

Indian Chronicle

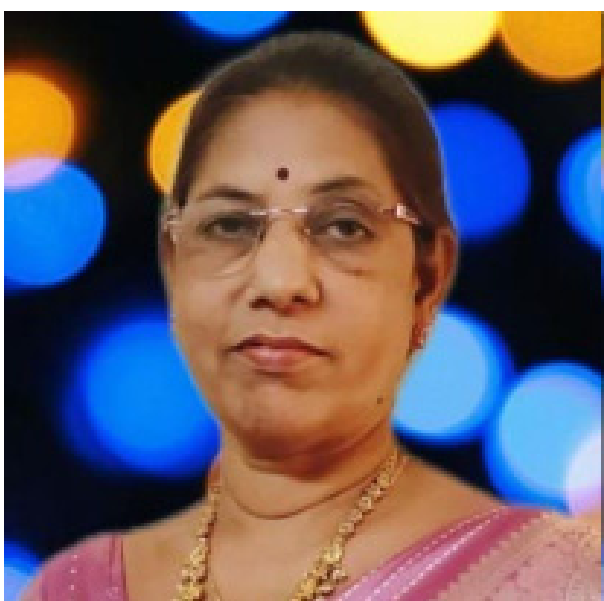
English Daily

Road safety should be a priority, not an afterthought

Full details of the horrific Kurnool bus mishap in Andhra Pradesh, in which 20 people died, are yet to come out, but the accident proves for the nth time that the authorities in our country are not proactive but reactive—and that too in a slow and slipshod manner. For a few days before this, a fire in a moving AC sleeper bus burned at least 20 passengers alive and wounded 15 on the Jaisalmer-Jodhpur Highway. Even the Rajasthan tragedy did not wake up the officials concerned in other states.

To be sure, intercity private buses are generally doing a good job by providing comfortable travel to passengers at reasonable prices; the entrepreneurs running these services are doing what the Railways has failed to do despite its massive resources and government support. It is a measure of government incompetence and apathy at all levels, Central as well as state, that the authorities haven't even been able to come up with realistic rules and regulations to ensure smooth and safe operations by private bus companies. Despite the vital role these buses play, the regulatory framework governing them remains chaotic and outdated. Operators are required to obtain multiple clearances—from transport authorities, road safety departments, and local administrations—but these are often reduced to paperwork rather than meaningful checks. Vehicle fitness certifications, driver training standards, and fire safety inspections are either perfunctory or routinely bypassed through bribes and middlemen. The Kurnool tragedy underlines the tragic consequences of this regulatory vacuum. Most intercity buses, particularly AC sleeper coaches, are not equipped with basic fire-suppression systems or emergency exits that meet modern safety standards.

Padmavathi Appointed as Telangana State Executive Member of Head World Human Rights Council



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 28 (Indian Chronicle):“The Head World Human Rights Council, which has been actively operating in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, has appointed J. Padmavathi, a resident of Telangana, as the Telangana State Executive Member, announced the organization's chairman Madhav in a media statement. “On this occasion, the newly appointed State Executive Member J. Padmavathi expressed her gratitude to Chairman Madhav and National General Secretary Satish Devarakonda for showing confidence in her and facilitating her appointment. “She stated that she would strive for the growth of the organization, stand by the victims, and fight to ensure justice for them. She reaffirmed her commitment to protecting human rights on behalf of the Head World Human Rights Council. “Members of the organization and local dignitaries congratulated Padmavathi on her appointment and felicitated her warmly.

Heavy Rains Alert: Public Urged to Stay Vigilant

Farmers Advised to Delay Paddy Harvest— District Collector Jitesh V. Patil “Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau, October 28, Indian Chronicle: Bhadradi Kothagudem District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has appealed to the public to remain alert as the Meteorological Department has forecast widespread heavy rainfall across the district over the next two days due to cyclone impact. The Collector issued a press statement on Tuesday and urged precautionary measures. “He advised people residing in low-lying areas, river catchment regions, villages and towns to remain cautious and take preventive steps as rainwater may inundate such areas. Citizens were instructed to be



careful while crossing roads, bridges, streams and culverts, and to avoid stepping out unless necessary. Children and elderly persons should stay indoors. The Collector also warned the public to keep away from fallen trees and snapped power lines. “Focusing on the agriculture sector, the Collector said that the upcoming cyclone may severely impact crops. As a large extent of paddy is in harvest-ready condition, farmers are advised to postpone paddy harvesting for the next two to three days. Farmers who have already harvested should shift the produce to safer, elevated locations and protect it from rainwater by covering it with tarpaulin sheets or other materials. “He added that farmers can avoid major financial losses by taking timely preventive steps. The Collector further directed officials to ensure proper protective arrangements at market yards and procurement centres so that rainwater does not enter crop storage points.

Extensive Door-to-Door Campaign by Parameshwar Reddy in Support of Naveen Yadav's Victory



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 28 (Indian Chronicle):“In a major show of support for Congress candidate Naveen Yadav, Uppal constituency Congress in-

charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy conducted an extensive door-to-door campaign in Rahmath Nagar Division of the Jubilee Hills constituency, accompanied by local Corporator E.N. Reddy. During the campaign, Parameshwar Reddy personally interacted with residents, learning about their local issues and explaining the ongoing development works under the Congress-led people's governance. He urged voters to support and vote for the Congress candidate Naveen Yadav, symbolized by the 'Hand', and ensure his victory with a massive majority. Reddy stated that the campaign received an overwhelming response from the public, expressing confidence that Naveen Yadav's win in the Jubilee Hills by-election is almost certain. He added that people recognize Naveen Yadav as a leader who truly belongs among them, as reflected in their enthusiastic support during the campaign. The event saw the participation of Gaddiannaram Market Committee Chairman Chiluka Madhusudhan Reddy, GHMC Floor Leader Dharpalli Rajasekhara Reddy, and several other Congress leaders and activists.

Neglecting to Include Water Board Outsourcing Employees in the IMSIS Portal Is Unjust: Telangana Outsourcing JAC President Puli Lakshmaiah



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 28 (Indian Chronicle):“Telangana Outsourcing JAC President Puli Lakshmaiah and representative Siddi Ramulu strongly criticized the Water Board officials for their negligence in updating the data of outsourcing employees in the IMSIS (Integrated Management System for Information Services) Portal. “They stated that while the government had instructed all departments to register the data of every employee, the officials in the Water Board claimed they received no such order — yet, they ensured that all permanent employees' details were entered into the portal. However, the data of outsourcing workers employed in the same department were not uploaded. “Lakshmaiah pointed out that categories such as linemen, meter readers, bill collectors, WTP and STP workers, QAT staff, garden workers, DPOs, sewerage workers, pump operators, and several others — to-



taling over 5,000 outsourcing employees — were left out of the IMSIS registration process. He expressed deep concern that, despite the government's clear instruction to complete this process by the 25th of this month, the officials ignored it and only updated data for permanent staff. He remarked that if the government were to withhold the salaries of permanent employees, only then would officials take their duties seriously.”

According to him, only 55% of employee details have been uploaded online so far. He questioned what had happened to the remaining 45%, and what was being done with the salaries allocated for those employees. The Telangana Outsourcing JAC leaders demanded that the government take immediate action against the negligent officials and ensure that all outsourcing employees' data are properly recorded in the IMSIS portal without further delay.

Police Martyrs Commemoration Week: Police Rally with Students in Ramanthapur

“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 28 (Indian Chronicle):“As part of the Police Martyrs Commemoration Week, following the instructions of Rachakonda Commissioner Sudheer Babu, a rally was organized on Tuesday in Uppal with students from Aurora PG College and Government Polytechnic College, Ramanthapur. The rally, led by Malkajgiri Division ACP S. Chakrapani, included Inspectors and staff from all police stations in the division. It started from Aurora College and proceeded up to Government Polytechnic College, where a meeting was held on the college grounds. “Speaking on the occasion, ACP Chakrapani said that it is essential to remember the police personnel who sacrificed their lives for the nation, serving selflessly to protect the country. He highlighted the invaluable contribution of the police in safeguarding people's wealth, honor, and lives in their daily duties. “Those who participated in the event included Uppal SHO K. Bhaskar, Medipally SHO R. Govind Reddy, Moula Ali SHO Saidulu,



Uppal DI Y. Ramalinga Reddy, Uppal Admin SI Madhava Reddy, along with other SIs and police staff.

“No Delays in Investigation Will Be Tolerated”: SP Rohit Raju “Strict Action Against Negligent Officials Warned

“Bhukya Ranjith Naik, Bhadradi kothagudem Bureau, October 28, Indian Chronicle :“No delays will be tolerated in case investigations. Strict disciplinary action will be taken against officials who show negligence,” warned Bhadradi Kothagudem District Superintendent of Police, Rohit Raju IPS, during the monthly crime review meeting held through video conference with district police officers on Monday. “As part of the initiative “Chaitanyam – War on Drugs,” the SP instructed officers to not only crackdown on illegal transportation of ganja but also register cases against those who consume it. He emphasized strict vigilance on hotspots across the district and creating awareness among the public on the harmful effects of drugs. “The SP stressed that every case should ensure quality investigation to secure conviction for offenders and justice for victims. Officers must remain alert and responsible in their duties, he said, adding that patrol units and Blue Colts should always be available on the roads for public safety. “SP Rohit Raju directed officials to intensify action against illegal activities such as ganja smuggling, matka, and gambling. Highlighting the growing threat to youth from narcotic substances, he urged immediate preventive measures. “He ordered installation of CCTV cameras at key locations in every police station jurisdiction. Stolen property should be recovered quickly using modern technology and returned to victims without delay, he said. “To curb cybercrimes, the SP stressed on regular



awareness programs for the public. He also instructed police to identify black spots where road accidents are frequent and coordinate with concerned departments to implement preventive measures.”

“Pending cases must be cleared swiftly in coordination with judicial authorities to ensure timely justice for victims. Drunk driving and rash driving should be strictly dealt with under law, he added. “The meeting was attended by Bhadrachalam ASP Vikrant Kumar Singh IPS, DCRB DSP Mallayya Swamy, Kothagudem DSP Rehman, Palvoncha DSP Satish Kumar, Yellandu DSP Chandra Bhanu, Manuguru DSP Ravinder Reddy, CIs, SIs and other district police personnel.

School Attender Arrested for Sexually Harassing Minor Girl Students – Rural ACP Vijay Kumar

“Chittimalla Mahendar, Karimnagar Bureau, October 28, INDIAN CHRONICLE:“A shocking case of sexual harassment against minor girl students by a school attender came to light in Karimnagar district. According to police reports, Mohammad Yakub Pasha (30), working as an Office Subordinate (Attender) at a government school in Gangadhara, allegedly harassed several minor girl students. Yakub Pasha, belonging to the Dudekula community, is a native of Shayampet village in Geesukonda mandal and currently resides in Kurikyala village under Gangadhara mandal. He reportedly behaved indecently with girl students, touched them inappropriately, and threatened to post morphed photos taken with them during school events if they resisted his advances. Following complaints, officials including the District Child and Women Welfare Officer, Child Welfare Committee members, Mandal Education Officer, and MPDO visited the school and interacted with the students. Their inquiry confirmed that the allegations were true. Subsequently, on Monday evening, the Headmistress of the school lodged a formal complaint at the Gangadhara Police Station. Based on the complaint, a case was registered under stringent sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and the Information Technology (IT) Act. The investigation was launched under the supervision of Karimnagar Rural Assistant Commissioner of Police, G. Vijay Kumar. During the probe, it was confirmed that the accused had indeed sexually harassed the students. Acting on this, the Gangadhara Sub-Inspector's team arrested Yakub Pasha at Rekurthi Crossroads on Tuesday morning. After conducting medical examinations, the accused was produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody. Speaking to the media, ACP Vijay Kumar stated that no leniency would be shown towards anyone involved in sexual offences against minor girls or women. He warned that strict legal action would be taken in all such cases. He also urged girl students and women who face harassment in schools, colleges, or workplaces to come forward and file complaints without fear, assuring that the identity of victims will be kept strictly confidential.

Life Skills Training Program at Government Degree College, Uppal



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 28 (Indian Chronicle):“A Life and Soft Skills Training Program was organized at the Government Degree College, Uppal, according to College Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar. The program was conducted under the supervision of the Career Guidance and Placement Cell of the college, with support from LUX Foundation and Barclays Life Skills Training Programs,

Hyderabad. “Students from B.A., B.Com., and B.Sc. courses actively participated in the training sessions. The program was coordinated by Dr. G. Tirupathayya, Coordinator of the Career Guidance and Placement Cell. “Madhurama, representative of the LUX Foundation, guided the students on important topics such as Life Skills, Resume Preparation, Interview Techniques, and Goal Setting. “Certificates were distributed to the students who successfully participated in the training. On this occasion, Vice Principal Dr. Ravi Prasad, NSS Program Officer Vishwanath Kumar, Dr. Satyanarayana, Dr. Rajasree, Dr. Geetha, Dr. Yamuna, Dr. Srinivas, Dr. Vijay Kumar, Dr. Sagar, Venkateswarlu, and others took part in the program.



Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 28):- A scene from the meeting between Telangana State Information (Right) Commission (RTI) Chairman Boreddy Ayodhya Reddy and Hayat Nagar Mother Dairy Electrical Engineering Boini Nagaraju in Turkapalli village of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on Monday.

Virahat Ali should apologize to journalists.. “He should withdraw his comments

“TWJF State Committee President Mamidi Somaiya demands



““Mandava Srisailem..Hyderabad..(Indian Chronicle...October 28):- The Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) has strongly condemned the comments made by TUWJ State President Virahat Ali, who contested and lost the elections after the Hyderabad Press Club election results, and addressed fellow journalists. Federation state president Mamidi Somaiya, vice presidents Pulipalupula Anandha, Valla Jagan, Bandi Vijayakumar, state secretary Tanniru Srinivas and others said that it is not right to be the president of a journalist union and call fellow journalists "poisonous snakes", "buddher khans" and "budda associations" and to insult, abuse and belittle them.

They said that the journalists were hurt by the posts on social media that even if all the poisonous snakes united, they could not do anything. It is common for everyone to form an alliance or contest with the aim of winning during the press club elections. In such circumstances, whether they compete in a panel or independently, wins and losses are natural, and it is intolerable for Virahat Ali to make such comments targeting journalists who have lost so much. They demanded that Virahat Ali withdraw his comments immediately. They demanded an apology from the journalists. They flagged that in the name of elections, a group and a union are playing with the club in their hands without telling what the journalists have suffered because of the Hyderabad Press Club and what they have done for the welfare of journalists. They said that it is sad that the Press Club elections, which should have been held in a good atmosphere, are being politicized by spending lakhs of rupees and misleading the members. They congratulated the candidates who won the Press Club elections held yesterday and the candidates who contested the elections with the spirit of democracy and gave a strong fight. They asked the new working committee that won to work for the development of the Press Club and the welfare of the members without bowing to any political party or union in the next two years.

Journalists are the lifeblood of newspapers...“-Ethics are needed in journalism “



-Digital media should be trustworthy “-TWJF State President Mamidi Somaiya “Mandava Srisailem.. Hyderabad (Indian Chronicle.. October 28):- If newspapers are the lifeblood of democracy...then journalists are the lifeblood of newspapers, said senior journalist and Telangana Working Journalists Federation State President Mamidi Somaiya. He said that no matter how many newspapers come, if there is no ethics in the journalism provided by journalists, those newspapers cannot survive. On Sunday, he inaugurated the central office of Hyper Nest Digital Me-

dia and Jyoti National Telugu Daily, set up under the auspices of Sai Publications on Sick Village Road in Boynpally, along with several prominent figures. Speaking on the occasion, Mamidi Somaiya expressed concern that the print media will be swept away by the social media that is sweeping the society. He suggested that people should provide selfless and honest services in a way that builds strong trust in digital media. He said that to protect the values ??of journalism, it is very important to follow ethical principles such as honesty, accuracy, impartiality, and respect for people. He said that the credibility of journalism should be maintained by adhering to these values ??in collecting and analyzing news, verifying news sources, reporting impartially, and considering the welfare of the community. “He said that journalism with values ??is very necessary for the current society, and he urged media organizations and journalists to move in that direction. Cantonment MLA Sriganesh, IG Ramesh Reddy, Gazal Srinivas, senior journalist Umamaheshwar Rao, AP Intellectuals Forum President Chalasani Srinivas, Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) State Vice Presidents Pulipalupula Anandha, Valla Jagan, Jyoti Patrika Editor Nampally Srinivas, Hyper Nest Digital Media CEO Venkata Sai and others participated in the program.

