

### 35th Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra Commemoration at Charminar on Oct 19

Hyderabad, Oct.17: The 35th Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra Commemoration Day will be observed on Saturday (Oct 19) at 10:30 am at the historic Charminar in Hyderabad. The event marks the anniversary of the launch of the 'Sadbhavana Yatra' by former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1990, aimed at promoting peace, communal harmony and national integration.The commemoration ceremony is organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra Commemoration Committee, which has been observing the day annually for the past 35 years to uphold and promote the ideals of the late leader. On Saturday, senior advocate and former Union Minister Salman Khurshid will be honoured with the Sadbhavana Award on the occasion.

### Naveen Yadav files nomination for Jubilee Hills by-election



Hyderabad, Oct.17 : Naveen Yadav, the Congress party's candidate for the Jubilee Hills by-election, submitted his nomination papers at the Sheikhpur MRO office in Hyderabad on Friday.

The nomination event was attended by Minister Ponnampallabharani, Minister Vivek Venkat Swamy, GHMC Mayor Gadwal Vijaya Lakshmi, Rajya Sabha Member Anil Kumar Yadav, senior Congress leader VH, along with other prominent party officials.During his address, Minister Ponnampallabharani urged the residents of Jubilee Hills to support Naveen Yadav in the forthcoming by-election scheduled for November 11. He expressed confidence that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the entire cabinet would ensure that the Jubilee Hills constituency becomes a model of excellence in the near future.

### Schools in Telangana closed on October 18 for BC reservation bandh



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Hyderabad: The Telangana Recognised School Managements' Association (TRSMA) has declared Saturday (October 18) as a holiday for all schools.The association took this decision based on the request received from the BC associations and political parties, which have called for bandh demanding implementation of 42 percent reservation for BCs in the State.The TRSMA has asked private schools to extend their full cooperation to ensure the success of this collective initiative.

### K Kavitha Extends Support to BC Reservations Bandh



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

K. Kavitha, President of Telangana Jagruti, has expressed her full support for the upcoming 'Bandh for Justice' scheduled for tomorrow, October 18, which aims to highlight the demand for BC (Backward Classes) reservations. In a letter addressed to R. Krishnaiah, Chairman of Telangana BC JAC, Kavitha urged for collaboration in the protest, underscoring her commitment to advocating for BC reservations.

Responding to Kavitha's appeal, R. Krishnaiah confirmed his steadfast support for the bandh. Kavitha has reiterated her determination to fight for the implementation of BC reservations, making clear her position on the matter.Kavitha took aim at the Congress party, critiquing them for passing the bills in the state legislature while failing to exert pressure on the central government. She labelled their actions as contradictory, noting it was 'ridiculous' for them to instigate a bandh after seemingly endorsing BC reservations.

### HC grants two weeks to Cong govt on local body poll

Hyderabad, Oct.17 : The Telangana High Court has given the state government and the State Election Commission (SEC) two weeks time to file their counter affidavits in connection with a petition seeking for conduct of local body elections.During the hearing before a division bench headed by Chief Justice Apares Kumar Singh, the SEC's counsel Vidyasagar informed the court that the commission had written to the state government regarding the provision of BC (Backward Classes) reservations in the upcoming local



body elections. Further action would be taken after receiving a response from the government, he added.The case pertains to

### Rachakonda police conduct session on POSH and women's rights

Hyderabad, Oct.17 The Rachakonda Police Commissionerate and Rachakonda Security Council (RKSC) organised an awareness session on Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) and Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) functioning here on Friday.The session was held aimed at promoting safe and inclusive workplaces, enhance understanding of POSH guidelines, and discuss compliance best practices.In his address, Commissioner G Sudheer Babu, Chairman RKSC, Rachakonda Commissioner, emphasised the importance of preventing discrimination against women, empowering aggrieved women to take the lead, and taking courageous steps towards creating a safe work environment.

### MP Krishnaiah walks for 42% BC quota



Hyderabad, Oct.17 : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament R. Krishnaiah advocated for the allocation of 42 percent reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections, as was promised by the Congress government to the people.In support of this demand, he organised a walkathon on Friday, which commenced from Dilsukhnagar and concluded at Moosarambagh. Participants in the event included individuals from diverse backgrounds—youth, intellectuals, women, and members of various BC organisations—who joined together regardless of their political affiliations.

During the walkathon, the MP, along with fellow participants, chanted slogans emphasizing that "BCs must be afforded political significance and 42 percent reservations."R. Krishnaiah asserted, "The ongoing negligence towards BCs and the exploitation of the community as a vote bank must cease immediately. BCs are entitled to equal rights, and we shall persist in our struggle until our rights are secured."

The BC organisations have requested a State-wide bandh on Saturday, advocating for 42 percent reservations. All political parties, including the Congress, have already expressed their support for this initiative.The Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament has urged all parties to provide unconditional backing for the bandh. He emphasised that the call for 42 percent reservations is aimed at promoting the welfare and better future of the upcoming generation of BCs in the State.

### Sardar@150 Unity March to inspire youth towards Nation Building - Kishan Reddy



Hyderabad, Oct.17 Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Friday urged the youth, students, public representatives and citizens of Telangana to actively participate in the "Sardar@150 Unity March", a nationwide campaign launched by 'Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)' to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Addressing a press conference at CGO Towers here at Kavadiguda, the Union Minister emphasized that the youth must take the lead in nation-building activities that reflect the values of selfless service, unity and integrity championed by Sardar Patel. "Without Sardar Patel's vision and determination, the merger of Hyderabad with the Indian Union would not have been possible. Patel's had a historic role in uniting India. Sardar@150 Unity March aims to celebrate the Iron Man of India's ideals of national integration and youth participation", he noted.

The Sardar@150 Unity March seeks to engage youth across Telangana through padayatras, pledge drives and cultural programmes over the next two months. The initiative aims to foster unity, patriotism and civic responsibility, drawing inspiration from Sardar Patel's legacy of unifying the nation. The campaign aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote 'Jan Bhagidari' (public participation) in 'Rashtraniirman' (nation-building). Under the Viksit Bharat Padayatra - organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports through MY Bharat - youth across the nation will be mobilized to strengthen unity and national pride.The Sardar@150 Unity March forms a key part of this vision, encouraging young citizens to live by the ideals of "Ek Bharat, Atmanirbhar Bharat". The digital phase of the campaign began on October 6, 2025, featuring online activities such as social media reel competitions, essay contests, and the Sardar@150 Young Leaders Program Quiz for youth aged 15–29 years. The first phase of the march will take place between October 31 and November 25, 2025, with the district-level padayatra in every parliamentary constituency. Each padayatra will be held over three consecutive days, covering 8 to 10 kilometres per day, ensuring participation from youth across all districts in the country.Ansuman Prasad Das, State Director (I/c), MY Bharat, Telangana and M. Ramakrishna, NSS Regional Director, Hyderabad were also present at the press conference.

### Infrastructure must expand in line with rising power demand: Bhatti



Khammam, Oct.17 : Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Finance, Energy, and Planning, Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the Power department plays a crucial role in achieving the goals of Telangana Rising Vision 2047.The Deputy Chief Minister on Friday conducted a review meeting with the officials of the Power department from the undivided Khammam and Warangal districts at the Khammam district Collectorate meeting hall.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhatti Vikramarka said that all suggestions received for improving power services to consumers have been noted. He instructed officials to study and prepare proposals for new substations keeping in view the future requirements.He announced that two 400 kV substations would be sanctioned for Khammam district to meet its growing industrial power needs. Bhatti Vikramarka said five Young India Integrated Gurukul Schools have been sanctioned in Khammam district, each serving as a model

institution akin to a village, and that new industrial parks are being established there. He emphasised the need to strengthen power distribution and transmission systems in view of these developments.

The Deputy Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure there are no loose wires or unsafe electric poles that could cause fatalities, and to inspect the field regularly under the Polam Bata (field inspection) programme every week to address such issues.He commended the power department staff for their dedication, noting that they work in floodwaters and heavy rains to restore power supply in record time. "It is our responsibility to ensure that the good work of our staff is not undermined by a few individuals acting out of selfish interests," Bhatti Vikramarka said.The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that the power department is vital to realising the Telangana Rising Vision 2047, and that quality power supply is the foundation for development in every sector. He reiterated that the government is working seriously toward making Telangana a 3-trillion-dollar economy by framing appropriate policies."If everyone from linemen to CMDs performs their duties with commitment, our Power Department can achieve great results," he said. He announced plans to introduce uniforms for NPDCL employees.He stated that Electricity Ambulances, equipped with transformers, technical staff, and all necessary tools, have been deployed, and that at least one such ambulance should be available in every Assembly constituency.The Deputy Chief Minister directed that the 1912 helpline number be widely publicised, and that all complaints received through it must be resolved promptly. "I will personally call 1912 to test the response," he said.

### CM to present licensed surveyor certificates on Oct 19: Ponguleti



Hyderabad, Oct.17 : Minister for Revenue Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy announced that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will officially distribute licensed certificates to surveyors who have undergone government training. This ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Shilpa Kalavedika in Hyderabad on October 19.The Minister convened a review meeting at his office in the Secretariat on Friday, attended by Revenue Secretary DS Lokesh Kumar and Survey Commissioner Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanth.

During the meeting, he reported that in the initial phase, a total of 7,000 individuals received training, with 3,465 successfully qualifying. He noted that each mandal will have 4 to 6 licensed surveyors appointed, based on the land area.Furthermore, the Minister indicated that the second phase of training for an additional 3,000 individuals commenced on August 18, 2025, and an eligibility examination will be held under the supervision of JNTU on October 26.He stated that candidates who pass this examination will participate in a 40-day apprenticeship programme, with their services expected to commence by the second week of December.Srinivas Reddy noted the essential connection between the Revenue department and the Survey department, emphasising that conflicts will diminish only when land measurements and records are accurate and transparent.He asserted that the surveying system can ensure security and justice for the people only if it is fortified. The Minister highlighted that the survey department has

suffered neglect for the past decade, resulting in insufficient staffing at the field level and consequently inadequate services for the public.The Minister made it clear that with these two measures - GPOs in every revenue village and now licensed surveyors in every mandal - the aim is to strengthen the system so that the people get the necessary land-related services."The government's resolve is to ensure that land records are clear and that services are provided to the people without any hassle and without corruption," Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said.

### 400 crore Diwali bonus for Singareni workers: Bhatti

Hyderabad, Oct.17 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka announced that Singareni workers will receive a Diwali bonus of ₹400 crore.

Bhatti Vikramarka said, "On behalf of the State government, I express happiness over announcing this bonus to Singareni workers who light up the nation with their hard work." He conveyed Diwali greetings to the people of Telangana, wishing that everyone's lives be filled with light, happiness, and prosperity — moving from ignorance to knowledge and from darkness to light.

Speaking to the media at the district Congress party office in Khammam on Friday, Bhatti Vikramarka reiterated that the Congress government is firmly committed to providing 42% reservations for OBCs, as promised in its manifesto."For the first time since India's independence, we conducted a comprehensive socio-economic, educational, and political survey in Telangana. Based on this survey, a Bill to provide 42% reservations for BCs was introduced and unanimously passed in the Assembly and sent to the Governor," he said.

# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Google's Vizag investment: Endorsement of Andhra Pradesh policies

Google's announcement of \$15-billion investment in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, for a large-scale artificial intelligence (AI) hub is huge by any reckoning. To begin with, it is the IT major's biggest investment outside the US so far. Unsurprisingly, its employment generation potential is humungous - more than 1 lakh jobs. The five-year project (2026-30) will scale the data centre to multiple gigawatt (GW). "It is a part of a network of data centres that we are building, and we will be making Visakhapatnam a global connectivity hub. We are also bringing our subsea cable infrastructure to Visakhapatnam and we will be connecting it to other cables," Google said. The announcement is not just an endorsement of the policies of Andhra Pradesh but also of India. It is not just a big project employing a large number of people; it will also, as IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, build digital infrastructure that will go a long way in meeting the goals of our India AI Mission. He also urged Google to leverage Andaman Island as a hub for under-sea cables for internet connectivity, for which the "government will provide full support."

For Visakhapatnam, the project could be transformative. Long regarded as a city with immense potential but limited private investment, Vizag may finally come into its own as a major digital and maritime gateway. Its port connectivity, relatively stable infrastructure, and proximity to Southeast Asian sea routes make it ideally suited for a data and connectivity hub.

## ASTHRA 2025 National Level Engineering Creativity and Innovation Talent Competitions Begin



"Ind, narsapur center.oct 17." "Today, ASTHRA 2025 National Level Engineering Creativity and Innovation Talent Competitions were inaugurated by Dr. Sanjay Dubey, Principal of the College of Engineering, at BV Raju Institute of Technology (BVRIT). The program began with the welcome address by the Principal. Speaking as the chief guest at the program, Principal Dr. Sanjay Dubey said that organizing these competitions will enhance creativity among students. He said that this chemical reaction car competition is being held for the first time in Telangana. "He said that the BVRIT Chemical Engineering Department is organizing a national level competition Astra - 2025 for students to showcase their outstanding innovation and excellent engineering talent for two days on October 17 and 18. Students from leading universities across the country are competing at the BVRIT Narsapur campus to showcase their creativity, technology, engineering talent and teamwork. The competitions have kicked off at the BVRIT Narsapur campus. "The main attraction of the competitions is React-O-Car, where teams are challenged to create model cars powered by chemical and electrochemical reactions. Tech-O-car, which is a design challenge to create innovative model cars based on electronics-mechanical integration. Model Marvels, which is a creative model-making competition where contestants showcase problem-solving models using their engineering skills. ChemAura, which includes puzzles, quizzes and creative competitions. "Dr. K. Lakshmi Prasad, Director of the College of Engineering, said, "It is a great pleasure to organize these competitions. This is the dream of Shri Vishnu Educational Society Chairman Shri K. V. Vishnu Raju. He congratulated the faculty and students for organizing this competition with hard work and planning for two years. ASTHRA 2025 is a creative, technical and team effort competition. He informed that every student who is going to participate in this will get an opportunity to showcase their skills and learn more. "During the opening ceremony of these competitions, Professor G B Radhika, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, said that Professor H. Scott Fogler of the University of Michigan started the Chem e Car Competition at AIChE in 1999, which is useful for converting classroom teaching into practical application. Taking inspiration from this, our beloved Chairman Shri K. Vishnu Raju guided us and provided support to organize these competitions, and we are grateful to him. He said, "The sponsors of this program were Granules India, Apitoria Pharma, Vasant Chemicals, Nakoda Chemicals, Protic Engineering, Ura Chemicals, ITC Foods, Salvosol Private Limited. "Various heads of departments, faculty members, department teachers, Deans, H.O.D.s, and students of the college participated in this inaugural program. "The program was organized under the supervision of College Manager Sri Bapiraju, TLN. Suresh, AO." Principal

## Bacardi India's Legacy Whisky Rolls Out Limited-Edition Festive Packs for the Season



Hyderabad: Legacy Premium Indian Whisky, from the house of Bacardi India Pvt. Ltd., has unveiled its limited-edition festive packs for the season. Designed to capture the vibrant diversity of India, each pack draws inspiration from a different state, celebrating regional art forms and cultural stories through striking, innovative packaging. From Madhya Pradesh's Chanderi weaving to Rajasthan's Pichwai and miniature paintings, the collection pays homage to India's rich artistic heritage, blending tradition with the spirit of the festive season.

Sreekanta Dash, Senior Brand Lead - Domestic Dark Spirits, Bacardi India said, "With Legacy Whisky, we are

redefining India's premium whisky landscape, creating a homegrown blend that combines Indian and Scottish malts with select Indian grains. Recently recognized with global accolades, Legacy reflects India's passion, craftsmanship, and embodies spirit of celebration. With our Limited-Edition packs, each inspired by the stories of different states, we are celebrating the country's rich cultural heritage while offering consumers a unique and memorable way to enjoy the season with their loved ones." "Crafted as a unique blend of Indian and Scottish malts with select Indian grains, Legacy delivers an impeccably smooth and perfectly balanced experience. Its rich, smooth taste profile brings together fruity notes, subtle smoke, toasted oak, and a hint of spice, making it a perfect companion for festive gatherings and moments of togetherness. Since its launch, Legacy Whisky has received an overwhelming response from consumers and has been celebrated internationally, winning recognition at the World Whiskies Awards 2025 and the Asia Spirits Masters 2025. The limited-edition festive packs will be available across Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

## Rachakonda Police & RKSC Host Awareness Session on Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) and Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) Functioning



Hyderabad: The Rachakonda Police Commissionerate and Rachakonda Security Council (RKSC) organized an awareness session on Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) and Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) functioning on October 17, 2025. The session aimed to promote safe and inclusive workplaces, enhance understanding of POSH guidelines, and discuss compliance best practices. In his address, the Commissioner Shri G Sudheer Babu IPS,

Chairman RKSC, Rachakonda Commissioner emphasized the importance of preventing discrimination against women, empowering aggrieved women to take the lead, and taking courageous steps towards creating a safe work environment. He assured that the police would provide support for genuine cases and true victims.

DCP, Women Safety Wing, highlighted the initiatives of the Women Safety Wing, including the SHE Teams, which are dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of women. She also discussed how cases of varying gravity would be handled, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based investigation. Smt. P. Padmavati from Sakshi One Stop Centre, Medchal, delivered a detailed presentation on POSH guidelines and procedures, ICC functioning and roles, and Local Complaint Committee (LCC) procedures. The session concluded with an interactive discussion, attended by representatives from various organizations, including manufacturing companies, IT companies, BITS Pilani, Infosys, TCS, AIIMS, and more. The event fostered a collaborative effort towards creating a safe, respectful, and equitable work environment. Dr. Radhikanath, Joint Secretary, Women Forum, Chief Coordinator RKSC Savitri, and Forum leader Karadi Siva, Coordinator Chandrashekar were present at the meeting.

