark for two summits centred on security, defence and the war in Ukraine. Zelenskyy blamed Russian artillery for cutting the power line to the Zaporizhzhia plant, but Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said it was Ukrainian shelling. Peskov told reporters on Wednesday that it was "stupid to accuse the Russian side of shelling the plant it controls." The Vienna-based IAEA has been walking a tightrope in the war, eager to maintain access to nuclear facilities and issuing warnings about the dangers without angering either side. Ukraine has four nuclear plants, though Zaporizhzhia is the only one in Russian hands. Grossi said that Zaporizhzhia's emergency generators were coping with the extra strain so far. "The current status of the reactor units and spent fuel is stable as long as the emergency diesel generators are able to provide sufficient power to maintain essential safety-related functions and cooling," he said in a statement late Tuesday. An IAEA team at the plant reported that it has fuel reserves ensuring the generators can operate for more than 10 days, with regular off-site supplies maintaining this level. "Nevertheless, it is extremely important that off-site power is restored," Grossi said, adding that he was in touch with Russian and Ukrainian officials about how to swiftly reconnect the plant to the grid. As Russia's invasion churns across the Ukrainian countryside, the Zaporizhzhia facility has repeatedly been caught in the crossfire. It lost its off-site power for the 10th time during the war on Sept. 23, when its only remaining power line was damaged by military activity about 1½ kilometres (a mile) from the plant, the IAEA statement said. Eight emergency diesel generators are operating, with nine additional units in standby mode and three in maintenance, according to the IAEA. It said that over the past week, the plant has been alternating those in use and servicing idle generators in an effort to ensure continuous availability.

# Three dead in Manchester synagogue ‘terrorist’ attack, including suspect: U.K. police; two arrests made

GNS News Agency, Oct 15

Three people were killed on Thursday (October 2, 2025) following an attack at a synagogue in Manchester, including the suspected perpetrator, who was shot by the United Kingdom police. There was no ongoing risk to the public following the incident, the police added. Two people have been arrested in connection with the attack so far.

The incident took place as people gathered at the synagogue on Yom Kippur, the day of atonement and the most solemn day in the Jewish calendar. The attack, which left two dead and three seriously wounded, had been declared a "terrorist incident", added Laurence Taylor, assistant commissioner in counterterrorism policing at London's Metropolitan Police force. In a series of posts on X, Greater Manchester Police said they were called to the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Crumpsall shortly after 9:30 am by a member of the public, who said he had witnessed a car being driven toward members of the public and that one man had been stabbed. Shots were fired by firearms officers minutes later, police said. "One man has been shot, believed to be the offender," it added.

Police had "declared Plato," the national code-word used by police and emergency services when responding to a "marauding terror attack." That does not mean it has been declared a terrorist incident. Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he was appalled by the attack and additional police officers would be deployed at synagogues across the U.K. He was flying home early from a summit of European leaders in Copenhagen, Denmark, to chair a meeting of the government's emergency committee. "The fact that this has taken place on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, makes it all the more horrific," Mr. Starmer said on the X platform. Dave Rich of the Community Secu-



urity Trust, a charity that monitors antisemitism in the UK, said Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish year. "It's a very solemn day and synagogues across the country will be full throughout the day," he said. He said there is "always a significant security operation in place" between police and the trust across the Jewish community on all major Jewish festivals. Manchester was the site of Britain's deadliest attack in recent years, the 2017 suicide bombing at an Ariana Grande concert that killed 22 people. London Police boost patrols near synagogues, Police said on Thursday (October 2, 2025) it had deployed additional officers around synagogues and Jewish community sites in London, following a deadly attack at a synagogue in Manchester earlier in the day. London's Metropolitan Police said there was no indication of an increased threat to the capital but had taken precautionary measures. "While there is nothing to suggest an increased threat to London, we have deployed additional resources to the areas around synagogues, other Jewish community venues and in those boroughs with significant Jewish populations," it said in a post on X.

# Yemen's Houthi rebels claim missile attack on Dutch-flagged ship in Gulf of Aden



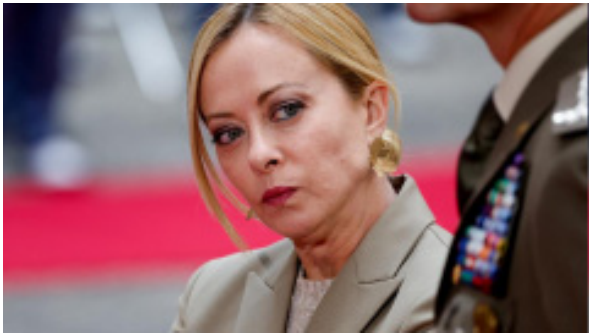
Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for a cruise missile strike on Dutch cargo ship Minervagracht in the Gulf of Aden, leaving it ablaze and adrift. Two crew members were injured as the attack widened Houthi assaults on shipping linked to the Gaza war

GNS News Agency, Oct 15

Dubai: Yemen's Houthi rebels early Wednesday claimed the attack that left a Dutch-flagged cargo ship ablaze and adrift in the Gulf of Aden, underlined the range of their weaponry and their campaign targeting shipping over the Israel-Hamas war. The attack Monday on the Minervagracht was the most serious assault in months by the Iranian-backed Houthis in the Gulf of Aden, which is some distance from the Red Sea where they have sunk four vessels since November 2023. The attack also comes as Israel engages in a new ground offensive targeting Gaza City as efforts to reach a ceasefire again hang in the balance.

Meanwhile, the Mideast also remains on edge after the United Nations reimposed sanctions on Iran over its nuclear programme. The Houthis separately threatened to

# ‘Brings no benefit to Palestinian people’: Italy’s PM Meloni again criticises Gaza flotilla; 22 Italians held



Italy said Thursday (October 2, 2025) that Israel had detained 22 Italians from an aid flotilla, as Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni repeated her criticism of their attempt to reach Gaza. "Obviously we will do everything we can to ensure these people can return to Italy as soon as possible," Ms. Meloni told reporters at a European Union meeting in Denmark. But she added that "I continue to believe that all this brings no benefit to the Palestinian people".

Earlier, Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani told parliament that Israel had reportedly detained 22 Italians who were, as far as he knew, in good condition. "I am relieved to note that

the rules of engagement have been respected and that, up to this point, no acts of violence or complications have been recorded in the operation carried out by the Israeli forces," he said. Two Italian members of parliament and two Italian members of the European Parliament participated in the Global Sumud Flotilla, which aims to break Israel's siege of Gaza. On Wednesday (October 1), the Israeli navy began intercepting vessels in the flotilla after warning the activists against entering waters it says fall under its blockade. In a statement, the flotilla organisers branded the interceptions as "illegal" since they were traversing international waters. Mr. Tajani said the activists would be sent to Europe on charter planes from as early as Friday (October 3). Thousands of protesters gathered in Rome and Naples on Wednesday (October 1) evening in solidarity with the flotilla, while Italian trade unions have called for a general strike on Friday (October 3). "Israel is violating international law. It is time to block everything," said the USB union. Ms. Meloni, the head of a hard-right government, had previously called the flotilla a "dangerous, irresponsible" initiative, even while Italy sent a navy frigate to provide assistance. On Tuesday (September 29), the premier urged the flotilla to stop to avoid jeopardising US President Donald Trump's plan to end the Israel-Hamas war.

# Indian-origin couple ‘deliberately starved’ 3-yr-old daughter to death, UK court told

GNS News Agency, Oct 15

London: An Indian-origin couple who were charged with the murder of their three-year-old daughter nearly two years ago by the Metropolitan Police have been accused of "deliberately starving" the toddler at a court hearing in London. Manpreet Jatana, 34, and Jaskiret Singh Uppal, 36, appeared at the Old Bailey criminal court on Tuesday, charged with the murder of Penelope Chandrie. The couple is additionally charged with manslaughter, causing or allowing the death of a child, and abandoning a child or causing them unnecessary suffering or injury, according to a court report in The Daily Telegraph.

Judge Lynn Tayton has remanded both to custody until the next hearing on December 16, when they will enter their pleas of guilty or not guilty to determine if the case progresses towards sentencing or a jury trial. The newspaper reported that the prosecution claims that Jatana and Uppal had mistreated their daughter over an "extended period of time" and "deliberately starved" her, leading to her death. The family's vegetarian diet is said to have mainly consisted of yoghurt, lentils and butter, and police officers also found their home in west London to be in poor condition. Police found Penelope's "very emaciated" body wrapped in a sheet in December 2023, the court was told. An examination of her body found the cause of death was



malnutrition. Pathological findings indicated "starvation over a prolonged period of many months culminating in fatal ketoacidosis", the prosecution was quoted as saying. Earlier, the Met Police had said that London's emergency services were called to a residential address on Pennine Way in Hayes on the evening of December 17, 2023, where the child was found deceased. The child's death remained under investigation over the years until Jatana and Uppal were arrested and charged last month. "Following consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), both people have been charged with murder in connection with the girl's death," the police said at the time.

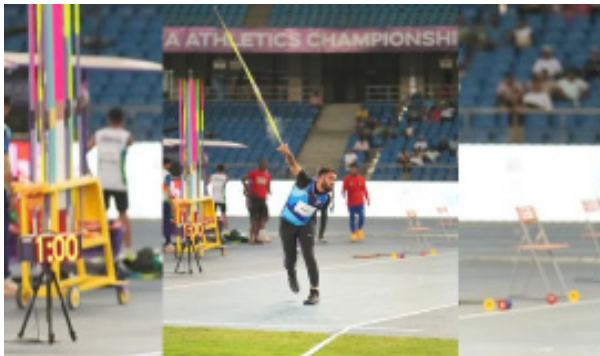
# India clinches another 1-2 in javelin at Para Worlds as Sandip Sargar wins F44 gold

Hyderabad: Another day, another 1-2 finish for India in javelin at the ongoing IndianOil New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.

After Rinku and Sundar Singh Gurjar clinched gold and silver in the F46 category on Monday, it was Sandip Sanjay Sargar and Sandeep Chaudhary who emulated them in the F44 category on Tuesday. Sargar admitted that Rinku and Gurjar's performance was at the back of his mind and revealed he was in the stands watching their glory unfold.

"I was here yesterday to get the hang of the whole thing — the atmosphere, the people shouting encouragement. That helped me today," said the Maharashtra athlete after clinching gold. Sargar matched his personal best with a throw of 62.82m in his fifth attempt, though he had already taken the lead with a 62.68m throw earlier. It was Sandeep Chaudhary of Rajasthan who set the tone with an opening throw of 62.33m, later bettering it to 62.67m. But Sargar proved too strong in the final round. Heavy afternoon showers brought down temperatures considerably. While the weather offered relief to spectators, it posed a challenge for Sargar.

"Rain and cool weather didn't help me. I could have done better. Warm weather helps loosen up the muscles," said Sargar, who trains at SAI Sonapat and is part of the TOPS Core group. Draped in the tricolour, Sargar remained modest. "I was sure there would be a medal for me. Winning it for your country is a great feeling," he said. Interestingly, while the cold impacted Sargar, it played



to Chaudhary's advantage. A gold medallist in the Dubai and Kobe World Championships in 2019 and 2024 respectively (in the F64 category), Chaudhary credited the Bengaluru-like weather for his performance. "I trained in Bengaluru and the temperature here was similar. I guess it worked in my favour. I'm very happy to win a medal for the country," he said. Sargar's gold was India's third of the championship. Not long after, Sumit added a fourth in the F64 category. On Monday, Rinku's family and friends had turned up in large numbers, making a three-hour journey from their village in Rohtak. Their presence, he admitted, was a huge motivator. Sargar, however, had no such support in the stands. "There was no one in the stands — no family or friends. But I was still motivated to do well," said the shy athlete, who once worked as a Zomato delivery boy in Pune.