“Krishi Vigyan Kendras Play a Crucial Role in Farmers’ Welfare”

– District Collector Jitesh V. Patil

“Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradi kothagudem Bureau,October 28,Indian Chronicle: “Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) play a crucial role in strengthening farmers’ welfare and rural economy, said District Collector Jitesh V. Patil. On Tuesday, he visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) located in Kothagudem and reviewed various agricultural development activities.““During his visit, the Collector inspected the ongoing initiatives at KVK, including innovative agricultural technologies, soil testing laboratory operations, and integrated farming model units. He interacted with agricultural scientists to understand the research and training programs being extended to farmers. He appreciated the services being rendered by KVK for farmers’ empowerment.““KVK Programme Coordinator Dr. T. Bharat briefed the Collector on technical guidance to farmers, crop expansion activities, convergence of government schemes, and various training programs being implemented across the district.““As part of the Tribal Sub Plan, the Collector participated in a training session organized by KVK. He interacted with farmers from Popelli village of Yellandu mandal, and created awareness on modern agricultural methods such as sericulture, cotton cultivation, and integrated farming practices. He stated that adopting scientific methods will improve crop productivity and enhance farmers’ income.““The Collector highlighted that Krishi Vigyan



Kendras are vital for the rural agricultural ecosystem, providing scientific knowledge, technical support, and promoting advanced farming practices that directly contribute to an increase in farmers’ earnings.““Later, he reviewed future development plans at KVK with officials, including expansion of soil testing facilities, development of climate-resilient crop varieties, and digital literacy programs to ensure technology reaches farmers efficiently.““On this occasion, the Collector distributed tarpaulins and agricultural implements to tribal farmers.““Agricultural scientists Dr. Hema Sharath Chandra, B. Shiva, farmers, and officials from various departments participated in the program.

Collector Jitesh V. Patil Inspects Disability Assessment Camp at Kothagudem Area Hospital

““Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau,October 28,Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil on Tuesday inspected the ongoing disability assessment Sadaram camp being conducted at the Government Area Hospital, Kothagudem. He personally reviewed the medical examination procedures for persons with disabilities along with the online application entry system.““The Collector examined the accessibility of services, challenges faced by the beneficiaries, and the functionality of medical equipment being used for disability certification.““Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the government is according top priority to the welfare of persons with disabilities. He asserted that every eligible individual must receive proper recognition and certification. He added that the Unique Disability Identity (UDID) card issued by the government is recognized not only in Telangana but across all states in the country. Through these cards, beneficiaries can easily avail welfare schemes in health, education, employment, and transportation sectors, he explained.““He instructed officials to ensure timely slot booking for disability assessments and to communicate schedules to applicants in advance so examinations are conducted smoothly. He also directed them to make sure that sufficient medical specialists, diagnostic equipment, and technical staff are available at the camp without any interruptions.““The Collector emphasized that essential amenities such as a reception counter, seating, shade, drinking water, toilets, ramps, and wheelchairs must be arranged to prevent any inconvenience to the disabled attendees. Providing a friendly and accessible environment for them is the responsibility of the administration, he noted.““He further instructed staff



to ensure accurate data entry on the UDID portal, including disability percentage, personal details, and medical certification. He stated that digital documentation of disability records will serve as a strong foundation for the effective implementation of future government schemes.““Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Vidya Chandana, medical specialists, and hospital staff were present during the inspection.

Minister Sridhar Babu Congratulates Delhi Public School Students for Their Achievements



““Nacharam (Indian Chronicle) October 28:““ Students of Delhi Public School have brought pride to the state by excelling in the field of sports. Sahasra, a 7th-grade student, won the bronze medal in the singles category at the Under-13 National Badminton Ranking Tournament held at

the Chetan Anand Badminton Academy, Hyderabad. Another student, Anya (7th grade), won the gold medal in doubles and a bronze medal in the CBSE National Badminton Ranking Tournament (Clusters).“This morning, the young players, along with DPS CEO Malka Yashwasi and badminton coach Harsha, met Minister for IT, Industries, Commerce, and Legislative Affairs, Sri Sridhar Babu, and received his blessings and appreciation.“Minister Sridhar Babu lauded the students’ talent and said it was a matter of great pride that such promising young athletes are emerging from Telangana. He wished them continued success and encouraged them to bring more glory to the nation through their sporting excellence.“The Minister also appreciated the efforts of Delhi Public School management, especially CEO Malka Yashwasi, for giving equal importance to academics and sports, thereby ensuring the holistic development of students.“He extended his best wishes to the young achievers and expressed hope that they would continue to win laurels at the international level as well.“Lakshman (Bat Advisor) also participated in the program.

Basic facilities should be provided to farmers in the market yard so that they do not face any difficulties in buying paddy



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao ““The District Collector who seized the moisture percentage mission.““Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle.. October 28):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao has instructed the concerned officials to provide basic facilities to farmers in the market yard so that they do not face any difficulties in buying paddy.“On Tuesday, the District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the paddy purchase center in the market yard at Ramannapet mandal center and the Nagaram paddy purchase center in

Valigonda mandal. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said...that farmers should not be discouraged by the recent rains and should set up tarpaulins and matings around the paddy until the weather improves. The district collector has issued orders to the market yard officials to immediately construct doors after farmers complained that the grain was being washed away due to rain water dripping from the shed. The entire market yard was inspected again. Since the concrete for drying the grain piles was not laid properly and there were holes, the holes in the concrete should be filled with mortar and leveled. The level line in the electricity in the market yard is dangerous. The SC has issued orders to the electricity department to immediately change the line and install a new, larger pole so that there is no problem for lorries to come and go. Since the old moisture machine that checks the moisture percentage showed high moisture percentage, it should be seized and another moisture machine should be brought and checked and used. The officials were instructed to immediately check the moisture percentage of the grain in the market and purchase it immediately. The District Collector also asked the millers to cooperate with the farmers due to the untimely rains. He called the contractor to transport the grain to the mills and ordered him to send a lorry to the Ramannapet market yard within 2 hours. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Yadagirigutta Sri Parvathavardhi Sametha Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple lit Karthika Deepam

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao ““Manduva Srisailem Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau (Indian Chronicle..October 28):- In the wake of the Telangana State Government issuing orders to the District Collectors and staff across the state to light Karthika Deepams on the occasion of Karthika Month as per the orders of the Endowment Department.. District Collector Hanumantha Rao lit Karthika Deepams on Monday night.. The District Collector lit Karthika Deepams on Monday night at the Sri Parvathavardhi Sametha Ramalingeswara Swamy Temple, an affiliated temple of the Yadagirigutta shrine.. On this occasion, the officers, employees and people working in the district were requested to participate in the Karthika Month pujas with devotion and seek the blessings of the Lord.



108 Kalasha Snapan Puja to Goddess Annapurna at Nagaram



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Nagaram October 28, (Indian Chronicle): A grand Ashtottara Shata (108) Kalasha Snapan Puja was performed to Goddess Annapurna Devi at Sri Lakshmi Ganapathi Annapurna Sahita Kashi Vishweshwara Swamy Temple, located on Road No. 8, S.V. Nagar in Nagaram Municipality, on Tuesday. The ritual was conducted with great devotion, followed by various sacred ceremonies including Moola Mantra Homam, Rudrabhishekam, Chandi Parayanam, Dhanyadhivasanga Homam, Vishnavasu Gandharva Homam, Rudra Homam, and Chandi Homam. Temple organizers announced that on Wednesday, the temple will host the Pratishtapana (consecration) of deities — Sri Kodanda Ram-Anjaneya Swamy, Sri Subrahmanya Swamy with consorts Valli and Devasena, Nagabandha, Mrityunjaya, Medha Dakshinamurthy, Abhaya Anjaneya, and Navagraha idols. Temple committee convener M.V.L.N. Shastri shared these details. The rituals were performed under the guidance of chief priest Sri Subrahmanya Sharma, assisted by Jammalamadaka Sriramana Sharma. The event was attended by temple committee members Dacha Srinivas Gupta, Erram Eshwarayya

Gupta, Linga Nagendra Gupta, P.V.V. Satyanarayana Narasimhachari Goud, Ganglreddy Narender Reddy, Marella Venkateshwara Rao, V. Narasimhachari Goud, and Anjaneya Shastri, among others.

District Collector Hanumantha Rao unveils vigilance poster



“Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 28):- As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week, the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collectorate office will organize essay writing competitions on vigilance for school students every year from October 27 to November 2. As part of this program, the District Collector unveiled a poster at the Collectorate Mini Meeting Hall today and administered the Vigilance Pledge to the district officials and inaugurated (Toll Free No. 14432).“Vigilance Officer ACP Saidulu, JAC Chairman Mandadi Upender Reddy, Administration Officer Jaganmohan Prasad, District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy and concerned officials participated in this program.

Medical officers and staff should be available to patients coming to government hospitals and provide better treatment



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao***Ayurvedic Doctor Syed Nusrat suspended...***Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 28):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao warned that medical officers and staff should be available to patients coming to government hospitals and strict action should be

taken against those who do not attend duty unofficially. Show cause notices were issued to Dr. Rajini Kumari and Dr. Veeranna..District Collector Hanumantha Rao, who conducted a surprise inspection of the Ramannapet Area Hospital on Tuesday,"examined the attendance register. The register was checked to see how many staff members attended the duty today. The District Collector took action against the doctors who were unauthorized absent from duty. He warned that action would be taken against the doctors and staff who did not attend the duty illegally.

He toured the emergency wards in the hospital and expressed his anger at the sanitation staff for not being clean in the wards. The Collector warned the staff to keep them clean at all times. He warned that strict action would be taken if all the doctors were negligent in attending the duty every day. The Collector spoke to the patients undergoing treatment in the hospital. He inquired about their well-being. He inquired whether the doctors were providing good treatment in the hospital and whether the staff were causing any trouble. The Tahsildar ordered that a path be made to drain the water as there was rainwater stagnating in the hospital premises. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Uppal Constituency Congress Incharge Parameshwar Reddy Participates in Door-to-Door Campaign at Manikeshwar Nagar



***NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 28, (Indian Chronicle): Jubilee Hills Constituency, Rehmat Nagar Division – Congress incharge of Uppal constituency, Parameshwar Reddy, took part in a door-to-door campaign at Manikeshwar Nagar. During the campaign, he interacted with residents, listened to their issues, and stated that only the Congress Party has the strength to fulfill the aspirations of the people and resolve their problems. He appealed to the voters to recognize the development works being carried out under the leadership of Revanth Reddy and to support the Congress by voting for the party's candidate, Naveen Yadav, symbolized by the Hand. Rehmat Nagar Division Corporator CN Reddy, Chilka Madhusudhan Reddy, Lingoji Guda Corporator Dharpalli Rajasekhara Reddy, along with division leaders, party workers, and women activists, participated in large numbers.

Caste, birth, death, income, applications should be examined immediately and submitted on time

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao***Mandava Srisailam Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 28):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the applicants who have applied for caste, birth, death, income and other certificates should be examined without any pending issues and submitted on time.

On Tuesday, the District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the Ramannapet Tahsildar's office. On this occasion, the pending applications under Bhu Bharati and Beyond SLA were examined in the Tahsildar's office."Those who have applied for the certificates should complete them within a week. He warned that disciplinary action will be taken if they are kept pending." RIs were instructed to provide training to newly arrived GPOs.

The MPDO was asked about the construction work of Indiramma houses in the Mandal. It was suggested that the construction of Indiramma houses at various stages should



be done quickly. The District Collector himself inspected the special intensive revision of voters being carried out by the BLOs. The relevant officials were present in the program.

Faculty protest in front of OU Engineering College.***Protests have reached 25 days



..***Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU October 28: OU Professor Venkata Das said that talented faculty members were deliberately rejected in the Career Advancement Scheme interviews without being given promotions. To this extent,

they protested in front of Osmania University Engineering College on Tuesday, protesting the irregularities in the faculty promotions. Speaking on the occasion, they said that it is absurd for the university to say that 48 faculty members are not talented and intelligent, which is unprecedented in the university. They said that the university authorities should not ignore the fact that they have all contributed to achieving high standards and rankings. They strongly condemned the targeting of some and preventing them from being given promotions. They said that they will continue their agitation until the university vice-chancellor responds and does justice to the faculty members. OUTA President Prof. Manohar Rao, faculty members Venkata Das, Nathaniel, and Melissa Ellen were present at the event. Venkateswara Rao, Padmaja, Aparna, Suresh Kumar, Sandhya Reddy, MV Ramana Rao, Ramesh, Madhuri, Sasikala, Sujatha, P. Ramesh and others are there.

Endless Deceit by Leonia — Land Victims Stage Protest at Medchal Collectorate

***NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 28, (Indian Chronicle): Demanding protection of their lands from encroachment, the victims of Shamirpet Leonia project staged a massive protest in front of the Medchal District Collectorate under the leadership of local public organizations.

The aggrieved landowners also lodged a complaint at the Prajavani grievance cell in the Collectorate, alleging that Leonia management had illegally occupied and blocked access routes to their lands. Later, the victims marched to the residence of Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender and submitted a representation seeking his intervention to resolve the issue.

They stated that Leonia resort management had completely closed internal roads, causing severe inconvenience to local residents and landowners. Responding to the delegation, MP Etela Rajender said that although the issue is a dispute between private parties, he would make efforts to facilitate a fair resolution in the interest of the affected people.



Every member should attend the meeting of the Greater Journalists Housing Society on November 5

President, Secretaries, Mamidi Somaiah, Srinivas



***Mandava Srisailam.. (Hyderabad, October 28):-"The general meeting of the Greater Hyderabad Journalists Mutually Aided Co-operative Housing Society will be held on Wednesday, November 5 at 10 am at the Thyagaraya Gana Sabha in Chikkadapalli, said the society's president and secretaries Mangodi Somaia and Bollam Srinivas. They said that various matters related to the society will be discussed in the general meeting." They expressed their grief that this society, which was formed in 2008 to provide houses and land for print and electronic media journalists working in Greater Hyderabad, has about 1400 journalists as mem-



bers, many senior journalists have been waiting for house plots for 17 years, and many journalists have died without getting house plots. They said that after the Congress government came to power, several petitions were submitted to the Chief Minister and ministers seeking land for their society, but despite this, the government is delaying the Supreme Court verdict and is obstructing the process of providing house plots to journalists. They said that a crucial decision on the future course of action will be taken in the society's general body meeting to be held on November 5. They appealed to all the members of the society to attend this very important general meeting by 10 am.