## Harassment of Sakshi Journalists Condemned "Bhadrachalam Reporters Protest for Press Freedom



"Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi kothagudem Bureau, October 17, Indian Chronicle : Journalists in Bhadrachalam staged a strong protest on Friday condemning the Andhra Pradesh Government's alleged harassment of Sakshi newspaper and its Editor, R. Dhanunjaya Reddy, in what they described as a serious attack on press freedom. "According to the protesting media personnel, the Andhra Pradesh Government, displeased with Sakshi's recent exposé on spurious liquor trade in the state, has been repeatedly targeting the newspaper's editorial team. Over the past five days, the police reportedly served three separate notices to Editor Dhanunjaya Reddy — even visiting Sakshi's head office in Hyderabad to deliver them personally. "The journalists expressed outrage over what they called a vindictive approach by the government towards Sakshi management, editors, and reporters, terming it an attempt to "silence a voice that speaks for the people. "As part of the protest, local journalists from various associations gathered at Ambedkar Centre in Bhadrachalam, wearing black badges and holding placards demanding the withdrawal of the "false and politically motivated" cases filed against the Sakshi team. They later submitted a petition at



the Ambedkar statue, urging protection of media rights, source confidentiality, and freedom of expression. "Addressing the gathering, B.V. Ramana Reddy, President of the Bhadrachalam Press Club and Member of the Telangana IJU Committee, along with District Secretary Anand, said: "The Andhra Pradesh Government is deliberately targeting Sakshi's Editor. Raiding media offices, intimidating journalists, and denying adequate time for response are blatant violations of press freedom. Such actions threaten democracy itself. Every journalist in the country should unite and oppose this injustice. "The journalists also submitted a memorandum at the Bhadrachalam Sub-Collector's office, demanding immediate withdrawal of cases against Sakshi Editor Dhanunjaya Reddy. "A large number of print and electronic media representatives participated in the protest, including Sakshi District Bureau Chief Krishna Govind, RC Jakkireddy Srinivas Reddy, Duddikoori Gyanender, Satyanand, Dilip, Durga Prasad Reddy, Bolle Rambabu, Vijay, Ranjith Naik, Bandari Mahesh, Kata Satyam, Murali, Ravikumar, Sai Kaushik, and electronic media journalists Eshwar, Prasad Yadav, Prem, Nageshwar Rao, Jagan, Pradeep, Pakala Shiva Goud, Shekhar, Karuku Prasad, and others

## New CC Road Constructed at a Cost of 14 Lakhs in the Lane Behind Bodrai:

Chilkanagar Corporator BANNALA GEETHA PRAVEEN



"VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 17 (Indian Chronicle): "Chilkanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj inspected the ongoing CC road construction works in the lane behind Bodrai, being built at an estimated cost of ₹14 lakhs, along with GHMC officials and colony association members. "Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen emphasized that GHMC engineering officials must monitor the construction work closely to ensure the contractor maintains quality standards. She instructed that all necessary measures should be taken so that residents do not face any inconvenience during the road construction and warned that strict action would be taken if there were any lapses in quality. "The corporator also stated that she has fulfilled nearly 90% of the promises made during the elections, adding that Chilkanagar Division stands in the forefront of development within the Uppal constituency. Those present at the event included GHMC D.E. Vineel Goud, A.E. Radhika, Work Inspector Kedar, BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, senior leaders Eddula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Masa Shekhar, Cheryala Srinivas, Ashok Chari, Md. Shafi, Sundar, Balakrishna Goud, Andalamma, Narasimha Chari, Shyam, Bunty, Beerappa Gadda Balu, Bunty Goud, Chote, and several colony residents.

## Childbirth At 108.. Mother And Child Are Well



"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, Dis-tribt Reporte, Jade Srinivas. October, 17. "Pregnant Renuka from Ghat Jangaon, Wankidi mandal, gave birth to a baby girl in 108. On Friday, she started having labor pains while being taken to the hospital, and the pains increased on the way. Due to this, the staff EMT Praveen and Pilot Vilas performed a normal delivery in the ambulance. Doctors said that the mother and baby are safe. Renuka's family members congratulated the 108 staff for responding in time and delivering the baby.

## Tribal Hostel Workers' Strike Enters 36th Day: (CITU) Angered By Congress Government



"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, Dis-tribt Reporte, Jade Srinivas. October, 17. "The daily strike under the auspices of the Tribal Hostels Daily Wage and Outsourcing Workers Union (CITU) in front of the Komuram Bheem Asifabad District Collectorate entered its 36th day on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, CITU District Vice President Velisha Krishnamachari said that it was painful that the state Congress government did not respond and demanded immediate payment of pending wages, time scale wages, if not, payment of wages as per the gazette, and resolution of issues such as hereditary jobs. Otherwise, they warned that they would be given appropriate advice in the future local elections. Union district workers participated in this program.

## Beerla Ayilayya visited several affected families in Bommalararamam mandal



Manduva Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle October 17):- Army jawan Komaraju Karunakar from Medipalli village in Bommalararamam mandal died in an accident. On this occasion, floral tributes were paid to his portrait and the family was visited. "Since Rakala Venkatesh from the same village was suffering from illness, he was visited and financial assistance was provided with the help of Beerla Foundation. Kamamma died due to illness in Maryala village in Bommalararamam mandal. On this occasion, tributes were paid to her dead body. Congress party youth leader Vadlakonda Karunakar was injured in a road accident a few days ago and Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilayya visited him.

## Pregnant women should take good nutrition and grow up in perfect health.. have a happy delivery:



- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao ""Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 17):-"District Collector Hanumantha Rao attended as the chief guest as part of the district level nutrition month program held under the auspices of the Women, Children, Disabled and Elderly Welfare Department in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district under the chairmanship of District Welfare Officer Narasimha Rao.



Mandava Srisailam... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..October 17):- Senior Congress Party leader of Yadagirigutta town,

## Meeting in Uppal Today for District Congress President Appointment: Uppal Congress In-Charge Parameshwar Reddy

""VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 17 (Nigha News):-""As part of the ongoing process to strengthen the Congress Party in Telangana, the appointment of district committees is being carried out under the directions of AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, TPCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, and MLCS."In this regard, opinions from party leaders of the Uppal constituency are being gathered for the selection of the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Congress President. As part of this exercise, a meeting will be held on Saturday, October 18, at 11 AM at Srirasthu Convention Hall, Uppal Bhagath, informed Uppal Constituency Congress In-Charge Parameshwar Reddy."He further stated that Dr. Anjali Nimbalkar, AICC Observer, will attend the meeting. Parameshwar Reddy appealed to all senior Congress lead-

## Congress Leader Janampalli Venkateshwara Reddy Invites Minister Ponnamm Prabhakar to His Daughter's Wedding



Later, he said that pregnant women should take good nutrition and grow up in perfect health.. and do a little exercise, so that they can have a normal and happy delivery, and that deliveries should be done in government hospitals. Every Anganwadi teacher should increase the attendance rate of pre-school children in his center and work with commitment. He said that he would soon hold project-level review meetings for Anganwadi teachers. He then organized mass Seemanthas for pregnant women and Annaprashna for children who have completed 6 months. Additional Collector Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao said that Balamrutham Plus is being given to underweight children. He informed that soon Anganwadi centers near primary schools will be integrated into primary schools and he should work with commitment. Later, District Library Chairman Avej Chisthi said that the welfare schemes provided by the government should be implemented effectively at the field level. He congratulated all Anganwadi centers for doing well in Poshan Masam programs. District Medical Officer Manohar. District DRDO O. Nagi Reddy. Deputy DM MHO O. Yashoda. Additional Director of District Medical Department Prashanth Reddy. CDPOs. Supervisors. District Welfare Department office staff. Nutrition campaign team. Anganwadi teachers. Pregnant women. Lactating women. Beneficiaries participated



Veeru Krishna, passed away due to illness and Telangana State Government Aler MLA Beerla Ayilal paid tributes by garlanding his body. Town mandal, leaders and activists were present at the event.



ers and party workers from the Uppal constituency to participate in large numbers and share their opinions.

## Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy participated in the meeting of the Standing Committee



(Housing and Urban Affairs) in New Delhi ""Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 17):- Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy participated in the meeting of the Standing Committee (Housing and Urban Affairs) of the Parliament held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Ongole MP Magunta Srinivasulu Reddy."The meeting was held on the topic of "Revisiting Census Criteria for Defining Urban Areas in India". The meeting was attended by the Secretary, Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries of the Housing and Urban Affairs Department. In this meeting, there was a wide discussion on the issues related to the definition of "urban", the definition of population census, the definition of urban areas, and the urban conditions according to the changed standards. The committee discussed the issue of the current increasing urbanization in the country and the rapid geographical and economic changes taking place across the country, which are not being able to fully reflect it. Therefore, the committee members discussed that the review of the census standards is not only a statistical necessity, but also an administrative necessity to reflect modern realities. The committee members suggested that this would lead to balanced development and contribute to the equitable distribution of services in our rapidly urbanizing country.

## We Should Mobilize For Buddhist Personal Law We Should Mobilize For Buddhist Personal Law From Every Village And Town.



""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, Dis-tribt Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October, 17.""Buddhist Personal Law Movement: National Secretary of the Indian Buddhist Personal Law and State President of Ambedkar Sahitya Akademi Madhu Bhawalkar has called for a movement from every village and town for Buddhist Personal Law. He spoke at a round table meeting with leaders of the Buddhist Sangha Ambedkar Sangha held at Jetwan Buddha Vihar in Wankidi

mandal center on Friday and also at a press conference. He said that a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court for a personal law for Indian Buddhists and that the verdict should be announced immediately and awareness seminars will be organized in Telangana state on this issue. Since Wankidi mandal is on the border with Maharashtra, the first meeting will be held, and later in Mancherial, Adilabad, Nirmal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Hyderabad,cities and awareness seminars will be organized. He said that a national level meeting will be held at Kabir Das Library in Kami, Nagpur city on 25th and 26th of this month and a large number of representatives from Telangana state should attend this meeting.

Bharatiya Buddhist Mahasabha District President Ashok Mahulka, Samata Sainik Dal District President Durgam Sandeep, Bharatiya Buddhist Mahasabha Mandal President Durgam Durgaji General Secretary Vijay Uppe, Honorary President Jayaram Uppe Samaj President Durgam Shyam Rao Lahuji Durge, Rajeshwar Uppe, Upasaks Panduji Jade, Siddhartha Yuvajana Sangam leaders Vittal Chunarkar,Ramesh, Manoj Durgam Deepak,Koyyala Mahesh participated in this program.

## MLAs who cannot convince the Chief Minister to change the Triple R alignment should resign

CPM Central Committee member Cherupalli Seetharamulu demands""Bhuvanagiri, Aleru and Munugodu MLAs who have not resolved the problems of farmers regarding Triple R should resign from their posts...Former Legislative Council members and CPM Central Committee members Cherupalli Seetharamulu demands""Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 17):- Congress MLAs who came to power by winning votes saying that they would change the Triple R alignment unilaterally created during the BRS government if we come to power, should resign from their posts and fight for the Triple R displaced people, former Legislative Council members and former CPM Central Committee members Cherupalli Seetharamulu suggested. On Friday, under the auspices of the CPM Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Committee, a mass hunger strike and food drive was organized in front of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector's office with hundreds of affected displaced farmers to solve the problems of the Triple R displaced people and change the alignment. Speaking as the chief guest of the program organized on this occasion, Seetharamulu participated and demanded that the Central and State governments immediately change the Regional Ring Road alignment that the Central and State governments had jointly planned to build. He questioned the government as to why the alignment was not implemented as announced in the first alignment, which stated that there should be a distance of 40 kilometers between the ORR and the Regional Ring Road. Seetharamulu demanded that the BJP government at the Center cancel this Triple R Ring Road, considering how the ring road is supposed to have curves, bends and turns. CPM State Secretariat Member MD Jahangir said that farmers living on land in 8 mandals and 43 villages in the district are losing their valuable cultivable lands worth hundreds of acres. Farmers have already lost their lands in the name of Basvapuram Reservoir, canals, Hyderabad-



Vijayawada, Hyderabad-Warangal National Highways, high tension electricity poles, and YTDA, he said, adding that many are losing their lives due to severe grievances and mental anguish. He demanded that the central and state governments should provide land in exchange for land to the landless people who are losing their lands, provide a job to one person in the family, and provide a rate of three times the current open market price. Later, he submitted a memorandum to the district joint collector Veera Reddy. CPM State Committee member Kondamadugu Narasimha, Triple R Nirvasitula leader Avisetti Pandu presided over the program, while CPM State Committee member Battupally Anuradha, CPM District Secretary Maturu Balaraju Dasari Pandu, Burugu Krishna Reddy District Committee members Komatireddy Chandra Reddy, Sirpangi Swami Dayyala Narasimha, Maya Krishna, Bolagani Jayaramulu, Gangadevi Saidulu, Gaddam Venkatesh, senior leaders Dontangi Peddulu, Srinivasa Reddy, leaders Pallerla Anjaiah, Vanam Raju Irapalli Mutyalu Lavudiyu Raju Vaddeboyina Venkatesh Gantepaka Shiva, Lalitha and others participated in the program.

## Mass Joinings into Telangana Jagruthi from Uppal Constituency under the leadership of Gopu Sadanand

""VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 17 (Indian Chronicle):-""Under the leadership of Telangana Jagruthi Uppal Constituency In-charge Gopu Sadanand, a large number of youth joined Telangana Jagruthi on Friday. Chikanagar Division youth leader Shrawan Dev, along with his followers, took out a rally from Uppal and reached the Telangana Jagruthi State Office at Banjara Hills, where they formally joined the organization in the presence of Telangana Jagruthi Founder-President K. Kavitha."Speaking on the occasion, Shrawan Dev said he was inspired by Kavitha's relentless efforts towards youth empowerment and her dedication to the cause of a socially progressive Telangana. He stated that he would actively participate in all programs conducted by Jagruthi and work to address local issues. He also pledged his full support to Kavitha's movement for the implementation of the BC Bill."Under the leadership of Gopu



Sadanand, around 300 youth from Uppal constituency joined Telangana Jagruthi.

## Sports Pave the Way for a Golden Future – ITDA Project Officer Rahul



""""Shaik Sharief,Bhadrachalam,October 17,Indian Chronicle:""Winning and losing are part of sports, and those who achieve victory should aim higher by participating in district and state-level competitions to win gold medals and bring fame to Bhadrachalam ITDA, said ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul while addressing students."On Friday, he inaugurated the Divisional Level Tribal Sports and Games competitions held at the Tribal Welfare Boys Ashram School in Arलगudem village, Dummugudem mandal."Speaking on the occasion, Rahul encouraged students to participate in the games they are passionate about and shape their future through sports. He assured that the Tribal Welfare Department would extend all necessary support for the bright future of tribal sportspersons."He advised students to identify their talents and skills, focus on both academics and sports, and practice consistently without giving up until they achieve their goals. He also reminded them not to lose heart in defeat but to strive hard for victory."Later, Rahul joined the students in Tennikoit and Volleyball matches, motivating them with his active participation. He directed the

physical education teachers to ensure all facilities are provided for the 250 students participating in the divisional sports event and to offer proper training in their preferred games."DD Tribal Welfare Officer Ashok, Headmasters Somashekar, Narasimharao, Srinivasarao, Sports Secretary Vasanth, PDs Harikrishna, Venkateswarlu, Jaya, PETs Venkateswarlu, Baburao, Parvathi, and teachers Hanumantu, Lakshmanarao, Sarveshwararao, Raju, along with students and others, took part in the programme

## Sheikh Chand Pasha wishes PAC Chairman Arikepudi Gandhi on his birthday

"Serilingampalli October 17: Senior Congress party leaders Sheikh Chand Pasha wished PAC Chairman Arikepudi Gandhi, MLA of Serilingampalli constituency, on his birthday. Speaking on the occasion, they said that MLA Arikepudi Gandhi should celebrate many such birthday celebrations with good health.



# DBS – A New Ray of Hope for Parkinson’s Patients““— Remarkable results even when medications fail



CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR BUREAU, OCTOBER 17 (INDIAN CHRONICLE)“““Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) therapy has been delivering outstanding results for Parkinson’s patients who no longer respond to medication. It significantly improves their quality of life over the long term,” said Dr. Rajesh Alugolu, Senior Neurosurgeon at Yashoda Hospitals, Hitech City.Addressing a press conference organized by Yashoda Hospitals on Friday, Dr.

Alugolu said that millions of people across the globe are suffering from Parkinson’s disease. Once considered an ailment of the elderly, it is now increasingly affecting younger individuals ,a worrying trend.Explaining the condition, he noted that Parkinson’s disease impacts specific areas of the brain that control body movements, leading to symptoms such as hand tremors, stiffness, and difficulty in walking. “While medications can help in the early stages, their effectiveness often diminishes over time,” he added.In such cases, Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) offers renewed hope,” Dr. Alugolu said. The procedure involves implanting electrodes in targeted areas of the brain, which are connected to a small device placed in the chest. This device sends electrical impulses that regulate abnormal brain activity and help control symptoms.He further mentioned that newer technologies like MR-Guided Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS) have shown limited benefits compared to DBS.With the right combination of medication, regular exercise, and advanced treatments, Parkinson’s patients can lead a near-normal life,” he emphasized.Hospital staff members also participated in the press meet.

# Free Eye Screening Camp Conducted for Police Personnel and Families in Bhadradri Kothagudem

““““Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri Kothagudem Bureau,October 15,Indian Chronicle:“A mega free eye screening camp was organised for police officers, staff, and their families at the District Police Headquarters in Bhadradi Kothagudem. The initiative was conducted under the direction of District SP Rohit Raju, IPS, and supervised by AR DSP Satyanarayana, with support from Sarath Maxivision Eye Hospital.“Speaking as chief guest, SP Rohit Raju, IPS, emphasised the importance of eye care, citing increasing mobile phone usage as a major cause of vision problems. He advised everyone to maintain good eye health by consuming a nutritious diet, reducing screen time, and working in proper lighting conditions. He urged police personnel and their families to take full advantage of opportunities like these camps, undergo regular eye check-ups as per doctors’ advice, and seek timely treatment for any issues.“More than 150 individuals received eye examinations and screening tests, including distance visibility assessments, during the



camp. AR DSP Satyanarayana, RIs Sudhakar, Narasimha Rao, Krishna Rao, Lal Babu, and several other officials and staff members participated in the event.

# Make Telangana State Bandh a Grand Success – Uppal BC JAC Action Committee Representatives



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 17 (Indian Chronicle):“““To legally achieve 42% reservation for BCs in education, employment, and political representation, the BC Joint Action Committee (JAC) has called for a Telangana State Bandh on Saturday. The Uppal BC JAC leaders — Nertham Bhaskar Goud, Devasani Balachander, and Gaddam Saikiran — have urged everyone to make the bandh a grand success.“They said that just as various communities actively participated in the Telangana statehood

movement, BC communities should now take part in this bandh with the same spirit and enthusiasm. All political parties, social organizations, employee unions, labor unions, and women’s associations have already expressed their support and are voluntarily participating in the bandh.The BC JAC committees in Uppal, Chikanagar, Ramanthapur, Mallapur, and other areas are touring extensively to ensure the success of the bandh.

The leaders appealed to everyone to follow the JAC’s guidelines and contribute peacefully to the protest.They urged JAC activists in each area to mobilize by 9 AM, close business establishments, schools, and public transport peacefully, and organize a bike rally with placards and banners up to Uppal Ring Road, culminating in a public gathering there.Those who participated in the meeting include Puppala Venkateshwarlu, Ramaraju Yadav, Boda Vidyasagar, Palugula Yadagiri, and Shameerpet Chandrayya, among others.

