





# Indian Chronicle

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## On women's turnout, Bihar Assembly election

Bihar has again demonstrated a singular electoral pattern in the Assembly elections which have ended. In preliminary voter turnout data from the Election Commission of India (ECI), women outnumbered men by at least 4.34 lakh votes, which is striking as they were registered approximately 42 lakh fewer than men on the electoral rolls following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). This gender gap, where those with fewer registrations turned out in greater absolute numbers, underscores a complex interplay of welfare politics, demographic realities and lingering questions about electoral roll integrity. The paradox becomes pronounced when viewed against the backdrop of the SIR exercise that preceded the election. It resulted in net exclusions favouring men, with women disproportionately removed from the rolls. Following these deletions, the gender ratio of Bihar's electorate plummeted to just 892 in the final SIR rolls, as against 907 recorded barely a year earlier. The Hindu's statistical analysis of the draft SIR and exclusion data — released after a Supreme Court of India directive — revealed that women (18-29 years) were most severely affected, particularly under the "permanently shifted" category of exclusions. This suggests that women who moved after marriage bore the brunt of deletions, with no transparency on whether they were added to rolls in their new locations. Despite these anomalies, the higher turnout of women is likely to work to the advantage of the Nitish Kumar-led government, if past electoral trends hold true. His nearly two-decade tenure has consistently emphasised women's empowerment through targeted welfare measures. This election cycle saw the launch of the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana in September, and the transfer of 10,000 to women across Bihar.

## India Could Save 8 Million Lives from Smoking by 2060, Says New Report Ahead of WHO COP11

Hyderabad:Tobacco use continues to be one of the world's most stubborn public health challenges, claiming more than eight million lives every year. A new global report suggests that this grim toll can be reduced dramatically if countries embrace the full potential of 21st-century innovations — from tobacco harm reduction (THR) and improved cessation support to early disease detection. Together, these measures could help save over 100 million lives worldwide by 2060.

There are currently over 1.1 billion smokers worldwide, with tobacco-related diseases posing a formidable challenge to public health systems everywhere. This critical report, "Lives Saved: Saving 100 Million Lives by 2060," authored by distinguished public health leaders including Dr. Derek Yach, Project Leader, and Dr. Delon Human, offers a clear roadmap for how innovative science-based approaches can markedly reduce smoking-related mortality. A pragmatic blend of traditional tobacco control and modern harm reduction could halve global smoking-related deaths if 20% of the world's 1.1 billion smokers switched to low-risk alternatives in the next 10–15 years (with many others quitting via better support), smoking attributable deaths could be cut in half by 2060. In 23 countries studied, this strategy may prevent over 14 million premature deaths by 2060—doubling the impact of current measures. With innovation, prevention, and early screening, annual tobacco-related deaths could decline sharply by mid-century.

India, home to one of the largest populations of adult smokers with a prevalence rate of 21.8%, could save approximately 8 million lives by 2060 through the adoption of these harm reduction strategies. The report highlights that supplementing traditional tobacco control with regulated, science-based alternatives would accelerate mortality decline by 25 to 50 percent compared to continuing current measures alone. Older and middle-aged smokers, who are at the highest risk, stand to benefit most significantly. Dr. Derek Yach, Project Leader shared, "The WHO's FCTC has not kept pace with scientific and technological advancements. It's time to recognise the potential of safer alternatives and prioritise harm reduction. The treaty's current emphasis on bans and strict regulation, without distinction for risk, is outdated. We cannot afford to wait for a miracle. Saving lives requires bold action. Let us unite in our commitment to a smoke-free future — one where harm reduction leads the way."

## Fire Accident Reported at NFC Main Road, Moula Ali



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""A fire broke out at a hardware and materials store under the Kushaiguda Police Station limits on the evening of November 12, 2025. According to police, the shop Sri Sai Rohith Marketing, owned by Laxman Kumar is located at Plot No. 66, opposite Krishna Nagar Road No. 7 on NFC Main Road, Moula Ali. The establishment deals in aluminium, plywood, glass, hardware, and related materials. After closing the shop around 8:15 p.m., Laxman Kumar left for home. About half an hour later, around 8:45 p.m., he received a phone call from a nearby shop, KGN Furniture, informing him that his store had caught fire. By the time he arrived, Kushaiguda police, fire department personnel, nearby shop owners, and local residents were already on the scene and managed to bring the flames under control. Several materials inside the store were destroyed in the blaze. Preliminary reports suggest that an electrical short circuit may have caused the fire. Police have registered a case at Kushaiguda Police Station and launched an investigation into the incident.