Doctor Ends Life Over Crypto Scam

"Chittimalla Mahendar, Karimnagar Bureau, October 28, Indian Chronicle***A tragic incident has shocked Karimnagar city, where an anesthesiologist working at Prathima Hospital, Dr. M.P. Srinivas, died by suicide. He reportedly administered a lethal injection to himself, ending his life.Dr. Srinivas, a native of Mankammathota, had earlier served as a Medical Officer at Choppadandi Government Hospital. His wife, Dr. Viplava Sri, is presently working as a doctor at a government hospital.According to Dr. Viplava Sri, her husband had invested a large amount of money in a cryptocurrency scheme named "Meta Fund" along with a few friends. She alleged that Srinivas lent crores

of rupees to his friends Karunakar, Kiran, and Ganesh, who failed to return the money. Under pressure from mounting bank loans and financial distress, he could not bear the mental strain any longer, she said."Family members revealed that Srinivas had accumulated debts of nearly 73 crore over the years. Despite being in the medical profession, he was allegedly misled by his friends into investing in multiple business ventures. They added that he had been struggling to pay EMIs for the past decade, which led to severe depression.Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. The incident has left the medical fraternity in deep shock and grief.

Indiramma House Work Should Be Expedited:Collector Venkatesh Dhotre,"

Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad,District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,28.The construction work of Indiramma Houses in Sir Silk Colony of Kagaznagar town was inspected by Kumarambheem Asifabad District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre, Sub- Collector Shradha Shukla, District Rural Development Officer Dattaram, and Housing Department P.D. Venugopal. The Collector said that the work of Indiramma Houses should be completed



quickly and provided to the beneficiaries. He said that the government is depositing the bills in installments along with free sand. Later, loan cheques were handed over to the beneficiaries.

Employment Opportunities Should Be Increased Through Skills - Collector



Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad,District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.October,28.On Tuesday, a skill training center under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gramin Kaushalya Yojana scheme was inaugurated at Suprabhatam School in Kagaznagar by Kumaram Bheem Asifabad District Collector Venkatesh Dhotre, Sub- Collec-

tor Shradha Shukla and MLA Palvai Harish Babu. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that youth can get employment opportunities through skill training. He said that the training provided by this GMM and Sahitya Sanstha is commendable. Officials and youth participated in this program.

Congress government has made a lot of progress under CM Revanth Reddy.

.. Who will not believe the deceptive words of KTR? Jubilee Hills people:- Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy***Bhuvanagiri Parliament Member Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy spoke at the Gandhi Bhavan press meet***Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... (Indian Chronicle..October 28):- During the 10 years of rule, autos have not been taken care of even once and during the time of KTR and Jubilee Hills elections, Bhuvanagiri Parliament Member Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy expressed his concern and said that KTR will once again assume a new avatar. Bhuvanagiri Parliament Member Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy revealed many things at the Gandhi Bhavan press meet. He alleged that in 10 years, the BRS government has imposed challans worth nearly Rs 42 crore on autos and private vehicles. After the Congress government came to power, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, to reduce the burden of women's livelihood, gas cylinder prices were reduced, RTC bus travel was free for women, and more than 1,06,000 zero tickets were provided to women, he said. He said that the credit goes to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. Now, keeping in mind the Jubilee Hills elections, if Ketir is making new dramas and making baseless allegations against the government, no one will remain silent, and everyone knows that. MP Chamala said that the credit for providing meager rice to the people of Telangana belongs to the Congress, and that the Congress, as a people's government, has al-



ways worked for the people, including Indiramma's pensions and Prajapalan government. He said that in 2 years, the Praja Congress government has done many things like canals, tanks, sewage treatment, and development of slums. He said that you should tell us where and what was built during your rule.*** He said that when TRS was in power, the Kaleshwaram project was not given any attention, nothing has come to Telangana state because of you, water went to KCR's farmhouse, "Funds went to Walla's family members. "Appointments, MLC and MP posts all went to your family members. Who would believe if KTR played the illusionary words and dramas that Telangana could not have come without us? He said that if Telangana had not been in debt like a state, thousands of crores of rupees could have come to Telangana state from every department.

How a modest school started by 2 friends in Surat grew into a university in 100 years



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Long before independence, two friends in Surat, Chunilal Ghelabhai Shah, a clerk in the postal department, and Jaikishandas Athawala, a journalist and social reformer, decided to set up a school. They aimed to provide quality education to all at an affordable rate, compared to the schools operating at the time. Thus, in 1905, the Sarvajani Education Society (SES) was formed on the lines of the Deccan Education Society, Pune. It established the first school, named The English School, popularly known as 'Dhingli school' (also referred to as 'Doll School'), which operated from a private lawn in the Gopipura area of Surat.

On October 1, 1912, Sarvajani Education Society was registered in the government records as a philanthropic organisation run by a trust. According to the centenary volume of the SES, Chunilal Shah, an alumnus of the erstwhile Baroda College, now MS University of Baroda in Vadodara, whose father was a teacher in a government school, realised that missionary schools charged high fees for an English-medium education.

Their fee was Rs 8 per month for Classes 1 and 2, Rs 12 for Class 3, so the Doll school decided to charge eight paise for Classes 1 and 2, while the highest fee was Rs 1.80 per month. The first batch saw 11 students being enrolled. While the medium was English, the Sanskrit language was introduced in Class 3 and Gujarati after Class 5. Among the teachers were Ganesh Sahasrabuddhe, who came from Pune's Deccan College; Narbheram Joshi, headmaster of Elphinstone College, Jamnagar; and Murshanker Vyas, headmaster of Vansda English School, who gave honorary services. Its list of alumni has illustrious names like writers

Furnish information under RTI Act to BPL people free of cost, Telangana High Court affirms

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

The court noted that GO 454, while setting fees for RTI requests, failed to address the statutory exemption for BPL applicants and therefore could not be applied to justify the denial of free information. The court noted that GO 454, while setting fees for RTI requests, failed to address the statutory exemption for BPL applicants and therefore could not be applied to justify the denial of free information. The Telangana High Court has affirmed the right of Below Poverty Line (BPL) individuals to receive information under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, without charge. This ruling by the bench of Justice T Madhavi Devi on September 3 stemmed from a petition filed by Gadipally Ganesh, a law student from the Mahabubabad district.

Ganesh had sought information regarding the beneficiaries of the Indiramma Indlu housing scheme in his village, suspecting that eligible applicants were being excluded. His request, submitted to the Public Information Officer (PIO) of Narsimhulapet Village, was met with a demand for a fee of Rs 6,171 to cover printing costs. Despite appeals to both the First Appellate Authority and the Telangana Information Commission, Ganesh was denied relief, prompting him to file a writ petition with the high court. Justice Madhavi Devi's judgment underscored a critical point: Section 7(5) of the RTI Act explicitly mandates that information be provided free of charge to persons belonging to the BPL category. The court determined that no state-level directive, including the government order (GO) 454 of 2005 cited by the authorities, could supersede this central statute. The

Backbone of Punjab defense against flood, MGNREGA workers complain pending wages



Alongside MGNREGA workers, farmers and farm union members are also standing guard at embankments.

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

As Punjab reels under heavy rainfall and flooding, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) workers have emerged as the backbone of the state's flood defense. While embankments (Dhussi bundh) on the Beas, Ravi and Ghaggar rivers have breached at several points, the Sutluj's bundh has held firm so far — thanks largely to the relentless efforts of farmers, villagers and particularly MGNREGA workers. In Ludhiana's Sasrali, where erosion threatens the Sutluj's bundh, strengthening work is underway. However, the irony — while MGNREGA workers stand as shield against the floods, payments worth nearly Rs 7 crore are pending in Jalandhar district alone — Rs 1.25 crore in Meharpur, Rs 94 lakh in Phillaur, Rs 42 lakh in Nurmahal, Rs 33 lakh in Shahkot, Rs 50 lakh in Lohian and Rs 69 lakh in Rurka Kalan among others. Thousands of MGNREGA workers across the state are filling lakhs of sandbags daily, either to reinforce exist-

Kanhaialal Munshi, Jyotindra Dave, Chandravadan Mehta, former chief minister Hitendra Desai, former Governor of Delhi and chief vigilance commissioner of India M G Pimpitkar (ICS), Ramon Megsaysay award winner and Gandhian Manibhai Desai), former Chief Justice of India A M Ahmadi, former Chief of Indian Army staff (Arun Shridhar Vaidya), and so on. Its current list of alumni includes International table tennis player Harmit Desai; International triathlon player and South Asian champion Pooja Chaurashi; seven-time Guinness World Record holder in martial arts Vispi Jimmy Kharadi; international swimmer Ansul Kothari; Mehul Chitroda, gold medal winner in yoga at an international competition in Taiwan; and Anjali Sangle, gold medal winner in the Asian powerlifting event in Hong Kong. At present, over 28,000 students are studying in schools, colleges, and other courses at 32 education institutions run by the SES. Among these seven are self-financed primary schools, seven secondary grant-in-aid schools, and a secondary self-financed school, followed by six grant-in-aid colleges affiliated to Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, eight self-financed colleges affiliated to Sarvajani University (The Gujarat government granted it a private university status in 2021), and three research centres. SES chairman Bharat Shah said, "Our society runs on donations, and we charge minimum fees, but we impart quality education to the students and provide other facilities." "The goal is to ensure that no student in the city is left behind in education. For students who are unable to pay the fees, we have scholarships. We also have two hostels for girls and one for boys, catering to students from neighbouring tribal villages in South Gujarat. The charges of these hostels are minimal, with all facilities."

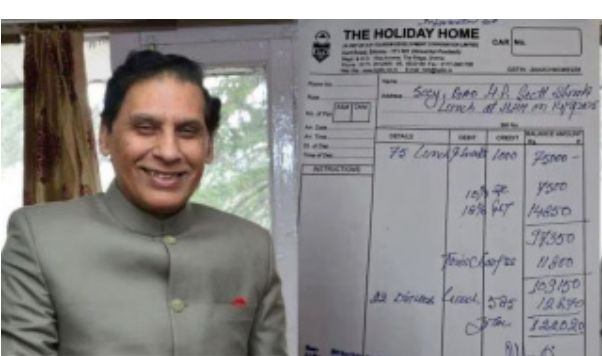
Shah said the SES has plans to set up a multispecialty hospital. "We will also start a medical college in the future." The university also runs a research centre, where students pursuing PhD and MPhil get the advantage of an age-old library containing a rare collection of manuscripts. Apart from this, the society also operates the Dr Nimesh Vashi Centre for Environmental Engineering and Research. Apart from academic education, the society also operates a music school for women, which offers evening classes. Shah said, "The society runs education institutions that have classes with cutting-edge technologies — smart board, smart classrooms, e-learning, audiovisual system, online education, computer laboratory, etc."



court noted that GO 454, while setting fees for RTI requests, failed to address the statutory exemption for BPL applicants and therefore could not be applied to justify the denial of free information. The ruling emphasises that charging a fee to a BPL applicant is a violation of the fundamental principles of the RTI Act. The court has since directed the PIO to furnish the requested information to the petitioner at no cost, reinforcing the Act's core objective of ensuring transparent and accessible governance for all citizens, particularly the economically disadvantaged. The Indiramma Indlu housing scheme, implemented by the Telangana government, provides permanent housing and financial aid to low-income families. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy launched the scheme in March 2024, and it offers 100 per cent subsidy for construction costs to eligible beneficiaries.

ing embankments or to keep them ready for emergencies. According to the Rural Development and Panchayat Department, 7.18 lakh households were engaged in MGNREGA work between April and early September this year. In comparison, 8.34 lakh households worked in 2024 and 8.49 lakh households in 2023. While hundreds of workers are working in every district, officials said, Jalandhar alone has employed around 700 for filling the sandbags. "More than 35,000 sandbags have been filled in the past couple of days," said ADC (Development) Jalandhar, Vivek Modi. Last year, MGNREGA workers were deployed continuously from April to August to strengthen the Dhussi bundh under a special flood-protection drive. "Because of that work, despite unprecedented rainfall this year, the embankment from Phillaur to Gidderpindl has survived without any breach so far," said Tarsem Peter, president of the Pendu Mazdoor Union. Criticising the government for "11th-hour preparations" this season, Peter said, "Had the workers been engaged from April again this year, much of today's emergency could have been avoided." Though the Centre credits the wages directly, Pendu Mazdoor Union leaders argued that the state must coordinate better to ensure timely disbursement. On the ground, the workers are complaining that their hardships remain unaddressed. "We are working tirelessly to save the bundh, even though our wages remain unpaid for weeks," said Kulwinder Kaur, who is part of a group working near Sangowal village. "We are daily wagers, our kutcha houses are damaged by incessant rain and the government should at least provide ration relief." Another MGNREGA worker at Sangowal, Sunita, said: "Several MGNREGA workers' mud houses have become unlivable due to incessant rain. Safe housing must be provided to us." Meanwhile, religious and social organisations have stepped in with langars and other essentials. Alongside MGNREGA workers, farmers and farm union members are also standing guard at embankments. However, they allege that ruling party leaders have mocked their voluntary efforts to cover up official lapses. "We are working day and night at the bundhs to prevent breaches, but instead of acknowledging our role, leaders are passing derogatory remarks." But the question looming large is whether those shoring up Punjab's fragile flood defenses will themselves be left unprotected from poverty and neglect.

6-month extension to Himachal chief secy; no further extension allowed, says ASG in HC



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Holi bash for IAS officers, Himachal Pradesh Holi bash, Himachal Pradesh IAS officers, Himachal Pradesh, Prabodh Saxena, Indian express news, current affairs Saxena, a 1991-batch IAS officer, received a six-month extension on the day of his retirement on March 31. There is a six-month cap on the period of extension granted to government official, and there can be no further extension beyond the said period, Additional Solicitor General (ACG) of India S D Sanjay has submitted in the Himachal Pradesh High Court. The ASG made the submission before a division bench headed by Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia, which is examining whether a March 28 order granting an extension to Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena was in violation of Central Service Rules and Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) guidelines. The bench, also comprising Justice Ranjan Sharma, later listed the matter for September 22. The bench was hearing the arguments on a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by one Atul Sharma who has sought the quashing of the extension, arguing that vigilance clearance cannot be granted to an officer facing a corruption case under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

A 1990-batch IAS officer, Saxena has been chargesheeted in the INX Media scam and had earlier been granted exemption from personal appearance in the case.

From barren fields to berry dreams: Strawberry boom transforms Haryana's arid belt

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

On a crisp September morning, 32-year-old Sandeep Nagil walks through rows of freshly tilled earth in Harita village, his feet brushing the soil that will soon cradle strawberry saplings. The once-parched land, notorious for its aridity near the Rajasthan border, now promises a winter carpet of crimson berries, a sight few could have imagined three decades ago. Nagil, who runs a 1.5-acre strawberry nursery, beams as he shows off imported saplings. "This time, I've brought plants from Egypt," he says with pride. "Earlier, we sourced them from Florida to prepare nurseries locally, ensuring quality for fellow farmers. Now, Egyptian nurseries are better." He plans to cultivate strawberries on 6.5 acres this season. Harita is among three villages, along with Saharwa (Hisar) and Chanana (Bhiwani), that have turned sandy tracts into a thriving strawberry hub, expanding from a single acre of experimental cultivation in the 1990s to over 500 acres today. The transformation began in 1996 when Dr Anil Godara, then a scientist at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), planted strawberries on one acre using Israeli techniques. Encouraged by success, he expanded to 10 acres and inspired farmers from neighbouring villages to take the plunge.

Today, these farmers collectively supply their harvest to Delhi's Azadpur market, sharing transportation costs. "Three years ago, I earned Rs 9.75 lakh from just 2.25 acres," says Nagil. "If the weather holds, one can make Rs 3-5 lakh per acre." Some farmers, he adds, have even bought more land with their profits. Strawberry farming here is no casual affair. Nagil has installed CCTV cameras for security and insists that the crop demands precision and daily care. "It's a micro-managed form of agriculture," he says. Local farmers credit their success to Godara, who continues to guide them even after retiring as head of CCSHAU's horticulture department. "Whenever we face a problem, we call him," says Nagil. Godara explains why the crop thrives here: "Light, well-drained soil and a mix of hot days and cool nights create ideal conditions." The growing season runs from September to March, with one harvest per year. The strawberry saplings are planted between mid



September and early November and the fruit is harvested in March. The fruit, he notes, is highly perishable, lasting just 1-5 days, so farmers rush it to market immediately after picking.

