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## Goods truck washed away along with driver in a stream in Khammam

Khammam: A goods truck was washed away along with its driver in the overflowing Nimmavagu stream at Jannaram village of Enkoor mandal in the district on Wednesday. The stream on the Pallipadu–Enkoor route had been overflowing since morning due to heavy rains caused by Cyclone Montha in the district. The driver, despite warnings from locals, attempted to cross the low-lying bridge across the stream. When the truck reached halfway on the bridge, it veered towards the downstream due to the strong water current, which eventually pushed the vehicle into the stream. The district administration engaged an NDRF team to rescue the driver, but he could not be traced even by 6.30 pm.

## PM Modi to lead National Unity Day celebration on Oct 31

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Ahmedabad: A grand celebration of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) will be held at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat on October 31, marking the 150th birth anniversary of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Minister and State Spokesperson Jitu Vaghani announced on Wednesday. The celebrations will be led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will attend various events over two days — October 30 and 31 — highlighting the theme of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat.” Addressing the media, Minister Vaghani said that for the first time, a grand parade modelled on the Republic Day celebrations in Delhi will be held at Ekta Nagar. The parade will feature 16 contingents, including personnel from BSF, CISF, ITBP, CRPF, SSB, NCC, and police forces from several states such as Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Assam, Odisha, Kerala, and Maharashtra. The event will also include 10 theme-based tableaux showcasing the achievements and cultural diversity of various Indian states under the theme of “Unity.” PM Modi will inaugurate and lay foundation stones for development projects worth Rs 1,219 crore, including the Rs 367 crore Museum of Royal Kingdoms of India and the Rs 303 crore Birs Munda Bhavan, dedicated to the revered tribal leader. Of the total, projects worth over Rs 700 crore will be initiated, while projects worth Rs 519 crore will be inaugurated.

The Prime Minister will also unveil a commemorative



coin and postal stamp dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary. Additionally, he will flag off electric buses in Ekta Nagar and participate in several public engagements. On October 31, the Prime Minister will offer floral tributes at the Statue of Unity, followed by the launch of a Cyclothon curtain-raiser at the Dam View Point. The Cyclothon events will continue through November 16–17, with participants from across India joining the main race organised in collaboration with the Gujarat government's Sports Department. Adding to the grandeur, Operation Sindoor medal winners from the BSF and five Shaurya Chakra awardees from the CRPF will participate in the parade in open jeeps.

## BRS lodges complaint with EC against Revanth Reddy alleging MCC violation in Jubilee Hills bypoll



GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Hyderabad: BRS leaders on Wednesday lodged a formal complaint with the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign. They demanded that the ECI remove Revanth Reddy as a star campaigner, disqualify Congress candidate Naveen Yadav and deploy

central forces instead of the State police to ensure free and fair polling. “We have no faith in the State police, who are openly working in favour of the Congress government,” said former Minister and senior BRS MLA Gangula Kamalakara. The BRS delegation led by Kamalakara, MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra and other leaders lodged their complaints with the Chief Electoral Officer of Telangana. Speaking on the occasion, the former Minister said the Chief Minister made promises to film industry workers at a meeting in Yousufguda, in a clear legal violation. The BRS delegation submitted evidence in the form of a pen drive and urged the Commission to take suo motu action. He also complained that Congress candidate Naveen Yadav was issuing death threats to political rivals in the constituency, while neither the police nor the ECI acted on complaints. He accused the Chief Minister of misusing power to influence voters. BRS leaders including Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, Pochampally Srinivas Reddy, Vaddiraju Ravichandra and Padi Kaushik Reddy, also voiced their concerns in this regard. They accused the Congress of creating unrest and using police to threaten voters and opposition party activists. They said the Congress campaign had descended into chaos, with internal clashes among its own cadres.

## Rahul speaks to Satara doctor's family, assures support; Cong demands arrest of former BJP MP



GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Rahul Gandhi also sought complete details of the case from the victim's family and from state Congress chief Harshvardhan Sapkal, who was also present there. Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday spoke to the family of woman doctor in Phaltan taluka of Satara, who allegedly died by suicide, and assured them support in ensuring justice to the victim. “Do not be afraid, we stand with you. The Congress party will exert pressure on the government to ensure justice to her,” Gandhi told the family over a phone call.

Rahul Gandhi also sought complete details of the case from the victim's family and from state Congress chief Harshvardhan Sapkal, who was also present there. The death has sparked a political row after the names of former BJP MP Ranjitsinh Naik Nimbalkar and his PA along with several police officials surfaced. On October 23, a 29-year-old woman doctor, originally from Beed, was found dead, with a purported suicide note scribbled on her hand, in which she alleged sexual harassment and rape by police sub-inspector Gopal Badane and mental harassment by her landlord's son Prashant Bankar. Both the accused have been arrested. However, the BJP and Nimbalkar were dragged into the controversy after a letter, purportedly written earlier this year by the victim, alleged that two personal assistants of a “former MP” had “pressured her to alter medical reports” of a person arrested in a case. While CM Fadnavis has given him the clean chit, Nimbalkar too has denied all allegations. “It is horrible when baseless charges are levelled... I have two daughters. Why should I be afraid

when I have done nothing wrong?” he has said. On Wednesday, a delegation of opposition Congress led by state unit chief Harshvardhan Sapkal met the victim's family at her native village in Beed district. Sapkal has demanded that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) be formed and a probe be conducted under the supervision of a High Court judge, and that Nimbalkar be immediately arrested. Speaking to the media after the visit, Sapkal said, “She was subjected to immense pressure to do wrongful acts and was severely harassed. Several incidents exposing Naik Nimbalkar's hooliganism have already come to light. What is infuriating is that even before any investigation began, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis publicly gave him a clean chit.

## KTR to hold election roadshows in Jubilee Hills from October 31



Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao will launch an intensive nine-day campaign in Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency from October 31. The campaign will culminate in a massive bike rally from Shaikpet to Borabanda on November 9.

As part of the campaign, Rama Rao will hold a series of roadshows across key localities, starting with Shaikpet on October 31, followed by Rehmat Nagar (November 1), Yousufguda (November 2), Borabanda (November 3), Somajiguda (November 4), Venkatrao Nagar (November 5) and Erragadda (November 6).

## Official machinery on high alert as Cyclone Montha triggers heavy rains

Hyderabad: With heavy rains lashing several parts of Telangana under the influence of Cyclone Montha, the State government has placed the entire administration on high alert and directed district authorities to take all precautionary measures to prevent loss of life and property.

Reviewing the situation, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy inquired about the damage to paddy crops and instructed officials to make special arrangements at paddy and cotton procurement centres to protect stocks from rain damage. Officials briefed him that Khammam, Warangal and Nalgonda districts were likely to face the most severe impact.

## CM Revanth Reddy calls for vigilance amid cyclone Montha effect on Telangana

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has urged officials to maintain a high level of vigilance in response to the rains affecting the state, attributed to Cyclone Montha. During a review meeting on Wednesday, he emphasised the necessity of implementing protective measures at paddy and cotton procurement centres.

The districts of Khammam, Warangal, and Nalgonda have been identified as the most severely impacted regions. In light of halted train services, the Chief Minister recommended alternative arrangements for affected passengers. He instructed various departments—including Revenue, Electricity, Panchayat Raj, Roads and Buildings, Medical and Health, Police, the Fire Department, and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)—to collaborate effectively. In Hyderabad, the Chief Minister urged the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), the SDRF, and Fire Department personnel to respond promptly to public requests. He ordered the evacuation of residents from low-lying areas at risk of flooding and requested continual monitoring of water levels in tanks and reservoirs.

Additionally, CM Reddy proposed imposing a ban on traffic on waterlogged roads and causeways. He highlighted the importance of sanitation and mosquito control measures



to prevent health issues, urging the Medical Department to prepare necessary medications and establish medical camps. He advised irrigation officials to monitor the water levels in reservoirs, ponds, and other bodies of water, ensuring timely communication with collectors and field staff about water release. To mitigate flooding impacts, he directed the advance preparation of sandbags at full ponds and reservoirs, and called for traffic restrictions on low-level bridges and causeways in affected areas, with police and revenue officials positioned to manage access.

## SC suggests legislature amend definition of ‘dependent’ under Employees’ Compensation Act, 1923

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

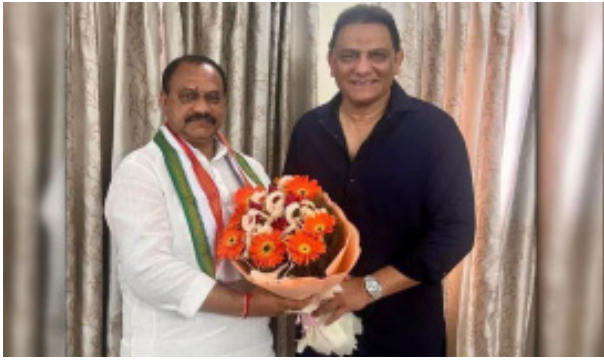
New Delhi: The Supreme Court has suggested that the legislature reconsider the outdated provisions of the Employees' Compensation Act, 1923, emphasizing the need to modernize century-old labour laws. A Bench of Justices Rajesh Bindal and Manmohan observed that certain clauses defining “dependents” in the 1923 Act have lost their relevance in the present socio-legal context. It pointed out the impracticality of the current wording in Section 2(1)(d)(iii)(d) of the Act, which defines a dependent as “a minor brother, or an unmarried sister or a widowed sister if a minor.”

“The Employee's Compensation Act was enacted in the year 1923. The definition of word ‘dependent’..... in Section 2(1)(d)(iii)(d) means ‘a minor brother or an unmarried sister or a widowed sister if a minor’. In the present time, no one will normally find a widowed sister who is a minor, especially after enactment of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955,” observed the Justice Bindal-led Bench. To address this issue, the Supreme Court directed that a copy of the order be forwarded to the Ministry of Law and Justice for further action. “In our view, the matter needs to be considered by the Law Commission of India for suitable amendment of the aforesaid provision or any other in the 1923 Act,” the order stated. “A copy of the order be sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, who may further refer the same to the Chairperson, Law Commission of India,” it added. The Special Leave Petition (SLP) stemmed from a Karnataka High Court decision which upheld compensation to two wid-



owed sisters of a deceased employee, recognizing them as his dependents under the Act. The insurance company had challenged the award, arguing that the statute only recognizes a “widowed sister if a minor” as a dependent and two widowed sisters were not minors at the time of his demise. After hearing arguments from both sides, the apex court said: “Keeping in view the amount involved in the present appeal, we do not wish to interfere with the impugned judgment. The appeal is accordingly dismissed, however, leaving the question of law open.” The top court registry was directed to inform the respondents, including two widowed sisters, about the dismissal of the appeal to enable withdrawal of the compensation amount deposited in the Karnataka High Court.

## Former cricketer Mohammed Azharuddin likely to be inducted into Telangana Cabinet



GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Hyderabad: In a desperate bid to tilt the scales in the Jubilee Hills bypoll, the Congress government has reportedly decided to induct former Indian cricket captain Mohammed Azharuddin into the State Cabinet, even though he is not a member of either the Assembly or the Legislative Council. He is expected to take oath as a Minister at the swearing-in ceremony scheduled for Friday. While official confirmation from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) or the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) is awaited, sources indicated that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy proposed Azharuddin's name, which was swiftly approved by the party high command.

The Congress leaders believe the move will counter the BRS campaign pointing to the absence of Muslim representation in both the Legislature and the Cabinet, which so far has been a first in Telangana's political history. The decision is being widely viewed as an overt attempt to woo the 1.3 lakh-strong Muslim electorate in Jubilee Hills, where the bypoll has turned into a referendum on the Revanth Reddy government's credibility.

With the BRS steadily gaining momentum and support swelling around Maganti Sunitha Gopinath, widow of three-time MLA, the late Maganti Gopinath, the Congress appears to be relying on token optics rather than ground connection. Azharuddin's induction is aimed at projecting minority representation and reviving Congress's pre-

Telangana connection with the Muslim community in Jubilee Hills, which has remained a BRS stronghold for the last several years. Ironically, Azharuddin had lost the same Jubilee Hills seat in 2023 by over 16,000 votes and has remained politically inactive since. He sought to contest in Jubilee Hills by-election again, but was recently nominated to the State Legislative Council along with Telangana Jana Samithi chief Prof M Kodandaram. While Governor Jishnu Dev Varma is yet to clear the file, the party sources said if it is rejected, Azharuddin will be nominated again for the Council in the two-three seats expected to fall vacant under other quotas by March next year.

## Train services remain disrupted in Telangana due to cyclone Montha rains

Hyderabad: Due to heavy rains caused by cyclone Montha, train services continued to remain disrupted on Wednesday. According to the South Central Railway (SCR), train operations were affected due to severe waterlogging at Dornakal Yard. The SCR has cancelled, partially cancelled, and diverted several services to ensure passenger safety. The trains that were fully cancelled on Wednesday included Train No. 67768 – Vijayawada to Dornakal, Train No. 67766 – Dornakal to Kazipet, Train No. 12748 – Vikarabad to Guntur, Train No. 07001 – Charlapalli to Tirupati, and Train No. 07251 – Charlapalli to Tiruchanur. Two services, Train No. 07252 – Tiruchanur to Charlapalli and Train No. 07002 – Tirupati to Charlapalli, have been cancelled for Thursday. The partially cancelled services are Train No. 67215 – Vijayawada to Bhadrachalam and Train No. 17034 – Sirpur Town to Bhadrachalam. SCR officials have advised passengers to check real-time updates through official communication channels and plan their travel accordingly. Restoration work is in progress, and train services will resume once track conditions improve, they said.



# Indian Chronicle

## English Daily

### Private investment revival: Govt must stay the course on reforms

For a long time, policy makers and experts have faced a curious conundrum: despite the high growth rate of India, generally fiscally prudent policies, and high capital expenditure, the country was not able to attract huge private investment. This seems to be changing, with data compiled by the investment monitoring firm Projects Today showing that in the second quarter of the current fiscal there was a steep rise in private sector investment plans. New outlays by private companies almost doubled to Rs 10.55 lakh crore in 1,800 projects, up from Rs 5.69 lakh crore in the same period in 2024-25.

In fact, the entire first half of 2025-26, witnessed a spurt in private investment. It touched Rs 34 lakh crore, which is a 22.3 per cent rise on a year-to-year basis. What is more encouraging is that manufacturing, the Indian economy's Achilles' heel, received considerable investment. Electricity projects also got a lot of money. This upturn is a happy break to the prolonged investment famine, a phenomenon that plagued India's post-pandemic recovery, the most distressing consequence of that being sluggish employment generation. A concomitant development has been a sharp rise in public expenditure; in fact, the government has borne the burden of infrastructure building in the last few years. Large-scale infrastructure spending did lead to the building of highways, ports, airports, energy networks, etc., but it was never a happy situation. For a long period, private players hesitated to put in their money in India, despite government functionaries, including Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, repeatedly beseeching them to do so. The present surge, therefore, will come as a pleasant surprise not just to the government but also everyone else.

### A Commerce Food Fest- Government Degree & P.G. College for Women



Hyderabad: The Department of Commerce & Computer Applications, in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC), organized a lively and innovative event titled "Taste and Trade – A Commerce Food Fest." The event was designed to blend culinary creativity with entrepreneurial learning, offering students a platform to apply classroom knowledge in a practical, business-oriented environment. The fest was inaugurated by Principal Prof. Appiya Chinnamma, who appreciated the initiative and encouraged students to embrace entrepreneurship as a path to innovation and self-reliance. The event was led by Head of the Department Dr. P. Manjula, with dedicated support from faculty members Dr. Anitha Monga, Prof. Prasanna Khadkikar, K. Aruna, Zehra Fatima, Dr. Rayees Fatima, Qudsiya Noureen, Syed Younus, Arshiya Fatima, Durga Bhavani, Shanthi, Juveriya Begum, and Gazala Unissa. The programme was graced by Academic Coordinator Dr. P. Latha, IQAC Coordinator Dr. Sreedevi, and faculty from various departments — Economics, English, Arabic, Urdu, Physics, Botany, Microbiology, Zoology, Chemistry, Political Science, History, Public administration, Hindi, and Telugu — all of whom commended the students for their innovation, teamwork, and enthusiasm.



### A Lesson for Every Parent and Every Member of Society One Accident, Hundreds of Lives Destroyed

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): One careless act can shatter hundreds of families. A single drunk driver on the road caused an accident that claimed 20 innocent lives. Behind those 20 victims were 20 families left in tears every home filled with grief and silence. Shankar's family, one among them, lost everything one wrong step changed their entire life. The bus driver, cleaner, and owner ended up in jail. The travel company's offices were shut down, leaving hundreds of employees jobless. Nearly 250 families were affected emotionally and financially crushed by this single tragedy. Businesses closed, families drowned in debt unable to pay rent or EMIs at the end of the month. This incident reminds us that one person's negligence can destroy the lives of hundreds. Parents, please know where your children are after 10 p.m. Don't say my child would never do that instead, teach them to be careful and responsible.

## Toshiba Invites Innovators to Shape the Future of IoT at GridDB Cloud IoT Hackathon



Hyderabad: Toshiba Digital Solutions Corporation, together with Toshiba Software India Pvt. Ltd., is pleased to announce the first ever GridDB Cloud IoT Hackathon, a two-day, in-person event that will take place in Bengaluru, India from January 31 to February 1, 2026. The hackathon invites startups, students, and developers to take on the challenge of developing real-time IoT applications using GridDB® Cloud, Toshiba's fully managed time-series database available on Microsoft Azure Marketplace.

Toshiba is organizing the hackathon to promote the capabilities of GridDB® Cloud, which became available

worldwide in April this year. GridDB® Cloud serves as a core data infrastructure for digital transformation, enabling organizations to collect and analyze large volumes of data, uncover valuable insights, and drive new business initiatives. Rapid data ingestion, low-latency querying, and robust reliability make it a stand-out into supporting real-time analytics and mission-critical operations across industries. Hackathon participants will have the opportunity to develop and prototype IoT solutions that address real-world challenges in areas as diverse as smart manufacturing, energy, mobility, and healthcare. The top five teams will be selected as finalists from a pool of online submissions. Applications are open now through December 14, 2025. For more details and to apply, please visit: [https://griddb-iot-hackathon.devpost.com/?utm\\_source=TDSL&utm\\_medium=webpage&utm\\_campaign=topics](https://griddb-iot-hackathon.devpost.com/?utm_source=TDSL&utm_medium=webpage&utm_campaign=topics)

## We Must Remember the Services of the Martyred Police Officers

Sudheer Babu, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda



Hyderabad: Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sudheer Babu, IPS, said that citizens should always support the police who dedicate their lives to serving the public. He emphasized that people themselves are also "police without uniforms" working for the betterment of society. As part of the Police Commemoration Week, a large awareness program was organized at Saroornagar Stadium under the leadership of Commissioner Sudheer Babu. The event was attended by over 2,000 people, including students, colony residents, and other members of the public. Prominent guests such as Suddala Ashok Teja, Sudheer Sandra, and Dr. Kavitha participated and inspired awareness among students and citizens. Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Sudheer Babu said that the Police Commemoration Week is observed every year to remember and honor the supreme sacrifices of police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty. He appreciated the commendable services of Rachakonda Police in providing safety and maintaining peace in society.

The Commissioner mentioned that within the Rachakonda Commissionerate, two Dial-100 calls are at-

tended every minute, reflecting the constant vigilance and responsiveness of the police. He added that officers work across six specialized divisions to ensure visible policing and provide round-the-clock safety to the public. He stated that the police are also extending support to senior citizens who live alone by visiting their homes and assisting them whenever necessary. Speaking about Operation Smile, he said it has helped the police come closer to the community. The Rachakonda Commissionerate has identified and rescued the highest number of child laborers in the country, giving them a brighter future through rehabilitation efforts. He urged citizens to cooperate with the police, reminding them that every responsible citizen is also a guardian of law and order. Commissioner Sudheer Babu proudly noted that Rachakonda Commissionerate has become the first NBW-free (Non-Bailable Warrants cleared) Commissionerate in the country. He added that special stalls were set up at the venue to showcase various police services and create public awareness. He reaffirmed that Rachakonda Police always stand at the forefront of friendly policing, while also taking strict action against anti-social and illegal activities.

Officers Present

The event was attended by several senior officers including:

Malkajgiri DCP Padmaja IPS, LB Nagar DCP Anuradha IPS, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri DCP Akanksh Yadav IPS, DCP Crimes Aravind Babu, DCP Admin Indira, DCP Women Safety Usha Rani, DCP Maheshwaram Sunitha Reddy, DCP SB G. Narasimha Reddy, DCP SOT Ramana Reddy, DCP Traffic-1 Srinivas, DCP Traffic-2 Srinivasulu, DCP Cyber Crimes Nagalakshmi, DCP Road Safety Manohar, DCP HQ Shyam Sunder, along with several Additional DCPs and ACPs.

## Uppal MLA Bhandari Laxma Reddy meets Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender, requests relocation of sewage treatment plant to non-residential zone



"VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 29 (Indian Chronicle): Uppal MLA Bhandari Laxma Reddy, along with local residents, met Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender and submitted a representation requesting the relocation of the sewer-

age treatment plant (STP) sanctioned behind Bhagath Hanuman Temple in Uppal Bhagayat to a non-residential zone. "Residents from Kurma Nagar, Uppal Hills, Lakshmi Narasimha Nagar, and Samadhan Society strongly objected to the construction of the STP near the Hanuman Temple, approved by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (HMWSSB). They stated that around 2,000 families have been residing in the area since 1997, and establishing an STP in a residential locality would cause foul odor, bacterial spread, and air and environmental pollution, ultimately affecting their health and well-being. "MP Etela Rajender assured that, keeping public welfare in mind, he would discuss the issue with the Managing Director of HMWSSB and seek reconsideration of the proposed STP location to protect residents' health and shift it to a suitable non-residential area. "The leaders and activists who accompanied them urged that necessary action be taken at the earliest. Several local leaders and workers participated in this meeting.