## Blackbaud Celebrates New Office Opening in Hyderabad, Marking One Year of Growth in India



HYDERABAD:Blackbaud (NASDAQ: BLKB), the leading provider of software for powering social impact, today announced the opening of its new Hyderabad office, marking a year since establishing operations in India. The new office expands Blackbaud's global footprint and underscores its commitment to accelerating innovation, AI integration,

and product development for customers around the world.

The new office will serve as a strategic global location, expanding Blackbaud's capacity to deliver intelligent, scalable, and purpose-driven software across fundraising, financial management, digital giving, grantmaking, corporate social responsibility, and education management solutions. "Hyderabad brings together a world-class talent ecosystem and a vibrant technology culture, both of which align perfectly with Blackbaud's purpose," said Kevin Gregoire, executive vice president and chief operating officer, Blackbaud. "Our Hyderabad presence strengthens our position as a global leader and helps us lead the social impact market into the age of AI — developing technology that empowers our customers to drive meaningful change worldwide." Located in HITEC City, the new office reflects Blackbaud's long-term investment in India. The team will focus on enhancing Blackbaud's existing platforms through AI integration, cloud-native development, and data modernisation. Hyderabad's energy and skill depth make it the perfect home for our growing team," added Rajiv Gajria, vice president and managing director, Blackbaud India.

## PhonePe Announces Strategic Collaboration with OpenAI to Bring ChatGPT to Indian Users at Scale

Hyderabad:PhonePe today announced a strategic collaboration with OpenAI, a leading global AI company, aimed at accelerating consumer adoption of ChatGPT in India and fostering mutual business growth. This collaboration will enable PhonePe users to explore ChatGPT's features on the PhonePe platform, helping more Indians experience the potential of advanced artificial intelligence (AI). The collaboration has the potential to further enhance the user experience on the PhonePe platform by offering smarter and relevant information on everyday needs from planning their travel to shopping. This collaboration will make ChatGPT discoverable across PhonePe's consumer app and the PhonePe For Business app, while drawing upon the functional strength of the broader PhonePe ecosystem, including the Indus Appstore. As the adoption of generative AI increases in the country, this collaboration will help open up potential use cases for users.

Speaking on the launch, Rahul Chari, Founder, Whole-time Director and Chief Technology Officer, PhonePe said, "At PhonePe, we have spent years building the foundational layers for digital services at population scale. This strategic



alliance demonstrates that collaborations between innovative companies in this space can help expand the reach of cutting-edge technology to the broader population. We are excited to partner with OpenAI to begin this journey."

Oliver Jay, Head of International at OpenAI, added, "Our collaboration with PhonePe is a significant milestone in our mission to make AI more accessible to people throughout India. India is a global hub for innovation, and PhonePe's deep understanding of the country's fabric and its user base make them the ideal partner. This partnership will demonstrate the immense value of consumer AI across India, helping millions of users enhance their daily lives."

## Stadium Land Case Dismissed in District Court — Verdict Favors Government and Public— Gagan Kumar, Convener, Smashaana Vatika Protection Committee, Jammigadda.



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""In a significant development, the Appeal Suit (AS 45/2023) related to the Kapra Stadium land issue has been dismissed by the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Court, marking a clear victory for the government and the public. The case pertained to Survey No. 199 of Kapra Mandal, which includes both the proposed stadium site and the Jammigadda burial ground area. The dispute had been pending for nearly two years in the district court, with the latest judgment confirming the land as government property. Gagan Kumar, Convener of the Jammigadda Smashaana Vatika Protection Committee, described the verdict as a triumph of justice in the people's fight to protect