When actively farming, Godara imported plants from California because Hisar's climate resembles that of California. "A good crop can yield up to 200 quintals per acre," he says. Over the years, land values have soared nearly 100-fold, from ₹30,000 per acre in the 1990s to ₹30 lakh now, reflecting the region's agricultural makeover. To sustain the momentum, Godara advocates creating a dedicated strawberry cluster and setting up a processing unit with pulping, quick-freezing, and storage facilities. "When there's a bumper crop, farmers struggle with storage, and prices crash. Processing can change that," he says. The government is already moving in that direction. "We are developing a strawberry cluster under the Sustainable Horticulture Promotion Project, supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency," says Dr. Arjun Singh Saini, Project Director, Haryana Horticulture Department. The nine-year initiative, he explains, aims to build a resilient supply chain, from farm to market, while promoting innovation and sustainability. Financial assistance and subsidies for strawberry farmers are part of the plan. As the first saplings go into the ground this month, the sweet success story of these villages is still being written. From arid fields to berry gold, the transformation has just begun.

Noida man behind hoax bomb threat to Mumbai cops arrested in 2023 — in cheating case



Noida-based astrologer Ashwini Kumar, who was arrested on Saturday for allegedly sending a WhatsApp message threatening to blow up Mumbai, is no stranger to police cases.

GNS News Agency, Oct 28

Noida-based astrologer Ashwini Kumar, who was arrested on Saturday for allegedly sending a WhatsApp message threatening to blow up Mumbai, is no stranger to police cases. In 2023, the 51-year-old had been arrested in Patna after a businessman, Firoz Ahmed, filed a cheating complaint against him. Kumar had, however, claimed Firoz was his friend.

To exact revenge over his previous arrest, Noida Police said Kumar allegedly sent a fake threat message in Firoz's name to the official WhatsApp number of the Mumbai

Traffic Police on Friday. The message claimed that 34 "human bombs" carrying "400 kg of RDX" had been planted in 34 vehicles for a blast that would "shake the entire city". As per the FIR lodged at Bihar's Kotwali police station on June 9, 2023, Firoz — a Patna-based businessman — had claimed that "in May 2022, one person, namely Ashwini Kumar Supra, called him up and introduced himself as an Intelligence Bureau (IB) officer". The complainant said he had told the caller about his financial difficulties. Kumar then told him he'd help him get a loan from a bank using his "IB reference". Over the next one-and-a-half years, Firoz alleged, he transferred more than Rs 15 lakh to two bank accounts provided by Ashwani — one in Delhi and another in Noida — but never received any loan. Firoz then lodged a complaint, and police filed a cheating and impersonation case under IPC sections 406, 418, 419 and 420. Subsequently, Kumar was arrested and sent to judicial custody on June 12, 2023. He moved the District and Sessions Court, Patna Sadar, for bail. The case was transferred on August 7, 2023, to the court of Additional Sessions Judge (10th), Kumar Dharendra Rajajee.

The petition was heard on multiple dates across August and September. In his written order, the judge noted that bank statements in the case diary showed about Rs 8 lakh had been deposited into the accused's accounts while only about Rs 50,000 had been returned. The order also recorded documents filed by Kumar, which showed that Firoz had described two earlier transfers — Rs 3.6 lakh on May 10, 2022, and Rs 1.37 lakh on May 18, 2022 — as gifts, even referring to him (Kumar) as "his best friend who has helped him many times". The defence had also argued that Kumar and Firoz "have a business relationship". The judge, however, had disposed of the bail request, concluding that the allegations were serious and not fully explained. Kumar then approached the Patna High Court by filing a petition on October 10, 2023. The High Court granted him bail on March 20, 2024, on furnishing bail bonds of Rs 10,000 with two sureties of the like amount each to the satisfaction of CJM, Patna.

Aid trucks roll into Gaza as dispute over hostage bodies is paused



JERUSALEM/CAIRO, GNS News Agency, Oct 28- Aid trucks rolled into Gaza on Wednesday and Israel resumed preparations to open the main Rafah crossing after a dispute over the return of the bodies of dead hostages that had threatened to derail the fragile ceasefire deal with Hamas. Israel had threatened to keep Rafah shut and reduce aid supplies because Hamas was returning bodies too slowly, showing the risks to a truce that has stopped two years of devastating warfare in Gaza and freed all living hostages held by Hamas.

The Reuters Gulf Currents newsletter brings you the latest on geopolitics, energy and finance in the region. Sign up here. However, the militant group returned more Israeli bodies overnight, and an Israeli security official said on Wednesday preparations were under way to open Rafah to Gazan citizens, while a second official said that 600 aid trucks would go in. Hamas returned four bodies confirmed as dead hostages on Monday and another four bodies late on Tuesday, though Israeli authorities said one of those bodies was not that of a hostage. The dispute over the return of bodies still has the potential to upset the ceasefire deal along with other major issues that are yet to be resolved.

Later phases of the truce call for Hamas to disarm and cede power, which it has so far refused to do. It has launched a security crackdown, parading its power in Gaza through public executions and clashes with local clans. Longer-term elements of the ceasefire plan, including how Gaza will be governed, the make-up of an international force to take over there and moves towards the creation of a Palestinian state have yet to emerge. Twenty-one bodies of hostages remain in Gaza, though some may be hard to find or recover because of destruction during the conflict. An international task force is meant to find them. The deal also requires Israel to return the bodies of 360 Palestinians. The first group of 45 was handed over on Tuesday and the bodies were then identified, said Palestinian health authorities.

The war has caused a humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, with nearly all inhabitants driven from their homes, a

global hunger monitor saying famine was present in the enclave and health authorities overwhelmed. "Our situation is utterly tragic. We went back to our homes in the al-Tuffah neighbourhood and found there are no homes at all. There is no shelter. Nothing," said Moemen Hassanein in Gaza City, with tents and shanties behind him.

Reuters video showed a first group of trucks moving from the Egyptian side of the border into the Rafah crossing at dawn on Wednesday, some tankers carrying fuel and others loaded with pallets of aid. However, it was not clear if that convoy would complete its crossing into Gaza as part of the 600 trucks that were due to enter the enclave on Wednesday - the full daily complement required under the ceasefire plan. Aid trucks entered Gaza through other crossings. "Humanitarian aid continues to enter the Gaza Strip through the Kerem Shalom Crossing and other crossings after Israeli security inspection," the Israeli security official said. Israel's public broadcaster Kan reported that Wednesday's aid deliveries would include food, medical supplies, fuel, cooking gas and equipment to repair vital infrastructure. Underscoring the political challenges facing the truce, Israel's far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, an opponent of the ceasefire plan, said on X that the aid delivery was a "disgrace". "Nazi terrorism understands only force, and the only way to solve problems with it is to wipe it off the face of the earth," he added, accusing Hamas of lies and abuse over the return of hostages' bodies. Rafah is due to be opened to Palestinian inhabitants of Gaza either entering or exiting the enclave. But those awaiting medical evacuation told Reuters they had not yet received notification to prepare for travel. The Palestinian Authority, which governs in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, is preparing to operate the Rafah crossing into Egypt, which it previously did with EU assistance. Israel closed the crossing in 2007 after Hamas took over the enclave, but later allowed some movement through it under an agreement with Egypt.

Several other Palestinian factions present in Gaza have backed the days-long Hamas security crackdown as it battles local clans that had tried to take over areas of the territory during the conflict. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, one of the groups backing the Hamas crackdown, described the clans being targeted as "hubs of crime". The ceasefire envisaged Hamas initially restoring order in Gaza and U.S. President Donald Trump, who brokered the deal, endorsed Hamas' crackdown on rival gangs, while warning it would face airstrikes if it did not later disarm. Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas condemned the public executions after a video, authenticated by Reuters, showed masked gunmen shooting dead seven bound, kneeling men in a Gaza street. Israeli forces inside Gaza have pulled back to what the truce deal calls a yellow line just outside the main cities. Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said it would immediately enforce any violation of the line.

Syria's Sharaa tells Putin at Kremlin meeting he will respect all past deals with Moscow



MOSCOW, GNS News Agency, Oct 28- Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday he would honour all past deals struck between his country and Moscow, a pledge suggesting Moscow's two main military bases in Syria are safe. Sharaa, who once headed the Syrian branch of al Qaeda and who toppled predecessor Bashar al-Assad, a close Russian ally, late last year, was speaking at the start of Kremlin talks with Putin, his first visit to Russia since coming to power.

"There are bilateral relations and shared interests that bind us with Russia, and we respect all agreements made with it. We are working on redefining the nature of relations with Russia," Sharaa, who was speaking in Arabic, told Putin. Putin told him that Moscow was ready to do all it could to act on what he called "many interesting and useful beginnings" that had already been discussed between the two sides when it came to renewing relations. The Kremlin chief also congratulated Sharaa on the fact that parliamentary elections were held earlier this month in Syria. "I believe that this is a great success for you, because it leads to the consolidation of society, and despite the fact that Syria is currently going through difficult times, it will nevertheless strengthen ties and cooperation between all political forces in Syria," said Putin.

The Kremlin said before the talks that the fate of Russia's two main bases in Syria - the Hmeimim air base in Syria's Latakia province, and its naval facility at Tartous on the coast - would be discussed. Russia, which has economic and energy-related interests in Syria that it also wants to secure, has a military presence at Qamishli airport - in the northeast near the borders of Turkey and Iraq - as well. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Monday that Moscow believed Damascus wanted the military bases to stay and spoke about an idea of also using them as logistics hubs to get aid to Africa by sea and air. Syrian officials are seeking guarantees that Russia will not help rearm remnants of Assad's forces, a Syrian source said before the talks. Sharaa is hoping that Russia might also help rebuild the Syrian army, the same source said.

Sharaa's visit is sensitive. Russia used its military muscle to back Assad for years against Syrian rebels who came to power in December last year led by Sharaa. Moscow then granted asylum to Assad and his family when they fled the country. The Assads now live discreetly in Moscow, according to Russian media. Sharaa will use the talks to formally request that Moscow hand over Assad to face trial over alleged crimes against Syrians, two Syrian sources told Reuters. Russia prides itself on being able to protect its foreign allies and is not likely to agree to hand over Assad to Damascus. Lavrov said on Monday that Russia had given Assad refuge because his life had been under threat. Sharaa, who is hoping to secure economic concessions from Russia, including the resumption of wheat supplies on favourable terms and compensation for war damage, is expected as well to press for Moscow's backing to resist Israeli demands for a wider demilitarised zone in southern Syria. He may also raise the issue of redeploying Russian military police as a guarantor against further Israeli encroachments, one of the two sources said. The Kremlin said it did not expect Putin and Sharaa to hold a news conference after their talks.

India, Indonesia conduct bilateral naval exercise ‘Samudra Shakti’ in Visakhapatnam from Oct 14-17

New Delhi: The Indian Navy is hosting an Indo-Indonesian bilateral maritime exercise at Visakhapatnam from October 14-17, aimed at enhancing interoperability, strengthening mutual understanding and sharing best practices between the two navies, officials said on Wednesday.

The participating units include INS Kavaratti, an anti-submarine warfare corvette of the Eastern Fleet under the aegis of Eastern Naval Command (ENC), and the Indonesian Navy Ship KRI John Lie, a corvette (with an integral helicopter), which arrived at Visakhapatnam to a warm welcome by the ENC, the defence ministry said. Exercise Samudra Shakti highlights the shared commitment of both nations towards maintaining stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific region, the official said. It is a key bilateral engagement aimed at enhancing interoperability, strengthening mutual understanding, and sharing best practices between the two navies, the defence ministry said in a statement.

The harbour phase features a range of activities aimed at building camaraderie and professional rapport that include cross-deck visits, joint yoga sessions, friendly sports fixtures, and professional subject matter expert exchanges, it said. The sea phase will involve dynamic and complex maritime operations aimed at increasing tactical coordination,



The Indian and Indonesian navies are conducting Exercise Samudra Shakti in Visakhapatnam from October 14-17. Featuring INS Kavaratti and KRI John Lie, the drill enhances cooperation, interoperability, and shared maritime security efforts in the Indo-Pacific region

including helicopter operations, air defence exercises, weapon firing drills, and Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) exercises, it said.

What is Britain's China spying case about?



LONDON, GNS News Agency, Oct 28 The British government has come under sustained criticism after a prosecution against two men accused of spying for China collapsed last month, with critics saying it was because of fears of upsetting Beijing. Here is what the case is about and why it has proved controversial: The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

WHAT IS THE UK CHINESE SPYING CASE?

Two men, Christopher Cash, 30, a former director of the China Research Group think-tank, and Christopher Berry, 33, who worked as a researcher for a senior law-maker, were arrested by British police in March 2023 on suspicion of spying for China. In April 2024, the men were charged with an offence under the 1911 Official Secrets Act of passing politically sensitive information to a Chinese intelligence agent known as "Alex". They denied any wrongdoing and China says the case is entirely fabricated and a malicious slander. In an unexpected move, Britain's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) dropped the charges on September 15, a month before the trial was due to start, saying the case no longer met the evidential threshold.

WHY DID THE CHINESE SPYING CASE COLLAPSE?

Since it was dropped, Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Labour government has been accused by opponents of undermining the prosecution because it did not want to upset China, with which it is seeking better economic ties. Critics have particularly singled out Britain's National Security Adviser Jonathan Powell because of what they say are his ties to China. The UK government has rejected these accu-

sations. Starmer said the decision to drop the case was made independently by the CPS and that ministers were disappointed it had not gone ahead. However, the CPS said, prior to the prosecution being dropped, that it had for many months asked the government for new evidence which it believed was necessary for the case to go ahead.

WHY IS THERE A DISPUTE?

The problem centred around the wording of the charge. Under the Official Secrets Act (OSA), a law brought in to deal with German spying before World War One, it is an offence to communicate documents which might be useful to "an enemy". At the time when the men were charged, Britain's then-Conservative government had classified China as an "epoch-defining challenge" but stopped short of officially labelling it a threat. However, lawmakers and the intelligence agencies had regularly warned about the threat of Chinese espionage and activities designed to influence British politicians, businesses and academia. In July 2024, in a separate case which involved a team of Bulgarians later found guilty of spying for Russia, London's Court of Appeal determined that an enemy under the OSA meant a country which "represents a current threat to the national security of the UK". It was following that ruling that the CPS said it had sought new evidence from the government, but that none of the additional witness statements obtained stated that China was a threat to national security at the time of the offence. The government says the statements, provided by a deputy national security adviser without any involvement from Powell, had to state the official position at the time of the charge under the then Conservative administration. The CPS says it is now up to the government whether to make those statements public. Starmer said on Wednesday that these would be published.

WHO IS RIGHT?

It is possible that even disclosing these statements will fail to provide clarity on who was right, as some legal experts suggest both the government and the CPS got themselves in a muddle over the issue. The experts say that if the CPS had enough evidence to bring a charge in April 2024, then it is not clear what more they needed after the Court of Appeal's ruling which, if anything, made it easier to define an "enemy" under the OSA. However, that is unlikely to deflect criticism that the government appeared to be unwilling to provide evidence which made clear China was a threat, even if it was not officially described as such, because it would have meant stating it publicly in court.

Trump targets China cooking oil trade - but sales were already tanking



WASHINGTON/BEIJING, GNS News Agency, Oct 28 U.S. President Donald Trump said he was considering terminating some trade ties with China, singling out cooking oil, which traders and analysts said would have little impact as such shipments had already plummeted from China over the past year. "I believe that China purposefully not buying our Soybeans, and causing difficulty for our Soybean Farmers, is an Economically Hostile Act. We are considering terminating business with China having to do with Cooking Oil, and other elements of Trade, as retribution," Trump wrote on social media on Tuesday. Read about innovative ideas and the people working on solutions to global crises with the Reuters Beacon newsletter. Sign up here.