# Taiwan says 'will not agree' to making 50% of its chips in U.S.

GNS News Agency, Oct 15

Taiwan "will not agree" to making 50% of its semiconductors in the United States, the island's lead tariff negotiator said Wednesday, as Washington pressures Taipei to produce more chips on U.S. soil. Vice Premier Cheng Li-chiun's remarks came after U.S. Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick said he had proposed to Taiwan a 50-50 split in chip production. "I want to clarify that this is the US's idea. Our negotiation team has never made a 50-50 commitment to a chip split," Ms. Cheng told reporters in Taipei. "Please be rest assured that we did not discuss this issue this time, and we will not agree to such a condition," she said. Ms. Cheng spoke after returning from Washington where she said negotiations over U.S. tariffs on Taiwanese shipments "made some progress". Taiwan is struggling to finalise a tariff deal with Washington, after President Donald Trump's administration imposed a temporary 20% levy that has alarmed the island's manufacturers.

Mr. Trump has also threatened to put a "fairly substantial tariff" on semiconductors coming into the country. Soaring demand for AI-related technology has fuelled Taiwan's trade surplus with the United States — and put it in Mr. Trump's crosshairs. More than 70% of the island's exports to the United States are information and communications technology, which includes chips, the cabinet said in a statement on Wednesday. In a bid to avoid the tariffs, Taipei has pledged to increase investment in the United States, buy more of its energy and increase its own defence spending to more than three percent of gross domes-



tic product. Taiwan produces more than half of the world's semiconductors and nearly all of the high-end ones.

The concentration of chip manufacturing in Taiwan has long been seen as a "silicon shield" protecting it from an invasion or blockade by China, which claims it as part of its territory — and an incentive for the United States to defend it. In an interview with NewsNation broadcast over the weekend, Mr. Lutnick said having 50% of Taiwan's chip production in the United States would ensure "we have the capacity to do what we need to do if we need to do it". "That has been the conversation we've had with Taiwan, that you have to understand that it's vital for you to have us produce 50%," he said. "Our goal is to get to 40% market share, and maybe 50% market share, of producing the chips and the wafers, you know the semiconductors we need for American consumption, that's our objective."

# Why doctors still rely on the stethoscope in the age of AI



But the instrument has limits. A stethoscope cannot reveal small valve defects, early-stage tumours or clots in the lung. For such structural detail, doctors turn to echocardiography, X-rays or CT scans. As Dr. Thiruppathi explains, "It serves as an initial screening tool. It cannot replace imaging but it helps us narrow down possibilities quickly and cost-effectively." Elakiya Mathimaran, consultant pulmonologist, VS Hospitals, Chennai, adds that auscultation is always the starting point. "Of course, the stetho-

# Republicans, Democrats blame each other on 1st day of U.S. government shutdown as tourist sites close



# South Korea's President apologises over poorly managed foreign adoption programmes

“Donald Trump says it loud and clear: He is using the American people as pawns, threatening pain on the country as blackmail,” Mr. Schumer said. Roughly 750,000 federal workers were expected to be furloughed, with some potentially fired. Many offices were being shuttered, perhaps permanently, as the Republican President vows to “do things that are irreversible” to punish Democrats. The White House’s key policy priorities, including an aggressive deportation agenda, may continue with few disruptions. But education, environmental and other services may eventually sputter. The economic fallout could further imperil an

Technology is reshaping the way auscultation is performed too. Digital and AI-enabled stethoscopes now offer amplification, recording and the ability to share sounds for consultation. Some models are already integrated with algorithms that can identify abnormal heart murmurs or classify lung sounds with high accuracy. Recent studies published in *The American Journal of Medicine* and *Respiratory Research* have shown that AI-powered stethoscopes can detect aortic valve disease or pathological breath sounds in children with sensitivities of over 85% and specificities close to 100%. They also allow sounds to be stored, replayed and analysed remotely, making them useful in telemedicine and teaching. Electronic stethoscopes, research shows, perform better in patients living with obesity where conventional auscultation can be difficult. They can also reduce variability between clinicians by capturing and standardising sounds. However, they come with challenges: higher cost, the need for training, and dependence on reliable connectivity in some cases. Despite these advances, the transition to AI tools in India will take time. As Dr. Jayaraman notes, clinical examination continues to be at the heart of medical practice here. “In another five to ten years, AI systems may become more prevalent. But in India, where clinical examination is central, the conventional stethoscope will continue to coexist with its digital counterpart,” he says. The World Health Organization has also underlined the enduring value of clinical examination, especially in resource-limited settings. While AI can support screening and diagnosis, auscultation remains indispensable as a first step in patient evaluation. Portable, affordable and immediate, the stethoscope continues to bridge medicine’s past and future. For doctors, it is both a diagnostic instrument and a symbol of presence. For patients, it is reassurance that someone is listening, literally. As technology advances, both traditional and digital stethoscopes are likely to coexist, one as a timeless tool of care and the other as an adjunct offering new precision. For now, the familiar sight of a doctor’s stethoscope pressed against the chest remains one of medicine’s simplest and most enduring ways of paying attention to patients.

The Trump administration has also begun targeting funding projects in Democratic states. White House budget director Russ Vought announced on Wednesday a hold on roughly \$18 billion in payments to build the Hudson Rail Tunnel and the Second Avenue subway line in New York City, two projects dear to Schumer. He later announced that almost \$6 billion in green energy projects would be withheld for 16 states, all states represented by two Democrats in the Senate. The last government shutdown came in late 2018 and early 2019, during Mr. Trump's first administration. It centred on a fight between both parties over funding for a wall along the Mexico-U.S. border and lasted more than 30 days. But Congress had already passed separate funding measures then that ensured that shutdown only partially affected government services, and wasn't as widespread as this one might be. Mr. Trump took most of the blame for the last shutdown, with an AP-NORC poll conducted during it, showing about 7 in 10 Americans said Donald Trump had "a great deal" or "quite a bit" of responsibility. This time, about two-thirds of registered voters in a recent New York Times/Siena poll conducted before the shutdown said the Democrats should not allow the government to halt even if their demands were not met. Still, Republicans as the party in power could also face blowback. About one-quarter of registered voters in that poll said they would blame Mr. Trump and the Republicans in Congress if a shutdown happened, while about 2 in 10 said they would place blame on congressional Democrats. About one-third said they'd blame both sides equally. Shutdown starts taking hold Federal courts will remain fully operational at least through Oct. 17, and potentially life-saving forecasting by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and its National Weather Service haven't been disrupted. But tours of the Liberty Bell were scrapped, and St. Louis' Gateway Arch and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston closed. Pearl Harbour National Memorial in Hawaii began on Wednesday shuttered, though officials were working with nonprofit partners to get it reopen. At Acadia National Park in Maine, which gets 4 million visits a year, would be hikers in search of trail maps checked empty receptacles outside the closed visitors centre. With no park rangers in sight, Jim Feather of Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, and his wife were unsure about trying to tackle Cadillac Mountain, with its panoramic views of the North Atlantic coast. "It's frustrating that they're playing politics in D.C.," Mr. Feather said. "Their job is to pass a budget. And if they're not doing their job, what are they doing down there?"

# Pakistan, IMF begin review talks on \$7 bn loan programme

Islamabad: An IMF mission held a formal kick-off meeting with Pakistan's economic team to review the implementation of a USD 7 billion loan and a USD 1.1 billion Resilience and Sustainability Facility, according to a media report on Tuesday. It comes as the programme's performance as of end-June 2025 — the period under review — has been mixed, the Dawn newspaper reported. The IMF team led by Pakistan's Mission Chief Iva Petrova met on Monday with Pakistan's delegation headed by Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb. The opening session was attended by key economic stakeholders, including the State Bank of Pakistan governor, the finance secretary and the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) chairman. The mission will remain in Pakistan for almost two weeks and review the implementation of the USD 7 billion Extended Financing Facility (EFF) and the USD 1.1 billion Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF).

# Rethinking carbon pricing and taxes



India’s free trade agreement (FTA) with the U.K., heralded as the gold standard by the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, has a lot going for it. Yet, it does not address the one imminent policy instrument that is likely to significantly upend its possible benefits for India.The U.K.’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (UK-CBAM), similar in principle to the European Union (EU)’s CBAM, will be implemented from January 2027. It covers both direct and indirect emissions for hard-to-abate sectors such as steel and aluminum, including the electricity used in their production. CBAM’s scope will later be expanded to other products.

Mr. Goyal noted that India would retaliate against any harmful impacts of CBAM. However, any prospective action may not provide the desired relief for the imminent cost impact. This is an issue that needs to be addressed upfront in a bilateral agreement. For instance, in the recently announced U.S.-EU trade agreement, the EU has agreed to address U.S. concerns on CBAM and other rules relating to corporate sustainability, through flexibilities.CBAM effect on India’s exportsBefore the FTA, the U.K.’s MFN rates for aluminium and iron and steel were in the range of 0-6%. Under the India-U.K. FTA, these duties will be reduced to zero for Indian exports. At first glance, this appears beneficial for India. But from January 2027, aluminium and steel imports will need to match the U.K.’s carbon price, which, as of now, is approximately \$66/tCO2, translating to a cost increase of at least 20% to 40% for exporters.

The U.K.’s CBAM permits deductions for carbon pricing in exporting countries, including carbon taxes or prices paid under emissions trading schemes. While Indian industry pays levies such as coal cess, bears costs under the renewable purchase obligation, and now an explicit carbon price under the recently announced Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), it is unclear whether the U.K. will allow deductions beyond the CCTS. Even with respect to the CCTS, a major challenge is the large gap between India’s projected carbon price, estimated by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency at around \$8–10 per tonne of CO2, and the U.K.’s carbon price, currently at \$66 per tonne.As with the EU’s CBAM, the U.K.’s approach is focused on levying a charge

on exports into the U.K. to match the embedded carbon price paid by domestic producers. By levying the same price as paid by U.K. producers in specific sectors where the U.K. perceives a competitive disadvantage, the unilateral setting of carbon price upends multilateral commitments on emission reductions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement.There can never be a singular carbon price across economies as emissions vary across countries based on energy mix, industry structure, and technological availability and viability. A joint report by multilateral institutions in October 2024 urged greater coordination on carbon markets, warning that fragmented systems cause distortions, leakage, and undermine net-zero goals.

