

Gyms in Hyderabad caught selling banned drugs for bodybuilding

Hyderabad: The Drugs Control Administration, Telangana (TGDC), conducted a series of surprise inspections across several gyms in Hyderabad and detected multiple instances of illegal stocking and sale of anabolic-androgenic steroids and cardiac stimulants such as Mephentermine Sulphate injections for abuse in bodybuilding. The DCA conducted surprise inspections at 20 gyms across the city, located in Secunderabad, Mehdiapattanam, Tolichowki, Malakpet, Punjagutta, Narsingi, Banjara Hills, Jubilee Hills, Madhapur, Kothapet, Kukatpally, and Suraram, in coordination with local police authorities on Friday.

25 Hyderabad passengers were on Kurnool bus that caught fire while heading to Bengaluru



GNS News Agency, Oct 24
Hyderabad: Around 25 passengers had boarded

PM and President lead condolences for victims of Kurnool bus fire

Hyderabad: Expressing grief at the horrific bus fire accident at Kurnool in the early hours of Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh to the next of kin of each deceased. “Extremely saddened by the loss of lives due to a mishap in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. My thoughts are with the affected people and their families during this difficult time. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. An ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000,” the PM posted on X. Meanwhile, President Droupadi Murmu posted on X: “The loss of lives in a tragic bus fire accident in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh is deeply unfortunate. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured.”

The Vice-President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan, and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu also expressed similar sentiments of shock and offered support to the families. Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock at the unfortunate development. “I am shocked to learn about the devastating bus fire accident near Chinna Tekur village in Kurnool district. My heartfelt condolences go out to the families of those who have lost their loved ones. Government authorities will extend all possible support to the injured and

CM Chandrababu orders comprehensive probe into Kurnool bus tragedy

Kurnool: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu conducted a video conference on Thursday to review the tragic bus accident that occurred in Kurnool district. Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy and senior officials participated in the meeting. The Chief Minister directed officials to conduct a thorough investigation in coordination with transport ministers and officials from neighbouring states. He instructed authorities to identify the deceased, provide immediate financial assistance to their families, and ensure the best possible medical care for the injured.

Emphasising public safety as the government’s top priority, the Chief Minister ordered stringent inspections of all private travel buses across the state, including verification of vehicle fitness, safety, and permit documents. He made it clear that any negligence found to have caused the accident would invite severe action. Instructions were also issued to the transport department to carry out technical inspections of buses in all districts to prevent such incidents in the future. Transport Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy, who is personally monitoring the situation at the accident site, stated that the government is committed to

Three techies, children among victims of Kurnool bus blaze



GNS News Agency, Oct 24
Hyderabad: The ghastly bus fire tragedy in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh claimed many young lives, leaving shattered families across several states. Among the 19 passengers tragically burned alive were three young pro-

fessionals employed with IT companies in Bengaluru. They were travelling on the ill-fated V Kaveri Travels bus, heading to Bengaluru from Hyderabad. The victims include Anusha Reddy (22) and Chandana (23) of Telangana, and Gannamaneni Dhatri (27) of Andhra Pradesh. Gannamaneni Dhatri, hailing from Pusapadu in the Bapatla district of Andhra Pradesh, had been visiting her uncle in Hyderabad and boarded the bus at JNTU on Thursday night. As the fire started under the front portion of the bus, most of those occupying the front seats, including Dhatri, could not escape. Anusha Reddy, from Vastakondur in the Gundala mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, boarded the bus at Lakdi-ka-pul. She was returning to Bengaluru after celebrating Diwali at her native place. Another techie, Chandana, who hailed from Medak district and her mother, Sandhya Rani (43), also perished in the disaster. Chandana was working as a software engineer in Bengaluru and Sandhya Rani was scheduled to leave for Muscat from Bengaluru to join her husband, who works there.



affected families”. Expressing shock at the development, Chief Minister, Telangana, A Revanth Reddy said he was deeply shocked at the development. The Chief Minister on X informed that he has directed senior officials from Telangana to coordinate with their counterparts in Andhra Pradesh in extending relief works. BRS working president, K T Rama Rao also extended his condolences over the Kurnool fire incident and said, “The tragic accident of a private travel bus going from Hyderabad to Bengaluru, in which more than 20 people died, is deeply shocking. I pray for the peace of the souls of the deceased. I extend my deepest condolences to their family members.”



providing swift financial aid to the victims’ families and ensuring quality treatment for the injured. He reiterated that there would be no compromise on the safety of the people of Andhra Pradesh. According to official reports, 24 passengers managed to escape safely from the ill-fated bus. Nineteen bodies have been identified so far. Twelve injured persons were admitted to the Kurnool Government General Hospital, of whom six have been discharged, while the remaining six continue to receive treatment.

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Private travel buses under strict inspection in Hyderabad following Kurnool tragedy

Hyderabad: Following the horrific bus accident in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, the Hyderabad Traffic Police along with Transport Department officials stepped up inspections across the city on Friday.

Special drives were intensified in areas such as Ameerpet and SR Nagar, where several private travel buses were thoroughly checked. Officials verified vehicle fitness certificates, insurance papers, and other permits. Buses found operating without valid documents were seized on the spot.

Kurnool Bus Tragedy: Telangana Govt sets up helpline in Hyderabad



GNS News Agency, Oct 24
HYDERABAD: The State Government has set up a helpline for providing assistance to the family members of Hyderabad-Bengaluru bus fire mishap at Kurnool district on Friday early morning in which atleast 12 passengers are dead as per the latest reports. The family members of the passengers can contact Assistant Secretary M Ramachandra over phone number 99129-19545 and Section Officer E Chitti Babu over 94408-54433. The Director, Protocol Department has been entrusted with the respon-

Private bus operators flouting rules will face strict action, warns Telangana Transport Minister

After the bus fire accident in Andhra Pradesh killed 19 people, Telangana Transport Minister Ponnab Prabhakar warned private bus operators that strict action will be taken against them if they violate transport rules. He said if the travel operators were found negligent on the fitness of vehicles, insurance and in other matters, they will be booked for murder and sent to jail. The minister asked travel operators to follow rules and adhere to the speed limit.

“Don’t play with the lives of people,” he told them. Nineteen passengers were charred to death when the bus caught fire after hitting a two-wheeler near Chinna Tekur on the outskirts of Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh in the early hours of Friday. The bus belonging to V Kaveri Travels had 43 people, including two drivers, on board. He said in a statement that the bus involved in the accident was registered in Odisha and was operating between Hyderabad and Bengaluru. The minister said that if the Transport Department conducts daily checks, the travel operators complain of harassment. Terming Friday’s accident as unfortunate, he said that a probe has been ordered. He said all necessary steps would be taken to prevent such accidents in future. Stating that thousands of people travel between Hyderabad and Bengaluru via Andhra Pradesh, he said

Mumbai advocate petitions NHRC over Deepavali pollution, carbide explosives, animal harm

In a detailed representation to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Mumbai-based advocate Hitendra Gandhi has called for an urgent intervention to address the recurring public health-, environmental-, and animal welfare harms caused by indiscriminate firecracker bursting during festivals, particularly Deepavali. “The right to celebrate cannot override the right to live in safety and dignity. Regulation of carbide fireworks is now a matter of life, not just law,” Mr. Gandhi said. “The plea requests the NHRC to initiate a national study, issue public advisories, and recommend preventive regulatory action against the manufacture and use of unsafe carbide fireworks while preserving Diwali’s cultural and religious sanctity,” he added.

The appeal, submitted in the aftermath of Deepavali 2025, draws on extensive data from government and independent sources showing post-festival spikes in air pollution, with PM2.5 levels reaching up to 700 µg/m³, nearly 12 times the permissible limit. Cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Bengaluru reported “very poor” to “severe” AQI levels within hours of Deepavali night, accompanied by surges in hospital admissions for respiratory ailments. Peer-reviewed studies and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitoring confirm that short-term exposure to firecracker pollutants poses serious risks to children, the elderly, and those with chronic illnesses.

Mr. Gandhi also highlights the growing menace of illegal carbide-based firecrackers. In Bhopal, more than 60 people, mostly children, were hospitalised this Deepavali owing to explosions caused by calcium carbide devices. Bengaluru recorded more than 75 firecracker-related injuries, overwhelming local burn units. These homemade “carbide guns,” he warned, are outside any certified manufacturing or safety standard, yet circulate freely in markets and are promoted through online videos. “Their use has transformed celebration into a recurring public-safety crisis,” Mr. Gandhi said in the representation, urging the NHRC to recommend a nationwide ban on carbide-based firecrackers and the removal of online content that promotes their manufacture. Animal welfare groups have reported hundreds of injuries to pets and strays, while urban trees and waterbodies suffer from chemical residue and litter. He has proposed the establishment of emergency animal rescue networks, post-celebration cleanup operations, and leaf-dust and soil-

sibility of monitoring the helpline. KCR, KTR express shock over Kurnool bus tragedy, extend condolences

Meanwhile, BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao expressed deep shock and grief over the horrific bus accident in Kurnool district that claimed 20 lives. The private travel bus, en route from Hyderabad to Bengaluru, caught fire after a collision, leaving passengers trapped inside. In a statement, Chandrashekhara Rao conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and urged the government to extend immediate financial assistance to the victims’ kin. He also asked the government to ensure the best possible medical care for the injured and prayed for their speedy recovery. BRS working president KT Rama Rao also expressed anguish, calling the incident deeply shocking and unfortunate. He appealed to the State government to take swift relief measures, in coordination with Andhra Pradesh government, and provide immediate medical aid to those injured. He extended condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the departed souls. Former Minister and MLA T Harish Rao too condoled the deaths of passengers in the tragedy near Chinna Tekur village in Kurnool. He extended condolences to the families who lost their loved ones and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.



a meeting of transport ministers and transport commissioners of all three states would be held soon to discuss measures to prevent accidents. “Speed limit prevents accidents, and we will ensure strict enforcement of such regulations,” he said. Ponnab Prabhakar cited the speed limit rules enforced on Tirupati ghat roads. He said that at entry and exit points, the authorities concerned record the time to monitor the speed limit of vehicles in both directions. He stressed the need for a similar system for bus operating between Hyderabad and Bengaluru, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Rajahmundry.



residue testing to assess chemical impact. He also called for public awareness campaigns to promote compassion toward animals during festivals. “

Revanth Reddy failed as CM, passed as Collections Minister: Harish Rao

Hyderabad: Former Minister and Siddipet MLA T Harish Rao launched a blistering attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, accusing him of turning Telangana’s administration into a cash collection enterprise for the Congress. He charged that Revanth Reddy had failed as Chief Minister, Education Minister, Home Minister, and Municipal Minister, but passed with distinction as Collections Minister. Addressing government job aspirants after launching the Congress Unemployment Dues Card at Jala Vihar on Friday, Harish Rao accused the Chief Minister of reducing governance to personal gain. He said Revanth Reddy had betrayed Telangana’s youth without filling the promised two lakh jobs and also damaged institutions built over a decade under the BRS regime. Taking a dig at the Congress government, he remarked that Telangana was the only State with an Education Minister with no education and a Home Minister facing the highest number of criminal cases. “

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Wannabe Vishwaguru should stop deporting scholars

The Narendra Modi government seems to have perfected the art of courting controversy, even if the resultant fows bring it widespread condemnation. The deportation of Francesca Orsini, a London-based scholar known for her contribution to Hindi and South Asian literature, proves this. Had she been allowed entry into India, her stay, lectures, etc., would have been noticed only by a small group of scholars and intellectuals; by denying entry, despite her holding a valid tourist visa, the government has unnecessarily invited criticism, showing not just the ruling establishment but the entire country in a bad light. By denying her entry, the authorities have not only amplified the issue but also invited global condemnation for what appears to be an arbitrary and intolerant act. It is a textbook case of overreach—where insecurity masquerades as nationalism, and the fear of dissent trumps the spirit of open inquiry. This episode also fits a troubling pattern. Over the past few years, India has seen a series of similar incidents involving academics, journalists, and activists who were either denied visas or deported without clear explanations. Each such act chips away at India's credibility as a democratic society that values freedom of thought and expression. It also alienates the global community of scholars who, for decades, have engaged with India not out of political motives but from genuine intellectual curiosity and admiration for its civilisational richness. When the world's largest democracy begins to treat scholars as potential threats, it betrays a lack of confidence in its own cultural foundations. The government might argue that it reserves the right to deny entry to any foreign national, and legally it does. But the question here is not of legality—it is of wisdom, maturity, and vision.

Shangrila Infracon Unveils "MYCASA" — A Landmark Villa Project Redefining Timely Delivery in Hyderabad's Real Estate.



Hyderabad: Shangrila Infracon India Pvt. Ltd., one of Hyderabad's most trusted and innovative real-estate developers, successfully unveiled its prestigious new villa project — "Bollineni's MYCASA" — a premium gated community located near Isnapur, Patancheru, along the Mumbai National Highway. The official announcement of MYCASA was held on October 24, 2025, at Samagamam Hall, Tourism Plaza, Greenlands, Begumpet, Hyderabad, in the presence of Mr. Bollineni Seenaiah, Founder and Chairman of Shangrila Infracon India Pvt. Ltd., and Mr. K. Kranti Kumar Raju, Chairman and Managing Director of One Nine Rezo Pvt. Ltd., the exclusive strategic partner powering the project. The grand event witnessed the participation of several distinguished guests including Mr. N. M. Vinay, Venture Capitalist; Mrs. Hemalatha Reddy, Mrs. Universe Global Queen 2025; Ms. Madame Sana, Co-founder of Brewtiful Coffee India; Mr. Sritej, Film Actor; Ms. Lucky Varma, Actress, Influencer, and Anchor; and Mrs. Sudha Jain, Socialite. Their presence added grandeur to the occasion, reflecting the growing excitement and investor confidence surrounding this landmark development. Speaking at the launch, Mr. Bollineni Seenaiah, Founder and Chairman of Shangrila Infracon India Pvt. Ltd., said that "With MYCASA, our vision is to redefine what timely delivery truly means in the Indian real-estate sector. We wanted to prove that speed and quality can coexist without compromise. Completing 391 villas in 18 months and handing over each home within 30 days is not just a promise — it's a demonstration of our commitment to innovation, transparency, and customer trust. MYCASA will stand as a new phase in Hyderabad's housing evolution." "MYCASA" is a HMDA and RERA-approved luxury villa project comprising 391 exclusive villas, envisioned to be completed within an ambitious 18-month timeline. Built on the philosophy of speed, precision, and design excellence, the project stands apart with fully developed infrastructure—including roads, water, drainage, and power systems—allowing immediate commencement of villa construction. Each villa will be delivered within just 30 days, empowering buyers to begin interiors and furnishing without delay.



Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 24):- "Kisan Morcha State General Secretary, former Councilor Padamati Jaganmohan Reddy said that on the occasion of his birthday, 25 workers working in Bhuvanagiri Municipality were presented with new clothes by the Rotary Club, Janani Foundation, and our parents. Speaking on the occasion, Padamati Jaganmohan Reddy said that the government looks down on the workers who have been working hard and doing sanitation programs in Bhuvanagiri Municipality for the last 20 years, and that every year on the occasion of my birthday, I will provide them with whatever help I can.

Cultural food tours in Old Dubai recognised as one of Lonely Planet's 'Best in Travel' top global experiences for 2026



Hyderabad: Embarking on a cultural food tour in Old Dubai has been named as one of the top global experiences for 2026 in Lonely Planet's Best in Travel, spotlighting Dubai's diverse and unique culinary scene. A city built upon heritage and traditions, Dubai is home to a variety of gastronomic experiences appealing to all budgets and preferences, influenced by the tastes of nearly 200 nationalities represented within its resident population. In Dubai's oldest neighbourhoods such as Bur Dubai and Deira, located along the historic Dubai Creek, restaurants favour local ingredients, value and authenticity, making a food tour a must-do activity for residents and visitors alike. Awarded by Lonely Planet's panel of expert contributors, Dubai's experience is one of 50 essential picks for 2026, made up of 25 places and 25 experiences. With the entire city previously named as one of the world's best for travellers to visit in the Best in Travel 2020 list by Lonely Planet, this year's nod marks the

first time a specific area in Dubai has been recognised. Issam Kazim, CEO of the Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Visit Dubai), part of the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), said: "Underscoring Dubai's position as a global cultural hub and a gastronomy capital, this recognition is a testament to the city's rich heritage and vibrant culinary scene. As one of the most trusted travel guides in the world, Lonely Planet's acknowledgment aligns with our ongoing objective of making Dubai the world's best city to visit, live and work in. This celebration of Dubai's culinary landscape specifically highlights the long-standing commitment and efforts of industry experts and their dedication to providing unique experiences to visitors and residents alike. As we continue to grow our global appeal, especially to those seeking authentic cultural offerings, this is a segment we are truly committed to further developing." Tom Hall, Vice President of Lonely Planet, said: "Our Best in Travel list for 2026 seeks out the top experiences that will stay with visitors long after they've returned home. Taking a cultural food tour of Old Dubai is the perfect example of this. Strolling through Dubai's oldest neighbourhoods on a food and drink themed walking tour offers an insight into a historic side of Dubai, revealing what our writer describes as 'a rich tapestry of flavours shaping the diverse cuisine scene that defines the city today'. We're always looking to offer surprising and authentic experiences in the world's top destinations, and there's no doubt that eating, drinking and exploring your way through historic neighbourhoods and souks set along Dubai Creek is the perfect way to do that."

UnifyApps raises \$50M to become the Enterprise Operating System for AI to help CIOs succeed with GenAI

Hyderabad: Enterprises have spent decades becoming digital. Now, they must become AI-native. UnifyApps, the company building the Enterprise Operating System for AI, today announced a \$50 million Series B led by WestBridge Capital with participation from ICONIQ and others. The new capital brings UnifyApps' total funding to \$81 million and marks a new phase of scale with Ragy Thomas, joining as Chairman and Co-CEO, alongside existing co-founder and CEO Pavitar Singh.

Enterprises have poured millions into GenAI pilots, yet most can't scale them. Today's LLMs can't connect to the siloed systems of record and knowledge to find the right data or to systems of activity to make work happen. Vertical and use-case-specific AI applications remain isolated, each requiring its own integrations across the enterprise—creating costly AI sprawl and stalled outcomes. This challenge results in a 95% failure rate for enterprise AI solutions. UnifyApps closes this gap with an LLM-agnostic, AI-native architecture that unifies systems of knowledge, record, and activity through a low-code/no-code workflow and UI builder—turning fragmented experiments into scalable, production-grade AI. UnifyApps connects systems of record, knowledge, and activity across the enterprise. It unifies data from platforms like Salesforce, Workday, and corporate intranets, applies the right AI models and ontologies, and acts within the tools employees already use. This closed-loop approach links data, intelligence, and execution—turning fragmented GenAI pilots into scalable business outcomes. Designed with its Six-Layer Enterprise AI Architecture, UnifyApps brings together system integration, data and ontology management, workflow automation, applica-



tion experience, and autonomous agent deployment. Companies including HDFC Bank, Deutsche Telekom, Contentstack, Belcorp, Sirion Labs, WalkMe, Air Arabia, Liva Insurance, as well as the Abu Dhabi Government and Dubai Government are using UnifyApps to unify data and accelerate AI adoption. The platform gives CIOs a secure, efficient, and scalable way to embed AI across business processes and lead their organizations into the AI-native era.

Uppal BC JAC Leaders Participate in BC Maha Dharna at Indira Park: Demand for Implementation of 42% BC Reservations



"VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 24 (Indian Chronicle): "Under the leadership of Chiranjeevi, Convener of the "42% BC Reservation Struggle Committee," a massive Maha Dharna (protest) was organized at Indira Park on Friday, demanding that 42% reservations for Backward

Classes (BCs) be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Responding to the call, a large number of Uppal BC JAC (Joint Action Committee) leaders and members marched in huge numbers from the Uppal Ring Road to the protest venue. "Speaking on the occasion, Nertham Bhaskar Goud, a leader of the Uppal BC JAC, alleged that all political parties have been deceiving BCs on the issue of reservations. He emphasized that BC reservations cannot be effectively implemented unless they are included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. "He further stated that the struggle will continue until 42% reservation for BCs is implemented, and urged all political parties to support the cause, taking inspiration from the success of the BC Maha Dharna. "Prominent participants from the Uppal constituency BC JAC included Nertham Bhaskar Goud, Devasani Balachander, Gaddam Sai Kiran, Satyaraj, Telangana Sampath, B. Naveen, G. Venkat, Narasimha, Suman, and Narendra Shankar, along with many other BC JAC leaders who actively took part in the event.



Vemula Chinna visits Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy along with MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha

"Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 24 (Indian Chronicle): "Telangana Jagruthi President and MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha visited Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple at Yadadri, accompanied by Jagruthi leaders including Uppal constituency in-charge Gopu Sadanand, senior movement leaders Vemula Chinna, Sampath Rao, Shiva, and others.

On this occasion, movement leader Vemula Chinna stated that they would actively participate in the struggles being led by MLC Kavitha. He added that the Jagruthi President has been initiating several programs aimed at addressing public issues and finding effective solutions for them.

Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Attends Gyarmi Celebrations



"VADDEPALLI KILSHORE, Uppal, October 24 (Indian Chronicle): "Uppal Corporator Mandamula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy attended the Gyarmi celebrations held at Maulana's residence in Vijayapuri Colony, Uppal. The event was organized on Thursday night under the supervision of Maulana. "Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy participated as the chief guest at the celebrations, where she was honored by the festival committee members. "Those present at the event included Tummala Devi Reddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Sunku Shekhar Reddy, Anwar Pasha, Nagoor Pasha, Afzal, Vahid, Bodiga Mallesh Goud, Mohan, Prashanth Reddy, and Srinivas.