"As an example, we can easily produce Cooking Oil ourselves, we don't need to purchase it from China." The U.S. was China's top market for used cooking oil (UCO), importing a record 1.27 million metric tons worth \$1.1 billion in 2024. But after China cut tax rebates late last year and the U.S. imposed tariffs on Chinese goods this year, imports plunged 65% in January-August to 290,690 tons, or \$286.7 million. As such, Trump's comments would have "minimal" impact on the commodity, two UCO traders in China said on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to media. "Domestic producers are now mainly taking orders for Europe and are no longer considering the U.S. market," said one of the traders.

SHORT HISTORY AS EXPORT MARKET FOR CHINESE COOKING OIL The U.S. does not have a long history of being a top export market for Chinese used cooking oil, a product that can be converted into renewable diesel and which has helped the U.S. become one of China's top ten export destinations only as recently as 2022. By contrast, the Netherlands, Singapore, Spain and Malaysia have consistently processed hundreds of millions dollars' worth of Chinese UCO over the past decade, Chinese customs data shows. Year-to-date shipments to this year's top buyer Singapore are up 15% from last year at \$537 million, while exports to the Netherlands - whose figures are distorted by the Rotterdam megaport - have jumped 131.5% over the same period. China and U.S. flags are displayed alongside a miniature worker in this illustration picture taken November 7, 2024. REUTERS/Florence Lo/illustration Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab Chinese used cooking oil exports to the U.S. had surged in 2023, driven by federal and state incentives supporting biofuels and a rush to build new renewable diesel plants. Analysts said Trump's announcement was not escalatory following a week of fresh tariff threats and export controls. Used cooking oil trade is small compared with that of soybeans. Last year, China imported 22.13 million tons of U.S. soybeans worth \$12 billion. But restricting UCO imports allows Trump to show the U.S. agriculture industry he is still being tough on China, some analysts said. "Used cooking oil is a niche trade, but it shows how the Trump Administration is standing up for American farmers, just as China shifts its agricultural purchases towards other suppliers," said senior analyst Chim Lee at the Economist Intelligence Unit. China is the world's largest buyer of soybeans. In recent months it has slashed purchases of U.S. soybeans in favor of Brazilian and Argentine produce. Trump has called the shift a negotiation tactic. He said this month he hoped to discuss soybeans with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping while also saying the U.S. may halt a large share of imports from China. "So from 100% tariffs on all Chinese trade (in response to the rare earth/critical mineral export controls) to targeted sanctions on cooking oil?" Brad Setser, a former U.S. trade official now with the Council on Foreign Relations wrote on X.

Pakistan, IMF reach staff-level agreement for \$1.2 bn loan deal

Islamabad: Pakistan and the IMF on Wednesday reached a staff-level agreement (SLA) on the country's loan programmes, paving the way for Islamabad to access USD 1.2 billion, pending approval from the global lender's board.

The Washington-based International Monetary Fund (IMF) will provide Pakistan with USD 1 billion under its Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and USD 200 million under its Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) after approval from the fund's board. Last week, an IMF mission led by Iva Petrova concluded talks with Pakistani authorities on the second review of the EFF agreed in 2024 and the first review for the RSF climate loan agreed this year, but it left Pakistan without signing a staff-level agreement.

In a statement issued early on Wednesday, Petrova stated that the staff-level agreement remained subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board. "Supported by the EFF, Pakistan's economic programme is entrenching macroeconomic stability and rebuilding market confidence," she said.

"The recovery remains on track, with the FY25 current account recording a surplus — the first in 14 years, the fiscal primary balance surpassing the programme target, inflation remaining contained, external buffers strengthening, and financial conditions improving as sovereign spreads have narrowed significantly," she said. However, she added, the recent floods had weighed on the country's outlook, particularly of the agriculture sector, bringing down the projected FY26 gross domestic product (GDP) to about 3.25-

3.5 per cent.

The IMF official also noted progress on Pakistan's policy priorities, saying: "The authorities reaffirmed their commitment to the EFF and RSF-supported programmes, and to maintaining sound and prudent macroeconomic policies while advancing ongoing structural reforms." She said that authorities remained committed to meeting the FY26 budget primary surplus of 1.6 per cent of GDP, anchored in sustained efforts to mobilise revenue through tax policy and compliance measures, and "stand ready to take necessary actions should revenue shortfalls risk programme targets". "At the same time, the authorities are assessing the flood damage and are providing urgent flood relief support in the affected provinces via reallocations in the provincial and federal budgets," Petrova said.

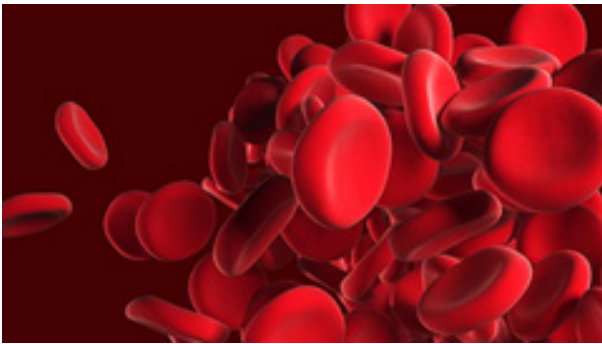
She also said that efforts were underway to enhance revenue mobilisation, broaden burden-sharing between federal and provincial governments, and strengthen public financial management. The IMF official noted that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) was committed to a prudent monetary policy stance to ensure inflation remains durably within its target range of five to seven per cent. On the issue of circular debt to the power sector, she said that Pakistan remained committed to preventing its accumulation through timely tariff adjustments that ensure cost recovery and maintaining a progressive tariff structure. Petrova added that the recent floods and those of 2022 had underscored the need for building Pakistan's climate resilience.

What India can learn from Maldives' parent-to-child triple elimination of diseases



Liberation's candidate. Rajput was found dead in June 2020 at his residence in Mumbai. The Mumbai Police investigation revealed that he had died by suicide and the BJP ran a campaign "Justice for Sushant" before the 2020 Assembly election, claiming foul play. Ms. Gautam, a theatre artist and former All India Students' Association (AISA) leader, has been fielded from the Digha Assembly seat. She is scheduled to file her nomination on Wednesday. She had contested the Patna University Students Union election but narrowly lost. She currently teaches at Patna University. The CPI(ML) is yet to formally release its list of candidates. Vikassheel Insaan Party leader Mukesh Sahani, who began negotiations demanding 35 seats, has now agreed to 25 seats. According to sources, the allies want to offer him fewer seats. There was speculation that Mr. Sahani, who switched sides from the NDA to the grand alliance recently, was also negotiating with the BJP. But with the NDA declaring its seat sharing arrangement, options are limited for Mr. Sahani.

What your child’s platelet count and haemoglobin levels could be telling you



Platelets are blood cells essential for blood clotting, while haemoglobin is the iron-containing molecule that helps carry oxygen. Platelets are small, colourless cells normally found in your child’s bloodstream. They spring into action when there is an injury to blood vessels, helping to stop bleeding and forming clots. Haemoglobin, on the other hand, is an iron-containing protein in the red blood cells that gives them their colour. It circulates in the bloodstream, carrying oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body. The normal range of platelets and haemoglobin in blood varies with age, and can also fluctuate slightly from day to day. A normal platelet count for children is generally between 1,50,000 and 4,50,000 platelets per microliter of blood. Normal haemoglobin (HGB) levels in children vary significantly by age. Newborns have the highest levels, but these gradually decrease in the first months of life before stabilising with minor variations until puberty. Low haemoglobin levels cause a condition known as anaemia and reduce the amount of oxygen delivered to tissues. Common symptoms include unusual tiredness, weakness, and reduced activity levels. Causes of anaemia include nutritional deficiencies (iron,

vitamin B12, folic acid), chronic diseases such as liver or kidney disorders, blood loss, and genetic mutations affecting the haemoglobin.

High haemoglobin levels cause a condition called polycythaemia, which can also be harmful. This condition may be asymptomatic or may cause symptoms such as headaches, fatigue, dizziness, blurred vision, itchy skin (especially after warm baths), facial redness, or an enlarged spleen leading to discomfort in the upper left abdomen. Other signs include numbness or tingling in the extremities, bone pain, nosebleeds, shortness of breath, or even blood clots, such as deep vein thrombosis or stroke. Common causes include heart and lung disease or a genetic condition called Polycythaemia Vera. low platelet count, known as thrombocytopenia, can become life-threatening if the platelet level drops below a critical range, as internal bleeding may occur. Symptoms include easy bruising, frequent nosebleeds, or small red/purple dots (petechiae) on the skin. Causes include viral infections (such as dengue), certain medications, autoimmune conditions, and blood cancers such as leukaemia. If you notice reddish spots or excessive bruising in your child, consult a paediatrician immediately. A high platelet count, known as thrombocytosis, usually results from an underlying condition. It often has no symptoms and is detected incidentally during routine health checks. The most common cause in children is recovery from a recent viral infection, which typically resolves within a few weeks. Other causes include infections, inflammation, or iron-deficiency anaemia. If your child has nosebleeds, frequent bruising, persistent headaches, fatigue, lethargy, or blood in the stool or urine, consult your paediatrician. A doctor can interpret a complete blood count (CBC) to identify the cause of abnormalities and decide whether further tests or treatment are necessary.

Can an ivermectin pill keep malaria from being transmitted?

Between 2000 and 2015, the world’s fight against malaria made remarkable progress, with millions of lives saved through better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Of late, however, that momentum has slowed. In 2023 alone, malaria claimed nearly 6 lakh lives, with 95% of those deaths occurring in the African region. India has made dramatic progress too, with malaria cases dropping by over 80% in the last decade, especially in urban and semi-urban areas. However, some districts in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and the Northeastern States continue to struggle with persistent transmission. This lingering threat has drawn renewed attention to the mass drug administration (MDA) of endectocides, systemic insecticides that work from inside the human body, as a promising tool to reduce malaria transmission. Among these, ivermectin reportedly stands out as the most promising candidate.

Ivermectin has been around since the 1970s. Originally developed to treat parasitic worms, it has been safely given to more than four billion people and is a cornerstone of global campaigns against river blindness and lymphatic filariasis. Dubbed a “wonder drug,” it earned its discoverers the Nobel Prize. However, a surprising discovery later expanded its potential: mosquitoes that bit people recently treated with ivermectin often died or didn’t live long enough to spread malaria. This finding sparked renewed interest in using ivermectin as a vector control tool in malaria-endemic regions. Subsequent modelling and pilot studies suggested that mass drug administration with ivermectin, especially when timed to seasonal transmission peaks, could help bring down infection rates by shrinking the mosquito population. In malaria control, mass drug administration aims to eliminate the parasite from both symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, reducing the human reservoir and interrupting transmission.

To test this idea in the real world, scientists launched the BOHEMIA trial in Kenya and Mozambique and the findings were published on July 23 in The New England Journal of Medicine. In Kenya, the trial was conducted in Kwale County, a coastal region with year-round malaria transmission despite 85% bed net coverage. The villagers were randomly given either ivermectin or albendazole (an anti-parasitic drug that doesn’t affect mosquitoes) once a month for more than three months, starting in October 2023. Children aged 5 to 15, who are among the most vulnerable, were then monitored for six months. The result: malaria cases dropped by 26% in the ivermectin group. This figure exceeded the World Health Organisation’s threshold of a 20% reduction to be considered a valuable public health tool. Notably, children living farther from untreated areas had even greater protection, suggesting a strong community-level impact. More than 56,000 doses were administered during the study and the participants reported no serious side effects. However, the trial excluded pregnant women and children under 15 kg of body weight, which may limit the drug’s broader applicability. The Mozambique trial could not yield conclusive results as the research term’s operations were severely disrupted by Cyclone Gombe and a subsequent cholera outbreak. In November 2024, a study in Guinea-Bissau called the MATAMAL trial involved more than 25,000 people in 24 villages. It tested whether adding the drug ivermectin to an already strong malaria treatment program — which used the drug dihydroartemisinin-piperazine, or DP — could make the program work better. Contrary to expectations, there was no significant



difference in malaria prevalence between villages that received ivermectin and those that received a placebo. In fact, there were slightly more malaria cases in the ivermectin group, with no clear impact on mosquito survival or infection rates. Researchers concluded that the timing and dosing used in this trial may not have been sufficient to add value to existing interventions.

Ivermectin still matters. Despite mixed results, both trials reaffirmed ivermectin’s safety in large-scale campaigns. Side effects were mild and temporary, mostly headaches and dizziness, with no serious adverse events reported. Ivermectin also offered a distinct advantage over traditional malaria control tools. Bed nets, indoor spraying, and larvicides target mosquitoes that bite indoors and at night. But mosquitoes evolve: some now bite earlier, outdoors or even feed on livestock. This makes it harder to keep them at bay with conventional tools. On the other hand, ivermectin kills mosquitoes from the inside after they bite humans, regardless of time or location. It can also be delivered through existing deworming or parasitic disease campaigns, making it a practical dual-use tool, particularly in remote or underserved areas. The BOHEMIA team also found significant collateral benefits. In Mozambique, people who took ivermectin had fewer skin problems like scabies and head lice. In Kenya, many noticed a dramatic drop in bed bugs. As with all widespread interventions, resistance is a looming concern. A 2024 review in Parasitology Research highlighted the growing resistance to ivermectin in ectoparasites like ticks, lice, and scabies mites, mostly due to overuse in veterinary medicine.

While resistance among human parasites is still rare, there’s little data on its impact on Anopheles mosquitoes. Only two out of 18 reviewed studies examined ivermectin’s impact on mosquito populations, highlighting a critical gap in surveillance. Should resistance emerge, the drug’s value as a malaria control tool could diminish rapidly. And the drug’s widespread use for scabies, lice, and livestock parasites may make resistance develop faster. Researchers have also warned that as ivermectin’s mass drug administration expands, resistance in non-target organisms must be closely monitored as this risk is often overlooked. Ivermectin affects many parasites, so targeting one species may accelerate resistance in others. In regions with multiple parasites, the chosen doses might favour the target but harm broader control efforts. To stay ahead, researchers are exploring longer-lasting formulations, higher doses, and combining ivermectin with malaria vaccines or genetically modified mosquitoes. Upcoming trial data and resistance tracking will shape its future role in malaria control programs.

New species of finless snake eel named after Kanniyakumari

Researchers from National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGRR), Kochi functioning under Indian Council of Agricultural Research, have discovered a new species of finless snake eel and named it after Kanniyakumari as *Apterichtus kanniyakumari*. The discovery has been published in the latest issue of international peer-reviewed journal, Zootaxa. The species belonging to the genus *Apterichtus* was discovered off the Colachel coast and has been named after Kanniyakumari to honour the district’s cultural, linguistic, historical and geographical significance, said T. T. Ajith Kumar, Principal Scientist and Head, Regional Centre of NBFGRR, Kochi.

He added that the researchers from NBFGRR have used two specimens collected from Colachel, where fishermen have reported catching them at a depth of 100 metres, during deep-sea trawling. Researchers and scientists have conducted extensive morphological analysis, vertebral counts and DNA based molecular analysis, which confirmed that the eel represents a species which is previously unknown to science. According to the discovery published in

Zootaxa, the new species is distinguished from its congeners by the following characteristics such as head length 9.6-9.7% of total length (TL), tail length 1.8-1.9% of TL and body depth at gill openings 42.1-54.8% of TL. Other features include three preopercular and 9 supratemporal pores, conical uniserial teeth on jaws and vomer, distinct golden-yellow body colouration, ventral side of head pale white with yellow lines along the lower jaw, and three black blotches including one behind the eyes followed by one in rictus and other behind the origin of rictus. The species also has a mean vertebral formula of 52-131. In addition, molecular analysis based on mitochondrial CO1 gene exhibits that this new species forms a distinct clade with its sympatric species, *Apterichtus nanjinladuensis*. Mr. Ajith Kumar highlighted species *Kanniyakumari* as the 16th species discovered from the Indian coast by the NBFGRR team. “*Kanniyakuamri* has a rich biodiversity that needs to be explored further to strengthen the India’s biodiversity catalogue,” he said.