public land. He explained that the government had originally allocated 12 acres of land in Survey No. 199 for the construction of a public stadium. However, in 2003, a group of private individuals from the Kushaiguda area (Chilukamma & Others) filed a civil suit (OS 197/2003) in the Ranga Reddy District Court claiming ownership. After a long legal battle lasting two decades, the case was dismissed by the Medchal-Malkajgiri Court (OS 197/2003—OS 18/2023) on August 14, 2023. Following the dismissal, the petitioners approached the Telangana High Court (WP 23522/2023) on August 23, 2023, seeking a stay order. However, after the respondents submitted evidence collected under the Right to Information Act proving government ownership, the stay request was dropped. Subsequently, the petitioners withdrew their case on January 2, 2024. Undeterred, they filed an appeal suit (AS 45/2023) in the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Court on October 17, 2023. After nearly two years of hearings, the district court has now dismissed the appeal, reinforcing the government's rightful claim over the land. Gagan Kumar urged GHMC Kapra officials and Kapra Mandal Revenue authorities to immediately begin fencing the remaining 9 acres and 22 guntas of open land within the allocated 12-acre stadium site to prevent further encroachment. He expressed gratitude to all those who supported him in this public land protection movement, including local resident Narsimha Chary and HRPC Uppal Constituency General Secretary Ashok, who were present in court during the hearing.

## Medchal Congress Incharge Launches Indiramma Housing Unit in Ponnala Village



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""The housewarming ceremony for a newly constructed Indiramma house was held with great enthusiasm at Ponnala village under the Muchintalapally Municipality limits in the Medchal constituency. Medchal constituency Congress incharge Totakura Vajresh Yadav attended the event as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the Indiramma housing unit. Speaking on the occasion, Vajresh Yadav said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the state government is committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the people by providing houses to poor families through the Indiramma Housing Scheme, which aims to construct five lakh homes across Telangana. He added that thousands of economically weaker families have already benefited from this welfare initiative. The event was attended by Medchal Market Committee Chairman Bommalapally Narsimhulu Yadav, District RTA Member Bheemidi Jaipal Reddy, Muchintalapally Municipal Congress President Dosakayala Venkatesh, Aliyabad Municipal Con-

gress President Thunki Ramesh, ex-Deputy Sarpanch Gaddam Ramesh, Indiramma Committee members, ex-public representatives, Congress leaders, party workers, and a large number of local residents.

## Paddy Procurement Centers Inaugurated Across Shamirpet and Muduchintalapally Mandals

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""Medchal MLA and former ex minister Chamakura Malla Reddy inaugurated the paddy procurement centers set up at Shamirpet mandal headquarters,



Aliyabad village in Shamirpet mandal, and Jaganguda village in Muduchintalapally mandal. He formally launched the paddy procurement operations and inspected the arrangements made for farmers. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the government is committed to ensuring that farmers get a fair price for their produce and that every grain of paddy will be procured without any inconvenience. He appreciated the officials and staff for making timely arrangements and instructed them to extend full support to farmers during the procurement process.

## Polycab Becomes India's First to Earn GreenPro Certification for House-Wires



Hyderabad:Polycab, India's leading manufacturer of cables and wires, has achieved a landmark sustainability milestone by becoming the first company in the country to receive the prestigious GreenPro Certification from the Confederation of Indian Industry – Indian Green Building Council (CII-IGBC) for its flagship product, Polycab Green Wire+, in the house-wires category.

This recognition underscores Polycab's unwavering commitment to delivering safe, eco-friendly, sustainable, and high-performance electrical solutions. The GreenPro Certification validates the product's environmental excellence across its lifecycle—from raw material sourcing to manufacturing, usage, and disposal—reinforcing Polycab's leadership in driving green innovation in the electrical industry. GreenPro Certification is a prestigious eco-label that evaluates products based on its environmental performance across the lifecycle. Polycab Green Wire+ meet stringent criteria for safety, durability, and reduced environmental impact, making it ideal for homes and commercial projects. With India's green building sector growing at a CAGR of 12%, with over 10 billion square feet registered under various certification programs, demand for environmentally responsible and energy-efficient materials is accelerating. GreenPro-certified wires are poised to play a critical role in building safer, healthier, and greener spaces.