Campaign Heat in Jubilee Hills: Car Symbol Gaining Momentum Sabitha Indra Reddy Leads the Drive

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): As part of the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign, MLA and former minister Sabitha Indra Reddy led a massive door-to-door campaign in Ellareddyguda and Srinagar Colony, covering polling booths 294, 295, and 296. State BRS leaders Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, former Somajiguda corporator Mahesh Yadav, and local leaders from Uppal and Ellareddyguda joined the campaign. The team visited every household, distributing and pasting BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha's wall stickers, urging voters to support the BRS car symbol and ensure her victory in the upcoming by-election.



Booth in-charges Eddulu Kondal Reddy, Masa Shekhar, Kokonda Jagan, Cheeryala Srinivas, Shyam, Banti, and several BRS activists from Ellareddyguda participated in the campaign in large numbers.



I deeply pray for the souls of those who lost their lives in the tragic bus fire accident near Chinna Tekur. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families during this difficult time. I also wish for the speedy recovery of all those injured. "Bandari Laxma Reddy" MLA, Uppal



The news of a private travel bus accident en route from Hyderabad to Bengaluru, resulting in the tragic loss of several passengers, is deeply distressing. I pray for the departed souls to rest in peace and extend my heartfelt condolences to their bereaved families. I also wish a speedy recovery to those who were injured in the accident. "Smt. Chintala Nirmala Reddy" Vice President, Telangana State Mahila Congress

Gaddam Ravikumar in the Race for Medchal–Malkajgiri DCC Chief Post



“Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 24 (Indian Chronicle):”Senior Congress leader from Uppal, Gaddam Ravikumar, met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on Friday and formally expressed his interest in being considered for the Medchal–Malkajgiri District Congress Committee (DCC) president post.”During the meeting, Ravikumar highlighted his long-standing contributions and dedicated service to the Congress Party. He requested the Chief Minister to provide him with an opportunity to lead the district unit and pledged to work tirelessly for the strengthening and development of the Congress Party in Medchal district if given the responsibility.”Speaking to the media after the meeting, Ravikumar said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy responded positively to his appeal.”Congress leaders Janampalli Venkateshwara Reddy, Gayam Sridhar Reddy, President of the Habsiguda Reddy Association, and several others were present during the meeting.

Engagement Ceremony of Kalyana Padmavathi and Bandi Chaitanya Held in Vijayawada



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Dr. A.S. Rao Nagar, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): the engagement ceremony of Lakshmi Saubhagyavathi Kalyana Padmavathi and Bandi Chaitanya, daughter of Movva Srinivas Kumar and Anantha Lakshmi from Rukmini Puri Colony, Dr. A.S. Rao Nagar Division, was held at Hotel Indraprastha, Vijayawada, in the presence of Vedic priests. Telangana Telugu Desam Party leaders, including former state secretary Neerukonda Satish Babu and senior leader Boppa Srinivas, attended the event and blessed the newly engaged couple.

Remove Congress – Save the Unemployed“- Uppal MLA Bhandari Lakshma Reddy

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): During the Congress Unemployment Debt Card launch event held today at Jalavihar, Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy attended the program along with former minister and MLA Harish Rao, several fellow MLAs, and BRS party leaders. Speaking on the occasion, they criticized the Congress government for failing to fulfill its promises to the unemployed youth and alleged that the Nirudhyoga Baki Card was nothing more than a political gimmick. They stated that unemployment has increased drastically under Congress rule and demanded that the government take immediate steps to provide jobs and financial support to the youth. They reiterated that the BRS will continue to stand by unemployed youth and fight against the Congress government’s negligence and false assurance

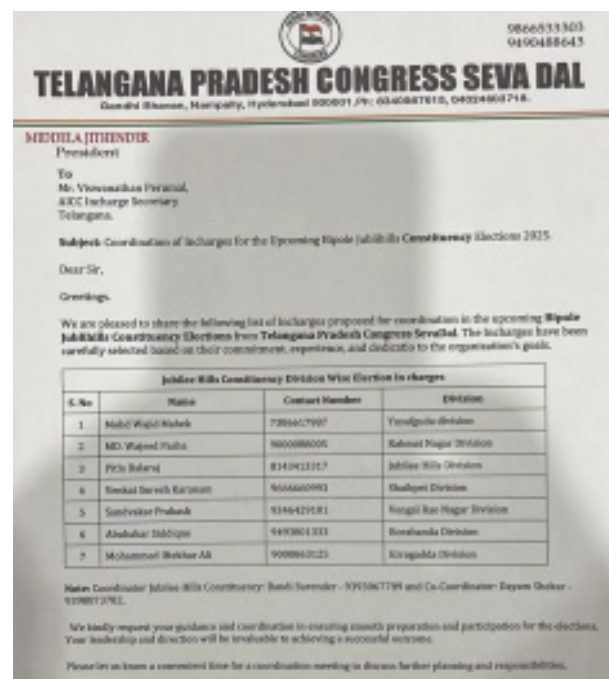


Jubilee Hills Division In-charge in Jubilee Hills By-Elections..

Congress Party Seva Dal State Secretary Pittala Balaraj Appointed“



“Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 24):- State Seva Dal Secretary Pittala Balaraju has been appointed as Jubilee Hills Division In-charge in Jubilee Hills By-Elections. Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee Seva Dal State President Middelajitender has been appointed as Election In-charge. For this appointment, AICC In-charge Secretary Viswanathan, President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud, and State Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Jubilee Hills Ponnampabhakar coordinated the Seva Dal workers and went door to door in the Jubilee Hills division to work for the victory of the Congress Party candidate Naveen Yadav. Explaining to the people the welfare schemes being undertaken by the



state government, Pittala Balaraju said that Congress Party candidate Naveen Yadav is sure to win the Jubilee Hills elections with a huge majority. Pittala Balaraju, State PCC President Bomma Mahesh Kumar Goud, State Seva Dal President Middela Jitender, and State Seva Dal Secretary Pittala Balaraju thanked them for their cooperation in my appointment.

MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Attends BRS Leader Akhil’s Housewarming Ceremony at Cherlapally

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy attended the housewarming ceremony of BRS leader Akhil at Shiva Nagar, Charlapalli Division, and conveyed his best wishes to the family. He appreciated Akhil’s efforts and commitment towards community development and wished him a happy and prosperous life in the new home. BRS leaders Nemuri Mahesh Goud, local activists, and well-wishers also took part in the event, extending their greetings and participating in the celebrations with enthusiasm.



Corporator RajithaParameshwar Reddy Inaugurates Makoons Pre-School



“Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 24 (Indian Chronicle):”Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy inaugurated the Makoons Pre-School located in Padmavathi Colony, Uppal.”She attended the school’s inauguration ceremony as the chief guest.”Among those



present at the event were correspondents Ravi Shankar and Bhagya Lakshmi (couple), Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Bhaskar Reddy, Gooduri Narasimha Reddy, Krishna, Buchireddy, Vijay Ramulu, Vikram, Shubha Reddy, Narasimha Chary, Bazaar Naveen Goud, and several other local leaders.

Water Supply Disruption in Boduppal on October 25 Due to UGD Works

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Boduppal, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): It is hereby informed to all media representatives of Boduppal that due to the ongoing construction works of the new Underground Drainage (UGD) line from Bangaru Maisamma Temple to Chengicherla within the limits of Boduppal Municipal Corporation, the main water supply pipeline has been damaged. As a result, water supply will be suspended tomorrow, i.e., Saturday, 25-10-2025, to the colonies connected to this pipeline. Since this work is part of a major long-term infrastructure project, additional time may be required for repair and restoration activities. Therefore, there might be further delays or interruptions in the water supply. Residents are requested to take note of this and cooperate accordingly. — Commissioner, “Boduppal Municipal Corporation



MPR Visits Bereaved Family in Kapra Division

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): M. Parameshwar Reddy, Congress Party in-charge of Uppal constituency, visited the family of Congress leader Satyanarayana from Gandhi Nagar Colony, Kapra Division, whose mother, Bhagamma, passed away yesterday. He consoled the family members and offered his support during their time of grief. Corporator Telwanaraj Shivamani, Division President Naga Seshu, Medchal Market Committee Vice Chairman Vittal Naik, along with Babu Rao, Kobari Noori Nagaraj, Malla Reddy, Srihari, Sridhar Reddy, Vinod, and Shiva were present.



District Collector Jitesh V. Patil Inspects Chatakonda Anganwadi Center

Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri kothagudem Bureau,October 24,Indian Chronicle:“District Collector Jitesh V. Patil inspected the Anganwadi Center at Chatakonda in Lakshmi Devi Palli Mandal on Friday. During his visit, the Collector reviewed various aspects including children’s attendance, nutrition distribution, health monitoring, and the implementation of welfare programs.”“He thoroughly examined the records maintained by the Anganwadi workers and assistants, and ensured that food, milk, and eggs were being provided to the children in a timely manner.”“The Collector also interacted with the children at the center and inquired whether the nutrition schemes for pregnant women and lactating mothers were being properly implemented. He expressed satisfaction with the cleanliness of the premises, the availability of play equipment, and the use of learning materials for early childhood education.”“Speaking on the occasion, Collector Patil commended the Anganwadi centers for their exemplary performance, and emphasized the importance of promoting a healthy lifestyle among children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers through the Anganwadi system.”“Responding to a request from the Anganwadi staff to construct a perimeter wall for the center, the Collector assured them that the construction work would begin soon.”“Officials from the concerned departments and Anganwadi staff accompanied the Collector during the inspection



eter wall for the center, the Collector assured them that the construction work would begin soon.”“Officials from the concerned departments and Anganwadi staff accompanied the Collector during the inspection

Garbage Trucks Stuck in Long Queues at Adarsh Nagar Dumping Yard



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): Serious complaints have emerged over the

poor waste management system at the Kapra Circle’s Adarsh Nagar dumping yard. Nearly ten garbage collection vehicles were seen waiting in long queues for several hours due to alleged negligence by the private agency Ramki. Sanitation workers from Cherlapally Colony Association reported that the Ramki management failed to install the required number of bins at the dumping yard. Out of six bins that were supposed to be provided, only two are currently in place, leading to a major bottleneck every day. As a result, household waste collection autos are being forced to wait for hours inside the yard instead of continuing their door-to-door service. Workers expressed frustration, stating that the lack of proper arrangements is affecting daily operations and cleanliness in surrounding areas. Local residents and sanitation staff are urging GHMC officials to take immediate action and resolve the issue to ensure smooth waste disposal and prevent unnecessary delays.

Revanth Reddy flying to New Delhi on October 25 to meet Congress high command

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy is flying to New Delhi on Saturday to attend a meeting with Congress high command. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka already left for the national capital on Friday evening and TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud is expected to fly on Saturday.

The party high command summoned the Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and the TPCC president to discuss appointments for District Congress Committee president posts, which have been due for long.AICC in-charge

Meenakshi Natarajan and Irrigation Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy are also expected to attend the meeting. AICC examiners have already held meetings with district-level leaders and noted their suggestions and recommendations. The same would be discussed in the meeting with the high command, a senior leader from Gandhi Bhavan said.While this was one dimension of the Telangana leaders being summoned to New Delhi, the other dimension appears to be the recent state of affairs in the Congress government.

Collection of Unused Items in Kamalanagar and Maheshnagar Colonies



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): GHMC staff of Kapra Circle will collect unused household and commercial items such as old sofas, mattresses, chairs, tables, coolers, air conditioners, laptops,

and other electronic goods from residents of Kamalanagar and Maheshnagar colonies today. The Deputy Commissioner of GHMC Kapra Circle informed that this special drive will be conducted on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 noon. Sanitation staff will move through the colonies with vehicles to collect the discarded materials during this time. Residents are requested to place their items either near the Kamalanagar Welfare Association office, beside the Ayyappa Swamy temple, near the Maheshnagar Basti Dawkhana area, or in front of their houses for collection. Citizens are advised not to dump items in open spaces, near transformers, or at random spots in the colony. The items should be handed over only to the municipal staff. The Deputy Commissioner urged all residents to cooperate in keeping the colony clean and to support this initiative aimed at maintaining hygiene and protecting public health.

Journalists Meet Kapra Tahsildar bairedreddy Rajesh

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): Kapra Mandal Tahsildar Bairedreddy Rajesh was met by working journalists from Kapra NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Singam Raju, Hussain, Mohan Reddy, and Pandu Goud, on Friday. The journalists requested the Tahsildar to take necessary steps to protect government lands. They expressed concern over the growing encroachments and illegal constructions on government lands within the Kapra Mandal limits and urged the authorities to act strictly against those involved. The journalists also assured their support in safeguarding public properties in the future. Tahsildar Rajesh said that protecting government assets is a top priority and that a review meeting has already been held with the concerned officials. He added that strict action will be taken against illegal encroachments.



Effective Management of Biomedical Waste is Essential: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil



““Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, October 24, Indian Chronicle :“District Collector Jitesh V. Patil directed officials to ensure the effective management of biomedical waste in all government and private hospitals across the district. The Collector convened a district-level review meeting on biomedical waste management at the Collectorate camp office on Friday. “Speaking on the occasion, the Collector emphasized that the proper disposal of biomedical waste is crucial for both public health and environmental protection. He instructed hospitals to segregate waste at the source, store it in designated color-coded containers, and hand it over on time to certified waste management agencies for scientific disposal. “The Collector further directed that each hospital must appoint a nodal officer responsible for biomedical waste management, maintain daily records, and ensure timely handover of waste to the

authorized agency. He stressed the need to strengthen monitoring mechanisms concerning hospital sanitation, waste storage areas, collection procedures, and the cleanliness of transport vehicles used for waste disposal. “He instructed officials of the Pollution Control Board (PCB) to conduct regular inspections of hospitals and take strict action against any institutions found violating biomedical waste disposal regulations. “The Collector also urged private hospital managements to strictly adhere to government guidelines regarding waste segregation, employee safety, and record maintenance. He emphasized providing training to staff, ensuring the use of protective gear, and maintaining systematic waste handling practices. “The Collector warned that RMP doctors or individuals found dumping biomedical waste in open areas or mixing it with municipal waste would face stringent penalties. He instructed panchayat officials to monitor such violations and proposed a pilot project to implement CCTV-based surveillance in one selected area of the district. “Municipal Commissioners were directed to hold awareness meetings with hospital authorities and RMP associations on the safe management of biomedical waste and related safety protocols. The Collector also suggested preparing and displaying wall posters across hospitals to raise public awareness. “He reiterated that strict action would be taken against anyone violating these norms. “The meeting was attended by District Medical Officer Dr. Vijayalakshmi, DCH Officer Ravi Babu, Public Health Department DE Srinivas, Municipal Commissioner Sujatha, Manuguru Municipal Commissioner, Illandu Municipal Commissioner Srikanth, and other officials from the concerned departments.

Officials should cooperate with farmers to purchase every grain of grain harvested by farmers



: Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao “Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 20):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the grain harvested by farmers will be purchased without leaving a single

grain. Friday. The District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the IKP grain purchase center in Nandanam village of Bhuvanagiri mandal. He asked how many piles of grain have arrived so far. The Collector spoke to the farmers at the purchase center and asked if any of the grain got wet. The government has provided tarpaulin, so they want to dry the grain on the tarpaulin. Then, he said, no matter how much rain it gets, the grain will not get wet. As there is a possibility of rain for another two or three days, farmers should be careful about the grain. He said that farmers need not worry, as the grain received at the purchasing centers will be purchased as soon as the moisture content is reached. He said that the piles of grain with moisture content should be weighed regularly and loaded into lorries and sent to the relevant mills. He said that there should be no laxity. He said that it is not possible to have grain stocks at the purchasing centers. He said that the grain should be sent only when it arrives. Farmers should keep tarpaulin covers available. In the wake of the rains, farmers should not start harvesting the crop right now. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Faculty protests continue at OU



“Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU October 24: Osmania demands justice in promotions“The university teachers have been holding a series of protests for some time now. As part of this, several teachers staged a protest during the lunch break at the Commerce and Business Management College under the auspices of the Osmania University Teachers Association (OUTA) on Friday. OUTA strongly condemned the unprecedented rejection of 48 teachers in the CAS interviews conducted at the university recently. He said that it is strange that even the best teacher award winners and teachers who are doing the best research are rejected without being given promotions. He was angry that the university authorities are acting in a way that tarnishes the reputation of the university. He appealed to the state government to intervene in this matter and do justice to the OU teachers. OUTA presidents Prof. Manohar, Prof. Venkatas Das Sujatha, Ramchander, Gangadhar, Aparna, Madhuri and others were present at the event.

Mega Job Mela for two days on October 25 and 26 Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao

““Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 24):- The "Megha Job Mela" organized by Singareni Calories Company Limited in Huzurnagar on the 25th of this month has been extended to two days, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said in a statement on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that 150 private companies have about 2000 to 5000 job opportunities in this mega job mela. Since a larger number of unemployed candidates are likely to attend the Mega Job Mela than expected, the District Collector has requested all the unemployed in the district to take advantage of this opportunity to avoid any inconvenience or inconvenience to the candidates. The Mega Job Mela will be held for two days, i.e. 25th (Saturday) and 26th (Sunday) of this month.



Timely and Efficient Medical Services Must Be Ensured – District Collector Jitesh V. Patil

““Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau | October 24 | The Indian Chronicle:“District Collector Jitesh V. Patil emphasized the need to provide timely and efficient medical services to the public across the district. “In view of the upcoming National Health Mission (NHM) programme, scheduled to be held from November 1 to 7, and the visit of a Central NHM inspection team to the district, the Collector conducted an inspection of several health centers on Friday to review the preparedness and current conditions of health facilities. “During his visit, the Collector inspected the Regalla Primary Health Center, Chatakonda Village Hospital, and Ayushman Health Center. He reviewed key parameters including staff attendance, medicine stocks, cleanliness, sanitation, progress of vaccination drives, and the services provided to pregnant women and children. “The Collector thoroughly examined the maternity ward, medicine storage room, inventory records, laboratory, outpatient section, sanitation area, and patient waiting halls. He directed officials to maintain the hospital premises in a clean and hygienic condition and to ensure that all basic amenities are readily available for patients. “Speaking on the occasion, Collector Patil instructed officials to make sure that all area hospitals, urban basti clinics, primary health centers, and Ayushman centers in the district are fully equipped and functional. He emphasized that all necessary arrangements should be completed before the Central NHM team’s visit. “He urged medical officers and staff to work efficiently, maintain punctuality, and provide quality healthcare services to the people. Awareness programmes should be conducted at the village level to ensure that poor and middle-class families are able to benefit from the government’s health schemes, he added. “The Collector also instructed officials to pay special attention to cleanliness, greenery, and environmental protection within hospital premises. He



warned that there should be no negligence in the management of biomedical waste. “Highlighting the district administration’s priority, he stated that enhancing the quality of healthcare services remains their primary objective. He advised doctors and staff to treat patients with courtesy and compassion, ensuring that all necessary services are provided promptly and efficiently. “The Collector further directed that all departments work in close coordination to ensure the success of the Central NHM team’s upcoming visit. He instructed the District Medical and Health Department to complete all preparatory arrangements well in advance. “District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Jayalakshmi, along with doctors, medical staff, and other officials, accompanied the Collector during the inspection.

Instructions to officials to deposit money in the accounts of Indiramma house beneficiaries immediately Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector



Hanumantha Rao “Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October

24):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that money will be deposited in the accounts of the beneficiaries of Indiramma houses as soon as the various stages are completed. On Friday, the District Collector inspected the construction work of Indiramma houses in Nandanam village of Bhuvanagiri mandal. “On this occasion, the Collector spoke to the beneficiaries... and asked how many houses are under construction in the village and how many of them are in the stage of completion. The Collector inspected the house of beneficiary Lalitha Nagarajuna Goud, whose Indiramma house has been completed up to the slab stage in the village. They asked whether Rs 4 lakh had been received in 3 phases so far. They said that the remaining work should be completed and the house should be entered into soon. The concerned officials participated in the program.

Journalists Earn Lasting Recognition Only Through Values: Pavani Reddy“



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): Former Dr. A.S. Rao Nagar Division Ex

Corporator Pajjuri Pavani Manipal Reddy said that journalists gain lasting recognition only when they work with integrity and values. She distributed personal accident insurance bonds to members of the Kapra Working Journalists Association at her residence in Kamalanagar on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, Pavani Reddy stated that journalists risk their time and health to deliver truthful information to the public. She assured her continued support for journalists’ welfare and emphasized that unity among media professionals can help them secure their professional rights more effectively. As part of the event, Pavani Reddy along with BRS state leader Karipe Praveen Vanjari contributed to the Kapra Working Journalists Welfare Fund and provided insurance coverage to the members. Later, Pavani Reddy personally handed over the insurance bonds to the journalists. Members Singam Raju, Pandu Goud, Hussain, and Mohan Reddy extended special thanks for her support. Journalists Narra Srinivas Reddy (NSR) and others also took part in the program.

Sri Lakshmi Chennakeshava Swamy Trust Members Felicitate Kapra MRO Bairedreddy Rajesh

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kapra, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): Members of the Sri Lakshmi Chennakeshava Swamy Trust Board from Kapra met Kapra MRO Bairedreddy Rajesh at the Mandal Office in Kapra. They felicitated him with a shawl and presented a portrait of Sri Lakshmi Chennakeshava Swamy. The program was attended by Trust Chairman Pottu Baburao, members Padamati Mallareddy, Narender Goud, Sridhar Reddy, Vinod, and Congress leader Santosh



Chary. On this occasion, Trust Chairman Pottu Baburao briefed MRO Bairedreddy Rajesh about the developmental works carried out at the temple within a short period since the formation of the Trust Board.