Fragmented markets will only raise compliance costs, disrupt supply chains, and hinder both growth and climate goals. A global carbon pricing agreement is essential to align methods for measuring emissions, streamline reporting requirements, and ensure support for green tech transfer. The International Monetary Fund in 2021 proposed an International Carbon Price Floor (ICPF) with tiered pricing: \$25 for low-income, \$50 for middle-income, and \$75 for high-income countries. Building on this, the World Economic Forum proposed a three-phased approach to facilitate a smooth transition to global carbon pricing, starting with minimum standards for pricing and reporting, and linking this to regional systems and harmonising monitoring and verification processes. It also proposed linking regional carbon markets (EU, China, India, other parts of Asia) to reduce fragmentation and move towards a unified global system.It is important for the Indian government to assess whether this model would work and explore synergies with like-minded developing countries. In an era of rising tariff and non-tariff barriers, we cannot risk fragmented carbon pricing turning into massive compliance costs.Amidst rising protectionism global consensus is unlikely in the short term. Hence Indian industry must view clean technologies as tools for efficiency and competitiveness, and not just as export compliance. The government needs to act as an enabler by streamlining various implicit carbon taxes into a unified carbon market framework. Implementing stricter emission reduction targets under a single explicit carbon tax through the CCTS, instead of multiple taxes on carbon-intensive sectors, will improve carbon price discovery, simplify compliance and monitoring, and preserve our competitiveness. It would position India to build a stronger carbon pricing system, capable of joining a cohesive global carbon market in the future. Revenues from these carbon taxes should be ploughed back for industrial decarbonisation. The draft climate finance taxonomy developed by the Ministry of Finance, is another initiative that will enable investors to boost clean tech investment.In a world where multilateral rules are being undermined, and bilateral free trade deals are failing to secure equity, proactive action between government and industry within the country is the only answer.

# The rise and risks of health insurance in India



A minimal definition of universal health care (UHC) is that quality health care should be guaranteed to “all members of the community irrespective of their ability to pay” — as the Bhoré Committee report put it as early as 1946. Nearly eight decades later, India is nowhere near this basic goal of human development, even as many other countries, rich and poor, have achieved it in substantial measure.An illusion is being created today that UHC can be achieved by expanding health insurance. In the last 10 years, State-sponsored health insurance schemes have grown by leaps and bounds. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY), launched in 2018 under Ayushman Bharat, is one landmark in this regard. Alongside PMJAY, every major State has its own State Health Insurance Programme (SHIP). Most SHIPs are modelled on PMJAY, with a maximum cover of ₹5 lakh a household a year. All these insurance schemes are restricted to in-patient care, with patients making a choice from a list of empanelled hospitals, public and private (roughly half-half). In 2023-24, PMJAY covered 58.8 crore individuals with an annual budget of about ₹12,000 crore (assuming that States contributed 40% of the total, as prescribed). Taken together, SHIPs covered a similar number and had a combined budget of at least ₹16,000 crore. The grand total of ₹28,000 crore or so is still a relatively small portion of public expenditure on health, but it is growing fast. In Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra, States for which relevant data are available, we found that the SHIP budget had grown at 8% to 25% a year in real terms between 2018-19 and 2023-24.

The faultlines can deepenThere is no doubt that the PMJAY and SHIPs provide some relief to poor patients when public facilities are overcrowded or substandard, by giving them wider options at reduced cost. However, these schemes are no substitute for a sound UHC framework. And they have major defects, some of which could worsen the fault lines of India’s health-care system.

First, health insurance promotes for-profit medicine. About two-thirds of the PMJAY budget is spent on private, mainly profit-oriented hospitals (corresponding figures for SHIPs are not available). A recent study of PMJAY in six major States found that the scheme made little difference to hospitalisation rates, but increased the utilisation of private hospitals. As is well understood in economics, the profit motive in health care is highly problematic. If profit-seeking private providers are allowed at all, they must be tightly regulated. India’s health-care system, however, is dominated by poorly-regulated profit seekers. Health insurance reinforces this bias rather than correcting it.Second, health insurance also tilts the health-care system towards hospitalisation, when investments in primary and outpatient care may be more urgent. Strengthening primary care would not only ensure accessible treatment but also reduce unnecessary hospital visits and their financial burden. The ongoing induction of all elderly citizens (aged 70 years and above) in PMJAY, along with the rapid ageing of the population, involves a risk that expensive tertiary care will absorb a growing share of public health expenditure, even as many basic health services continue to fall short.Third, there appear to be serious utilisation problems. Official figures

suggest that the combined coverage of PMJAY and SHIPs is as high as 80% of the population. However, many people do not seem to know about the scheme or how to use it even if they are nominally enrolled. As a recent analysis of the 2022-23 Household Consumption Expenditure Survey shows, only 35% of insured hospital patients in that year were able to use their insurance. Other studies also report serious utilisation hurdles, especially among disadvantaged groups. Perhaps this is one reason why there is no strong evidence linking PMJAY or SHIPs with a substantial reduction in out-of-pocket health expenditure.

Hospitals and discriminationFourth, targeted health insurance schemes create issues of discrimination between insured and uninsured patients. Private hospitals prefer an uninsured patient since commercial charges for health care are usually higher, often much higher than the insurance reimbursement rates. One plausible reason why insurance utilisation is so low is that private hospitals discourage it in one way or another. Public hospitals, for their part, prefer insured patients since they get some money for their treatment. This creates its own problems, such as discriminatory treatment and pressure to enrol for insurance on the spot.

Fifth, health-care providers have their own complaints about health insurance, including low reimbursement rates and long delays. The first complaint may or may not be fair (one would expect to hear it), but the second is hard to dismiss. Indeed, the National Health Authority (NHA) itself revealed a few months ago that pending dues under PMJAY alone added up to ₹12,161 crore, more than the scheme’s entire annual budget. Many reports have emerged of private hospitals suspending services to patients under PMJAY or even withdrawing from the scheme, as bills remain unpaid for months. According to a recent statement of the Health Ministry, in the Lok Sabha, 609 hospitals have opted out of PMJAY since its inception.Last but not the least, health insurance schemes are prone to corruption and abuse. The NHA recently recommended action against 3,200 hospitals for fraudulent activities under PMJAY. There are also regular media reports of irregularities from across the country. These include eligible patients being denied treatment, private providers charging insured patients, and unnecessary procedures being performed to milk the scheme. These irregularities defeat the purpose of health insurance by exposing patients to serious financial and health risks.Tight monitoring and a battery of audits are supposed to prevent irregularities, but there is little evidence that these safeguards are effective. We were unable to find any trace of audit reports on the scheme portals. This is one symptom, among others, of a pervasive lack of transparency in health insurance. The system is profit driven

In short, India’s health insurance schemes are a very poor way of arranging health care, especially for people who find it difficult to navigate the system. They cannot make up for India’s persistent failure to expand and improve public health facilities. No country has achieved UHC on this sort of foundation.This is not to deny that social health insurance is a part of the UHC framework in some countries. Canada and Thailand are two examples. But PMJAY and SHIPs lack important features of social health insurance, such as universal coverage, and more importantly, a strong focus on non-profit health-care providers.India’s profit-driven health-care system reflects decades of severe under-investment in public health facilities — few countries beat India in this regard. According to the World Bank’s latest World Development Indicators, public expenditure on health was still as low as 1.3% of GDP in India in 2022, compared with a world average of 6.1%. UHC cannot be achieved without a serious effort to address this deficit and transform health-care standards in the public sector. Some Indian States are moving in that direction, with encouraging results, but immense gaps remain. Health insurance is little more than a pain killer for a system that needs proper healing.

# What is CEREBO? | Explained



The story so far: CEREBO is a novel hand-held, portable non-invasive brain injury diagnostic tool, developed through a collaboration between the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the Medical Device & Diagnostics Mission Secretariat (MDMS), AIIMS Bhopal, NIMHANS Bengaluru, and Bioscan Research. The device is to be used for Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs) and can detect intracranial bleeding and edema within a minute. It is safe for infants and pregnant women, and can be used by paramedic staff as well as unskilled personnel.

Why is this device important?

Offered as an option in settings where advanced diagnostic tools like CT or MRI scans are inaccessible or delayed, CEREBO provides colour-coded, radiation-free, and cost-effective results. The device is designed for deployment in ambulances, trauma centres, rural clinics, and disaster response units and is aimed at enhancing early TBI detection and patient outcomes. According to the ICMR, CEREBO has undergone clinical validation, regulatory approvals, and feasibility studies, paving the way for global adoption in emergency and military healthcare systems.ICMR added that multi-centre clinical performance evaluation and utility trials were conducted at leading trauma care and neurosurgical centres to generate prospective evidence on diagnostic accuracy, time-to-decision benefits, and integration feasibility within emergency care pathways. Post-market surveillance supported by ICMR-MDMS further confirmed its role in user adoption as a tool for effectively triaging patients for further neurological assessments.

# Noise pollution is rising but policy is falling silent

Urban noise pollution has quietly emerged as one of the most neglected public health crises of our time. Across Indian cities, decibel levels routinely exceed permissible limits, especially near schools, hospitals and residential zones, eroding the constitutional promise of peace and dignity.In 2011, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) launched the National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network (NANMN), which was envisioned as a real-time data platform. A decade later, the network functions less as a tool for reform and more as a passive repository. Data are scattered across dashboards, but meaningful enforcement remains elusive.The problem lies not only in flawed sensor placement (many are mounted 25 to 30 feet high, in violation of the CPCB’s 2015 guidelines — but in a deeper absence of accountability. Whether biased or incomplete, the available data remains politically and administratively inert. Contrast this with Europe, where noise-induced illnesses and mortality statistics actively shape policy. The European Environment Agency recently pegged the annual economic cost of urban noise pollution at ₹100 billion, prompting redesigns in speed zones and zoning frameworks. India, by contrast, suffers from regulatory fragmentation and institutional silence. Right to Information queries go unanswered; State Pollution Control Boards operate in silos; and even in States such as Uttar Pradesh, first-quarter 2025 data remains unavailable to the public.Apathy, neglect, serious questions

This is not merely environmental apathy. It borders on constitutional neglect. Article 21 guarantees the right to life with dignity, encompassing mental and environmental well-being. Article 48A mandates proactive environmental protection. When “silence zones” become epicentres of noise, it raises serious questions about state capacity and civic respect.

The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000 offer a robust legal framework, but enforcement has remained largely symbolic. According to the World Health Organization, safe limits in silent zones are 50 dB(A) by day and 40 dB(A) by night. Yet, in cities such as Delhi and Bengaluru, readings near sensitive institutions often reach 65 dB(A)-70 dB(A).Infrastructure expansion and logistics-driven traffic have exacerbated the crisis. Late-night drilling and crane operations continue despite regulatory restrictions. In 2024, the Supreme Court of India reaffirmed that environmental disruptions — including excessive noise — can infringe upon the fundamental right to life and dignity under Article 21. In Noise Pollution (V), In Re, the Court recognised that unchecked urban noise poses a serious threat to mental well-being and civic freedom (The case dates back to 2005, and was referenced and interpreted again by the Court in 2024, in the context of renewed concerns over urban noise and its impact on fundamental rights).The ecological cost is no less troubling. A 2025 study by the University of Auckland found that urban noise and artificial light disrupted the sleep and song patterns of common mynas after just one night. The birds sang less and with reduced complexity, impairing their social signalling. This is not merely an avian concern, it signals a breakdown in ecological communication systems. When biodiversity loses its voice, it reflects a deeper erosion of urban environmental ethics.