## Grand Idol Installation Ceremony Held at Nagaram Kashi Vishweshwara Swamy Temple



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Nagaram, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): A grand idol installation ceremony was held at the Sri Lakshmi Ganapati Annapurna Sahita Kashi Vishweshwara Swamy temple located on Road No. 8, S.V. Nagar, Nagaram. The event included the installation of idols of Sri Kodanda Ramanjaneya Swamy, Sri Subrahmanya Swamy with Valli and Devasena, Nagabandha, Mrutyunjaya, Medha Dakshinamurthy, Abhaya Anjaneya, and the Navagrahas. Various rituals such as Ganapati Puja, Punyahavachanam, Rudrabhishekam, Rudra Homam, Chandi Parayanam, Chandi Homam, Garbhanyasam, Yantra Pratishtha, Bimba Pratishtha, Netronmeelanam, Baliharana, Pranapratishtha, Kalanyasam, Kumbhabhishekam, Poornahuti, Shanti Kalyanam, and Annadanam were conducted. The ceremonies were performed under the guidance of Pratishthacharyas Jakki Krishnavadhani, Narahari Avadhani, Piratla Hemadurga Ramakrishna Sharma, and Haripavana Kumar Sharma, along with twenty Ritviks. Temple organizers M.V.L.N.

Shastri, chief priest Subrahmanya Sharma, assistants Jammalamadaka Srirama Sharma, temple president Dacha Srinivas Gupta, Erram Eshwaraiha Gupta, Linga Nagendra Gupta, P.V.V. Satyanarayana Narasimhaswamy Goud, Gangireddy Narendar Reddy, Marella Venkateshwar Rao, V. Narasimhaswamy Goud, and Anjaneya Shastri participated in the program.

## BC JAC Chairman Rupunar Ramesh Receives a Grand Honor

"Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas, October, 29, "Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas, October, 29, "BC leaders and BC JAC Chairman Rupunar Ramesh were felicitated at the Komaram Bheem Asifabad district headquarters on Tuesday. With the success of the recent state bandh under the auspices of BC JAC, participation in the BC movement has increased. The leaders asked Ramesh to lead a large-scale movement under their leadership in the future and achieve 42% reservation. BC JAC District Coordinator Avida Pranay, BC Youth Association District President Maromidi Kiran, BC District Leaders Sheikh Asad, Kiran and others participated in the program.

## Dr. Syeda Naseem Sultana Appointed as Telangana President of AIUB Education Wing



Hyderabad: In a significant announcement, Dr. Syeda Naseem Sultana has been appointed as the President of the Education Wing, Telangana Chapter of the All India Ulama Board (AIUB). The appointment follows a comprehensive process of discussions, applications, and interviews overseen by the Supreme Body of AIUB.

The official notification, issued and signed by Maulana Naushad Ahmad Siddiqui, National President of the All India Ulama Board, expressed the organization's confidence in Dr. Sultana's commitment to advancing the Board's educational vision in Telangana. Her appointment is subject to successful completion of the final reference verification.

Welcoming the appointment, Maulana Naushad Ahmad Siddiqui stated, "We are pleased to welcome Dr. Syeda Naseem Sultana into this esteemed role. Her academic insight and leadership qualities will undoubtedly strengthen our mission to promote education, values, and harmony within the community."

## Special Super Luxury Bus from Kushaiguda to Arunachalam for Karthika Pournami



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Kushaiguda, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): On the occasion of Karthika Pournami, a special Super Luxury bus has been arranged for devotees traveling to Arunachala Giri Pradakshina from the Kushaiguda Depot, announced Depot Manager V. Venugopal. The bus will depart from ECIL on November 3 at 6 PM, passing through Kanipakam and Golden Temple, and will reach Arunachalam. The return journey will start from Arunachalam on November 5 afternoon and reach Hyderabad on the morning of November 6. The ticket fare is ₹4000 per person. Reservations can be made through the website [www.tgsrbus.in](http://www.tgsrbus.in) or at any nearby ATB agent. For more details, contact 9603544938 or 7382819873.

## Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy Blesses Newlywed Couple



"Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 29 (Indian Chronicle): The wedding of Meghana Reddy, daughter of senior Congress leader from Habsiguda, Janampalli Venkateshwar Reddy, with Vasishtha Reddy was grandly held on Wednesday at BMR Convention, Sagar Road, Mannegeuda. Uppal constituency Congress in-charge Parameshwar Reddy attended the ceremony and blessed the newlyweds. "Congress leaders Ganesh Naik, Garika Sudhakar, and several other leaders also participated and conveyed their blessings to the couple.



## Congress Accused of Conspiracy to Deprive Poor Students of Education: ABVP Warns of Intensified Agitations.



rights of students, not privileges, and warned that any attempt to deprive the underprivileged of educational opportunities would meet with fierce resistance.”Rajasekhar further highlighted that many students who have completed their degree, postgraduate, and engineering courses are unable to obtain their certificates due to pending dues, thereby losing access to higher studies and employment opportunities. “Their lives are being plunged into darkness by the government’s indifference,” he added.”Decrying the state of the education system, he remarked that governments continue to change, but the plight of the education sector remains the same. He alleged that the ruling party is conspiring to distance the poor from education, and cautioned that if this continues, the Congress will face severe public backlash.”Rajasekhar also criticized the government for boasting about new international schools and universities, while simultaneously failing to protect the existing education structure. He warned that if the government does not immediately release the pending scholarships and reimbursements, ABVP will intensify its agitation across the state.”The protest witnessed participation from several key leaders, including SFD State Co-Convener Maram Sandeep, SFS State Co-Convener Omesh, Vibhag Hostels Convener Rasuri Praveen, State Executive Members Ajay, City Secretary Jangapalli Aravind, and student leaders Aravind, Ganesh, Dinesh, Jashwanth, Deva, and Vignesh, along with a large number of students.

## People should be careful with the cyclone Motha

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



duties. He said that the cattle should not touch the electricity poles and transformers and should not be left outside in the rains. He asked the village panchayat secretaries to make people aware by making tom-toms in the village and not letting anyone come out.”He told the concerned officials not to let anyone go near the ponds and canals. He asked that the grain should be covered with tarpaulins at the grain purchase centers so that the grain does not get wet.”He told the medical officials to take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of diseases by making medical staff available in the villages. “ In the areas where there is a lot of flow at the level causeways, the police, revenue and panchayat raj departments should coordinate with the team to prevent people from crossing the streams and small bridges by erecting barricades and appointing staff.”It was advised that no one should stay under the trees as there is a possibility of lightning due to the rains. All GPOs, VRAs and panchayat secretaries should ensure that no untoward incident happens in your villages again and should alert the people from time to time. People should not stay in the stone buildings, and awareness should be created that no one should go around them... Rehabilitation centers should be set up nearby and the people should be informed.”The concerned officials participated in this zoom meeting.

## MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna Orders Thorough Probe Into Devastating Explosion at Katnapalli Rice Mill.



profound sorrow and concern, the MP conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the victims and their families, and wished a speedy and complete recovery for those injured.”He reiterated that the safety and welfare of citizens remain the government’s highest priority, and assured that necessary support and relief measures would be extended at the earliest.

In the wake of heavy rains, the grievance program to resolve people's problems every Thursday has been canceled

- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..October 29):- In the wake of heavy rains, the grievance program to resolve people's problems every Thursday has been canceled, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said in a statement today. Therefore, since the people of the district are experiencing heavy rains, this grievance has been canceled with the intention of not having to come to the collectorate and face any problems, he said, and the grievance will be held as usual on the next Thursday.

## Uppal MLA Urges MP Etela Rajender to Relocate Proposed STP Near Hanuman Temple

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): Uppal MLA Meets Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender Over STP Location Issue Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy met Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender and submitted a representation requesting the relocation of the proposed Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) behind Hanuman Temple in Uppal Bhagayath. Residents of four nearby colonies Kurma Nagar, Uppal Hills, Lakshmi Narasimha Nagar, and Samadhan Society have strongly opposed the construction of the STP in the area. They pointed out that around 2,000 families have been living there since 1997 and expressed serious concerns over the potential foul smell, bacterial spread, and air and environmental pollution that could affect their health and well-being. Taking the concerns into consideration, MP Etela Rajender assured the MLA that he would discuss the issue with the Managing Director of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply & Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) and request a review of the proposed STP location. He also promised



to seek an alternative non-residential site to prevent inconvenience to the residents. Several local leaders and activists participated in the meeting.

## Public awareness seminar on central government public safety schemes

Bhuvanagiri Municipal Commissioner Ramalingam



(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle October 29):- An awareness program was organized on financial literacy, public safety schemes, and the reorganized PM SVANidhi scheme for street vendors in Bhuvanagiri Municipality on Thursday.”This program was organized under the auspices

of the District Lead Bank, MEPM, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District. Canara Bank Head Office Deputy General Manager Subba Rao and Bhuvanagiri Municipal Commissioner Ramalingam attended as the chief guests and made the public aware about the central government public safety schemes. On this occasion, the people were thoroughly explained about the Re-KYC of PMJDY accounts, membership registration in PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY schemes, prevention of digital frauds, claim procedure for unclaimed deposits, as well as new changes in the restructured PM SVANidhi scheme.

The main objective of this awareness camp is to widely spread the importance of banking services, social security schemes, and digital financial facilities among the people. Lead Bank Manager Shiva Ramakrishna, MEPMA Project Director Ramesh Babu, MEPMA Coordinator Shyamala, Canara Bank Regional Manager Shanti Kumar, Chief Manager Mithin Raj, members of women's groups, street vendors, MEPMA resource persons and local people participated in this program.

## Police Martyrs’ Week Observed: Citizens Are Policemen Without Uniforms, Says Rachakonda CP Sudheer Babu IPS

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sudheer Babu IPS emphasized that police officers dedicate their lives to public service and that citizens should actively cooperate with them. For a better society, every citizen must act like a policeman without a uniform, he said. As part of Police Martyrs’ Week, a large awareness program was held at Saroomagar Stadium under the supervision of CP Sudheer Babu. Around 2,000 people, including students and residents, participated. Prominent guests such as lyricist Suddala Ashok Teja, Sudheer Sandra, and Dr. Kavitha attended the event and inspired the participants. Speaking on the occasion, CP Sudheer Babu said that the Martyrs’ Week reminds everyone of the sacrifices made by police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty. He praised the dedicated services of Rachakonda Police in delivering quality service to the public. He noted that in the Rachakonda Commissionerate, two Dial-100 calls are attended every minute, and police officers provide services through six specialized divisions under the visible policing concept to ensure public safety. He also mentioned that the police visit the homes of senior citizens living alone to offer assistance and protection. Through Operation Smile, Rachakonda Police have rescued a large number of child laborers, giving them a new future. CP Sudheer Babu highlighted that Rachakonda Commissionerate stands as the first NBW-free (Non-Bailable Warrant-free) commissionerate in the country. He urged citizens to recognize the sacrifices of police officers who often lose their lives while serving society. To create public awareness about police services, various information stalls were set up at the venue. While maintaining friendly policing, Rachakonda Police will also continue to act firmly against any illegal activities, he added. Speaking on the occasion, Suddala Ashok Teja said that everyone must be grateful to the police and that citizens should also act as friendly and responsible individuals. “The peace we enjoy today is possible because of the sacrifices and commitment of our police force,” he said. Sudheer Sandra advised students to stay away from the negative influence of social media and



to maintain discipline in society. He urged everyone to respect police officers and stay aware of issues like drug abuse, ragging, and other social evils. Later, CP Sudheer Babu and guests visited the stalls displaying various police services and safety awareness exhibits. The event was attended by senior officers including DCP Malkajgiri Padmaja IPS, DCP LB Nagar Anuradha IPS, DCP Yadadri Bhongir Akanksh Yadav IPS, DCP Crimes Aravind Babu, DCP Admin Indira, DCP Women Safety Usha Rani, DCP Maheshwaram Sunitha Reddy, DCP SB Narasimha Reddy, DCP SOT Ramana Reddy, DCP Traffic-I Srinivas, DCP Traffic-II Srinivasulu, DCP Cyber Crimes Nagalakshmi, DCP Road Safety Manohar, and DCP HQ Shyam Sundar, along with additional DCPs and ACPs.

## Uppal Constituency Congress Party Incharge Parameshwar Reddy Campaigns Alongside Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy in Rahmath Nagar Division

“Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 29 (Indian Chronicle):”Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy stated that the Congress candidate Naveen Yadav’s victory in the Jubilee Hills by-election is certain. He asserted that no matter how much false propaganda is spread, the Congress party will win in Jubilee Hills.”On Wednesday, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, along with Uppal Constituency Congress Party Incharge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, participated in an extensive campaign across the Rahmath Nagar Division and workers’ colonies in support of Naveen Yadav’s victory.”During the event, over 200 Gangaputra families joined the Congress party in the presence of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, leaving the BRS party.”Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy strongly condemned the false propaganda by the BRS party, stating that people are no longer in a position to believe their allegations. He reiterated that no one can stop Naveen Yadav’s victory in Jubilee Hills.Congress leaders and workers from Uppal Constituency — including Dharpalli Rajasekhar and Vajresh Yadav — actively participated in the campaign.





# Tree Plantation Drive Held at Shanthi Vanam as Part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Boduppal, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): As part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025, a tree plantation program was organized today (October 29, 2025) at Shanthi Vanam in Boduppal Municipality limits under the guidance of Director General of Vigilance and Enforcement, Shikha Goel, IPS, and supervision of Regional Vigilance and Enforcement Officer, Hyderabad Rural Unit, Palvai Srinivas Reddy. The event was conducted in coordination with the Forest Department. During the program, Medchal–Malkajigiri District Forest Officer M. Venu Madhav emphasized the importance of creating a corruption-free Telangana and called on everyone to promote awareness about vigilance. He urged citizens to ensure that



public funds are not misused and to actively cooperate with the Forest Department. He added that government initiatives can succeed only with public participation. Posters were unveiled, and vigilance pledges were administered to walkers, forest staff, and Boduppal Municipality employees. Speaking on the occasion, Regional Vigilance and Enforcement Officer Palvai Srinivas Reddy said that it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard government funds and that officials must perform their duties with integrity. He encouraged the public to report any grievances or irregularities to the Vigilance Department. Boduppal Municipal Commissioner Shailaja stated that citizens should bring local issues to the attention of the municipality and act responsibly as members of society. The event was attended by Keesara Forest Range Officer J. Vishnuvardhan Rao, Uppal Forest Range Officer Sharath Chandra, vigilance officials, municipal staff, and morning walkers at Shanthi Vanam.

# Ayyappa Devotion Reflects the Spirit of Service — Tahsildar Dhaniyala Venkateshwarlu



“Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri Kothagudem Bureau,October 29,Indian Chronicle:Bhadrachalam Tahsildar Dhaniyala Venkateshwarlu attended the weekly Annadanam (free meal distribution) programme held every Wednesday at the Sri Ayyappa Temple in Bhadrachalam and served meals to devotees as part of the service initiative.“Highlighting the significance of Annadanam, the Tahsildar said that feeding the needy is considered one of the most sacred services to God. “Annadatha Sukhibhava is a divine message that promotes compassion and ensures that hunger is relieved while spiritual merit is earned,” he stated. He emphasized that devotion to Lord Ayyappa is rooted in humility, discipline, and noble conduct, and encouraged more devotees to take part in such service activities.“Speaking about Ayyappa Mandala Deeksha, he noted that the Ayyappa tradition stands as a symbol of tolerance, equality, and moral strength. He added that the pilgrimage to Sabarimala embodies mental restraint, discipline, and deep devotion.“Priests conducted special rituals with Vedic chanting, and the temple premises echoed with devotional chants of “Harivarasanam” and “Harahara Swamiye Saranam Ayyappa” as a large number of devotees participated in the event.“Temple committee members, Ayyappa Deeksha Swamis, and volunteers played a key role in organizing the programme. The organizers stated that the Annadanam service will continue every week for the benefit of devotees.

# KARIMNAGAR PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCY RECEIVED HIGHEST CENTRAL FUNDS –

UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR HOME AFFAIRS & DISHA COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN BANDI SANJAY KUMAR"

“CH. MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU , OCTOBER 29, INDIAN CHRONICLE“Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and District Development, Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA) Chairman Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency has received the highest amount of central funds in the state, and that his focus remains on development beyond party lines.The DISHA Committee meeting for Karimnagar and Rajanna-Sircilla districts was held on Wednesday at the Karimnagar Collectorate Auditorium. Chairing the meeting, Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that numerous central funds have been sanctioned for the overall development of the constituency. He emphasized that suggestions and advice from representatives of any political party are always welcome for the sake of development.“He added that the development of villages across Telangana has been made possible largely due to central government funds, and that cooperation between the Centre and the State is essential for achieving overall growth. He revealed that 7851 crore in MP funds have been allocated for the development of Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency.“To improve healthcare services, he stated that modern equipment is being installed in government hospitals at Huzurabad, Husnabad, Jammikunta, and Sircilla, and directed officials to appoint adequate staff and doctors. He further mentioned that 15,000 bicycles have been distributed to government school students free of cost, and an additional 5,000 bicycles are ready for distribution. This initiative, he said, has significantly reduced school dropout rates.“Bandi Sanjay warned officials that strict action will be taken if PM SHRI funds are diverted to other programs. He instructed them to report if government schools lack toilets or basic facilities and directed that all projects sanctioned under MP funds be completed on a war footing.“He also reviewed ongoing works such as the Ganneruvaram Bridge and the Karimnagar ROB under the Central “Setu Bandhan” scheme, urging officials to expedite their completion.“He advised that all essential medicines be made available in government hospitals and asked officials to submit a four-year medicine requirement report, assuring that funds would be arranged. He instructed them to complete Ayushman Bharat registrations quickly.“Bandi Sanjay announced that Anganwadi teachers in Karimnagar and Sircilla districts will be provided with free tablets to help them submit daily reports. He also stressed the need to promote awareness among the public about central schemes related to solar power usage.“During the meeting, Teachers' MLC Malka Komarayya urged authorities to improve basic amenities like toilets and electricity in schools. He pointed out that several schools still lack basic facilities and suggested increasing the salaries of Kasturba School staff and ensuring regular payment for Model School employees. He asked officials to identify dropout students and take steps to bring them back to school.Graduates' MLC Chinnamali Anjireddy said that widespread awareness should be created among the public about central govern-



ment schemes. He praised the Centre for spending significant funds in education and healthcare and implementing various welfare programs, urging officials to ensure that people at the village level fully benefit from these initiatives.Karimnagar District Collector Pamela Satpathy, Sircilla Incharge Collector Garima Agarwal, Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Wakade and Lakshmi Kiran, Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai, and several other officials participated in the meeting.

# Traffic Awareness Program Held at ECIL Bus Stand as Part of Police Martyrs Memorial Week

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Kusaiguda, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): As part of Police Martyrs' Memorial Week, the Kusaiguda Traffic Police conducted an awareness program Wednesday, at 1:00 PM near the ECIL Bus Stand. The event aimed to educate RTC bus drivers, students, and commuters about traffic safety rules and responsible road behavior. The participants paid tribute to the sacrifices of police martyrs and expressed solidarity by observing a moment of remembrance at the venue. The program was organized under the supervision of SHO N. Rama Lakshmana Raju, along with SIs G. Madhu and N. Bhaskar, and the traffic staff.



# Vote for the Car Symbol to Uphold Gopanna’s Ideals: Sunitha Gopinath

“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Hyderabad, October 29 (Indian Chronicle):“Braving heavy rain, BRS party candidate for Jubilee Hills constituency, Sunitha Gopinath, continued her election campaign. Despite the downpour, she campaigned vigorously in Booth Nos. 294, 295, and 296 of Yellareddyguda, appealing to voters to cast their votes for the Car symbol and ensure her victory.“Sunitha Gopinath reminded voters of the various development works carried out by Gopinath during his three terms as MLA and emphasized that she would continue his vision and service. She highlighted the progress achieved under the TRS government's tenure and urged people to support the Car symbol to continue that development.“Accompanying her in the campaign were former minister and MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy, MLC Naveen Reddy, state leaders Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, former Somajiguda corporator Mahesh Yadav, and several BRS leaders from Somajiguda, who participated actively in the door-to-door campaign.



# Medchal Congress Leaders Campaign for Naveen Yadav in Jubilee Hills By-Election



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Boduppal, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): In connection with the Jubilee Hills by-election, several Congress leaders from Medchal constituency participated in a campaign rally supporting Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the Rahmath Nagar division. As part of the campaign, State Minority Finance Corporation Chairman Obaidulla Kotwal, Medchal constituency in-charge Thotakura Vajresh Yadav, former Boduppal ex Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav, B Block General Secretary Kotha Kishore Goud, former ex Corporator Bhukya Suman, and several local leaders conducted a door-to-door campaign in Sri Ram Nagar, Rahmath Nagar Division, appealing to voters to support the Congress candidate in the upcoming by-election.