KCR's politics is like Kumbhakarna in the mythology who ate for six months and slept for six months:- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah

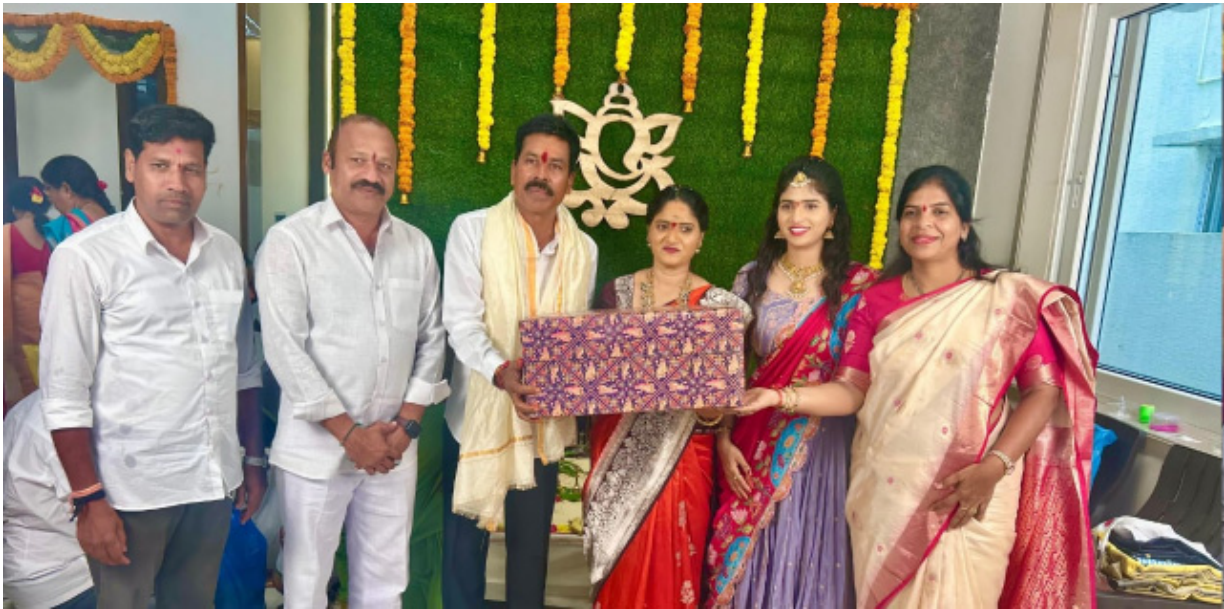


“Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 24):- KCR's politics is like Kumbhakarna in the mythology who ate for six months and slept for six months, said Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah. Speaking at a press conference in Yadagirigutta town on Friday... Former Chief Minister KCR said it was not right to cry over Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who does not step out of his farmhouse, sits comfortably on a chair by a tree and works for the people every day.” He said that the fact that he is calling the leaders to the farmhouse without even coming to the party office shows how much respect he has for the party. He said that when he was in power, he was confined to the farmhouse and even after he left, he was confined to the

farmhouse. KCR has no moral right to criticize our Chief Minister who works 18 hours a day... KCR is saying that BRS's grand victory in Jubilee Hills is certain. Why is he making them win...? He said, "First, check whether you will actually receive the deposit...KCR wants to give one reason to make BRS win. He said, "They destroyed Telangana and made you sit in a farmhouse after defeating them..They are still asking for votes in Jubilee Hills with what kind of ambition." He said, "It is sad that KCR said that Congress gave a ticket to a rowdy sheeter in Jubilee Hills...KCR insulted a BC Yadava child by calling him a rowdy sheeter." KCR and KTR are trying to portray BCs as rowdies..

Do KCR think BCs are so insignificant..? KCR, who is talking like a bully and trying to intimidate the weaker sections, wants KTR to show some sense. Is there a rowdy sheet against Naveen Yadav? KCR should show how many cases there are. Aye KCR says that the Congress candidate is a rowdy sheeter. He says that his son Salman Khan is a rowdy sheeter and he joins him in the party. There are 32 cases against Salman Khan, KTR.. How did you join him in the party? .Why don't the BC leaders in BRS open their mouths while KTR and KCR are talking crazy things? Why are former ministers like Srinivas Yadav, Srinivas Goud, and Madhusudanachari not speaking up? The poor and weaker sections should remember the arrogance of the Kalvakuntla family and their anti-BC actions and be reminded, said Beerla Ailaiah, a government minister.

Bonthu Sridevi Yadav Attends Housewarming Ceremony in Shamirpet



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): Standing Council Member and Charlapally Division Corporator Bonthu Sridevi Yadav attended the housewarming ceremony of Maipal Reddy, a resident of Reddy Colony, at his newly constructed home in Shamirpet

and conveyed her heartfelt wishes to the family. During the event, she congratulated the family on their new beginning and wished them peace, prosperity, and happiness in their new residence. Several relatives, friends, and well-wishers also participated in the ceremony, offering their greetings and best wishes to the family.

Rapid Beautification Works at Rachervu Funded by HMDA



* Former council members and local leaders oversee progress. “NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal -

Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Boduppal, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): With the support of In-Charge Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and constituency Congress Party In-Charge Thotakura Vajresh Yadav, beautification and various development works funded by HNDA are underway at Rachervu within the Boduppal Municipal Corporation limits. This morning, former ex Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav, Boduppal Municipal Congress Party President Pogula Narasimha Reddy, B-Block Chief Secretary Kotha Kishore Goud, former ex Corporator Bhukya Suman, former ex corporators Rasala Venkatesh, Bommak Kalyan, Kiran Kumar Reddy, Cheerla Narasimha, Jakka Ramulu, Pulakandla Jangareddy, Harinath Reddy, senior leaders, and local residents participated in a review of the ongoing works. The initiatives aim to enhance the aesthetic appeal of Rachervu and provide improved facilities for the surrounding community.

Government Whip inaugurates KM Grand Hotel. “Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah



*Present Yadagirigutta ACP Srinivas Naidu. “Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 24):- “Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah cut the ribbon and inaugurated the hotel at the Yadagirigutta mandal center of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on Friday. On this occasion, hotel owner Are Venkatesh, journalist state leaders Gundu Muthaiah Goud, Vadaigudem former sarpanch Gundu Manish Goud, PN Krishna Goud gave a grand welcome to Government Whip Beerla Ailaiah. Later, after lighting the lamp and breaking the pumpkin at the mini function hall of the hotel, the hall was inaugurated. On this occasion, every guest who came to the inauguration of the hotel was felicitated with shawls. Speaking, the government whip asked the devotees who come to Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy, who is famous as the Tirupati of Telangana Tirumala, to be provided with delicious tiffin meals. CPI district executive committee member Kallem Krishna Goud, former Sarpanch of Vadaigudem village Rasala Ampatha Narasimha Yadav,

former Sarpanch of Rajgopalapet Yella Rajendra, former Sarpanch of Maryala Sirasatyanarayana, General Secretary of Vadaigudem BRS village branch Jakkula Chandraiah Yadav, President of Durga Mata Utsav Committee Babburi Suman (Dummu), General Secretary Nilanjanyulu Goud, CEO Nomula Narasimha Yadav, BRS leaders Kola Sandeep, Gundu Ravi and others participated in the program.

Residents of Kranti Colony Attend Wedding of Bandaru Mallesh Yadav’s Daughter



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Chengicherla, October 24, (Indian Chronicle): Residents of Kranti Colony, Chengicherla 1st Division, Boduppal Municipal Corporation, attended the wedding of Bandaru Mallesh Yadav's (KCR) daughter and extended their heartfelt blessings to the newlyweds. The event was graced by Medchal Constituency B-Block Chief Secretary, Kotha Kishore Goud, and 1st Division In-Charge, Kurri Shiva Shankar, along with Colony President Ellesh. Several residents, including Chandrashekhar, Ontedi Srinivas Yadav, Sharath, and Venkatesh, also participated and conveyed their best wishes to the couple for a happy and prosperous married life.

Chain Snatching Incident in Uppal: Locals Nab Thief and Hand Him Over to Police



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 24 (Indian Chronicle):“In a dramatic turn of events at Seven Hills Colony in Uppal, locals caught a chain snatcher who had stolen a gold chain weighing about four tolas from an elderly woman out on her morning walk.“According to eyewitnesses, the victim, identified as Janaki (64), was walking through the colony when the accused suddenly snatched the chain from her neck and tried to flee. Hearing her cries for help, local residents quickly chased the thief, caught him in a nearby lane, and thrashed him before recovering the stolen chain.“The locals immediately informed the police, who reached the spot and took the accused into custody. The victim sustained minor injuries to her neck due to the forceful snatching.“Interestingly, the accused was wearing a Swiggy T-shirt at the time of the incident. He reportedly came on a bike, abandoned it after the snatching, and attempted to escape on foot but was caught by residents.“Residents expressed concern over the increasing number of chain-snatching incidents in the area and urged the police to strengthen security measures. The Uppal police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

Kala Silk Textile Exhibition impresses with colorful handloom fabrics



“ Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU October 24:The handloom exhibition organized by Kala Silk at the Ilcity Stop Club in Tarnaka will continue. This exhibition will impress the city dwellers with its quality and colorful handlooms. Handloom artisans from all over the country, including Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, have participated and set up stalls with their products. Various types of sarees, Uttar Pradesh Benares sarees, Telangana handloom, Pochampally Ikkat, Andhra Pradesh cotton handlooms, dress materials for women and men, ready-made clothes, and art pieces are available. Organizer Vikas Jain informed that this exhibition will be available to the city dwellers from



11 am to 9 pm. He said that up to 65 percent discount sales will continue on all the clothes. He said that this exhibition will continue till November 3rd.”

Grocery Shop Owner Commits Suicide In Kerameri

“Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, Dis-tribt Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,24. “Grocery shop owner commits suicide in Kerameri.Tragedy struck Kerameri mandal on Thursday night. Indravelli grocer Pad Balu (45) committed suicide by hanging himself in his shop. Balu, who had been living and doing business in Kerameri with his family for the past two years, committed this atrocity at around 8 pm on Thursday night.



Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 24):- A view of Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah and oth-



ers inaugurating paddy procurement centers in Gouraipalli, Masaipet, Saidapur, Mallapur villages of Yadagirigutta mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.



Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah participated in the housewarming of Indiramma Illu “Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 24):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah participated in the housewarm-



ing of Indiramma Illu beneficiaries of Kothaju Vanaja Ravi in ??Chada village of Mootakondur mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.“On this occasion, as promised, he handed over ram and silk clothes to the beneficiaries. He extended his hearty congratulations to them on entering their new home.

Construction Of Indiramma Houses Should Be Expedited: Collector

““Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, Dis-tribt Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,24. “Kamarambhim Asifabad District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre inspected the construction work of Indiramma Houses in Ada Gram Panchayat of Asifabad Mandal. He suggested that the beneficiaries of this scheme, undertaken by the government for the welfare of the poor, should complete the construction of houses quickly.

He said that the work should be expedited as the rainy season is over, the house should be built in the specified area, and the bills will be deposited in the accounts of the beneficiaries according to the construction stages. He said that the government will provide sand free of cost, and or-



dered the officials of the Housing Department to monitor the work, talk to the beneficiaries and review the progress.

Bengaluru police book 5 social media users for posting derogatory messages about CJI B R Gavai



GNS News Agency, Oct 24

The Bengaluru cybercrime police booked five social media users for allegedly posting derogatory content about Chief Justice of India B R Gavai, following an incident where a Delhi lawyer attempted to throw a shoe at him in the Supreme Court. The accused—Kesari Nandan, Sridharkumar, Nagendra Prasad, Ramesh Naik, and Manunath M C Manju—face charges under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita section 352 for intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace. The case was registered suo motu after the police's social media monitoring cell discovered the comments on Facebook. One account posted in Kannada suggesting violence, referencing Godse, while others made personal attacks and used profanity against the CJI, the

New Delhi does not have any policy on how to deal with Kashmir issue: AS Dulat

GNS News Agency, Oct 24

Reiterating his stand that long term peace on Jammu and Kashmir will be elusive even after abrogation of Article 370, former chief of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) AS Dulat Saturday said that New Delhi does not have any policy on how to deal with the Kashmir issue. Speaking at the Khushwant Singh Literature Festival on his latest book, 'The Chief Minister and the Spy', in a discussion moderated by Jyoti Malhotra, Editor-in-Chief of The Tribune, Dulat made the point that the power-centres in New Delhi do have any roadmap for solution to the Kashmir imbroglio.

“Delhi does not know what it wants in Kashmir. (Former Home Minister) Mr (P) Chidambaram is sitting here. He knows. Does Delhi have a Kashmir policy? It never has. We have a young CM who keeps going to Delhi... But Delhi is not interested in Omar Abdullah,” said Dulat. He went on to assert that Centre wants only their own person in Srinagar and they don't believe that the Abdullahs can ever be their people. “Haven't you heard the union minister say again and again that ‘humein ye teen khandan khatam karne hai — Abdullahs, Muftis and Gandhis,’” he said.

Heaping praise on former J&K CM Farooq Abdullah, Dulat called him the greatest politician in the country. "There's nobody half his size in Kashmir and very few in India who can match him. Farooq was a great admirer of General Charles de Gaulle and there are similarities, which I have quoted in the book....Farooq is one person who can match Delhi's skullduggery and therefore Delhi finds it difficult to deal with him," he added. Answering a question on

Pune mechanic kills girlfriend over infidelity suspicion, surrenders before police

GNS News Agency, Oct 24

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Shiv Sena, Eknath Shinde, Jalgaon, fake call centre, Pune news, Pune, Maharashtra news, Indian express, current affairs The police have identified the deceased as Mary Mallesh Telugu, 26, a resident of Dehu Road, who took up small domestic jobs. (File photo)

A 25-YEAR-OLD automobile mechanic allegedly murdered his girlfriend with a knife and a wrench at a lodge in Pune's Pimpri Chinchwad on Saturday and later surrendered before the police and confessed to the murder. The accused identified as Dilawar Singh, a resident of Pisoli area of Pune, told the police that he allegedly committed the crime after discovering some photos that showed his lover with another man on her phone. The police have identified the deceased as Mary Mallesh Telugu, 26, a resident of Dehu Road, who took up small domestic jobs. An officer from Wakad police station said, "On Saturday evening, Singh reached Kondhwa police station and told the police that he was in a relationship with a woman but he suspected that she was being unfaithful to him. He told the police that he had taken her to a lodge in the Kalakhadak area in Wakad earlier that afternoon. When he checked her phone he found intimate photos of the woman with another man, following which he fatally attacked her with a sharp knife and a

Aaj Tak anchor Anjana Om Kashyap, group chairman Aroon Purie booked for hurting sentiments of Valmiki community

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anjana om kashyap and arun poorie Valmiki community. The FIR has been registered on the complaint of Chaudhary Yashpal, national coordinator BHAVADHAS and resident of Mohalla Ghati Valmiki of Ludhiana. (Source: Aaj Tak/Wikipedia) The Ludhiana Police have booked Hindi news channel Aaj Tak's anchor, journalist-cum-managing editor Anjana Om Kashyap, India Today Group chairman and editor-in-chief Aron Purie and the media conglomerate company Living Media India Limited (also known as the India Today Group) for allegedly hurting the sentiments of the Valmiki community. The First Information Report (FIR) has been registered on the complaint of Bharatiya Valmiki Dharam Samaj (BHAVADHAS). In its complaint, the organisation has alleged that Kashyap made derogatory remarks against the ancient era saint Valmiki in her show which was aired via official social media pages of the channel such as Facebook. Calling the remarks "deeply insulting", the BHAVADHAS alleged that the "sentiments of the entire country's Valmiki community were hurt" and demanded "an FIR be registered at the earliest before the issue snowballs" into a national-level agitation. "We demand immediate arrest of Kashyap, and she also must apologize

police said.

The police action follows Wednesday's registration of a zero FIR by the Vidhana Soudha police against 71-year-old advocate Rakesh Kishore, who attempted to hurl footwear at Justice Gavai inside the Supreme Court on October 6. He was briefly detained and released later that day after Justice Gavai instructed the court's registrar-general not to press charges. Kishore has said he was "unhappy" with Justice Gavai's remarks made during a hearing of a plea seeking the restoration of a Lord Vishnu idol at the Kshajuraho temple complex in Madhya Pradesh. He was heard shouting, "Sanatan ka apman nahi sahenge (We will not tolerate the insult to Sanatan Dharma)," when he allegedly hurled the shoe at Justice Gavai. However, Justice Gavai recently said that though it shocked him, it was now "a forgotten chapter." "My learned brother (Justice K Vinod Chandran) and I were very shocked with what happened on Monday... for us it is a forgotten chapter," he said during the hearing. Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, who was also part of the bench, took a different view on how Rakesh Kishore should have been dealt with. "I have my own views on this. He is the Chief Justice of India. It's not a matter of joke," he said. "I am not apologetic thereafter; it's an affront to the institution." Justice Bhuyan added, "As judges over the years, we will do a lot of things which others may not think are justifiable, but that does not change our opinion about what we did."



the abrogation of Article 370 and that it has now made Kashmir an integral part of the Indian Union, the former R&AW chief asserted it was always an integral part of India." Sheikh Abdullah had said the accession (of J&K to India) was irrevocable. What more does Delhi want? Even in 2014, there were Kashmiri leaders who said they had great hope from the BJP government. But they did not realise it was not Atalji's government. (Narendra) Modi has his own way of dealing with Kashmir. I cannot fault him," he said. Asked if it was not true that abrogation of Article 370 has delivered peace to Kashmir, Dulat said, "What you mean by peace is not what Kashmiri thinks of peace. He craves for peace but he lives on hope". Stating that these was a lack of empathy for Kashmir, he said Delhi has forgotten Punjab too. He added that Mirwaiz Umar Farooq of the Hurriyat is waiting to be mainstreamed.



wrench, in a fit of rage."The officer added that the inspector of Kondhwa station informed the Wakad police station, which is part of the Pimpri Chinchwad jurisdiction, about the man's statement. "Subsequently, a team from Wakad police station was sent to the lodge and the body of the woman was found in a room. Singh was taken into custody and handed over to the Wakad police. He was placed under arrest and has been booked for murder. We have launched an investigation to establish the sequence of events leading to the murder," the officer said. A murder case was registered late on Saturday at Wakad station. Singh will be produced before the court on Sunday where his custody remand will be sought, the police said.



for her words uttered against saint Valmiki on a national channel," he said Chaudhary Yashpal, national coordinator BHAVADHAS and resident of Mohalla Ghati Valmiki of Ludhiana.BHAVADHAS chief coordinator Vijay Daanav, also an Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and chairman of Punjab Government's Dalit Vikas Board, said, "We want immediate arrest of Kashyap for insulting Valmiki ji and hurting our sentiments."The FIR has been registered under sections 299 for deliberate and malicious act to outrage religious feelings and 3(1)(v) of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act).Inspector Gaganpreet Singh, SHO division number 4 police station, said: "

From reader to risk-taker: the journey of an entrepreneur who proved words can rebuild lives



GNS News Agency, Oct 24

In an age obsessed with overnight success, Ritika Singh's story unfolds quietly, persistently, and with purpose. From a shy, book-loving child in Chandigarh who found solace in Tintin and Virginia Woolf to the founder of Kontent Factory, a virtual content agency with global clients, her journey is one of resilience, empathy, and the belief that words can rebuild lives. Early years: books, loss, and ambition

Growing up in an Indian Air Force family, Ritika was reserved but curious. “Books were my friends,” she says. “They gave me words for emotions I couldn’t name.” Her childhood revolved around reading, Kathak, and painting, until life shifted at 15 when she lost her father, a fighter pilot. “When you lose your anchor that young, you either drift or learn to steer,” she reflects. The transition from a structured military life to uncertainty was difficult, but it shaped her resolve. She went on to earn a master’s degree in English literature from Panjab University and dreamed of studying at Oxford. “That dream still lives somewhere inside me,” she smiles. Marriage, motherhood, and a turning point

Marriage brought stability but also silence. "I loved being a mother, but somewhere I stopped being myself," she says. A friend's offhand remark—that she'd have to cook early on a trip because she didn't "earn a bread"—jolted her. "That one comment changed something in me. I realised I'd allowed my worth to be defined by others." Ritika took up an administrative job at a life insurance firm. It lasted a year, but it rekindled her confidence. After 13 years of marriage, she found herself divorced, raising two children

General Naravane breaks silence on his unreleased memoirs: ‘The ball is in publisher’s and MoD’s court’

GNS News Agency, Oct 24

Former Chief of Army Staff, General M M Naravane (retd), whose memoirs *Four Stars of Destiny*, which has been pending for Central Government's approval for more than a year, on Sunday said that his job was to write the book and it was the publisher who had to seek permission from the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Gen Naravane made the comment after a session at the Khushwant Singh Literature Festival held here where his latest fictional work, *The Cantonment Conspiracy: A Military Thriller*, was discussed with Rear Admiral Nirmala Kannan (retd).

When asked by a guest at the festival why his 'Four Stars of Destiny' had not seen the light of the day, the former Army Chief said, "My job was to write the book and give it to the publishers. It was the publishers who were to get the permission from the MoD. They gave it (the book) to them. It is under review. It is still under review for more than a year now". The General added that the publisher and the MoD are in constant touch with each other. "So it is not for me to follow up. The ball is in the publisher's and the MoD's court. But I enjoyed writing the book, for better or for worse. And that's that. It is for the MoD to give permission as and when they deem fit," he said.