# Savishkar Telangana Conducts Roundtable Conference on “Innovations in Healthcare: The Future of PharmaTech”

“““The Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU, October 16:“Savishkar Telangana successfully organized a Roundtable Conference on the theme “Innovations in Healthcare: The Future of PharmaTech” at CSIR – Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, in collaboration with CSIR – Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Atal Incubation Centre (AIC), and VSS Trust.““The conference brought together distinguished speakers from academia, research, and industry, who shared insights on innovation, sustainability, and technology integration in healthcare. The event featured three dynamic sessions:Startups & Entrepreneurship – Building Sustainable Pharma and Healthcare Ventures“Next-Gen Pharma – R&D and Digital Health Transformation“Collaborative Innovation for Affordable and Accessible Healthcare“““Session 1: Startups & Entrepreneurship““Dr. Srinivasa Reddy, IICT Director, highlighted that India is the third-largest supplier of pharmaceutical drugs globally, with one out of every three tablets sold internationally being manufactured by an Indian company. He emphasized the need for domestic production of raw materials to sustain this ecosystem.““Dr. N. Madhusudhan Rao, CEO of Atal Incubation Centre – CCMB, noted that while India ranks third in pharmaceutical supply volume, it is 14th in value. He stressed the importance of enhancing both volume and value through quality-focused innovation, advanced R&D, and leveraging AI and non-animal therapeutic models.““Key Discussion Points:““Bridging gaps between education, industry, and startups.““Encouraging innovation-driven unicorns in pharma alongside service-sector unicorns.““Session 2: Next-Gen Pharma – R&D and Digital Health Transformation““Mrs. Uma Chigurupati, Executive Director at Granules India, emphasized industry-academia collaboration, integration of AI, robotics, and blockchain, and convergence of data analytics for digital health and R&D transformation. She also suggested reducing taxation on R&D to accelerate clinical trials and innovation.““Mr. Srman Narayana, DGM at MSN Laboratories, discussed the importance of transparency and trust in R&D, ensuring quality by design, and providing early-stage laboratory access for students to foster innovation.““Dr. Vinay Kumar, Director of CSIR – CCMB, spoke on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), novel therapies, clinical trials on organoids, AI and digital therapeutics, personalized and behavioral therapeutics, and the digitaliza-



tion of pharmaceutical R&D.““Session 3: Collaborative Innovation for Affordable and Accessible Healthcare““Mr. P. Yella Reddy, Founder of Sapala Organics, highlighted collaboration with incubation centers to reduce costs, policy regulations for affordability, and industry-academia partnerships to improve accessibility of healthcare solutions.““Mr. Ramachandra Reddy, Managing Director of SRC Lab, emphasized collaborative initiatives between industry, academia, entrepreneurs, and the government to address disease challenges effectively.““Mr. K. Narendran, Zonal Deputy Drug Controller (DDC), CDSCO Hyderabad, explained recent government reforms such as e-governance for licenses issued within seven days, project management cells, test-license allowances, and post-trial access to streamline approvals and encourage innovation.““Mr. Shivakumar Chirige ji highlighted Hyderabad’s potential to transition from a Pharma Hub to a Pharma Innovation Hub, integrating AI and quantum technologies to reduce medicine costs, make healthcare accessible to all, and streamline the patent approval process to accelerate pharmaceutical innovation.““““Concluding Remarks““Shri Chirige Shivakumar, Zonal Advisor of Savishkar for Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, concluded the conference by appreciating all speakers and participants. He highlighted the importance of continuous collaboration among industry, academia, government, and startups and emphasized that youth participation, knowledge sharing, and innovation are essential for creating sustainable, affordable, and inclusive healthcare solutions in India.“Presence of Savishkar Dignitaries“The event was also graced by key dignitaries from Savishkar, including:“Dr. N. Jana Reddy, Professor Advisor, Savishkar Telangana“Mr. Rajasekar, Legal Advisor, Savishkar Telangana“Mr. Deepak Sharma, National Co-Convener, Savishkar“Ms. Siddhika Pachekar, State Convener, Savishkar Telangana

# Special Sanitation Action Program in Boduppall

NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Boduppall, October 17, (Indian chronicle): A Special Sanitation Action Program has been launched in key areas of Boduppall following several complaints from residents. The initiative aims to maintain a clean and healthy environment by intensifying cleanliness drives, promoting hygiene practices, and raising public awareness about sanitation. As part of the program, sensor-based CCTV cameras and automated voice announcement systems have been installed at strategic locations including Division No. 07 (Shivalayam Road), Division No. 21 (Ayyappa Swamy Temple Road), and Bangaru Maisamma Temple to Chengicherla Road. These smart surveillance systems continuously monitor areas prone to illegal garbage dumping. The sensors detect individuals and vehicles involved in dumping, while the voice announcement systems issue pre-recorded warning messages in real time. During the drive, two individuals caught dumping waste were fined ₹500 each, totaling ₹1,000. In addition, a vehicle involved in illegal dumping was identified and reported to the local police station. The sanitation department urged residents to hand over their household waste only to Swachh vehicles and to contact their respective ward supervisors in case of any collection issues. Citizens were also requested to actively participate in keeping the city clean and avoid littering in public spaces. Sanitary Inspectors Srinivas Reddy and Sangeetha, along with ward officers and staff, participated in the program.



# Better Living Through Poverty Eradication – District Legal Services Authority Secretary Rajender

““““Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri kothagudem Bureau,October 17,Indian Chronicle:“Establishing a better society is possible through the eradication of poverty, said M. Rajender, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority. He attended a Legal Awareness Programme held at Kunti Nagulagudem village in Palvoncha mandal on Friday as the chief guest.““Speaking on the occasion, Rajender stated that unemployment and children engaging in labour instead of education are major indicators of poverty. He emphasized that reducing economic inequalities and implementing welfare schemes for those below the poverty line are key to eradicating poverty.““He explained various welfare programmes introduced by the Central and State Governments for the benefit of poor families. Rajender urged villagers to work together to prevent child marriages and encouraged women to join DW CRA groups and create self-employment opportunities for financial independence.““Among those who participated in the



programme were advocate Thota Malleswara Rao, Palvoncha Town SI Jeevan Raj, para-legal volunteers Badisha Bikshamayya, M. Janakiram, K. Veerabhadram, R.P. Nagamani, village elders Dasharaju and Ramesh, and several local women.

# Birthday celebrations of Regalla Satish Reddy held grandly at Kapra



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 17, (Indian chronicle): The birthday celebrations of Telangana Youth Wing state leader Regalla Satish Reddy were held in a grand manner at his residence in Kapra. As part of the occasion, Satish Reddy met BRS working president and former minister K. T. Rama Rao and former minister T. Harish Rao to take their blessings. Later, in the presence of Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, clothes were distributed to the Kapra



circle municipal sanitation workers. Speaking on the occasion, Satish Reddy said he has been celebrating his birthday for the past 16 years by distributing clothes, offering food, and spending time with sanitation workers — something he finds deeply satisfying. Additional DCP Venkata Ramana, Kusaiguda Inspector Bhaskar Reddy, SI Satish, former corporator Pavani Reddy, leaders from various political parties, colony association members, youth groups, and local residents participated in the celebrations and conveyed their best wishes.

# Homeopathy Expo-2025 inaugurated at Government Homeopathic Medical College, Ramanthapur



““VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 17 (Indian Chronicle):“““Many chronic diseases are being effectively treated through homeopathy, said Dr. N. Lingaraju, Principal of the Government Homeopathic Medical College, Ramanthapur. He stated that the college has been providing quality education and practical training to students in the field of homeopathy.“On Friday, Dr. Lingaraju formally inaugurated the two-day Homeopathy Expo-2025, organized by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, at the Ramanthapur Government Homeopathic Medical College in Hyderabad. Students from various colleges participated in the event.“Speaking on the occasion, the Principal explained the benefits of studying homeopathy and how the Expo helps both students and the public understand the medical services offered by the college. He added that the institution has been working to dispel the misconception that homeopathy only involves “sugar pills,” emphasizing its scientific and effective approach to healthcare.“He further mentioned that many people have found relief from various ailments through homeopathic treatment. The college also uses in-house medicinal plants to educate students about natural remedies for different diseases.“Later, Dr. Lingaraju, along with school students, visited various stalls at the Expo, including those showcasing Anatomy, Pathology, Forensic



Medicine, and Gynecology exhibits.“Among those who attended the program were Dr. Manilal, President of IHP Telangana Chapter Prof. G. Chandrasekhar, Vice Principal Dr. Srinivasa Reddy, Dr. Rajani Chander, Dr. Krishnamurthy, Dr. Suresh, Dr. Srikanth, and Program Coordinator Dr. Parthasaradhi.

# Power Interruption in Nacharam Today

““Nacharam, Indian Chornicle, October 17: ““Due to departmental maintenance works, power supply will be interrupted in the Nacharam Sub-Station limits. The power shutdown will take place on Saturday from 2.00 PM to 5.00 PM in the areas under the 11KV Sai Baba Temple feeder, including Annapurna Colony, Raghavendra Nagar, Indira Nagar, Ravindra Nagar, and Main Road areas.“Assistant Engineer B. Nagaraju of Nacharam Division stated that the power supply will be temporarily disrupted during this period and requested consumers to cooperate and take necessary precautions.

## Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Inaugurates Hill Integral School at Kushaiguda



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kushaiguda, October 17, (Indian chronicle): Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy attended as the chief guest and inaugurated the newly established Hill Integral School at Kushaiguda in Charlapally division. Speaking on the occasion, he said that education plays a key role in shaping the future of children and building a strong society. He appreciated the management for setting up a well-equipped educational institution with modern infrastructure and advanced learning facilities. He also emphasized the importance of moral values and practical knowledge along with academics. The organizers expressed their gratitude to the MLA for his support and assured that the school would strive to provide quality education to students from all sections of society. BRS party leaders, activists, school management members, teachers, and parents actively participated in the program.

## Historic Surrender in Jagdalpur: 208 Maoists Lay Down Arms Before Chhattisgarh CM Vishnudev Sai

“Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, October 17, Indian Chronicle: In a historic development, 208 Maoists, led by Central Committee member Takkallapalli Vasudevara Rao, also known as Rupesh alias Satish alias Ashanna, surrendered before Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai at the Jagdalpur Reserve Police Headquarters in Bastar district on Friday. “Describing it as the largest Maoist surrender in India’s history, DGP Arundeva Gautam said the group included several top Maoist leaders and armed cadres from the Dandakaranya region. The Maoists reportedly crossed the Indravati River from Abujmahad, a dense Maoist stronghold, using boats before being transported to Jagdalpur in three special buses. Ashanna was brought separately in a car under tight security. “Police welcomed the surrendered Maoists with a copy of the Indian Constitution and a pink rose, symbolizing their return to the mainstream. Among the surrenderees were four Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee members — Bhaskar alias Rajman Mandavi, Ranita, Rajusalam, and Dhannu Vetti alias Santulu — and Regional Committee member Ratan Alam. “Of the total, 110 were women and 98 were men, including one Central Committee member, four Zonal Committee members, one Regional Committee member, 61 Area Committee members, 21 Divisional Committee members, 98 party members, and 22 PLGA cadres. They collectively surrendered 153 weapons, including 19 AK-47 rifles, 17 SLRs, 23 INSAS rifles, one LMG, 36,303 rifles, four carbines, and one UBGL. “CM Announces Comprehensive Rehabilitation Package” Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai announced a generous rehabilitation and welfare package for the surrendered Maoists. Each will be provided with a house, agricultural land, and financial assistance for three years. He instructed officials to design a comprehensive rehabilitation plan and said that eligible individuals would be given employment in the DRG Police



Department. “The CM emphasized that those who once took up arms had now chosen the path of peace and national development. Their families would receive free medical care and continued government support to ensure a peaceful life. “Sai highlighted that the government had brought roads, electricity, and doorstep ration delivery to remote areas of Bastar, reaffirming the commitment to holistic regional development. “

Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Vijay Sharma said that with Ashanna’s surrender, the Abujmahad Division had effectively collapsed. He noted that Maoist cadres from Gadchiroli had also surrendered, leaving only the Keskal Committee still active, which he expected to surrender soon. “He further stated that Maoist Companies 1 and 10 have been completely dismantled, while Company 5 has only a few remaining members. Communication and medical units have also disbanded, and the North and West Divisional Committees have ceased to exist. “The minister reaffirmed the Union Home Ministry’s goal, led by Amit Shah, to completely eliminate Maoist activity in India by March 31, 2026

## United Struggle for Workers’ Rights – Ashok & Chandrasekhar

“CITU Medchal District Conference on October 25–26”



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 17, (Indian chronicle): The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) Medchal–Malkajgiri District will hold its 4th District Conference on October 25 and 26 at the Charlapally Industrial Association Hall. The event aims to discuss pressing labor issues and plan future movements for workers’ rights, said District President A. Ashok and Secretary J. Chandrasekhar at a press meet held Friday at the CITU office in Kamalanagar. bAs part of the conference, a massive workers’ rally will be organized on October 25 from Dr. A.S. Rao Nagar Ground to APIIC Colony, followed by a public meeting. The leaders said the new labor codes introduced by the central government threaten to weaken existing labor protections by changing rules on working hours, social security, and trade union rights. They warned that the imple-

mentation of these codes will severely impact contract, outsourcing, private sector, and construction workers, stripping them of hard-won rights. According to them, the labor codes are designed to suppress workers while favoring corporate owners. They argued that these reforms will lead to lower wages, job insecurity, and the loss of pension benefits. The privatization drive, contract employment system, and growing violations of labor rights have created widespread distress among the working class, they said, accusing both central and state governments of pursuing anti-worker policies. The leaders criticized the Telangana government for failing to revise the GOs related to 73 scheduled employment minimum wages, leaving thousands of workers facing financial hardships. They demanded the implementation of a minimum wage of ₹26,000 per month. The upcoming conference will adopt resolutions demanding permanent status for contract workers, guaranteed social security and pension, protection for women workers, and safeguarding the rights of unorganized sector workers. The leaders said the conference will chart a comprehensive plan of action to intensify the struggle against exploitation and injustice in industries. They emphasized the need for greater awareness and collective struggle at the union level to fight back against the anti-labor environment. Uniting thousands of workers under one banner is the key objective of this district conference, they said. CITU District Joint Secretary G. Srinivasulu, Treasurer Unni Krishna, Vice Presidents P. Ganesh, B.V. Satyanarayana, and N. Srinivas also participated in the press meet.

## Appointment of DCC President after taking the opinions of Congress party leaders:



- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah “Manduva Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 17):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah said that the election of DCC President will be held after taking the opinions of everyone. He said that the selection will be made only after taking the opinions of Congress party leaders, activists and public representatives regarding the selection of the district president. Speaking on this occasion, Bonagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy said that the Congress high command is assigning posts to senior leaders who have worked in the Congress party and served the party, and the candidate for the post of district DCC will be selected according to the opinions of senior Congress party leaders.

He said that the party elders will take care of every activist and leader who serves the Congress party. Several issues were revealed at the district level meeting on the DCC election at the Congress party office in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district headquarters. Former Odisha state minister and AICC observer Sharath Raut, Telangana state government whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah, Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, DCC president Andem Sanjeeva Reddy, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district library chairman Avaiz Chisthi and others participated in this meeting.

## BRS MLAs Inaugurate Konark Electronics in Nagaram



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Nagaram, October 17, (Indian Chronicle): A newly established Konark Electronics showroom was inaugurated today at Nagaram in the Medchal constituency by BRS MLA and former minister Chamaakura Malla Reddy along with BRS Legislative Party Whip and MLA KP Vivekanand. Speaking on the occasion, the MLAs said that technology is advancing rapidly, and it is important for businesses to keep pace with innovation and provide products that match the needs and preferences of modern consumers. They appreciated the initiative to bring quality electronic products closer to the people of Nagaram and surrounding areas.

## Diwali Special at Vasani Eye Care Hospital – Free Eye Surgeries for Children Below 14 Years

— Dr. Mythili & Dr. Haritha “Karimnagar Bureau, October 17 (Indian Chronicle): “Diwali, the festival of lights, fills our lives with joy and brightness, but the sparkle of fireworks can sometimes lead to severe eye injuries, especially among children and even cause permanent vision loss, warned Vasani Eye Care doctors Dr. Mythili and Dr. Haritha. Addressing a press meet at Vasani Eye Care Hospital on Friday, they announced a special Diwali service initiative across all Vasani Eye Care branches, including Karimnagar. The free service program will run from October 18 to 24, offering free consultation and surgery for children below 14 years of age who suffer firework-related eye injuries. They clarified that patients will be charged only for pharmacy, anesthesia, and optical services, while all medical treatments and surgeries will be provided completely free of cost. Highlighting the seriousness of the issue, they said that in 2020–2022, around 2,000 cases of firework-related eye injuries were reported across India, with 60% involving children, and 10% resulting in permanent vision loss. According to medical research, about 20% of emergency eye injuries during Diwali are caused by fireworks, most of them affecting boys under 15 years of age. “Dr. Mythili and Dr. Haritha emphasized that protecting



children’s eyesight this Diwali is everyone’s responsibility. They advised people to take preventive measures, such as wearing protective eyewear or safety goggles while lighting fireworks, maintaining a minimum distance of 15 meters from fireworks, ensuring adult supervision when children are around fireworks, avoiding homemade or unauthorized fireworks. The event was attended by Karimnagar Vasani Eye Care Hospital Manager K. Yadagiri, along with staff members and other hospital representatives.

## Green Peace Foundation Marks Regalla Satish Reddy’s Birthday with Tree Gift



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 17, (Indian Chronicle): On the occasion of BRS senior leader and

Sai Mala Ayyappa Devasthanam (Saibaba Nagar) Chairman Regalla Satish Reddy’s birthday, Green Peace Environment & Water Harvesting Foundation President Bairi Srinivas Goud presented a flower plant as a token of appreciation and to promote environmental awareness. Speaking on the occasion, Bairi Srinivas Goud emphasized the importance of planting trees and conserving water resources for a sustainable future. He said that gifting plants on special occasions helps spread the message of environmental responsibility among citizens. The event also highlighted the foundation’s ongoing efforts to create green spaces and encourage rainwater harvesting in urban areas. Regalla Satish Reddy appreciated the gesture and called upon everyone to take part in similar eco-friendly initiatives to protect nature for future generations.

## CPR Awareness Program Conducted by Telangana Health Department and GVK EMRI

“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Hyderabad, October 17 (Indian Chronicle): “As per the instructions from the Commissioner of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Telangana, a CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) Awareness Program was jointly organized by GVK EMRI at the DME Building Conference Hall. Around 200 employees attended the program, out of which 40 participants received hands-on training in CPR techniques. The training included live demonstrations using manikins, enabling participants to learn life-saving emergency response skills. The program was conducted to promote awareness on emergency medical response and equip health personnel with practical knowledge to save lives during cardiac emergencies. “Dignitaries who participated in the event include: Dr. Karuna Sree – JD, NCD Program, B. Sudhakar – State Head of Operations, GVK EMRI, Brahmananda Rao



– Consultant, PNPP NHM, Dr. Pruthvi – State Program Officer, NCD, Bhuma Nagender – Program Manager, Naveen Kumar – EME, The officials appreciated GVK EMRI for their continuous efforts in conducting awareness programs and empowering health staff with essential emergency care skills.”

## Interstate Drug Racket Busted at Ghatkesar — 1.15 Crore Worth Hashish Oil Seized



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 17, (Indian chronicle): In a major operation against narcotics smuggling, Ghatkesar Police and the Malkajgiri Special Operations Team (SOT) under Rachakonda Commissionerate busted an interstate drug racket and seized 5.1 kilograms of hashish oil, valued at around ₹1.15 crore. During the raid, police apprehended a 17-year-old boy from Andhra Pradesh, while the main accused, Debendra Jodia alias Srinu from Odisha, is currently absconding. According to police, the minor, who belongs to a farmer’s family, dropped out of school and got involved with Debendra Jodia to earn quick money. The duo allegedly planned to transport hashish oil from Odisha to Hyderabad. The boy brought the contraband by train and arrived at Ghatkesar, where his suspicious movements led police to conduct a search and uncover the substance. Police teams have been formed to track down the absconding accused. Medical experts warn that hashish oil can cause severe mental and physical health issues, including damage to the nervous system with prolonged use. Police officials reiterated that the possession, transport, and sale of narcotics are serious crimes, and strict action will be taken

against offenders. The operation was carried out under the direct supervision of Rachakonda Police Commissioner G. Sudheer Babu (IPS), with key coordination by DCPs P.V. Padmaja, A. Ramana Reddy, Addl. DCP N. Narasimha Reddy, ACP C. Anjiah, and inspectors P. Chandrasekhara Reddy, P. Vasudev, M. Balaswamy, along with the SOT Malkajgiri and Ghatkesar police teams. They urged citizens to stay away from illegal drug activities and cooperate in building a drug-free society.

## BC Community Calls for Statewide Bandh Tomorrow

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 17, (Indian Chronicle): The BC (Backward Classes) community has called for a statewide bandh on Saturday to press for greater rights and recognition. Organizers said all shops and businesses will remain closed, except hospitals and medical stores. They described the protest as a peaceful demonstration



of unity and self-respect, urging the government to address long-pending issues affecting the BC population across Telangana.