Why eco-restoration alone won’t help residents of the heavily industrialised Manali-Ennore region in North Chennai



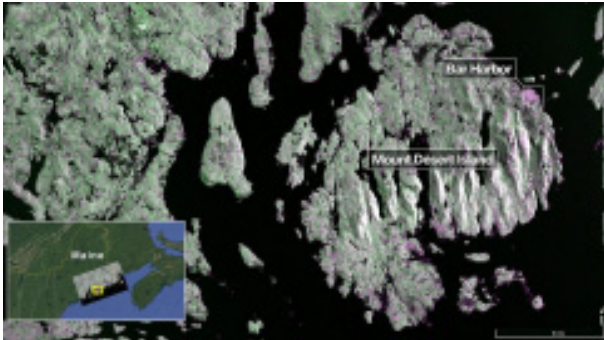
For decades, residents of Ennore and Manali in North Chennai have lived under the shadow of fertiliser plants, oil refineries, and coal-powered thermal plants along the coast. The presence of these “red-category” industries makes Tiruvallur district the State’s most polluted industrial cluster, which has left locals there to endure recurring gas leaks, oil spills, and layers of toxic dust settling over fishing hamlets and working-class neighbourhoods.

The crisis deepened in December 2023, when two major industrial accidents — an oil spill and a gas leak — once again exposed the vulnerability of residents. In response, the Tamil Nadu government set up the Manali Ennore Rejuvenation and Restoration Council (MERRC), which was recently launched by the Minister for Environment, Climate Change. As per a government order issued in September 2024, the Council has been tasked with greening projects, desilting, waste management, mangrove restoration, and pollution control. But residents and experts say these efforts fall short. Without addressing the severe health problems that already plague communities, they warn, restoration will remain incomplete. Toxic everyday exposure

For P. Vijayashanthi, a mother of two kids, who moved to Sathyavani Muthu Nagar in Ennore just over a year back, the effects have been stark. “It is terrible for newcomers like me. I developed a continuous cough that doctors linked to asthma. When I leave this area, it improves. When I return, the throat and cough problems start again,” she says. She avoids letting her children play outside and shuts windows whenever the air turns pungent. “If we leave our footwear outside overnight, by morning, a layer of black dust covers them,” she adds. A recent report from the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCHA) flagged Ennore-Manali as a stark example of how fossil fuel operations devastate public health. The Cradle to Grave report warns that pollution affects human health from foetal development to old

age. “Our waters are the heart of our culture,” said fisherman R. L. Srinivasan from Kattukuppam in the report. “But coal and oil refinery pollution has poisoned them. Fishing is no longer viable, and many of us are leaving behind generations of tradition.” Residents say water sources are badly contaminated. “When we dug borewells, the water looked pale whitish, so we had to close them,” says Ms. Vijayashanthi. In Valluvar Nagar, Vadivukkarasi says, “Children under five have breathing troubles. Doctors say it’s because we live in an industrial area. Effluents in the water cause diarrhoea.” According to the GCHA report, fossil fuel pollution is linked to asthma, cardiovascular disease, neurological disorders, cancer, and complications in childbirth. Many harms remain understudied, often surfacing decades later. At a public hearing in January 2024, residents raised concerns about fertility and cancer. Lalitha from V.O.C. Nagar said: “I spent ₹3.5 lakhs on treatment. You’ll find many families here without children or with cancer patients.” No doubt these claims will have to be investigated thoroughly by State agencies. Demands for a health survey intensified after dust samples collected by locals in May 2025 in Sathyavani Muthunagar showed dangerously high levels of lead, uranium, cadmium, and fluoride. However, no plans have been floated by the State government to carry out a health survey. For older residents in the area, decline has been long and visible. “In the 1970s we fetched clean water two kilometres away. Even then my children’s teeth turned yellow from fluoride. Now there are respiratory problems too,” says 69-year-old K. Devaki. Without immediate systemic interventions, including health surveys, medical access, and environmental clean-up, Ennore risks remaining a “sacrifice zone” where livelihoods and dignity are traded for industrial growth. Shweta Narayan of the GCHA, co-author of the Cradle to Grave report, stresses that health must be addressed alongside the environment. “Environmental restoration prevents future health problems. But what about the people already affected?” she asks. She calls for parallel, robust health infrastructure in heavily industrialised regions, citing how residents in Cuddalore district have had to pay out of pocket for treatment of allergies and respiratory illnesses caused by untreated industrial effluents. Soumya Swaminathan, chairperson of the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation and former chief scientist of the World Health Organization, says interventions must be multipronged. “A quick assessment of health needs is essential to understand the kinds of diseases and issues people face, and to make access to specific health services easier. Psychological support must also be given, and residents should be consulted on how things can be improved,” she adds.

NISAR satellite sends first radar images of Earth’s surface



The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Earth-observing radar satellite has sent the first images of Earth’s surface as the joint mission between NASA and ISRO approaches full science operations later this year. NASA said that the images from the spacecraft, which was launched by ISRO on July 30, display the level of detail with which NISAR scans Earth to provide unique, actionable information to decision-makers in a diverse range of areas, including disaster response, infrastructure monitoring, and agricultural management. “By understanding how our home planet works, we can produce models and analysis of how other planets in our solar system and beyond work as we prepare to send humanity on an epic journey back to the Moon and onward to Mars,” said NASA Associate Administrator Amit Kshatriya. Fruits of collaboration

He added that the successful capture of these first

‘Confined field trials’ on GM maize to begin soon at Punjab Agricultural University

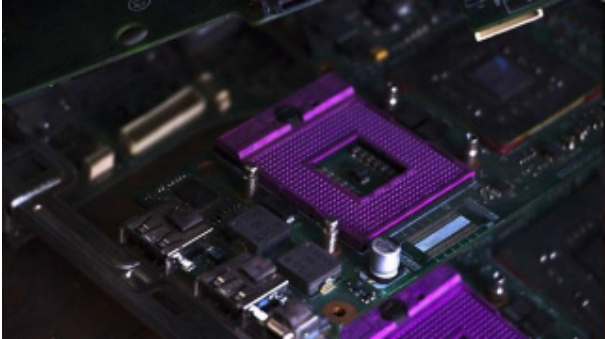
The field trials of two kinds of genetically modified (GM) maize are expected to begin in the ongoing kharif (summer) season at the Punjab Agricultural University, days after the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee, the country’s top regulator for the sector, gave the nod for the trials, after receiving consent from the Punjab government. In its meeting in June, the committee recommended a proposal by Bayer Crop Science Limited for the conduct of confined field trials on herbicide-tolerant transgenic maize, and insect-resistant transgenic maize at the Ludhiana-based university for this year’s kharif season.

The trials will study weed-control efficacy in herbicide-tolerant maize hybrids with the application of Glyphosate-K salt, and the efficacy of insect-protected maize hybrids against targeted lepidopteran pests. “The field trials will begin soon as this is the right time for sowing maize,” Punjab Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Satbir Singh Gosal told The Hindu. The university had no involvement in decisions related to the commercialisation of the crop; its mandate was limited to conducting research, under which the field trials would be conducted on GM maize, Mr. Gosal said, dismissing concerns over genetic modification. “At the Punjab Agricultural University, we have the necessary infrastructure, facilities and experts, so we are going ahead with the trials. We need to understand that, unless we study the matter, we will not know whether it’s good or bad. The trials are for research purposes only, and we are not going to recommend that it (GM maize) should be grown commercially or not. It’s for the Central government to take a call. We would be conducting the trials adhering to the guidelines of the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and established standards of procedures. It’s a research institute, and it’s our mandate to conduct research,” Mr. Gosal said. The Coalition for a GM-Free India, a plat-

form advocating safe and sustainable agriculture, has urged the Punjab government to withdraw its No Objection Certificate (NOC) for the trials. In a letter to Punjab Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khudian, Kavitha Kuruganti, co-convenor of the coalition, said that the State government had issued an order prohibiting the usage of glyphosate, a deadly herbicide with a large body of scientific literature pointing to its negative impacts on human health and the environment... How can the university experiment with herbicide-tolerant maize that has been modified to withstand the application of glyphosate, which is in itself against the legally-approved label claim for glyphosate in India’s pesticides regulatory regime?” Ms. Kuruganti said. In 2018, the Punjab government banned the sale of glyphosate, a herbicide used extensively in the State to control a wide variety of weeds in almost all crops. Pointing out that the State government’s NOC would result in national repercussions, Ms. Kuruganti urged the State to prioritise an inquiry into the scientific basis on which such NOCs were being issued, and to immediately withdraw the NOC that has been issued for confined field trials on GM maize.



Surging AI investment similar to dot-com boom of late 1990s: IMF



The world's most valuable company is NVIDIA, which makes the Graphics Processing Units – or GPUs – that have fuelled the global AI race. The world's most valuable company is NVIDIA, which makes the Graphics Processing Units – or GPUs – that have fuelled the global AI race. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned on Tuesday that the rising investment in Artificial Intelligence (AI) “echoes the dot-com boom of the late 1990s” and that if expectations from this new technology are not met, financial markets could “reprice sharply”....the current AI boom presents some parallels with the dot-com boom of the late 1990s. Market optimism about a new technology – the internet then, AI now – is pushing up stock valuations, fueling a tech-centered investment boom, and sustaining consumption on the back of strong capital gains,” the IMF said in an update to its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report.

“But the risk is also that lofty profit expectations will ultimately be unmet – as often happens when new general-purpose technologies are introduced. A significant market repricing...could impact aggregate wealth and consumption and spill over to broader financial markets,” it added. The dot-com boom of the late 1990s saw a huge jump in valuations of US technology companies. However, a bust followed in 2000-2002, resulting in many companies being wiped out. In recent years, investment in AI companies has ballooned and been to the tune of tens and hundreds of billions of dollars, sparking concerns that too much money is being funnelled into the sector and that the results may not match the investments. International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned on Tuesday that the rising investment in Artificial

Intelligence (AI) “echoes the dot-com boom o

On Tuesday, Google said it will invest \$15 billion over five years to set up an AI data centre in Andhra Pradesh. This is the US tech giant's biggest-ever investment in India. Globally, as per Stanford University's 2025 AI Index Report, private investment in AI in just 2024 rose to \$109.1 billion in the US, \$9.3 billion in China, and \$4.5 billion in the UK. Since 2013, the total private AI investment has been \$470.9 billion in the US, \$119.3 billion in China, and \$28.2 billion in the UK. India ranked seventh with \$11.3 billion of private investment in AI from 2013 to 2024, as per the Stanford report released earlier this year in April. Economists have also noted that the ongoing AI investment boom has also propped up the US economy, which has defied expectations and grew 3.8 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter of 2025. A similar growth rate is expected in the third quarter that ended in September. In its report, the IMF cautioned on Tuesday that an “abrupt repricing” of technology companies' stocks could be caused by weaker-than-expected financial results and AI productivity gains. This would mark an end to the AI investment boom and the “associated exuberance of financial markets, with the possibility of broader implications for macro-financial stability” – a correction “could erode household wealth and dampen consumption”. Earlier this month, employees of OpenAI – founded in 2015 and at the forefront of AI developments with its popular ChatGPT – sold shares in the start-up that valued it at \$500 billion, making it the world's most valuable private company. Anthropic, founded in 2021, is valued at \$183 billion. Anthropic co-founder Dario Amodei met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. The world's most valuable company is NVIDIA, which makes the Graphics Processing Units – or GPUs – that have fuelled the global AI race. NVIDIA, which is worth around \$4.5 trillion, last month announced that it would invest \$100 billion in OpenAI. Earlier this year in January, several US tech companies joined together to launch The Stargate Project, under which \$500 billion would be invested over four years to build new AI infrastructure for OpenAI in the US. To put these numbers into perspective, India's most valuable company, Reliance Industries, has a market capitalisation of just over \$200 billion.

RBI supervision for EPFO, Post Office bank on cards after Centre's nudge

Two state-owned institutions critical to India's social security net — Post Office Savings Bank (POSB) and Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) — could come under the Reserve Bank of India's oversight, with the Government writing separately to the country's top banking regulator seeking a supervisory intervention in both. In case of the Department of Posts, the missive came in the wake of a scam involving the siphoning off of Rs 96 crore of public money over a 24-month period up to May 2024 due to fraudulent activities in the operation of the Post Office Savings Bank schemes. Following this, it has reached out to the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance seeking a supervisory pact with the RBI for undertaking a review of internal controls, sources told The Indian Express.

The Ministry of Labour and Employment, meanwhile, wrote to the RBI in February this year seeking advice on aspects pertaining to fund management and investment practices of EPFO. The Ministry had requested the RBI to examine systemic, policy and capacity-related issues within EPFO's fund management and investment framework, following which the RBI had submitted a report flagging issues such as accounting practices and the conflict of interest as a regulator. The EPFO's Board has now approved the formation of a committee with officials from the RBI, Finance Ministry, and Labour and Employment Ministry. “The RBI works as a super regulator. The idea behind approaching them was to seek guidance for EPFO's operations,” an official said.

The POSB was under the purview of the Ministry of Finance and has been operating as an agency that is covered under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. There is already RBI's authority over the payment-related functions of the Bank given that it comes under the 2007 Act. The Department of Posts has maintained that technology management of POSB operations has been handed over to India Post Payment Bank from August 2022, which is regulated by the RBI. The proposed new MOU with RBI for the POSB is aimed at undertaking “a review of the internal processes”.

This comes in the wake of the audit scrutiny of the Department of Posts' savings bank operations last year revealing 60-odd cases of misappropriation of public money in post offices spread over 14 postal circles.

Audit reports showed “manual manipulation or alteration” of the Sanchay Post database by officials. The failure of the head post offices in implementing internal checks for prevention of fraudulent activities in operation of Post Office Saving Bank Schemes has been cited as a reason for this new request for RBI intervention. A nudge for the move also came from a Parliamentary panel, which was informed of the “large volume of transactions involved in the POSB” and an oversight by the RBI for undertaking a review of “the internal controls and checks” needed to be instituted at prescribed intervals to prevent fraudulent activities in operation of Post Office Savings Bank.

This recommendation for the Department to enter into an MOU with RBI is learnt to have been sent to the Department of Economic Affairs “for necessary guidance and inputs”. When contacted, a senior Finance Ministry official said they were not in receipt of this proposal but did not provide an official comment. The RBI did not respond to queries sent by on the Government move. An internal audit report had flagged the mismanagement across postal circles. Subsequently, on May 2, 2024, details of punitive action taken against officials in the Department, who allegedly failed to ensure implementation of internal checks in these cases, were listed out in the wake of the audit report. In these 60 fraud cases, a total number of alleged offenders, including prime offenders (108), co-offenders (46) and subsidiary offenders (1,018), were identified for disciplinary action. The number of offenders against whom action was completed was pegged at 718. The offenders against whom action had been initiated was said to be 267 while there were 187 offenders against whom action could not be taken due to either death or retirement. These numbers include some overlaps. In all, a total of 985 alleged offenders, “who had committed fraud and sub offenders who had failed to ensure implementation of the internal checks codified for preventing fraudulent activities in operation of POSB schemes”, have been punished severely, the Department of Posts said in its submission to the Parliamentary panel.