The controversy surrounding General Naravane's memoir centers on its revelations about sensitive military operations and government policies, which prompted a government-mandated review and delayed its publication. Naravane, who served as India's Chief of Army Staff from December 2019 to April 2022, including during the 2020 India-China border clashes, detailed high-level decision-making in the book, drawing criticism for potentially breaching norms on disclosures by retired officers. Key revelations include a late-night conversation on August 31, 2020, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh amid Chinese troop movements in eastern Ladakh's Rechin La pass. Singh reportedly conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's approval, telling Naravane, "Jo ucchit samjho woh karo" (Do what-



ever you deem appropriate), effectively giving the Army carte blanche to respond, including positioning tanks without firing first. There was also a comment on the Agnipathi recruitment scheme, launched in June 2022. Naravane revealed the Army had proposed retaining 75% of short-term recruits long-term, but the final model retained only 25% after four years, with an initial salary of ₹20,000 deemed “unacceptable” for soldiers risking their lives—later raised to ₹30,000 following Army pushback. He portrayed the scheme as a politically driven initiative overriding military advice, contradicting the government’s narrative that it originated from the armed forces to reduce the age profile.

In response, the Indian Army and Ministry of Defence initiated a review in January 2024 after the excerpts were published in December 2023, instructing publisher Penguin Random House to halt sharing copies or excerpts. As of today, the book remains in limbo, with no confirmed release date despite initial listings for April-May 2024 on platforms like Amazon, which cancelled pre-orders. Naravane has since published fictional works, including the military thriller 'The Cantonment Conspiracy' in March 2025 and another leadership-focused book in August 2025.

Wintrack case prompts Customs shake-up: Vigilance probe ordered, officers transferred after company made bribery claims

GNS News Agency, Oct 24

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said on Saturday evening that it has initiated a full-fledged vigilance investigation into allegations of corruption and harassment against officials at Chennai Customs, following the public accusations by Wintrack Inc., an importer of personal massagers that recently announced its exit from India. In a detailed statement posted on X, the CBIC confirmed that it had "received the factual enquiry report from the Department of Revenue (DoR), which was mandated to undertake a fair, transparent and fact-based enquiry into the allegations made by M/s Wintrack Inc. regarding alleged irregularities in Chennai Customs."

The CBIC statement marks an unusually detailed public acknowledgement of irregularities, pledging a time-bound investigation. "Based on the prima facie findings," the CBIC said, "a thorough vigilance investigation is being initiated, which is proposed to be completed in a time frame of 4–6 weeks." To ensure that the probe remains "credible, free and fair," the board said that the officers identified in the report have been relieved of their current responsibilities "with immediate effect and posted out of the jurisdiction." The CBIC statement added that the enquiry report indicated "the possibility of cheating and private fraud by the importer's own agents and intermediaries." As a result, "the license of the Customs Broker Agent named in the report has been suspended under regulation 16 of the Customs Brokers Licensing Regulations, 2018, pending the final outcome of the vigilance investigation."

The CBIC said it would constitute a Task Force under the Member (Customs) to recommend and oversee further corrective operational measures. These include a "comprehensive review of all pending cases to ensure consistent, transparent and legally correct application of regulations, with particular attention to MSMEs and small-scale

with limited financial support. "I had no safety net. But I had to work. And I had my words," she says. Freelance writing for public relations firms followed. "Sometimes I'd be typing at 3 am after putting the kids to bed," she recalls. "There were nights of doubt and tears, but quitting was never an option."

With no funds for an office or marketing, she built her business virtually—long before remote work became fashionable. “Clients doubted me because I didn’t have an office. So I let my work do the talking,” she says. In 2012, her mentor gifted her the domain [kontentfactory.com](#) as a birthday surprise. “He said spelling ‘content’ with a K would make people remember it. He was right,” she laughs. From there, word-of-mouth replaced advertising. Today, Kontent Factory offers branding, copywriting, and social media strategy, run entirely online by an all-women team. “Most of us are mothers,” she says. “We understand chaos and deadlines—and we get things done.”

Ritika leads with empathy but demands accountability. “We don’t ghost clients or miss commitments,” she says. Integrity remains her cornerstone. “Do the right thing, even when no one is watching—that’s how you build credibility.” Her team describes Kontent Factory as a “safe space with deliverables.” She explains, “We work around life, not the other way around. If women can’t design their work, they’ll always be forced to choose between home and career.” Beyond business, Ritika serves as chairwoman of the Indian Women Network (IWN) Chandigarh-Tricity for 2024–25, advocating workplace equity and leadership. She also represents 60 global chapters on the TIE Women Board and mentors young entrepreneurs. “Mentorship is my way of paying it forward,” she says. “Someone believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself.” As part of The Pink Policy Dialogues, a think tank focused on women-centric policy reform, she helps shape conversations on gender equality. “Real change happens when we move from talk to policy,” she says. Ritika’s story distills into five lessons: adversity can be a catalyst; start small but with integrity; lead with empathy; success is incremental; and empowering others amplifies your own impact. “I began as a reader who wanted to understand the world,” she says softly. “Somewhere along the way, I became a storyteller who helps others find their voice. That, to me, is success.”

Madagascar President warns of attempted coup after soldiers join protests



GNS News Agency, Oct 24

Madagascar's presidency said that "an attempted illegal and forcible seizure of power" was underway in the African nation, without providing details, a day after some soldiers joined a protest movement that had begun last month. Troops from the elite CAPSAT unit that helped President Andry Rajoelina seize power in a 2009 coup urged fellow soldiers to disobey orders and back the youth-led protests, which began on September 25 and pose the most serious challenge to Rajoelina's rule since his reelection in 2023.

A Reuters witness saw three people injured after shots

Nobel Institute suspects leak before Machado's win, 'highly likely an espionage'



GNS News Agency, Oct 24

A potential leak that preceded the announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize to Venezuelan Opposition leader Maria Corina Machado was "highly likely" the result of espionage, the Nobel Institute told Norwegian media. The odds of Ms. Machado winning the prize jumped from 3.75% to nearly 73% overnight from Thursday (October 9, 2025) to Friday (October 10, 2025) on the predictive betting platform Polymarket. But no expert or media outlet had mentioned her as being among the favourites for the prize, which was announced just a few hours later in Oslo.

"Highly likely it's espionage," the director of the Nobel Institute and secretary of the Nobel Committee, Kristian Berg Harpviken, told Norway's TV2 television. On Friday (October 10), the head of the Nobel committee said he didn't be-

Preparations begin to ramp up aid in Gaza as ceasefire brings hope for end to 2-year war

Preparations were underway on Sunday (October 12, 2025) for a ramp-up of aid entering the war-battered Gaza Strip under a new ceasefire deal that many are hoping will signal an end to the devastating 2-year-long war. The Israeli defence body in charge of humanitarian aid in Gaza, COGAT, said that the amount of aid entering the Gaza Strip is expected to ramp up on Sunday (October 12) to around 600 trucks per day, as stipulated in the agreement.

Egypt said it is sending 400 trucks carrying aid into Gaza on Sunday. The trucks will have to be inspected by Israeli forces before being allowed in. The Associated Press footage showed dozens of trucks crossing the Egyptian side of the Rafah crossing. The Egyptian Red Crescent said the trucks include medical supplies, tents, blankets, food and fuel. The trucks will head to the inspection area in the Kerem Shalom crossing for screening by Israeli troops. In recent months, the U.N. and its partners have been able to deliver only 20% of the aid needed in Gaza because of the fighting, border closures and Israeli restrictions on what enters. Expanding Israeli offensives and restrictions on humanitarian aid have triggered a hunger crisis, including famine in parts of the territory. The United Nations has said that it has about 170,000 metric tons of food, medicine and other humanitarian aid ready to enter Gaza once Israel gives the green light. The fate of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an Israeli- and U.S.-backed contractor that replaced the U.N. aid operation in Gaza in May as the primary food supplier in Gaza, remains unclear. Food distribution sites operated by the group in the southernmost city of Rafah and central Gaza were dismantled following the ceasefire deal, several Palestinians said Sunday. Hoda Goda, who used to go to the GHF sites in Rafah earlier this year, said people had dismantled the structures and taken wood and metal fences GHF workers used to control the crowds.

Another Palestinian, Ehab Abu Majed, said the site in eastern Khan Younis was also dismantled, and there was no food distribution in the past two days. Ahmed al-Masri, a man living in the central Nuseirat refugee camp, said a third site in the Netzarim corridor area was also dismantled. GHF had been touted by Israel and the United States as an alternative system to prevent Hamas from taking over aid. However, its operations were mired in chaos and hundreds of Palestinians were killed by Israeli gunfire while heading to its four sites. The Israeli military has said its troops fired warning shots to control crowds. A GHF representative declined to comment Sunday.

Preparations were also underway Sunday for the release of Israeli hostages held in Gaza and Palestinian prisoners held in Israel. A message sent Saturday from Gal Hirsch, Israel's coordinator for the Hostages and the Missing and obtained by The Associated Press, told hostage families to prepare for the release of their loved ones starting Monday morning. One of the families of the hostages confirmed the note's authenticity. Hirsch said preparations in hospitals and in Rei'im camp were complete to receive the live hostages, while the dead will be transferred to the Institute of Forensic Medicine for identification. An international task force will start working to locate deceased hostages who are not returned within the 72-hour period, said Hirsch. Officials have said the search for the bodies of the dead, some of whom may be buried under rubble, could take time.

were fired along a road to the CAPSAT barracks on Sunday. Other witnesses said there was no sign of ongoing clashes. The protests, inspired by Gen Z-led movements in Kenya and Nepal, began over water and electricity shortages but have since escalated, with demonstrators calling for Rajoelina to step down, apologise for violence against protesters, and dissolve the Senate and electoral commission.

At least 22 people have been killed and 100 injured in the unrest since September, according to the United Nations. The Malagasy government has disputed the figures, with Rajoelina saying this month that 12 people were killed in the protests. In a statement on the presidency's official social media account, Mr. Rajoelina's office said he firmly condemned attempts to destabilise the country and urged all forces "to stand together in defense of constitutional order and national sovereignty." It encouraged dialogue to resolve the crisis. Videos on social media on Saturday (October 11) showed CAPSAT soldiers urging fellow troops to "support the people." A video broadcast by local media showed that dozens of soldiers left the barracks later on Saturday to escort thousands of protesters into the May 13 Square in Antananarivo, the scene of many political uprisings, which had been heavily guarded and off limits during the unrest. Since then, the prime minister and army's chief of staff have urged citizens to take part in dialogue and stay calm.

lieve Ms. Machado's name had been leaked. "I don't think there have ever been any leaks in the entire history of the prize. I can't imagine that's the case," Committee chairman Jorgen Watne Frydnes told the NTB news agency. Mr. Harpviken said the institute would nevertheless investigate and "where necessary, we will further tighten security". Espionage "could make it appear as if someone on the inside deliberately leaked information. That is not likely," he said. "It's too certain to say for sure, but it's no secret that the Nobel Institute is subject to espionage," he said. "It is obvious that the institution is of interest to actors who want to acquire information, both states and other organisations." He added, "The motives can be both political and economic. This has been going on for many decades."

An extremely limited number of people know in advance the name of the laureate chosen by the five members of the Nobel Committee. In the past, unexpected names of Nobel nominees have emerged in the Norwegian media, fuelling speculation about possible leaks. But this has not been the case in recent years. Ms. Machado, an Opposition leader barred from running in Venezuela's 2024 presidential elections, was awarded "for her tireless work promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy", the Committee said. The Nobel Peace Prize has long been coveted by U.S. President Donald Trump, whose office called the Committee's decision to award it to Ms. Machado instead of him a sign of "politics over peace".



Israeli officials believe about 20 of the hostages out of 48 held by Hamas and other Palestinian factions in Gaza are still alive. All of the living hostages are expected to be released Monday. U.S. President Donald Trump, who pushed to clinch the ceasefire deal, is expected to arrive in Israel Monday morning. He will meet with families of hostages and speak at the Knesset, Israel's parliament, according to a schedule released by the White House.

Trump will then continue on to Egypt, where the office of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi has said he will co-chair a "peace summit" on Monday with attendance by regional and international leaders. Timing has not yet been announced for the release of some 2,000 Palestinian prisoners held in Israel who are to be freed under the deal. They include 250 people serving life sentences in addition to 1,700 people seized from Gaza during the war and held without charge. Palestinians continued to move back to areas vacated by Israeli forces Sunday, although many were returning to homes reduced to rubble. Satellite photos analyzed by The Associated Press showed a line of vehicles traveling north to Gaza City. The photos taken Saturday showed a line of vehicles on Al Rashid Street, which runs north-south along the Gaza Strip's coastline on the Mediterranean Sea. Tents along the coast also could be seen near Gaza City's marina. Many people have been living along the sea to avoid being targeted in Israeli bombardment of the city. Armed police were seen in Gaza City and southern Gaza patrolling the streets and securing aid trucks driving through areas from which the Israeli military had withdrawn, according to residents. The police force is part of the Hamas-run Interior Ministry. The war began when Hamas-led militants launched a surprise attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, in which some 1,200 people were killed and 250 taken hostage.

Situation under control: Muttaqi on Afghanistan-Pakistan clashes

Afghanistan wants peaceful resolution of its conflict with Pakistan but if the efforts don't succeed, it has other means, Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi said

Mr. Muttaqi's comments at a media briefing at the Afghan Embassy came amid escalating tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan. "We want a peaceful resolution of the situation, but if the peace efforts don't succeed, we have other options," the Afghan Acting Foreign Minister said.

Elon Musk settles ex-Twitter executives' lawsuit over unpaid severance



The story so far: Elon Musk on October 1 agreed to settle a \$128 million lawsuit brought against him by former Twitter senior executives, per media reports. In the lawsuit, former Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal, CFO Ned Segal, Chief Legal Officer Vijaya Gadde, and General Counsel Sean Edgett accused Mr. Musk of firing them without a reason after he purchased the social media platform for \$44 billion, and denying them severance payments. While the exact sum of the settlement and its conditions are not yet public, the case was significant as the high-profile firings set the tone of Mr. Musk's stormy term at the helm of Twitter, which he later rebranded as X.

What is the history of the Twitter firing lawsuit?

Mr. Musk was initially set to join the company's board but later offered to acquire the company. He then tried backing out, citing numerous spam accounts. He finally went ahead with the acquisition reluctantly, expressing his misgivings about the platform. After he bought Twitter, he immediately fired several senior executives so they did not have enough time to resign, per their lawsuit. Mr. Musk then began laying off 50% of the company's 7,500-person strong workforce, gutting safety and content moderation teams. Many employees in Twitter offices worldwide were completely unaware of their employment status even as Mr. Musk revamped the app, made free features paid, and reinstated banned accounts.

What did the fired executives do?

In their lawsuit, filed in March 2024, Mr. Agrawal, Mr. Segal, Ms. Gadde, and Mr. Edgett claimed that Mr. Musk fired them because of his personal grudge, and a "special ire" against them. They further alleged that the firings were aimed at saving himself \$200 million by making sure the executives would not get their severance benefits, includ-

Philippines, China trade blames for vessels colliding in South China Sea as tensions soar

GNS News Agency, Oct 24

This frame grab from handout video footage taken and released by the Philippine Coast Guard shows a China Coast Guard ship (R) deploying water cannon as seen from a Philippine Bureau of Fisheries vessel during an incident near Thitu island in disputed waters of the South China Sea. Manila's coast guard accused a Chinese ship of deliberately ramming a Philippine government vessel anchored near an island in the South China Sea on October 12, as China says the Philippines is "fully responsible" for the collision.

This frame grab from handout video footage taken and released on October 12, 2025 by the Philippine Coast Guard shows a China Coast Guard ship (R) deploying water cannon as seen from a Philippine Bureau of Fisheries vessel during an incident near Thitu island in disputed waters of the South China Sea. Manila's coast guard accused a Chinese ship of deliberately ramming a Philippine government vessel anchored near an island in the South China Sea on October 12, as China says the Philippines is "fully responsible" for the collision. (Photo by Handout via AFP Photo/Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)) The Philippines accused Chinese maritime forces of using water cannon and ramming a Filipino vessel, calling the actions a "clear threat" that escalates tensions in contested South China Sea waters. Meanwhile, China's coast guard said two Philippine government vessels illegally entered waters in the South China Sea on Sunday, leading to a collision.

The Philippines Coast Guard said three Filipino vessels, including the BRP Datu Pagbuaya, were anchored near Thitu Island, locally known as Pag-asa Island, early on Sunday (October 12) as part of a government programme to protect local fishermen when Chinese ships reportedly approached and used water cannon to intimidate them. An hour

ing stock options that were due to vest. The executives "appropriately and vigorously represented the interests of Twitter's public shareholders throughout Musk's wrongful attempt to renege on the deal," the filing stated. "For their efforts, Musk vowed a lifetime of revenge." The executives also referenced quotes from Mr. Musk's biography by Walter Isaacson to back their claims. The filing stressed the importance of severance benefits to ensure that company executives represented the best interests of shareholders. Furthermore, they claimed that Musk's efforts would not withstand legal scrutiny and that he accused the executives of "gross negligence" and "willful misconduct" without providing evidence.

Who all were involved in the lawsuit?

Elon Musk is the billionaire technologist and owner of Twitter, which he rebranded as X after buying it for \$44 billion in 2022. X is now owned by his AI company xAI. Parag Agrawal worked at Twitter from 2011 until 2022, and was Twitter's Chief Executive Officer from November 29, 2021 until October 27, 2022, following Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey. He is now the founder and CEO of Parallel, which is focusing on open web experiences and high accuracy web searches for AI tools and systems, per his X account. Ned Segal was Twitter's Chief Financial Officer from August 25, 2017 until October 27, 2022. Per his LinkedIn account, he is currently the Chief of Housing and Economic Development in San Francisco.

Vijaya Gadde is a lawyer who worked at Twitter from 2011 until October 27, 2022. She became the Chief Legal Officer in February 2018. Per her LinkedIn, Gadde is a member of multiple company boards. Sean Edgett worked in Twitter's legal department from 2012 until October 27, 2022, and was Twitter's General Counsel from February 2018. Per his LinkedIn, he is the Chief Legal Officer and Secretary at the Match Group.

Is there any information about the settlement?

According to a legal filing dated October 1, 2025, in the U.S. Northern District Court of California, the four executives and Mr. Musk stated that they had reached a settlement. This is not final, and requires certain conditions to be met in the near term. In addition to this, the parties involved sought court approval for the existing case management deadlines to be postponed by about a month in each instance, so that they would have time to meet the stated conditions.



later, a China coast guard ship allegedly fired its water cannon directly at the BRP Datu Pagbuaya before ramming its stern, causing minor damage but no injuries, the PCG said. Manila's coast guard and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources vowed to continue their operations in the area, saying their presence is essential to safeguarding the livelihood of Filipino fishermen. However, as per Chinese Coast Guard, one Philippine government vessel "dangerously approached the Chinese Coast Guard vessel" near Sandy Cay, causing the collision for which the Philippine side bears full responsibility. The area, part of the Spratly Islands in a disputed part of the South China Sea, where Manila and Beijing have had repeated confrontations over the years. Tensions between China and the Philippines over the South China Sea have been rising through the year, particularly over the Scarborough Shoal, a prime fishing ground. China claims nearly the entire South China Sea, a vital waterway for more than \$3 trillion in annual ship-borne trade, parts of which are also claimed by Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

China slams US' 100% tariffs as 'double standards', vows 'prudential' export controls



Beijing: China on Sunday hit out at the US over its decision to impose 100 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods, calling Washington's move a display of "double standards". Beijing said it would take a "just and reasonable principled position" and continue implementing export control measures in a "prudential and moderate manner".

The reaction came after US President Donald Trump, on October 10, announced additional levies set to take effect from November 1, in retaliation for what he termed as China's "extraordinarily aggressive" new export restrictions on rare-earth minerals. Washington also threatened to cancel a planned meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping later this month. In a statement, China's Ministry of Commerce said, "On October 9, China released export control measures on rare earths and related items, which are normal actions taken by the Chinese government in accordance with laws and regulations to refine its own export control system." "As a responsible major country, China always firmly safeguards its national security and international common security, always takes a just and reasonable principled position and implements export control measures in a prudential and moderate manner," it added.

Beijing accused Washington of escalating economic pressure against China since September. "The US remarks reflect a textbook 'double standard'. For a long time, the US has been overstressing the concept of national security, abusing export control, taking discriminatory actions against China, and imposing unilateral long-arm jurisdiction measures on various products, including semiconductor equipment and chips," the ministry said. It also highlighted the disparity between the two countries' export control regimes. It mentioned that the US Commerce Control List (CCL) covers over 3,000 items, whereas China's Export Control List of Dual-use Items only covers about 900. "The US has long imposed the 'de minimis' rule for export controls, with a lowest threshold of 0 per cent. These measures of the US side have seriously harmed the legitimate and lawful rights and interests of companies, severely disrupted the international economic and trade order, and gravely undermined the security and stability of global industrial and supply chains," it added.

Centre issues guidelines for retiring government employees

The Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare (DPPW) under the Centre said on Friday (October 10, 2025) that it has finalised guidelines for timely payment of retirement dues of Union government officials, which entail appointment of a welfare officer or pension mitra for each employee. The officer would be deputed by the head of office and assigned to each retiring employee to facilitate filling up of forms and other formalities. The officer shall also be responsible for hand-holding the dependents for documentation and verification in the event of death of the pensioner while submitting the claim for family pension.

‘Everyone has something missing in their life...’: The amazing story of one of India’s best-known storytellers



“When Laksh Maheshwari steps on stage, the world falls silent. His voice, calm yet commanding, carries a rhythm that doesn’t need music to move people. As he takes you on a journey of Amrita Pritam’s extraordinary life or the history of Sufi poetry and songs, powered just by his words, his expressions and a dash of humour you realise how much you have missed story telling that was probably your first introduction to an art form. Laksh brings that precious genre back to adulthood, and how. But there is more to Maheshwari than his words. There is also his grit. Born without a left hand, Maheshwari could have lived a life shadowed by limitation. Instead, he turned his voice into his greatest strength, and became one of India’s most inspiring storytellers.