Civic fatigue and the politics of silenceUrban noise is not just a technical issue, it is deeply political. The absence of sustained public outrage stems from a normalisation of sonic aggression. Honking, drilling and loudspeakers have become ambient irritants, tolerated rather than challenged. This civic fatigue is compounded by the invisibility of noise as a pollutant. Unlike smog or garbage, sound leaves no residue, no visible stain — only a frayed mind and a disturbed sleep cycle. The result is a quiet erosion of public health, especially among children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing conditions.India’s legal framework, while robust on paper, suffers from fragmented execution. The Noise Pollution Rules, 2000 are rarely updated to reflect urban realities. There is little coordination between municipal bodies, traffic police and pollution control boards. A national acoustic policy akin to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards is urgently needed. Such a framework must define permissible decibel levels across zones, mandate regular audits, and empower local grievance redress mechanisms. Without inter-agency synergy, enforcement will remain sporadic and symbolic.

Adopt a culture of ‘sonic empathy’Ultimately, the fight against urban noise is not just regulatory, it is cultural. Cities must cultivate a shared ethic of sonic empathy. Public campaigns should move beyond slogans to immersive education, in schools, driver training programmes and com-

Health technology assessments also recommended the adoption of the device in tertiary care to accelerate CT scans, optimise triage, and reduce imaging costs.

What is TBI?

TBIs are a significant public health challenge, particularly in emergency settings, rural areas, and underserved populations. Traditional diagnostic methods, such as the Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS), are prone to errors and subjective interpretations, while imaging techniques require specialised infrastructure, trained personnel, and are cost-intensive. It is to address this issue that CEREBO has been developed using advanced near-infrared spectroscopy technology powered by machine learning.TBI is a condition caused by a sudden trauma or injury to the head, which disrupts normal brain function. This injury can range from mild (concussion) to severe, often resulting in long-term physical, cognitive, emotional, and behavioural impairments. The severity of TBI depends on factors such as the force of impact, the location of the injury, and the individual’s overall health. According to an article titled, ‘Epidemiology of traumatic brain injuries: Indian scenario’, TBIs are a leading cause of morbidity, mortality, disability and socio-economic losses in India and other developing countries. It is estimated that nearly 1.5 to 2 million persons are injured and one million succumb to death every year in India. Road traffic injuries are the leading cause (60%) of TBIs followed by falls (20%-25%) and violence (10%).It is possible for a TBI to go undiagnosed initially, especially if symptoms are mild or if there are no visible signs of injury. A TBI can cause permanent brain damage in some cases, particularly if the injury is severe or if there are complications such as bleeding or swelling in the brain. Patients with mild TBIs (concussions) may only require monitoring and observation to ensure symptoms do not worsen. “Close monitoring of neurological status, vital signs, and cognitive function is important, especially in the first 24 to 48 hours after injury,” it adds. Long-term consequences of TBI include cognitive impairments (such as memory problems), emotional and behavioural changes (such as depression, anxiety), physical disabilities, and increased risk of neurodegenerative diseases later in life, say experts.



munity spaces. Just as seatbelt usage became a norm through sustained messaging, honking reduction and noise sensitivity can be socially internalised. Silence is not the absence of sound, but the presence of care.Where, then, must reform begin? First, decentralise NANMN — grant local bodies access to real-time noise data and the responsibility to act.Second, link monitoring to enforcement — without penalties, zoning compliance or construction curbs, data remains performativity.Third, institutionalise awareness — initiatives such as “No Honking Day” must evolve into sustained behavioural campaigns.Fourth, embed acoustic resilience in urban planning — cities must be designed not just for speed and expansion, but for sonic civility.Silence must not be imposed and must be enabled through design, governance and democratic will. Unless India adopts a rights-based lens to urban noise, its smart cities may remain unliveable at the level of sound.

# Fear of being replaced — Navigating value in an AI-driven workplace

At the heart of the modern workplace lies an uncomfortable question that once whispered beneath layers of professional decorum and now echoes through Slack channels, boardrooms, and virtual town halls: Am I replaceable?In the age of AI, this question is no longer limited to factory lines or routine-heavy occupations. It creeps into creative industries, management circles, legal practices, and even scientific research. The spectre of artificial intelligence — efficient, tireless, and increasingly capable — has transformed professional insecurity from a vague existential unease into a daily reckoning.Let’s begin with the facts. In 2023, Goldman Sachs reported that AI could replace the equivalent of 300 million full-time jobs globally. OpenAI’s own models have demonstrated proficiency in passing bar exams, generating code, writing poetry, and even conducting basic data analysis. White-collar workers who once watched automation from the safety of their ergonomic chairs now find the lens turning on them. Generative AI systems, from ChatGPT to DALL·E, are proving that what we once believed to be the irreplaceable human domain — nuance, creativity, and empathy — is not so untouchable after all. Yet, as someone who has spent decades navigating the crests and troughs of workplace change, I’d argue that the fear of being replaced, while real, is not new. It’s merely been accelerated and globalised in scale. We’ve been here before: with industrialisation, with outsourcing, with the digitisation of processes. What’s different now is the speed and scope. AI doesn’t need onboarding. It doesn’t take sick leave or negotiate salaries. That’s a seductive proposition for companies pressured by profit margins, shareholders, and hypergrowth expectations.But here’s where I diverge from the doomsday narrative. The real value of human labour was never just about output; it was about context, trust, and meaning. AI is, at present, a tool without consciousness or lived experience. It can draft a legal contract, but it doesn’t understand justice. It can compose music, but it doesn’t feel heartbreak. It can summarise a company’s internal policies, but it can’t sense the unspoken tensions in a team room or navigate the cultural subtext of a negotiation.The mistake many of us are making is imagining value as fixed, a binary of useful or obsolete. But value in the workplace has always been relational. It evolves. A skill that was prized in the 1990s, say, shorthand or mainframe programming, may now be irrelevant, but the adaptability that came with mastering it?

# Slight dip in India’s Russian oil imports in September, but no meaningful impact of US pressure visible yet



Indian refiners’ heavy imports of Russian crude are seen as a lever that the Trump administration believes it can use to force the Kremlin’s hand into ending the Ukraine war. Indian refiners’ heavy imports of Russian crude are seen as a lever that the Trump administration believes it can use to force the Kremlin’s hand into ending the Ukraine war. India’s Russian oil imports in September declined only slightly compared to August, indicating that the American rhetoric and pressure on New Delhi over its heavy purchases of Moscow’s oil has had no telling impact yet on Indian refiners’ oil purchases. India-bound crude oil loadings at Russian ports in September were also largely stable at August levels, shows provisional tanker data. Although there are evident signs of growing diversification in India’s oil sourcing, the import basket continues to be dominated by Russia, which commanded over one-third share in India’s total oil imports in September.

India’s Russian oil imports in September were 1.60 million barrels per day (bpd) in September, down 5.4 per cent from August levels, according to provisional vessel tracking data from global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler. Oil loadings headed for India at Russian ports averaged at 1.52 million bpd, flat on a month-on-month basis. Notably, destinations of sizable volumes of Russian crude loadings in September—over 300,000 bpd—are not known yet, and much of this oil could make its way to India, according to industry watchers. Contracts for Russian crude supplied to India are usually finalised six-eight weeks before delivery, which means that the volumes imported in September correspond to contracts from July and August. In July, US President Donald Trump began to publicly target India over its Russian oil purchases, and by the first week of August, he announced an additional 25 per cent tariff on most Indian goods as a penalty for buying Russian oil. The additional tariff took effect late August. Russian oil deliveries to India in October are expected to provide a clear picture on whether or not the pressure from the Trump administration has had any significant impact.

“At this stage, it’s unlikely India will make meaningful cuts purely for political signaling. The calculus remains economic. If US pressure escalates, India could make a token reduction of 100,000–200,000 bpd to demonstrate diversification, but a structural cut is unlikely without a formal government directive,” said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling at Kpler. According to industry sources, the dip in September volumes of Russian oil imports into India appears to have been largely due to a rise in

freight cost and a slight narrowing of discounts on Russian crude, not pressure from the US. Going forward, there is potential for deeper discounts on Russian crude, given that a portion of Russia’s refining capacity was hit by Ukrainian drone strikes. With domestic processing of crude going down, Russia would be looking to export more oil, which is bound to add some competitive pressure on the pricing of Russian barrels. “Honestly, I don’t see India stepping away from Russian supplies anytime soon in the near to mid-term. Russian barrels are still priced cheaper than most other grades India imports. True, the discounts are narrower than the \$10–20 per barrel spreads we saw earlier, but even a small price edge matters. Refiners won’t leave a single dollar on the table unless there’s a clear government directive banning Russian imports—similar to how India treated Iranian barrels,” he said. Indian refiners’ heavy imports of Russian crude are seen as a lever that the Trump administration believes it can use to force the Kremlin’s hand into ending the Ukraine war. Oil exports are the biggest source of revenue for Moscow, and New Delhi is the second-largest buyer of its oil after Beijing. But despite US rhetoric and imposition of 25 per cent secondary tariff over the 25 per cent tariff imposed earlier on most Indian goods, India has shown no signs of backing down on Russian oil imports.

The Indian government has consistently maintained that the country will buy oil from wherever it gets the best deal, as long as the oil is not under sanctions. There are no sanctions on Russian oil; it is only subject to a price cap imposed by the US and its allies that applies if Western shipping and insurance services are used for transporting the oil. India’s public sector refiners have stated that they have not received any signal or directive from the government on the issue, and they will continue to buy Russian oil as long as it remains economically and commercially viable. New Delhi has termed the Trump administration’s action “unjustified and unreasonable” and said these imports began as its traditional supplies were diverted to Europe, with the US having “actively encouraged such imports by India for strengthening global energy markets stability”. The Joe Biden administration had encouraged India to increase Russian oil imports following Russia’s February 2022 invasion of Ukraine as the West began shunning Moscow’s oil. Russia is a major oil exporter and if a bulk of its oil goes off the market for dearth of buyers, international oil prices could shoot up, something that the US itself did not desire. Even as India has so far shown no major signs of cutting oil imports from Russia, there has been a stronger push for diversification of supply from various regions—West Asia, Africa, North America, and South America. “What we are seeing is that Indian refiners are gradually looking to expand their basket—not necessarily to replace Russia in the short term, but to enhance energy security, continuity of flows, and economic flexibility,” Ritolia said. When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Moscow’s share in New Delhi’s oil imports was less than 2 per cent. With much of the West snubbing Russian crude following the invasion, Russia began offering discounts on its oil to willing buyers. Indian refiners were quick to avail the opportunity, leading to Russia—earlier a peripheral supplier of oil to India—emerging as India’s biggest source of crude within a matter of months, displacing the traditional West Asian suppliers.

## Mukesh Ambani reclaims top spot; Shah Rukh Khan enters billionaire club

Mukesh Ambani (left) leads with a fortune of Rs 9.55 lakh crore. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan (59) entered the billionaire club for the first time with a fortune of Rs 12,490 crore. (File Photos) Mukesh Ambani (left) leads with a fortune of Rs 9.55 lakh crore. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan (59) entered the billionaire club for the first time with a fortune of Rs 12,490 crore.

Led by Mukesh Ambani and family, India’s tally of US dollar billionaires (wealth above \$1 billion, or over Rs 8,800 crore) has risen by 24 to 358 in 2025. The M3M Hurun India Rich List 2025 shows 1,687 individuals — up by 148 from last year — across 91 cities with wealth of Rs 1,000 crore or more. As many as 1,004 individuals with wealth above Rs 1,000 crore saw their fortunes rise or hold steady, including 284 new entrants, while 643 lost wealth and 139 dropped off the list. Among billionaires, Ambani leads with a fortune of Rs 9.55 lakh crore, followed by Gautam Adani with Rs 8.14 lakh crore. Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan (59) entered the billionaire club for the first time with a fortune of Rs 12,490 crore. Chennai-born Aravind Srinivas (31), founder of AI-focused company Perplexity, debuted with Rs 21,190 crore, making him the youngest billionaire on the list.