Speaking on the achievement, Mr. Ishwinder Singh Khurana, Executive President and Chief Business Officer - B2C, Polycab India, said, "At Polycab, safety and sustainability are not just goals—they're responsibilities. Becoming India's first to receive GreenPro certification in the house wires category, is a proud milestone that reflects our commitment to safer homes and a greener future. This achievement reinforces our long-term vision of delivering electrical solutions that are not only reliable and high-performing, but also safe for you and safe for the environment."

## Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Launches Inner City Basti Sports Meet



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 13 (Indian Chronicle):""The Sai Vikas High School Sports Meet 2025 began on a grand note at Vijaya Puri Colony, Uppal, under the supervision of school correspondent Jangir. The event was inaugurated by Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy. "Speaking on the occasion, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy said that such sports meets help bring out the hidden talents and skills of students. She encouraged students to actively participate in both academics and sports and strive to excel at national and international levels. "Students from Sai Vikas High School are taking part in various competitions such as chess, kabaddi, running, and shot put. "Vijaya Puri Colony president Ling Reddy, Lingampalli Ramakrishna, Venkatesh, Alugula Anil, and Salla Prabhakar Reddy were present at the event.

## Harish Rao and Bandari Laxma Reddy Attend Sai Manoj's Grand Wedding Ceremony



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""Ex-Minister and Siddipet MLA T. Harish Rao, along with Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, attended the grand wedding ceremony of Sai Manoj, son of Gangula Sudhakar, brother of ex-Minister Gangula Kamalakara. The event was held in a festive atmosphere, attended by family members, friends, and well-wishers. During the ceremony, the leaders extended their heartfelt wishes to the newlywed couple, blessing them for a happy and prosperous married life. The wedding celebration witnessed the presence of several public representatives and prominent personalities from political and social circles.



# Communism is the Only Alternative in the Country



People's Problems Can Be Solved Only Through the Red Flag""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""Communist Party of India (CPI) State Secretary and MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao stated that communism remains the only true alternative in the country and that people's issues can be resolved only through the power of the red flag. He attended the CPI Medchal-Malkajgiri District Committee meeting held at Neelam Rajasekhara Reddy Bhavan, ECIL, presided over by District Executive Committee member K. Srinivas. Addressing the meeting, Kunamneni said that global developments indicate a growing trust in communism among people worldwide. He cited examples such as the rise of communists to power in Sri Lanka and New York, and the recent unification of communist forces in Nepal as proof of this trend. He criticized the Modi government for failing to deliver on its promises of 75 lakh for every family, doubling farmers' income, controlling prices, and creating two crore jobs annually. Instead, he said, the BJP continues to stoke communal tensions and emotional divides to retain power. He accused the government of privatizing public sector institutions built over six decades through the sacrifices of workers and citizens selling off entities in banking, telecom, min-

ing, and even the defense sector. He alleged that the BJP has been looting the country's wealth to favor corporate tycoons like Adani and Ambani, making the rich richer and the poor poorer. Kunamneni stated that the CPI continues to fight against laws that turn farmers and workers into servants of corporate investors. The party is committed to uniting communist and left democratic forces across the country and mobilizing the masses toward communist ideology through people's movements. He announced that the CPI will celebrate its 100-year anniversary on December 26 in Khammam, with representatives from 40 countries expected to attend and an estimated five lakh people participating. He called on CPI workers and supporters from across the state to attend in large numbers. Kunamneni criticized the central government's unfair allocation of funds favoring BJP-ruled states while neglecting others resulting in stalled development. He expressed concern that farmers are not receiving fair prices for their produce and urged the Centre to act immediately. He said the CPI allied with Congress in Telangana to prevent the BJP from gaining power in the state. However, he clarified that despite the alliance, the CPI will continue to fight against anti-people policies and raise issues that affect the public. CPI State Executive Member V.S. Bose and National Committee Member Yusuf urged party cadres to work tirelessly to ensure the grand success of the centenary celebrations by connecting with the people at the grassroots level. The meeting was attended by CPI Medchal District Secretary Uma Mahesh, State Council Members Damodar Reddy, Sailu Goud, Kalluru Dharmendra, District Executive Members Shankar, Lakshmi, Swamy, Kishan, Shankar Rao, Harinath Rao, Krishna, Satyaprasad, Yadayya Goud, Lotti Eshwar, Salman Baig, Parameshwar, Madhavi, Prameela, Ramesh, Narendra Prasad, Babu, and several others.