“I was born different, yes. But my parents never made me feel that way,” Maheshwari says. “They taught me everything from cycling to cricket, even driving. It took longer than usual, but they never gave up on me. That patience and faith built everything I am today.” Maheshwari grew up in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh, in a close-knit family. His father was a civil contractor, while his mother a homemaker and today, the two run a cozy cafe together, something Maheshwari speaks of with deep affection. “They’re living their second life,” he smiles. “I think I get my creative energy from them.” He also has a younger sister, now married and settled in Pune with two children. At 37, Maheshwari, though unmarried, spends his time often travelling, exploring new places and reading stories that fuel his art. “Travel is what I do and love,” he says simply.

Unemployment is still a core issue in Bihar

Unemployment has consistently emerged as one of the most pressing political issues in Bihar. In the last two Assembly elections, jobs and livelihood were among the top concerns. In 2015, post-poll surveys conducted by Lokniti-CSDS showed that ‘unemployment/jobs’ was the most important issue for 9.1% of voters. By 2020, this percentage rose to nearly 21.0%, making it the second most important issue for voters. With the employment scenario still grim, it is an issue that is likely to dominate voter priorities in the forthcoming polls. The situation needs to be looked at objectively, for which official statistics are useful. Under the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the latest State-level indicators on employment are the April-June 2025 quarterly report and the July 2023-June 2024 annual report, with insights on Bihar. Looking beyond the unemployment rate

The quarterly and annual releases cite Bihar’s unemployment rate as 5.2% and 3%, respectively, whereas it was 5.4% and 3.2%, respectively, at the national level for ages 15 and above. To the casual reader, Bihar’s employment/unemployment picture seems decent to good. However, such a superficial reading is misleading. To truly understand employment conditions, one must understand three interrelated indicators in the PLFS — Worker Population Ratio (WPR) or share of the population that is employed; Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) or the share of the population either employed or actively seeking work, and Unemployment Rate (UR) or share of the labour force that is unemployed and actively looking for work. Looking at the UR in isolation conceals the true picture. The same quarterly and national releases cite the WPR for Bihar at 46.2% and 51.6%, respectively while the national WPR is 52% and 58.2%, respectively, which shows that the share of those employed in the working age population is much lower in Bihar.

On checking the WPR and LFPR in the table, Bihar has low WPR, low LFPR, and therefore low UR. A more holistic interpretation is grim because many in Bihar are not working (low WPR), and many are not even looking for work (low LFPR). Since those not working are not even looking for work, the unemployment rate looks deceptively low. This is a classic manifestation of the “Discouraged Worker Effect” wherein people without jobs lose hope of finding employment opportunities and completely withdraw from the labour force. A comparison of Bihar with similar/comparable States strengthens the inference and shows how bad employment conditions are in Bihar. But it is important to compare Bihar against States of a similar size and economic background. In this, two factors are crucial in determining similarity: population and per capita income. For a meaningful comparison, Bihar was grouped with nine large, low-income States (population above three crore as in the Registrar General of India’s 2024 projections, per capita income below national average for 2025-25).

There are nine States that fall under this criteria, which are Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. When Bihar’s indicators are compared with the chosen group of States, the results are alarming. Bihar ranks the lowest across WPR and LFPR. Uttar Pradesh fares marginally better but still hovers near the bottom. The quarterly PLFS (April-June 2025) shows that among youth (15-29 years), the picture is even bleaker: only 28 out of 100 are working. Bihar is at the bottom in terms of youth work participation and youth labour force participation. For a generation that should be building its future, the doors of employment remain closed. Since quarterly figures may be influenced by seasonal fluctuations in employment, it is important to look at the annual PLFS estimates as well. Quarterly estimates are based on Current Weekly Status, in which the reference period used to determine a person’s employment status is just seven days. The annual report also presents Usual Status: principal+subsidiary status, or figures which give a more comprehensive and stable picture of employment over a long term, minimising the distortions caused by short-term variations such as festivals, illness or crop cycles. It also captures people’s subsidiary work. However, these annual figures too reinforce the same conclusion. For those aged 15 years and above, Bihar’s WPR stands at 51.6% and LFPR at 53.2%, which are abysmally low. Only Bihar and Uttar Pradesh fall below 60% in WPR. The situation is grave for women. Bihar’s female

Growing up, Maheshwari, often faced criticism and ridicule from classmates who didn’t understand the difference. “Children don’t have filters,” he says, smiling. “They’d say things like, ‘You can’t play with us.’ It hurts then, but I don’t blame them. We were just kids. What mattered was that my parents told me, again and again, that I was enough.” But life didn’t straighten up its path easily. Maheshwari started his career in finance — a job that looked perfect on paper but felt hollow within. “I tried different professions over 14 years, from running restaurants and startups to writing books. But nothing made me happy. Then one day, I got on stage and spoke and I felt alive for the first time. That’s when I knew. This is it.” Today, Maheshwari’s storytelling shows like ‘Ishq Sufiyana’ and ‘Main Tainu Phir Milangi’ draw packed audiences across India. His performances blend poetry, music, and philosophy, leaving listeners teary-eyed and smiling at once. Ishq Sufiyana, one of his most celebrated pieces, explores the idea of divine love through stories of Sufi saints like Amir Khusrau, Bulleh Shah, and Mirabai.

“What I want people to take home,” he told The Indian Express, “is a sense of how beautiful life truly is. You are enough. Be grateful. Be happy. Life is infinitely beautiful.” Acceptance became his philosophy; perspective, his art. Laksh Maheshwari’s voice, steady yet soft, carrying the kind of conviction that only comes from having known pain deeply. “There was a time I thought of my missing hand as my biggest weakness,” he admits. “But then my mother said something that changed my life: ‘There are things in life that you cannot change, you must accept them.’ That one line became my strength.” In Pune, his recent shows were sold out. The audience from young and old alike were left with teary smiles. “Pune is a city of theatre and art,” he says fondly. “The people here understand the feeling. They connect instantly.” As an author, Maheshwari has extended his storytelling beyond the stage through his ‘Descendants Trilogy’. The series opens with ‘The Descendants – Book 1’ and continues with ‘The Ancestors – Book 2’, each bifurcating into intricate human emotions. Through themes of legacy, relationships, and self-discovery, the book mirrors the essence of his own journey — a search for meaning, connection, and identity that runs deep. “Everyone has something missing in their life. Mine is just visible,” he says. “But if you look closely, you’ll realise that it’s never about what you don’t have. It’s about what you create with what you have.”



WPR is only 30.1%, or out of 100 women aged 15 years and above, only 30 are working. The situation is even more distressing for young women. In the 15-29 age group, Bihar’s female work participation rate stands at 31.2%, while neighbouring Jharkhand records 49.3%, which is nearly 20 percentage points higher.

The quality of jobs in Bihar is equally troubling. Only 8.7% of workers are engaged in regular wage/salaried jobs, the lowest among comparable States. Bihar is the only State — not just in this group but also in the entire country — with a single digit proportion. At the same time, 23.8% of workers are employed as casual labourers, the highest share after Odisha across these States. This indicates a lack of secure and formal employment opportunities. Such outcomes are in stark contrast to the claims of the National Democratic Alliance, which often highlights the formalisation of the economy as one of its achievements. In Bihar, however, the labour market remains overwhelmingly informal, insecure and poorly remunerated. Migration and the missing numbers. A caveat must be kept in mind while interpreting Bihar’s employment indicators. The PLFS counts only those individuals residing in the State during the reference period. The employment picture could have been better had the PLFS been capturing migration as well. The grim labour market outcomes cannot be separated from Bihar’s governance record. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s government has failed to improve literacy and human capital formation. The same PLFS (annual) shows Bihar’s literacy rate at only 73.2% for the 5-plus age group, which is far below the national average. Without significant improvements in education and skills, the State cannot hope to generate meaningful employment opportunities. Despite frequent announcements, investment summits and promises of industrial revival, little has materialised on the ground. Mr. Kumar’s political manoeuvres and shifting alliances have yielded little tangible benefits for Bihar’s economy. The State has underperformed be it education, job creation, industrialisation and formalisation.

HCLTech named among TIME’s World’s Best and Most Sustainable Companies 2025

Hyderabad: Global technology company HCLTech has earned dual recognition from TIME magazine, featuring in the World’s Best Companies 2025 and the World’s Most Sustainable Companies 2025 rankings. The company has been ranked as the #1 India-headquartered technology firm for the second year in a row and among the top 20 global companies in professional services in the World’s Best Companies list. It also secured a spot among the top 15 professional services firms in the sustainability ranking. The World’s Best Companies 2025 list evaluates organizations based on employee satisfaction, revenue growth and sustainability transparency. HCLTech posted \$13.8 billion in consolidated FY25 revenue, achieved 4.7% constant currency growth, and continues to promote diversity, with women comprising 29% of its global workforce and 50% of its board of directors. The sustainability recognition highlights HCLTech’s 46% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, zero waste-to-landfill status across campuses, and water replenishment exceeding 31 times its usage.

The gavel over Gulmarg’s hotels



Perched at an altitude of 8,500 feet above the sea level, nippy weather has already set in at one of India’s winter wonderlands, the tourist hotspot Gulmarg. The green table-top meadow located in north Kashmir’s Baramulla district is spread over three square kilometres, with the imposing peaks and slopes of the Pir Panjal ranges of Himalayas on the West and the vast expanse of Srinagar and its surrounding mountain peaks on the East. In the meadow’s first ever inn, the double-storeyed Nedous Hotel, the lupines and hollyhocks have started to wither away. The 137-year-old chalet, with a facade of well-seasoned deodar bark has been sealed with a white tape and an official stamp since August 2 this year.

The hotel has become the first lease structure to be taken over by the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) from the first family of hoteliers, the Nedous. Officials at the GDA say the Nedous lease expired in 1985 and the family failed to renew it. In 2015, the J&K High Court dismissed the plea for renewal. This year, the GDA declared the Nedous family as “an unauthorized occupant under the J&K Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1988”. But many local hoteliers rue the decision and fear for their future too. There is no privately owned land in Gulmarg; all of it is government-owned.

The winter-sports destination that is set to witness the first ever auction of existing hotels after J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha introduced the J&K Land Grant Rules in 2022, which replaced the J&K Land Grants Rules, 1960. It has left local hoteliers livid. “Kashmir has no manufacturing industry. The hotel industry created a strong upper-middle class here,” says Amjad Khan (name changed). He is one of 10 hoteliers who have challenged the rules before the J&K High Court for being “discriminatory”. “It aches my heart to see the Nedous Hotel sealed. There were no hotels in Gulmarg other than Nedous till the 1970s. I worked in the bar of the Hotel Highlands Park, then part of Hotel Nedous. The tourist sector of Kashmir owes everything to the Nedous,” says Abdul Ahad Bakshi, who now owns Bakshi Restaurant, popular in Gulmarg.

As the Gulmarg lease case enters the final stage and is listed for hearing on October 27, the future of 52 structures, including 32 hotels and 20 huts, spread over 38 acres will be determined afresh. Out of 2,300 beds in Gulmarg, the lease property owns 614 rooms or 1,200 beds. Around 2000 staff members and service providers are likely to be affected by the auctioning as the government has no proposal to retain them. “If the elected government fails to intervene and ensure the leases are not cancelled on this scale, the staff is doomed,” says Bakshi.

In his late 70s, Bakshi is witness to the transformation of Gulmarg. He has vivid memories of serving former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and his family. “Mrs. Gandhi was a frequent traveller to Gulmarg and visited the last time in 1983 with her family, including Rahul and Priyanka. They would always stay in the Nedous. I had the privilege of feeding the young Gandhis during their stay. Mrs. Gandhi was fond of visiting local shrines and always followed local customs when she entered,” says Bakshi. He says it was in the 1908s that Gulmarg opened up to new hoteliers. “The then government wanted the locals to invest in Gulmarg and became part of the tourism story of Kashmir. Gulmarg today feeds people from three nearby areas by employing young and old as sledge drivers, skiers, and guides from Baramulla, Sangrama, and Tangmarg,” says Baskshi. In 1888 by Michael Adam Nedou, a European, chanced upon Gulmarg’s meadows. On the instructions of the then Dogra rulers, Nedou set up the first ever hotel to cater Europeans and royalties. This was the second property of Nedou after he built Nedous Hotel in Lahore in the 1870s.

“We were pioneers of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. The tourism industry boomed and emerged on the global scene because of the Nedous. It took some effort to ensure the structure retains the heritage look and feel as handed down to us by our great great grandfather,” says Aqil Nedou, who worked as the director of operations and sales in the hotel. “Why was our hotel targeted first?” says Nedou, who is related to the Abdullah family, which leads the ruling National Conference (NC). The senior-most Neudo’s eldest son Harry Nedou married Mir Jaan, a woman of Rajput Gujar descent from Gulmarg. Their daughter, Akbar Jahan, later married NC founder Sheikh Muhammad Abdullah. Tourists started travelling to Gulmarg on horseback then. The St. Mary’s Church was built in 1902 and as more local tourists started trickling in, the Mohinishwar

Three arrested, one detained in connection with ‘gang rape’ of medical college student in Bengal

GNS News Agency, Oct 24

Three persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in the gang rape of student of a private medical college in West Bengal’s Paschim Bardhaman district, police said. Police also detained another person suspecting his role in the incident. The identities of the three arrested accused were yet to be disclosed by the police. “We arrested three persons in connection with the case this morning. They are being questioned. This is a very sensitive case and we will give out further details later,” a police officer told PTI. Sources in the police said that the mobile phones of the three accused were also seized., police cordoned off the crime spot in a jungle adjacent to the Paragananj Kali Bari cremation ground, he said.

Massive search operations were being carried out in the villages in and around the private medical college in Durgapur, the officer said, adding that drones were also used to conduct searches in the jungles in the area. The medical college student hailing from Odisha’s Jaleswar was allegedly raped by some men in Durgapur, police said on Saturday. The incident took place outside the campus of the private medical college in Durgapur on Friday night when the second-year student went out with one of her friends for dinner. The woman’s parents, who rushed to Durgapur from Odisha, lodged an FIR with the New Township police station. The health condition of the survivor was stated to be “improving” as she is undergoing treatment at the private college and hospital where she was studying, the officer said, adding she has given her statement to the law enforcers.

“The three accused were traced through the mobile

Shivalaya Shiv Mandir came in 1915 during the rein of Dogra ruler Maharaja Hari Singh. All the three structures — Nedous Hotel, the church, and the temple — are perched atop three highlands within the bowl-shaped meadow, surrounded by pine and deodar tree-lines.

Abdul Rehman Mir, in his late 70s from Baramulla’s Khawar area, joined the hotel in 1973 as a room service boy. “I have five daughters and an ailing wife. They all depended on my salary, which was secure till the police came and sealed the hotel. I have no memories other than the corridors of the hotel. I am unemployable now,” says Mir. Sheikh Amin, 48, a resident of Baramulla’s Sultanpora, had worked as the manager of the hotel. His daily routine of travelling from his humble village to this high-end hotel has also come to an end after 17 years. “The eviction came as a bolt from the blue. We had a staff strength of 55. All were rendered jobless in one stroke, without a notice,” says Amin. The visitors’ diary maintained by the hotel is still full of praise for Amin and his staff. “I have served many high-profile guests at the hotel but have the most vivid memories about the stays of (actor) Shabana Azmi,” says Amin.

According to official figures of the Gulmarg Development Authority, lease holders pay ₹6 per kannal (0.125 acre) of land in Gulmarg; this has not been revised for decades. Gulmarg only generates a revenue of ₹4 crore from these lease properties. Just the government-run Gulmarg Gondola, a ropeway that runs 3.2 kilometres for tourists to get elevated views of the mountains, earned over ₹100 crore in 2023-24, as per reports. The new rules, if upheld, will end all the current leases. Unlike the previous lease period of 99 years, the new lease period will be reduced to 40 years. These rules also deem a person or an entity who has defaulted under the 1960 Act ineligible to participate in the auction. This makes almost all current lessees ineligible to compete. According to the officials in the tourism department, the use of land once auctioned will be diversified to education, healthcare, agriculture, tourism, skill development, and development of traditional art, craft, culture and languages. The new provisions allow land in Gulmarg to be set aside for self-employment or for housing of ex-servicemen, war widows, and the families of people who have died in military service.

Gulmarg is the main destination of Kashmir’s tourism industry. According to the tourism department’s figures, the meadow attracted 15.4 lakh tourists in 2022, 16.25 lakh in 2023, and 13.05 lakh in 2024. The figures suggest that over 75% of tourists who travel to Kashmir visit Gulmarg, which is the only ski destination of the Valley that matches the snow quality of the Alps in Switzerland.

For the first time, those who do not have domicile status can apply for lease of land, opening Gulmarg to big tourism players. The locals see the move as a death knell for investors from Kashmir. Most local hotel owners argued the struggle in creating a brand, the investment and the hardships are being ignored while throwing open Gulmarg to outsiders. The grandfather of Niyaz Ahmad (name changed), in his 40s, purchased a piece of land under auction in 1978 in Gulmarg for hotel construction. “Our family took a loan from J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP) to invest in Gulmarg and construct a 32-room hotel. We started repaying the loan in the 1980s and the militancy started in the 1990s. Kashmir faced turmoil and we saw losses till 2010 and now when tourism is picking up, our hotels are being snatched from us,” he says. He says building trust in tourists was hard, but now that he has developed those relationships with guests from Russia, Austria, New Zealand, and Tibet during the ski season, he is being asked to relinquish the property he runs. “What will happen to 45 staff members? No Kashmiri can compete in the auction ever,” he adds. There were six hotels that came up for auction in the 2000s, as Kashmir’s militancy situation showed signs of improvement. These too will be auctioned. Hotels in Gulmarg are categorised as ‘A’, ‘B’, and ‘C’. Most livelihoods are attached to the B and C categories, which are the middle and lower rung hoteliers. Gulmarg has 23 B-grade lease hotels and 13 C-grade hotels. “I lost my husband a few years ago. My two children inherited this hotel from their father. They study abroad now. If the hotel is taken over by the government, I may have to ask them to return,” says Shazia Shah, who runs a C-grade hotel. She questions the hand-picking of Gulmarg on the issue of lease. “Nearly 6,000 leases across J&K have expired. In the Jammu province around 1,662 expired leases include hotels, petrol pumps, and commercial properties. Most auctioned properties in 1978-79 were for a lease period of 90-99 years, renewable after 40 years. The first 40 years expired in 2019, but the Land Grant Rules (of 2022) are now being applied retrospectively,” says Shah. A senior government official says the elected government had suggested the formation of a committee to look into the matters of Gulmarg and review the rules passed by the L-G government. Most hoteliers say they were ready to pay rent as per market value of current times. Nedou wants there to be a new lease renewal policy that the elected government puts in place. “The current lease holders should have the first right, as in the rest of the country,” he feels. He is hoping that the government intervene “so that Gulmarg remains a cultural bridge between the Valley and the outside world”.

phone tower dumping method. More people could be involved in the crime, and searches are underway. “We are also trying to find out whether these people were known to the survivor or her friend with whom she had gone outside the college. Her friend’s role is also under scrutiny,” a police source said. The accused persons had used the survivor’s mobile phone to call another accused to the crime spot, he said, adding that it helped them identify the mobile phone numbers of all the accused. Meanwhile, the father of the survivor requested the state administration to take strict measures to punish the culprits. “I will request the state government to take strict steps to ensure that girls and women in West Bengal are safe. I suspect that the friend who accompanied her outside was involved in the crime. Who knows? I have been requesting the police to take proactive steps so that other accused are nabbed,” he said. Multiple raids were conducted on Saturday in the areas adjoining the private college to nab the accused. Forensic experts also collected evidence from the jungle where the incident took place, he said. Representatives of the West Bengal Commission of Women were likely to visit the college during the day and speak to the survivor and her parents. Representatives of the West Bengal Doctors’ Forum (WBDF) and Abhaya Manch would also be visiting the college later in the day. They condemned the gang rape of the MBBS student, WBDF president Dr Kaushik Chaki said. The incident has triggered political mudslinging between the ruling Trinamool Congress and opposition parties. It prompted Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahi to express concern and urge his West Bengal counterpart, Mamata Banerjee, to take swift action against the perpetrators.

Trump renames Department of Defence to ‘Department Of War’; faces legal hurdles



EMS News Agency, Sept 18

In a dramatic shift of tone, President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday (September 5, 2025), rebranding the U.S. Department of Defence as the “Department of War”. The move, projected as a reassertion of U.S. military dominance, comes at a time when Mr. Trump has spent months campaigning for the Nobel Peace Prize. The order authorises Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth to use the secondary title “Secretary of War” in official correspondence and public communications, according to a White House fact sheet. The Pentagon’s website was changed from defense.gov to war.gov, and signs around Mr. Hegseth’s office were replaced. On social media, the Pentagon’s X account rebranded as the “Department of War”, complete with a new seal for its profile picture and banner image. Mr. Trump also announced that new stationery would soon be in circulation. The Department of War was created in 1789, then renamed and reorganised through legislation signed by President Harry Truman in 1947, two years after the end of World War II. The Congress debated for two years before passing the 1947 National Security Act. The sweeping law created a single Pentagon department called “The National Military Establishment”. It also created the National Security Council to advise the President and established the Central Intelligence Agency. The new name – NME – unintentionally read as “Enemy,” prompted the Congress in 1949 to rename it as the “Department of Defence.”