Roshni Nadar of the HCL Group is the youngest in the Top 10. The Bajaj family saw their wealth jump 43 per cent to Rs 2.33 lakh crore, climbing four spots to sixth place. “The Top 10 richest hold 27 per cent of total wealth, capable of powering nation-building projects, while the base of wealth is broadening rapidly — individuals with over Rs 1,000 crore have more than doubled in five years, with representation rising to 91 cities from just 10 at inception,” M3M Hurun India said. The combined wealth of those on the Rich List 2025 stands at Rs 167 lakh crore — nearly half of India’s GDP — with 358 dollar-billionaires, up from just 59 in 2012 and 200 five years ago. “Wealth creation is increasingly borderless, with Jayshree Ullal in Silicon Valley, industrial stalwarts in London and Dubai, and new Gulf billionaires linking global capital back to India,” the report noted.

Mumbai remains the billionaire capital with 451 entrants, followed by Bengaluru (116), Hyderabad (102), Chennai (94) and Pune (66), signalling the decentralisation of wealth hubs. By sector, pharmaceuticals leads with 137 listers, followed by industrial products (132), chemicals & petrochemicals (125), software & services (110), real estate (99) and a fast-emerging biotech sector — making India’s wealth engine more diverse and resilient. A record 66 per cent (1,115 individuals) on the Hurun Rich List 2025 are self-made, up from 55 per cent five years ago. Among the 284 new entrants, 74 per cent built fortunes from scratch. The start-up boom has become the single largest engine of new wealth creation, reshaping not just fortunes but India’s economic fabric. Anas Rahman Junaid, founder and chief researcher of Hurun India, said: “The cumulative wealth of India’s richest climbed to Rs 167 lakh crore, with 1,044 individuals gaining versus 643 losing, showing the wealth-creation engine remains strong. Optimism is reflected in the rise of first-generation founders, regional hubs beyond metros, and new-age sectors reshaping the economy.” The entry threshold for the Top 10 billionaires has surged to Rs 1.83 lakh crore, up from Rs 1.63 lakh crore, making it tougher than ever for newcomers to break in. The average age of the richest has dropped to 69 — three years younger than last



year. The list also features 97 startup founders, including 46 first-timers, and 12 founders from publicly listed startups.

## TCS forced around 2,500 employees to resign, says IT employees’ body

New Delhi: India’s largest IT firm Tata Consultancy Services has allegedly forced around 2,500 employees in Pune to resign from their jobs, the IT employees’ body NITES said in a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister on Wednesday.

However, TCS said, only a limited number of employees have been affected by its recent initiative to realign skills in its organisation. Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) president Harpreet Singh Saluja, in a letter to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, sought timely intervention to protect the interests of the affected employees. Saluja said based on NITES representation, the Union Labour Ministry has directed the Maharashtra labour secretary to take necessary action in the matter. “Sadly, despite this directive, the ground reality has become even more distressing. In Pune alone, nearly 2,500 employees have been forced to resign or have been abruptly removed in recent weeks,” NITES said. When contacted, TCS said, “The misinformation shared here is inaccurate and purposefully mischievous. Only a limited number of employees have been affected by our recent initiative to realign skills in our organisation.” “Those who have been affected have been provided due care and severance, as is due to them in each of the individual circumstances.” The company, in June, announced to lay off about 2 per cent, or 12,261 employees, of its global workforce this year, with the majority of those impacted belonging to middle and senior grades. NITES said the affected employees are not just numbers; they are mothers and fathers, breadwinners, caregivers, and the backbone of thousands of households across Maharashtra. “Many of those affected are mid- to senior-level professionals who have given 10-20 years of dedicated service to the company. A large number are over 40 years of age, burdened with EMIs, school fees, medical expenses, and responsibilities towards ageing parents.

# RBI keeps rates steady, slashes inflation forecast to 2.6 pc, hikes growth rate to 6.8 pc



Lending and deposit rates in the banking system will remain unchanged as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday kept its key policy rate—the repo rate—steady at 5.5 per cent. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted unanimously to pause for the second consecutive meeting, while also retaining its “neutral” stance, signalling that interest rates could move in either direction depending on how growth and inflation unfold.

While slashing the inflation projection to 2.6 per cent from 3.1 per cent and raising the growth rate to 6.8 per cent from 6.5 per cent projected earlier, the MPC indicated that the decision comes at a time of steady domestic growth, subdued inflation, and heightened global risks. Escalating trade tariff disputes and H-1B visa tensions with the United States have added to uncertainty, prompting the RBI to adopt a watchful approach while maintaining flexibility in its policy direction. Lending rates stay put, but with caveats

The immediate impact of an unchanged repo rate is that all external benchmark lending rates (EBLR) linked directly to the repo will remain unchanged. Borrowers with loans tied to the repo benchmark will not see any change in their equated monthly instalments (EMIs). Deposit rates will also remain unchanged. However, the story is slightly different for borrowers whose loans are linked to the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR). Banks often recalibrate their MCLR depending on their cost of funds, liquidity conditions, and credit demand. While repo-linked rates will remain steady, lenders may still make marginal adjustments to MCLR-linked products. Earlier this year, when the RBI cut the repo rate by a cumulative 100 basis points (bps) between February and June 2025, most banks passed on the benefit by lowering repo-linked lending rates. MCLR was also reduced, though the transmission was more gradual. However, some banks raised the home loans in the wake of pressure on margins.

Why did RBI pause again?

This is the second consecutive meeting where the MPC has opted for a pause after the aggressive rate cuts earlier in the year. The committee’s decision reflects a balancing act: it wants to support growth while also acknowledging inflationary risks. “Growth-inflation narrative has altered since the August 2025 policy. Inflation has turned benign and there has been significant moderation in inflation,” RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said. Several factors contributed to the decision: The introduction of a simplified two-slab Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure—5 per cent and 18 per cent, replacing the earlier four-rate system—has reduced tax burdens on several items, boosting consumption.

## Neuroscientist recommends simple hack that will help you reduce stress: ‘The biggest change I would say is...’

Stress management often feels complicated, but sometimes the smallest tweaks to daily habits can make the biggest difference. In an episode of her podcast, content creator Masoom Minawala Mehta asked neuroscientist Dr Sweta Adatia a simple yet powerful question: “If you could recommend changing just one habit to reduce stress, what would it be?”

Dr Adatia’s answer focused on mornings as the foundation for mental balance. She said, “The biggest change that I would say is when you wake up in the morning, fix your morning, you know, your stress, everything will get fixed automatically. Do not wake up the last hour, the last moment, do not rush to work. Do not go from the delta, the deepest sleep state you were in, going suddenly to beta, the fast-firing of the brain. Take your time, get into alpha, get into theta, start to practise these breathing techniques which allow your autonomic balance, and that’s it (sic).” Dr Adatia clarified that this doesn’t have to be overwhelming or time-consuming. “It’s not at all a rigorous process that, you know, ‘I have to spend hours and hours building it, doing it.’ No, just give yourself 5 to 10 minutes in the morning.”

But what actually happens in the brain when we transition too quickly from deep sleep to a rushed start? Gurleen Baruah, Existential Psychotherapist, tells indianexpress.com, “When we wake up, our body is still shifting out of deep sleep. At this stage, cortisol, the stress hormone, is already high to help us become alert. If we immediately rush into emails, meetings, or chores, the nervous system is pushed from 0 to 100 too quickly. The brain doesn’t get time to regulate this spike, so instead of energy, it often leaves us feeling tired, irritable, or foggy.” Over time, she adds that this constant “shock start” can make us more vulnerable to stress, poor focus, and even burnout.

Dr Adatia mentions “alpha” and “theta” states. How can an average person recognise or encourage these states in practical, everyday ways?

Baruah explains that alpha and theta are brainwave states. Alpha is a calm but alert state. It’s what we feel during daydreaming, light meditation, or when we are fully



present but relaxed. Theta is a deeper state, linked to creativity, reflection, or that transitional state between sleep and waking. We naturally pass through these states in the morning before we are fully awake.

“To encourage them, avoid rushing straight to screens. Instead, spend a few quiet minutes stretching, journaling, or even just sitting with your thoughts. These practices help the brain ease into the day, reducing stress and improving focus,” she explains. Simple breathing or mindfulness techniques that can realistically be done in just 5 to 10 minutes Baruah says, “Even a short pause can reset the nervous system. Box breathing, which involves inhaling for 4 seconds, holding for 4, exhaling for 4, and holding for 4, is a simple tool to calm the body. Guided meditations (many available online) or mindful journaling can also help.” Another underrated practice is simply stepping outside and sitting in natural light for a few minutes, letting the body wake up gradually. The key is not to overload the mind immediately and avoid reaching for the phone first thing. These small rituals train the body to begin the day grounded, not stressed, notes the expert.

## Hyderabad-born researcher Dr Mugdha on a quest to uncover black holes in tiny galaxies

Hyderabad: Dr Mugdha Polimera spends her days searching for what most of us can never see: black holes. An astrophysicist, software engineer and AI researcher, she is part of a new generation of scientists reshaping our understanding of how galaxies evolve and how cosmic giants come into being. At NASA’s Astrophysics Data Systems (ADS), she is building next-generation tools that help astronomers worldwide keep up with the constant deluge of scientific papers and related materials. Her journey to the stars began far from the laboratories of the US. Born in Hyderabad, educated in BITS-Pilani Dubai, and raised in Abu Dhabi, Mugdha grew up under desert skies, where her father often told her stories about constellations and Indian traditions of astronomy. Those stories, half myth and half science, lit up her imagination. What began as childhood

infatuation with the night sky gradually transformed into a career dedicated to uncovering its deepest mysteries. Mugdha’s most celebrated breakthrough came during her doctoral research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her team discovered that dwarf galaxies — the small, faint cousins of galaxies like our Milky Way — host many more black holes than anyone had realised. “Almost all of them were overlooked,” she explains. “Their signals were mistaken for high-energy stars. But when we looked again with different techniques, it became clear these were real, growing black holes hiding in plain sight.” The discovery matters because large galaxies such as the Milky Way are thought to have formed by merging thousands of dwarf galaxies. If those dwarfs carried hidden black holes,

# How the wobbled seam helped Mohammed Siraj run through West Indies on Day 1 at Ahmedabad



GNS News Agency, Oct 15

Day One of their home season began on a resounding note for India. On what was a muggy day in Ahmedabad with a 22-minute rain-break in the third session, despite losing the toss, India showed all the good signs of their old self. Setting the tone straightaway were their pacers Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah who restricted the spinners to a supporting role before KL Rahul brought assuredness to their batting. If they breathed fire with the ball, they looked solid with the bat. All of it meant, West Indies, as expected, struggled to put any sort of fight, combusting under sustained pressure to fold for 162 under two sessions. At stumps, India were only 41-runs behind after losing Yashavi Jaiswal and B Sai Sudharsan.