# The high command recognizes those who have worked in the party.. DCC appointment is made only on the decision of the high command



AICC observers, former Orissa state minister Sarath Raut.. PCC observer Raghunath ""Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. (Indian Chronicle.. October 17):- AICC observers, former Orissa state ministers Sarath Raut and PCC observer Raghunath visited the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Congress Party office on the

orders of the AICC regarding the selection of the District Congress Party President. This program was organized under the auspices of District Congress Party President Andam Sanjeeva Reddy, and government whip Aleru MLAs Beerla Ilayya, Tungaturthi MLAs Amdeli Samuel, and Bhuvanagiri MLAs Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy participated. AICC observer Sharat Raut, who was the chief guest at the event, said that as per the suggestion of All India Congress Party leaders and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, district presidents will be appointed across India in a democratic manner, from village level Congress workers to public organizations, from people who are loyal to the Congress party, and disciplined people. Meetings will be held at the block level and constituency level to take everyone's opinions, especially public organizations, caste organizations, and Congress party affiliated organizations. He said that suggestions and opinions of district Congress party leaders will be taken. He said that six names will be submitted to the high command from each district without any bias. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Awais Chisti and other leaders participated in the event.

# BACKWARD CLASSES (BC) PROFESSOR FORUM""OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD""

""OU BC Professors Extend Support to BC JAC's Telangana Bandh"" Indian Chronicle Tamaka OU October 17:The Osmania University Professors belonging to Backward Classes (BCs) have extended their full support to the Telangana BC Joint Action Committee (BC JAC), which has called for a statewide bandh on the 18th of this month, demanding 42% reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections.""In this regard, OU BC Professors' representatives Dr. Konda Nageshwar Rao and Dr. Ram Shepherd Bheenaveni issued a statement on Friday announcing their support. They appealed to all BC professors and employees from various OU colleges, including the campus colleges, to assemble at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, the 18th, in front of the OU Arts College. They also requested professors and employees from various social groups who are supporting the Telangana Bandh to gather in front of the Arts College in solidarity.



# Group 1 Achivers are requested to Submit their Details at the Civils Academy.



""OU Civils Academy Director Professor Konda Nageshwar""Indian Chronicle Tamaka OU:October 17:All the students who have studied and studying at Osmania University, who got selected in the Group 1 results, recently announced by the Telangana State Public Service Commission are requested submit their hall tickets and other details to the Civil Service Academy, Osmania University, said Civil Service Academy Director Dr. Konda Nageshwar in a statement.""The Civil Services Academy is planning to conduct an interaction meeting with Group 1 Achivers and felicitation in the month of November.The Vice Chancellor of OU Prof Kumar Molugaram and other higher officials will grace the occasion as the chief guests."The concerned Application is available on ou website.

# BC reservation to be held today in Telangana state..Make the bandh a success

Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy ""Manduva Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. (Indian Chronicle October 17):- ""It is inevitable that BC organizations have called for a state-wide bandh to implement the BC reservation to be held tomorrow in Telangana state. Meanwhile, Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy has called for this bandh to be a success. He said that if the state Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, under the auspices of the Congress government, passes a resolution in the Legislative Assembly for BC reservation and provides 42 percent reservation to BCs, then there is no reason for the opposition parties and the BJP party at the Center to oppose the BC Reservation Bill. During the elections, AICC President Sonia Gandhi said that AICC national leaders Rahul Gandhi had provided reservation facilities to BCs as promised to the people. He said that the respective political parties, BJP and TRS, are doing politics for votes and this is not suitable for them. As part of this bandh, MLA Kumbh MLA Anil Kumar Reddy called on Congress party



leaders, activists and BC fan groups in all mandals of Bhuvanagiri constituency to participate in this bandh and make the bandh a success.

# Outrage at Osmania University: OUTA Slams Rejection of 48 Faculty Promo-tions Under CAS""



""MATHEMATICS STATISTI""Indian Chronicle Tamaka OU:October 17: Osmania University Teachers' Association (OUTA) has strongly condemned the re-jection of promotions for 48 faculty members under the Ca-reer Advancement Scheme (CAS), calling it an unprec edented and unjust decision. At a meeting held on Thursday in the Departments of Mathemat ics, Botany, and Zoology, OUTA President Dr. Manohar expressed deep concern over the issue, stating that citing""poor interview performance"" as a reason for rejection is un-acceptable and arbitrary. "In the last 50 years, Osmania Univer-sity has never witnessed such mass rejections. Even highly qualified and reputed teachers and researchers have been de nied promotions, which is both shocking and demoralizing," he said. Dr. Manohar urged the State Government and the Osmania University Vice-Chancellor to review the deci-sions and

ensure that all eligible""faculty members receive their due promotions without delay. Senior professors including Prof. Surender Reddy, Prof. Venkat Das, Prof. Ramesh Babu, Prof. Nathaniel, Dr. Aravind, Prof. Shashikala, Dr. Aparna, Prof. Gangadhar, Prof. Ramachander, and Prof. Kamalakar were present at the meeting and extended their full support to the affected faculty members.

# HYD WOMAN LOSES Rs.35 LAKH IN "ACCIDENT & IMPERSONATION SCAM"

Hyderabad, Oct.17 (NSS): The Cyber Crimes Police of Hyderabad City have issued a warning to the citizens about a growing trend of "accident and impersonation scams" being carried out through WhatsApp and other social media platforms.In a recent case, a 61-year-old woman from Hyderabad lost Rs.35.23 lakh after being duped by a fraudster posing as a doctor from London. The victim reportedly received a WhatsApp call from a person claiming to be Dr.

# Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the government will take many steps towards strengthening the education system



""Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 17):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the government will take many steps towards strengthening the education system. On Friday, the District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of ZPHS School in Kollur village of Aleru mandal. He found out how many students there are in the school. How many students are there in class 10 now. The Collector asked the school principal to what extent the syllabus has been completed so far. The Collector went to the social studies class in class 10 and listened to the students. A map of India was drawn with the students. He said that all the students should prepare for the annual exams from now on. This year too, he asked the school to achieve 100% pass rate. He said that those who get the highest marks will be given bicycles as a gift. He said that their parents will be honored. The Collector came to know about the biology teacher in the same school preparing and distributing materials for the exam specifically for the students and felicitated the teacher with a shawl. Later, the Collector made a surprise inspection of the Anganwadi Center in Kollur village of Aleru mandal. He asked how many children were in the Anganwadi Center in total and how many children were coming to the Anganwadi Center every day. He also asked how many pregnant women were coming to the Anganwadi Center. They also inquired whether they were being given nutritious food daily. How many children are there in this village who do not come to our Anganwadi center? They also wanted to identify them and ensure that they come to the Anganwadi center. Later, the District Col-

lector inspected the construction work of Indiramma Houses in Kollur village of Aleru mandal. He inquired about how many houses are under construction in the village. How many houses are being completed, at what stage are they, and whether the bills have been received till the completion of the construction so far. He asked all the beneficiaries to complete the construction of their houses quickly. He said that they should not go for excessive expenses and take loans."He suggested that they build a good house with the 5 lakh rupees given by the government."Later, the District Collector inspected the Palle Prakriti Vanam in Kollur vil-lage of Aleru mandal. How many plants have been planted. He examined which plants are there. He said that the plants should be watered regularly. They asked whether 6 plants were given to each household in the village. Later, the Dis-trict Collector inspected the health sub-center in Kollur vil-lage of Aleru mandal..""How many staff members are there in the sub-center? He checked the register to see if the staff are attending duties every day."He asked how many patients are coming to the OPD every day. What diseases do the patients come with? Are all the medicines available? How many EDDs were there last month? How many are there this month? Where have all the deliveries taken place so far? He spoke to a pregnant woman named Jyoti, who had delivered at Aleru Community Health Center, on the phone. He asked how the baby was born and how is your health. Did the doctors and staff of Aleru Hospital cause you any trouble? Did the hospital staff ask you for money or did you give anything? The relevant officials participated in this program.

# MEIL secures USD 225.5 million project from Kuwait oil company

Hyderabad/Kuwait, Oct.17 : Megha Engineering and Infrastructures Limited (MEIL) has achieved another global milestone by securing a USD 225.5 million (KWD 69.23 million) project from the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).The project involves the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a New Gas Sweetening and Sulphur Recovery Facility (NGSF) at West Kuwait's oilfields.

This project will be developed on a Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis, with an option for KOC to buy back the facility. It will be executed in two stages - Execution Phase and Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Phase. The project, located near Booster Station BS-171, will be completed in the period of 790 days, followed by five years of operation and maintenance.The associated Sulphur Recovery Unit (SRU) will comprise two trains, each with a 100 TPD (Tons Per Day) capacity, achieving an overall 299.9% sulphur

recovery efficiency. The advanced facility is designed to treat sour gas containing up to 4% hydrogen sulfide (H2S) and 10% carbon dioxide (CO2), processing 120 million standard cubic feet per day (MMSCFD).Gas sweetening is the process of removing acidic gases like hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide from natural gas to make it safe, efficient, and environmentally compliant for use.The purified gas will be dehydrated and transported through KOC's pipeline network to the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) plant at Mina Ahmadi Refinery for further processing. The project supports Kuwait's focus on sustainable energy, cleaner fuel production, and environmental safety."We are honoured to partner with Kuwait Oil Company for this strategic gas sweetening facility in West Kuwait. This project reflects MEIL's commitment to delivering world-class energy infrastructure that enhances environmental safety and operational efficiency," P. Doraiah, Director, MEIL.

# Green India Challenge launches pilot bamboo plantation to empower tribes

Adilabad, Oct.17 : In a pioneering effort to restore livelihoods and combat environmental degradation, the Green India Challenge (GIC) a nationwide environmental movement founded by former Rajiya Sabha MP Joginipally Santosh Kumar has launched a pilot bamboo plantation project spanning 5 acres in Mullalagutta 2 village, Adilabad rural mandal in the district. This first-of-its-kind initiative seeks to address the acute bamboo shortage faced by the Kolam (Kollam) tribes, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)in Telangana, whose traditional livelihoods and craftsmanship depend on bamboo.

For generations, the Kolam community has skillfully used bamboo to craft mats, baskets, fences, and ritual items—products that are integral to their economy and cultural heritage. However, stringent forest conservation rules have restricted access to natural bamboo resources, forcing tribal families to trek 7–10 kilometers daily to gather limited bamboo culms. This has pushed over 6,000 Kolam families in Adilabad into economic distress and dependence on exploitative middlemen. Stepping in with empathy and determination, Joginipally Santosh Kumar (fondly known as Santosh Anna) has spearheaded the pilot plantation. The site—5 acres of land generously donated by local philanthropist Tekam Rao Ji Patel -will serve as a bamboo nursery and cultivation hub for the Kolam community.

A hallmark of GIC's legacy of record-breaking afforestation drives—including its entries in the Limca Book of Records and Guinness World Records—this initiative marks a strategic shift toward community-centered ecological restoration. Currently, 50% of the plantation work has been completed, featuring bamboo species carefully selected to suit the region's soil and climate conditions, under the guidance of forest department experts and GIC volunteers. "This is not just about planting bamboo—it's about planting hope and restoring dignity," said Joginipally Santosh Kumar. "The artistry of the Kolam tribes deserves revival. By ensuring a sustainable bamboo supply, we can create jobs, enhance incomes, and promote self-reliance. A com-

munity event will soon be organised to complete the plantation and introduce training programs in advanced bamboo craftsmanship," he said.Aligned with the objectives of the National Bamboo Mission, the project promotes bamboo as a sustainable, fast-growing resource that supports carbon sequestration, soil restoration, and rural livelihood generation. Once mature, the plantation is expected to yield thousands of bamboo culms annually, providing a reliable and renewable resource base for tribal artisans. Future project phases will focus on value addition and market linkage, empowering artisans to sell bamboo products directly through fair trade markets and eliminating exploitative intermediaries. Now in its eighth edition, the Green India Challenge has successfully planted over 20 crore saplings across India since its inception in 2018, inspiring millions to take part in the nation's green movement.

# CPI(M)'s 'Chalo Raj Bhavan' turns tense; police foil march, leaders detained

Hyderabad, Oct.17 ( On Friday, tension prevailed in the city during the CPI(M)'s 'Chalo Raj Bhavan' rally demanding implementation of 42 percent reservations for Backward Classes (BCs). The police stopped the CPI(M) activists who began a march from Khairatabad Metro Station to Somajiguda, erecting barricades near Metro Residency.A heated argument broke out as the protesters tried to remove the barricades. Police foiled their attempt and detained several party leaders and activists, shifting them to various police stations. One protester reportedly fainted during the scuffle.



# Why is a spectre of empty classrooms looming? | Explained



The story so far: The State of Tamil Nadu has sought a review of a Supreme Court judgment requiring in-service teachers from Classes 1-8 in non-minority schools across the country to clear the Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) in two years or be "compulsorily retired". Other States have equally voiced concern about the September 1 judgment and its harsh lesson to lakhs of teachers validly employed in government, aided, unaided and private schools mentioned under Section 2(n) of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. They are likely to follow Tamil Nadu to the top court.

What is the situation in Tamil Nadu?

Tamil Nadu alone employs 4,49,850 teachers in government and aided schools, of whom 3,90,458 are not TET-qualified. The States have argued that if the judgment is implemented, the entire school system faces the imminent prospect of collapse, with mass disqualification of teachers and denial of classroom instruction to millions of children. Tamil Nadu argues that the judgment provokes a direct conflict with Article 21A (fundamental right to free and compulsory education for children aged six to 14) of the Constitution. The State has sought a balance between ensuring quality of education and safeguarding the right to education.

What did the judgment mandate?

The two-judge Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan is not unaware of the ground realities. Justice Datta, who authored the September 1 judgment, acknowledged the contributions of non-TET qualified teachers appointed prior to the RTE Act. The court agreed that dislodging elementary school teachers was a "bit harsh" as they have taught students for decades without any serious complaints. Hence, the court, invoking Article 142 of the Constitution, has exempted teachers with less than five years left to retire from taking the TET. However, they would have to clear the TET if they seek promotion. But teachers who have more than five years of service must mandatorily qualify for the TET within two years from the date of the judgment. If they fail, they would have to quit service or be retired with terminal benefits.Future appointments or promotions for teachers in non-minority schools would necessarily require TET qualification.Further, the two-judge Bench

judgment referred to a larger Bench the question whether minority educational institutions ought to be also included under the purview of the RTE Act. The court noted that the minority status was being misused by school managements to circumvent the mandate of the RTE Act to have TET-qualified teachers conduct elementary education. The judgment was based on a batch of appeals questioning school education departments' insistence on faculty clearing the TET in minority institutions. The two-judge Bench criticised a 2014 Constitution Bench judgment in the Pramati Educational and Cultural Trust case, which took minority institutions entirely outside the ambit of the RTE Act. The September 1 judgment made a strong pitch to bring schools run by minorities — whether religious or linguistic — into the RTE fold as the 2014 judgment had "unknowingly jeopardised the very foundation of universal elementary education". It said the exemption of minority institutions from the RTE Act has led to "fragmentation of the common schooling vision and weakening of the idea of inclusivity and universality envisioned by Article 21A".

What do the review petitions argue?

Review petitions filed by Tamil Nadu and a Kerala-based teacher's union, Deseeya Adhyapakha Parishad (NTU) Kerala, argues that "even if the objective of enhancing teaching quality is accepted as legitimate, compelling pre-RTE Act appointees to pass TET on pain of disqualification is manifestly disproportionate". Tamil Nadu recommended "less intrusive alternatives" like in-service training, capacity building, refresher courses, or bridging programmes to achieve the same goal without destabilising the education system.At the centre of the controversy is the interpretation of Section 23 of the RTE Act. As per 23 (1), the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has laid down minimum qualifications for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in Classes one to eight, through its notification on August 23, 2010. An essential qualification is passing the TET conducted by the appropriate government. The rationale for including the TET is to bring national standards and the benchmark of teacher quality in the recruitment process.In its review petition, Tamil Nadu contended that Section 23(1) would apply only to future recruitment of teachers. The State refers to Section 23(2) which empowers the Centre, through notification, to relax the minimum educational qualifications for appointment of teachers for a limited period not exceeding five years in case States have to deal with contingencies of dearth of teachers or institutional shortages. A proviso appended to Section 23 also makes it clear that any teacher who, at the commencement of the RTE Act, did not possess the minimum qualifications (TET) must acquire such qualifications within a period of five years. Section 23 does not call for a "blanket mandate" for TET nor could the interpretation of the provision be stretched to retrospectively disqualify teachers who were validly appointed before the notification of minimum qualifications (TET), Tamil Nadu submitted in its review plea.The State said the September 1 judgment raises the spectre of "empty classrooms" and distracted teachers scrambling to save their livelihood for the next two years.

# How is India responding to crowding disasters? | Explained

The story so far: On September 27, a political rally by actor and Tamilaga Vетtri Kazhagam (TVK) founder Vijay in Tamil Nadu's Karur district ended in a fatal crowd crush in which 41 people were killed. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin appointed a one-person commission headed by retired judge Aruna Jagadeesan to examine the tragedy's causes. He said rules for public events would be framed once the commission submitted its report.

What happened in Karur?

The event was part of Mr. Vijay's first State-wide political tour. TVK organisers initially presented a list of four central business locations in Karur for the rally, but the police rejected them as they were too congested and instead granted permission for Velusampyuram on the Karur-Erode road, where other political parties had previously held events. The organisers said Mr. Vijay would speak at 12 p.m., and supporters began assembling from 9 a.m. He was delayed however, and as the day wore on, the crowd grew steadily, with several thousands gathering in the evening. By the time Mr. Vijay reached Karur from Namakkal around 6 p.m., his convoy could not access the meeting spot because of the crowd. The congestion worsened when the gathering was forced to make way for his vehicles. Witnesses described having no space to move. Residents also recalled younger people climbing poles and transformers to get a glimpse of the actor while others said the event's timing coincided with evening wage disbursements for textile workers, adding to congestion in the area.As the programme began around 7.20 p.m., people started fainting in the crowd. When the situation deteriorated further, Mr. Vijay departed from the spot and ambulances began to arrive soon after, taking injured people to government hospitals in Karur, Namakkal, and Tiruchi. By nightfall, dozens were reported dead and scores injured. Many of the 41 people who died were young adults aged 18-30.

What has India done to manage crowds?

At the national level, the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) published its most recent Comprehensive Guidelines on Crowd Control and Mass Gathering Management in June 2025. These guidelines, intended for police and other law enforcement agencies, emphasise scientific crowd management practices. The National Disaster Management Authority has maintained its "Managing crowd at events and venues of mass gathering" guide since 2020 alongside "suggestive frameworks" for crowd management plans. These documents recommend advance risk assessment, detailed site layout plans, pre-determined ingress and egress routes, real-time monitoring, and communication protocols. The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) has run training modules to handle large congregations as part of its capacity-building programmes.After the crowd crush at a New Delhi railway station in February, the Indian Railways updated its manuals for around 60 stations with high footfall by introducing holding areas, better dispersal zones and crowd monitoring, among others. These measures are mostly advisory, however, and not statutory.

What measures have States introduced?