# Reward Distributed to Three Former CPI Maoist Members Who Recently Surrendered Before District Police

“Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri kothagudem Bureau,October 29,Indian Chronicle:Bhadradri Kothagudem Superintendent of Police Rohit Raju handed over reward cheques totaling Rs 9,50,000 to three former members of the banned CPI Maoist party who surrendered before the district police in recent months. The programme was held at the SP Office on Wednesday.“Details of the beneficiaries:“ 1. Ram Singh Kaude alias Naroti Manish alias Lokesh alias Akash, aged 40, resident of Devgaon village, Edka Police Station limits, Narayanpur District, Chhattisgarh State. Reward amount: Rs 5,00,000“ 2. Muchiki Sondal alias Naresh, aged 30, resident of Rampur village, Usoor Police Station limits, Bijapur District. Reward amount: Rs 3,75,000“ 3. S o d i Bhime, daughter of Deva, aged 30, resident of Duled village, Chintaguppa Police Station limits, Sukma District, Chhattisgarh State. Reward amount: Rs 75,000“Speaking on the occasion, the SP stated that the government reward has been sanctioned to support the rehabilitation of those who abandoned the banned CPI Maoist party and joined the mainstream. He noted that Maoist leaders have long exploited innocent tribal youth, forcing them into unlawful activities under outdated and misguided ideologies for self-ish gains.“The SP assured that the district police will provide full support to all those who surrender and wish to re-



build their lives peacefully within the democratic framework. He appealed to the remaining Maoist cadres to give up arms and work legally for the rights and welfare of the people.“He also urged individuals willing to surrender to approach their local police, their relatives, or directly the SP Office at any time. He emphasized that all government benefits due to surrendered members will be made available at the earliest.“Additional SP Operations Narendar and RI Operations Ravi participated in the programme.

# Celebrate the public meeting of the CPI centenary celebrations to be held in Khammam on December 26

CPI National Secretary Palla Venkat Reddy

“Central government has handed over LIC to private corporate Adani.. Palla Venkat Reddy ““(Mandava Srisaillam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. October 29):- CPI National Secretary Palla Venkat Reddy alleged that the BJP government at the center is tying up the Rs.33 thousand crore people's insurance money in LIC to the Adani company and is acting in a favorable manner for corporate companies. On Wednesday, the CPI Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Council meeting was held at the local district party office under the chairmanship of MD Imran. CPI National Secretary Palla Venkat Reddy attended the meeting as the chief guest and said that LIC is a symbol of the trust of crores of people. Leaving this institution in the hands of private companies means playing with the future of the people. The central government is giving away the country's wealth to corporates and gradually weakening public sector enterprises, and people have called for an uprising against the government's decision. The Communist Party of India (CPI) centenary celebration closing public meeting to be held in Khammam on December 26 will remain a historic event and every activist has been called to gather in Khammam for this. He said that the CPI has built many struggles and movements in its 100 years of existence, stood at the forefront of the country's independence struggle, and it is the Communist Party that led the armed struggle for Telangana and drove out the Razakars. Speaking, MLC Nellikanti Satyam said that farmers who are losing lands in RRR should be supported, the central government should immediately approve the BC reservation, and expressed his concern that the crops will be damaged due to heavy rains across the state due to the low pressure in the atmosphere. He said that the government has the responsibility to purchase soaked paddy and cotton at the support price. He asked them to purchase immediately without causing problems in the name of moisture content of paddy and cotton. He urged the government to provide proper facilities to farmers to protect their paddy from getting wet. Similarly, he called for a successful public meeting to conclude the CPI centenary celebrations in Khammam on December 26. The meeting was presided over by district executive member MD Imran, while the program was attended by CPI district secretary Yanala Damodar Reddy, district assistant secretaries Bolagani Satyanarayana, Chede Chandrayya, Rashtira Samithi member Goda Sriramulu, district executive members Kolluri Rajayya, Kallem Krishna, Bandi Jangamma, Bachchanagoni Galayya, Chekka Venkatesh, Kusumani



Harichandra, Eshala Ashok, Palle Sekhar Reddy, Chigurla Lingam, Peraboyna Mahender, district Samithi members Gadegani Manikyam, Annepu Venkat, Kallepalli Mahender, Rekala Srinivas, Dasari Lakshmaiah, Goreti Ramulu, Babburi Sridhar, Aleeti Balaraju, Eng. Hemalatha, Vadlakonda Bharatamma and others participated.

# Heavy Rains Lash Charlapally Division Due to Cyclone Montha Impact

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): Cherlapally Division Corporator Bonthu Sridevi Yadav issues public appeal Continuous heavy rainfall has been reported across Charlapally Division following the impact of Cyclone Montha. Corporator Bonthu Sridevi Yadav alerted the GHMC Hydra team to remain on standby and take immediate action wherever required. She stated that she will fully support residents of all colonies during this period and closely monitor the situation to ensure quick response from the Hydra team and other concerned departments. She also urged local leaders and volunteers to stay available and assist the public in case of emergencies.



## Congress government should fulfill the promises made to Kallu Geeta workers



Bhuvanagiri Yadadri District Kallu Geeta Karmika Sangam District Assistant Secretary Konda Ashok\*\*\*\*Konda Ashok elected as the District Assistant Secretary of Bhuvanagiri Yadadri District Kallu Geeta Karmika Sangam.\*\*\*\*(Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle October 29):- The 4th general meeting of the Kallu Geeta Karmika Sangam District was held in Choutuppal town yesterday and Konda Ashok from Muthireddygudem village of Bhuvanagiri mandal was

elected as the District Assistant Secretary and Pandala Maisayya, Maccha Bhaskar, Rampalli Somulu, Matta Balaraju, Ranga Kondal, Gaddamidi Somulu from various villages in the mandal were elected as the members of the district committee, Konda Ashok informed in a statement. Speaking on this occasion, Konda Ashok said that the Congress government should implement the promises made to the Geeta workers before the elections. They expressed their concern that the Geeta workers were climbing palm trees despite the danger to earn a living, and that many families were losing their entire house due to accidents while climbing the trees. They said that if they were permanently disabled, the entire family was suffering, and they were facing difficulties because the ex-gratia that the government promised to give them was pending for years. They suggested that the government should still pay the pending ex-gratia. They demanded that the government provide everyone with the protective gear provided by the government to prevent accidents, increase the pension to Rs. 4,000 and the ex-gratia to Rs. 10 lakh as promised in the elections, allocate funds for neera, palm and eitha products and provide employment to the youth, start the neera production center built in Nandanam village, and plant palm and eitha trees on government lands in the villages to provide employment to Geeta workers. They said that they would continue their struggles under the auspices of the association in the coming period to achieve these goals.

## Madiga Dandora Forum Extends Full Support to Congress Candidate Naveen Yadav in Jubilee Hills By-Election

\*\*\*\*NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): During the Jubilee Hills by-election, the Madiga Dandora Joint Forum extended its full support to Congress candidate Naveen Yadav. Forum leaders appreciated Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for implementing the SC sub-categorization and expressed confidence in the government's commitment to social justice. State Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Adduri Laxman Kumar participated in the meeting, where Madiga leaders Medi Papayya, Munjagalla Vijay Kumar, Jannu Kanakaraju, and Madiga Ituk Raju pledged to work actively for Naveen Yadav's victory with a strong majority. A large number of local leaders from the Jubilee Hills constituency took part in the program.



## People should be careful with the cyclone..they should come out of the house only if it is urgent



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao\*\*\*\*All officials should be alert.\*\*\*\* \*Authorities should monitor at all times to prevent any damage\*\*\*\*(Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..October 29):- In the wake of the heavy rains, the Additional Collectors, Revenue, RDO, Police, Irrigation, EER&B, Fire, Municipal Commissioners, Tahsildars, MPDOs and district, mandal and village level officials of all departments held a zoom meeting on Wednesday to discuss the steps to be taken in the district. The District Collector directed the concerned officials to take precautions in the wake of the rains. Speaking on this occasion, the District Collector said... Since there are heavy rains for the next two to three days, no one in every village should come out unnecessarily, travel, or live in dilapidated houses. Those

who lived in such conditions should be identified and shifted to other safe places. He advised that no one should go into the closed catchment areas, fishing in the river or let the cattle go. He also asked that no one should go near the ponds and aluguls. He asked all the staff from the village level to the district level to take proper precautions and perform their duties. He said that the cattle should not touch the electricity poles and transformers and should not be left outside in the rains. He asked the village panchayat secretaries to make people aware by making tom-toms in the village and not letting anyone come out."He told the concerned officials not to let anyone go near the ponds and canals. He asked that the grain should be covered with tarpaulins at the grain purchase centers so that the grain does not get wet."He told the medical officials to take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of diseases by making medical staff available in the villages." In the areas where there is a lot of flow at the level causeways, the police, revenue and panchayat raj departments should coordinate with the team to prevent people from crossing the streams and small bridges by erecting barricades and appointing personnel."It was advised that no one should stay under the trees as there is a possibility of lightning due to the rains. All GPOs, VRAs and panchayat secretaries should ensure that no untoward incident happens in your villages again and should alert the people from time to time. People should not stay in the collapsed buildings, and awareness should be created that no one should go around them... Rehabilitation centers should be set up nearby and the people should be informed."The concerned officials participated in this zoom meeting.

## Tungaturthi Ravi Urges Public to Stay Vigilant as "Montha" Cyclone Brings Heavy Rains

\*\*\*\*NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Peerzadiguda, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): Tungaturthi Ravi, President of the Peerzadiguda Congress Party, has urged people across Telangana to stay alert as continuous rains persist due to the "Montha" cyclone formed from a low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal. He advised residents to step out only for essential needs and to take extra care of children and the elderly. With a red alert issued for the Greater Ranga Reddy region, Ravi appealed to parents not to send children to school until conditions improve. He also cautioned citizens and vehicle owners to stay away from electric poles and waterlogged areas to prevent accidents during the heavy rainfall period.



## The youth of the country have made many innovations while competing with the world... Governor Jishnu Dev Sharma..



"Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU October 29: State Governor Jishnu Dev Verma has called for changes in education by adopting modern technologies. He also said that we should not forget the culture of our country. The Governor

inaugurated the 54th meeting of the Boards of School Education held in Hyderabad Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations C.I. S.C.E. It will be held for 3 days. Representatives of schools from different countries and representatives of Cambridge University were present in this meeting. On this occasion, the Governor"A student's step toward learning speaking"Lesson topics to increase interest in They want to be. Competing with the world. The youth of the country has many innovations They say it will be done. In the first stage itself.Civilization to be taught to students"They are culturally aware"They want to ensure that there is awareness.While creating the subjects"Keep this in mindGovernor suggested.Bhinna"India is a country of cultures But there should be no differences here."Our students are international Good opportunities at the level"They said they were giving it to him.

## Satavahana Express train to be stopped in Jangaon from today

Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy



\*\*\*\*With the efforts of Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy, today's Satavahana Express from Bhuvanagiri will be stopped in Jangaon.. Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala \*\*\*\*(Manduva Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..October

29):- Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy has requested South Central Railway General Manager Sanjay Kumar Sri Vatsava last month to grant an additional stoppage to the South Central Railway Vijayawada - Secunderabad Satavahana Express (Train Nos. 12713/12714) train at Jangaon railway station. Announced. This facility will be implemented on an experimental basis from October 30, 2025."Jangaon district is a rapidly developing area. People, students, employees and businessmen here often travel to Hyderabad and Vijayawada, and the stoppage of the Satavahana Express at Jangaon station will increase the convenience of travel for the people and improve regional connectivity

. Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that he sincerely thanks the South Central Railway management for respecting this public appeal and responding immediately. He also said that this decision will be very useful for the people of the surrounding areas of Jangaon, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said.

## Food Distribution for Orphans and Elderly on First Death Anniversary of Barl Shivakumar Mudiraj

\*\*\*\*NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Ghatakesar, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): On the occasion of the first death anniversary of Barl Shivakumar Mudiraj, the Jan Chaitanya Seva Samiti, under the guidance of founder Abbasani Yadagiri Yadav and organized by JCSS organizer secretary Sivarathri Suresh, arranged a food distribution for orphans and elderly at Amma Nanna Anatha Seva Trust in Ghatakesar Municipality. The event was attended by EWSS Colony President Keshavapatnam Anjaneyulu Pantulu, General Secretary Shashidharan, former ward members Barl Devender Mudiraj, Nagabhushanam Chari, Dantala Anil Kumar, Gorakanti Ravinder, Shyamala Mutyal, Barl Sahadev Mudiraj, Barl Ganesh Mudiraj, Yanjala Prashanth, Rampalli Shiv Kumar, along with other trust members.



## Ranjith Singh Urges Continuation of Free Electricity Scheme for Rajaka and Nai Brahmin Communities



\*\*\*\*VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 29 (Indian Chronicle):\*\*\*\*Greater Hyderabad BC Association Gen-

eral Secretary Ranjith Singh has urged the government to immediately take appropriate action regarding the removal of subsidized meters connected to the 250-unit free electricity scheme for Rajaka (washermen) and Nai Brahmin (barber) communities.He stated that in some areas, electricity meters are being disconnected, and GHMC officials are issuing notices saying commercial property tax will be imposed if the meters remain. He appealed to Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar to ensure the continuation of this welfare scheme."Ranjith Singh recalled that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) implemented this scheme in 2021, but after the Congress government came to power, funds were not being allocated for its continuation.He expressed concern that the electricity meters of Rajaka and Nai Brahmin households are being cut off due to non-payment of pending bills, as the promised subsidy has not been implemented. As a result, these communities are facing severe hardships.He brought to notice that bills have been pending for the past three years, and appealed to District In-charge Minister Sridhar Babu to bring this issue to the attention of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and ensure the immediate implementation of the free electricity scheme.

## Public awareness seminar on central government public safety schemes

Bhuvanagiri Municipal Commissioner Ramalingam"

"(Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle October 29):- An awareness program was organized on financial literacy, public safety schemes, and the reorganized PM SVANidhi scheme for street vendors in Bhuvanagiri Municipality on Thursday."This program was organized under the auspices of the District Lead Bank, MEPM, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District. Canara Bank Head Office Deputy General Manager Subba Rao and Bhuvanagiri Municipal Commissioner Ramalingam attended as the chief guests and made the public aware about the central government public safety schemes. On this occasion, the people were thoroughly explained about the Re-KYC of PMJDY accounts, membership registration in PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY schemes, prevention of digital frauds, claim procedure for unclaimed deposits, as well as new changes in the restructured PM SVANidhi scheme. The main objective of this awareness camp is to widely spread the importance of banking services, social security schemes, and digital financial facilities among the people. Lead Bank Manager Shiva



Ramakrishna, MEPMA Project Director Ramesh Babu, MEPMA Coordinator Shyamala, Canara Bank Regional Manager Shanti Kumar, Chief Manager Mithin Raj, members of women's groups, street vendors, MEPMA resource persons and local people participated in this program.

## Let's Remember the Martyrs... Let's Pay Tribute to the Police Heroes: Uppal Traffic Inspector G. Nagaraju



\*\*\*\*KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, October 29 (Indian Chronicle):\*\*\*\*As part of the Police Martyrs' Memorial

Day observance, the Uppal Traffic Police organized a tribute program on Wednesday in the presence of students from Sri Chaitanya Junior College, Ramanthapur. Speaking on the occasion, officials said that police officers play a vital role in maintaining peace and security in society. Whether facing crises, disasters, or daily duties, their dedication, courage, discipline, and compassion remain steadfast. They risk their lives for the welfare of others, serving selflessly in the line of duty."Inspector G. Nagaraju emphasized that the best way to honor the ideals of the police martyrs is by respecting the law and following traffic rules, which upholds the very values they sacrificed their lives for."During the event, floral tributes were offered to the police martyrs."Uppal Traffic Inspector G. Nagaraju, officers Babbha Naik, G. Mallesh, Sub-Inspectors Ramesh, Madhav Rao, and other police staff participated in the program.



# Kapil Sharma’s cafe attacked for the third time in Surrey



GNS News Agency, Oct 29

This attack comes amid heightened concerns over organized crime in Surrey’s South Asian community. This attack comes amid heightened concerns over organized crime in Surrey’s South Asian community. In a brazen escalation of violence, Kap’s Cafe, the popular eatery owned by Indian comedian Kapil Sharma, was targeted in a third shooting incident today, just weeks after reopening following two prior attacks this summer. The gunfire erupted early Thursday morning outside the cafe’s location at 120 Street and 85 Avenue, marking the latest chapter in a troubling wave of assaults on the business.

According to Surrey Police Service (SPS), officers responded to reports of shots fired around 4:30 a.m. PT. No injuries were reported, but video footage circulating online captures the chaotic scene: muzzle flashes from a vehicle

as it speeds past the storefront, shattering windows and riddling the facade with bullet holes. The cafe was closed at the time, sparing patrons and staff from harm. This attack comes amid heightened concerns over organized crime in Surrey’s South Asian community. A social media post from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang has claimed responsibility, citing unspecified grievances against Sharma. Authorities have not yet confirmed the claim but are investigating potential ties to earlier incidents, including a July 10 shooting (just days after the cafe’s launch) and an August 7 follow-up, both of which involved drive-by style attacks.

Kap’s Cafe, a fusion spot blending Indian and Canadian flavors, had proudly reopened on October 2 after extensive repairs and enhanced security measures. In a statement posted to Instagram following the latest incident, the cafe’s team said: “We’re processing this shock, but we’re not giving up. Violence won’t silence our spirit or our community.” Surrey Mayor Brenda Locke condemned the shooting, stating, “Our city will not be intimidated by reckless acts of violence. We stand with local businesses and demand swift justice.” The SPS is urging anyone with dashcam footage or tips to come forward, emphasizing that motives remain under probe – though past attacks have raised alarms over possible Khalistani separatist involvement or broader extortion rackets plaguing the region. This series of events has drawn international attention, spotlighting Surrey’s challenges with gang activity amid its large Punjabi diaspora. Earlier in September, Public Safety Minister Gary Anandasangaree had officially listed the Bishnoi gang as a terrorist entity under Canada’s Criminal Code.

# BMC’s Rs 2,395 crore bridge connecting Versova to Madh gets green nod; set to reduce travel time from an hour to under 10 minutes

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) Wednesday gave in-principle approval to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for constructing the Rs 2,395 crore cable-stayed bridge that will connect Versova to Madh. The announcement of the key clearance was made by Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and MP from Mumbai (North). The clearance from the MoEFCC was required as the project will pass through large hectares of mangrove patches. The project is set to bring down commute time between Versova and Madh Island to not more than 10 minutes, which at present takes 45 minutes to an hour during peak hour. Since there is no direct connectivity between these two places, citizens either have to travel via Link Road, SV Road or Western Express Highway (WEH).

“This bridge will form a direct connectivity between Madh Island and Versova, removing the need for long detours and ferry services. To meet the future traffic needs, the bridge will be integrated with the upcoming coastal road that will connect Versova with Bhayander,” Goyal said by issuing a statement. Goyal also said that the project was envisioned in the 1967 Development Plan (DP), and his office has been pursuing the project to ensure all the permissions come through. The tenders for this project were floated in March last year, and the work orders were issued in September. The final cost of the project has been pegged at Rs 2,395 crore, which was 33 per cent above the estimated cost of Rs 1,800 crore. When contacted, civic officials maintained that the estimated cost was updated, keeping in mind the change in market rates, and also several factors like labour charges, material costs and Goods and Services Tax (GST) were included in the final cost of the project. Civic officials said now that all the major permissions are in place, the next step will be to approach the Bombay High Court since the project will pass above creeks and mangroves.

“The bridge will pass above the Marve creek, which falls under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) area. Therefore, we have to inform the HC about the green cover that



will be impacted and present our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report. We have already secured permission from the forest department and the state coastal management authority. After the final NOC comes from the HC, we will go ahead with the construction work,” an official said. The blueprint of this project was finalised by BMC in 2020. Since the alignment of this project had to pass through a dense mangrove cover and coastal regulatory zone, the civic body required environmental clearances. Later, in March 2022, the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) had asked BMC to come up with an alternate alignment for this bridge, to ensure minimum damage to the mangroves. The previous blueprint was also opposed by the local Koli community, which alleged that the alignment would create an inconvenience for them while parking their boats and drive away the fish from the shallow water, affecting their livelihood in return. “The new alignment ensures minimum damage to the environment, and the bridge will be entirely cable-stayed, which means that we will carry out piling work at a limited capacity,” the official added. The authorities aim to start work on the bridge by the year-end and have set a three-year deadline for completing the project. The bridge will be 2.06 km long and will be a cable-stayed structure. It will connect Madh Island in the western suburbs with Versova by passing above the Madh Creek.

# Surat Municipal Corporation’s green bond listed on NSE, CM Patel rings bell



GNS News Agency, Oct 29

The Surat Municipal Corporation’s Certified Green Bond worth Rs 200 crore was listed on the National Stock Exchange in Mumbai on Thursday in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. CM Patel rang the bell at the National Stock Exchange, officially listing the Green Bond of the SMC.

Surat Municipal Commissioner Shalini Agarwal, Surat Mayor Daxesh Mawani and standing committee chairman Rajan Patel were present. Speaking on the occasion, CM Patel said that the SMC’s Green Bonds have engaged citizens in sustainable growth efforts. The bonds were oversubscribed eight times, showing strong investor support. This strategic move will speed up Surat’s development, he said. The CM said the move emphasised the state’s dedication to reaching net zero carbon footprint by 2070, a target set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Highlighting the Union government’s focus on green growth and mobility, Patel said that India has balanced ecological and economic priorities effectively under PM Modi. “During India’s G20 presidency, with the message of ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’, member countries prioritised sustainable development and green growth as envisioned by the Prime Minister,” Patel said.