Even though Mr. Trump has rebranded the Department of Defence to the Department of War through an executive order, the move is riddled with legal flaws. According to a White House fact sheet, the rebranding permits the use of “Department of War” as a secondary title in official communications. That includes revised email footers, signage, and social media branding. A sign that reads “Pete Hegseth - Secretary of War” hangs as a worker prepares a wall for new signs after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the Department of Defence to be renamed as the “Department of War”, at the Pentagon in Washington. A sign that reads “Pete Hegseth - Secretary of War” hangs as a worker prepares a wall for new signs after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered the Department of Defence to be renamed as the “Department of War”, at the Pentagon in Washington. Even using the new title in a secondary ca-

capacity comes with a significant price tag. Updating signs, branding, and letterheads — both at the Pentagon and across military installations worldwide — could cost tens of millions of dollars. That figure runs contrary to Mr. Trump’s administration’s long-touted efforts to cut government spending. While the optics are dramatic, the legal foundation of Mr. Trump’s move is far shakier. The National Security Act of 1947, passed by the Congress and signed into a law by President Truman, codified the Department of Defence as the statutory title of the nation’s military establishment. While the executive order can permit internal and non-statutory use of the new title, it cannot legally override the name. For it to carry legal weight, the Congress has to pass legislation amending the 1949 statute. Until the Congress passes that legislation, the renaming remains unofficial in legal terms. Mr. Trump is expected to submit the change to the Congress for approval in the coming weeks. What Trump hopes to achieve U.S. President Donald Trump speaks with the media on the day of the signing of an executive order to rename the Department of Defence the “Department of War”, accompanied by U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, in the Oval Office, at the White House.

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks with the media on the day of the signing of an executive order to rename the Department of Defence the “Department of War”, accompanied by U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth, in the Oval Office, at the White House. Mr. Trump said the change was intended to signal to the world that the United States remains a force to be reckoned with. He also criticised the current name — Department of Defence — as “woke”. “I think it sends a message of victory. I think it sends, really, a message of strength,” Mr. Trump said, as he authorised the use of “Department of War” as a secondary title for the Pentagon. The decision comes with Mr. Trump’s broader second-term ambitions: to centralise power and project toughness thereby rallying his political base while reframing America’s military posture in global space. Throughout his presidency, Mr. Trump has leaned heavily on the military to support his policy agenda — including immigration enforcement and domestic law-and-order initiatives. He has deployed the National Guard in Washington, D.C., and has signalled an intention to expand military involvement to other Democratic-led cities like Chicago and New York. He has also ordered military strikes in the Caribbean, targeting what the administration calls “Venezuelan cartel boats,” and authorised a controversial bombing of Iranian nuclear sites in June. The rebranding, he said, sends a “message of victory” to the rest of the world. The latest rebranding forms part of Mr. Trump’s wider push to project strength both at home and abroad during his second term, aligning with his revived “Make America Great Again” policy. Mr. Trump had earlier complained that the current department name was overly “defensive”. “I don’t want to be defence only. I want defence, but I want offence too,” he said. Still, the path ahead is uncertain. Until the Congress enshrines the name change into law, the “Department of War” exists only in rhetoric, not reality. And with legal and logistical roadblocks mounting, it remains to be seen whether the new label will be more than a political flourish.

Trump tariff effect: Tamil Nadu’s apparel hubs are unravelling at the seams

EMS News Agency, Sept 18

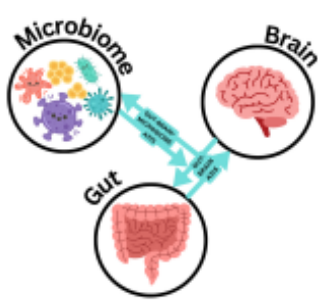
Twenty-year-old Vanaja, a tailor in Tiruppur district of Tamil Nadu, is worried that U.S. President Donald Trump’s tariffs on Indian imports could impact her wages. Vanaja has been working at RRK Cottons India Private Limited, a garment company in Palladam town in the industrial district, for the last two years. She earns ₹480 a day. She is among the handful of tailors at work on a Tuesday afternoon at the plant. Both work and workers have reduced drastically over the last few days, she says. “People are saying there is no work because the U.S. has placed a tax on us. I have informed my parents (who live about 300 kilometres away in Tiruvannamalai district) about the situation at the factory,” she says. RRK Cottons has been manufacturing T-shirts and underwear for some of the largest U.S. retailers for the last 10 years. Its website says the company takes “immense pride as one of the largest underwear manufacturers in India.” Its customers include eight U.S. brands.

On September 2, less than a week after a 50% tariff imposed by the U.S. on Indian goods came into effect, its Palladam factory, which was buzzing with activity a year ago (the problems started in January when Mr. Trump assumed office) is silent. A few workers move the fabric stocks and a handful of women and men do minimal work at the garment making hall. Only 100 of the 480 sewing machines and one of the five fabric spreader machines are in operation on the sparsely-lit shop floors. Stocks worth ₹65 crore have piled up. Two of the company’s five plants have shut down in the last four months and the workforce of 2,000 has reduced by half, says R. Rajkumar, Managing Director of RRK Cottons. He has no idea what to do next. “Almost 80% of my business is to the U.S. The trouble started in January when talks of tariffs started. The buyers prioritised China suppliers, delayed our shipments, and then cut back on their orders from us. Now, all the goods that we had produced for orders placed earlier are on hold. I have not received payments for shipments made in the last two months,” he says. Rajkumar believes he can “manage” for another two weeks. “But after that I will have no option but to shut down operations because I have to make payments to nearly 150 vendors, to banks, for electricity,” he says.

India exports \$11 billion worth of textiles and apparel to the U.S. each year, of which nearly \$4 billion is contributed by Tamil Nadu’s western districts — Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Karur, Erode, and Salem, according to the Southern India Mills Association). Exporters in Tiruppur, Karur, and Coimbatore produce a range of goods for multiple buyers in the U.S., including retail chains such as Walmart, Costco, and Target; fashion brands such as GAP; and smaller retailers and brands. Since these western districts in Tamil Nadu host a dense textile supply chain, even a small dip in exports ripples through the entire ecosystem. In Tiruppur, popularly known as the ‘dollar city’, R. Gopalakrishnan, chairman of Royal Classic Mills who was on a visit to the Tiruppur Exporters Association, said that 80% of his business is to the U.S. He has stopped work at his factory since August 27 — the day when a punitive 25% tariff imposed by the U.S. on India for its purchases of Russian oil came into effect. That was in addition to Trump’s 25% tariff on many imports from India. The total duties amounting to 50% have been imposed for a variety of goods, including garments, gems and jewellery, footwear, sporting goods, and furniture and chemicals.

“When the tariff was initially 25%, buyers said the cost could be shared between us,” says Gopalakrishnan. “When the U.S. raised it to 50%, a buyer I’ve worked with for 20 years said he would still pay for the fabric since he had

The gut-brain reckoning: how India’s antibiotic culture imperils mental health



As mental health awareness gains momentum in India, a surreptitious menace is insidiously undermining this edifice of progress: the unbridled use of antibiotics. Whilst the threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is ubiquitously acknowledged as a formidable public health hazard, its profound implications on mental well-being remain underexamined. At the epicentre of this conundrum lies the intricate gut-brain axis—a labyrinthine communication nexus between the gastrointestinal apparatus and the cerebral cortex. Nascent research suggests that perturbations in gut microbiota, frequently precipitated by overzealous antibiotic consumption, may significantly contribute to the aetiology of anxiety, depression, and cognitive degeneration. In a country where antibiotics are often taken sans prescription or medical oversight, this gut-brain axis nexus demands an urgent and paradigmatic shift in attention for remedial measures to mitigate this silent yet calamitous crisis.

India occupies a distressing prominence in the global hierarchy of antibiotic consumption. The trifecta of over-the-counter accessibility, rampant self-medication, and limited public awareness has cultivated an entrenched culture of antibiotic overutilisation. According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) was accountable for an estimated 2,67,000 fatalities in India in 2021, with projections forecasting an escalation to 1.2 million by 2030, should prevailing trends continue. A seminal study published in 2022 in The Lancet Regional Health – Southeast Asia revealed a disquieting statistic: nearly half of all antibiotics consumed in India comprised unapproved formulations, exacerbating the threat of resistance. This egregious misuse not only fuels the conflagration of AMR but also precipitates a deleterious impact on the gut’s microbial diversity—a vital constituent of mental wellbeing. The gastrointestinal tract harbours trillions of microorganisms that exert a profound influence on the biosynthesis of pivotal neurotransmitters, including serotonin and dopamine. These chemical messengers orchestrate the regulation of mood, sleep-wake cycles, and stress responses, and so, the gut plays an integral role in maintaining neurological homeostasis. When antibiotics disrupt this delicate microbial equilibrium, the repercussions can resonate throughout the nervous system, potentially precipitating a cascade of downstream effects. Pioneering research from institutions such as the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has initiated an exploration of the intricate relationship between gut dysbiosis and psychiatric maladies. Although the scientific discourse is still evolving, the accumulating evidence is sufficiently compelling to justify the implementation of targeted public health interventions towards a proactive and informed response to mitigate the burgeoning threat of gut-related psychiatric disorders. The ramifications of microbial perturbation extend beyond mere biochemical imbalances; they encompass a broader psychosocial dimension that implicates the very fabric of human experience. The gut microbiota, often romanticised as the “second brain,” is not merely a passive consortium of bacteria, but an active participant in neurochemical symphony. Through the production of short-chain fatty acids, modulation of the immune system, and interaction with the vagus nerve, these microorganisms wield influence over neurodevelopmental trajectories and behavioural phenotypes.

Indeed, the burgeoning field of psychobiotics—a portmanteau term coined to describe probiotics and prebiotics that confer mental health benefits—has illuminated the therapeutic potential of modulating gut flora to ameliorate psychiatric symptoms. A 2020 meta-analysis published in Frontiers in Psychiatry revealed that probiotic supplementation was associated with significant reductions in depressive symptoms, particularly among individuals with mild to moderate depression. Such findings underscore the plausibility of gut-targeted interventions as adjuncts to conventional psychiatric care, especially in a nation like India where mental health infrastructure remains woefully inadequate. Compounding this crisis is the paucity of public awareness regarding the gut-brain axis and its susceptibility.

Trump says he’ll ‘always be friends’ with Modi; ‘nothing to worry’ about India-U.S. ties

Amid current tensions between Washington and Delhi over tariffs and purchase of Russian oil, U.S. President Donald Trump said India and the United States have a “special relationship” and there’s nothing to worry about as the two countries “just have moments on occasion”. “I’ll always be friends with (Narendra) Modi... He’s a great Prime Minister. He’s great. But I just don’t like what he’s doing at this particular moment. But India and the United States have a special relationship. There’s nothing to worry about. We just have moments on occasion,” Mr. Trump said in the Oval Office on Friday (September 5, 2025). The president was responding to a question on whether he is ready to reset relations with India, as ties between the two countries continue to reel under possibly the worst phase in over two decades. Mr. Trump also said he is “very disappointed” that India would be buying “so much oil” from Russia.

“I’ve been very disappointed that India would be buying so much oil from Russia, and I let them know that. We put a very big tariff on India, 50% tariff, a very high tariff. I get along very well with (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi, he’s great. He was here a couple of months ago,” Mr. Trump said in response to a question on his social media post that the U.S. has lost India and Russia to China. In the Truth Social post, Mr. Trump said that “Looks like we’ve lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest, China. May they have a long and prosperous future together!” Mr. Trump had also posted an old photo of Modi with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Mr. Trump’s post on social media came days after the bonhomie among Modi, Xi and Putin at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin drew global attention. To a question on how trade talks are going with India and other countries, Mr. Trump said, “They are going great. Other countries are doing great. We’re doing great with all of them. We’re upset with the European Union because of what’s happening with

ity to pharmacological insult. The average Indian consumer, often bereft of access to nuanced medical counsel, remains oblivious to the long-term consequences of indiscriminate antibiotic use. The cultural proclivity towards “quick fixes” and the valorisation of pharmaceutical interventions over lifestyle modifications further entrench this paradigm. In rural and semi-urban locales, where healthcare access is fragmented and regulatory oversight lax, antibiotics are dispensed easily, and without prescription—frequently for viral infections where they are not only ineffective but actively deleterious. Moreover, the economic incentives that drive antibiotic over-prescription cannot be ignored. Private practitioners, operating within a fee-for-service model, may be inclined to prescribe antibiotics to appease patient expectations or expedite symptomatic relief. Pharmacies, often unregulated, serve as de facto dispensaries, offering potent medications without requisite prescriptions. This confluence of systemic vulnerabilities and behavioural predispositions has rendered India a fertile ground for AMR proliferation and microbial dysbiosis. The implications for mental health are manifold. Dysbiosis-induced inflammation has been implicated in the pathogenesis of major depressive disorder, with elevated levels of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-6 and TNF-alpha observed in affected individuals. These inflammatory mediators can traverse the blood-brain barrier, altering neurotransmitter metabolism and neuroplasticity. Furthermore, gut-derived metabolites like butyrate and propionate have been shown to influence gene expression in the brain, modulating synaptic function and stress reactivity. In this context, the intersection of microbiology and psychiatry assumes profound significance. It invites a reconceptualisation of mental illness—not merely as a cerebral aberration but as a systemic dysfunction with gastrointestinal antecedents. Such a paradigm shift necessitates interdisciplinary collaboration, integrating gastroenterology, psychiatry, nutrition, and public health to forge holistic interventions.

Encouragingly, India possesses a rich repository of traditional knowledge that can be harnessed to promote gut health. Fermented foods—ubiquitous in Indian cuisine—such as curd, idli, dosa, and pickles, serve as natural probiotics, fostering microbial diversity and resilience. My grandfather swears by a spoonful of homemade curd after every meal—a ritual I once dismissed as quaint and old-fashioned. Yet, as scientific understanding of probiotics deepens, it’s clear that tradition was ahead of its time. Today, research affirms what our elders intuitively knew: the gut is not merely a digestive organ, but a vital cornerstone of mental equilibrium. Public health campaigns must therefore pivot towards education and empowerment. The National Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat can incorporate gut-brain literacy into their outreach programmes, elucidating the dangers of antibiotic misuse and the virtues of dietary modulation. School curricula can embed modules on microbiome science, cultivating a generation of informed citizens. Media platforms, both traditional and digital, can amplify narratives that valorise microbial stewardship and mental wellbeing. Simultaneously, regulatory reform is imperative. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) must enforce stringent controls on antibiotic dispensation, mandating prescription-only access and penalising non-compliance. More surveillance systems such as INSAR (Indian Network for Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance), which is now part of a broader network, should be created and integrated with mental health metrics to elucidate correlations and inform policy. Investment in microbiome research, particularly within Indian populations, can yield context-specific insights and therapeutic innovations. Clinicians, too, must recalibrate their praxis. Antibiotic stewardship should be embedded within medical training, sensitising practitioners to the collateral damage of pharmacological interventions. Psychiatric evaluations can incorporate gastrointestinal assessments, recognising the bidirectional interplay between gut and mind. Nutritional counselling, often relegated to ancillary status, must be foregrounded as a cornerstone of mental health care. Ultimately, the gut-brain axis offers a compelling lens through which to interrogate the mental health crisis in India. It reveals the hidden costs of antibiotic overuse—not merely in terms of microbial resistance but in the erosion of emotional resilience and cognitive vitality. It beckons an overhaul in medical thought, one that transcends disciplinary silos and embraces the complexity of human biology. As India strides towards a more enlightened discourse on mental health, it must not overlook the microbial foundations of wellbeing. The gut, long relegated to the periphery of psychiatric inquiry, deserves its rightful place at the centre of public health strategy. By safeguarding microbial diversity, curbing antibiotic misuse, and embracing integrative care, India can fortify the minds of its citizens—one microbe at a time.



The U.S. President was asked whether he is ready to reset relations with India, as ties between the countries reel under possibly the worst phase in over two decades

not just Google, but with all of our big companies.” Meanwhile, Trump administration’s Senior Counselor for Trade and Manufacturing, Peter Navarro, said in a post on X that India’s highest tariffs cost U.S. jobs. Trump: Disappointment over Russian oil, but US-India ties are strong #trump | Video Credit: The Hindu “India buys Russian oil purely to profit/ revenues feed Russia war machine. Ukrainians/Russians die. U.S. taxpayers shell out more. India can’t handle truth/spins,” Mr. Navarro said. National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett said that Mr. Trump and his trade team are disappointed that India continues to “fund” Russia’s Ukraine war. “I think the trade team and the president are disappointed that India continues to fund Russia’s Ukraine war, and hopefully it’s a diplomatic issue that will have positive development soon,” Mr. Hassett told reporters at the White House on Friday.

Is a market crash looming? AI-fuelled rally in US stocks could unwind, impending bust could singe global markets



The Nobel Prize-winning economist Robert Solow famously said in 1987 that “the computer age was everywhere, except for productivity statistics”. Solow’s aphorism summed up the perceived lag in productivity growth in the 1970s and 1980s, despite the computing revolution gaining strength. The Solow Paradox was somewhat resolved in the 1990s when a few sectors —technology, retail, and general sales — led to an acceleration of US productivity growth. All the way up to the dot com bust.

Now, nearly 40 ten years down, the Solow Paradox has some resonance in another new technological breakthrough: artificial intelligence (AI). While there is little debate over the overwhelming transformative impact of AI on society, there are question marks over when this will distill down to actual productivity gains in the short term.Meanwhile, in Silicon Valley, the debate over whether AI companies are overvalued has taken on a new impetus. There are questions being raised on the rapid rise in the valuation of AI tech companies, the use of “financial engineering” and “circular deals”, and increasing comparison to the dot com crash.

Fears are being expressed of these tech companies being overvalued and that a bubble is building up. So, is there a stock market crash waiting to happen?

On Thursday, the S&P 500 and the Nasdaq hit new records, while the Dow has surged about 10 per cent year-to-date. Almost all of this surge has been on account of the relentless surge in the valuation of the so-called “magnificent seven”, the leading US tech companies — Nvidia, Microsoft, Apple, Alphabet, Amazon, Meta and Tesla.Cumulatively, the combined market value of these seven tech majors, at nearly \$21 trillion, now exceeds the entire output of the European Union. The S&P 500’s price-to-earnings ratio — P/E ratio that represents a company-s share price to its earnings per share over a period and is used to estimate whether they are overvalued or undervalued — was around 23 times in end-September, according to inputs from data aggregator LSEG Datastream. That is well above its 10-year average of 18.7, and just short of the P/E ratio of around the 25 level in the early 2000s, the data showed. The relentless rally in AI-focused tech stocks, while stretching valuations and threatening concerns over potential market excess, comes alongside at least two genuine worries.One, that the potential application of the AI tools is still some way off, and the monetisation potential looks further down the horizon. The surge is almost entirely driven by the relentless flow of capital into these company stocks, primarily in view of the future potential. The Solow Paradox is somehow not yet a factor at this point in time.

Two, the market seems to be ignoring multiple looming threats, including the US President’s assault on the global trading system, a massive drop in immigration into America, the attack on the US Federal Reserve’s independence, institutional backsliding, the inflationary impact of Trump’s actions, and worries over the US government’s ballooning debt burden after his new spending bill.All that is being papered over for now, purely because of the AI optimism that has more than offset the serious structural problems looming in the horizon. Despite the fact that, like computers then, AI is not yet showing up in the productivity charts. The market is pricing in a substantial boost to future productivity compared to what we have already seen in the last few years, but there could be a serious gap between the timeline of these expectations and when the productiv-

ity boost tangibly shows up on company books. It is precisely this gap that could be punctuated by a market crash, murmurs of which have already gained traction.The growing bubble

International Monetary Fund chief Kristalina Georgieva warned Wednesday about the potential risks to the global economy from likely corrections in stock market valuations. JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon too warned of a heightened risk of a significant correction in the US stock market within the next six months to two years, the BBC reported.Author and statistician Nassim Nicholas Taleb has also warned investors against being taken in by the stock market’s record-breaking rally, because beneath the surface, a growing debt crisis could trigger a major reckoning, as per a Bloomberg report. Speaking at the Greenwich Economic Forum, Taleb, the author of The Black Swan (2007), urged investors to protect themselves from what he calls an obvious, looming threat, the Bloomberg report said.All of this sounds prophetic, quite like then US Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan’s December 1996 dinner speech, where he posed an ostensibly innocuous question: “How do we know when irrational exuberance has unduly escalated asset values?” Markets around the world, including in Asia, crashed in response.Again, while there is no disputing the transformative potential of AI in the long term, there are question marks about when this will translate into monetisable figures that boost the balance sheets of companies. Meanwhile, there is a serious cash burn as AI companies shift to inference, or the ability of AI models to decipher patterns and draw conclusions from information that they were not trained before on or have not yet encountered.

In any case, generating an answer to an AI query is perhaps 10 times more energy intensive that a regular search query. So, there is a cash burn happening, especially on data centres to power the AI surge in the inference stage and the electricity used to power the backend.On the front end though, there are financial reengineering deals that are now picking up in the AI ecosystem. One such measure, which is now partly fuelling this boom, is circular deals of the kind that Open AI and Nvidia entered into.So, Open AI pledges billions of dollars to buy AMD’s chips. AMD, in return, offers Open AI a minority stake in the company. Despite the fact that both the companies are already overvalued, investors simply love this new deal and plow in more money into both stocks, boosting valuations further. It’s almost symbiotic, but with no real underlying reason for this exuberance.