Following a deadly stampede outside M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru in June 2025, the Karnataka government tabled the Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Venues of Mass Gathering) Bill, 2025. This instrument covers political rallies, conferences, cultural programmes, and other events, and fixes responsibility on organisers. It also empowers district magistrates to cancel or redirect events, regulate the use of loudspeakers, and impose fines

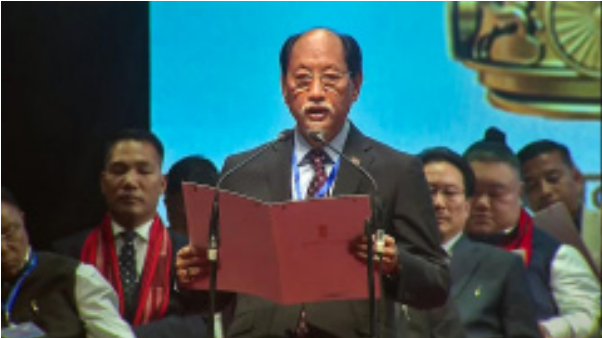


and imprisonment for violations.The Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority issued the Guidelines for Managing Crowd at Events of Mass Gathering, 2023 — a document that formalises measures for religious and cultural events. The Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management prepared training materials that include technical instructions on calculating site capacity, planning exits, training volunteers, and ensuring first aid and fire safety. After a stampede at the Mansa Devi temple in Haridwar in July, the Uttarakhand government ordered safety arrangements at major temples to be updated and directed authorities to remove encroachments around shrines.The Maharashtra government introduced a Bill in 2025 empowering the Nasik-Trimbakeshwar Kumbh Mela Authority to authorise temporary townships and bypass certain urban planning norms so that facilities can be created for large gatherings.Local enforcement agencies have supplemented these steps with operating protocols. After the Bengaluru incident, for instance, the Karnataka police circulated a new Standard Operating Procedure to control crowds at public functions and detailed responsibilities for coordination between departments, medical preparedness, and fire safety.In many districts across States, the police have also directed organisers of large religious or political gatherings to prepare crowd management plans, limit crowd size, deploy medical teams, set up temporary barricades, and divert routes. These orders are still only administrative and aren't backed by a law. Most State-level initiatives have also been introduced after specific accidents: the Uttarakhand directives followed the Haridwar stampede; Tamil Nadu's announcement after the Karur rally deaths; Karnataka's Bill after the stadium incident; and Maharashtra's Bill after incidents related to the Prayagraj Kumbh Mela.

What is scientific crowd control?

According to prevailing scientific wisdom, safely navigating a crowd depends on controlling its density and side-stepping hazardous flow patterns. Modelling studies have shown that the risk of a deadly crush escalates when crowd density approaches 5 persons per sq. m. Since cameras on drones linked to computers on the ground can continuously monitor crowd density, not using such technologies to manage crowds is seen as a shortcoming.Second, crowds should never be channelled into bottlenecks, slopes or counter-flows because they magnify pressure and destabilise movement. In a moving crowd, individuals are advised to move diagonally, towards the less dense edges, and to avoid resisting the flow. Because compressive asphyxia rather than trampling is the main cause of fatalities, individuals should keep their forearms across the chest to protect their breathing space and maintain balance with staggered footing. If one is knocked down, rolling to the side and shielding the head and neck while attempting to rise quickly is recommended.

# What is Nagaland's job quota issue? | Explained



The story so far: On April 26, an organisation of five "advanced" tribes in Nagaland set the Neiphiu Rio-led government a 30-day deadline to revise the job reservation policy for the State's Backward Tribes (BTs). The government formed a panel on September 22 to examine the job quota policy, but the five-tribe body found fault with its nomenclature.

What is the job reservation policy?

Almost four years after it attained statehood in December 1963, Nagaland introduced a policy to reserve 80% of State government jobs for all indigenous Scheduled Tribes. The government identified 11 BTs in 1977 and apportioned for them what came to be known as "reservation within a reservation". In August 2024, Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio told the 60-member Nagaland Assembly that 37% of non-technical and non-gazetted jobs are currently reserved for BTs. He said this quota is divided into 25% for seven BTs in eastern Nagaland comprising six districts — Kiphire, Longleng, Mon, Noklak, Shamator, and Tuensang — and 12% for the remaining four BTs. An April 2011 notification from the State's Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department said the Chakhesang and Pochury tribes inhabiting Phek district will be clubbed together for half the 12%, while the Zeliang tribe will have 4% of government jobs reserved for them, and the remaining 2% will be reserved for the Sumi tribe in Kiphire district. Beyond Kiphire, the Sumis are among the five non-BT communities along with the Angamis, Aos, Lothas, and Rengmas.

Why do the tribes want this policy revised?

In September 2024, the Five Tribes Committee on Review of Reservation Policy (CoRRP) submitted a memorandum to the State government, requesting an assessment of the job quota system. The members of this committee are representatives of the apex social bodies of each of these five tribes. The committee argued that the policy was relevant in 1977, but it no longer reflects the prevailing

socio-economic and educational landscape of the State. Its secretary, G.K. Zhimomi, said that the CoRRP's core demand was to "either scrap the reservation policy altogether or allocate the remaining unreserved (20%) quota to the five tribes." He also said the government went back on a move to review the policy in 1987 and issued an order two years later, stating that the quota slabs would continue until further notice. The CoRRP set its first 30-day deadline on April 26 for the government to act on its demand for a review. "We are not against any tribe benefiting from the reservation policy. A review of this 48-year-old policy is long overdue because of the vastly different scenario now," they said.

How did the government respond?

Reacting to the CoRRP's demand, student and social organisations of the BTs listed as beneficiaries of the job quota opposed any potential revision, arguing that the dilution of the current policy would disproportionately harm the State's marginalised communities. Wary of a backlash from these tribes, the government chose to tread carefully. The CoRRP launched its initial phase of agitation after the expiry of its 30-day ultimatum. It was suspended after Deputy Chief Minister Yanthungo Patton assured them that a commission to review the policy would be constituted by June 17. However, Mr. Rio remarked that any significant administrative reforms, including those related to reservations or delimitation, should be undertaken only after the national Census exercise scheduled for 2027. On August 6, the State Cabinet approved the constitution of a seven-member Job Reservation Commission to be headed by a retired IAS officer of the Nagaland cadre. The following day, government spokesperson and Minister K.G. Kenye cited official data to claim that the five non-BT tribes hold 64% of the government jobs while the BT tribes hold 34%. He indicated that the status quo needed to be maintained.

Why does the stalemate continue?

The CoRRP criticised the first commission announced in August as it accommodated a member each from the Eastern Nagaland People's Organisation, the Central Nagaland Tribes Council, and the Tenyimi Union Nagaland. They insisted that this commission lacked neutrality as these three organisations represented the BTs wholly or partially. The CoRRP also found fault with the second commission the government announced on September 22. They said that the government deviated from an agreement to name this panel 'Job Reservation Commission' instead of 'Reservation Review Commission', thus implying it was not serious about reviewing the existing quota system. The difference over the panel's nomenclature is yet to be resolved.

# When a Chennai-based influencer and her partner drugged and killed her children in 2018

When Vijay, a bank loan mediator, and Abirami got married in September 2011 and moved into their modest home near Kundrathur, everything seemed calm, with no hint of the storm that would one day tear their lives apart.In the years that followed, the couple had two children and settled into what appeared to be an ordinary family life. Meanwhile, Abirami began gaining popularity online as a local social media 'reels star', nicknamed 'Biryani Abirami' for her food-related content. But things began to change when she met Meenakshi Sundaram, a biryani delivery agent at a shop frequently visited by her and her family.On August 30, 2018, Abirami's neighbour saw her leave home on her two-wheeler, with Meenakshi Sundaram on the pillion. The neighbour recalled overhearing him tell Abirami: "Give them the tablets and inform me when it is done."

When questioned later, Abirami, then 25, told the neighbour that her children were unwell and that Meenakshi Sundaram had been referring to their medicine. However, the neighbour remembered seeing him at Abirami's house on at least two occasions previously. At the time, Abirami had introduced him as a family friend. Still, something about the exchange that day did not sit right, the neighbour later recalled.What no one around them yet knew was that Abirami and Meenakshi Sundaram were entangled in a relationship, one that would soon culminate in the tragic deaths of her two children, at the hands of their own mother.A pre-meditated crime

That same night, after Vijay, then 30, returned home from work, Abirami brought him a glass of milk, the same milk she had already given to their two children, Ajay, 6, and Karnika, 3. When Vijay took a sip, he found it bitter. Abirami said it was because she had forgotten to add sugar, but Vijay, already tired, said he did not want it anymore and went to bed.He woke up later than usual the next day. As he hurried to get ready for work, he asked why Abirami had not cooked anything yet. She told him that she and the children were going to her mother's house in Periyapanicheri, and they would eat there.Before leaving, Vijay asked what their youngest was doing; Abirami said she was asleep. Normally, Vijay would kiss his daughter goodbye before heading to work, but that morning, when he approached her, Abirami pulled him back, saying the child had been coughing all night and had not slept well, and that he should not disturb her. At that moment, their son was sitting in front of the television. Vijay looked at him and said, "I will go and come back, son," before heading out for the day.

Around 3.30 p.m., Abirami called Vijay and told him they were heading to her mother's house. She also reminded him that it was his birthday, and asked him to come over.In the meantime, according to police records, Abirami went to a pawn broker's shop, hoping to pledge a gold chain. The broker told her he could offer only ₹12,000, but she insisted she was unwell and urgently needed money. She then asked him to buy the chain outright, and he paid her ₹17,000 in cash.

Vijay, meanwhile, had to work through the day and night. On the morning of September 1, 2018, he tried calling Abirami several times, but there was no response. Concerned, he contacted her younger brother, who told him that neither Abirami nor the children were at their mother's house. Worried, Vijay left for Periyapanicheri.About 20 days earlier too, Abirami had gone missing from home. At the time, Vijay had no idea where she was, but their son Ajay had told him that she often visited a house nearby, belonging to "an uncle" named Meenakshi Sundaram. Ajay also said he could identify the house. With the boy's help, Vijay had tracked Abirami down and brought her back home.This time, suspecting a similar situation, Vijay went to Meenakshi Sundaram's house in Kundrathur, accompanied by his brother-in-law. However, Abirami was not there.When they returned to Vijay and Abirami's house near Kundrathur, they found the door merely latched, not locked. Inside, both children were lying on the bed, tucked under the bedsheets up



to their necks. At first, they appeared to be asleep. But when Vijay tried to wake them, it slowly dawned on him that they were no longer alive.How the case unfoldedVijay rushed to Kundrathur police station and lodged a complaint that his children were dead and their mother was missing. Then Inspector of Police, Kundrathur, Charles, began the investigation after sending the bodies of children for post-mortem. The police noted that Abirami's two-wheeler was missing from the house.On the same day, the police scrutinised call records and went to the two-wheeler parking lot located behind the Koyambedu bus stand. They checked the CCTV footage recorded between 4.42 p.m. and 5 p.m. on August 31, 2018, the previous day. The footage showed Abirami bringing the vehicle inside, and later boarding a bus.The police investigation revealed that Abirami had travelled to Nagercoil and attempted to take a room in a hostel there.

Based on information of her return, on the morning of September 2, as a police team lay in wait at the parking lot — her scooter in view — Abirami and Meenakshi Sundaram turned up, and she tried to ride away with him on the pillion. When the police chased them, they fell off th vehicle and were caught.According to the police, Abirami confessed to murdering her children. Her mobile phone and two-wheeler were seized as part of the investigation. During interrogation, Abirami told officers that she had met Meenakshi Sundaram, who worked at a biryani shop, about two months earlier. Wanting to live with him, she said she decided to kill her husband and children.Both Abirami and Meenakshi Sundaram were arrested.

The police charged the two accused with premeditated criminal conspiracy, alleging that the plan was carried out under the instigation of the second accused, Meenakshi Sundaram. According to the charges, the first accused, Abirami, mixed sedatives into the milk given to her children. Both were later remanded to judicial custody.The post-mortem report said the children appeared to have died of systemic absorption of the drugs consumed. Charges under Sections 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) were filed against the first accused Abirami, and under Sections 302, read with 109 (abetment), against the second accused Meenakshi Sundaram.The case was taken up by the District Mahila Court, Chengalpattu, on November 29, 2018, and during the trial, 25 witnesses were examined and 23 exhibits were marked. The case was later transferred to the Principal District Sessions Court, Kancheepuram. At the conclusion of trial, Principal District Sessions Judge P.U. Chemmal pronounced the judgment in July this year.

# The Right to Education Act and minority educational institutions



The Supreme Court on Monday cast doubt on a Constitution Bench judgment from a decade ago that exempted minority educational institutions from the provisions of the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act). A two-judge Bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Manmohan, while deciding on whether the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) was mandatory for minority schools, held that the ruling in *Pramati Educational and Cultural Trust v Union of India* (2014) requires reconsideration by a larger Bench of the SC.

The court observed that by taking minority schools out of the ambit of the RTE Act, the Pramati judgment may have jeopardised the fundamental right to quality education for children studying in them. The two-judge Bench ruled on a batch of appeals on whether (i) TET could be made mandatory for teachers in minority schools, and (ii) in-service teachers in non-minority schools who were appointed before the RTE Act came into force, must pass TET to be eligible for promotion or continue in service. TET is the minimum qualification for appointment as teacher for Classes 1 to 8.

The court referred the issue of the applicability of the RTE Act to minority schools to a larger Bench, and passed a nuanced order for in-service teachers of non-minority schools. It directed that teachers with less than five years of service remaining may continue in their jobs without clearing TET, although they would have to pass the test in order to be promoted. Teachers with more than five years left for retirement must clear TET within two years. (*Anjanam Ishaat e Taleem Trust v. The State of Maharashtra*) The Bench said that the verdict in *Pramati* appeared “legally suspect”, “questionable”, and “disproportionate” because the five-judge Bench had struck down the applicability of the entire RTE Act to minority institutions based almost entirely on its analysis of a single provision of the Act — Section 12(1)(c). This section requires all schools to reserve at least 25% of seats in Class 1 for “children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the neighbourhood”. The court pointed to a critical conflict created by the sweeping exemption: While Article 30(1) of the Constitution protects the right of minority groups to establish and administer their institutions, Article 21A guarantees every child a fundamental right to education. Therefore, the Bench reasoned, exempting minority schools from the Act denies children studying in them the statutory benefits and protections that flow from the fundamental right under Article 21A. The Bench called for a harmonious interpretation where the rights under Article 21A and Article 30(1) “can and must co-exist mutually” rather than one being treated

# Why Gurgaon comes to halt after heavy rain but Noida does not



On Monday, the Millennium City of Gurgaon witnessed kilometres-long traffic jams on key stretches in the peak hours in the evening after just 100 mm of rain. Commuters said they were stuck for hours in the traffic caused due to waterlogging — their woes yet again raised questions over Gurgaon's urban planning and development. Year after year, residents complain of the traffic coming to a standstill even after moderate rainfall. Noida, the other suburban city in the NCR, however, sees fewer instances of waterlogging and traffic snarls in such situations. The city was established in 1975 during the Emergency when Sanjay Gandhi, son of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, wanted to move industries out of the national capital. Governed by the New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA), Noida, which has eventually been pitched as the state's economic powerhouse, was developed under the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Area Development Act, 1976, as an industrial township. Experts say that Noida was a planned "greenfield" city, developed on entirely new, undeveloped land. Infrastructure, like roads, sewers, drain pipes, footpaths and streetlights, was laid out after the land was acquired all at once by the development authority, according to PSN Rao, Professor of Housing, School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi. Commuters make their way through a waterlogged road amid rainfall, in Gurugram, Monday. Commuters make their way through a waterlogged road amid rainfall, in Gurugram, Monday. (PTI) It was then that the private developers came into the picture and plugged into the common infrastructure. Nearly half a century back, the acquired land comprised 50 villages and having a total area of 14,915 hectare (36,841 acres). Currently, it covers 81 villages and a total of about 20,316 hectares of land. "Proper planning was done for Noida and thus, a drainage and road network proportionate to the built infrastructure was built," says Mukta Naik, an urban researcher formerly with the National Institute of Urban Affairs and the Centre for Policy Research, Gurgaon. On the other hand, was developed in a public private partnership (PPP) mode," Rao points out as he explains how land parcels of different sizes and shapes at various locations were acquired and developed by private developers, most prominent among them being DLF. "While the external infrastructure was developed by the state government, internal infrastructure was not linked

as an “unqualified trump card” over the other. What Pramat ruling held The five-judge Constitution Bench was deciding the validity of The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002, which introduced Article 21A, and The Constitution (93rd Amendment) Act, 2005, which introduced Article 15(5) in the Constitution.

Article 21A established education as a fundamental right; Article 15(5) allowed the state to make special provisions for backward classes, SCs, and STs in educational institutions, including private educational institutions; “whether aided or unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions”. Pramatil upheld the validity of both amendments, but ruled that the RTE Act was unconstitutional “insofar as it applies to minority schools, aided or unaided, covered under clause (1) of Article 30...” The court reasoned that the unique character of minority institutions must be protected. It feared that forcing these institutions to comply with the RTE Act would lead to an “abrogation” of their fundamental right under Article 30(1) to “establish and administer educational institutions of their choice”. The judgment said that a “legal obligation [under Section 12(1)(c)] to admit children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups in the neighbourhood who need not be children of the members of the minority community...cannot be forced upon a minority institution because that may destroy the minority character of the school”. The Act guarantees free elementary education for children of ages 6-14. Government schools are required to provide free education to all enrolled children; aided schools must provide free seats proportionate to the aid they receive. Private unaided schools are required to reserve 25% of entry-level seats for children from disadvantaged groups; reimbursed by the state (Section 12(1)(c)). The Act sets minimum standards of pupil-teacher ratios, trained teachers, infrastructure, and libraries, bans corporal punishment and capitation fees, and places an obligation on all schools to contribute to universal education. R Govinda, who was instrumental in drafting the RTE, wrote in the Routledge Companion to Primary Education in India (2023), that “the RTE Act is child-centric and not institution-centric”. Govinda told The Indian Express: “We believed [the Act] was about the fundamental right of the child, not the administrative rights of schools. There was no need to exempt minority institutions. The right of an individual child should be held higher than the collective right of groups to run institutions as they wish.” The two-judge Bench cited a study by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, which found that only 8.76% students in minority schools were from disadvantaged backgrounds, and that 62.5% of students belonged to non-minority communities.

“This is indicative of many institutions labelled as ‘minority’ not serving their communities exclusively, but continuing to enjoy exemption from inclusionary mandates,” the Bench said. After the RTE Act came into effect in 2010, private schools and minority groups complained that the 25% quota infringed on their autonomy, and the law was challenged in court. In April 2012, a three-judge Bench upheld the Act, but it exempted unaided minority institutions, ruling that quotas would “change their character” and breach Article 30(1). The 2014 ruling extended the exemption to all minority schools, regardless of whether they received government aid or not. Following the judgment, many private schools were alleged to have sought minority status — sometimes with only a token minority management — to escape RTE compliance. Dr Latika Gupta of the Department of Education at Delhi University said: “Many so-called minority schools that were essentially private institutions with a minority label could escape norms. They did not admit poor children from their own community and continued as elite institutions.”

to it properly," he adds. The Indian Express previously reported that the Haryana government — from the 1970s onwards — introduced a series of laws, which enabled private firms to acquire land on a large scale to develop townships. Land acquisition was not carried out in a uniform manner. This led to irregular plots, and roads that led to nowhere. The Aravalli ridge, on the southern edge of Gurgaon, is the natural high ground for the city, the report pointed out. From there, the land slopes down towards the north, which is at a lower altitude. Rainwater in Gurgaon thus flows mainly from the south to the north, towards the Najafgarh Jheel in West Delhi. The natural drainage channels have disappeared now, and haphazard urban expansion has not kept the city's topographic reality in mind, according to experts.