## Community Hall in Sonia Gandhi Nagar to Open Soon: Bonthu Sridevi Yadav

""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""The construction of the community hall at Sonia Gandhi Nagar Phase-1 in Charlapally Division is nearing completion and is expected to be ready for public use within a month, according to GHMC Standing Committee Member and Charlapally Division Corporator Bonthu Sridevi Yadav. Speaking on the occasion, Sridevi Yadav said that once completed, the community hall will serve as a vital space for various social and cultural programs benefiting local residents. Those present at the event included AE Abhishek, Work Inspector Praveen, AMC Director Nagilla Bal Reddy, Sonia Gandhi Colony Phase-1 President Bhikshapathi, Honorary President Mailaram Bal Narsimha, Secretary Gopal, along with Raju, Siddu, Rajaratnam, Bhanu Netha, Rama Rao, Yadagiri, Hari, Girija, Kanthamma, Neelamma, Sharada, Sumathi, Vijayalakshmi, and others.



## BCs' reservation movement will not stop until the BC bill at the center is included in the ninth schedule



:- Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah""Mandava Srisaillam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 13):- On the call of Telangana State BC JAC Working Chairman Jajula Srinivas Goud, a BCs' Dharma Porata Deeksha was held at Prince Chowrastha in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district center under the auspices of the District BC JAC. The chief guest of the program was state government whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya. He said that the BC reservation movement will not stop until the BC bill at the center is included in the ninth schedule. If necessary, we will take the opposition parties to Delhi under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. If necessary, we will take thousands of BCs to Delhi

with a large-scale struggle to put pressure on the center and our BC struggle will not stop until we achieve 42 percent reservation for BCs in Telangana. He encouraged the leaders of BC caste organizations and BC representatives from various parties who came to the deeksha. In this program, BC Welfare Association District President Kotha Narasimhaswamy, District Executive President Gottipamula Baburao, District Library Chairman Owaisi Chisti, Former MPP Adhikam Lakshminarayana Goud, State Leaders of BC Employees' Associations Maturi Ashok, Congress Party PCC Delegate Tangallapalli Ravikumar, Former Municipal Chairman Barre Jahangir, Former Municipal Chairman Penta Narasimha, BJP Leader Survi Srinivas Goud, Bar Association Presidents V Venkatesh Goud, Harinath, Mallesh Kukuduvu Krishna, Chandrasekhar Reddy Jukanti Ravi, Association Constituency President Saban Karu Venkatesh, Yadagiriguta Mandal President Ashok Chari, State Leaders of Dalit Associations Battu Ramachandrabhai, MRPS District President Ramakrishna Madiga, Devender Madiga, Shetty Balayya Yadav, Abba Gani Venkatesh, Pittala Balaraj, District President of the Potters Association Gopal, General Secretary Dharpalli Praveen Kumar, Gumadili Ramesh, Sivakumar Rajaka, Goulikar Kishan, Nai Brahmin Association leaders Vemula Satyanarayana, Damodar, Mera Association leaders Kirti Satyanarayana Donakonda Satyanarayana, and other BC leaders and leaders of BC caste associations participated.

## Everyone should participate in the week-long library week and make the programs successful



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Society Chairman MD. Awais Ur Rehman Chisti""Mandava Srisaillam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 13):- The 58th National Library Week will be organized at the District Central Library from the 14th to the 20th of this month. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Society Chairman MD. Awais Ur Rehman Chisti and District Library Society Secretary M. Sudhir said in a statement. Speaking at a meeting organized at the District Central Library on this occasion, Library Chairman Awais Chisti said that there will be a program every day in the programs organized during the week, and the first day of the week will be the national flag hoisting ceremony on the 14th. He said that these programs, which will be held for a week, will include a book exhibition, a poet's gathering, speech competitions, essay writing competitions, quiz competitions, and a Women's Day

dance competition. He asked students of government and private schools in Bhuvanagiri town, prominent people, officials, non-officials, and the public to participate in large numbers to make this program a success. Employees of the District Library Society, readers, and others participated in this program.