For a team that is still reeling under the shock defeat to New Zealand a year back, India were not willing to take chances against an opponent that is ranked eighth in the table. Even though the West Indies are thin on experience, India didn't compromise on one aspect – adding depth to batting and bowling. It has been the case since Gautam Gambhir took charge as coach and the pitch in Ahmedabad provided more reasons for him to field as many as three all-rounders. With a fair bit of grass on it, the pitch offered movement and good carry throughout the day for the seamers before the odd deliveries from the spinners began to spit and turn towards the end of the day. Maybe this is what prompted West Indies to expose themselves against two raging pacers Bumrah and Siraj. And more than the former, whom the Caribbean great Andy Roberts had told this newspaper that they would have preferred him to be part of their pace quartet, it was Siraj who was the unplayable one.

Having thrived in recent months, in particular in the absence of Bumrah, Siraj has come across a different seamer, one with the capability to move the ball both ways. Unfortunately for the Windies, Siraj found his rhythm soon. In the two months he spent at his home town Hyderabad, one of Siraj's favourite pastime was to make a drive to Eidgah Maidan in the Old city, park his swanky car and have the Irani Chai from the mobile chaiwala. It is a place where he is able to reconnect with himself, and the same can be said when he takes up the red cherry as well. With a

cross-seam delivery – which he delivers when none of his other tricks aren't working for him – he can conjure moments of brilliance out of nowhere. It is that scrambled seam that undone Brandon King and later on Roston Chase before he struggled hard to get the fifth that never arrived. Siraj India's Jasprit Bumrah, left, and Mohammed Siraj celebrates the dismissal of West Indies' Johann Layne on the first day of the first Test cricket match between India and West Indies at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025. (AP Photo/Ajit Solanki)

"When my in-swing stopped. I automatically started getting an out-swing. Then, I realised that this uses wobble seam kehte hain. I kept putting it in practice. I have just heard the name wobble seam," he said at the end of the day. "I get wickets by working hard. I got wickets by working hard in England as well. Here also, I worked hard. No one gave me a free wicket, mujhe 5th wicket pe koi nahi diya."

With Bumrah, it was a different sort of a day. Like Siraj, he sent down 14 overs, but appeared far from his lethal best, but the X-factor bowler he is, produced two special deliveries towards the end of West Indies innings. All-rounder Justin Greaves, who looked the part during his 48-ball stay where he top-scored with 32, had no answer to a screeching yorker from Bumrah that took the off-stump with it. Ollie Pope would definitely sympathise with Greaves. And to Johann Layne, he dished out another full delivery that came back in sharply to dismantle the off and middle stump.

The performance of the two quicks meant the spin trio of Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar and Kuldeep Yadav had little to do. When the seamers were struggling to control their line, Washington and Kuldeep were warming up as early as the second over, as if to send a reminder to skipper Shubman Gill. He eventually turned to them, but in total they delivered 12.1 overs between them for two wickets.

Siraj India's captain Shubman Gill, left, and KL Rahul walks off the field after the end of play of the first day of the first Test cricket match between India and West Indies at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025. (AP Photo/Ajit Solanki)Once the bowlers did the job, Jaiswal and Rahul came up with the intent to bat long and big. With dark clouds setting in, they had to bat under the lights, which offered more movement for the pacer as Jaiswal started on a watchful note. With Rahul solid as ever, West Indies pacers couldn't make any early inroads as the left-right duo picked boundaries at ease. Rahul, the senior partner, was measured in his leaves and defence, while being at his punishing best whenever the opportunity presented itself. Perhaps, it is the ease with which Rahul scored the late-cuts that prompted Jaiswal to go for one, but the ball was too close to cut and he feathered it to wicketkeeper. Sai Sudharsan, given the chance at No 3 to own the spot, did little favours to himself, going for an expansive hoick of Chase and was trapped in front by a straighter one.

# Lionel Messi confirms India visit: ‘Have good memories from my time there 14 years ago’

GNS News Agency, Oct 15

Even as Messi prepares for his December commitments, the Argentina national football team has included India in its schedule for a November FIFA international window. (AP Photo)Even as Messi prepares for his December commitments, the Argentina national football team has included India in its schedule for a November FIFA international window. Lionel Messi has confirmed his visit to India, stating that it is an "honour" to revisit the "passionate football nation" country where he last played 14 years ago. Messi will embark on a four-city tour of India starting at Kolkata on December 12. He will then fly to Ahmedabad, followed by Mumbai and then Delhi on December where he is set to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "It is such an honour for me to make this trip. India is a very special country, and I have good memories from my time there 14 years ago — the fans were fantastic. India is a passionate football nation, and I look forward to meeting a new generation of fans while sharing the love I have for this beautiful game," Messi said in an official statement.

Organiser Satadru Dutta had already unveiled the itinerary on August 15, and Messi's statement on Thursday marked the first time the football great himself confirmed the visit. After landing in Kolkata on December 12, the next day Messi will attend the unveiling of a statue of his followed by a 'GOAT Concert' and 'GOAT Cup'. The GOAT Cup will be a celebratory seven-a-side soft-touch football match, with Messi teaming up alongside Sourav Ganguly, Leander Paes, John Abraham and Bhaichung Bhutia. Tickets are likely to start at Rs 3,500 and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is expected to felicitate Messi during the programme. This will be followed by a flight to Ahmedabad on the evening of December 13, where Dutta says Messi will be attending a private event with some of his sponsors. Messi then moves to Mumbai on December 14. Messi will be in Delhi on December 15, where he will have another GOAT Concert at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. Dutta also said that Messi will be meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "We will seek an appointment from the Prime Minister," Dutta said. The visit this year won't be Messi's first trip to India. That was made in 2011, when he played a friendly against Venezuela at the Salt Lake Stadium in



Kolkata. That also happened to be Messi's first match as Argentina captain.

Messi in Kerala too in November?

Even as Messi prepares for his December commitments, the Argentina national football team has included India in its schedule for a November FIFA international window. The Lionel Scaloni-coached world champions are set to play a friendly in Kerala between November 10-18, though the opponents and venue are yet to be finalised. If that visit goes ahead, it could mean Messi making two trips to India within two months. However, it remains to be seen whether the 38-year-old forward will feature in the Kerala match. "I will be surprised if the legendary footballer comes twice in a month. However, it is most likely that the Argentina team minus Messi may come to play in Kerala," a source in the state said. The November friendly will be part of three games during the window, with the other two scheduled in Angola. "The Argentine national team, led by Lionel Scaloni, will have two FIFA friendly windows in the remainder of 2025," the AFA had said in its statement. "The first, in October, from the 6th to the 14th, will be played in the United States (opponents and cities to be determined). The second, from the 10th to the 18th of November, will be played in Luanda, Angola, and Kerala, India (opponents to be determined)," it added. Messi, an Olympic gold medalist and 2022 World Cup-winning captain, continues to attract unprecedented fanfare worldwide, and his December tour is expected to be one of the biggest football-related events ever staged in India.

# Syed Ali's 121 powers Lal Bahadur to commanding win in HCA C-Division clash

Hyderabad: Centuries and five-wicket hauls lit up Thursday's action in the HCA C-Division one-day league cricket championship. Syed Ali (121) for Lal Bahadur, Sai Charan (who also claimed six for 42) for SK Blues (134), Abhinav (119 n.o.) for SN Group, Prem Chand (123) for Mahadev led the batting brilliance, while Bhagavik (5/39) for Ranga Reddy, Rishanth (5/ 11) for Mahadev CC were some of the highlights of the league cricket championship.

The scores: C-Division one-day: Gaganmahal 89 in 29.2 overs (Rajab 3/10, Utkarsh 3/20) lost to Lords 93/1 in 8.4 overs (Jatin Sharma 64 no). Hyd Patriots 256/3 in 50 overs (Yuvan Srikanth 80, Ritesh 68, Raghaav 38no) bt Vijaynagar 201/6 in 50 overs (Ikshvaak 65, Kushwanth Neil 50, Ashrith 35). International 204/9 in 46 overs (Trishul 39, Anvish 42, Mohan 51, Sushen 3/52) bt Pickett 171/10 in 42.2 overs (Trishul 4/30) Lal Bahadur 311/8 in 45 overs (Nishanth 67, Syed Ali 121) bt Navjeevan Friends 167 in 45 overs (Ayaan Bansal 42, Ruhaan Ali 3/19). VP Willowmen 219/8 in 47 overs (Akhileshwar 51, Gowtham Reddy 33, Geeth mudiraj 42no, Bargav Raj 4/62) bt Ameerpet 190/10 in 45.5 overs (Sharanpal 49. Geeth mudiraj 3/42) Akshit 178/10 in

36.3 overs (Siddharth 55, B Akshay 60) bt Lucky XI 157/10 in 38.2 overs (Dakshdeep 47) SK Blues 219/8 in 48 overs (Sai Charan 134) Tie with AB Colony 219/10 in 46 overs (Hrshikesh Singh 46, Rithvik Reddy 30, Yashwanth 31, Kishore 3/32, Sai Charan 6/42). XI Masters 209/4 in 46 overs (Varun Mishra 50, Sudhamsh 69, Shivasia 48) bt Sutton 171/9 in 46 overs (Srinadh 39, Sashreek 58, Aaryan 4/35). Hyd Wanderers 324/8 in 45 overs (Shariq 96, Swachit 75, Musharaf 64, Omkar 4/59) bt Raju Cricket Academy 123 in 31.2 overs (Jagadeep 3/15). Tirumala 263/8 in 50 overs (Hitesh 43, Kosuhik 30, Ratan Varshith 53, Anvesh 35, Rakesh 3/48) bt Vijayanand 168/9 in 42.5 overs (Vishwanath 36, Raghava 50no, Hussain Sayeed 3/37). SN Group 207/8 in 36.3 overs (Abhinav 119 no, Bhavesh 4/46) bt Sec'bad Union 150/8 in 34.2 overs (Bhavesh 53, Himanshu 3/27, Bhuvik 3/30). RJCC 235/7 in 50 overs (J. Roshan 95, Anirudh 62) bt Southend Raymonds 143/9 in 31 overs (Nihar 65, Janardhan 3/30, Sai Dhanush 4/50). Adams 189 in 40.4 overs (Krishna Vardhan 61, Ruthvik 40, Nandan 4/26, Adhwai 3/32) bt Azad 112 in 37.4 overs (Geethanvith 3/18,

# Abhishek Sharma's sister set to tie knot says, ‘I really wanted this gift from my brother before my marriage...’



GNS News Agency, Oct 15

After a successful campaign at the Asia Cup 2025, Abhishek Sharma's joy is going to be further multiplied as his sister is all set to tie the knot in the coming days. "It is a matter of pride that my brother Abhishek has won the Asia Cup tournament. We have brought the trophy home, and we are all very happy. I really wanted this gift from my brother before my marriage. I knew deep inside that India was going to win this..." Komal said. "Everyone is very happy at home. People are congratulating us. I am very proud of my son. This is for the entire country. My son is playing really well, and the entire team has performed very well," said

# World champion Gukesh D drops out of top 10 in FIDE rankings; Divya Deshmukh rises to no 11 in women's list



After a wretched FIDE Grand Swiss in Uzbekistan's Samarkand, world champion Gukesh Dommaraju has fallen out of the top 10 rankings in the October 2025 ratings list announced by FIDE on Wednesday. At the Grand Swiss tournament in September, Gukesh had ended in 41st spot out of 116 players having lost three games in a row and being held to four draws over the course of the 11-round tournament. Gukesh, the youngest world champion in history, lost 15 rating points—from 2767 in September to 2752 in October—over the course of 11 rounds in Samarkand. Gukesh was rated 2794 last October, meaning he has lost

Abhishek's mother, Manju, to ANI. On Wednesday, the young opener was seen dancing to the beats of bhangra during his sister Komal Sharma's pre-wedding festivities in Ludhiana, alongside mentor and former India all-rounder Yuvraj Singh. "We are all very proud and happy that Abhishek Sharma was awarded Man of the Tournament in the Asia Cup. It is a very big thing," Abhishek's father, Raj Kumar, said. The left-hander was the leading runscore in the recently concluded Asia Cup 2025, where he amassed 314 runs from seven games. The start he has given India up top essentially has rattled the opposition in the powerplay.