## Don't judge food by its packaging, learn to read the food labels

Hyderabad: Most of the food that we consume today is pre-packaged and processed. A major reason why, as customers, people should think twice before they blindly reach out to pick their favorite food product from the shelves of the supermarket. For the past year or so, a concerted effort on the part of doctors, nutritionists and food scientists, is underway to make people aware about the importance of properly reading and understanding food labels, so that they can make an informed choice. It is a fact that most of the customers are unaware of how to read a food label. So, what are the most important pieces of information on the back of the colourful food packet that can help them make a safe purchase? According to Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), "One of the most important pieces of information for consumers on the food label is a statement on 'Serving Size' under the words 'Nutritional Facts'. This is important because all the nutrition information shown is based on the referred serving size. Check how many serving unit used for presenting the Nutrition Facts. According to the amount of the food item being used assess the calories and other nutrients in the portion being used". In its guidelines on how to properly read food labels, especially nutrient information on the label, the NIN researchers advise "If the label states, two servings for the entire packet and the calorie content is 100 calories per serving, then use of the entire packet would imply consumption of 200 calories. Always remember, 'fat-free' does not always mean 'calorie-free'. The food scientists also urge the public to look closely and check for 'energy' coming from carbohydrates and sugars. "Pay attention to sugars, especially added sugars, to reduce risk of obesity and NCDs. select food that are low in refined carbohydrates and total fat content, especially saturated fats and those that contain no trans-fat.

# China's parade, Asia's divide



The brief video of Prime Minister Narendra Modi holding hands with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin has gone viral. The three-way handshake, occurring against the backdrop of US President Donald Trump's relentless effort to bully friends and foe alike, symbolises a moment when major powers are jockeying for geopolitical advantage. Yet a photo-op does not a grand alliance make. If anything, the impracticality of a Eurasian coalition against America is highlighted by Modi's absence from China's spectacular military parade in Beijing on Wednesday to mark its victory in World War II. Xi will preside over the display of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) formidable military prowess in Tiananmen Square. Modi's decision to skip the parade underlines India's continuing distance from Beijing's efforts to reinterpret the past for present purposes. Those who claimed that the SCO handshake buried the Quad will note that Modi's absence puts him in the same company as the leaders of Australia, Japan, and the United States, who will also stay away.

In September 1945, Imperial Japan surrendered, ending the war in Asia. In Europe, the victors and a defeated Germany collectively mark the end of hostilities. Asia, however, remains divided in its memory. Reconciliation is elusive even eight decades later. China calls its commemoration, “The Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War”. Yet the military parade, arguably, is less about the past and more about enduring rivalries. Beijing seeks to mobilise nationalist sentiment against Japan and position itself as Asia’s pre-eminent power. Tokyo, unsurprisingly, urged countries not to attend. Australia, India, and the US — all critical to the Allied victory in Asia — declined invitations, as did Britain, France, and the Netherlands (the European powers with a major presence in Asia in World War II). For the Quad powers, participation would have been less about celebrating the shared struggle of 1945 than legitimising China’s aspirations for the domination of Asia. By contrast, many Southeast and Central Asian leaders have shown up in Beijing. Their attendance is less about the War’s memory than about signalling positive sentiments towards China. One notable absence is the Philippines, a major theatre of World War II. It is now at the receiving end of Chinese military power in the South China Sea.

Why does the memory of the same war divide Asia so sharply? Because national experiences differed profoundly. China endured 14 years of brutal Japanese occupation, but the war was also about the communists' triumph over the nationalists. Korea suffered colonisation and then division. Southeast Asia welcomed as well as fought a rising Japan in Asia. India's experience was equally complex. Its emerging nationalist elite was divided in its response to

## Studying in the US: How the rules could change, and what students already in America should do now

On August 28, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a draft regulation that would abolish the "duration of status" (D/S) system, which has for nearly half a century allowed F-1 academic students and J-1 exchange visitors to remain in the US for as long as they were enrolled full-time, and were compliant with visa rules. The government has now proposed to impose a stay ceiling of four years, beyond which the student visa holder will have to apply to the DHS for an 'extension of stay' (EOS). There are more than a million international students in the US, a third of whom — more than 330,000 — are from India.

What is duration of status, and why does the DHS want to end it?

Currently, no expiry date is put on the I-94 records of students who are admitted to the US on F-1 visas. (Form I-94 is used by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to record the arrival and departure dates of people visiting the US.) Instead, their stay is marked as “D/S”, which means they can remain for as long as they are enrolled full-time. Compliance is overseen primarily by universities through Designated School Officials (DSOs), and reported to the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS), the student tracking system of the DHS. It has pointed to cases of students staying on for decades in the US, moving from one program to another, and sometimes enrolling in language schools after obtaining advanced degrees. In 2023, the suspected overstay rate among F-1 visa holders was estimated at 2.69%, a significant number given the very large number of F-1 and J-1 admissions to the US. F-1 admissions had risen from about 260,000 in 1980-81 to more than 1.6 million in 2023; J-1 exchange visitor admissions had grown 250% since the mid-1980s to cross half a million in 2023. These numbers “pose a challenge to the Department’s ability to monitor and oversee” such visa holders, according to officials. It is argued that assigning fixed end dates will allow the government to reassess compliance more regularly and reduce opportunities for abuse.

What specific changes have been proposed to the existing system?

\* Students can stay for up to four years or until the end date of their program, whichever is sooner.\* To stay longer — to complete a degree, pursue Optional Practical Training (OPT), or enroll for a PhD — they would have to apply for an EOS with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) under the DHS. This would involve filing Form I-539 (application to extend non-immigrant status), paying fees, providing financial evidence, and submitting their biometrics. DHS may also call applicants for an interview.\* The grace period after completing studies would be reduced from 60 days to 30 days.\* Transfers between schools would be restricted: undergraduate students will have to complete an academic year before moving to another school; graduate students will not be able to change programs mid-course.\* Students will not be allowed to start a new degree at the same or lower level while staying in F-1 status, which will effectively end the practice of doing a “second Master’s”.\* The duration of language study will be capped at 24 months.\*“Everybody’s going to start having an end date...., initially four years; if you need more time, you have to apply for an extension.” Houston-based immigration at-

the War, and it also suffered the division of the nation on religious lines. The Indian Army fought the Japanese in Burma and took the surrender of Japanese forces in Rangoon, Singapore, Jakarta, and Hanoi. Yet there was also the Indian National Army (INA), led by Subhas Chandra Bose and backed by Tokyo. For Bose, an alliance with Japan was a path to independence from Britain.

Bose's INA also underlines the complexity of the regional memory of Japanese imperialism. Japan styled itself as Asia's liberator from European colonialism. Its slogan, "Asia for Asians", had much resonance in the region. Nationalists in Burma, Indonesia, and Indochina initially welcomed Tokyo's promise of solidarity and support. Japan trained militias, weakened European colonial rulers, and briefly inspired hopes of independence. But the occupation soon revealed its brutal face — resource plunder, forced labour, and repression. For much of Asia, Japan became both the oppressor and midwife of decolonisation. If Indian and Chinese nationalists shared an anti-imperial sentiment, why did they not collaborate? The answer lies in the adversaries they faced. India's battle was against Britain, China's against Japan. Indian nationalism was deeply divided. Gandhi refused to back Britain's war effort, launching Quit India in 1942. Bose allied with Japan and raised the INA. The Indian communists, a powerful force then, initially dismissed the War as an "inter-imperialist" conflict. After Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union, they became staunch supporters of the anti-fascist war.

The Chinese nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek's 1942 visit to India and his meeting with Gandhi did little to bridge the gap. China, which found itself on the side of the victorious Allies, gained much in the post-War settlements and the permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Despite its massive contributions to the Allied victory, India got little to show for it after the War thanks to its internal divisions. Indian and Chinese nationalist movements failed to find solidarity at a critical juncture in the 20th century despite their shared sense of anti-imperialism. Since then, their repeated efforts to find common ground have been unsuccessful. That situation has not changed with an hour-long meeting between Modi and Xi in Tianjin on Monday. Modi's refusal to attend the Beijing parade underscores the deep divergence in how Delhi and Beijing interpret the past and envision Asia's future. South Asia is well represented at the parade, with Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan sending delegations. Pakistan's army chief, Asim Munir, who will be at the parade today, might well claim credit for the undivided Indian Army's contributions to victory in Asia — a historical irony that should not be lost on Delhi. When the PLA goose-steps across Tiananmen Square, Asia will be reminded of a war that deeply divided the region. The military spectacle in Beijing today may project unity, but the guest list reveals division. The real challenge for Asia is not simply to remember the past but to escape being trapped by it. For India, the challenge is more complex. World War II left Delhi struggling with the consequences of the geopolitical fragmentation of the Subcontinent and Partition. The Indian elite's misreading of the politics of that era proved costly. Today, the stakes are equally high. India risks repeating the error if it fails to grasp the dynamic interplay between Washington, Moscow, and Beijing and define a clear sense of its own interests. The writer is a distinguished professor at the Motwani-Jadeja Institute of American Studies, O P Jindal Global University, holds the Korea Foundation Chair on Asian Geopolitics at the Council on Strategic and Defence Research, and is contributing editor on international affairs for *The Indian Express*.



torney Chand Parvatheneni told The Indian Express. The change in the system will create a new layer of unpredictability, Parvatheneni said: "Until now, as long as the school was confirming someone was enrolled, USCIS did not get involved. Now USCIS could approve or deny. So for somebody spending a lot of money to study, there could be some uncertainty if it takes more than four years."

Who will be impacted the most if the rules change in this way?

Students in short Master's programs may not be directly affected, but anyone in a longer program or seeking work experience through OPT, will be impacted. A two-year Master's followed by three years of STEM OPT already exceeds the four-year cap. PhD programs, which often take 5-6 years, would almost certainly require one or more extensions. "What this means is at some point, many might have to apply for extension. Anybody who has a possibility of crossing four years has to understand that they do have to go back to USCIS and apply," Parvatheneni said. The elimination of the second Master's route closes a popular fallback option for Indians who miss out on an H-1B visa (meant for specialty occupations). "Previously, many people used to do a second Master's because they weren't getting through with the H-1B lottery. Now that option might be closed. One of the alternatives is probably looking at a PhD," Parvatheneni said.

## What happens to students who are already in the US?

The State Department and CBP will continue to admit students under the D/S system until a final rule is put in place. The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has informed universities that this is currently only a proposal, and students need not take any action at this time. “On the day this news came out..., people assumed the rules were final. I got a lot of messages.... We had to tell people this is just a draft, not a final rule,” Parvatheni said. If and when the rule is finalised, there will be transition provisions, DHS has indicated. Current students will be given fixed end dates based on their existing I-20s (certificate of eligibility for F-1 status issued by SEVP-certified schools), plus a one-time grace period. They would have to comply with the new framework thereafter.

### When could this proposed rule come into effect?

Stakeholders have until September 29 to submit comments on the proposal. Comments on paperwork and SEVIS changes are due by October 27. DHS must then review and respond to submissions before issuing a final rule. If the process moves forward, the changed rule could take effect in early or mid-2026.

# DGCA asks airlines to deploy more flights to keep festival season airfares in check; major carriers to add over 1,700 flights



The DGCA is mandated by MoCA to keep a watch on airfares, especially during the festival season, and take appropriate measures in case of a surge in prices. The DGCA is mandated by MoCA to keep a watch on airfares, especially during the festival season, and take appropriate measures in case of a surge in prices. In an effort to prevent a spike in airfares during the festival season, aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked airlines to deploy additional capacity to meet the demand surge, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said Sunday. Consequently, IndiGo, Air India, Air India Express, and SpiceJet would cumulatively add over 1,700 flights, the

carriers have informed the regulator.

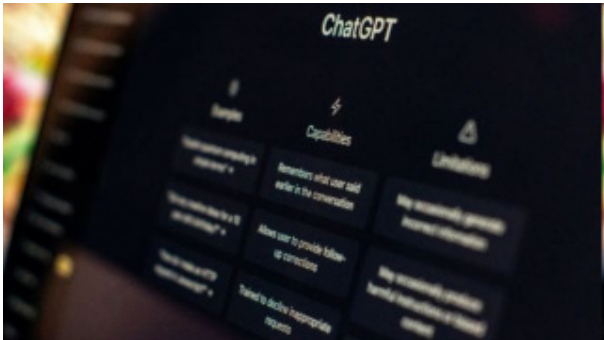
According to the ministry, the DGCA will “maintain rigorous oversight of airline fares and flight capacities to protect passengers’ interests during the festive season”. Amid high festival travel demand in autumn, particularly around Diwali, domestic airfares tend to see major spikes. Major routes to and from large metropolitan cities tend are usually see significant rush during the festival season as many head to their hometowns for Diwali festivities. The DGCA is mandated by MoCA to keep a watch on airfares, especially during the festival season, and take appropriate measures in case of a surge in prices. To be sure, airfares in India are deregulated and are market-driven. But the government and the DGCA, from time to time, hold deliberations with airlines to keep fares affordable during high-demand seasons and disruptions. “...the DGCA proactively took up the issue/matter with airlines and asked them to augment flight capacities for the festive season by deploying additional flights to meet high demand,” MoCA said in a release. In response, India’s largest airline IndiGo informed the regulator that it is adding around 730 additional flights across 42 sectors, while Tata group airlines Air India and Air India Express said that they will cumulatively add 486 additional flights across 20 sectors, according to MoCA. Budget carrier SpiceJet told DGCA that it would add 546 flights across 38 sectors.

# India’s computer services exports up 30% since ChatGPT’s release – World Bank

In April-August 2024, India’s goods trade deficit stood at \$121 billion, while the services trade surplus was lower at \$68 billion. In April-August 2024, India’s goods trade deficit stood at \$121 billion, while the services trade surplus was lower at \$68 billion. India’s export of computer services has increased by 30 per cent since artificial intelligence firm OpenAI launched ChatGPT in November 2022, according to Franziska Ohnsorge, World Bank’s Chief Economist for the South Asia Region. Speaking on the sidelines of the Fourth Kautilya Economic Conclave, organised by the Ministry of Finance and Institute of Economic Growth, Ohnsorge said India’s computer services sector was booming and its exports have particularly benefited from the release of ChatGPT.

As per latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India’s export of software services in the April-June quarter stood at \$47.32 billion, up 13 per cent year-on-year. In July-September 2022, the quarter before ChatGPT was made available to the public by OpenAI, India’s software services exports amounted to \$36.23 billion. On the whole, Ohnsorge thinks India is “well placed” to benefit from the advent of AI, with the services sector – especially the Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry – adopting it rapidly. “We look at millions of job postings and you can see that 12 per cent of job postings in the BPO sector since the release of ChatGPT require AI skills and that’s double of what it was before the release of ChatGPT. And this is triple what other sectors want. So, the BPO sector is really adopting AI and enthusiastically embracing it,” Ohnsorge said, pointing out that India ranked 46th in Oxford Insights’ Government AI Readiness Index, which was a much better position than other emerging markets and developing economies and almost at the level of advanced nations.

Export of services is crucial for India as the country enjoys a sizable surplus with the rest of the world as opposed to a deficit on the merchandise trade front. According to preliminary data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India had a goods trade deficit of \$122 billion in the first five months of 2025-26, or April-August. However, much of this was cancelled out by a services trade surplus of \$81 billion over the same period. In April-August 2024, India’s goods trade deficit stood at \$121 billion, while the services trade surplus was lower at \$68 billion. Ohnsorge said that while opportunities in AI will attract the private sector investments, that may not necessarily be enough to



move the headline numbers, with growth in overall private capital expenditure having slowed down since the coronavirus pandemic. “This is the opposite of what’s happening everywhere else in other emerging markets. And it is also the opposite of what has happened in public investment, where you see a real acceleration,” the World Bank’s economist said, although she added that even India’s weaker private investment growth rates were higher than those in other emerging markets and developing companies. “So, it is slow by Indian standards, but it is not slow by international standards.” However, what is slow by international standards is net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), which Ohnsorge said is “weak”. While gross FDI into India in July rose to a 50-month high of \$11.11 billion, net FDI was a lower \$5.05 billion, as per RBI data. Net FDI is calculated after adjusting for investments that are repatriated by foreign companies and overseas investments made by Indian companies. FDI is a key indicator of the health of the economy and the confidence foreign investors have in the country. Foreign inflows into India have picked up steam in recent months after a disappointing 2024-25 which saw net FDI inflow total just \$959 million even though gross inflows rose to \$80.62 billion. The precipitous fall in net FDI in 2024-25 from \$10.15 billion in 2023-24 came on the back of a sharp increase in overseas direct investments made by Indian companies and foreign companies cashing in on their past investments in India. In 2024-25, foreign firms took back \$51.49 billion to their home countries from India, up 16 per cent from 2023-24. Meanwhile, overseas FDI by Indian companies rose 69 per cent to \$28.17 billion. Both these factors contributed to the net FDI in the last fiscal being negligible.

# ‘India-EFTA deal strengthens rule of law amid growing global trade uncertainty’: Switzerland’s State Secretary for Economic Affairs

The trade deal between India and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries will strengthen the rule of law and help bring certainty for businesses amid increasing complicaBudiger added that US tariffs on India will not impact private companies’ investment commitment, since Swiss companies realise the importance of local presence in a large market such as India. India and EFTA — comprising Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein came into effect on October 1. Under the deal, EFTA nations committed to investments worth \$100 billion over a period of 15 years. Edited excerpts:

Both India and Switzerland are facing steep US tariffs. How can India and EFTA benefit from the deal amid an increasingly uncertain global trade environment?

The implementation of the (India-EFTA) deal on October 1 could not have come at a better time. It’s excellent news for our entrepreneurs, who are navigating an increasingly complex global environment. This complexity stems not only from bilateral tariff discussions with the United States, but also from the fact that Swiss companies operate manufacturing facilities around the world. As tariffs continue to shift, they face growing uncertainty and volatility. Moreover, the anticipated outcomes of the Section 232 investigations by the US Department of Commerce add yet another layer of complexity. So, having a Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), which strengthens the rule of law, is very important.

These steep 50 per cent tariffs on India are not just making access to American markets difficult, but also leading to investment uncertainty. How do you think these tariffs will impact planned investments by EFTA countries?

I’m not concerned about that. I believe we will see a wide range of relationships developing with India. First, we will have Swiss companies that will simply want to export their products to India. Others may aim to serve the Indian market more directly, perhaps not necessarily by manufacturing entire machines locally, but by providing services such as repair and maintenance. In fact, these services often generate significant added value, as they require training local people, ensuring long-term support. Finally, you’ll have those companies that will set up shop to serve the

region, to serve the continent, (and) to serve the world. My sense is that Swiss companies have understood the importance of being present in large markets. So we are the sixth largest FDI (source) in the US as well, and I believe that the investment now flowing into India is not primarily intended for re-export to the US. This is evident even in countries such as China, without implying any notion of decoupling. The same applies to the European Union: many of our members you know have at least one foot in the EU, they’re often present in the US, they’re present in China. I think what’s happening now — and we’ve had a bit of a late start with India because India is only now opening up really and encouraging FDI... before it was a rather closed market. I think there is great catch-up potential

We are seeing a number of other deals that have an investment portion, like between the US and the EU. For EFTA’s investment pledge to take shape, how are the bilateral investment treaty talks progressing?