“There is an element of FOMO gripping the markets. That is undeniable, given how fresh money is chasing the already high stock valuations. Also, this tends to ignore the fact that countries such as China or even India could be contenders to lead the application stage of AI, and not America,” a Mumbai-based market analyst said.While the US appears to be shrugging off fundamental concerns that could upend this investment boom, countries such as France and Japan are showing some signs of trouble in their bond market. According to Ruchir Sharma, head of Rockefeller Capital Management’s international business, the deficit level in the US at this time is even higher than in France and Japan. But the reason why the US has lower yields than at the start of the year compared to those countries, is this implicit bet in the US bond market that America is going to see a big productivity miracle due to AI in the coming months.If the markets, at some point in time, were to decide that this is not coming through, then that could trigger a potential crash. The renewed surge in investments in gold and silver are an indicator of sorts.A crash in American stocks and bonds could potentially have a cascading impact on markets around the world, including India, where stock markets have been almost flat over the last 12 months. India’s reasonably healthy fiscal situation could be an insulating factor for the country’s bond markets and for long-term capital flows, but an impending global valuations crash could still devastate most global markets.

‘No trade-off’ between sustainability and growth, India can grow by 7.5-8%: Nicholas Stern

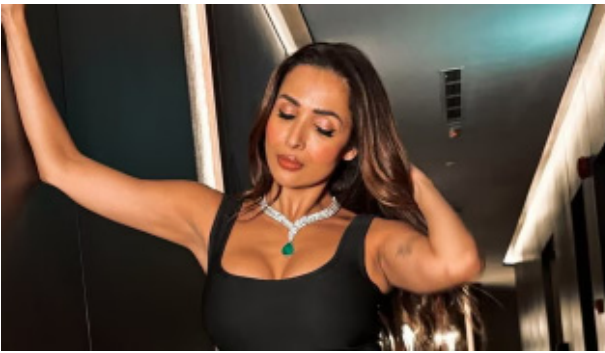
There is no trade-off between economic growth and moving to renewable sources of energy and India can even increase its GDP growth rate to 7.5-8 per cent from 6.5 per cent currently by aggressively investing in its green transition, according to NICHOLAS STERN, the IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government at the London School of Economics:“...you still get that residual argument that somehow a developing nation will have to choose between sustainability and climate on the one hand and growth in incomes on the other. That’s absolutely wrong...and it’s very important we are very clear that there is no trade-off,” he said in an interview with The Indian Express. Stern also said the path India takes to becoming a developed economy by 2047 will be crucial for the world and that it needs to increase its investment-to-GDP ratio by 5 percentage points, remove impediments to investment, get the incentives right to invest in modern technologies — particularly green technologies and artificial intelligence (AI). Edited excerpts:

US President Donald Trump’s focus has been on tariff policies. But he is also undoing years of progress made in the renewables sector. Is that more dangerous than the chaos the trade disruptions are causing?

Trump has been disruptive in a number of directions. One, of course, is the tariffs and the structure of world trade. Another is health, where he’s taking the US away from the World Health Organization (WHO) and attacking vaccinations. On security, he is backing off from the defence of Europe. Aid has been dismantled.One important way forward for the rest of the world is to stay united on these issues. If the US is undermining WTO, which it is, then try to find trade agreements between nations which look quite similar. I think it would be very good if the EU trade agreement (with India) — which I think is coming — looks like the one with the UK. I hope there’ll be more trade agreements with Asia. The more they look similar, the more we’re sustaining the idea that trade should be symmetric and with minimal barriers because we all benefit from that.In many ways, climate is similar (to health and trade) — we have the international fora where we can find agreements and carry on. At the same time, the cost of solar and batteries has fallen dramatically. If we compare with 1975, it’s not that it has fallen by a factor of 100 — it’s fallen by a factor close to 1,000, which is extraordinary. It is unambiguously the cheapest form of electricity generation.

On the climate side, the forces of change are strong. But we are going nowhere near fast enough. We are prob-

Want to know Malaika Arora’s secret to glowing skin? She starts her day with this ‘retinol juice’



With the spotlight on edible skincare and gut detoxification, ingredients and wellness drinks that offer multiple benefits for skin health have been enjoying their time lately, and Malaika Arora has jumped on the bandwagon. “I start my day with this retinol juice, it’s got carrot, cucumber, orange and lemon,” she told Times Now Foodie during a recent interview. Curious, we turned to experts to understand the health benefits of the ingredients that go into Arora’s go-to morning concoction.Carrot juice

Dr Yogini Patil, BAMS and nutritionist at LivLong told indianexpress.com that carrot juice is rich in calcium, vitamin A, sodium, potassium, and magnesium, and also contains trace amounts of vitamins B, C, D, E and K. “A calcium is a fussy mineral, it needs a whole lot of other minerals to support its absorption. Carrot juice provides the correct mix of nutrients,” she explained.She added that it also “helps fight tumours, increases vigour, vitality, appetite, and body weight. It helps improve the functioning of the nervous system, improves skin, hair and nails, and purifies the blood”.Patil said, “Carrot juice is rich in beta-carotene,

7 ways men in their 20s can boost their testosterone levels



Testosterone is a crucial hormone in men responsible for various functions, including developing male reproductive tissues and maintaining muscle mass and bone density.Dr Suprakash Chaudhury, professor and HOD, psychiatry department, DPU Private Super Specialty Hospital, noted that societal expectations and biased gender roles are harsh in limiting men to only a stereotypical presentation of an emotionless breadwinner, who can’t have mental or nervous breakdowns unless he wants to be considered weak or “not manly enough”, adding that “men are far less likely to speak openly about their mental health concerns such as depression, or anxiety — and often downplay their symptoms.”“Low levels of testosterone are linked to loss of bone density and fractures,” he added.

How can men take care of their testosterone levels?

1. Exercising is important: Exercising regularly, with an equal balance of aerobics and resistance training

Vitamin B3 supplement may reduce your risk of skin cancer



A major shift is unfolding in the field of skin cancer prevention, ignited by new research showing that an everyday vitamin supplement may prevent many cases of the world’s most frequently diagnosed cancer. The supplement in question is nicotinamide, a form of vitamin B3.Whereas previous studies hinted at a potential benefit, the latest research — spanning more than 33,000 US veterans — suggests that adding this simple vitamin pill to daily routines could dramatically lower skin cancer risk, especially for those who have already experienced their first case.

The scale, breadth and clarity of this evidence are driving calls to rethink how skin cancer is prevented.Skin cancer is the world’s most common form of cancer. Non-melanoma types, including basal cell carcinoma and cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma, account for millions of new cases each year.These cancers are linked to cumulative sun exposure, fair skin and ageing. Existing prevention strategies focus on avoiding ultraviolet (UV) rays and using sunscreen, but rates continue to climb, and patients diagnosed with one skin cancer typically face a stubborn cycle of recurrence.

Enter nicotinamide, a cheap, widely available supplement. Researchers observed that this form of vitamin B3 bolsters the skin’s natural repair systems after UV damage, reduces inflammation, and helps the immune system detect and clear abnormal cells.In the new study, over 12,000 patients who began taking nicotinamide at 500mg twice daily for more than a month were compared to more

vitamins A, B6, K, and C, and minerals like potassium and phosphorus. Beta-carotene and vitamin A are potent antioxidants that help protect cells from damage and lower the risk of cardiovascular complications- reduce cholesterol levels, regulate blood pressure, and lower atherosclerosis. It is also beneficial for complete eye health.”“Ginger is a natural diuretic that helps in deeply detoxing the body, while cucumber provides hydration. Lemons and oranges are full of vitamin C which helps bring out the glow from within,” she added.According to Dt. Gulnaaz Shaikh, chief dietitian, KIMS Hospitals, Thane, cucumber is rich in vitamin C and prevents water retention in the body and reduces swelling. It has a high water content, keeping the body hydrated, and eliminating toxins from the body. It is also rich in fibre, potassium, and magnesium which help in managing blood pressure levels. Cucumbers are also known to help in releasing excess heat in the stomach, which can otherwise cause bad breath.“While a mindful start to the day is helpful, you don’t have to make it complicated. What matters more is finding what works for your lifestyle and body. If someone feels good following a specific routine and it is sustainable for them, that’s great. For others, a balanced breakfast, proper hydration, and some movement may be just as effective,” shared Shaikh.Arora also swears by this age-old traditional tried and tested homemade immunity booster: “Indian gooseberry (amla), fresh organic turmeric and ginger root with some apple cider vinegar and a dash of peppercorns is all it takes to make this magic potion. For better results, ensure that your ACV is with mother and in its purest form. Just blend these ingredients together and enjoy it’s health boosting properties. With all the immunity booster clutter suddenly available in the in the name of Covid 19, stick to this home made, quick and organic recipe for best results,” she shared in the interview.

2. Maintain ideal waist-hip-ratio: With the increase in belly fat, the levels of an enzyme that converts testosterone to estrogen also increase
 3. Prevent/control diabetes: Diabetic individuals are twice as likely to have lower testosterone levels
 4. Adequate sleep: Disturbed and fragmented sleep, especially that of the Rapid Eye Movement (REM) phase bodes poorly for the body’s testosterone levels
 - testosterone Exercising regularly, with an equal balance of aerobics and resistance training (Source: Freepik)
 5. Avoiding tobacco and alcohol: Substances of abuse have the strongest correlation with a reduction in levels of testosterone.
 6. Avoid excessive stress: Learn to cope better with the daily stressors that are an inevitable part of daily life
 7. Eat good food: Eating less refined and processed foods, and relying more on natural sources of protein and fibre.
- However too much testosterone can pose other problems

While testosterone can enhance performance, too much of it can lead to a host of health issues in women, said Dr Suri Raju.Cardiovascular risks: High testosterone is linked to increased risk of heart disease, stroke, and blood clots. This might be due to its impact on cholesterol levels and blood pressure.Liver damage: Some studies have associated excessive testosterone use with liver damage, especially with long-term use or abuse.Mental and emotional changes:

Aggression, mood swings, and even depression have been reported as potential side effects of high testosterone levels.Other concerns: Acne, sleep apnea, and increased risk of certain cancers are also potential health risks.It’s important to emphasise that these risks primarily pertain to individuals who abuse testosterone through external supplementation, not those with naturally occurring high levels. However, monitoring testosterone levels is still important for everyone, as even natural variations can have health implications.

than 21,000 who did not.

Those taking nicotinamide saw a 14% lower risk of developing any new skin cancer. The protective effect was most profound when started promptly after a first diagnosed skin cancer, resulting in a 54% drop in the risk of additional cancers.This benefit faded if supplementation started only after multiple recurrences, suggesting that timing matters. The effect was seen across both main skin cancer types but was particularly robust for squamous cell carcinoma, which can behave more aggressively and carries a greater risk of complications.It’s important to underscore that, while hopeful, these findings do not suggest nicotinamide should replace sun avoidance or routine skin checks. Wearing hats, using sunscreen and seeking shade remain pillars of prevention.

As a secondary prevention tool, it stands out as effective and practical. As a secondary prevention tool, it stands out as effective and practical. Still, the simplicity, safety and low cost of nicotinamide mean that its incorporation as a daily “add-on” is an accessible step for most people, especially those with a track record of skin cancer.For dermatologists, this is an attractive profile compared to some prescription medicines used to prevent recurrence, which may be more expensive or have worse side-effects.

As a secondary prevention tool, it stands out as effective and practical. The timing of intervention appears paramount, with the greatest benefit gained when nicotinamide is offered straight away.In practice, this shifts the conversation, urging healthcare professionals and patients to view the first cancer as a red flag to act decisively.Perspective is important The findings emerge from an observational study using real-world data, meaning researchers looked at health records and drew statistical associations.Most participants were white males, so the broader relevance of these findings remains uncertain. While this type of study cannot prove cause and effect as powerfully as a randomised trial, the results align with earlier, smaller trials that hinted at the same benefit.They reinforce the idea that a simple, non-pharmaceutical intervention could help in the battle against the world’s most common cancer, and at a fraction of the expense or risk of more intensive therapies.

Virat Kohli's solution to his outside the off-stump weakness lands him in trouble too



GNS News Agency, Oct 24

The cure for Virat Kohli's outside off-stump issues has the potential to be as bad as the disease. (AP)The cure for Virat Kohli's outside off-stump issues has the potential to be as bad as the disease. (AP)Virat Kohli wasn't dismissed fishing outside the off-stump at the Adelaide Oval on Thursday but to overcome this age-old weakness he made himself an LBW candidate. The cure, in this case, has the potential to be as bad as the disease.Kohli was dismissed for a four-ball duck after he was trapped LBW by seamer Xavier Bartlett. To curb his tendency to chase the ball outside the off-stump, Kohli changed his guard, something he has done in the past with limited success.

Kohli started with a middle and leg-stump guard. It meant when the bowler ran in, only the off-stump and a bit of middle-stump was visible. And by the time, the Bartlett

neared the crease, he would move further towards the off-stump and covering the entire line of stumps.He now had his head in the line of off-stump. This seemed like a workable plan. Anything outside the eye-line, he would leave alone thus negating the away going deliveries. However, the LBW dismissal came into play if Kohli missed an incoming ball or one in line with the stumps.To the first ball he faced, which was outside off-stump, he just let it go to the keeper. For the second ball it was a repeat of the first. Off the third, which was slightly closer than the previous two deliveries, he defended off the front-foot. By now, you could see how the delivery that goes away was playing on the back of his mind. In the past Vernon Philander, James Anderson, Stuart Broad have all ended up exposing Kohli's technique.And Bartlett took a leaf from the same playbook. The fourth delivery, like the previous three, landed outside off, but this one nipped back in sharply and as Kohli tried to flick it and ended up missing it altogether, there was only one end result as the ball hit the front pad: LBW. The umpire's index finger went up in no time, giving Kohli his second duck in successive matches – first time it has happened for him in ODIs. It was also the fifth time in 11 innings where he has dismissed LBW.In 2021, when the problem outside off-stump came up in England, he took a virtual off-middle guard. But then too, like now, he had to watch out for the LBW dismissal.Kohli was repeatedly exposed while playing away from the body in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy last year. In the twilight of his career, with his place in the ODI team spot on the line, Kohli's Achilles' Heel continues to be a talking point.

'Discussions can turn into harassment': FIDE to probe Vladimir Kramnik's public comments following Daniel Naroditsky's death

GNS News Agency, Oct 24

Following the death of 29-year-old American Grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky earlier this week, FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich on Wednesday confirmed that the world chess body will probe all public statements made by former world champion Vladimir Kramnik "before and after" the tragic incident.Kramnik, who had previously accused Naroditsky of cheating in online chess, raised his suspicion of Naroditsky's sudden passing and posted a series of explosive tweets questioning the circumstances.The 50-year-old Russian GM hinted at potential substance abuse and deteriorating mental health. In a conversation with The Indian Express, Indian GM Nihal Sarin, the last player Naroditsky faced on the popular online forum chess.com, squarely blamed Kramnik, who had repeatedly accused the American player of cheating while playing online – an allegation that Naroditsky had firmly denied.Discussions can turn into harassment

In his statement issued on Wednesday, FIDE president Dvorkovich admitted that public discussions on the chess forum can often lead to harassment, bullying or personal attacks. Dvorkovich also confirmed that the FIDE Management Board will lead all of Kramnik's public comments about Naroditsky for inspection by the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission."In recent times, public debate within the chess world has too often moved beyond the boundaries of acceptable, harming not only people's reputation but their very well-being. When this happens, discussions can turn into harassment, bullying, and personal attacks — a particularly serious concern in today's environment. The chess community has long respected the achievements of GM Vladimir Kramnik, and his contributions to our sport are undeniable. The same high standards that accompany great achievements, however, also confer a responsibility to uphold the principles of fairness and



respect and to be ambassadors for the sport."Therefore, I, along with the FIDE Management Board, will formally refer all relevant public statements made by GM Vladimir Kramnik — both before and after the tragic death of GM Daniel Naroditsky — to the FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission for independent consideration," wrote Dvorkovich.After making a cryptic post last week on his X account that read, "Don't Do Drugs", Kramnik referred to a "strange recent stream" by Naroditsky, alleging the American had been hastily removing his recent content from Twitch.

"Weird, noticed yesterday morning some people talking about strange recent stream of Naroditsky, but checking again in few hours,many things erased (ALL videis from his twitch, a thread about it, recognizable working style :)) Anyone,what happened, that forced them act in a rush?," Kramnik posted on X."All in all, typical nowadays world of chess, the only thing everyone cares about is "looking great" and pretending there are no issues. Even if its about long term major problems. Stop this doublefaced hypocries for once, and try helping to solve them. Image is NOT everything," he added.

AFC Champions League 2: FC Goa lose 1-2 to Saudi giants Al-Nassr

GNS News Agency, Oct 24

FC Goa went down 1-2 to Saudi Arabian giants Al-Nassr in their third Group A fixture of the AFC Champions League Two here on Wednesday.In a match in the run-up to which there was a huge anticipation over megastar Cristiano Ronaldo's participation for Al Nassr, the fancied visitors started dominating from the word go, scoring in the 10th and 27th minute through Angelo Gabriel and Haroune Camara respectively, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.Super-sub Brison Fernandes came off the bench and reduced the margin for FC Goa with his 41st minute strike.Before that, the 20-year-old Gabriel got the ball outside the box and unleashed a right-footed shot that rattled the FC Goa net to give Al-Nassr an early lead.This was the young Brazilian's second AFC Champions League Two goal.Al-Nassr doubled the lead when Camara scored beautifully off a cross from the left by Ayman, his attempt going past a crowded Goa backline after a dominant display by his team which enjoyed higher ball possession.Then, before the half time break, Brison struck for Goa after receiving a through ball from Borja Fernandez, having entered the box after beating his marker before using his right foot to strike at the Al Nassr post.Towards the end, David Timor



got a straight red card for a challenge to reduce FC Goa to 10 men.Al-Nassr have maintained a perfect record till now, and top Group D with eight points. Prior to facing FC Goa, they cruised to a 5-0 win against FC Istiklol in their opening match, before eking out a 2-0 victory against Al Zawraa SC.FC Goa, on the other hand, have endured a difficult campaign and are at the bottom of the table currently. The Gaurs began their campaign with a 2-0 defeat to Al Zawraa SC before going down by the same margin against Istiklol.

FIDE CEO Sutovsky slams Kramnik's 'shameful' conduct, vows FIDE action in wake of Naroditsky's death

FIDE CEO Emil Sutovsky has slammed former World Champion Vladimir Kramnik for his insensitive remarks on late American Grandmaster Daniel Naroditsky, who passed away on Monday.The way Kramnik approaches it, simply can't be accepted. And his reaction on Danya's passing is appalling and outright shameful," Sutovsky posted on X.

Kramnik had, without substantial proof, repeatedly accused the American player of cheating while playing online – an allegation that Naroditsky had firmly denied. Last December, Naroditsky had said on "Take Take Take" that cheating, according to him, is the worst crime a chess player can commit but what Kramnik did, according to him, makes "worse than dirt".On Monday, hours after the news of Naroditsky's had come to light, Kramnik hinted at potential substance abuse and deteriorating mental health. He first made a cryptic post on his X account that read, "Don't Do Drugs." He then referenced a "strange recent stream" by Naroditsky, alleging the American had been hastily removing his recent content from Twitch.With multiple voices unit-

ing against Kramnik and his actions, Sutovsky assured FIDE will act upon this. "FIDE is not a court of justice, but we will act within our jurisdiction."He also said Naroditsky was clearly not at his best and it's simple to shift the focus from him."However, let's not oversimplify it. It is too simple to focus on Kramnik and forget everything else. Danya was clearly not at his best in recent months. He stopped appearing as a commentator for one reason or another, he was not his usual self. Now, all those who claim how dear Danya was to their heart, how good a friend they were, where have you been? What did you do? All these Kramnik attacks on Danya happened not this week or month. It was not like a shocking accusation, that killed Danya overnight. It kept haunting him for more than a year, even if there was not much of polemics of recent," he said.Naroditsky passed away at the age of 29. The news of his demise was announced from the X account of the Charlotte Chess Center on Monday, which posted: "The Naroditsky family shares the sad news of Daniel's unexpected passing.

French Open Super 750: Satwik-Chirag suffer a surprise early exit at one of their favourite events; Unnati Hooda fights back to reach R16



GNS News Agency, Oct 24

In-form men's doubles pairing of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy were knocked out of the French Open Super 750 badminton tournament after losing against Indonesia's new pairing of Rahmat Hidayat and Muhammad Rian Ardianto in Cesson-Sevigne on Wednesday. The Indians, who had beaten this duo last week at Denmark Open on their way to the semifinal, lost the match 18-21 20-22 in 42 minutes. Satwik-Chirag, who has risen back to world No 3 and are headed for the season-ending World Tour Finals, were subdued in the opening game, but had a game point in the second game to force a decider that they couldn't convert.It marks the first time Satwik and Chirag have lost this early at their favourite tournament on tour, an event that they have won twice in the past in 2022 and 2024, while also reaching the final in 2019 in what was one of their earliest breakthrough weeks.

In an otherwise disappointing day, rising Indian shuttler Unnati Hooda brought some cheer as she reached the round of 16 with a fine come-from-behind win against Malaysia's top women's singles shuttler Letshanaa Karupathevan. The 18-year-old Hooda, who came in the tournament on the back of good performances in the BWF Junior World Championships in Guwahati this month, was off to a slow start when she was outplayed in the opening game. But she rallied back to win 11-21 21-13 21-16 in 63 minutes. She sets up a tough second-round clash against the second seed Wang Zhi Yi. The other Indians in the second round are Rohan Kapoor

Women's World Cup: Australia reiterate their class as Sutherland, Gardner power champions to comfortable win against England

GNS News Agency, Oct 24

In the middle of what was a somber press conference that reflected the nature of India's batting collapse against England in Indore, Smriti Mandhana had dropped an interesting line. Explaining the team's decision to drop Jemimah Rodrigues in favour of an additional bowling option, the Indian vice-captain said: "We are not privileged enough to have our batters who could bowl few overs." She didn't take their name, but she might well have been talking about the incredible Australian team.On Wednesday, at the same venue against England, where Mandhana and Co let slip the chance to register a big win, Australia showed why they rule the women's game. Two of their star all-rounders stepped up to finish a chase from a position of strife – 68/4 in pursuit of 245 – so much so that they won the match with six wickets and 57 balls to spare. Annabel Sutherland and Ashleigh Gardner, who bowled 19 overs between them and took 5 wickets, scored an unbeaten 98 and 104 respectively in a stunning unbroken 180-run stand. It's the sort of elite match-winning all-round quality that other teams in the tournament can only dream of. That their captain Alyssa Healy, who had hit back-to-back centuries, was only watching on from the sidelines due to an injury, didn't end up even remotely derailing their campaign is a marker of why they are the overwhelming favourites for the title again.