"I mean, of course, getting into this team after winning the World Cup, it wasn't easy for any opener. But if you see, we had a plan that we wanted to play a game, you know, that we have to show intent from the first ball. So that was my plan, I worked really hard on that. And if you're playing like this, you need special support from your coach and captain," Abhishek said after receiving the Player Of The Match award. "I think that was the one thing I was getting from them throughout the tournament, before this as well. So obviously, my plan was pretty much clear that, you know, if I do well, if I get that impact, and it's for my team, my team should win. Of course, I mean, if you want to play something like this, sometimes you will fail, but you have to keep the process going. And, you know, that's what I was getting from my team as well," he added.

43 rating points in the past year. Gukesh's predecessor on the world championship throne, China's Ding Liren, is currently in 18th spot with a rating of 2734.

Divya Deshmukh, meanwhile, is also ranked no 11 in the women's ratings list with a tally of 2498. Divya had a remarkable month winning the Women's World Cup, which earned her a spot in the Women's Candidates tournament and then playing in the open section of the Grand Swiss, where she beat two grandmasters and held world champion Gukesh to a draw. Vaishali R successfully defended her title at the Women's Grand Swiss, picking up 21 rating points and reaching a career-high 15th place. Arjun Erigaisi, at world no 4, is the top rated Indian chess player with a rating of 2773 followed by Praggnanandhaa, who is world no 5 with 2771. Praggnanandhaa also lost 14 rating points at the Grand Swiss tournament. Magnus Carlsen remains the world no 1 with a rating of 2839. Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura are the only two players with a rating over 2800 in the October rating list. In women's ratings, Koneru Humpy remains the best-rated Indian player at world no 6. Meanwhile, China's Zhu Jiner rose to world 2 after an excellent performance at the Fujairah Global Chess Championships – Superstars, where she earned 21 rating points and reached a career-high.

# ‘He made an innocent face that day’: Abhishek Sharma reveals childhood incident about Shubman Gill after Asia Cup 2025 triumph

GNS News Agency, Oct 15

Indian T20I opener Abhishek Sharma has revealed that Test captain Shubman Gill was one player who never got caught doing mischief when he was a junior cricketer. The 25-year-old narrated an incident from the Under-16 days when he was part of five players who had caused trouble, but the bus drivers refused to blame Gill for it. Sharma said that Gill had a "talent" to alter expressions and had made an innocent face on that day, when the incident took place.

"There is one guy who did a lot of mischief in age-group cricket but never got caught, and that is Shubman. I will tell you an incident. We were in Dharamsala for Under-16. Our hotel was 500m away from the stadium. We used to go there by bus. The driver was stopping the music, but we wanted to play Punjabi songs. He said no, and we got into an argument with him. And the one who was shouting the most was Shubman. The incident went to the coaches and the drivers complained." "They asked the drivers to identify who did it. There were 4-5 of us. Five of us were standing in a line and Shubman was last. The coach pointed towards each of us and asked the drivers. They said no it was not him (Shubman). I was shocked. They called the four of us out and made us sign a letter that was to send us back home. I was sad that how come the one who started it was not called out. He has a talent to change expressions. He made an innocent face that day." Sharma said on the "Breakfast with Champions" show.

The southpaw credited the role played by his father in



pushing him towards playing the game when he was young. He admitted that his father was a strict coach, but agreed that was the right guidance he needed at that stage. "In the beginning, I felt that as a youngster, even if you are talented, till your Under-19 days, you need someone who can push you. That was my dad. He was a different coach. He was very strict. But I also feel I needed someone like that for the way I was. I would be so scared. Even if I was out in any game by hitting a lofted shot, I would not sit next to him while he would be driving. I would sit behind. He would start anytime talking about my shot selection," he said. The Punjab left-hander made his T20I debut for India against Zimbabwe in July 2024. He is currently the number one T20I batter in the world, with 931 ranking points against his name.

# ‘Spoke to Tendulkar and Steve Smith before England series’: Shubman Gill reveals advice from them

India's Test captain Shubman Gill had starred in the Test series in England, amassing 754 runs in five Tests at an average of 75.40 with four hundreds. He has now revealed that he had spoken to Australia's Steve Smith and Sachin Tendulkar just before he left for that tour to pick up trade secrets to do well in England. "There was pressure of not doing well outside India. But I was feeling very confident in terms of my practice, mentally, and what positions I was getting into," Gill told Hotstar.

When the host asked him if he took counsel from someone in particular, Gill revealed the two cricketers he consulted on how to play in England. "I spoke to Sachin Sir and also took the (phone) number from Matthew Wade (who played with Gill in the IPL team) and spoke to Steve Smith. Both said the same thing: defend straight and score square." "That advice has proved to be simple and effective. If there was one issue in Shubman's batting in the past, it was his slow weight transfer onto the front foot. Quality seamers like James Anderson, Tim Southee, Kylie Jamieson, Matt Henry, Mohammad Shami (in IPL), Scott Boland and others have all dismissed him with a good-length nipbacker that would either trap him lbw or get him bowled. He wouldn't get a proper stride out and if he did, he would be late in getting there. Sachin Tendulkar had told The Indian Express just before the first Test about what Gill needs

to do to tackle that front-foot issue. "80% of the time or even more, most batters are dismissed on that front foot," Tendulkar told this newspaper. "Back foot, unless it's an obvious weakness, is less. The key to solving this is to focus a lot on getting on the front foot, having that nice stride on the front foot and defending well. Driving is only an extension of that. If he [Shubman] can keep it straight and do that, it will help him." "When the length is closer to you, then the hands automatically are going to go. But his challenge is not to let the hands go when the length is not there to be driven ... To start with, he has to play in the V, just like our coaches used to tell us. As that would help him to also leave the balls [not just deal with nipbackers] because when focusing on playing in the V, your eyeline and your body setup is different. So, I would like him initially to stay side on and move forward if the ball is pitched up," Tendulkar had told this newspaper. Gill's reluctance to get on to that front foot stems from his childhood, in his developmental years of playing cricket. His game had been built on cement tracks as a kid where he would either stand tall at crease or even push back a touch to punch balls on the rise. In case he moved forward it was never a stride but a short step. If the ball was fuller, he would just let his hands go through the line. It had become such a strength of his, that if he changed that particular aspect, it might upset his balance and poise.

## Actor who has done pathbreaking films like Filmistaan and Firaag, even won international acting awards, was reduced to being called Akshay Kumar’s co-actor: ‘I want my name to be recognized’



You might recognize his face from short yet memorable roles, but very few people actually know his name. Actor Inaamulhaq, known for his incredible range and versatility, has consistently delivered powerful performances, even in the limited opportunities the industry has offered him. Best known for films like Filmistaan, and his roles alongside Akshay Kumar in Jolly LLB 2 and Airlift, Inaamulhaq has carved out a distinct identity in Indian cin-

ema.

While Filmistaan gave him one of the most substantial roles of his career, he has also shown his depth in a variety of films such as Nandita Das’s Firaag, Ranjit Tiwari’s Lucknow Central, and across OTT platforms in shows like Hasmukh and Maharani. His performance in Nakkash earned him the Best Actor Award at a film festival in Washington D.C., yet mainstream recognition has largely remained elusive. Despite such acclaim, it’s unfortunate that the industry still hasn’t fully acknowledged his talent. In a recent interview with Digital Commentary, Inaamulhaq opened up about how his cameos in Jolly LLB 2 and Airlift went viral on social media, yet few bothered to learn his name. Instead, he was frequently referred to as “Akshay Kumar’s co-actor.” “I have a problem with that. When Airlift came out, people didn’t even mention my name. They used to write ‘Akshay Kumar’s co-actor’. But I haven’t come here to build my identity as someone’s co-actor. I want people to write my name. I want my name to be recognized. I came here to earn a name, please take it correctly.” In the same conversation, Inaamulhaq also revealed how, after the success of Filmistaan, a strange perception began circulating that he was actually a Pakistani actor, something he has repeatedly had to clarify. He emphasized that he was born and raised in India, and proudly identifies as an Indian actor.

## Karan Kundrra slams Anusha Dandekar’s infidelity claims in now-deleted post: ‘These cruel elite women can say anything and be applauded’

Anusha Dandekar and Karan Kundrra, who dated for over three years, broke up in 2020, leaving their fans shocked. Soon after, during an Ask Me Anything session on Instagram, Anusha subtly hinted at the reason behind the split, writing: “We deserve more honesty, love and happiness... and it starts with self-love. So, I chose me. That’s it.”

Years later, Anusha indirectly suggested infidelity was involved. On her YouTube channel Unverified – The Podcast, she shared: “The most incredible experience I had with dating apps was when I was signed to do campaigns for a dating app, and I got my then-boyfriend the deal as well. It was the most he had ever been paid. But while we were the faces of the campaign together, he was actually using the app to talk and meet other girls. Later, I found out he was sleeping with half of Mumbai.” Although she didn’t mention names, many assumed Anusha Dandekar was talking about Karan Kundrra, as the two had previously fronted a campaign for Bumble together. Now, Karan Kundrra has finally broken his silence. In a now-deleted post, the actor expressed his frustration over the narrative surrounding their breakup. He wrote: “87 articles in three hours and for what? To sell a podcast!? Is this the inspiration being instilled into young boys and girls of our country? Today, these cruel elite women can say ANYTHING and they will be applauded, while men like me have nowhere to go. We work hard, away from our families, but no one supports us. Your vibrant personality fades, and you end up as a ‘justice for...’ hashtag.”



He added: “At 4 a.m., as I lay alone in my bed, I wonder why these ‘smash the patriarchy’ women, intoxicated with power and connections, get away with systemic harassment and mental persecution. They break you step by step. Now I understand why even successful men end up taking their lives in this country—because there is no accountability, no consequences for these woke women.” During their relationship, Karan Kundrra and Anusha Dandekar were often seen as “couple goals,” sharing affectionate pictures and co-hosting MTV’s Love School (2016–2019), where they guided other couples on relationships. While Anusha has been vocal about her side of the story, Karan, until now, largely avoided addressing it, often saying he refrained from commenting out of “respect for the relationship.”