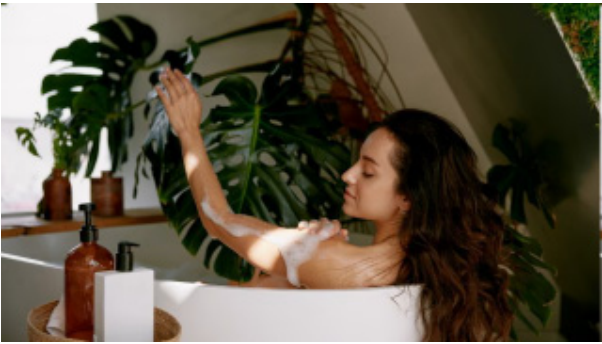
Both the Post Office Savings Bank and the EPFO have significant assets under management, being the custodian of public money. The EPFO manages Rs 26 lakh crore for over 30 crore account holders, while the Department of Posts had more than 29.29 crore POSB accounts with an outstanding balance of Rs 12.56 lakh crore under Post Office Savings Bank schemes, as per government data updated till December 2021. For the EPFO, the RBI has recommended separation of regulatory and fund management functions citing potential conflict of interest due to the dual role of managing various funds and regulating similar provident fund trusts by other entities.

Also, the RBI has flagged anomalies in the process of returns distribution by the EPFO, stating that it is not based on accrued income, and the accounting policy does not recognise losses and provisioning by charging released income. It has also pointed out that the EPFO assumes a held-to-maturity portfolio where all assets are held at cost until redemption and is not doing marking-to-market. The central bank has also advised the EPFO to conduct a scientific and rigorous actuarial assessment of its liabilities vis-à-vis assets separately for all its schemes. According to the RBI, EPFO needs to take a “considered and gradual approach” to diversify, including increasing exposure to equities and other asset classes, to enhance returns and mitigate the yield trap, and manage risk through phased investments, strict risk controls and regular portfolio reviews. At present, equity allocation of the EPFO stands at 15 per cent of the fresh accretions. The EPFO invests 45-65 per cent in government bonds and 20-45 per cent in corporate debt. It can invest a minimum of 20 per cent in corporate bonds, which can go up to 45 per cent.

Google's Raiden Infotech to get Rs 22,000 cr incentives from Andhra for Vizag data centres

Amaravati: Raiden Infotech India Pvt Ltd, a Google company, which is setting up data centers in a phased manner, with a cumulative investment exceeding 87,500 crores in Andhra Pradesh, will receive Rs 22,000 crore as incentive from the state government over a period of time. According to a recent Government Order, Raiden Infotech will set up more than 1000 MW data centers in a phased manner, with a cumulative investment of Rs 87,520 Crores in Visakhapatnam and Anapalli districts. In its biggest ever investment in India, tech giant Google on Tuesday said it will invest USD 15 billion in building an AI infrastructure hub in AP, which would include a gigawatt-scale data centre in partnership with Adani Group. The AP government has signed a mega deal with Google to set up a USD 15 billion gigawatt-scale Artificial Intelligence data centre in Visakhapatnam. “SIPB (State Investment Promotion Board) has decided to extend the above-listed incentives with an overall cap of Rs 22,002 crore. The above SIPB recommendations were placed before the council of ministers in its meeting dated 10.10.2025 and the same was approved,” the GO said. As part of the incentive package, the state government offered a 25 per cent discount on the land-160 acres at Rambilli, 120 acres at Adavivaram and Mudasarlova, 200 Acres at Tarluvada. The land shall be made available to the notified partners of Raiden Infotech India after approval from the competent authority. In addition to this.

5 plants that love humidity and would turn your bathroom into a spa



Bathrooms are no longer just the functional corners of a home; they've become little wellness retreats. In fact, a 2024 real estate survey found that around 65% of modern urban homes now have humidity-controlled bathrooms, not just to prevent mould, but to make the space feel fresher and more relaxing. So if you think plants don't belong here, think again. High-humidity bathrooms are actually a paradise for greenery — certain plants thrive on moisture, absorb ambient humidity, and can naturally freshen up the air. With the right choices, you can turn your bathroom into a lush, spa-like haven that's good for both your home and your mood.

1. Orchids

plants Orchids need proper airflow to prevent fungal infections and rot, and should be kept in bathrooms that have some ventilation. Orchids are a classic choice for humid bathrooms. They need the warmth and moisture that a bathroom environment provides to bloom continuously. Their delicate flowers elevate the room's aesthetic, while the humidity keeps them thriving with minimal extra effort. A small orchid on a shelf or windowsill can instantly feel like a boutique spa detail.

Tejasswi Prakash says her ‘lips are always full’ when she wakes up in the morning: ‘Yeh roz hota hai’

Tejasswi Prakash, 32, recently took to her YouTube vlog to share glimpses from her birthday, documenting a ‘weird’ phenomenon she has been noticing for quite a while. “I have gotten up this morning with a freaking lip filler vibe. Whenever I get up in the morning, my lips are always full. Yeh roz hota hai (It happens every day). Every morning. They literally look like I have got a filler,” said Tejasswi. She continued, “Yeh ek do ghante me theek ho jaata hai (It is fine within 1-2 hours). Look at my lips. It is so weird. It also gives me the idea that if and when I do it in real life, it might look nice. Good. Weird.”

Why do some people's lips appear fuller when they wake up?

Many people feel slight puffiness in different parts of the body after a night's sleep, and the lips are no exception. “While sleeping, fluid can build up in soft tissues, making the lips temporarily look plumper. This effect usually fades within 1 to 2 hours after waking, as the body begins to move and circulation improves. Things like sleeping position, hydration, and room temperature can affect how noticeable the swelling is,” explained Dr Shweta Nakhawa, consultant dermatologist, KIMS Hospitals, Thane. Dr Shareefa Chause, dermatologist, Dr Shareefa Skin Care Clinic, Mumbai said that it may happen when the body retains a bit of fluid, “especially if we've slept face-down or had a salty meal before bed”.

Is this the same as getting a cosmetic lip filler?

No, this natural fullness is short-lived and not the result of any procedure. “Lip fillers involve injecting substances to improve shape and volume for a longer time, while morning puffiness is just a temporary fluid shift that goes away on its own. It doesn't change the structure of the lips in any way,” noted Dr Nakhawa.

‘Assumed it is age-related fatigue’: Patients, doctors reveal how osteoporosis silently steals mobility, and why early awareness matters

Praveen Rajput's wake-up call came in the form of excruciating pain that refused to subside. “I was diagnosed last year after experiencing extreme pain in my foot joints and ankles. Standing for long hours left me unusually tired, and my feet often swelled up,” recalls the Gurugram resident. “Initially, I assumed it was just age-related fatigue, but when the pain persisted, I got it checked. That's when I learned I had osteoporosis.” Her experience is far from unique. Across India, millions live with the condition without realising it until it's too late. According to a 2021 study published in Henry Ford Health Scholarly Commons, “Prevalence of osteoporosis ranging from 8 to 62 per cent in Indian women of different age groups has been reported in several studies. In males over 50, prevalence varies between 8.5 and 24.6 per cent.” The invisible threat

Osteoporosis has earned the label of a “silent epidemic” for good reason. Dr Abhijit Agashe, consultant orthopaedic and joint replacement surgeon at Sahyadri Super Speciality Hospital, Pune, explains: “It's a ‘silent’ pathology with non-specific symptoms. Patients normalise back pain, height loss, or fatigue. Primary care often prioritises diabetes, blood pressure, and lipids; bone health is usually an afterthought.” The consequences of this invisibility can be severe. Dr (Prof.) Raju Vaishya, senior consultant orthopaedic and joint replacement surgeon at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi, notes, “Most patients are asymptomatic until their first fracture, leading to under-recognition.” Limited infrastructure further compounds the problem. “In smaller cities, DXA scans, which measure bone density, are not easily available, and even where they are, cost is prohibitive,” says Dr Agashe. “Many people take vitamin D and calcium supplements on their own without first checking their actual levels.” Why Indians are more vulnerable India's population faces a unique constellation of risk factors that make osteoporosis more prevalent. Dr Agashe points to several dietary and lifestyle patterns: “Our diets are often low in calcium, and cereals like wheat and rice can reduce calcium absorption. Vitamin D deficiency is widespread due to limited sun exposure, pollution, and cultural clothing practices.” Dr Vaishya echoes this, adding, “High prevalence of vitamin D deficiency, low dietary calcium intake, and lifestyle habits all contribute.”

Nutritionist Aditi Prabhu, founder of NutroDynamix, notes additional dietary pitfalls: high consumption of polished grains, ultra-processed foods, low protein intake, insufficient

2. Boston Fern

Boston ferns flourish in damp, warm environments, making bathrooms an ideal habitat. Their dense foliage absorbs excess moisture in the air, helping regulate humidity levels. With their cascading fronds, they bring an instant touch of green tranquillity, turning any shower corner into a refreshing oasis.

3. Snake Plant

plants Snake plants thrive in indirect or low light, which aligns perfectly typical bathroom lighting conditions. Snake plants are known for their resilience and low maintenance, but they also thrive in humid environments. They absorb moisture and release oxygen at night, making them perfect companions for bathrooms with limited ventilation. Their vertical, sword-like leaves add structure and a modern touch to any space.

4. Peace Lily

Peace lilies are not only visually stunning but also excellent natural humidifiers. They thrive in low-light, high-moisture spaces, and their large, glossy leaves help purify the air by removing toxins. Placing a peace lily near your bathtub or sink creates a serene, spa-like feel while improving indoor air quality.

5. Bamboo

plants Bamboo is generally low-maintenance, needing minimal care beyond occasional trimming and water changes if grown in water. Bamboo can adapt to waterlogged environments, making it ideal for bathrooms that often have steam or condensation. Growing it in a decorative vase with water not only adds a Zen-like vibe but also helps absorb excess moisture. Over time, bamboo can even improve air quality and bring a sense of balance and calm to your bathroom space.



Can this swelling ever indicate a problem?

In most cases, mild swelling is normal and harmless, Dr Nakhawa asserted. : However, if the puffiness lasts longer than usual or is accompanied by discomfort, itching, or visible irritation, it could be linked to allergies, reactions to products, or environmental triggers. Persistent swelling should not be ignored, as it may need further attention,” added Dr Nakhawa.

Are there ways to maintain a naturally fuller look without fillers?

Simple daily habits can help lips look healthy and defined. “Staying well-hydrated, gently exfoliating the lips to remove dry skin, and using nourishing balms can keep them smooth and supple. Temporary plumping products or glosses can also create a slightly fuller effect for a few hours. Regular care helps bring out the lips' natural shape and softness,” said Dr Nakhawa. If the puffiness doesn't go away or happens often, it's best to consult a doctor to rule out any underlying cause, said Dr Chause.



calcium-rich foods, and excessive tea, coffee, and salt — all of which compromise bone health. For women, risks multiply. “Indian women often undergo early menopause and multiple pregnancies, both of which reduce bone strength,” says Dr Agashe. Dr Vaishya adds, “Postmenopausal decline in oestrogen accelerates bone loss. Lifetime calcium deficiency, poor nutrition, and early menopause all contribute significantly.”

Indian women often undergo early menopause and multiple pregnancies, both of which reduce bone strength. Indian women often undergo early menopause and multiple pregnancies, both of which reduce bone strength (Source: Freepik). For those diagnosed, osteoporosis alters everyday life. Praveen explains, “It has definitely slowed me down. I can't stand for long periods, and even simple tasks require frequent breaks. Eating very cold foods often triggers bone pain. I carry a crepe bandage to ease discomfort in my foot.” Lakshmi, 64, shares a similar story: “My mobility is reduced by 20–30 per cent, so I rely on others for certain tasks. I have to manage pain while taking calcium supplements twice daily.” Her son, Sudarshan Venkat, adds that while osteoporosis affects her mobility, other conditions like autoimmune disorders and rheumatoid arthritis also play a role. The psychological toll of osteoporosis is often overlooked. Praveen admits, “I feel anxiety and frustration, especially when pain limits movement. Missing my daily walk or exercise routine makes me feel low or anxious about gaining weight or becoming more prone to other health issues. There's always a subtle fear of fractures in the back of my mind.”

For Rohit Sharma, every game is like playing his first match and last match at the same time



GNS News Agency, Oct 28

The most fascinating sportsman is the sportsman riding his sunset. He knows his sunniest days are a fragment of memory or recorded archives; that he is perennially living on borrowed time; that there is nothing left to prove, but yet there is something more to prove, that he still has the dexterity in his limbs, the passion in his eyes, the love in his heart and the desire in his mind to turn up on the grandest stage. Whenever he took the field in the three-match ODI series against Australia, these thoughts could have passed through Rohit Sharma's mind. Removed from captaincy, self-restricted to a lone format, the selectors undecided on his future, away from competitive cricket for 150 days, Rohit, at 38 and with 11,168 runs before boarding the flight to Australia was a certified 50-over colossus. Yet, he had to prove the same things he had proven a thousand times.

But unlike in his youth, the selectors would bestow little allowance of time, their patience would dry faster than ink on a blotting paper. In a bafflingly interrupted career, Rohit is a well-worn traveller through this lane, far too familiar with its treacherous bends and corners to be overwhelmed. He meets all the challenges with a smile, and sheets of steel beneath. Beneath the silk of the strokes, is a coat of fierce defiance, of a self-made cricketer. Few other modern-day cricketers of his country had to make as many comebacks or prove themselves as many times as Rohit had, in his 18-year-old career. For half a decade since his entry to international cricket, he tussled with the talented-but-laidback misconception; he passed through an endless lost-and-found cycle; he donned several roles until he found his true calling of opening the innings. He was not a natural and a flawed one, for its deceitful portfolio. But he strove and succeeded, making an impressive career as a Test opener too.

Doubts still lingered, can he succeed overseas? Can he flourish on the big stage? Can he tame James Anderson and Stuart Broad in England? Can he juggle the captaincy chores and batting? In a taxing but rewarding decade, he ticked all the boxes. His Test numbers betray a sense of unfulfilment, a late-blooming arc, but against the white ball, he was one of the finest of his era. In ICC tournaments, he was as prolific and influential as his great contemporary, Virat Kohli (fourth highest run-getter in World Cups) and owns more hundreds in those tournaments than Sachin Tendulkar. Yet, the spectre of the past could lose its lustre in the capricious present. Besides, Australia could

Rohit Sharma bids goodbye to Sydney in touching post: 'One last time, signing off...'

Rohit Sharma has pretty much confirmed that his epic knock in the third ODI in Sydney was the last time he played in Australia, in India colours at least. The former India captain on Sunday posted a photo of him standing with his back to the camera in front of the "Departures" sign, presumably at Sydney's Kingford Smith airport. "One last time, signing off from Sydney," said Rohit along with the picture. The 38-year-old's place in the Indian ODI team, along with that of his long time teammate and fellow veteran Virat Kohli, was

When Cricket Australia chief Todd Greenberg was asked if Big Bash will woo Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma

Indian cricket and Messrs Gautam Gambhir and Ajit Agarkar might be in various stages of 'moving on' and 'letting go' of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, with an eye on the ODI future. But the star batsmen's match-winning partnership and big runs (Rohit 121* off 125 and Kohli 74* off 81) and the lingering images of their stardom from emotional fans at Sydney, mean foreign franchise leagues are waiting to pounce on the duo, as soon as they are relieved of India NT contracts. Ravichandran Ashwin might well have been just a canary in the coalmine after he was brought into the Big Bash League, though foreign franchise leagues will need to outbid Sharma and Kohli's IPL value earnings, to persuade them to retire from all formats (including IPL) to land them. Cricket Australia chief Todd Greenberg set the pot stirring when he told the Aussie media that India's biggest stars would continue to get wooed to join and play in the Big Bash. This was even before the Saturday night fever, that highlighted the duo's popularity as they set up a vintage chase in a dead rubber, full-house Third ODI, watched by legions of blue shirts. As per cricket.com.au, hours before Sharma and Kohli sealed their last outing in Australia with big runs, and before captain Gill spoke of their future and how their game time will be managed, Greenberg was answering questions about how the BBL planned to net the big silvery shining fish. Greenberg was asked if it was conceivable that Cricket Australia could bring a player of their calibre to the BBL, especially after Sydney Thunder pulled off the recent Ravichandran Ashwin coup. "I think in the short to medium term, I think it is realistic," CA's chief executive said. "We're going to keep the dialogue open." "Ravi(chandran) Ashwin coming is a really important moment for the BBL and it will highlight the strength of bring-

He then pointed out the examples of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli in the three-match ODI series Down Under. Rohit top-scored in two of India's games and won the player of the match award. Kohli, after successive ducks, scored an unbeaten 71 in Sydney. "When you have guys like Rohit and Virat, who have won so many matches for India especially in white ball cricket, you need that experience in the team. You cannot go with all newcomers, or the young ones

Ahaan Panday debuts intense look for new YRF film; fans say, ‘Heart has stopped beating’



After the success of his debut Saiyaara, Ahaan Panday is set for his next film, and it is with none other than Ali Abbas Zafar, who is known for helming hit projects like Sultan (2016) and Tiger Zinda Hai (2017). The actor recently took to Instagram to share a brand-new look for his upcoming film, which will be produced by Yash Raj Films.