## Selection For NCERT Training



""Indian Chronicle""kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporter, Jade Srinivas, November 13""Asifabad Jankapur, the district headquarters""ZP High School Bioscience teacher Vadluri Rajesh has been selected for the capacity building training to be organized by NCERT in Delhi from 18th to 21st of this month. vadluri Rajesh said that this training will provide awareness on gender (sex) education as well as transgender education.

## Public problems in villages should be solved: CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha



""Mandava Srisaillam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle November 13):- For the past 20 months, many problems have accumulated in the villages due to the absence of a Sarpanch and a governing body and the people are facing many difficulties. Even now, the government should allocate adequate funds to solve the problems in the villages and solve them, said CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha. On Thursday, a house-to-house survey program was organized in Anajipuram and Chimalakondur villages under Bhuvanagiri Mandal as part of the call of the CPM District Committee. Speaking on the occasion, Narasimha said that since the Congress government did not hold gram panchayat elections after coming to power, problems are not being solved under the rule of special officers due to the absence of governing bodies. He said that the Panchayat secretaries are not in a position to solve basic infrastructure such as sewers, street lights and roads in the villages. He said that the

secretaries are not in a position to do the work except to say that they do not have money to solve the problems. He criticized that the government has failed to implement many promises made to the people. He said that people are also facing problems like houses, house plots and pensions in the villages, and even the free electricity that the government will provide is not available to everyone. He said that even if there is a small problem, people in the village do not know who to tell. He criticized that the special administration officers are not in a position to visit the villages even for three months, they are not in a position to know the problems and they are not in a position to solve them. Narasimha demanded that elections be held immediately and appropriate funds be allocated to solve the basic problems even if they are not known in the villages. He said that the struggles will continue in the coming period on the problems that have arisen based on the survey conducted under the auspices of the CPM. CPM Mandal Secretary Pallerla Anjaiah, former Mandal Secretary Dr. Bollepalli Kumar, Mandal Secretariat Member Edunuri Malleshham, Mandal Committee Members Abdullapuram Venkatesh, Kondapuram Yadagiri, Anajipuram Branch Secretary Edunuri Venkatesh, Chimala Kondur Branch Secretary Boda Anjaneyulu, Party Members of the respective villages Bollepalli Swamy, Venkataswamy, Bollepalli Paramesh, Gangadara Ban Prakash, Nomula Jyothi, Ragula Kishtiah, Ragiri Mallaiah, Pallerla Lalayah, Mulugu Ramulu, Muthamma, Matamma and others participated in this program.

## Jangareddygudem Youth Leader Meets Ex-Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy

""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""Ex-Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy met with Jangareddygudem Mandal Youth Wing President Ganji Vinod Kumar, along with senior YSRCP leaders Venkanna and Katam David Raju, at his residence in Tadepalli. During the meeting, Vinod Kumar discussed issues concerning the strengthening of the party in the Chintalapudi constituency and raised concerns over the current government's negligence toward youth and students. He criticized the government for delaying the delivery of welfare benefits to young people and for its moves toward privatizing government colleges, stating that education itself is being commercialized. He expressed disappointment that the government has completely ignored the problems faced by students and unemployed youth. Responding positively, ex-Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy assured that once the YSRCP returns to power in the upcoming elections, the new government will prioritize education and employment opportunities for poor students and the youth.



## Road from Kapra MRO Office to Kapra Bodrai Developed Residents and Devotees Thank Congress Leader Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy



""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""The main BT road from Kapra MRO Office to Kapra Bodrai has been newly developed, bringing much-needed relief to commuters, devotees, and residents. The development was taken up following repeated requests from the trustees of Sri Lakshmi Chennakeshava Swamy Temple and local Congress leaders, who highlighted the

poor condition of the road filled with potholes and uneven surfaces, especially causing hardship during the ongoing Kartika Masam. Responding promptly to these concerns, Uppal constituency Congress in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy took the initiative and coordinated with the concerned officials to sanction special funds for the road construction.