I believe the increasing willingness of countries to consider investment pledges is a constructive way to help balance the dynamics between larger markets and smaller markets. Switzerland would therefore welcome the opportunity to re-establish a bilateral investment protection treaty. I would consider this a key element in ensuring the best possible framework for action. If you read the TEPA, the Swiss private sector committed \$100 billion investment and 1 million jobs. In turn, India committed to establishing optimal framework conditions for this investment to smoothly and quickly happen. I’m happy to hear that the signals coming from the Ministry of Finance are quite positive. We’ve been informed that they are working on a model text, which is very encouraging. It’s definitely something that we consider would be a key step now. Chinese curbs on critical minerals are a concern for India’s industry as it is for the West. Your thoughts on India-EFTA collaborations on the same? We conducted an independent assessment to assess Switzerland’s dependence on critical minerals, and the findings were mixed. The good news is that Switzerland often imports components, and that’s why we also abolished the industrial tariffs in 2024, because we noticed that actually, by not manufacturing 100 per cent in Switzerland, ..

# Hugging pandas for a living? Yes, it’s a real job in China



Pandas are undoubtedly adorable. Whether eating grass or rolling on the ground, they will help us break the monotony in the most fascinating way possible. Strangely, unlike in the wild, they are not very friendly among their peers when living in captivity, where there is minimal scope for stimulation. And often they are found in a solitary retreat. That is precisely why they need to be shown some love and care. Take, for instance, the case of China, where a research centre exclusively hires humans to cuddle pandas. The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Sichuan, China, delves deeper into pandas’ behavioural patterns and has human cuddlers to keep them cheerful. There is a formal process for hiring these panda cuddlers. For example, the applicants can’t be more than 22 years old. They should have good writing and photography skills and, most importantly, be familiar with the panda habitat.

# Are you planning on trying a monotrophic diet? Learn what it can do to your blood sugar levels

Several celebrities, including athletes and actors like Anushka Sharma, Virat Kohli, and Sunil Chhetri, are known to eat one type of food for months without getting bored. Known as the monotrophic diet, this eating pattern focuses on the idea that simplifying food combinations can ease the digestive process, allowing the body to break down and absorb nutrients efficiently. By eating just one food type, the digestive system isn’t overburdened with complex combinations, which can sometimes lead to bloating, indigestion, or other digestive discomfort. With the spotlight on blood sugar levels lately, we decided to find out what happens to the body if we go on a monotrophic diet, and the kind of impact it can have on our insulin levels.

Edwina Raj, Head of Services – Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore, explained that a monotrophic diet means eating only one food at a time or repeating the same food for all meals in a day. Its impact on blood sugar depends on the type of food chosen. “If the food is high in carbohydrates or sugar, like rice, potatoes, or sweet fruits, it can cause quick spikes in blood sugar levels. On the other hand, if the food is low in sugar and rich in fiber, like leafy greens or non-starchy vegetables, blood sugar rises more slowly,” she said.

Dr. Yashawant Kumar – Founder and CEO, Benefic Nutrition added that eating the same kind of food in a mono diet can lead to ketosis, aka a metabolic state that occurs when your body burns fat for energy instead of glucose. “A mono diet creates a dysfunctional and quite a scary relationship with blood sugar. Either it increases sugar spikes dangerously or risking it also you can drop the blood sugar very low,” he said. Instead of following a mono diet, he recommended making sure your diet is balanced diet combine micronutrients. Choose complex carbs for example offer whole grains, legumes, vegetables and simple sugars.

Can you follow this diet and curb insulin spikes?

If you want to follow a mono diet and reduce insulin spikes, opt for foods with a low glycemic index (GI). These are foods that release sugar into the blood more gradually.

# ‘What are you wearing?’: Saiyaara director Mohit Suri recalls Aneet Padda’s audition mishap; expert shares strategies to overcome setbacks

Mohit Suri picked newbies Aneet Padda and Ahaan Panday and put them under the spotlight with his latest release Saiyaara, and the hype has been unreal. While the lead actors were kept away from the limelight during promotions, the director had been sharing bits and pieces of information about them all along to keep us hooked. Talking to Instant Bollywood, Suri recalled Padda’s first audition for the film and how Panday helped turn things around.

“The first thing I said was, ‘What are you wearing?’ Aneet also came to meet me in my office, dressed up in something which was completely off my character, a yellow dress. That went disastrously bad when she met me. But it was Ahaan actually who was saving the scenario that day, and he was there with me when we met her and he tried to distract me. He was the one who told me, ‘Give her another chance, I’m telling you, she’s good,’ said the director. What changed? Suri shared that following Panday’s advice, he called Aneet up, and said, “‘You guys have a problem, thinking I like something — please come in what you think you are.’ She came in wearing a white shirt and jeans the next day, and I said, this is it, if you see the trailer, this is a jeans and kurta kind of a look, which is her lost and clumsy, and that’s what she is,” he revealed.

Like Padda, many face rejection at the workplace on a frequent basis, and have to pick themselves up again. Navigating rejection and failure can be hard, but the first step is to recognise that rejection is basically redirection. According to Dr Divya Shree K R, Consultant – Psychiatrist, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore, persistence is a mindset that allows you to show yourself, in your actions, that you are deserving of the position you want. “These psychological signals to yourself can be a buffer to the unpleasant emotions that come with rejection. After multiple rejections, one is susceptible to lowering their self esteem in the context of their professional life,” said. Aneet Padda and Ahaan Panday star in Saiyaara Aneet Padda and Ahaan Panday star in Saiyaara (Source: Instagram/ @aneetpadda\_)

How can you navigate rejection in a professional setting?

Dr Shree shared some key strategies to help you cope with professional setbacks and bounce back:

1. Acknowledge Your Feelings: It’s okay to feel hurt, angry, or disappointed. Bottling up emotions can hinder

Why human caretakers?

Because they sense a feeling of belongingness with them. Human cuddles remind them of their mothers’ warmth, who are famously affectionate with baby pandas. Most importantly, the relationship is based on food and sustenance. Pandas rely on humans not just for cuddles, warmth and love, but also for food. On the other hand, human caregivers happily apply for this job because of pandas’ neotenic traits, like big eyes or a childlike appearance.

And what are you supposed to do as a human cuddler?

Start by giving the pandas a fuzzy hug. Make them feel at home. Let them acknowledge your presence. And once they do, cuddle with them, hold their hands, take them for a walk, click a photo or two, and make sure they are active and alert.

How much do you earn as a human cuddler?

This year-round job helps human cuddlers earn up to USD 32,000 (INR 28,19,856 approximately) and has perks like accommodation, food, and even transportation. So, if you have a thing for pandas, stay prepared for this fun and slightly hectic job requiring you to spend hours caring for pandas. The unique service is a part of conservation efforts in China aiming to protect this vulnerable species and contribute to its regrowth. The panda population is declining, amid growing cases of forest fragmentation, poaching, and habitat destruction. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), “There are some 1,600 giant pandas in the wild, but the population is being threatened by habitat loss and deforestation.”



Whole fruits with fiber, vegetables, and legumes are better choices than refined or starchy foods. Drinking water, eating in smaller portions, and avoiding overeating also help control sugar swings. Pairing mono meals with some physical activity, like walking, can further balance blood sugar.

Is it safe for diabetics?

For people with diabetes, Raj said that following a strict monotrophic diet is generally not safe. It may cause sharp fluctuations in blood sugar, nutrient imbalances, and energy crashes. “Since diabetics need a mix of protein, healthy fats, fiber, and complex carbs to keep sugar steady, depending on one food can make management harder,” she said, adding that if a diabetic still wants to try a mono-style approach, it should only be under medical guidance, with close monitoring of sugar levels. A balanced diet is usually safer and more effective for long-term health. “It is completely unsafe if you, a type 2 diabetic, are not taking a doctor’s advice switching to a monotrophic diet by yourself,” said Kumar. For diabetics looking to enjoy sweet flavors without impacting blood sugar, look for a product which is a combination of monk fruit and erythritol. “Monk fruit is derived from a fruit it contains the compounds called mogrosides that provide sweetness but have no calories or no impact on blood sugar,” he recommended.



healing. Allow yourself to process your feelings in a healthy way, like journaling, talking to a trusted friend, or engaging in a creative outlet.

2. Reframe the Narrative: Don’t view rejection as a personal failure. Instead, see it as an opportunity to learn and grow. Maybe your skills need some honing, or perhaps the timing wasn’t right.

3. Analyse the Situation: If the opportunity allows, try to understand the reasons for rejection. Did they provide any feedback? This can be valuable information to help you improve for next time. However, avoid excessive self-criticism.

4. Focus on the Positive: Rejection doesn’t erase your strengths and accomplishments. Take a moment to appreciate your past successes, and remind yourself of your skills and value.

5. Learn and Adapt: Use the experience as a learning opportunity. Did you discover a new skill gap you need to address? Perhaps your approach needs some tweaking. Growth comes from adapting to challenges.

6. Build Resilience: Rejection can be tough, but it also helps build resilience. Each time you overcome a setback, you become better equipped to handle future challenges.

7. Celebrate Small Wins: Don’t get discouraged by aiming for giant leaps. Celebrate small victories along the way. This keeps you motivated and reminds you of your progress.

8. Keep Moving Forward: Don’t dwell on the rejection. Use it as motivation to keep striving towards your goals. There are many paths to success, so explore new opportunities and keep putting yourself out there.

## ‘Root to average 150 Down Under’: Steve Harmison backs Joe Root, says England will beat Australia 3-1



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

It is no surprise that when a touring England side will play Australia away from home, the spotlight will be on World No. 1 Test batter Joe Root, who has to carry the baggage of underperforming Down Under. Root, who is the second-highest run getter in Tests after the great Indian batter Sachin Tendulkar, is yet to score a century on Australian soil. Root, who boasts a stellar record against Australia at home and has four tons to his name against Australia in England, would be the linchpin in England's batting order, which plays an attacking brand of cricket. However, for Root, the second-

highest run-getter in Tests, Australia remains an unconquered territory. In 14 Tests, he has yet to win a game; he has yet to register a three-figure score. But former England fast-bowler Steve Harmison has picked his side and shown a lot of faith in Root's ability. "People have been telling me for two years that Joe Root is coming over to Australia to average 50. He's not. I think he's coming over to average 150. I really do," Harmison was quoted as saying by Fox Sports. Root is well on track to break Tendulkar's record for the highest runs in Test cricket and Harmison believes the 34-year-old's exploits in the upcoming Ashes would take him a lot closer to the legendary Indian batter's tally of 15,921 runs. "The way he is playing. The mindset he is in. You can have your mortgage on Joe Root scoring at least one hundred. It would not surprise me if he went past what Cook did in 2010-11." "England to beat Australia 3-1" Harmison also picked his winner, claiming England could beat this Australian side. "I am backing England, maybe like 3-1 to come to Australia and sledge Australia and Joe Root to have the best series he has had for a long time. I am that confident England will win," Harmison said. "Where Joe is at with his mentality and the fact that Cummins is out, I mean Joe is vulnerable the first 15 to 20 balls in Australian conditions, but after that he just keeps accumulating. England doesn't fear Australia. I don't think there's a fear in the world anymore, the way the young players go," he added.

## Abhishek Sharma, Smriti Mandhana crowned ICC's Players of the Month for September

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Indian left-handed batters Abhishek Sharma and Smriti Mandhana were adjudged the men's and women's Players of the month for September 2025, for their stellar showings with the bat. The former had an outstanding Asia Cup 2025, where he made 314 runs in seven matches at a strike rate of 200. Those exploits helped him win the Player of the tournament award at the continental event, where India beat Pakistan by five wickets in the final at Dubai. "It feels great to win this ICC award and I am happy that it has come for some important matches that I could help win. I am proud to be part of a team that can pull off victories from the most difficult of situations. Our recent track record in T20Is reflects our outstanding team culture and positive mindset.

"I thank the team management for their guidance and to all my teammates for their support. I am also thankful to the panel that selected me for this award," the 25-year-old was quoted as saying by the ICC. India's Smriti Mandhana celebrates after scoring fifty runs during the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup match between India and Australia at ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium in Visakhapatnam, India, Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025. (AP Photo/Aijaz Rahi) India's Smriti Mandhana celebrates after scoring fifty against Australia. (AP) Sharma was up against his India team-mate Kuldeep Yadav and Zimbabwe's Brian Bennett, who also put out excellent performances in September. Indian women's team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana was adjudged the women's Player of the month for September. The 29-year-old made two centuries against Australia in New Chandigarh and New



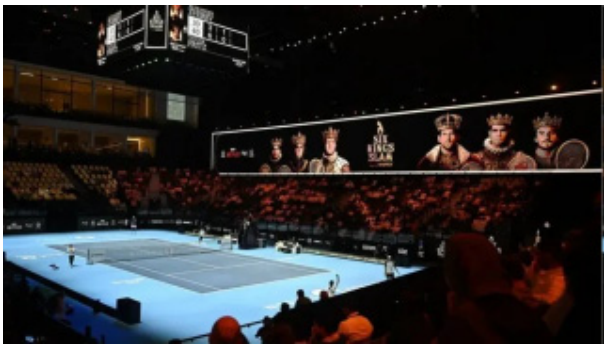
Delhi, respectively. The first of those – 117 off 91 balls – helped India reach 292 all out, which proved too good for Australia, who lost by 102 runs. The second of those – 125 off 63 balls – set a blazing foundation in India's mammoth chase of 413 runs at Delhi. The southpaw was at her imperious best in that innings, and her dismissal in the 22nd over proved decisive as the hosts eventually lost by 43 runs. "I am truly honoured to receive the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for September 2025. A recognition like this pushes me to keep growing and evolving as a player. The recognition also reflects the support, trust, and effort we put in together collectively as a team. My aim has always been to deliver my best and win matches for the team. I am looking forward to making the most out of the opportunities that result in memorable victories for India in the matches ahead," Mandhana was quoted as saying by the ICC.

## ‘Just having fun’: Carlos Alcaraz defends playing multimillion dollar exhibition event in Saudi Arabia after pulling out of tour event citing injury

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

General view during the quarter final match between Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas and Italy's Jannik Sinner. (Photo: Reuters) General view during the quarter final match between Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas and Italy's Jannik Sinner. (Photo: Reuters) The top tennis players in the world often complain about the hectic year-round calendar that takes a heavy physical and mental toll on them. But when some of them turn up for a lucrative exhibition event, promising more than the prize money for winning a Grand Slam for a little fraction of the exertion, after pulling out of a big regular Tour event citing injury, criticism is inevitable.

World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz finds himself at the receiving end for headlining the Six Kings Slam, where the Spaniard will headline a field of half a dozen marquee names, which also include Jannik Sinner, Novak Djokovic, Alexander Zverev, Taylor Fritz and Stefanos Tsitsipas. There is a reported \$4.5m on offer, with some players also likely to have been paid seven-figure sums as appearance fees. The winner could take home up to \$6m, according to BBC Sport. In comparison, the US Open champion gets \$5m, the highest purse among the four Grand Slams. Alcaraz has teed up for the ongoing event in Riyadh after pulling out of last week's Shanghai Masters 1000 citing an ankle injury. But he said the four-day event doesn't put as much strain on the mind and body as regular events that sometimes go on for two weeks or longer. "It's a different format, different situation playing exhibitions than the official tournaments, 15, 16 days in a row, having such a high focus and demanding physically," the six-time Grand Slam champion, who won the French Open and US Open



this year, said. "I don't feel 100 percent – the doubts are there when I'm moving on court, but it has improved a lot and I'm going to compete and perform well."

Alcaraz would play no more than two matches in the tournament, having received a bye into the semifinals. For the 22-year-old from El Palmar, the exhibition event was just an opportunity to have a good time on the court while also having a big payday. "We're just having fun for one or two days and playing some tennis, and that's great, and why we choose the exhibitions," he said. "I understand [the criticism], but sometimes people don't understand us, our opinions. It's not really demanding mentally [compared with] when we're having such long events like two weeks or two and a half weeks," Alcaraz was quoted as saying by BBC Sport. It is the second time the Six Kings Slam is taking place, with Sinner beating Alcaraz in last year's final, but it's unlikely that if they meet in Riyadh, the clash would occupy too high a place in their catalogue of epic rivalry.

## BKT named Title Sponsor for Australia-India Men's ODI and T20 International Series

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Mumbai: Balkrishna Industries Ltd. (BKT), a global leader in the off highway tyre industry, will be Cricket Australia's (CA) naming rights partner of the hugely anticipated Men's One Day International and T20 International series against India starting next month. The marquee matches between Australia and India will be titled the BKT Tyres Men's ODI Series and the BKT Tyres Men's T20 International Series. The three-match BKT ODI series will commence in Perth on October 19 and the five-match BKT T20I series begins in Canberra on October 29, with the eight matches providing one of the most anticipated white ball showdowns on the year. Cricket Australia's leadership is visiting India this month as Australia competes in the ICC Women's World Cup and to engage with key stakeholders, who support CA, highlighting the significance of this partnership and the growing ties between the two countries through sport. The partnership strengthens BKT's longstanding association with cricket and reflects its continued commitment to advancing the sport globally, guided



by its 'Growing Together' philosophy, which fosters long-term value through collaboration and community impact. BKT's journey in sports keeps expanding from cricket to football, from rugby to off-road motorsports. Each discipline is an opportunity to share energy, passion, and the philosophy that drives the company every day — Growing Together.

## Noman's 10-for, Afridi's reverse swing give Pakistan famous win over South Africa



GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Lahore: Pakistan's spin duo Noman Ali and Sajid Khan did the heavy lifting before Shaheen Shah Afridi applied the finishing touches, as the hosts wrapped up a 93-run victory over World Test Championship (WTC) winner South Africa on Day 4 of the first Test at the Gaddafi Stadium on Wednesday. The win gave Pakistan a 1-0 lead in the two-Test series, while ending South Africa's record 10-match winning streak, their longest in Test cricket history.

Defending a target of 276, Pakistan tightened the screws on a pitch that had become increasingly treacherous for batting. No team had ever chased such a total at the Gaddafi Stadium, and Pakistan's spinners ensured it remained that way. Noman Ali, with subtle variations and unrelenting accuracy, picked up his third 10-wicket haul in Tests, while Afridi's reverse-swing burst finished off the resistance. South Africa's hopes had briefly flickered through Dewald Brevis and Ryan Rickelton, who battled in contrasting styles. Brevis counterattacked with a brisk 54 off 54

balls, striking six fours and two sixes — one a no-look hit over long-on to bring up his fifty. Rickelton, in contrast, dug in for a gritty 45 off 145 balls, anchoring the innings. But both fell before lunch — Brevis bowled by Noman with a sharp-turning delivery, and Rickelton edging Sajid Khan to slip. South Africa, needing another 139 at the break with four wickets left, had already lost momentum. Soon after lunch, Senuran Muthusamy was trapped lbw by Noman, and Pakistan's spinners continued to frustrate the visitors. Though Kyle Verreynne and Simon Harmer managed to take South Africa past Pakistan's second-innings score — the first such instance on these increasingly dry, spin-friendly surfaces — a comeback never looked likely.