In both halves of the match, England were off to brilliant starts. With the bat, they came flying out of the gates as Australia's new ball bowlers missed their lines and lengths, reaching 55/0 after just 8 overs. With the ball in hand, they reduced Australia to 24/3 in the sixth over. But that's the thing against this Australian side. You can put them under trouble, but you can rarely get them flustered.One of the positives for England from an otherwise chastening experience was their out-of-touch opener Tammy Beaumont finding some form before the semifinals. Her 78 was an innings that started with the right intent, helped by an early no ball that gave her a free hit to free her arms and get going. But Alana King was sensational in the middle overs for Australia once more, with the leg spinner now registering figures of 10-4-18-2 against Bangladesh and 10-1-20-1 against England to continue her sensational form.

Australia, the ruthless machine they are, were not pleased with how they let England put on a late surge led by Alice Capsey but as stand-in skipper Tahlia McGrath said, they 'd have taken 245 as the target at the start of the match. And despite losing early wickets in the chase, the result was barely in doubt once Sutherland and Gardner got to-

and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde in mixed doubles, after a 21-12, 21-19 victory over the Ukrainian combination of Oleksii Titov and Yevheniia Kantemyr on Tuesday. The Indian duo will next face local favourite and World Championships bronze medallists Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue, seeded fifth. In women's doubles Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singh defeated compatriots Panda sisters Rutaparna and Swetaparna 21-11, 21-9.

In men's singles, Ayush Shetty bowed out in the first round to Japan's Koki Watanabe, the Indian going down in two hard-fought games 19-21 19-21 to the seasoned campaigner from Japan. In women's singles, Anmol Kharb was leading 11-6 in the first game against South Korea's all-conquering superstar An Se-young but the reigning Olympic champion recovered quickly to win 15-21 9-21. In another match, Anupama Upadhyaya lost to China's Han Yue 15-21 11-21.On Tuesday, it was yet another for Lakshya Sen this year as his season continued to blow hot and cold. He suffered a straight-games defeat to Ireland's Nhat Nguyen. Lakshya, who had reached the finals of Hong Kong Open, looked off-colour from the start to eventually go down 7-21 16-21 to the world number 29 Nhat, whom he had beaten in the opening round last week at Denmark Open in three games. Lakshya was repeatedly hitting the shuttle wide and into the net while struggling to find rhythm against his opponent's steep smashes. The Indian's deep tosses often missed the lines, and his attacking play lacked precision as he trailed 2-7 early in the opening game.Despite doing most of the hard work in rallies, Lakshya frequently faltered on the finishing shot. He was six points behind at the interval after another wide return and never recovered as Nhat moved to 19-7 before sealing the opener with a crisp cross-court winner. The change of ends brought little change in fortune for the world No. 16 Indian, who quickly fell behind 1-6 in the second game. Though he narrowed the gap to 4-6, a series of unforced errors saw Nhat restore an 11-5 advantage at the break.Lakshya mounted a brief fightback to 11-15 but mistakes at crucial points again hurt his chances. At 14-17, a long rally ended with a backhand into the net, and two more errors gave Nhat six match points. The Indian saved two before the Irish shuttler finished the contest with a deceptive cross-court shot.



gether in the middle.While Sutherland has been leading Australia's charge with the ball, her batting hadn't quite come to the party in the tournament. And she picked the perfect time to find some touch, with the semifinals on the horizon. The medium pacer who is the leading wicket-taker in the tournament with 15, had scores of 5, 1 and 0 coming into this game. But against a strong England bowling unit, took control in the middle to steady a rocking ship after Beth Mooney's dismissal. Then Gardner, who had already bailed Australia out of trouble at this very venue at the start of the tournament with a century, struck a second ton, with a much more aggressive approach than Sutherland as the two complemented each other brilliantly.McGrath was full of praise for Sutherland, the player of the match. "Spinners did a fantastic job with the ball. Little bit of a shaky start with the bat, but then Belsy and Ash... just world class, so good to watch them be clinical. Feel for Belsy a bit, not getting a 100. She thoroughly deserved it. She is such a gun, and I think it's scary how young she still is. She's one of our hardest trainers. Her planning is meticulous and whenever we're in trouble, you sort of just turn to her. She's that good."For England, the defeat marked the end of their unbeaten record in the tournament – which was a bit of an anomaly as they were perhaps heading to a defeat against Pakistan in Colombo before weather intervened and on course to losing against India on Sunday before the hosts' contrived to collapse. Nat Sciver-Brunt, who rued not having enough runs on the board, will need to address her side's batting troubles as they have been well short of their best so far in the tournament.Brief scores: England 244/9 in 50 overs (Tammy Beaumont 78, Annabel Sutherland 3/60, Ash Gardner 2/39) lost to Australia 248/4 in 40.3 overs (Ash Gardner 104*, Annabel Sutherland 98*, Lauren Bell 1/48) by 6 wickets.

India's young shuttlers shine on Day 2 of Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Championships 2025

GNS News Agency, Oct 24

Hyderabad: India's young shuttlers continued their impressive run on Day 2 of the Badminton Asia Under-17 & Under-15 Championships 2025, with several standout performances securing Round of 16 berths across categories.

In the Under-17 girls' singles, Lakshya Rajesh and Diksha Sudhakar turned in solid displays to storm into the pre-quarters. Lakshya eased past Chinese Taipei's Kuan Yi Lin 21-17, 21-11, while Diksha produced a strong comeback to beat China's Luo Ya Ru 17-21, 21-16, 21-11. Among the boys, Jagsher Singh Khangurra impressed with a commanding 21-14, 21-17 victory over China's Zhang Yu Feng.

India's doubles contingent also looked sharp. The girls' doubles pair Deepak Raj Aditi and P. Vridhhi overcame Malaysia's Sue Mei Teoh/Zi Qing Wan 22-20, 21-12, while the U-15 mixed duo Hemanth Sri Sammetla and Sharayu Ranjane cruised past fifth seed Singapore pairing Ng Yu Ze/Loo Kit Rei Chara 21-9, 21-11 to move into the Round of 16.

Anvi Rathore, Wazir Singh, and SL Dhakshan



Sugumaran continued their winning start to the tournament, joined by the top-seeded girls' singles player, Shaina Manimuthu, who registered a 21-6, 21-10 victory against Malaysia's Jing Er Tan.India had won a gold and a bronze in 2024, and one gold, one silver, and one bronze in 2023, with both editions taking place in Chengdu. A 36-member squad is fighting for silverware across two age categories this time around.

Bobby Deol reveals dad Dharmendra is currently living with first wife Prakash Kaur; second wife Hema Malini lives in her own bungalow



The legendary actor Dharmendra's personal life has been just as dramatic as his career. He came to Mumbai from Punjab, already a married man. When he became a superstar, the fortunes of his family changed. His wife, Prakash Kaur, had to adapt to an entirely different kind of life. Years later, she also had to deal with her husband falling in love with another woman, Hema Malini. Dharmendra's second marriage caused a rift in the family, with Hema Malini continuing to live separately in her own bungalow while Dharmendra lived in his house with his first wife and four children. His daughter with Hema, Esha Deol, said that she didn't meet Prakash Kaur until she was 30 years old. In a new interview, Dharmendra's youngest son, Bobby Deol, revealed that his parents are living together at Dharmendra's Khandala farmhouse. In an interview with ABP Live, he was asked about his father posting notes on social media that made it seem like he is very lonely. Bobby said, "My mum is also there. They're both at the farm in Khandala right now. Papa and Mummy are together; he just gets a little dramatic. They love being at the farmhouse. They're also old now, and being at the farmhouse is relaxing for them. The weather is nice, the food is nice. Papa has made a paradise out there."

He continued, "Papa is very emotional. He's very expressive. He shares what he's feeling with everyone... Sometimes he goes overboard, and then I ask him why he wrote what he wrote or said what he said, and he tells me that he was just following his heart. Yes, of course we meet him, but we're busy sometimes and he gets emotional. He doesn't have any idea how many people could read his posts." Opening up more about his mother, he said, "You don't hear about my mother much because people don't usually ask us about her. And because my brother and father are actors, I end up talking more about them. My mother is a housewife, and I am her favourite. We speak every day. In fact, she called me twice just today. She's the strongest woman I've ever met in my life. She's had a very tough journey. She came from a small village, and the way of

living was very simple. And then, to adjust to city life as the wife of a superstar... It wasn't easy. I am what I am because of my wife, and it is the same with my father. It is because of my mother's support that my father became a big star."

On his parents' 71st wedding anniversary earlier this year, Bobby had shared a picture of the two of them on social media. Dharmendra and Prakash Kaur got married in 1954, when the actor was just 19. The couple has four children, sons Sunny and Bobby Deol, and daughters Ajeeta and Vijeta. Years later, in 1970, Dharmendra met Hema Malini on the sets of Tum Haseen Main Jawaan. Their on-screen chemistry quickly translated into a real-life romance, though their union faced significant resistance from Hema's family. Despite the challenges, the couple eventually married in 1980 and went on to have two daughters, Esha and Ahana Deol.

A couple of years ago, in an interview with Lehren Retro, Hema spoke about her 'unusual' arrangement with Dharmendra, where she lives separately in her own house. She said, "Nobody wants to be like that; it happens. Automatically, what happens, you have to accept. Otherwise nobody will feel like they want to live their life like this. Every woman wants to have a husband, children, like a normal family. But somewhere, it went out of the way... I am not feeling bad about it, or sulking about it. I am happy with myself. I have my two children, and I have brought them up very well." A year after his marriage to Hema, Prakash Kaur defended Dharmendra in an interview with Stardust. She said, "Why only my husband? Any man would have preferred Hema over me." She further questioned, "How dare anyone call my husband a womaniser when half the industry is doing the same thing?" Prakash, in the same interview, claimed, "All heroes are having affairs and getting married a second time. He may not be the best husband, though he is very good to me, but he is certainly the best father. His children love him a lot. He never neglects them."

Shah Rukh Khan asked me to not become a 'loose canon', says Raghav Juyal: 'He kissed on my forehead after I did a good scene'



Raghav Juyal is now on a roll after his breakout performance in Aryan Khan's directorial debut The Ba***ds of Bollywood. So much so that he's already been signed for Siddharth Anand's crime action thriller King alongside Shah Rukh Khan and Srikanth Odela's Telugu action drama The Paradise alongside Nani. "He's (Shah Rukh) my mentor. You cannot compare SRK with anyone. He's #1 and will be #1. Because of The Ba***ds of Bollywood, he's given me a huge role in a film. He observes how a man's journey has been, the hold he has on his craft, and how much he's worthy of trusting," said Raghav. "I did a scene on his set, after which the crew clapped for me. Such a big star approached me, kissed me on the forehead, hugged me, blessed me, and said, 'Kamaal hai (that's wonderful).' He knows he's SRK. Still

there's not even 1% insecurity in him. I've worked with so many actors. But he's the one who knows how to gauge someone's talent. That's why he's the king," added Raghav in an interview with Siddharth Kannan. Raghav Juyal also heaped praise on the power of Shah Rukh Khan's presence. "If Shah Rukh sir is talking to you, you get captivated. You can't do anything else. He feels like a fatherly figure. You feel like giving everything to that person," said Raghav. Raghav played Parvez in The Ba***ds of Bollywood, which marked the directorial debut of Shah Rukh's elder son Aryan Khan. Both The Ba***ds of Bollywood and King are produced by Shah Rukh's banner Red Chillies Entertainment. Raghav also recalled a great advice SRK gave to him. "He said, 'Raghav, don't be a loose cannon.' What he meant was you have a lot of responsibility. The livelihood of 500 people depends on you. There are light men, camera men. There's a director whose script has taken years to realize and his film is finally getting made. They're all working towards propping you up. Just because I feel like a star and can say anything to anyone, but that's causing damage to people back home and on set. So, at least be aware of what you speak," added Raghav. In an interview with SCREEN, Raghav Juyal shared how it was a dream-come-true moment for him to work with Shah Rukh Khan. "It's a huge deal for me. I'm a jabra, diehard fan. All of us are fans, but I proudly claim I'm his biggest fan. I even belong to a family of SRKians. We've been making his fan accounts since Orkut days. Whenever I've worked with him, I've always felt it's a surreal dream. This time was no different. I'm sure this will keep happening again and again," said Raghav.

'I've forgotten how to walk': When Jeetendra recalled Amitabh Bachchan's words post near-fatal Coolie accident

Many actors have spoken about Amitabh Bachchan's unmatched dedication to his craft. The actor, who turned 83 on Saturday, continues to inspire with his relentless work ethic and passion for cinema. In an old interaction with Filmfare, veteran star Jeetendra — who worked with Big B in the 1973 film Gehri Chhaal — praised Amitabh's commitment and recalled how the Sholay actor overcame his life-threatening Coolie accident with sheer determination.

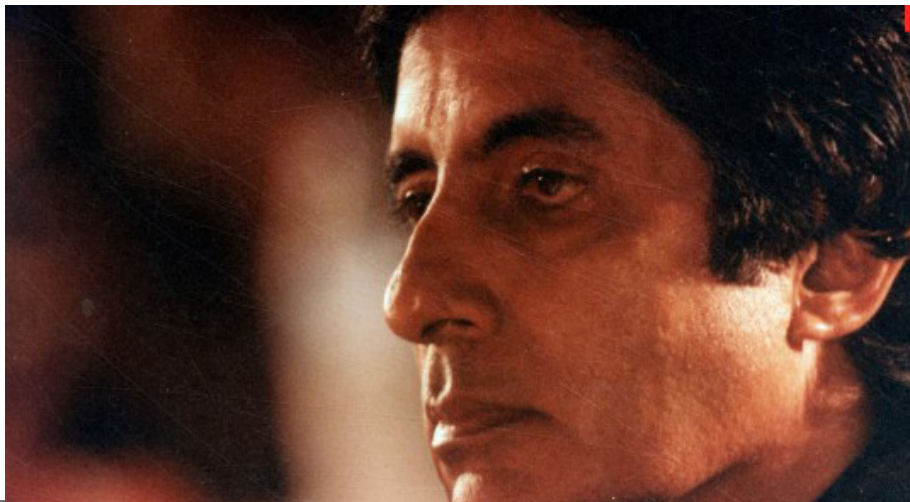
He said, "As an actor, Amitabh is a class apart. His dedication is exceptional. There is no word like 'chalega' in his dictionary. He puts complete effort in anything and everything that he does. Also, one can't work hard unless one is passionate about his/her work." Jeetendra further recalled, "I remember when I went to meet him at Breach Candy hospital, post his near-fatal accident on the set of Coolie (1982), he said, 'I've forgotten how to walk.' He'd been lying in bed recu-

perating for so long that he was unable to walk. But his willpower helped him fight back."

For the unversed, Amitabh Bachchan suffered a near-fatal injury during the filming of the 1983 movie Coolie after a mistimed punch by actor Puneet Issar during an action sequence. Bachchan remained critical for months and, according to reports, was even declared dead for a few minutes before being revived through multiple surgeries and life support. He eventually re-

covered, and Coolie was released in 1983, becoming a massive hit. Jeetendra described Amitabh Bachchan as "a class apart" and lauded him for his "exceptional dedication" and humility despite his superstardom. "Often, after achieving success, one tends to forget what made them successful, what got them so far. But Amitabh, on the other hand, grew more and more conscious and never lost a grip on himself. I've never seen him make producers wait,

I've never seen him while away time or chatting away on the set. He respects his time and more importantly that of others. He has always led a disciplined life," he said. Jeetendra also remembered how Amitabh maintained discipline even in his early years. "In the early days, even when we all sat drinking together till 3 am, he'd reach the shoot dot at 7 am. Unlike others who wouldn't be able to make it after a late night. Clearly, he never took his position or stardom for granted."



Sanjeev Kapoor recalls being called 'badtameez' after he couldn't recognise celebrities at his first Bollywood party: 'Tum kya insaan ho'

After studying in Delhi, Sanjeev Kapoor worked in New Zealand for two years. After he returned to India, he became the youngest Executive Chef of Centaur Hotel in Mumbai in 1992. This was also the time Sanjeev had his first brush with Bollywood. Centaur Hotel was the hub of Bollywood parties at that time, and he recalled how he was invited to meet guests at one such party and couldn't recognize anybody — and how he was blasted for the same. He told The Lallantop, "At the party, they made me meet Bollywood stars. I met everyone and came to my office after that. The banquet manager also came to my office. He told me that since you are new, I have to talk to you. He told me that you have to change your attitude. 'Tum bahut badtameez insaan ho (You are a very rude person),' he told me."

Sanjeev added, "I didn't understand what I did. He told me, 'I made you meet so many Bollywood stars, but you acted like you don't know anyone.' He asked me, 'You don't know who is Anu (Malik) and Nadeem-Shravan?' He asked me about the film Aashiqui and I didn't know about the film. This film was released when I was in New Zealand. No Hindi films used to be released in New Zealand, and we didn't know about the recent releases. If he would have



asked something about Amitabh Bachchan, I would have told, but this was a new film and these were all new people. He told me, 'Tum kya insaan ho?' Then he said that I have to be trained." Sanjeev Kapoor became a household name after his cooking show Khana Khazana became one of Asia's longest-running cookery shows, running for 18 years. Sanjeev was praised for his presentation style in the show.

Elli AvrRam claims Salman Khan protected her in the industry: 'A lot of people are scared of him so they don't dare to misbehave'



Actress Elli AvrRam, who hails from Sweden, first appeared on Indian television in Bigg Boss 7 in 2013. That same year, she made her Hindi film debut with Mickey Virus. During her early years, Elli was often rumored to be part of Salman Khan's camp. Now, in an exclusive interview with SCREEN, she has opened up about her bond with Salman and how he supported her in the industry.

Talking about her equation with Salman, Elli said, "I have been in touch with Salman. In fact, I recently met him after many years at Ganpati. I am actually very bad at being in touch. I live in my bubble, and I am focused on so many things I want to do. I work on myself a lot. There are

so many things you need to control and take care of, living alone in a different country that functions very differently from the country you were born in and grew up in with your parents. Suddenly, you are here all independent and alone, and you have to figure out life. I have been very bad at asking for help, even from my dad. I like to do everything on my own, but it's difficult."

"What I am extremely grateful for when it comes to Salman and the fondness he has had for me is that he is very protective of his people. I do believe he has been like an angel in my life. In all my years in the industry, from what I have understood, when it comes to a lot of other girls and what they have experienced in the industry, it's been extremely shocking for me to hear. And I somehow understood that a lot of people are scared of Salman Khan, so they don't dare to misbehave. That's been a beautiful protection and I am very grateful for that," Elli she added. On the work front, Elli AvrRam was last seen in the music video of "Zaar Zaar". Earlier this year, she made headlines after her photos with content creator Ashish Chanchlani went viral. Nawaz Kochra is an enthusiastic entertainment journalist for the last 9 years, he has been a known face and successfully worked with some big publications. At IndianExpress.com, Nawaz majorly covers TV and OTT and also does video interviews. Having the best conversations with celebrities is what Nawaz loves. ... Read More

Abhishek Bachchan dedicates Best Actor award to Aishwarya Rai and Aaradhya: 'Their sacrifices have been one of the main reasons...'



Although Bollywood is home to several power couples, Aishwarya Rai and Abhishek Bachchan remain the most celebrated among them. Despite the passage of 18 years since their marriage, their relationship continues to make headlines, even in gossip columns. Recently, several unfounded reports had surfaced, claiming that the couple was on the verge of separation due to marital discord. However, neither of them ever directly responded to such rumours. Nonetheless, Abhishek has now put the speculations to rest once and for all with a sweet gesture that highlighted the deep bond he continues to share with his wife.

While accepting his first Filmfare Award for Best Ac-

tor for his performance in director Shoojit Sircar's I Want to Talk (2024) recently, Abhishek delivered an emotional speech, thanking Aishwarya and their daughter Aaradhya in particular for supporting him in pursuing his dreams, even when it demanded them to make a few sacrifices. "To Aishwarya and Aaradhya, thank you for allowing me to go out and follow my dreams. I hope that by winning this award, they see that their sacrifices have been one of the main reasons I stand here today," he said. A visibly emotional Abhishek added, "I want to dedicate this award to two very special people. This film is about a father and a daughter, and I want to dedicate it to my hero, my father, and to my other hero, my daughter. Thank you so much, I cannot express what this means to me." Recalling his cinematic journey, the actor noted, "This year marks 25 years in the film industry, and I cannot remember how many times I've practised a speech for this award."

This has been a dream, and I'm just so touched and humbled. Receiving it in front of my family makes it even more special." Earlier this year, while promoting his film Kaalidhar Laapata, Abhishek Bachchan commented on how "negative news" affects him and his family. During a chat with ETimes, Abhishek said that all such rumours upset him. "You're not me; you don't live my life." Pointing out that it was very convenient to sit anonymously behind a computer screen and write nasty things about others, he emphasised that such people should realise they were hurting the targets as well. He added, "No matter how thick-skinned they are, it affects them. How would you like it if somebody did that to you?"