The works were carried out under the supervision of senior Congress leader and Medchal-Malkajgiri District Agricultural Market Committee Vice Chairman Vithal Naik. The newly laid road has now eased movement for local residents, vehicle users, and devotees visiting Sri Lakshmi Chennakeshava Swamy Temple. The temple trustees and the residents of Kapra town expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy for addressing their long-pending issue and ensuring smooth transportation in the area. Among those present on the occasion were senior Congress leader and Vice Chairman of the Agricultural Market Committee Vithal Naik, temple trust members Padamati Mallareddy, Pabbati Narendra Goud, Pottu Baburao, P. Srinivas, and others.

## Disneyland School Students Selected for State-Level Thang-Ta Competitions



""Damera, November 13 (Indian Chronicle):""Recently, in the district-level Thang-Ta competitions held at Nellikuduru, Mahabubabad district, five students from Hanumakonda Dist Damera Mandal Oglapur Village Disneyland School exhibited exceptional talent, secured first place, and were selected for the state-level competitions. The school management — D. Mallaiah, D. Sadaiah, B. Lakshminivasam, Shobharani, Rakesh Bhanu, and Dinesh Chander — expressed great pride over this remarkable achievement. Among the selected students,

in the Under-17 category: Kore Pramodh Sai (10th), Kadari Karthikeya (10th), and Daddu Abhiram (8th); and in the Under-14 category: L. Vishnu (8th) and Kasagani Jai Goud (7th) were chosen. The management, teachers, fellow students, and parents congratulated the students and their coach, Venkatesh, for their outstanding performance and success.

## Regalla Satish Reddy Attends Grand Wedding Ceremony at Maruthi Convention Hall

""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):""A grand wedding ceremony was held at the local Maruthi Convention Hall, where Yamini, daughter of local businessman Mittapalli Vijay Goud and Padma, tied the knot with Tarun Goud. Telangana State Youth Wing leader Regalla Satish Reddy attended the ceremony and extended his blessings to the newlywed couple. Family members and friends including Jalandhar Goud, Chandu Goud, Balaraj Goud, Srinivas, Shankar, Srinivas, Raju, and others also took part in the celebrations and conveyed their best wishes to the couple.





# Federation traitor Basavapunnayya..permanent expulsion from the Sangh..State-wide meeting on 15



“(Mandava Srisailam..Hyderabad..Indian Chronicle..November 13):-Several Federation state leaders and founding members have declared that General Secretary Basavapunnayya, who is involved in many irregularities and undemocratic acts in the Telangana Working Journalists Federation, is a traitor to the Sangh and he is being permanently expelled from the Federation Union. In an emergency meeting held in Hyderabad on Thursday under the chairmanship of Federation state president Mamidi Somaiya, Indian Federation of Working Journalists National Secretary Pulipalupula Anandha, Federation state vice presidents Bandi Vijayakumar, Valla Jagan, State Secretary Tanniru Srinivas, National Council Member, Karimnagar District Secretary Kuditadi Bapurao, senior journalists, founding members M. Yadagiri, K. Sarangapani, state council members Ashok Kumar Goud and others participated. The meeting strongly condemned Basavapunnayya's announcement that the federation's founding president, Mamidi Somaiya, and four other senior leaders and founding members had been expelled from the association. It was ridiculous to create false news and announce that the state executive committee had not been held, and the leaders who participated in the meeting said that according to the bye-laws, neither the executive committee nor the general secretary of the association had any right to expel the association's president and other office bearers. They flagged that the term of the association's state committee had expired, and that Basavapunnayya was trampling on obstacles to save his position by not making the necessary arrangements to elect a new committee and ignoring the president's request to convene a large meeting. “He said that a legal notice had already been issued to him on this and a public notice regarding the legal notice had also been published in the newspapers. He said that Basavapunnayya, who was upset in this context, had issued this announcement in a hurry. He said that this is invalid, and if he wants to answer the developments taking place in the association, he should reply to the legal notice and inform the Labor Commissioner and make his argument heard. He said that it is wrong to declare that the association belongs to whom... who has what rights in it... and that he can achieve them, but not to do so... and to declare that the leaders who are working for the association and the rights of journalists are being boycotted. He accused