Senna Hegde’s Avihitam joins long list of Malayalam movies to face off with the CBFC with mandated cut to the reference ‘Sitha’ from the film

Adding to the long list of confrontations between the Malayalam film industry and the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), director Senna Hegde’s latest film Avihitam seems to have run into a conflict with the use of a line referencing ‘Sita’ in the film. The certification body has now requested the filmmakers to remove the dialogue which begins with “Neeyum ninte Sitayum thammilulla,” which translates to “Between you and your Sita...”

This particular line is used to refer to the heroine of the movie by another character. The film, which satirizes the moral policing and implicit prejudices against married women, is Senna Hegde’s follow-up to Thinkalazhcha Nishchayam, 1744 White Alto, and Padmini. The latest recommendations from CBFC have ignited a discourse on social media, with most comments being against the decision to cut lines that are used in a different context in the film. The film stars Unni Raj, Renji Kankol, Vineeth Chakyar, Vrinda Menon, and Ammini Chandralayam in important roles. Avihitam is in good company with regard to the recent tussles with CBFC with films like Shane Nigam’s Hal (which got recommended 15 cuts), which included the removal of words like ‘beef biriyani’. The courtroom drama

Ahaan set social media abuzz by dropping his new rugged look. It shows him letting go of his long hair, beard, and lover-boy look that he showed off in Saiyaara, and sporting a clean, sharp appearance with short hair and a trimmed beard. He looked dashing in a black shirt paired with a black leather jacket. In the caption, he wrote, “And that’s a cut.” The action-romance film will also star Sharvari, who made her debut with Yash Raj Films’ Bunty Aur Babli 2 and has since starred in projects like Munjya, Vedaa and more.Fans were in awe of Ahaan’s new look. One fan wrote, “How to say in words like my heart is not beating now.” Another comment read, “Ahaan boy stop making my heart flutter, I’m still dealing with Krish K!!”

Ahaan recently made headlines as rumours of him dating his Saiyaara co-star Aneet Padda gained traction. The two were seen celebrating Aneet’s birthday, and photos of them at her birthday party also went viral on social media. Along with that, Ahaan had also shared videos and photos with Aneet at a Coldplay concert.Saiyaara, which was directed by Mohit Suri, became the surprise hit of the year as it starred two newcomers. The film became the second highest-grossing Hindi film of 2025, crossing Rs 500 crore worldwide. The film’s success made both Aneet and Ahaan overnight stars.



JSK starring Suresh Gopi in the lead also had an unfortunate run-in with the CBFC, which asked to change the film’s title in reference to the word ‘Janaki’.Mohanlal starrer L2 Empuraan directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, kicked off this trend with a whopping 24 voluntary cuts by the filmmakers themselves in re-censoring in its narrative as it was deemed to be hurting the religious sentiments of a section of society. Only time will tell the next course of action for the ‘avihitam’ makers, whether they will be complying with the mandated cut or taking it to court.

After Anurag Kashyap said they aren’t in touch, Vicky Kaushal doesn’t mention him among closest director friends: ‘Mozez Singh was the first person...’



Actor Vicky Kaushal is celebrating a decade as an actor in the film industry, having made his debut with the film Masaan. In a new interview, Vicky said that more than actors, he has formed lasting bonds with the directors he has worked with. He listed out a few of them, but curiously omitted Anurag Kashyap, with whom he got his start as an assistant on Gangs of Wasseyapur. He also starred in Anurag’s Raman Raghav 2.0, Manmarziyaan, and Almost Pyaar with DJ Mohabbat.

Appearing at the Yuva conclave, Vicky was asked which actors he has forged strong relationships with over the last decade, and he said, “For me, it’s mainly directors. I’ll be very honest. Anand Tiwari, Meghna Gulzar, Laxman Utekar sir...” Vicky has worked twice with all three of them. With Anand Tiwari, he did Love Per Square Foot and Bad Newz; with Meghna Gulzar, he did Raazi and Sam Bahadur; with Laxman Utekar, he did Zara Hatke Zara Bachke and Chhaava. Vicky also named Neeraj Ghaywan, the director of Masaan. “Also Mozez Singh; he was actually my first director. He made this film called Zubaan, which was the first film we shot, but it came after Masaan. He was the first guy who ever said a yes to my audition. Mozez is very special. All these people, I know I can meet them, talk to them, and not have filmy discussions. These are the people,” he said.

In the past, Vicky has said that the first time he performed for the camera was for an international film that Anurag recommended him for. In an interview with acting coach Atul Mongia on the Artist Collective YouTube channel, Vicky said, “My first on-camera appearance was in a Michael Winterbottom film. Anurag called me one day and asked, ‘Listen, you want to do an item number?’ I hesitated, but he said it would be with Huma Qureshi, and it would be great.”In a 2016 interview with Hindustan Times, Vicky described Anurag as his ‘mentor’ in the film industry. “Anurag is like family to me, he is my mentor. I started out in this industry with his film. I was an assistant director in his film Gangs of Wasseyapur and I know him personally. He is my guardian. I constantly run all my decisions by him,” Vicky had said.Vicky’s father, action director Sham Kaushal, had once revealed that the only time he made calls on Vicky’s behalf was to Anurag, who had also shown support to him during his cancer battle. The action director said in an inter-

view with Friday Talkies, “I had called Anurag (Kashyap) asking him to give Vicky an apprenticeship. So he (Vicky) took a train to join Anurag. It’s there where he learnt that nothing comes easy.” In a social media post, Sham Kaushal also expressed gratitude to Anurag for giving him strength to fight back against cancer, and also paused production on his film Black Friday until he could recover and participate.

In an interview with The Lallantop, Anurag said that he and Vicky aren’t in touch. “I don’t have much interaction with him much these days. I don’t judge him, because every person has their own reasons... I don’t repeat myself. What I wanted to say, I said,” Anurag said, and continued, “This is why I left Mumbai. Every person has their own ambitions, and it is up to them on how they choose to achieve them. It’s not my responsibility. It took me a while to detach myself. But the atmosphere in Bollywood has become more money-minded. People are looking at ‘crores’ in their decision-making. This is what I ran away from. I don’t want to return to that world.”

Priyanka Chopra shares glimpses of goodies for Malti: ‘Mama’s coming home’

Mumbai: Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, who has been jet-setting across continents, gave a peep into the adorable goodies she’s picked up for her daughter Malti Marie.Priyanka took to her Instagram stories section, where she shared a string of images and videos. In one clip, the actress is seen saying “I should be sleeping. But of course I am not. But I should be sleeping.But of course I am not. (sic)”Priyanka revealed that she is travelling to London to host a Diwali party. “Ok gn enough selfies. Have a big Diwali party to host tomorrow in London with friends (sic),” she wrote.

In the final image, Priyanka offered a glimpse of the airport haul she picked up for Malti. It showed a trolley stacked with gifts, including a cute pink-and-blue toy bag.“Ummmmm. Mamas coming home anyone relate?” Priyanka wrote as the caption. The actress had earlier shared a late-night glimpse from her flight as she headed to London.Taking to her social media account, Priyanka posted a relaxed selfie from what appeared to be her luxurious in-flight suite and captioned it, “My resident bedroom, the plane, London bound, see you soon.”Talking about her film work, Priyanka was last seen in “Heads Of State” directed by Ilya Naishuller. It stars Idris Elba and John Cena as the UK Prime Minister and US President, respectively.She will next be seen sharing screen space with Mahesh Babu for the first time in her next in the upcoming tentatively titled film “SSMB29”.In addition to this, she has also been roped in for the latest instalment in the popular franchise “Krrish 4”, marking Hrithik Roshan’s debut as a director.

After starring in Chhaava, Vicky Kaushal defends hyper-masculine action movies: ‘I don’t see anything wrong’



Actor Vicky Kaushal, who delivered the biggest hit of his career in Chhaava this year, said that he sees ‘nothing wrong’ with hyper-masculine action movies. Directed by Laxman Utekar, Chhaava was criticised for fueling communal tensions with its incendiary narrative, which pitted the Maratha king Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj against the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. Violence actually broke out in the city of Nagpur following the film’s release, while other acts of vandalism took place in various other parts of the country. In an interview, Vicky said that the industry operates on the basis of supply-and-demand, and that the day audiences stop demanding violent action films, the industry will stop making them.

Appearing on the Yuva conclave, Vicky was asked what he feels about the glorification of hyper-masculine heroes, a decade after he starred in the tender film Masaan. He said, “There have always been phases and trends in the industry... The intensity of action, the intensity of drama, the intensity of comedy, the intensity of romance... It goes through phases. The phase is dictated by the society, and not the other way around. It’s a demand-and-supply business. It’s a business, at the end of the day, and we would like to tell you stories that you would like to hear.”

Vicky admitted that every year throws up ‘two or three out-of-syllabus’ films that emerge as hits, but said that they are anomalies. “But more of than ever, it will be that they will try to gauge what the demand is, and then supply accordingly,” he said, adding that it is up to the filmmakers to stay true to their artistic vision within these market confines. “Of course there is a phase going on right now where the audience needs to be given an experience in theatres, and this experience is given with great visuals and sound, and high stimulation. But I don’t see anything bad or wrong in that.”Vicky said that films like this ‘might not be everybody’s cup of tea’, and added that this phase will pass soon enough, when the audience begins to give signs that it no longer wants to watch blood-soaked action movies. “It’s all done keeping the audience in mind. The day they feel they’re done with it, you won’t see these films,” he said. Chhaava is the biggest Indian hit of the year, having made more than Rs 800 crore at the global box office. It made Rs 600 crore through its Hindi-language version alone, catapulting Vicky to the A-list. He will next be seen in Sanjay Leela Bhansali’s Love and War, which also features Alia Bhatt and Ranbir Kapoor.

Pankaj Dheer’s family lost everything after Geeta Bali exacted a promise from his father, shelved incomplete film despite Dilip Kumar’s request

Pankaj Dheer, who passed away in Mumbai on Wednesday, was best known for playing Karna in BR Chopra’s Mahabharat and in Chadrakanta. Pankaj was admired by fans throughout his life for his work in the mythological show, and this kind of adulation was quite cherished by Pankaj and his family, as they had battled through some difficult times. Pankaj had previously shared that his father, filmmaker CL Dheer, lost everything when he had to shelve a partially made film after the sudden death of actor Geeta Bali in 1965.

In an earlier interview with Lehren retro, Pankaj shared that his father, CL Dheer, joined the film industry in 1941. After assisting V Shantaram for a few years, he went on to direct and produce films like Bahu Beti, Rain Basera, Aakhri Raat, Zindagi, among others. He then recalled the tragic chapter of their life, which happened during the making of a film called Raano, starring Dharmendra and Geeta Bali.

Pankaj recalled that his father and Geeta were co-producers on that film, and had invested equal amounts of money in it. His father was also the director of the film. “Almost 6-7 days of work was left so Geeta Bali suggested that he could finish everything else, and finish the rest of her scenes at the end. The entire film was done and ready, just 3 days of Geeta Bali’s scenes were left. You can call it bad luck... Geeta Bali got infected with smallpox in Punjab,” he recalled.Geeta was in Punjab with the rest of the crew and was brought to Mumbai (then Bombay) after her illness was diagnosed. “She couldn’t recover. She asked my father for a promise on her death bed that after I die, you will let go of this film, and my father honoured his promise,” he



shared. Pankaj shared that after Geeta Bali’s death, Dilip Kumar and Meena Kumari came to see his father, and tried to convince him that he should shoot the rest of the film with Meena, and release it. “Dilip saab suggested that I will come on the screen and plead with the audience that after the tragedy with Geeta Bali, you have to accept Meena Kumari in this role. But my father was insistent that this film is gone with Geeta. So all the money that was invested, it was gone. My father went into a shell after that. After this, our family went through a tough time,” he shared.In another chat with Doordarshan, Pankaj had shared that he started working as a teenager primarily because he had to support his family after this tragic loss. The family lost a lot of money because of this incident, and could never fully recover.

Madhavan calls wife Sarita a ‘protective giant’ in birthday post, says she’s a child at heart: ‘Just stunned and grateful that...’



Despite being married for over a quarter of a century, actor R Madhavan and his wife, Sarita Birje, continue to set couple goals even now as they never miss a chance to celebrate each other, including in public. Recently, Madhavan showed just how head over heels in love he still is with his wife by sharing an adorable and quirky social media post to wish Sarita a happy birthday.

Sharing a candid extreme close-up photo of his “Pondati (wife),” where she can be seen making a goofy expression, Madhavan referred to her as a “protective giant” and the “most beautiful soul” he ever encountered. Along with numerous red-heart and kiss emojis, he wrote, “Happy Birthday to the mightiest and the most beautiful soul I know.. who’s child within is a protective giant, full of compassion, care and generosity. I’m just stunned and grateful that I get to discover so much more about you with every passing year that makes me feel inspired and phenomenally fortunate. Love you Pondati (sic).”

Soon, many of the couple’s friends from the film industry assembled in the comments section to shower Sarita

with love, and extend their wishes to her. Actor-politician Kushboo Sundar wrote, “Happpppppiest birthday to an adorable woman of substance. Sari, sending tons of love,” while renowned South Indian star Radikaa Sarathkumar noted, “Happy birthday dear Sarita. Loads of peace, happiness and good health to you.” Madhavan’s Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein co-star Dia Mirza Rekhi and actor Shilpa Shirodkar Ranjit also extended warm birthday wishes to her.Madhavan first met Sarita when she arrived to join his public speaking and personality development classes in Kolhapur in the early ‘90s. During a 2011 conversation with the Times of India, he revealed, “She was aspiring for a job in an airliner and attended my classes. When she finally bagged the cat, she thought it was in part due to my classes and took me to a ‘thank you’ dinner. That’s how it started.” They dated for a few years before tying the knot on June 6, 1999, even before he became a national heartthrob. The two are parents to Vedaant Madhavan, who is now an international swimmer.

Fatima Sana Shaikh thanks Manish Malhotra for warm, family-like Diwali bash

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Fatima Sana Shaikh expressed her gratitude to designer Manish Malhotra after attending his star-studded Diwali celebration.She described the gathering as warm and family-like, praising Manish for opening his home and making everyone feel welcome during the festive festivities. On Tuesday, the Dangal actress took to her Instagram handle and shared glimpses from the party. In the images, Fatima could be seen striking happy poses with Manish, Vijay Varma, and Rhea Chakraborty, among others.The first image shows Shaikh clicking her selfie with Manish and Vijay. One of the candid shots shows her making a pout. Sharing the post, the ‘Metro In Dino’ actress wrote.