He added that PM Narendra Modi has resolved to build a ‘Developed India’ by 2047. To achieve this vision, Gujarat has launched several developmental initiatives, including the ‘Viksit Gujarat @ 2047’ roadmap. The joint efforts of the state and central governments aim to make governance more effective and impactful, the CM said. Patel also praised

the SMC team for their leadership in cleanliness and sustainable transport. “The city successfully issued India’s first internationally certified municipal green bonds through a public offering, attracting global investors. This initiative, called ‘Green People’s Financing,’ combines public participation with strategic planning, setting an example of green growth. It promises financial gains for the city and benefits for the environment, inspiring other cities nationwide,” he said.

Mayor Mavani said that the city’s sustainable energy project aims to exemplify the Prime Minister’s vision for a developed India by 2047. “Surat, often called ‘mini India’ due to everyone’s contribution, has earned about 14 awards. The city now seeks to become the top green energy city globally,” he said. Municipal Commissioner Shalini Agarwal stated that Surat Municipal Corporation is the first civic body in the country to issue internationally certified Green Bonds. The amount raised through these bonds will be used for environmental conservation and green energy projects, including solar power projects, water conservation initiatives, and green transport infrastructure, Agarwal said. National Stock Exchange Managing Director Ashish Chauhan congratulated the Gujarat government and the Surat Municipal Corporation for the successful listing of the Green Bonds.

# Forest task force seizes teak timber worth Rs 90,000 in Adilabad

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Adilabad: A task force team from the Forest Department seized teak timber kept ready for smuggling in the forests of Gundala village, Echoda mandal, on Thursday. The value of the timber was assessed at Rs 90,000.

Forest officials said sleuths of the task force seized the timber following a tip-off. The smugglers fled the spot after felling the trees. A search has been launched to nab the offenders. A case has been registered and investigations are underway.

# Abhishek launches ‘Ami Banglar Digital Joddha’, TMC looks to recruit ‘content creators, digital amplifiers’ ahead of Bengal polls



GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Months ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, the Trinamool Congress launched a new digital outreach programme, ‘Ami Banglar Digital Joddha (I am Bengal’s Digital Warrior)’, aimed at countering the BJP’s online campaigns ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. According to the party, the initiative will recruit young volunteers to take on the political battle “in the digital world” through three key roles: ‘Content Creators, Social Media Managers, and Digital Amplifiers’. The party’s national general secretary and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday announced the programme on social media.

He posted, “Bengal, our beloved motherland, is being hounded, humiliated, maligned, and vilified by bohiragoto Bangla-birodhi zamindars (outsiders who are against Bengal) who thrive on lies and propaganda, increasingly in the digital space where the battle now rages.” “It is upon us to stand up for Bengal’s rights, dignity, and truth, to fight back with clarity and conviction. That’s why I am launching ‘Ami Banglar Digital Joddha’, a people-powered, youth-led digital movement to protect Bengal’s identity, uphold its truth, and carry its message of pride and progress to every cor-

ner of India and the world,” he added. Calling upon Bengal’s youth to join the campaign, Banerjee said: “To every young person who refuses to let Bengal be slandered, this is your clarion call. Join as a Digital Joddha. Strengthen Bengal’s future. Register by using the link below and let the world witness what Bengal can achieve when its people rise as one. ABDigitalJoddha.com.” The TMC’s press note described the initiative as a movement to “unite for Bengal’s digital revolution, protect Bengal’s spirit, and celebrate its creative energy.” It said the party was seeking to reclaim Bengal’s “narrative and identity” from “external political forces” attempting to “distort its story, silence its voice, and question its very existence.” The statement added, “Political battles are fought not just on the streets or in Parliament, but increasingly in the digital space, where Bangla-Birodhis are active. ‘Ami Banglar Digital Joddha’ is our collective answer. This is Bengal reclaiming its narrative, exposing vindictive, anti-Bengal agendas, and asserting its leadership where it matters most.” This development comes at a time when the TMC has been doubling down on positioning itself as the party of “Bangla asmita,” or Bengali pride, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee frequently invoking the term while protesting the alleged arbitrary detention of Bengali-speaking migrants suspected to be Bangladeshi nationals, and more recently, inaugurating Durga Puja pandals. Atri Mitra is a Special Correspondent of The Indian Express with more than 20 years of experience in reporting from West Bengal, Bihar and the North-East. He has been covering administration and political news for more than ten years and has a keen interest in political development in West Bengal. Atri holds a Master degree in Economics from Rabindrabharati University and Bachelor’s degree from Calcutta University. He is also an alumnus of St. Xavier’s, Kolkata and Ramakrishna Mission Asrama, Narendrapur. He started his career with leading vernacular daily the Anandabazar

# ‘Plans didn’t materialise’: Shilpa Shetty withdraws plea in Bombay High Court seeking nod to travel abroad in October

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty Thursday withdrew her interim application seeking to travel abroad on a plea challenging the lookout circular (LOC) issued against her and her businessman husband Raj Kundra, in connection with the probe by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Maharashtra Police in a Rs 60-crore cheating case. Her lawyer informed the bench that while she had sought permission to travel abroad for work purposes, she no longer wished to pursue the plea for her travel plans this month. The actor, however, sought permission to file a new plea to approach the court for permission to travel abroad in December.

“As and when the applicants desire to travel in future, they shall file a fresh application with particulars of travel details. In view of this, the Interim application is dismissed as withdrawn with the said liberty (to the applicants),” a division bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhara and Justice Gautam A Ankhad noted. On October 1, the HC had refused to pass an order granting interim relief to the couple who sought to travel to Phuket in Thailand on a family trip that week. On October 6, the bench orally asked the couple to deposit Rs 60 crore before pursuing their plea to travel abroad. The couple sought permission for their international travel plans, including a work trip to Los Angeles (LA) in the US for a YouTube event, travel for another event to Colombo and then the Maldives for the expansion of Hotel Bastian, their hospitality venture, later this month. The couple also sought to visit London and Dubai in December and January to meet Kundra’s parents.

On October 14, advocates Niranjan Mundargi and Keral Mehta for Shetty informed the HC that she intended to travel to the US for five days next week with her son, while her mother and daughter would remain in the city with her husband. On Thursday, Mundargi told the bench that when the matter was adjourned on the last two occasions, news reports carried the court’s oral remarks. “Resultantly,



that whole travel plan is not materialising... She (Shetty) was the only Indian actress who was requested to join the platform. But, nonetheless, that is not happening. So, in any case, she is not pressing for that. Today, she does not wish to travel at this point of time. Will withdraw it (present IA) and file a fresh application giving details as to when they intend to travel in the month of December,” Mundargi said. Case against Shilpa Shetty and Raj Kundra The EOW probe is based on a complaint by businessman Deepak Kothari, who alleged that Shetty and Kundra duped him of over Rs 60 crore between 2015 and 2023. Kothari claimed that he was persuaded to invest in their company, Best Deal TV, for business expansion, but the money was used for their personal expenses instead. Her lawyers told the bench that the prime accused in the case was Kundra. There were no specific or direct allegations against Shetty. The investigating agency merely stated that she was one of the directors of the company and resigned in 2016, they argued. The bench then orally asked the actor as to why she cannot become an approver in the case. Meanwhile, the complainant’s lawyer submitted that Shetty had not notarised her affidavit of October 14 and not signed it before the notary. Mundargi said he was not aware of the claims and did not have instructions from his client on the same.

# SAU suspends hostel warden and another staffer after student alleges bid to suppress sexual assault



GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Two days after a student at South Asian University (SAU) in Delhi alleged she was sexually assaulted on campus and that hostel officials discouraged her from calling the police, the university removed the girls’ hostel warden and suspended another staff member on Wednesday pending an inquiry. “Consequent to the Committee’s discussion, Dr. Rinkoo Devi Gupta, Warden (Girls Hostel) stands relieved from her responsibilities of wardenship with immediate effect,” read an order signed by Bibhupada Tripathy, Deputy Registrar (SG) Admin. The order added, “Dr. Kajori Bhatnagar, Assistant Warden, shall take over the charge of Warden and discharge the responsibilities associated with the post until further orders.” In a separate order issued the same day, SAU said, “Consequent to the Committee’s discussion, Ms. Anupma Arora, Assistant II (Girls Hostel) (Outsourced), is suspended till the submission of the Enquiry Report.” Both orders state they were issued “with approval of the Competent Authority”. The action comes after a student, in her statement to the police, alleged that hostel authorities attempted to manage the situation internally after she was found disoriented near a construction zone on the campus. In her police complaint, she said she was told by hostel staff to change clothes and take a bath, and was

discouraged from contacting her family. “They said they will call the PRO and handle it internally,” she alleged. Threat to circulate morphed photo

The disciplinary action follows an FIR registered by Delhi Police on Tuesday, in which the student said she received a series of emails and texts on an encrypted messaging app warning that a morphed nude photograph of her would be circulated if she did not comply with instructions to reach an isolated part of campus. The student told the police that she walked alone towards the convocation centre area around 8 pm, describing the stretch as “dark and empty at night”. According to her account, four men approached her and attempted to overpower her. She alleged they tried to pull her clothes, covered her eyes, hit her, and forced a pill into her mouth before fleeing when a food cart staffer appeared nearby.

A classmate alerted the police after she could not be reached for nearly two hours. When a PCR unit arrived, students had already located her near the open-air theatre. She was taken to a hostel room briefly before being transported under police escort to a Delhi hospital for examination. Students stage sit-in The incident triggered an immediate mobilisation of students on Monday night, who staged a sit-in along the administrative corridor, demanding the suspension of the hostel warden and the inclusion of student representatives in any inquiry committee. On Tuesday, the university posted on social media, “We the SAU community, faculty, staff and students stand in solidarity in light of the alleged horrific act of sexual violence that has been reported on campus... SAU has a zero-tolerance policy on sexual harassment and all forms of violence against women.” Delhi Police said they were examining CCTV footage, guard entry logs, and the internet protocol trail of the emails sent to the student. The FIR has been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The investigation is being conducted with due sensitivity and priority,” said Ankit Chauhan, DCP, South.



## Students' fee arrears should be released immediately. Collectorate siege BRSV State Secretary Jangaiah



“Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU October 29: Under the auspices of the BRSV State Committee, a sit-in at the Hyderabad Collectorate was organized in a grand manner, demanding the resolution of the students' pending bill issues.”Speaking on the occasion, he said, “I strongly condemn the government's negligent attitude in ignoring the problems of students. He demanded that issues like pending bills, hostel mess dues, scholarships, and fee reimbursement be resolved immediately.”Did it. Save the future of students.”BRSV from time to time“Students will fight“Statewide for rights“Concerns will continue“Warned..in this program“BRSV State President Srinivas Yadav, Vice President Tunga Balu,“Kothi Vijay. Sudheer Reddy,“Aval Haribabu, Jangayya,“Yashwanthu, Srikanth. Nagendra Rao. Sai. Yada Kranti, Nitish,Rahmat and others participated.”participated.

## Congress Leaders Campaign for Naveen Yadav in Jubilee Hills By-Election

““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, Medipally, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): In support of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav's victory in the Jubilee Hills by-election, today a campaign was conducted in Jubilee Hills Venkategiri Division covering booths 217 to 223. The campaign was led by Mahbubnagar MLA Satyanarayana Reddy, ST Corporation Chairman Bellan Nayak, and other senior leaders, along with Telangana State Mahila Congress Vice President Chintala Nirmala Reddy. During the campaign, they visited households across the division, distributing pamphlets and explaining various welfare schemes being implemented by the Congress party. Residents were urged to cast their valuable votes in favor of Naveen Yadav by marking the hand symbol on the ballot. Following the door-to-door campaign, a meeting was held with division leaders to discuss party strengthening and other important matters. The event was also attended by leaders Bhukya Nayak, Mallikarjuna, division leaders, and booth conveners. Chintala Nirmala Reddy. Telangana State Mahila Congress Vice President.



## Chalo Indira Park BSP Dharna Postponed



Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, October 29: ““The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) had earlier announced the “Chalo Indira Park” protest program on November 1, de-

manding 42% reservations for the Backward Classes (BCs) in all sectors. The program was intended to highlight the long-standing injustice faced by BC communities and to urge the state government to take immediate steps to ensure equitable representation in education, employment, and political spheres.”However, due to the adverse weather conditions caused by Cyclone Mountha, the State Committee of BSP has decided to temporarily postpone the dharna for public safety and organizational convenience. Uppal Constituency President Mindrala Narsinga Rao stated in a press release that the decision was made keeping in view the safety of party workers and participants who were expected to gather in large numbers from across the state.”He further mentioned that the revised date for the dharna will be announced soon after consulting with the state leadership and assessing the weather situation. Narsinga Rao appealed to all BSP leaders, activists, and supporters to stay united and continue their efforts to mobilize public support for BC rights.”He also emphasized that the BSP remains firmly committed to the cause of social justice, and this brief postponement will not dilute the party's determination to achieve 42% reservation for BCs. The party urged everyone to treat this delay as a strategic pause and to prepare with renewed enthusiasm for the upcoming program.

## DYFI Supports College Bandh On Today (Thursday)

“““Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad,District Reporte,Jade Srqinivas.October,29.”DYFI has announced its full support for the state- wide college bandh under the auspices of SFI on Thursday in protest against fee reimbursement and scholarship pending. Speaking at a meeting held in Rebbena, DYFI District Vice President Chapidi Purushottam demanded the immediate release of ?1200 crore in fee reimbursement. He said that poor students are staying away from education due to non- payment of fees and asked colleges to cooperate with the bandh. Leaders Gajanand, Krishna,Ashok and Harish participated in this program.



## Satish Chander Lauded for Mastery in Satire Writing



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, October 29, (Indian Chronicle): Prominent writer and journalist Satish Chander holds a distinguished place in this generation for his satirical writings, said Sannidhanam Narsimha Sharma. On this occasion, a book launch was held on Wednesday at the Sundarayya Vignana Kendram in Baglingampally, with renowned author Olga unveiling the book. The event was presided over by Sannidhanam Narsimha Sharma. Speaking at the event, Sannidhanam Narsimha Sharma remarked that Satish Chander's work is truly remarkable. He writes humor with subtlety, never explicitly pointing out the comic elements. Chief guest Olga stated that Satish Chander has brilliantly explained through satire how women advance in society when they inherit property. Mrunalini praised Satish Chander, saying that writing satire is extremely challenging, yet the author's entire work is filled with it. She specifically appreciated the author's treatment of the thirty-three forts theme in the book, calling it exceptional. Introducing the book, M. Sravanthi noted that there is no contemporary writer superior to Satish Chander in either book writing or satire. Speaking at the event, Satish Chander explained that the book explores how women handle property inheritance and how different groups or individuals utilize it. He added

that the book also addresses issues such as assaults and dowry-related crimes against women, aiming to raise awareness about these societal challenges.

## Power Supply Interruption in Chilkanagar Electricity Section Today: AE Vinay Kumar Reddy

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, October 29 (Indian Chronicle):“““Due to departmental maintenance works, power supply will be interrupted on Thursday, the 30th of this month, in the SBI Colony Substation area from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to a statement released by Chilkanagar Section Assistant Engineer (AE) Vinay Kumar Reddy.”During this period, there will be no electricity supply in Sai Nagar, RNS Colony, Kamalanagar, Amma Sai Venkat Reddy Colony, and surrounding areas.”Similarly, under the Mallikarjun Nagar feeder, power supply will be interrupted from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The affected areas include Mallikarjun Nagar, Chilkanagar Bodrai, Vivekananda Statue area, Kummari Kunta, Shiva Temple, and Naiguda Government School area.”AE Vinay Kumar Reddy requested electricity consumers and business owners to cooperate with the department staff during the maintenance work.

## People of the Constituency Should Stay Alert Due to Heavy Rains:

Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy“



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, October 29 (Indian Chronicle):““In view of the heavy rainfall, Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy has appealed to the people of all 10 divisions in the Uppal constituency to remain alert and cautious.”He directed the officials to stay vigilant and ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience due to the rains. The MLA instructed the staff to take necessary measures to prevent water stagnation on the roads and to facilitate smooth flow of rainwater into the drains wherever required.”He further stated that, under the current weather conditions, all departmental officials must be available to the public and ensure that residents of low-lying areas do not suffer any problems.”Laxma Reddy advised the staff to stay alert at all times, inspect their assigned colonies, and identify dangerous manholes, open drains, unauthorized cellar pits, dilapidated buildings, and low-lying areas. He emphasized that officials should be immediately informed about such issues and take prompt action to resolve them without delay.

## Share trading fraud: IAF veteran loses Rs 97 lakh, took Rs 55 lakh loan to pay fraudsters

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

A 53-year-old Indian Air Force (IAF) veteran lost Rs 97 lakh in a share trading fraud, in which he was pressured into taking loans of Rs 55 lakh to continue making payments. The veteran was made to log on to a fraudulent share trading app, where his purported earnings were shown as Rs 4.4 crore.An FIR was registered by the Pune resident, who has retired from the IAF. Earlier this year, the complainant was manipulated into making 18 large transfers to mule accounts over a period of 40 days during which he was made to believe that he was investing in a trusted share trading platform, when in fact he was being conned by cyber fraudsters posing as share trading experts.

A few weeks ago, after clicking a link in an advertisement of a share trading platform, the complainant was added to a WhatsApp group and was sent the link to download a share trading app. In this app he was asked to submit his personal and financial details. Later, cyber fraudsters present in the group and posing as its administrators and stock market experts, started giving the complainant what they claimed were share trading tips. The fraudster started giving him fake share investment input and along with it an account number to send the money to. Every transaction done by the complainant was reflecting on the fraudulent app along with a very high corresponding return. These fake returns, which were in multifold of the money sent, kept luring him to send more and more money.At a point, when the complainant had exhausted a large chunk of his savings, the fraudsters posing as experts told him that there was an investment opportunity in an Initial Public Offering (IPO). When he told them that he had exhausted his funds, the fraudsters manipulated and pressured him into taking loans saying he would lose his earnings. He was made to take a personal loan of Rs 30 lakh and another gold loan of



Rs 25 lakh after which he continued making payments to mule accounts.Probe revealed that these mule accounts were located at Satara in Maharashtra, Kolkata and 24 Parganas in West Bengal, Hyderabad, Barpeta in Assam, Palakkad in Kerala, Indore and Dhar in Madhya Pradesh, Khordha in Odisha among other places.

As against the total ‘investments’ of Rs 97 lakh, corresponding gains on the fraudulent app were shown to be Rs 4.44 crore. When he said he wanted to withdraw the money, he was asked to pay 20 per cent of total earnings as tax. It was at this point that he realised that he had been cheated. He then approached the cyber crime police station and an FIR was registered.The Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad police have witnessed a worrying surge in online share trading fraud cases over the past two years. Fraudsters employ a variety of baits, including trading tips, virtual lectures, mobile applications, and enticing promises of exorbitant returns. Officials have also expressed concerns over citizens continuing to fall prey to these scams in spite of several advisories, sensitisation campaigns and wide media coverage in this regard.

## New studio comes up in Chandigarh to ‘give Tricity’s art culture a new boost’

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Poonam Arora added that the studio will also host topical art workshops and creative activities to give the Tricity's art culture a new boost.Founder Poonam Arora said that the studio will host topical art workshops and creative activities to give the Tricity's art culture a new boost. Tricity-based multifaceted artist Poonam Arora has established a new art studio, ‘Studio Art Life’, at NAC, Manimajra, Chandigarh. The newly opened space aims to provide both budding and established artists with a platform to create, collaborate, and exhibit their work.

During an interaction with the media and artists at the studio, Arora spoke about her journey and the idea behind creating Studio Art Life. She said, “Having been an artist for many years, I understand the emotions, struggles, and dedication that every artist carries. During my journey, I often found it challenging to find the right place to display my works as a solo artist. That experience inspired me to create a space that is not just for my art, but one that welcomes artists from all backgrounds to showcase their creations.”Arora added that the studio will also host topical art workshops and creative activities to give the Tricity's art culture a new boost. She said, “We plan to hold workshops and discussions here so that the local art scene gets a facelift and artists have a platform to connect and learn.”Speaking about her personal bond with art, Poonam said, “I live for art and want to immerse myself in it. This initiative is very close to my heart. My aim behind starting ‘Studio Art Life’ is to completely devote myself to art and explore its endless possibilities through this space where creativity can grow and evolve.”

The studio's opening also marked the start of its inaugural multi-artist exhibition, which began this week and will continue till Sunday, November 2. The show brings together the works of 14 artists, including Arora, and displays 22 paintings, three sculptures, and a special collection of



decoupage artworks — a unique art form made by gluing coloured paper cut-outs or napkins onto objects to create decorative effects.Arora's own paintings in the exhibition are figurative, semi-abstract, and contemporary, inspired by emotion, observation, and imagination. She said, “Art, to me, is a reflection of life. My works express what I feel and see around me.”The participating artists' works explore different styles and subjects — from nature and spirituality to emotion and culture — bringing together a sense of unity in diversity that reflects the spirit of Studio Art Life.Explaining why she chose to open with a group show, Arora said, “I wanted the launch of Studio Art Life to be a collective celebration of creativity. A multi-artist exhibition allows different voices and styles to come together and start a beautiful conversation through art. I truly believe that art grows stronger when shared.”In conclusion, Arora said, “I want Studio Art Life to be not just a place for displaying art, but a warm and welcoming community. For young artists, it will provide exposure and encouragement; for established ones, it will offer a professional and respectful space to share their work.”

## Rana Kapoor held meetings with Anil Ambani without any Yes Bank officials: CBI

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

The CBI in its chargesheet, filed against Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor, industrialist Anil Ambani and 11 others before a special court in Mumbai last month, has said that the two regularly held business meetings without any officials of Yes Bank present, who were subsequently told to process proposals agreed upon in the meetings.