## Emily Blunt, Whoopi Goldberg and others rally against AI generated actor Tilly Norwood: ‘Please don’t do this’



Ever since Dutch actor Eline Van der Velden revealed the new AI-generated actor Tilly Norwood, Hollywood has been in a frenzy. SAG members and actors have come out in numbers to oppose the usage of artificially created actors for their projects, and the whole industry looks to be panicking. Unveiled as the next Scarlett Johansson, Tilly has been the talk of the town for quite some time, but she really made some news when Velden talked about getting her some acting gigs. She said during a summit at Zurich, “When we first launched Tilly, people were like, ‘What’s that?’ Now we’re going to be announcing which agency is going to be representing her in the next few months.” It did not take long for SAG-AFTRA to release a strongly-worded statement against this move.

The statement read, “To be clear, ‘Tilly Norwood’ is not an actor; it’s a character generated by a computer program that was trained on the work of countless professional performers – without permission or compensation. It has no life experience to draw from, no emotion and, from what we’ve seen, audiences aren’t interested in watching computer-generated content untethered from the human experience. It doesn’t solve any ‘problem’ – it creates the problem of using stolen performances to put actors out of work, jeopardising performer livelihoods and devaluing human artistry.” The organisation has always been against the integration of AI into the industry, considering AI was a major point of contention during the 2023 strikes.

Actor Emily Blunt also reacted to Tilly Norwood during an interview with Variety, where she said, “No, are you serious? That’s an AI? Good Lord, we’re screwed. That is really, really scary. Come on, agencies, don’t do that. Please stop. Please stop taking away our human connection.” She admitted that she was terrified about AI and did not really know how to react to the news. Veteran actor Whoopi Goldberg gave her two cents on the matter during her show The View. She said, “You can always tell them from us. We move differently, our faces move differently, and our bod-

ies move differently.”

The backlash is now getting even more serious, with Equity (Actors Guild) also joining in and expressing concerns. Their audio and new media organiser, Shannon Sailing, told BBC Radio, “Tilly is not an actress. She is an AI tool. Or ‘it’ is in the AI tool. That’s not a performer. But what that tool is is made up of performers’ work, and we are concerned about where that work has come from and if that’s been given consent to be used in that way.”

## Shah Rukh Khan becomes world’s richest actor with \$1.4 bn fortune

Mumbai: Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan is now the richest entertainer in the world. The actor has now officially become a billionaire with an estimated wealth of \$1.4 billion.

As per the M3M Hurun India Rich List 2025, Shah Rukh Khan has officially entered the billionaire club. This milestone places him among the wealthiest entertainers globally. Notably, his wealth surpasses that of several international celebrities, including Taylor Swift (\$1.3 billion), Arnold Schwarzenegger (\$1.2 billion), Jerry Seinfeld (\$1.2 billion), and Selena Gomez (\$720 million). SRK’s wealth extends beyond his film career, and is anchored in a diversified portfolio of businesses and investments. His flagship enterprise is Red Chillies Entertainment, founded in 2002, which has produced numerous blockbuster films such as Chennai Express, Raees, and Pathaan. The company not only produces films but also manages visual effects, distribution, and content rights, making it a major player in Indian entertainment. He also co-owns the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), a franchise in the Indian Premier League (IPL), which has been highly profitable both from sponsorship deals and league revenues. In addition, he has significant real estate holdings, including his iconic Mumbai residence Mannat, a villa in Beverly Hills, a farmhouse in Alibaug, and properties in London and Dubai. He has also invested in luxury automobiles and lifestyle brands, while Red Chillies has a separate visual effects and post-production wing that generates additional income through third-party projects. Collectively, these ventures have made SRK a global business mogul, contributing substantially to his net worth of INR 12,490 crore (roughly \$1.4 billion).

## Only monsters will play god in Guillermo Del Toro’s new movie Frankenstein, watch trailer



Author Mary Shelley can be credited for writing one of the most well-known novels to man, but Frankenstein shall forever remain her magnum opus. Now, to help the audiences relive the horror and brilliance of that story, director Guillermo Del Toro is coming with a film of the same name. Starring Oscar Isaac and Jacob Elordi in lead roles, the film follows the same age-old story, but with Del Toro’s personal treatment.

To no one’s surprise, the trailer opens up with the shot of Victor Frankenstein discovering that his experiment has borne fruit, and the creature is very much alive.

## ‘Raj Kapoor demanded a mela every day; new toilets and makeup rooms were constructed at RK Studios’: Ketan Desai recalls shooting ‘John Jaani Janardhan’

Long before Farah Khan’s iconic Om Shanti Om title track brought together dozens of Bollywood stars, it was filmmaker Manmohan Desai who first pulled off the grand stunt. For his 1981 blockbuster Naseeb, he conceptualised the legendary song “John Jaani Janardhan”, featuring a galaxy of stars including Raj Kapoor, Shammi Kapoor, Randhir Kapoor, Dharmendra, Rajesh Khanna, Rakesh Roshan, Vijay Arora, Waheeda Rehman, Sharmila Tagore, Mala Sinha, Bindu, Simi Garewal, Simple Kapadia, and Prema Narayan. The star-studded song was shot at RK Studios over the course of a week. In a conversation with Manju Ramanan Talks, Manmohan Desai’s son, Ketan Desai—then just 17—recalled being handed the enormous responsibility of organising the shoot.

Ketan revealed how the idea was born: “My father was chatting with his writers when someone asked him why he always seemed nervous despite back-to-back hits. He said, ‘You’re still celebrating success, while I’m thinking how to raise the bar.’ When asked what could possibly be bigger than directing a multi-starrer, he suddenly replied, ‘What if we bring the entire industry together in one scene?’ Since Amitabh Bachchan was already playing a waiter in the song, he imagined a setting where all the stars gathered at a party, while Amitabh served them.” The concept sounded impossible to a teenage Ketan Desai. “I panicked and told my father, ‘It’s easy to say, but how do we pull this off?’ He looked at me and asked, ‘Are you satisfied with your pay?’ When I said yes, he simply told me to get it done. While he personally spoke to the bigger stars, I coordinated with the others, arranged costumes, and managed the logistics.”

The arrangements were elaborate. “Because RK Studios had limited makeup rooms, we constructed additional spaces, even toilets. Outside, we created a festive mela with kebabs, vegetarian and non-vegetarian stalls, and chaat counters—something new every day. Raj Kapoor said: ‘Manmohan mujhe roz mela chahiye (I want a fair-like

We see shots of Victor scavenging through what looks like a mortuary to find the human parts that he requires in order to complete his experiment. Throughout the trailer, in fact, we see more of Victor going from place to place, but the voice in the background that keeps running isn’t his; it’s the creature’s. He talks about being able to feel memories of different men, who all lived their lives and met their end differently. He talks about his discovering the name of his maker, and just like the original story, he demands love from him, presumably in the form of a female version of himself, because none of the humans will accept him due to his appearance. He says, “If you shall not reward me with love, then I will indulge in rage.” We see Elizabeth dancing and frolicking with Victor, which is maybe a shot from their wedding night, and we also see a monster wearing the same red dress and hat that Elizabeth was wearing in a different scene, according to the pictures on IMDb. Obviously the trailer will be easier to understand and decode for the ones already familiar with the novel or the million other adaptations. Elordi is definitely stepping into a space which he has never been in before, but now with the audience no longer distracted by his good looks, he has a chance to let his acting do the work. Directed by Guillermo Del Toro, the cast of the film includes Oscar Isaac, Jacob Elordi, Mia Goth, Christoph Waltz, Felix Kammerer, Charles Dance, David Bradley, Lars Mikkelsen, and Christian Convery. It will release in select theatres on October 17, and will be available to stream on Netflix from November 7.



atmosphere). Raj Kapoor played a critical role in the making of song and he assured my father, ‘Don’t worry, I will handle the actors.’” Manmohan Desai even asked lyricist Anand Bakshi to tailor lines for specific stars. “For Dharmendra, the quintessential tough hero, a special line was written to highlight his persona,” Ketan recalled. The camaraderie among actors was palpable—Randhir Kapoor jokingly remarked, “We are the highest paid junior artistes ever! All this while, we played the leads, and now we have become extras.” To which Raj Kapoor wisely replied, “In cinema, whether you’re the lead or a junior artiste, you are all part of the film.” Raj Kapoor played a vital role in ensuring discipline on set. “He managed timings for all actors. Every day, he would sit with my dad and ask him the actors he would need for the next day’s shoot and he would personally inform them about their timings with a warning that they can’t be late. He would arrive first every day, and because he was the most senior, no one dared to be late. After each day’s shoot, he would also give my father feedback,” Ketan said.

## Rani Mukerji, Aditya Chopra will never share their wedding photos, actor reveals he encouraged her to do Hichki: ‘He saw me getting into a mother’s role too seriously’



Actor Rani Mukerji and producer Aditya Chopra, who tied the knot in 2014, have always kept their relationship private. The couple never shared their wedding photos, and in a recent interview, Rani revealed they may never do so. She also spoke about how Aditya encouraged her to take on the 2018 film Hichki. During a conversation with ANI, the host jokingly asked Rani if she would make the wedding photos public on her silver jubilee with Aditya. “Maybe, that’s a very good idea. My husband is a very private person and he wanted the wedding to be very private. Obviously, I don’t think he would ever want the wedding pictures to be out.”

Rani Mukerji herself prefers keeping her personal life away from the spotlight. “I was always private, because my work and personal lives are different. If you’ve seen me through the years, I only make an appearance when there’s a reason for it. It’s not always, all the time. Because I do think that there are certain things you need to keep to yourself. You need to protect your environment slightly. Everything can’t be for everyone to see, because we are already so exposed, so that exposure is enough. There are things that you need to keep private – where you are going, what you’re doing, and what you’re doing with your family,” she said. Rani continued, “I don’t see them as rules, I see it as a way of life. Rules are often perceived as something imposed by others that must be followed blindly. That’s not correct, because Adi as a person is very independent and he has a

lot of respect for women. That’s how Yash uncle and Pam aunty brought him up.”

The Mardaani actor further shared that Aditya Chopra learnt such life lessons from his parents, Yash Chopra and Pamela Chopra. “When you see Yash uncle’s films, there’s a lot of importance given to female characters. And, Pam aunty was a very important person in Yash uncle’s professional and personal life. Adi follows that, because that’s the role models that he saw while growing up. The way he treats me in his life, there’s a lot of respect. He doesn’t tell me that there’s a certain thing you should do, it’s my choice. He tells me to go out more often,” she said. Moreover, Rani Mukerji also revealed that Aditya encouraged her to sign Hichki, because she was too focused on raising their daughter Adira. “I got a lot of encouragement to do Hichki from my husband because he saw me getting into the role of a mother too seriously. He said, ‘You are Rani Mukerji, you can’t do this to your fans, you need to go back to the lime-light.’ That’s when I did that film. As a husband, he was the wind beneath my wings to be able to tell me that go ahead and live your life. You can’t just be at home and follow one role, you have other roles to do,” she concluded.

## ‘The Simpsons Movie’ sequel in works, slated to release in 2027

Los Angeles: A sequel to the 2007 film “The Simpsons Movie” is officially in the works at Disney’s 20th Century and is set to release in theatres on July 23, 2027. The film has reportedly replaced an untitled Marvel project, which has been removed from the studio’s schedule, according to entertainment news outlet Variety. In Disney’s Marvel Cinematic Universe, there will no longer be a new comic book installment between “Avengers: Doomsday” on December 18, 2026 and “Avengers: Secret Wars” on December 17, 2027. The makers shared an Instagram post which announced the sequel revealing a poster which read, “Homer’s coming back for seconds.”