The turning point came when Afridi, relatively quiet for much of the Test, was brought back with the old ball from around the wicket. He immediately found reverse swing, pinning Verreynne lbw with a searing inswinger. With rhythm and control back, Afridi rattled the tail — clean bowling Prenelan Subrayen and Kagiso Rabada with fast, full deliveries. Earlier in the day, South Africa had resumed at 51/2 but quickly slumped to 55/4. Tony de Zorzi was bowled by Afridi's third ball of the morning, while Tristan Stubbs fell attempting a reverse sweep off Noman — well caught at slip by Salman Agha, who claimed his fifth catch of the match. Ultimately, Pakistan had laid the foundation with a strong first innings on Day 1. South Africa spent the rest of the match chasing the game. On a crumbling surface, Pakistan's spin-led approach was simply too much to overcome. Brief scores: Pakistan 378 & 167 all out in 46.1 overs (Babar Azam 42, Abdullah Shafique 41; Senuran Muthusamy 5-57, Simon Harmer 4-51) South Africa 269 & 183 all out in 50.3 overs (Dewald Brevis 54, Ryan Rickelton 45; Shaheen Afridi 4-33, Noman Ali 4-79)

## Varun Chakaravarthy reveals the toughest batters he's bowled to in his career

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Indian spinner Varun Chakaravarthy has named Chris Gayle, Virat Kohli, and, more recently, Abhishek Sharma as the toughest batters he's bowled to. The 34-year-old said that the last of the three batters should be told to play aggressively only for India and not for his franchise, Sunrisers Hyderabad. The 25-year-old southpaw has been in red-hot form in the shortest format of the game and was adjudged the Player of the tournament at the 2025 Asia Cup for his batting exploits.

"Chris Gayle, Virat, and, of late, Abhishek Sharma. You should tell Abhishek next time to try to be soft on the bowlers. Let him bat like this for India, not for SRH," Chakaravarthy said on "Breakfast with Champions". Chakaravarthy also revealed how he was a follower of chess and admitted that while things were going well for him, at present, he still had some work to do to be as good as the likes of Sunil Narine and Rashid Khan. "I follow chess now. When Gukesh won the championship, he told I might be the World Champion right now, but everyone knows Magnus Carlsen is the number one player. So I might be ranked number one, but the number one is always Jasprit Bumrah. There are Sunil Narine, Rashid Khan. I am doing well, but still some time to go before I can reach



that stage," he said.

The spinner said that, as compared to some of his other team-mates, he was more of an introvert and took time to write and visualize at the end of practice sessions. "I've always been an introvert. I'm not like Arshdeep or Nayar who are outspoken and can crack jokes. I have a slightly dark humor. After practice I go to my room, to stay away from cricket I keep writing. I love writing. It brings out what's within me outside and helps me visualize. By the end I totally forget that I was a cricketer and I have a match to play the next day

## ‘I went ahead with it’: Varun Chakaravarthy on why he slept with a coffee mug next to him after winning 2025 Asia Cup

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Indian spinner Varun Chakaravarthy has said that he was sure about the Men in Blue winning the 2025 Asia Cup as early as the second match of the tournament. The 34-year-old said that he was also sure about beating Pakistan if they reached the final. The Suryakumar Yadav-led side beat Pakistan by five wickets in a thrilling final in Dubai to win the tournament for a second time in a row after winning the 50-over edition in 2023. "I knew that we were going to win. By the time we won the second match, I knew that if we met them in the finals, we were going to win," Chakaravarthy said on "Breakfast with Champions".

The spinner also revealed how he had planned to sleep with the trophy and take a photo with the cup next to him. However, since the team did not get the trophy after the final, he eventually slept with a coffee mug next to him. "So I had planned everything. I had planned that I will sleep and take a photo with the cup next to me. But after the match, there was nothing next to me. There was just a coffee cup, so I went ahead with it," he said. The 2025 Asia Cup ended in controversial circumstances after the Men in Blue did



not take the trophy from the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) President Mohsin Naqvi and celebrated on the podium without the cup in hand. Chakaravarthy added that it did not matter that India did not get the trophy, for it did not take away the fact that they had won the tournament. "I knew that we would win all games. We are the number one team in the World. The Cup can be taken away but we are champions," he said.

## ‘Virat Kohli was like a cat on hot tin roof’: Ravi Shastri says former India captain meant bad news for ‘lazy buggers’ in team

GNS News Agency, Oct 17

Recounting an incident from the 2018 tour of South Africa, Shastri also hailed Virat Kohli's work ethic as the best he had ever seen in the game. (BCCI) Recounting an incident from the 2018 tour of South Africa, Shastri also hailed Virat Kohli's work ethic as the best he had ever seen in the game. (BCCI) Virat Kohli's frenetic energies may not always have the desired results, as former India head coach Ravi Shastri recalled how he occasionally had to ask the Delhi batter to calm down while waiting his turn to bat. "At times, I had to calm him (Kohli) down. If a wicket went, he would jump out of his seat. I would say, 'Calm down man, let him (dismissed batter) cross halfway, don't meet him when he's just 10 yards away from the stumps. Let him come near the boundary line, then cross him'. He was like a cat on a hot tin roof ready to pounce out there. That's Virat for you," remarked Shastri on the LiSTNR podcast.

"Get to the bloody gym..." Kohli and Shastri, as captain and coach, formed a crucial partnership in Indian cricket in the previous decade, where the emphasis on fitness was elevated to new standards. Shastri recounted how running with Kohli in the middle meant bad news for his sluggish teammates. "It did because he would show them up otherwise. When you are running between the wickets, if you



are a lazy bugger, you'll soon find out. He'll be completing two runs and you'll be trying to finish the second and he'll be looking for the third while you've not even finished your second run. Immediately, the message then is, 'Get to that bloody gym and start training and get fitter'."

Recounting an incident from the 2018 tour of South Africa, Shastri also hailed Kohli's work ethic as the best he had ever seen in the game. "It was unreal, his work ethics were special. I've never seen anyone like that. Forget the gym,

# Rajat Bedi recalls losing his father at 9; says no one from film industry supported family except Prakash Mehra: ‘A very unforgiving industry’



The Ba\*\*\*\*s of Bollywood actor Rajat Bedi recently claimed that no film industry insiders looked back at him and his family following the untimely demise of his father, director Narendra Bedi. Actor Rajat Bedi was most recently seen in Aryan Khan's The Ba\*\*\*\*s of Bollywood. Despite making appearances in notable roles in a slew of films in the 2000s, Rajat Bedi never managed to rise to prominence, secure bigger parts, or become a star who cannot be ignored. By the middle of that decade, opportunities dried up for him, and he went without work for years. Eventually, he bid adieu to cinema and moved to Canada to find a new livelihood. However, Rajat returned to India recently and appeared in a few regional films before catching the eyes of audiences yet again with his performance in Aryan Khan's

The Ba\*\*\*\*s of Bollywood.

Rajat Bedi's career is, in a way, a testament that nepotism doesn't work the same way for all the star kids. Despite being the son of director-producer Narendra Bedi and the grandson of legendary writer-director Rajinder Singh Bedi, Rajat found little success in cinema for most parts of his career. During a recent interview, he revealed that no industry insiders even looked back at him and his family following the untimely demise of his father. "I was nine years old when I lost my father. He was 45. I remember vividly that no one from the industry looked back at us, except for director Prakash Mehra and his family. For about six months to a year after Papa's death, Prakash-ji sent money to our house, telling my mother, 'Bhabhi, don't worry.' My mother has been a housewife her entire life. She hasn't done anything besides bringing three children up on her own. Besides Prakash-ji, no one else looked back. It's a very unforgiving industry," he shared during a conversation with Siddharth Kannan.

Rajat Bedi further revealed that his grandfather also passed away two years later. "After that, we were out of the industry until I wanted to start working. One day, Mom asked me what I wanted to do. I was lost. She asked me to assist Ramesh Sippy. She went and spoke to him, and he agreed immediately. I was 18 when I joined him and worked on the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Zamaana Deewana with him. I was pretty close with SRK at that time, and we worked together for about two and a half years during the production of Zamaana Deewana. He used to call me 'Tiger' because I was this aggressive guy, and also because there were two Rajats on set." Recalling Shah Rukh Khan's sweet gesture during a private screening of The Ba\*\*\*\*s of Bollywood's trailer, he said, "I remember going to his house for the preview. It was an extended trailer, so he had invited some close people. Before the screening, he made a little speech about the show. He spoke about me as well, mentioning, 'And Tiger is also a part of this.' I was (stunned) that he still remembered that name. He doesn't forget anything."

# Chiranjeevi, Jackie Shroff, Venkatesh and Suhasini slip into tiger-print outfits for 80s stars reunion: ‘Just being together is happiness’

After a pause that, unfortunately, lasted a few years, a group of actors from the 1980s came together for yet another reunion just a few days ago, enjoying a day filled with joy, love and laughter. This year's reunion reportedly took place at the residence of actor couple Rajkumar Sethupathy and Sripriya in Chennai.

The generation of Indian actors who began their journeys in the 1980s and essentially grew up together in the industry continue to share a warm bond and often reunite to celebrate their friendship and mutual affection. These get-togethers have become a regular tradition over the past decade, with some of the biggest names in Indian cinema in attendance. After a pause that, unfortunately, lasted a few years, many of them came together for yet another reunion just a few days ago, enjoying a day filled with joy, love and laughter. A few of them also shared photos from the occasion, offering glimpses of their celebrations. Among the attendees were Chiranjeevi, Venkatesh Daggubati, Jackie Shroff, Shobana, Revathy, Ramya Krishnan, Suhasini Maniratnam, Jayaram, Prabhu, R Sarath Kumar, Meena, Radha, Kushboo, Rahman, Lissy Lakshmi, Nadhiya, Bhagyaraj, Poornima Bhagyaraj, and Parvathy Jayaram, among others.

"Every reunion with my beloved friends from the 80s is a walk down memory lane, filled with laughter, warmth, and the same unbreakable bond we've shared for decades.?? So many beautiful memories, and yet every meet feels as fresh as the first," Telugu megastar Chiranjeevi shared on social media, along with pictures from the occasion. Going by the photos, the dress code for this year's



party was tiger and leopard-print clothes. Actor-filmmaker Revathy also shared a few pictures and wrote, "An evening meeting friends we otherwise hardly meet... people we have worked with... the only group that meets over 12 years... thanks to Lissy, Hasini, Poomima, Rajkumar and Khushbu who tirelessly work towards an evening where just being together is happiness... Class of 80s ROCK!!!" This year's reunion reportedly took place at the residence of actor couple Rajkumar Sethupathy and Sripriya in Chennai, and was attended by as many as 31 stars from the Telugu, Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, and Hindi industries. The last get-together was hosted by Jackie Shroff at his home in Mumbai in 2022.

# Mithun Chakraborty and Shilpa Shetty groove to iconic song on Super Dancer Chapter 5; veteran star celebrates 50 years in the industry.



Sony TV is all set to air a special episode of the dance-based reality show Super Dancer Chapter 5, celebrating veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty's 50 years in the film industry. A promo for the upcoming episode shows the legendary star setting the stage ablaze with his spirited dance moves. Judge Shilpa Shetty even joins him to groove on his iconic track "I Am A Disco Dancer."

In a new promo of Super Dancer Chapter 5, Mithun is seen singing "I Am A Disco Dancer" and matching steps with Shilpa. Everyone on the set, including judges Geeta Kapoor and Marzi Pestonji, were seen cheering for them in the clip. Sharing the teaser on their official Instagram account, Sony TV wrote, "Can't wait for this amazing dance of Mithun Da and Shilpa. Dekhiye #SuperDancerChapter5 aaj raat 8 baje, sirf #SonyEntertainmentTelevision par aur SonyLIV par." All the contestants of Super Dancer Chapter 5 paid tribute to Mithun Chakraborty by performing to his popular songs. In fact, one of the Super Dancer contes-

stants even channeled Mithun Da, perfectly recreating his look. In another teaser, the veteran actor is seen dancing on stage with young contestant Aadhyasree, who has been winning the hearts of judges and audiences alike with her outstanding performances each week.

# Triptii Dimri relives magic of ‘Bulbul’ with a sprinkle of nostalgia

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Triptii Dimri, who enchanted audiences with her hauntingly beautiful performance in the 2020 period horror-mystery Bulbul, took a stroll down memory lane as she rewatched the film. Taking to her Instagram stories, Triptii shared a picture of her television screen with Bulbul playing on it. "It's that kind of night... Me, Bulbul, and a little nostalgia," Triptii wrote as the caption. She then posted a picture of the moon and wrote: "The after effects of watching Bulbul." Bulbul also stars Avinash Tiwary, Paoli Dam, Rahul Bose, and Parambrata Chattopadhyay. Set against the backdrop of the 1880s Bengal Presidency, the film revolves around a child bride and her journey from innocence to strength. It follows a young woman who grows into an enigmatic figure ruling her household, hiding her painful past as supernatural murders of men plague her village. Triptii had her first lead role in the romantic drama Laila Majnu (2018) but gained critical recognition for her performances in Anvita Dutt's Bulbul and Qala. She later rose to mainstream fame with supporting roles in top-grossing action films such as Animal, Bad Newz.

# Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone return to Mumbai together, share a quick hug before leaving airport.



After being spotted together after a long time while leaving Mumbai, Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone were once again photographed by the paparazzi as they returned to the city on Saturday evening. Viral videos show Ranbir and Deepika hugging before heading towards their respective cars at the airport. The clips show Deepika looking radiant in a white salwar suit, while

Ranbir opted for a white T-shirt, brown jacket, and black denims. Ranbir and Deepika were clicked coming out of the airport together. They exited the airport terminal together after returning from Delhi. They were seen giving a quick hug to each other before walking towards their cars.

Fans couldn't help but gush about seeing Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone together after a long time. A fan wrote, "They look the best tbh with each other??" Another comment read, "They have unbelievable chemistry I love them together."

While it was not clear why Deepika traveled to Delhi, Ranbir was in the city to open an outlet of his brand Arks. At the event, the Barfi actor opened up about his dreams and said, "Launching a lifestyle brand was my dream, and I have finally fulfilled it. I also have a dream to direct a film. Maybe someday I'll direct a film." On Saturday morning, Ranbir Kapoor was seen entering the Mumbai airport to catch a flight to Delhi. He spotted Deepika Padukone, who waved at him from an airport shuttle. Though she was already seated inside, Deepika stopped the shuttle and invited Ranbir to join her, and the two rode together to their terminal. For the unversed, Ranbir Kapoor and Deepika Padukone were in a relationship for almost two years after they starred together in the film Bachna Ae Haseeno. They parted ways in 2010. Deepika went on to marry Ranveer Singh in 2019 and welcomed their daughter, Dua, last year. Ranbir, on the other hand, tied the knot with actor Alia Bhatt in 2022. They had their daughter Raha the same year. On the work front, Ranbir will next be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love And War. He also has Nitesh Tiwari's Ramayana in the pipeline. Deepika, on the other hand, will be seen with Shah Rukh Khan in The King.

# Arbaaz Khan becomes father for the second time after 22 years as he welcomes first child with wife Sshura

Arbaaz Khan and his wife Sshura have welcomed their first child — a baby girl — on Sunday. Sshura was admitted to the hospital recently, days after the family hosted an intimate baby shower attended by close friends and relatives including actor Salman Khan and Arhaan Khan. This marks Arbaaz Khan's second time embracing fatherhood. He already has a 22-year-old son, Arhaan Khan, from his previous marriage to actress Malaika Arora.

On Sunday, members of the Khan family were clicked outside PD Hinduja Hospital where Sshura has given birth to her daughter. Arbaaz's brother Sohail Khan and son Arhaan were spotted at the hospital on Sunday. Take a look:

Arbaaz Khan and Sshura, who tied the knot in December 2023, had kept the pregnancy under wraps, never making an official announcement. However, their frequent public outings and regular visits to the clinic had sparked speculation, especially after Sshura was spotted sporting a baby bump. In a previous interview with Bombay Times, Arbaaz had opened up about becoming a father again at the age of 58. He admitted feeling a mix of excitement and nervousness. "It is giving me a new sense of happiness and responsibility," he said. Arbaaz Khan was previously



married to Malaika Arora. The couple tied the knot in 1998 and welcomed their son Arhaan in 2002. After nearly two decades of marriage, they filed for divorce in 2017. Following the separation, Arbaaz was in a long-term relationship with Giorgia Andriani before parting ways in 2023. Later that year, he surprised many by tying the knot with Sshura. She is a professional makeup artist.

# Ravi K Chandran reveals he had a ‘Sridevi room’ in college; recalls her reaction upon learning about it: ‘I once stole her cut-out from a theatre’



In an exclusive interview, legendary cinematographer Ravi K Chandran opened up about his lifelong admiration for Sridevi and revealed her reaction when he told her about having a "Sridevi room" during his college years.

In an exclusive interview, legendary cinematographer Ravi K Chandran opened up about his lifelong admiration for Sridevi and revealed her reaction when he told her about having a "Sridevi room" during his college years. Ravi K Chandran, unfortunately, never got to collaborate with Sridevi. (Credit: Ravi; Express Archives) Although it's been over seven years since Sridevi passed away, the indelible mark she left on Indian cinema remains as bright as ever. Widely regarded as the country's "first female superstar," Sridevi worked in several languages throughout a career spanning nearly five decades that began as a child artiste. Known for her versatility and the effortless manner in which she could handle both intense emotions and humour on screen, she remains beloved to audiences and some of the film industry's biggest names to date.

Legendary cinematographer-turned-director Ravi K Chandran, too, is an ardent fan of Sridevi. He adored her so much that he used to cut out pictures of her from newspapers, film magazines, and movie posters to paste on the walls of his college hostel room. In an exclusive interview with SCREEN, Ravi opened up about his lifelong admiration for the veteran actor. He also revealed Sridevi's reac-

tion when he told her about having a "Sridevi room" during his college years.

"When we were in college, I stole one cut-out of Sridevi, wherein she was featured standing, from a theatre and brought it to my room, which became the 'Sridevi room'. The walls were filled with her pictures. Any time her image appeared in the newspapers, I would snip it out and paste it on the wall. Whenever someone wanted to see her or offer prayers, they came to my room. During exam seasons, we advised each other, 'Macha, come and take ashirwad from Sridevi,'" he recalled. Despite rising to prominence in Bollywood, Ravi K Chandran mentioned that he never got the chance to meet his matinee idol for the longest time. He finally chanced upon her quite coincidentally, thanks to her brother-in-law and frequent collaborator Anil Kapoor. He reminisced, "One day, I went to meet director Rajkumar Santoshi for a story narration. Afterwards, he suggested catching a night show of The Hangover, and I agreed. He also invited Anil, who lived nearby. Since his driver was unavailable, Anil came with us, and we all sat in my car. Meanwhile, he said, 'Let me call Sri also.' But I didn't realise who he was referring to at the time. He gave directions to my driver, and I thought we were picking somebody else. Upon reaching there, Sridevi walked in! They asked me to sit in the centre of the back seat, with Anil on one side and Sridevi on the other. Suddenly, I felt like my heart stopped: my screen idol was sitting next to me!" Ravi continued gushing, "I was speechless. She sat next to me in the theatre as well, and I couldn't help but keep looking at her. Then I told her, 'Do you know, ma'am, I once stole your cut-out and kept it in my hostel room?' I can't believe this moment now." She replied, "What are you saying, sir? I have seen all your films." I immediately said, "Please don't call me sir. I can't handle it. I'm a big fan of yours, and I can't believe this moment is real." That was one of the highest moments of my life. Unfortunately, Ravi K Chandran never got to collaborate with his idol. Sridevi passed away in an accidental drowning incident in Dubai on February 24, 2018, at the age of 54. The Bollywood legend is survived by her husband, Boney Kapoor, and daughters Janhvi and Khushi Kapoor. Renowned for his work in movies like Virasat, Kannezhuthi Pottum Thottu, Kandukondain Kandukondain, Dil Chahta Hai, Kannathil Muthamittal, Aayutha Ezhuthu, Black, Paheli, Saawariya, Ghajini, My Name Is Khan,