The chargesheet, the cognisance of which is yet to be taken by the court, is filed in connection with two criminal cases filed on the complaint of the Chief Officer of Yes Bank in 2022, against accused including Kapoor, his wife Bindu, daughters Radha and Roshini, companies linked with them; Ambani, the then chairman of the ADA Group; and Reliance Commercial Finance Ltd (RCFL), Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) and others on the complaint filed by Chief Vigilance Officer of Yes Bank in 2022.The CBI alleges that Yes Bank invested around Rs 2,045 crore in non-convertible debentures (NCD) and commercial debts of RCFL and Rs 2,965 crore in non-convertible debentures and commercial papers of RHFL in 2017 on the approval of

Rana Kapoor despite Care Ratings placing ADA Group Financial Companies “under watch” in view of deteriorating financial standing and adverse market assessment.



Former BJP District Official Representative Pothagani Gopal Goud and TDP Senior Leader Kanaka Medala Rambabu, along with others, attended several wedding celebrations and blessed the newlywed couples.” - Nacharam, Indian Chronicle.



# Exports to US dip 12% but China and UAE cushion blow



Even as India’s goods exports to the United States registered a sharp fall of 12 per cent in September (year on year), the total exports registered a 6.74 per cent growth, buttressed by gains in the UAE and Chinese markets. However, a sharp surge in gold, silver and fertiliser imports widened the trade deficit to \$31.15 billion, the highest in over a year, according to data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Wednesday.

The data showed a 24.33 per cent surge in exports to the UAE, and a 34.18 per cent increase in exports to China. However, imports from the UAE and China also jumped by 16.35 per cent and 32.83 per cent, respectively. The total exports grew 6.74 per cent to \$36.38 billion in September, compared to \$34.08 billion in the same month last year. Imports, meanwhile, surged 16.6 per cent to \$68.53 billion, against \$58.74 billion a year earlier, as the price of precious metals hit record highs last month. Services exports in the month slipped 5 per cent to \$30.82 billion, compared to \$32.60 billion in the corresponding period last year, according to the ministry’s estimates.

“It has been a turbulent year for trade that has resulted in a recalibration of supply chains. The positive aspect is that, in the first six months of the current financial year, India’s goods and services exports have increased compared to the same period in the previous financial year. Even the trade deficit is lower,” Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said. He said that the industry had managed the turbulence and maintained supply chains “at cost”, adding that the impact of the US tariffs on exports would be evident in September and October, and the Commerce Ministry would assess the commodity-wise data to understand the effect. Trump tariff: Exports to US dip 12% but China and UAE cushion blow The total exports grew 6.74 per cent to .38 billion in September.

Gold and fertilisers contributed most to the sharp surge in imports in September. While gold imports more than doubled to \$9.6 billion, registering a 106.93 per cent growth, fertiliser imports rose 202 per cent to \$2.3 billion. Import of petroleum products, meanwhile, slipped 5.85 per cent to \$14.03 billion. The data also showed that imports from Rus-

sia declined by 16.69 per cent, while imports from the US increased by 11.78 per cent. Commodity-wise data showed that the impact on labour-intensive sectors has begun to show. Export of textiles, jute, carpet and handicrafts dipped between 5 to 13 per cent. However, exports of electronic goods surged 58 per cent. In a likely surge in iron ore exports to China, the commodity showed a 60 per cent increase.

Responding to a question on whether India could step up oil imports from the US to strike a deal, Agrawal said that in the past seven to eight years, energy purchases from the US, largely crude oil, have fallen from \$25 billion to around \$12-13 billion. “So, there is a headroom of around \$12-15 billion, which we can purchase without worrying about the configuration of refineries,” he said. “There is a bilateral commitment, and in the discussions we are in, we have indicated very positively that India, as a country, would like to diversify its portfolio as far as energy imports are concerned. That’s the best strategy for a big buyer like India,” he said. Agrawal said that Indian negotiators are already in the US exploring a win-win solution between the two sides, adding that the current round of talks is not a formal one due to the US government shutdown. S C Ralhan, president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), said that consistent growth in exports, despite global headwinds, underscores the efforts of Indian exporters and their growing competitiveness on the world stage. “At the same time, the increase in imports calls for a renewed focus on building domestic manufacturing capabilities in critical sectors such as electronics, machinery and intermediate goods,” Ralhan said, urging the government to take bold steps towards import substitution by encouraging local production. A survey report released by the Confederation of Indian Textile Industry (CITI) on Monday said that about a third of respondents reported their turnover had been reduced by more than 50 per cent, as the majority of US buyers are seeking discounts or have resorted to cancelling orders. “About 85 per cent of the respondents have reported an inventory build-up due to reduced orders, and about two-thirds have had to offer discounts — the majority to the tune of 25 per cent — to remain competitive,” the survey said. The US is the top export destination for India’s textile and apparel products, accounting for about 28 per cent of India’s global T&A exports. On July 31, US President Donald Trump imposed 25 per cent reciprocal tariffs on India using powers under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), and on August 6, he signed an executive order imposing an additional 25 per cent penal tariff, citing India’s imports of Russian oil. These additional tariffs came into effect on August 27. India exported goods worth \$87 billion to the US in 2024–25. The Finance Ministry has estimated that the US tariffs would affect 55 per cent of these exports.

# The most ancient Indian wolf is set to be a new species



The discreet, charismatic denizen of scrubland and grasslands, the Indian wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*), whose population has dwindled to just around 3,000 individuals in India and Pakistan, is likely to be classified as a new species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which would take the number of wolf species in the world to eight. The Indian wolf was first placed within the umbrella genus of the grey wolf that roamed swathes of Asia. But the Indian wolf has the oldest living lineage of any wolf in the world, as genome and DNA sequencing has shown.

The canine has also been listed as “vulnerable”, bringing it much-needed attention and incentive to protect the much-maligned animal and conserve its rapidly shrinking habitat, which has been condemned as “wasteland” and often taken over by large projects.

The threats to this animal are many, Y.V. Jhala, former dean of the Wildlife Institute of India and now a senior scientist of the Indian National Science Academy, explained. They are poisoned for preying on livestock, their natural prey base is vastly depleted in its fragile habitat, and the

semi-arid areas they inhabit are destroyed by highways and renewable energy projects, Dr. Jhala told The Hindu. “A den site I studied in Kutch is now engulfed by the Adani Solar Farm,” he added. Then there is the worrying contact with feral dogs. “They mate with wolves, creating hybridised animals and spread diseases” such as rabies. The wolf’s persecution is curious as they aren’t known to attack humans, unlike the leopard for instance. “There have been two recent spates of wolf-human conflict, one in 1996 and the other last year in Bagraich district [in Uttar Pradesh],” said Dr. Jhala. The Bagraich incident stemmed from “extreme poverty,” he added: “people, even babies, sleep on cots outdoors. And there is no prey for wolves.” According to reports, since September, six people, including four children were killed and 30 others were injured in wolf attacks in Bagraich. Meanwhile almost the entire pack has since been shot to death.

How would the IUCN’s upgrade help? “There has been a call for over two decades to have it be declared a distinct species,” Abi Vanak, director of the Centre for Policy Design at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology, Bengaluru told The Hindu. “The Indian wolf is already under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act. The wolf, like the busters and other denizens of the open natural ecosystems, do not need strict protected areas. Rather they serve as the best models for co-existence, and this is what needs to be incentivised. With the downgrading of the wolf to ‘vulnerable’ (I don’t call it upgrading), hopefully more international attention and funds can flow towards its conservation, and the protection of its habitats.” Going forward, Dr. Jhala said, it’s important to acknowledge the IUCN assessment by developing a national policy and management plan for the unique, ancient Indian wolf.

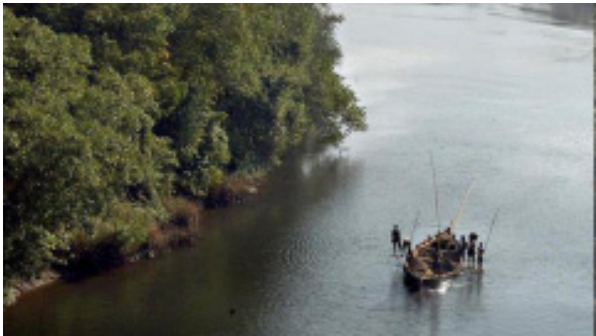
# Global doors, measured steps

Not so long ago, the idea of India as the place for resolution of international commercial disputes would have sounded like the start of a bad lawyer joke. Equally unimaginable was that the Supreme Court of India, known for decades for its exceptional judicial activism and for protecting the constitutional rights of India’s citizenry, would throw its weight behind the idea of making India a destination for the resolution of high-value commercial disputes — first, for adjudicating disputes related to domestic investments; and second, for adjudicating disputes related to cross-border investments. The India Alternative Dispute Resolution Week, organised by the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Delhi last month, reflects a change unimaginable just a decade ago. No one expected that top litigation and arbitration counsel from across the globe would flock to India in such a short span of time; and that they would trade best practices with the Indian Bar and Bench, in a manner hitherto seen in New York, London, and Singapore. Foreign law firms in India The fact is that international interest in the Indian legal profession is not new. In fact, foreign lawyers were interested in tapping the Indian market as early as the 1990s, when the economy opened up. However, Indian law firms were small, know-how was patchy, and the possibility of scaling up was limited by the fragmented manner in which firms were organised. There was also a brain drain from the five-year law schools. In short, the Indian legal industry, at that juncture, was simply not ready to jostle with foreign law firms.

Powered by: PlayStream These concerns were aired in court, which resulted in multiple decisions. First, in its 2009 decision in *Lawyers Collective v. The Bombay High Court* disallowed foreign law firms from practising both corporate transactional work and litigation in India, even if they had on

their rolls Indian qualified lawyers. Three years later, the Madras High Court doubled down the position in *A.K. Balaji*, but fortunately left a small crack open by permitting temporary advice on foreign law to be provided by foreign lawyers. Finally, in 2018, the Supreme Court harmonised the strands: “fly-in, fly-out” advice was fine, but permanent offices were not. Foreign law firms that wanted to open offices in India were left standing at the altar, which then gradually led to a waning of their interests. Many critics called the Indian approach parochial. In truth, it was really about timing. The worry was never that Indian lawyers lacked ability. Think of Sir Benegal Rau, or Fali Nariman, or Soli Sorabjee, whose advocacy travelled well beyond Indian courts. Rather, the concern was that domestic firms would be muscled out by foreign law firms. A changed picture The picture has changed dramatically. Indian law firms hitherto manned by 15-20 lawyers, have over 1,000 lawyers with significant global exposure. That, coupled with top-notch know-how, allows Indian law firms to grow even further. Commendable in this growth has also been the fact that unlike many other sectors in India which grew because of the introduction of foreign direct investment, the Indian legal profession grew organically, with little or no outside support. Today, Indian law firms have offices abroad, and Indian lawyers are often dually or triply qualified, practising across jurisdictions and climbing to the very top of their fields. It is against this backdrop that the Bar Council of India’s 2025 Rules for Registration and Regulation of Foreign Lawyers and Law Firms can be seen as the first formal step towards providing new impetus to the growth of the Indian legal profession. This comes on the heels of the Bar Council’s first substantive acknowledgement in 2023, indicating that the Bar was open to allowing foreign lawyers to practise foreign and international law in India.

# Microplastics threaten Goa’s estuarine fisheries, human consumers



Microplastics in water bodies can be ingested by very small organisms, which in turn are consumed by larger ones. As a result, the bodies of animals higher up in the food chain accumulate more microplastics and can suffer from amplified toxicity. This phenomenon is called bioaccumulation. To understand microplastic bioaccumulation along the Goan coast, scientists from the CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography in Goa and the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research in Ghaziabad recently examined the habitats and feeding behaviour of 251 fishes belonging to nine species of finfish and shellfish. These included mackerel, anchovy, oyster, clam, catfish, sardine, and other commercial varieties, which the team captured from various depths in the ocean’s water column.

In a study published in *Environmental Research* in August, the team identified 4,871 polluting particles in these fish, of which 3,369 particles were plastic polymers of 19 types. The scientists also found more contamination on the sea floor and in sediments at the bottom of the water column (in benthic realm) than in the open water column (pelagic realm). These particles were mainly from degraded fishing material left at sea and wastewater discharged from human settlements. Based on the findings, the scientists have indicated that the fish are suffering from disrupted gene expression, oxidative stress, reproductive damage, and lower growth. When people eat these fish, according to the team, effects on the human body could include immune dysfunction, higher risk of cancer, and toxicity to the brain.

Five key questions Fisheries around Goa focus on the estuaries — ecologically critical zones that nourish young fish and which serve as feeding grounds for the older ones. Finfish and shellfish are commonly fished at estuaries. These fish kinds also feature frequently in Indian cuisine because they are accessible, affordable, and are rich in proteins. Anchovies, sardines, and mackerel are small pelagic fish that play an important role in estuarine ecosystems, feeding on plankton and drawing in larger predatory fish. They are also filter feeders: they trap floating particles in the water and ingest them, and are thus more liable to imbibe microplastics.

These small fish are consumed by other larger ones, which in turn are prey for the elasmobranchs, or cartilaginous fish, including the sharks that dwell in shallow shelf waters. Microplastics thus move all the way up the food chain in a process called trophic transfer, eventually affecting the apex predators and human consumers. The scientists analysed fish samples only from the Mandovi estua-

rine system, part of the Mandovi-Zuari system that contributes to 97% of Goa’s fish output. They treated the bamboo shark, an apex predator, as the focal species to identify the effects of microplastic accumulation. The study fills a knowledge gap for five key questions for the region: microplastic contamination quantities in commercial fish, factors that increase the uptake of microplastics in fish, parts of the body that are the primary ingestion pathways, evidence of microplastics through ingestion in the bamboo shark, and risks of microplastic ingestion for fish and human health along the Goan coast.

Many shapes and colours The scientists analysed 30 members each of mackerels, sardines, anchovies, bamboo sharks, sole fish, catfish, clams, and oysters, plus 11 of the rarer green mussels. These fish were grouped by their feeding levels: filter feeders and planktivores, secondary consumers, and carnivorous consumers. The scientists determined the microplastic concentration in their bodies by assessing the soft tissue. Their analysis revealed that anchovies had the highest concentration among the pelagic species, at 8.8 microplastic particles per individual (MP/in). The catfish led the benthic realm at over 10 MP/in. The bamboo shark had the least: 3.5 MP/in. The water column itself contained 120 MP/litre.

The team found that the longer bodies the fish had, the fewer microplastic particles they accumulated. They also concluded that fish with habitats closer to contaminated sediments on the sea bed ingested more microplastics when they fed. Among the finfish, the scientists found more microplastics in the digestive tract than in the gills, indicating accumulation through the consumption of contaminated water or prey. (As water moves through the fish, the particles are trapped in the gills and could lead to respiratory issues.) They also identified four major shape-types of microplastics: fibres (53%), fragments (29.9%), films (13.1%), and beads (4%). Marine animals use colours to detect prey, and the particles came in nine hues: blue (37.6%), black (24.3%), red (12%), discoloured (8.7%), transparent (6.8%), green (4.4%), pink/purple (2.5%), yellow (1.9%), and orange (1.7%). The types and colours of microplastics revealed their sources to be fishing gear, tire residue from roads, e-waste, packaging, and textiles. Risk assessment In all, the study categorised the region and ecosystem as low-risk but placed benthic life at more risk than pelagic. The paper also said 11 of the 19 types of polymers identified were highly toxic. The study showed 66 of the 71 shellfish to have poor nutritional statuses. Previous studies have found the direct effects of microplastics on fish include lower fitness, protein, and fatty acids and lower nutritional quality. Indirectly, as the demand for such fish drops in the market, coastal populations could be at risk of losing their livelihoods. “This is a good study that further supports several other independent findings,” Ravidas K. Naik, who also studies microplastics in marine environments at the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research in Vasco da Gama and wasn’t affiliated with the study, said. “There are microplastics in every place on earth, and such findings only underscore the urgent need for us to take action as a society to remove plastic from various environments, with better waste disposal and new research for biodegradable alternatives.”

# Cybercrime cases of cheating by personation surge in Karnataka: NCRB data



According to government data, cybercrimes such as fake job offers, online investment frauds, fraudulent social media profiles, and impersonation scams have surged in recent years. The increase is most pronounced in Karnataka, which, in 2023, accounted for more than 70% of all such cases in India. Also, only about one in four such offences is charge-sheeted, and only around one in three of those that reach court ends in conviction. This suggests that many perpetrators go scot-free. These types of cybercrimes fall under Section 66D of the Information Technology Act, 2000, which states: “Whoever, by means of any communication device or computer resource, cheats by personating, shall be punished with imprisonment of up to three years and a fine of up to one lakh rupees.”

India has seen a sharp rise in cybercrime cases — from about 53,000 in 2021 to 66,000 in 2022 and roughly 86,400 in 2023. Karnataka alone accounted for more than a quarter of all cases reported nationwide in 2023. The below map shows the state-wise share of total cybercrime cases across India in 2023. Karnataka’s share of India’s total cybercrime cases fell from a pre-pandemic high of over 25% in 2019 to 21% in 2020, 15% in 2021, and 19% in 2022, before rising again in 2023, as shown in the chart below.

The sharp rise in cybercrime has been driven largely by cases under Section 66D (‘cheating by personation using a computer resource’), especially in Karnataka. In the State, Section 66D’s share of all cybercrime cases rose from 8.5% in 2019 to 70% in 2021 and 83% in 2023. Nationally, 66D’s share in all cybercrime cases increased from 12% in 2019 to 21% in 2021 and 29% in 2023, as shown in the chart below. The cybercrime cases under 66D include instances such as the ‘deepfake’ video of actor Rashmika Mandanna that went viral in 2023. During the same year, a person posing as an official from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India cheated a senior officer in the State Finance Department, which again falls under this Section. Another recent example is a case registered this month in Kashmir against five people for allegedly circulating a forged National Health Mission job selection list. However, Karnataka should not be singled out as a cybercrime hotspot simply because case numbers are rising. Higher counts may reflect better trained police and more proactive recording of crimes. Karnataka was the first State to establish a dedicated city-level cybercrime police station. Under the Bengaluru City Police, eight cybercrimes, economic and narcotic offences units were set up in March 2017. Nationally, the worrying trend is that while cybercrime numbers are rising, both the police charge-sheeting rate and the conviction rate in courts remain dismal. In 2023, the charge-sheeting rate for Section 66D offences was just 25% in India (one in four), below the overall cybercrime average of

33.9%. The conviction picture is troubling too: for Section 66D, only 33% (one in three) of cases that reached trial ended in conviction in India, only slightly higher than the 27.6% conviction rate across all cybercrime cases, as shown in the chart below. Such low conviction rates raise questions about gaps in investigation, evidence handling, and legal preparedness. At Shield 2025, a cybersecurity conference held in Hyderabad earlier this year, a retired Supreme Court judge said the judicial system needs specialised training for lawyers, prosecutors, and judges handling cybercrime. In the same conference, Inspector General (Cybercrime), Rajasthan, voiced similar concerns, stressing that investigating officers must be digitally adept and be trained to respond quickly.

# Your body can be portable gym: how to ditch membership fees, expensive equipment

Sippy Downs: You don’t need a gym membership, dumbbells, or expensive equipment to get stronger. Since the beginning of time, we’ve had access to the one piece of equipment that is essential for strength training — our own bodies. Strength training without the use of external forces and equipment is called “bodyweight training”. From push-ups and squats to planks and chin-ups, bodyweight training has become one of the most popular ways to exercise because it can be done anywhere — and it’s free. So, what is it, why does it work, and how do you get started? What is bodyweight training? Bodyweight training simply means you use your own body weight as resistance, instead of external weights such as barbells and dumbbells. Common exercises include push-ups, squats, lunges and sit-ups. But bodyweight training can also use static holds that challenge your body without moving, like planks or yoga poses. Bodyweight training can be used for any muscle group. Typically, we can break down the exercises by movement type and/or body region: 1. upper body: push-ups, pull-ups, handstands 2. lower body: squats, lunges, step-ups, glute bridges 3. core: sit-ups, planks, mountain climbers 4. whole body: burpees, bear crawls, jump squats. Bodyweight training can also be done with equipment: callisthenics is a style of bodyweight training that uses bars, rings and outdoor gyms. 1. Callisthenics: Often circuit-based (one exercise after another with minimal rest), dynamic and whole-body focused. Callisthenics is safe and effective for improving functional strength, power and speed, especially for older adults 2. Yoga: More static or flowing poses with an emphasis on flexibility and balance. Yoga is typically safe and effective for managing and preventing musculoskeletal injuries and supporting mental health 3. Tai Chi: Slower, more controlled movements, often with an emphasis on balance, posture and mindful movement 4. suspension training: using straps or rings so your body can be supported in different positions while using gravity and your own bodyweight for resistance.



# Covering a riot, moving between empathy and objectivity

Bengal — undivided or current — is not alien to communal violence. I had read about communal strife in history books, and in the news while growing up. But the first time that I saw it with my own eyes was this year. In April, a mob had torched houses and shops in the Samsheganj police station area in West Bengal’s Murshidabad after a protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 turned violent. A father and his son lost their lives just outside their home, and a 21-year-old man died of injuries sustained in police firing. I spent close to a week in the area and reporting on this developing story meant taking stock of grief, loss and anger. But there was also the larger picture — the law and order situation, fiscal aftershocks, and the regional history and politics. On the first day, I found myself in the middle of re-emergent violence. One community had pelted stones at the houses of the other. I was determined to stay put, but found a group of villagers confronting our vehicle and threatening us if I did not leave. We eventually did. However, the most heart-wrenching part of my stay was to meet grief-stricken families and ask them to recount the details of one of the darkest days of their lives.

Of the two families in mourning, only one allowed me to visit them. Just before I stepped into the first house, I was ready with pointed questions for the bereaved women of the house to ensure that my reportage had no gaps. But all this changed when I got in. My questions about the merciless killing of their closest kin disappeared in the tense and grief-stricken air. The family looked tired — dealing with the mourning and talking to countless reporters who had the same cruel task. I was cognisant of how important it was for reporters to dig into the story. But at that moment I struggled to verbalise what I wanted without troubling them further. After a few moments of silence, I asked how they were coping. In the course of the conversation and grieving, the horrifying memories revisited them. At the house of

the 21-year-old man, I was asked to leave. The family made it very clear that they were in no mood to entertain questions, which they had almost been ambushed into doing over the last few days. But they were still kind enough to offer me and our photographer a glass of water, with a plate of biscuits. The only condition was a promise not to ask questions. We respected this. At Betbona village, I saw charred currency notes — someone’s precious life savings. Houses built with dreams, labour, and the practised frugality of several generations were now ash. I saw families weep after their cattle were stolen or killed in the violence. To villagers, especially those who have livestock, cattle are like their children. I met villagers who lost everything but made sure to take their beloved goats with them when they fled. The scores of survivors recounted their horror and counted their losses, adding that they would never be able to recover. They thought of reporters as problem-solvers, believing that if we could somehow detail their predicament well, they would get relief. A mother in Betbona urged me to ensure that her teenage daughter could continue her education elsewhere. I found myself battling with a tough question: where does one draw the line in being humane and empathetic, and maintaining the stoic objectivity that is required of a reporter on duty? Which of these should take precedence in interactions with survivors? I have come to believe that there is no singular answer. West Bengal has seen some of the worst examples of communal strife, but also, exemplary instances of communal harmony. In Tinpakuria gram panchayat, teachers from two communities continued to teach despite the tensions. Friendship and duty triumphed. The school principal, a Muslim, recounted to me how a former principal, a Hindu, passed away from an illness days after the violence had unfolded. Teachers from both communities helped his family with the last rites, he recalled.



In my earlier column on Apple’s new iPhone Air, I covered how the company is pivoting back to design and user experience. In this one, I will be taking a deeper dive into this year’s Pro and Pro Max variants. While there were a dozen improvements worth discussing, I will be focusing on the heart of these two devices: the A19 Pro chipset. Apple claims that the A19 Pro, paired with its Apple-designed vapour chamber, delivers up to 40% better sustained performance than the A18 Pro. That translates to smoother gaming, the capacity to edit heavier videos, and the ability to run local large language models (LLMs) efficiently. And at the heart of this leap are the Neural Accelerators embedded into each of the six GPU cores. So, what are these neural accelerators and what do they do? Neural Accelerators are specialized hardware units designed to perform the types of mathematical operations that AI models rely on, particularly matrix multiplications, at lightning-fast speeds with much greater energy efficiency than a CPU or general-purpose GPU. These operations form the foundation of deep learning tasks like image recognition, language translation, speech processing, and other tasks.

In traditional architectures, AI workloads were handled by a separate Neural Engine or AI processor that’s distinct from the CPU and GPU. Data has to be transferred back and forth between components, which introduces latency and consumes power. With Neural Accelerators embedded right into GPU cores, Apple’s A19 Pro integrates AI operations directly where graphics are being processed. This means games get real-time AI effects with hardware-accelerated ray tracing, while computational photography, AR, and local language models get the benefits of lower latency, higher efficiency, and sustained performance that the previous generation could not achieve. This can also allow developers to run smaller AI models on device. While the Neural Accelerators embedded in the GPU handle AI tasks in parallel with graphics, the 16-core Neural Engine is a powerful co-processor that oversees larger, more complex AI workloads that don’t fit within a single graphics thread. Apple’s decision to embed Neural Accelerators into each

# A project of a strategic and national importance



The Great Nicobar Island Project, envisaged by the Narendra Modi government, is an ambitious project with an integrated development plan that comprises an international container transshipment terminal (ICTT) with a capacity of 14.2 million TEU (Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit), a greenfield international airport, a 450 MVA gas and solar-based power plant, and township of an area of 16,610 hectares. The project, of strategic, defence and national importance, is designed to transform Great Nicobar into a major hub of maritime and air connectivity in the Indian Ocean Region. The project poses no threat to the island’s tribal groups, does not come in the way of any species, and does not jeopardise the eco-sensitivity of the region.

Before the project was given the green signal, detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies were carried out and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was prepared which, inter alia, include mitigation measures to minimise the impact during the project’s construction and operation phases. The commitment to environment and wildlife conservation can be seen in the fact that while no construction has started, an amount of ₹1.55 crore has already been released to various research institutes and departments for initiating wildlife conservation plans. The risk assessment study has been carried out based on the two sources — anthropogenic and natural disasters and a vulnerability and disaster management plan have been prepared accordingly. The measuring of 166.10 square kilometres (35.35 sq. km revenue land and 130.75 sq. km forest land) has been conceived in three distinct phases, phase I (2025-35) 72.12 sq. km, phase II (2036-41) 45.27 sq. km and phase III (2042-47) 48.71 sq. km.

The project has undergone an appraisal at multiple levels, including statutory scrutiny under the EIA Notification, 2006 (as amended), and clearance has been granted only after compliance with prescribed procedures. The project will not displace the Nicobarese and the Shompen tribes. The only habitation of the Shompens or the Nicobarese in the project area is at New Chingen, Rajiv Nagar and the administration is not proposing the displacement of any tribal habitations. A committee to oversee welfare and issues related to the Shompen and the Nicobarese has also been mandated in the EC’s condition to address the issues of these tribes during the construction and the operation of the project. Due consultation with tribal experts which includes the Anthropological Survey of India has been done in order to ensure the safety, protection, welfare and well-being of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the wake of Holistic Development of the Great Nicobar Island Project. The Andaman and Nicobar administration has also made adequate budgetary provisions for tribal welfare plans throughout the project period and beyond in compliance of EC and Coastal Regulation Zone clearances. At present, the Great Nicobar Island has a Tribal Reserve area measuring 751.070 sq. km. Out of the total area proposed for development, measuring 166.10 sq. km, only 84.10 sq. km falls within the Tribal Reserve. Out of the 84.10 sq. km, an area of 11.032 sq. km is already under habitation since 1972 as it is part of revenue area. Thus, the effectively remaining area that measures 73.07 sq. km is being de-notified for the purpose of this project. To compensate the same, an area measuring 76.98 sq. km is being re-notified as tribal reserve. Effectively, there will be a net addition of an area of 3.912 sq. km in the tribal reserve area of the Great Nicobar Island. In Phase I, only 40.01 sq. km of the Tribal Area falls in the Great Nicobar Island project, out of which 11.032 sq. km is already under revenue since 1972. The provision in respect of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes is provided for under Article 338A(9), which states: “The Union and every State Government shall consult the Commission on all major policy matters affecting Scheduled Tribes.” It would be relevant to mention here that the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has not undertaken any new policy measure affecting the Scheduled

Tribes — except that a development project is being implemented in Great Nicobar.

The relevant issues The development plan is in sync with the Shompen Policy. The policy allows large-scale development proposals in Great Nicobar Island subject to consultation with the Ministry, Directorate of Tribal Welfare and the Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti. Necessary consultation with the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs was also carried out and it is based on the recommendation of the Empowered Committee. Two important policy documents — the Jarawa Policy of 2004 and Shompen Policy of 2015 — clearly specify the process of consultation. The Jarawa Policy of 2004 declares the AAJVS as the trustee of the PVTGs. The Shompen Policy of 2015 specifies, vide paragraph 6.3, that “With regard to large-scale development proposals in the future for Great Nicobar Island (such as transshipment/container terminal, etc), the welfare and integrity of the Shompen community should be given priority and be reviewed in consultation with the Department of Tribal Welfare and Andaman Adim Janjati Vikas Samiti (AAJVS) and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs”. This is being followed in letter and spirit. In its observations, the Empowered Committee has clearly stated that the interests of tribal population will not be affected adversely and that the displacement of tribals would not be allowed. The decision to develop Great Nicobar Island has been taken after a comprehensive consideration of its ecological, social, and strategic aspects. The project is of national and strategic importance, is expected to accelerate holistic development, will generate employment, and will position the Islands not only from strategic and defence point of view but also from economic point of view. This is about only 2% of the total area of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Further, 130.75 sq. km of forest area is proposed to be diverted for the project which is only approximately 1.82% of the total forest area of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. As in the guidelines of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the States/Union Territories with forest land of more than 75% of their respective total geographical area, shall not be insisted upon for providing non-forest land for raising compensatory afforestation and the same may be taken up in any other State/Union Territory having deficient forest land/cover and having land bank for compensatory afforestation. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have a recorded forest cover of more than 75% of their geographical area, and the compensatory afforestation is proposed to be raised in other States in conformity with the aforesaid guideline formulated by the Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and in view of the fact that sufficient non-forest land for the purpose is not available in this Union Territory. Land measuring 97.30 sq. km has been identified in Haryana for diversion of phase I of forest land measuring 48.65 sq. km. The total estimated number of trees in 130.75 sq. km of forest land to be diverted is 18.65 lakh. However, the maximum estimated number of trees to be felled in forest area measuring 49.86 sq. km is 7.11 lakh. As per the Environmental and Forest Clearance condition, an area measuring 65.99 sq. km shall be retained as green area wherein no tree felling is envisaged. All the institutions engaged in conducting various environmental studies for the project — including the Zoological Survey of India, the Botanical Survey of India, the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), and the Wildlife Institute of India — are reputed government organisations with a long-standing presence and institutional capacity in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. These institutes possess extensive historical datasets and a deep understanding of the local ecological context, having conducted research and data collection in the region over several decades. For facilitating movement of wildlife between forest and the sea shore and for the crossing of arboreal animals as well as for passage of snakes, crabs and crocodiles, safe wildlife corridors at eight locations along the eastern side of the island (connecting forest and seashore through viaducts in the north south arterial road) have been proposed and incorporated in the master plan. The Narendra Modi government remains committed to the welfare of tribal groups, environmental safeguards, and sustainable development. Comprehensive safeguards have been prescribed to ensure the long-term protection of the Shompen and the Nicobarese communities. The Great Nicobar Project is a significant example of economy and ecology complementing each other. It combines the objectives of economic growth, infrastructure development and employment generation with critical national security imperatives, thereby contributing to India’s long-term strategic and developmental interests in the Indian Ocean Region while also protecting the environment.

# Is Apple’s A19 Pro chip a game changer for on-device AI?

GPU core and pair them with a powerful 16-core Neural Engine signals a shift toward hybrid computing, where AI and graphics are no longer separate tasks but intertwined operations. This architecture brings together efficiency, performance, and privacy — areas where competitors are either excelling in one dimension or trading off another.

Now, how does this compare to the architectures in the state-of-the-art smartphone chipsets that go into other flagship smartphones? Compared to Google’s Tensor G5, which powers the Pixel 10, the difference is clear. Tensor G5’s TPU cores are optimized for AI services such as Gemini Nano, Recorder, and live translation. This makes it excellent at delivering Google’s software-driven AI features, but it is less capable when it comes to high-performance gaming or hybrid AI and graphics workloads. On the other hand, Qualcomm’s Snapdragon 8 Elite, designed for flagship Android devices, pushes peak performance to the extreme. With its Oryon CPU running up to 4.32 GHz, a new Adreno GPU supporting real-time ray tracing, and the Hexagon NPU for fused scalar, vector, and tensor operations, the Snapdragon 8 Elite excels at raw AI throughput and multimodal tasks like live video analysis and on-device generative AI. However, this level of performance comes at the cost of efficiency and thermal control, which can vary depending on the device manufacturer. So, the A19 Pro sits uniquely in this landscape. It is not necessarily about the highest raw AI numbers, but about balance. Its hybrid architecture, combining Neural Accelerators in each GPU core with a 16-core Neural Engine, makes it highly efficient for real-world, on-device AI. This design ensures that gaming, AR applications, computational photography, and even local large language models run smoothly with minimal heat and optimal battery use.

Unlike Tensor G5, which is optimized for Google’s AI ecosystem, or Snapdragon 8 Elite, which focuses on peak throughput, the A19 Pro prioritizes sustained performance and efficiency while delivering powerful hybrid AI and graphics capabilities. Complementing this chip is Apple’s new N1 wireless chip, supporting Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, and Thread, ensuring that connectivity keeps pace with the capabilities of the silicon. And Apple’s vapour chamber design helps keep such a high-performance chip cool during heavy AI or graphics workloads. Apart from this, Apple has not just built this hybrid architecture in its A19 Pro chips; even the company’s A19 chipset — the one that goes into the iPhone 17 — comes with Neural Accelerators. But, the A19 chip comes with a 5-core GPU. With this new silicon, Apple is clearly pushing up its performance and redefining what a smartphone can do when AI graphics are fused. As one Apple executive said in the company’s keynote, this is MacBook Pro level performance in an iPhone. For gamers, photographers, and AI enthusiasts, this could be Apple’s most compelling silicon yet.

# Working to blend isobutanol with diesel after ethanol blending failed: Gadkari



Speaking at the annual conclave of the India Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA), Mr. Gadkari said whilst trials of blending one-tenth ethanol with diesel was not successful, other than the isobutanol blend, it was also being explored for a potential standalone use. Isobutanol is an alcoholic compound with flammable properties, and is commonly used as a solvent in varied industries including paints and coating. Mr. Gadkari’s announcement comes amidst the backlash the government has received for petrol blended with ethanol at 20% He also said that tractor companies and agricultural equipment manufacturers, have expressed eagerness to explore a flex fuel combination of CNG and isobutanol at a recent meeting.

Corn as a blending agent Enumerating success with use of corn for creating the ethanol blend, the transport minister enumerated farmers have earned more than ₹42,000 crore, with the prices spiking from ₹1,200/quintal to “about ₹2,600-2,800/quintal” since they commenced the blending paradigm. Benefitting farmers

Also speaking at the event, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi underlined that it has been the government’s endeavour to

institute a constant policy to “protect and safeguard” interests and income of farmers and ensuring the viability of sugar mills. Mr. Joshi stated the government worked towards addressing issues as delayed payments and uncertain returns plaguing the industry. He added the blending paradigm has also ensured an additional source of income to farmers. “More than 96% payment of the current sugar season have been cleared. [Also], cane dues are at an all-time low,” he informed. Separately, Mr. Joshi urged biofuel producers to increase production and look to enter the global market to export ethanol. Further, he urged the industry to pursue “sustainable innovation and adopt new technologies to increase efficiencies, production and employment” alongside an expansion of single distilleries into multiple distilleries. The Food and Distribution Minister also sought diversification into exploring second and third generation ethanol from bamboo and other agricultural residues.

Ensuring better pricing Gautam Goel, President at ISMA urged the government to consider, among other things, aligning the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane in line with the rising (procurement) costs of cane. Furthermore, the industry body chief sought the government to consider revision in the minimum support price of sugarcane which has not increased since 2019 and increasing the permissible export quota of sugar 2 million tonnes in the sugar season 2025-26. About the latter, he argued, “This would help mills stride forward, secure better prices and acquire better market value.” Mr. Joshi assured the concerns would be look at and a decision would be taken keeping all interests in mind. The Food and Distribution Minister stated that in the last eleven years, sugarcane production has increased 40% whilst sugar production has increased 58%. Furthermore, according to preliminary estimates of ISMA, the gross production of sugar in India is expected increase 20% on a year-over-year basis to touch 34.9 million tonnes this season.

# TVK chief Vijay to begin his State-wide election campaign at Tiruchi

TVK general secretary N. Anand has written to the Director-General of Police of Tamil Nadu, requesting adequate security for the tour, which will conclude on December 20. According to the official schedule, Mr. Vijay is set to tour Nagappattinam, Tiruvavur, and Mayiladuthurai on September 20, and will continue his campaign in Tiruvallur and north Chennai on September 27. He will visit Coimbatore, Nilgris, Tiruppur, and Erode on October 4 and 5; Kanniyakumari, Tirunelveli, and Thoothukudi on October 11; Kancheepuram, Vellore, and Ranipet on October 18; and south Chennai and Chengalpattu on October 25. He will also visit Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, and Tirupattur; Tiruvannamalai, Kallakurichi, and Villupuram; Tenkasi, Virudhunagar, Cuddalore, Sivaganga, and Ramanathapuram in November (on Saturdays). He will conclude his tour on December 20, most likely in Madurai.

Mr. Vijay on Tuesday (September 9, 2025) demanded that the cases filed against Mr. Anand and other party cadre by the police be withdrawn immediately. In a statement, he said that the DMK was trying to sabotage the TVK’s political activities after witnessing the love the party was receiving from the people of Tamil Nadu. “It is clear that the DMK government is scared of the TVK as the party grows in stature. Election campaign is a democratic act undertaken by all political parties. Why is the ‘propaganda model’ government afraid of the TVK, while it allows other parties to campaign freely? I strongly condemn the vengeful actions, such as filing cases against party functionaries and cadre, and



demand that the cases be withdrawn,” he said. TVK seeks police permit The party on Tuesday sought permission from the Tiruchi City Police to hold Mr. Vijay’s campaign at Marakkadai junction in Tiruchi on September 13. A group of party functionaries submitted a petition in this regard to the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (North) at Gandhi Market. Previously, the Tiruchi City Police had denied permission to the party to hold the campaign at the busy Chattram Bus Stand area in the city on the grounds that it would hinder traffic and public movement. The police had, however, conveyed to the party that it could re-apply to hold the programme in any one of the designated places for organising public and street corner meetings in the city. The Marakkadai Junction is one of the permitted places in the city, sources said.



## RBI Governor Malhotra urges other central banks to promote CBDCs over stablecoins



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra on Wednesday urged other central banks to use and promote Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) instead of stablecoins to facilitate international payments. Speaking at the annual meeting of the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, DC, Malhotra also reiterated the Indian central bank's stance on cryptocurrencies, saying their usage had implications for monetary policy, capital account flows, and money laundering.

"Unless other countries also adopt CBDC, we are not going to see the benefits of CBDC insofar as cross-border payments are concerned. So, I would urge all those present from central banks and other jurisdictions that we need to promote the CBDC, because this has huge advantages over stablecoins," Malhotra said in a conversation with Krishna Srinivasan, the Director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department. It is fiat (money), it has all the advantages of stablecoins, it can be tokenised... and (has) the advantages of singleness of money, the integrity of money. So, all of us need to promote that. Only then we will be able to actually roll it out at a large scale," he added.

The RBI is currently conducting pilot projects of two types of CBDCs – retail and wholesale. Malhotra said on Wednesday that with domestic payments not an issue in India, CBDCs were the answer for cross-border payments. Malhotra's comments come days after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman seemingly suggested a shift in the government's stance on stablecoins. Earlier this month at the Kautilya Economic Conclave, Sitharaman had said innovations such as stablecoins were transforming the landscape of money and capital flows and forcing countries to choose between adapting to new monetary architectures or risk being excluded. "Such developments underscore the scale of the transformation underway. They also remind us that no nation can insulate itself from systemic change. Whether we welcome these shifts or not, we must prepare to engage with them," the Finance Minister said on October 3 in New Delhi. Sitharaman's comments came at a time when stablecoins – which are essentially private cryptocurrencies linked to an actual asset, usually the US dollar – are seeing increasing acceptance among

polymakers.

In June, the US Senate passed the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for US Stablecoins Act (GENIUS Act), while the Digital Asset Basic Act bill was introduced in South Korea's National Assembly. Under this bill, domestic firms can issue their own stablecoins pegged to the South Korean won. In May, Hong Kong's Legislative Council passed a stablecoin legislation to establish a licensing regime for local 'fiat-referenced stablecoins' issuers. For governments, advancing stablecoins linked to national currencies is also being seen as a way to promote the international standing of their currency. "A thriving stablecoin ecosystem will drive demand from the private sector for US Treasuries, which back stablecoins. This newfound demand could lower government borrowing costs and help rein in the national debt," US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent posted on X on June 17, going on to add two days later that "stablecoins can reinforce dollar supremacy." At present, Tether and USDC are the top two stablecoins globally. Both are pegged to the US dollar and make up around 90 per cent of the \$285 billion global stablecoin market. The RBI has previously warned about the dangers of increased acceptance of US dollar-linked private cryptocurrencies, which could result in the dollarisation of the Indian economy – a situation where the US dollar becomes increasingly acceptable in the country and begins to substitute the rupee. This can lead to domestic policies not having their desired impact because the government or the RBI cannot control the supply of the US dollar.

Commenting on the Indian economy's performance, Governor Malhotra said growth has been "phenomenal". He went on to say there were upside risks to the RBI's growth forecast of 6.8 per cent for the current fiscal year should the US tariff issue be resolved. "We have in our projections actually taken into account the higher tariffs as the baseline. But negotiations are on. Even today, there is a team over here (to negotiate). So, I met the team in the morning over breakfast. They're over here discussing with the US authorities." "India is mostly a domestic driven economy. While we are impacted by the higher tariffs, it's not a matter of huge concern. 6.8 per cent, of course, is much below our aspirational levels of growth... But yes, there will be an upside if we are able to have an early resolution to the tariffs," he added. India's higher-than-expected growth rate of 7.8 per cent in the April-June quarter has led to an upgrade in forecasts for the current year that will end in March 2026, with the World Bank and IMF both raising their GDP growth forecasts for India for the current year by 20 basis points (bps) this month to 6.5-6.6 per cent. However, with the US levying a total tariff of 50 per cent on Indian goods, risks are seen to next year's growth. As such, the two multilateral organisations also cut their forecasts for India's growth next year by 20 bps to 6.2-6.3 per cent.

## AI pilot's father, pilots' body move Supreme Court for judicial inquiry into Ahmedabad crash

New Delhi: Pushkaraj Sabharwal, father of deceased Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, and the Federation of Indian Pilots have moved the Supreme Court seeking a court-monitored inquiry headed by a former apex court judge into the June 12 crash of Air India flight AI171 in Ahmedabad that killed 260 people. On September 22, the top court said certain aspects of the AAIB preliminary report on the crash indicated lapses on the part of pilots, and had issued notices to the Centre and the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on another plea seeking an independent, fair, and expeditious probe. Pushkaraj Sabharwal, 91, has sought a "fair, transparent and technically robust" investigation into the tragic incident. "An incomplete and prejudiced inquiry, without identification of the exact cause of the accident, endangers the lives of future passengers and undermines aviation safety at large, causing a violation of Article 21 of the Constitution," the plea said. The petition, filed through AP&J Chambers on October 10, made the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, the DGCA, and the Director General of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) as respondents, and is likely to come up for hearing after the Diwali vacation. The plea seeks directions for the constitution of an independent committee, comprising aviation and technical experts, to probe the crash that killed 229 passengers, 12 crew members, and 19 people on the ground. The ill-fated aircraft had taken off from Ahmedabad for London Gatwick but crashed within minutes, impacting the BJ Medical College hostel located less than a nautical mile from the end of the runway. The debris was strewn over an area of nearly 1,000 by 400 feet, indicating a high-energy impact. The Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) failed to activate, and both the pilot-in-command, Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, and co-pilot, Captain Clive Kunder, lost their lives in the crash, the plea said. The petition said that the official investigation conducted by the AAIB and the DGCA is "defective, biased, and technically unsound". The preliminary report, issued on July 12, 2025, is alleged to have wrongly attributed the cause of the crash to pilot error, while ignoring multiple systemic and technical failures that could have played a decisive role. According to the petition, "the inquiry team, rather than undertaking a comprehensive technical

investigation, appears to have disproportionately focused on the deceased pilots, who can no longer defend themselves and overlooked plausible evidence of electrical, software, or design-level failures". The plea said that such an approach not only tarnishes the reputation of the deceased crew but also undermines aviation safety, violating the right to life and dignity under Article 21 of the Constitution. "Issue an appropriate writ, order, or direction under Article 32 of the Constitution of India and constitute a Judicially Monitored Committee or Court of Inquiry, headed by a retired Judge of this Hon'ble Court, with independent aviation and technical experts as its members, to conduct a fair, transparent, and technically robust investigation into the crash..." the plea said. It also sought a direction that all prior investigations conducted so far into the crash, "including the preliminary report dated July 12, be treated as closed and all relevant materials, data, and records be transferred to the Judicially Monitored Committee or Court of Inquiry". The father of the late Sumeet Sabharwal said his son had an "unblemished career spanning over 30 years, with 15,638 hours of incident-free flying, including 8,596 hours on Boeing 787-8 aircraft, without a single reported lapse or incident causing fatalities or otherwise". The approach of the investigation has failed to adequately examine, or rule out, other more plausible technical and procedural factors relating to the Boeing that could have contributed to the tragic incident, the plea said. "It is respectfully submitted that the five-member investigation team appointed by the Respondents to investigate the crash of the Aircraft is manifestly illegal and void, as it violates the fundamental principle of natural justice, i.e., nemo iudex in causa sua, which mandates that no person should be a judge in their own cause," it said. The probe team is dominated by officers from DGCA, the state aviation authorities, whose procedures, oversight, and possible lapses are directly implicated in the investigation, it said. "Moreover, the officers are placed under the control of the DG, AAIB, thereby creating a situation where the very entities responsible for regulating and overseeing civil aviation are effectively investigating themselves. This, combined with the involvement of Boeing and General Electric representatives, undermines the impartiality, credibility, and reliability of the Report..." the plea said.

## Infosys Q2 net profit rises 13 per cent to Rs 7,364 crore

New Delhi: IT company Infosys on Thursday posted 13.2 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 7,364 crore for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025.

The company had logged a net profit of Rs 6,506 crore in the same period a year ago. Revenue from operations grew 8.6 per cent to Rs 44,490 crore during the quarter from Rs 40,986 crore a year ago. The company increased the lower base of the growth outlook for fiscal year 2026 to 2-3 per cent in constant currency terms from 1-3 per cent it had projected in the June 2025 quarter. It posted a marginal decline in operating margin to 21 per cent both on a year-over-year and a quarterly basis. The free cash flow generation was at 131 per cent of net profit at Rs 9,677 crore, and TCV (total contract value) of large deal wins was USD 3.1 billion, or about Rs 27,525 crore. The company increased the employee headcount during the quarter by 8,203 to 3,31,991 from 3,23,788 reported in the June 2025 quarter. Infosys announced an interim dividend of Rs 23 per share, an increase of 9.5 per cent over the last fiscal. Shares of Infosys settled 0.08 per cent lower at Rs 1,472.75 apiece on the BSE on Thursday.



Infosys reported a 13.2 per cent rise in Q2 net profit to Rs 7,364 crore, with revenue up 8.6 per cent. The IT firm raised its FY26 growth outlook, declared an interim dividend of Rs 23 per share, and added over 8,000 employees

## Reduce belly fat first rather than overall body weight to halt prediabetes, says new study: Why your diet and exercise pattern matter even more



A Nature study shows reducing belly fat can reverse prediabetes even without major weight loss. Experts say focusing on diet quality, strength training, and aerobic exercise improves insulin sensitivity and helps prevent diabetes. Where your fat is stored in the body and reducing it is much more important than just losing overall weight to reduce your risk of diabetes, according to a new study published in Nature. In other words, those who have prediabetes, a condition when your blood sugar is elevated but is not high enough to be classified as diabetes, should focus on removing belly fat first because that can be more impactful than losing weight overall through lifestyle corrections.

Halting prediabetes is very important as almost 70 per cent of people in this category eventually develop diabetes in their lifetimes. Reversing prediabetes also protects you from diabetes-related complications like cardiovascular conditions, kidney disease and neuropathy.

What about study findings?

Two groups in the study did not show any marked difference in overall fat levels but differed in the patterns of fat storage. Those who reported a greater reduction in belly fat (visceral adipose tissue) after one year were able to reverse prediabetes than those who did not achieve healthy blood glucose levels. Study authors from the University Hospital Tübingen in Germany found that focussed lifestyle intervention can bring prediabetics into remission even without significant weight loss. This remission, they said, cuts future Type 2 diabetes risk by approximately 70 per cent over up to 10 years. From the 1,105 participants with prediabetes, researchers focussed on data from 234 participants who did not achieve weight loss. Fifty-one participants

from this cohort of 234 individuals, who did not achieve weight loss, showed prediabetes remission after a year of lifestyle interventions, whereas the remaining 183 individuals did not achieve healthy glucose levels.

Does this study hold lessons for Indians?

"Weight loss remains the primary target for individuals who are obese. However, reversal of prediabetes can also occur without significant weight reduction, particularly when lifestyle interventions focus on improving diet quality and enhancing physical activity with the aim of increasing muscle strength, reducing fat mass and increasing lean mass rather than solely losing weight. Unlike the findings from this study conducted in a US population, in Indians, reduction of both abdominal subcutaneous fat and intra-abdominal (visceral) fat is crucial for metabolic improvement. These changes should ideally occur alongside an increase in muscle mass and functional capacity, which together contribute to improved insulin sensitivity and sustained glycaemic control," says Dr Anoop Misra, chairman, Fortis C-Doc Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences.

Why abdominal obesity is priority

Belly fat, also known as abdominal fat and visceral fat, releases inflammatory substances which impair the hormone insulin from moving sugar out of the bloodstream and into the cells. Given the inflammation, the body compensates by producing more insulin, but this can overwhelm the pancreas and lead to elevated blood sugar levels. According to Dr Misra, excess sugar is converted into fat and stored in layers around the abdomen. This is the reason why people with normal body weight but protruding stomachs tend to develop diabetes.

What lifestyle interventions should be done to reduce abdominal fat?

"Diet is always important, especially the ratio of macronutrients. Lower carbs, high protein and high monounsaturated fat, within the same calorie quota, will help in reversing prediabetes, without much weight loss," says Dr Misra. Sources of healthy carbohydrates include whole grains, fruits, non-starchy vegetables and legumes. Healthy fats include nuts, seeds, olive oil and fatty fish. Studies have shown that physical exercise reduces visceral fat. Combining resistance training that includes lifting weights at least two times a week in addition to aerobic exercises like walking, running and swimming, should be enough. Of course, a seven-hour sleep is non-negotiable to reduce blood sugar.

## Bengaluru IT professional's head spun while waking up, and lost her balance: Was her laptop habit silently damaging her spine?



A 32-year-old IT professional woke up one day, feeling spinny and grabbed the corner of her bed to balance herself. Then a tingling pain began to shoot down her legs, making it difficult for her to do even simple activities like sitting down or going upstairs. Constantly tied to her laptop, her bad posture from using it had taken a toll on her back and shoulders. The poor alignment of the head and neck had confused the balance signals to her brain. She neglected it for months, thinking it to be stress or fatigue. But her condition was a typical result of prolonged sitting, bad posture and inadequate spinal support. What she had was cervicogenic or spine vertigo. It is often triggered by sudden neck movements, like turning your head or sitting up in bed. In today's world, most office employees start and finish their day in front of their computer. They spend hours looking at monitors, continuously tapping on the keyboard, and occasionally getting up to grab a coffee. At first, it may just be a dull ache in the lower back or stiffness in the neck, easy to ignore. But over time, that mild discomfort turns into constant pain, affecting mood, focus, and even sleep.

Workplace Ergonomics: Small Changes That Matter To put it simply, ergonomics is the art of making your workplace more comfortable and less straining for your body. Just by doing little things, you can eliminate muscle and spine-related problems.

Chair and Desk Setup: Use an adjustable chair that

supports the natural "S" curve of your spine. The chair should have a good lumbar support and your table should be the same height as your elbows when you are sitting upright. The display unit should be placed in the direction of your sight and at the same height as your eyes, thus preventing strain on your neck. Posture Awareness: A straight back, relaxed shoulders and a slightly tucked chin should support the correct sitting posture. Do not come too close to the screen or sit with your legs crossed for long hours. Take Breaks and Move: The spine is a dynamic structure and needs to move to stay healthy. Stretch, stand, or take a brief walk every 45-60 minutes as a timer for picking up the break. Even a little walk of two minutes around your workstation will help avoid stiffness and will aid in the circulation of blood.

Physiotherapy: Strengthening from Within Targeted exercises can fortify the muscles supporting the spine, enhancing stability and flexibility. Our patient did the following: Core Activation: Basic movements like pelvic tilts, planks and bridges reinforce the muscles of the abdomen and back. Stretching and Flexibility Training: Tight muscles often pull the spine out of alignment. Regular stretching of hamstrings, hip flexors, and shoulders not only increased the woman's flexibility but also lessened the pressure on her lumbar region.

Posture and Gait Re-education: Stand with your back, hips and head against a wall, arms bent at 90 degrees with elbows and wrists touching the wall. Then you slowly slide your arms up and down. Cat-camel stretches and scapular retraction drills, which involve squeezing your shoulder blades together as if to hold something between them, then relaxing and repeating, are recommended. In a few weeks, the woman's pain lessened and her posture was corrected. With the passage of time, her energy levels, concentration and sleep quality also increased. Physios mostly talk about the "20-8-2 rule" which involves a quick routine: After sitting for 20 minutes, one must stand for eight and move for two. Apart from that, practising deep breathing, yoga-like stretches or taking mindfulness breaks can relax your muscles.

## My patient had rashes, fatigue, pain and gas. Yet all tests were clear: What was her body telling her?

One of my patients couldn't quite understand why she would break out into rashes, have swollen red patches that felt hot. She complained of constant fatigue or low energy levels, unexplained joint or muscle pain, brain fog or difficulty concentrating, bloating, gas and irregular bowel habits. Some days she would feel puffy as she showed steady weight gain, especially around the abdomen. Yet nothing in her regular reports showed anything alarming to warrant a diagnosis.

The point is these physical and behavioural symptoms, which are common to many conditions, can point toward persistent inflammation. This is the body's natural defence mechanism — a sign that your immune system is working to heal injury or fight infection. However, when this response persists long after the initial trigger has disappeared, it becomes chronic inflammation — a condition linked to numerous diseases, from diabetes and heart disease to Alzheimer's and certain cancers. While it often goes unnoticed, managing and measuring chronic inflammation is crucial for long-term health.

What Is Chronic Inflammation?

Unlike acute inflammation — the redness, heat, and swelling that follow an injury or infection — chronic inflammation is a low-grade, persistent state of immune activation. It occurs when the body continues to release inflam-

matory molecules even without a clear reason. Over time, this ongoing immune response can damage healthy cells, tissues and organs, contributing to premature aging and chronic disease. Several factors can trigger or worsen chronic inflammation: poor diet (especially high in sugar and trans fats), sedentary lifestyle, chronic stress, pollution, smoking, excessive alcohol, and even inadequate sleep.

How to Measure Chronic Inflammation Because chronic inflammation often has no obvious symptoms, testing is the most reliable way to detect it. Common blood tests used by healthcare professionals include: C-reactive protein (CRP) — A sensitive marker produced by the liver in response to inflammation. High-sensitivity CRP (hs-CRP) is particularly useful for assessing cardiovascular inflammation. Erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) — Measures how quickly red blood cells settle at the bottom of a test tube. A faster rate suggests inflammation. Fibrinogen — A clotting factor that rises in inflammatory conditions. Interleukin-6 (IL-6) and Tumor Necrosis Factor-alpha (TNF-α) — Specific cytokines (small proteins that act as messengers for cells) that directly indicate immune system activation. Homocysteine — Elevated levels of this amino acid after protein breakdown can be associated with chronic inflammation and increased cardiovascular risk. A doctor might recommend additional evaluations to rule out underlying conditions.



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



GNS News Agency, Oct 29

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 unfulfillment, 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 be where a batsman from Asia could feel his age or twice the number, when he would feel the revoltingly slow reflexes, the disobedient hands, the lethargic feet and the drained mind in extreme degrees. The conditions daunted him in Perth, but less than a week later, he cracked a half-century and an undefeated hundred to not only pocket the player of the series trophy, but to assert that the rumours of his decline are exaggerated, that he still could reel out runs abroad. Adelaide and Sydney were not as challenging as Perth, but were not absolute shirtfronts either. Midway through the Adelaide knock, he regathered his bearings. Perhaps, the catalyst was the lofted off-drive off Josh Hazlewood, when he shimmied out of the crease and coaxed him over mid-off. The feat had begun to dance, the hands shed its rigidity, the balance and poise had been restored, and the runs began to flow. Even though a false shot ended his Adelaide resurgence, he continued in the same vein in Sydney, where he batted somewhere closer to his peak, with a dainty smile on his face. En route the smooth ride, he casually proved that he still has the game, will and temperament to score a hundred. That he has the fight and mentality; that his reverting to the old ideals of systematic than chaotic aggression would usher in an autumnal bloom, and could probably offer one last shot at glory that has eluded him, a 50-over World Cup triumph that could paint his career with perfection, the crowning jewel in his mantlepiece. His match-winning 121 on Saturday was not his greatest white-ball innings, but it was simply a Rohit Sharma innings, a victory of timing over power, manoeuvrability over muscularity, a triumph of pure talent.

But the infrequency of ODIs would mean that Rohit, as well as Virat Kohli, would have to prove that they are supreme enough, not merely good enough, to own the spots. The breaks between the series could be vast, the scrutiny could be vaster, the process of ageing will accelerate, reaction times would dwindle and muscle mass would reduce, there could be more aches and sores. One bad injury could end it all. The team management could be tempted to blood youngsters; Yashasvi Jaiswal and Abhishek Sharma are waiting impatiently. One bad series could thrust them to the exit door. The uncertainty could be suffocating. In a sense, it's like making their debut every time they walk out to bat in a new series. It is Rohit's perception when he landed in Perth too. "When we arrived in Perth, I forgot what has happened in the last 15-17 years, wanted to start fresh, and that's how I personally look at all the games that I've played. I'm sure it'll be the same for Virat as well, but I enjoyed playing these three games." At its heart, like in the dark days of 2012, he would have realised that it's a battle he has to fight himself. He had once told this paper: " (In 2012), I figured that it's just my battle and I shouldn't be expecting that anyone would come and help me. That I need to figure it out on my own. That I have to create my own path from my own struggle. That trait was inbuilt: figure out a way out of any problem, don't go looking for people to help you." It's the same mentality that burns in him to sustain his last meaningful link to the game he has given his life to. But for that, he has to prove the things that he has proved a thousand times. And that makes the sportsman riding his sunset the most fascinating of them all.

## PV Sindhu withdraws from all badminton tour events for 2025 due to foot injury

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Two-time Olympic medal-winning shuttler PV Sindhu has announced her decision to withdraw from all remaining BWF Tour 2025 events. The decision comes after extensive consultations with her support team and renowned sports medicine expert Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, following a thorough evaluation of her recovery and rehabilitation progress.

"After consulting closely with my team and with the guidance of the incredible Dr. Pardiwala, we felt it was best for me to withdraw from all remaining BWF Tour events in 2025. The foot injury I sustained before the European leg has not fully recovered, and while it is never easy to accept, injuries are an inseparable part of every athlete's journey. They test your resilience and patience, but they also spark the fire to come back stronger," Sindhu wrote in a social media post. "Recovery and training are already in motion. Under the constant care of Dr Wayne Lombard, the support of Nisha Rawat and Chetna, and the guidance of my coach Irwansyah, I am surrounded by a team that gives me strength every single day. Their belief in me fuels my own, and I feel motivated, grateful, and hungry than ever for what lies ahead. Thank you all for your endless love and support, it truly means more than words can express. The journey continues soon."

Sindhu sustained a foot injury ahead of the European leg of the season, which, despite significant improvement, continues to require careful management to ensure long-term fitness and performance. With the guidance of her



medical and performance teams, it was collectively agreed that prioritizing complete recovery over short-term competition is the best way forward. While stepping away from the remainder of the 2025 calendar was not an easy choice, Sindhu has already begun a structured rehabilitation and training programme under close supervision. Her regimen focuses on physical conditioning, recovery protocols, and gradual reintroduction to on-court training, with the singular aim of returning to peak performance. In a press statement, Sindhu shared that she is eagerly looking forward to stepping back on the court around January 2026, channeling all her focus into recovery and preparation for the next phase of her career. Her team emphasized that this break, while temporary, will only strengthen her resolve and readiness for future challenges, including key tournaments in the lead-up to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

## Women's ODI World Cup 2025: Pratika Rawal likely to miss India's semifinal against Australia

GNS News Agency, Oct 29 Indian opening batter Pratika Rawal is likely to miss the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup semifinal against Australia owing to an ankle injury, The Indian Express has learnt.

The 25-year-old sustained the injury after she overran and fell while trying to stop a ball during the final league phase match against Bangladesh at Navi Mumbai on Sunday. Fielding at deep midwicket, Pratika ran towards her left off the last ball of the 21st over. The match had been reduced to 27 overs already after bursts of intense rain earlier in the day. Sharmin Akhter's slog towards the leg side saw Pratika over-run the ball a little to her right and then as the fielder hit the brakes, her right ankle twisted underneath her weight. The ball went for four but immediately, Pratika was in serious pain and didn't get up from her prone position for a while. The medical staff rushed on to the field as did some of her teammates. She was taken away from the field with Arundhati Reddy coming in as a substitute fielder. A stretcher was also rushed to the field by the ground staff but it was not needed as the batter hobbled off the field with the help of the Indian support staff. When India came out to bat, it was Amarjot Kaur who opened with Smriti Mandhana. The BCCI later said in an update: "India all-rounder Pratika Rawal sustained an injury to her knee and ankle while fielding in the 1st innings against Bangladesh. The BCCI Medical Team is closely monitoring her progress." India take on Australia in Navi Mumbai on Thursday in the second semifinal.



The 25-year-old sustained the injury after she overran and fell while trying to stop a ball during the final league phase match against Bangladesh at Navi Mumbai

Rawal had made a composed 122 in the crucial match against New Zealand, which helped India reach 340/3 in 49 overs. Her absence from the knockout clash could come as a body blow for India. When India named their updated squad after Yastika Bhatia's injury, they had confirmed that the standby players in reserves are Tejal Hasabnis, Prema Rawat, Priya Mishra, Minnu Mani, and Sayali Satghare. Shafali Verma, whose lack of consistency in this format led to Pratika making her debut late last year, has been in sensational form in the domestic T20 tournament but is not part of the reserves.

## 'You finished it off': Gautam Gambhir hails Rohit Sharma, Harshit Rana in dressing room chat after Sydney win



GNS News Agency, Oct 29

India head coach Gautam Gambhir was a pleased man after his side thwarted Australia's hopes of registering their first series white-wash win over them during the third ODI at the Sydney Cricket Ground last Saturday. Gambhir hailed the unbroken 168-run partnership between stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, while also heaping praise on seamer Harshit Rana's spell with the ball to set up the chase for India.

Chasing 237, India had lost captain Shubman Gill after a positive start, following which the under-fire veteran duo of Rohit and Virat adeptly took the game away from Australia. While Rohit cracked his 50th international hundred with his 33rd ODI ton, Kohli became the all-time highest run-getter in limited-overs internationals, surpassing Sachin Tendulkar. Both former India captains were heading

## Prithvi Shaw smashes second-fastest Ranji Trophy Elite double century in 2nd match for Maharashtra

GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Out-of-favour India opener Prithvi Shaw made a roaring return to form as he converted his maiden hundred for Maharashtra into the second-fastest Ranji Trophy Elite double century on Monday, facing Chandigarh at the Cricket Stadium, Sector-16 in Chandigarh. Falling for only eight in the first innings, Shaw turned out with his characteristic flair after Maharashtra had secured a 104-run first-innings lead. On Day 3 morning, Shaw waltzed to his first century of the domestic season in only 72 balls on the back of 13 fours, making it the sixth-fastest century in Ranji Trophy history.

Shaw then amped up the gears as he cracked 80 runs in the next 54 balls and moved in to Lunch at 180 off only 126 deliveries. The dashing right-hander then cantered to his double hundred in 140 deliveries, making it the second-fastest Ranji Trophy double century at the Elite or Zonal level in history, only behind Ravi Shastri's 123-ball double century for Bombay against Baroda in the 1984-85 season. The fastest First-Class double century by an Indian was achieved by Hyderabad opener Tanmay Agarwal in 119 deliveries in January 2024 in the Ranji Trophy Plate tournament. Interestingly, Shaw is now only the second Indian after Virender Sehwag to record multiple First-Class double centuries within 200 deliveries, with the latter having achieved the feat thrice in Test matches for India. Shaw had endured an ignominious start to his Ranji Trophy campaign last week when he fell for a duck in his first innings against Kerala. He bounced back with a half-century as Maharashtra secured the innings lead. Shaw's hundred breaks a century drought of 20 months, after having recorded a century for Mumbai in February 2024. Shaw is looking to reignite his career in top-level cricket after a torrid season last year in which he was dropped by Mumbai due to issues with his fitness and discipline. Shaw had been granted a no-objec-



tion certificate from Mumbai to change teams in June. "At this stage of my career, I believe joining the Maharashtra team will help me grow further as a cricketer," Shaw said in a statement. "I am deeply grateful to the Mumbai Cricket Association for the opportunities and support I have received over the years." Widely rated as one of the most exciting young talents in the world during his teenage years, Shaw's international career petered out after five Tests, six ODIs and a T20I, with his last match for India coming in July 2021. He remained prolific in the domestic scene for a couple of years after that as well before his sharp decline last season. Shaw has 4556 runs in 58 first-class appearances at 46.02, scoring 13 centuries and 18 half-centuries with a highest score of 379. In List-A games, he has 3399 runs at 55.72 and a strike-rate of 125.74. In T20s, his 2902 runs have come at a strike-rate of 151.54 and average of 25.01. He was unsold in the IPL 2025 mega auction. Shaw was captain of the Indian team that won the 2018 Under-19 World Cup, with current Test captain Shubman Gill being the player of the tournament.

## 'I deserved better, more than a series': Karun Nair reacts to India Test team snub after 25th First-Class hundred in Ranji Trophy



GNS News Agency, Oct 29

Karun Nair said he expected a better run in the Test team upon his return after eight years. (AP) Karun Nair said he expected a better run in the Test team upon his return after eight years. (AP) Karnataka batter Karun Nair's dramatic return to the India Test fold after more than eight years turned out to be a short-lived stay this season when he was dropped for the recently concluded two-match series against West Indies.

Picked for the five-match Test tour under Shubman Gill's captaincy in a period of transition in early June, Nair featured in four of the five Tests in the series India drew 2-2 with England. The 33-year-old, however, could not make a significant mark in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, aggregating 205 runs in eight innings with a solitary half-century. After being ruled out with an injury for a brief period since, Nair was overlooked for the Duleep Trophy and the subsequent India A series against Australia A before making his comeback through the Ranji Trophy for Karnataka. After scoring 73 and 8 in the first round, Nair cracked an unbeaten 174 not out against Goa, propelling Karnataka's total to 371 on Sunday.

Reflecting on his snub after recording his 25th First-Class hundred in a chat with reporters, Nair said he hoped for a better stint in his return to the national side. "Obviously, it is quite disappointing. After the last two years I've had, I think I deserved a lot better. More than a series." There are certain individuals in the [Indian] team who have had good conversations with me about how they felt. That's about it." "It does get into the head. But the second thought would

be to do your job, which is to score runs and let people have their opinions," Karun remarked. "Honestly, what target can I have next? All I want to do is to play for the country. If you're not able to do that, the next thing would be to try and win games for the side you are playing for." There was little sympathy in chief selector Ajit Agarkar's tone when he explained Karun Nair's snub from the squad against the West Indies last month. He put it bluntly: "We expected more from him (in England). He played four Tests, and there was just one fifty."

## Security tightened in Navi Mumbai after molestation incident involving Australian cricketers in Indore

Mumbai: Security measures have been strengthened in Navi Mumbai following a molestation incident involving two Australian women cricketers in Indore during the ongoing ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025. According to police reports, the players were harassed by a motorcycle-borne man on Khajrana Road, Indore, on Thursday morning while heading from the Radisson Blu Hotel to a nearby cafe. The accused, identified as Aqeel Khan, has since been arrested by Madhya Pradesh Police.

In response, tournament organizers and local authorities have stepped up security around team hotels, training venues, and stadiums in Navi Mumbai, where the remaining Women World Cup matches will be held. The incident has sparked widespread outrage among fans and citizens across India, with many demanding severe punishment for the perpetrator. At the same time, some supporters expressed concern that increased security might make players less accessible to fans. "It's unfortunate that such things still happen. The guilty should be punished, but we also hope fans don't lose their connection with players," said a fan outside the Navi Mumbai stadium.



## When Prithviraj transcended stardom to become a sensitive everyman



Over the years, Prithviraj Sukumaran's work in Tamil cinema has held a particular fascination for audiences. The Malayalam star, known for his larger-than-life hero roles back home, often transforms into a more grounded, boy-next-door figure on Tamil screens. Here, his commanding presence takes on a gentler, more nuanced quality, most memorably in Radha Mohan's Mozhi, where his performance opposite a mute heroine redefined him as a textured and sensitive leading man. Mozhi is a film that works for many reasons, the most important among them being the casting of Prithviraj as the hapless young musician Karthik, who falls in love with a hearing-impaired woman, Archana (Jyothika), living in his apartment complex. Prithviraj's earnestness and empathetic gaze bring a quiet warmth that makes the film's delicate balancing act work. Mozhi doesn't present an entitled, self-mythologizing Romeo enamoured by a damsel in distress; instead, it traces how Karthik gradually learns to understand and embrace Archana's reality and insecurities.

The corniness of Mozhi's premise is transcended by the profound empathy with which Prithviraj's character is written; Karthik is objective, non-judgmental, and deeply respectful toward the woman he loves. He is far removed from the typical Tamil film hero who pursues romance by compromising his morals or indulging his toxic impulses. Karthik is soft-spoken and observant, more of a quiet presence than an assertive participant in most scenes. This was a striking deviation from the norm in Tamil cinema, where heroes are usually defined by self-assured banter and performative charisma.

Prithviraj radiates a genuine warmth in Mozhi, embodying the rare energy of someone truly competent in the feeling of love, a man willing to wait, listen, and patiently understand what holds the other person back. The film marked the first time he was offered such a laid-back yet remarkably restrained role, in contrast to his more crowd-pleasing, alpha-hero portrayals that dominated his Malayalam career. Mozhi is a film about the linguistics of love, told through the meeting of two emotionally guarded individuals, an aspiring musician whose life revolves around creating music, and a hearing-impaired woman scarred by an unfair childhood who will never be able to hear it. That irony sits at the heart of Radha Mohan's vision for the film. One

could imagine several actors in Prithviraj's place, and the story's inherent sweetness and emotional weight would likely still resonate. Yet, the version we got makes perfect sense as Prithviraj transcends the sentimentality of the material with a counterintuitive sensitivity that grounds Karthik in emotional truth. Karthik's interactions with his close friend (played by a comically perceptive Prakash Raj) and his gentle handling of the talkative neighbour Professor Gnanaprakasam (MS Bhaskar), who still believes he is living in 1984 after the tragic loss of his son, reveal a quieter, more restrained kind of hero. He takes pleasure in being a calm, observant presence within the ensemble rather than feeling the need to dominate or outshine his co-stars.

Prithviraj brings a measured calmness and composure to his performance, ensuring the film never slips into excessive melodrama or kitsch. Jyothika complements him beautifully with her expressive physicality as the mute Archana, and together they share an effortless on-screen charm. The contrast between Karthik's quiet steadiness and Archana's volatility creates an engaging emotional rhythm throughout the film. Mozhi portrays a woman with a disability with remarkable grace, allowing her to exist as a fully realized, three-dimensional character, one shaped by layers of angst, grief, and trauma beneath her quiet exterior. The film resists the urge to sentimentalize her condition or exploit it for sympathy; instead, it frames her journey through Karthik's growing ability to understand and support Archana without judgment. She is given clear reasons for her guardedness, and Prithviraj's character responds by offering her space and respecting her agency. Jyothika, in turn, conveys with great precision the mix of helplessness and anger she feels toward Karthik, a man so unwaveringly kind that his love begins to feel suffocating. There is elegance and compassion in the way Mozhi frames the inability to hear as just another language that the hearing-impaired Archana doesn't understand. The character at a crucial scene in the film tells her gang of friends and Karthik, "Just like I don't know Hindi or Chinese, music is a language that I don't understand. But there is one thing that I understand that you guys don't, Silence." Mozhi is filled with such nice details that add to the subject of the linguistics of love that the film is firmly holding on to with all the grace and lightness of touch. Even the title 'Mozhi' literally translates to 'Language'. This is a film about the little acts of kindness and empathy that forges relationships in the language of love. Mozhi remains one of the most underrated romances of the late 2000s, offering a glimpse of what Tamil cinema could have been. A gentle, light-hearted love story unfolding with great sensitivity against the backdrop of disability is a rarity that few filmmakers have matched since. Too often, similar stories collapse under misplaced machismo or regressive ideas when handled by less assured directors. But Radha Mohan was astute enough to frame his poetic romance within the familiar rhythms of a charming meet-cute rom-com, anchored by an effortless lead pair whose chemistry could rival any in contemporary Tamil cinema.

## 'Dharmendra will never marry you,' Dimple Kapadia told Hema Malini as she struggled with loneliness in her marriage with 'arrogant' Rajesh Khanna



Rajesh Khanna was one of the most successful actors of his generation, but his arrogant attitude with his co-stars, and his tendency to hold up shoots for hours, often upset those who worked with him, and Hema Malini, who was also a leading superstar of the era, was one of them. But despite their differences, Hema and Rajesh ended up working in 13 films together, and the reason behind that was Hema's friendship with Dimple Kapadia, who had just gotten married to Rajesh Khanna. Dimple was a teenager when she met Hema, who was 9 years older than her, and since both were struggling in their personal lives, they developed a warm friendship.

In Hema Malini's biography, 'Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl' by Ram Kamal Mukherjee, Hema shared that Rajesh Khanna "would behave strangely" with her, and since she did not give him any special attention, he found her to be "arrogant," and she felt the same. But, it was during this time that Hema would often see Dimple as she accompanied her husband for shoots, and the two became each other's confidantes. Dimple and Rajesh got married when she was just 16, and he was 32. The marriage had its chal-

lenges from the start, and Hema could see it closely. For Hema, this period was just as tough as she was in love with Dharmendra, who was married with four children.

Hema, in her biography, recalled that she had a "warm feeling" towards Dimple, and saw her as a "kid sister." "This kid was all wrapped up in a big sari, with a jooda and bangles covering her arms. Then she had a baby soon after," Hema recalled as she described Dimple's loneliness as a newlywed. "During the outdoor locations, she would sit there smoking and drinking, but I never felt it looked wrong or indecent. I know she was going through a lot of tension and she was such a lonely girl. Rajesh used to shoot all day, and in the evenings, he would sit with his friends and chat late into the night and drink. She had no company," she recalled. Dimple craved for company, and since Hema would often travel with her parents, Dimple would hang out with them. "I think she liked that family atmosphere. So she would spend a lot of time with us," she said. Hema hinted that her personal life was going through many obstacles, and she would look to Dimple for advice. "I was going through a lot of tension in my personal life those days and used to discuss it with her. You see, I was not married then, while she was. So there were certain things or advice she could give me," she shared.

Dimple, on the other hand, was going through her own set of problems. She had gotten married to a superstar at a young age. And despite a hit debut in the movies, Bobby, she was made to give up on films. She had also embraced motherhood at a very young age, and had a lot on her plate, but despite all that, she was a true friend to Hema. Dimple, in the same book, recalled that she believed Dharmendra would never marry Hema. "You see, I was such a hot-headed person in those days that I'd get all worked up about her problems. I'd tell her things like, 'This man (Dharmendra) is never going to marry you. You better sit up and do something about it.' And if she had listened to me..." Dharmendra and Hema got married in 1980.

## Pradeep Ranganathan pulls Mamitha Baiju's hair at Dude event; fans defend actor: 'They were asked to recreate...'

Pradeep Ranganathan and Mamitha Baiju have been busy promoting their upcoming film, Dude. However, a recent incident during the film's promotional event in Hyderabad has gone viral on social media, drawing widespread criticism toward Pradeep for his alleged inappropriate behavior on stage with co-star Mamitha. In a video circulating online, the actor can be seen pulling the Premalu star by her hair during the event. However, it was later revealed that the moment was a recreation of a scene from the film. Mamitha can also be seen smiling and joining in the fun. Several netizens shared in the comments section of the post that the two actors were simply

enacting a lighthearted sequence where the hero pulls the heroine's hair. A user wrote, "This tweet lacks basic common sense. They were asked to recreate a scene from the movie, and the dialogue is from the film too."

Dude is a coming-of-age drama set against the backdrop of two cousins who run a surprise event management startup. Written and directed by debutant Keerthiswaran, a former associate of filmmaker Sudha Kongara, Dude also stars R. Sarath Kumar, Neha Shetty, Rohini, and Hridhu Haroon. Dude is slated for a theatrical release on October 17, alongside Dhruv Vikram's Bison and Harish Kalyan's Diesel.

## 'I don't have an entourage': Smriti Irani says television can't afford such 'tantrums'; weighs in on the 8-hour shift demand



After nearly two decades, Smriti Irani has made a much-anticipated return to television, reprising her iconic role as Tulsi Virani in Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2. The reboot is reportedly performing strongly in the ratings, echoing the phenomenal success of the original show in its prime. In a conversation with India Today, Smriti Irani addressed several ongoing debates in the entertainment industry, including discussions around actors' entourages and the demand for an eight-hour work shift for both male and female performers. Speaking about entourages, she said, "I don't have an entourage. I've never had one. Television, for one can't afford all these tantrums. Secondly, I've never had an entourage. I don't walk around with security personnel, so I know that hogwash also came. I never walked

around with security, that was ascribed to me even when I was a cabinet minister. So, if there are people and actors who get a high out of, you know, living this whole fake persona, I mean, you have to be so sad to do that."

On the debate over work-hour limits, she acknowledged the challenges of television production but emphasized professional commitment. "Work hours are still a challenge, because we do have to work. You have to come up with a product every night for a set audience, you have a commitment to a network. You cannot say that the producer's commitment shall not be honoured. Saying 'I don't feel like working today' is not acceptable professionally," she said.

When asked about recent discussions surrounding actor Deepika Padukone's demand for an eight-hour work limit, Smriti called it as an "individual issue." On whether such situations reflect gender disparities, she said men and women face different biological realities and therefore cannot be compared, particularly when it comes to pregnancy. Sharing her own experience, she recalled working through two pregnancies during the original Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi shoot. "I worked through two pregnancies on this very set with a female producer. I was determined to make her show a success. It was my choice, and I can't expect others to make their decisions based on my work ethic. If I don't turn up to work, 120 people don't get paid that day. It's unfair to them. My approach to work is rooted in accountability and discipline," she said. The larger debate began after Deepika Padukone reportedly exited two high-profile projects, Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit and the sequel to Kalki 2898 AD. Responding to the controversy, Deepika told Brut India: "I don't think what I am asking for is ridiculously unfair and I think only someone who has worked in the system enough will know the conditions that we work in. And I am saying this, if I may say so myself, a top star, so you can only imagine what the working conditions must be like for everyone else, for the crew, for example."

## 'If everything was fine between Karisma Kapoor and Sunjay Kapur, would there be a second wife?' Priya Sachdev questions amid Rs 30,000 cr legal battle

Late businessman Sunjay Kapur's wife Priya Sachdev Kapur on Wednesday told the Delhi High Court that his ex-wife and actor Karisma Kapoor's children cannot challenge his will on the "bogus" ground of incorrect spellings or address. The only ground to challenge the will, Priya's counsel told the court, was if the deceased was not of sound mind, or was under coercion or under some inability to execute the will, which are all grounds of challenge available in probate proceedings. The counsel made the submission during of a petition filed by Sunjay Kapur's step-children challenging their father's purported will of his assets worth reportedly Rs 30,000 crore. The actress' children have filed the suit against Priya Kapur, her son, as well as the deceased's mother Rani Kapur and Shradha Suri Marwah, the purported executor of the will dated March 21, 2025.

Priya's lawyer Rajiv Nayar claimed that the entire plaint of the plaintiffs, Samaira and Kiaan Raj, was bereft of any cause of action and there was no challenge to the will. "I disclosed the will on July 30. There were two opportunities to plaintiff. There was a will reading. It was read out to everyone, including the plaintiff. Everybody knew that there is a will of Sunjay Kapur in existence," the counsel said, as per Press Trust of India. "The suit is filed on September 9. There is no reference or challenge to will in the plaint. Will is shared with them on September 15. They are conscious about existence of will as far back on July 30, prior to the filing of the suit. Today, we are dealing with a non-existent challenge to the will. It's a bogus challenge," said the counsel, adding that no one challenged Sunjay's signature on the will.

"Has anyone disputed the signatures? All that is said is that he couldn't have done it. We are to only see that whether the will was executed by a person of sound mind in the presence of two attesting witnesses. The challenge is because the will was given late. Or that he couldn't have executed. There is no challenge to the execution of the will," argued the counsel. He claimed that a narrative is being built, which claims "everything was okay between Sunjay and Karisma". "If that was the case, would there be another wife?" he asked. Karisma's children on Tuesday told the high court that their late father could not have drafted his purported will as "feminine pronoun" is used in it to describe him. The children's counsel said there was a fundamental question that whether the will was signed by Sunjay or by a woman in the declaration clause. He said there was no explanation



of the mistake and that the children's stepmother, Priya, and other defendants were silent on who prepared the will. On Monday, the kids' lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani questioned the authenticity of the will, claiming that Sunjay had written his daughter's address wrong and misspelt his son's name in multiple places in it. On October 9, the children accused Priya of being "greedy" while terming her "Cinderella stepmother" before the court. The children's counsel claimed on October 9 that Priya has got 60 per cent of the assets and approximately 12 per cent have gone to her son. "She is also getting 75 per cent of the trust," the counsel claimed. They told the court that there was "enough evidence" to conduct a probe, while accusing Priya of forgery. Questioning the authenticity of the will, the counsel said that prima facie Sunjay did not consult an advocate while making the current will. It was "not possible that he would not have consulted an advocate before creating a will and bequeathing such a large estate," they said, adding that the executor of the will got it one day before its reading. The will was modified when Sunjay was on a holiday with his son, adding that the person who forged the document got rewarded.

## Yuvraj Singh's father Yograj accuses ex-wife of abandoning him for a 'Baba': 'You couldn't cook for your husband, but you were ready to serve him?'

Actor and former cricketer Yograj Singh said that his life changed completely when his teenage son, Yuvraj Singh, chose to leave with his mother, Shabnam, never to return. Yograj has said that he was in jail when Yuvraj made his debut for India, and that he was determined to turn him into a legend. Yograj said that he was left all alone when his ex-wife and Yuvraj left his house, and that he spiraled further out of control. He recalled the day that happened, and, in a different interview, spoke about the influence his ex-wife's faith had on her decision.

In an interview with Untold Punjab, Yograj said, "I am a sinner, I have made many mistakes in my life. I have been suffering all my life, but the day Yuvi and his mother left, my life turned on its head. But it was destined to happen. I feel that I was trained by God." Asked if he felt alone, Yograj said that even though he was physically alone, but he was spiritually connected to a higher power. "There were days when I had no food, it was raining, I had nowhere to go. Nobody was bothered about me, everybody had turned their back on me. People thought I wouldn't survive," he said, adding that God supported him. "I didn't have Rs 5 in my pocket when I was offered Rs 5 lakh for Bhaag Milkha

Bhaag."

In an earlier interview on SMTV, Yograj declared that he has no family, and that everybody had severed ties with him years ago. All of this, he said, was a part of the sacrifice he made in order to create a champion like Yuvraj. "Everything fell apart because of my burning desire for vengeance," he said, referring to his own youth. Yograj has claimed that he was a victim of a conspiracy concocted by his competitors, and that he vowed to take his revenge on them through Yuvraj. In the same interview, he said that he has no sons or daughters, and considers God to be his only family.

But he had a change of heart only a few months later, after having a near-death experience. In more recent interviews, he has presented a remorseful side, admitting that he has sinned throughout life and done wrong by his nearest and dearest ones. While he has spoken openly about his own devotion, he wasn't as accepting of his ex-wife's faith. He was asked why he objected to her following the Hansali Wale Baba, and he said, "There is nothing grater than the Guru Granth Sahib... I don't trust any of these so-called leaders.