him of committing anti-social activities by delaying the deadline for holding the general assembly even after a year. He said that he is laying the foundation for anti-social activities, not holding meetings, behaving irresponsibly, not having any relations or talks with the president, becoming an enemy... and committing these illegal acts. He was angry that Basavapunnayya had committed many irregularities in the financial transactions of the association for ten years and had misappropriated funds without giving an account to the members, and was acting stubbornly and foolishly by making counter-accusations. He also said that he had not strengthened the association and had crippled the association by organizing programs. He said that Basavapunnayya was responsible for the disintegration of the association, and that at a time when all the members were thinking of taking action against him and relieving him of the responsibilities of the association, he had taken these actions and tried to bring the association to a standstill. He said that he had acted negligently by not heeding the request made by the president to hold a state-wide meeting and the written notices sent to him and not giving any reply. He reminded that this was a very big mistake and that Basavapunnayya had been given a big seat in the federation for 18 years as the spokesperson of Prajashakti and Navatelangana Patrika. He said that he had been given opportunities as the president in united Andhra Pradesh, as the general secretary in Telangana, and as a member of the state accreditation committee. He said that he had cheated the members for 18 years and had not done justice to a single journalist in the association. He said that he had acted wickedly without listening to the demands of the last state congress for democratic elections to the federation. He said that during his 18-year tenure, he had become a "chameleon with a long neck" and had become thirsty for power and started roaring at those who had formed the federation. He was furious that he had finally risen to the point of writing the state committee himself. He said that he had organized the state congresses that were supposed to be held once every two years only once in the past eleven years. “Punnayya, who is acting undemocratically... is accused of acting as a beggar instead of being a servant of TWJF. He said that even though he explained in writing to the heads and elders of the organization where he was working several times, there was no change. He said that there is no need for the members of the community to worry about this confusing situation, and a large-scale meeting is already being held in Hyderabad on the 15th of this month to discuss it. He said that all matters will be discussed in this meeting and appropriate decision will be taken. He said that Mahasabhas will be held in the districts where Mahasabhas are not held to advance the activities of the community. Similarly, they warned that legal action will be taken against those who are dispelling the community and spreading false propaganda. Others participated.

# Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for BC/EBC Students for the Academic Year 2025–26

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““The District Backward Classes Development Office, Medchal–Malkajgiri, has announced the Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme for BC (Backward Classes) and EBC (Economically Backward Classes) students studying in 9th and 10th classes during the academic year 2025–26. Eligible students studying in Government, ZPHS, Aided, or Municipal schools can apply for the scholarship through the official website [https://](https://telanganaepass.cgg.gov.in)

[telanganaepass.cgg.gov.in](https://telanganaepass.cgg.gov.in). Under this scheme, a scholarship amount of ₹4,000 per student will be granted. Applicants must enclose copies of the following documents along with their online application printout: Aadhaar card, Caste certificate, Income certificate (annual income below ₹1,50,000 for rural areas and below ₹2,00,000 for urban areas) Passport-size photograph, Bank passbook copy, Study certificate. The hard copies of the application form along with supporting documents must be submitted at the District Backward Classes Development Office, located in the Medchal–Malkajgiri District Collectorate.

# Congress Government Reaffirms Unwavering Support for Farmers: Minister Sridhar Babu Inaugurates Tractor Ceremony.

“ “ P . S . A S H O K A N “ K A R I M N G A R BUREAU. “““Manthani, Thursday- In a demonstration of the Congress Party's steadfast commitment to agricultural welfare, State IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu visited Manthani to preside over multiple inauguration ceremonies and engage with local citizens. ““During the event, Minister Sridhar Babu personally operated a newly acquired tractor owned by farmer leader and District Kisan Cell President Muskul Surender Reddy, symbolically inaugurating the advanced agricultural machinery. ““Addressing the gathering, Minister Sridhar Babu emphasized that the Congress Party has consistently championed the interests of farmers and remains dedicated to implementing all pledges for their comprehensive welfare. He lauded Surender Reddy for his innovative and exemplary farming practices, which serve as a model for the agrarian community. ““The minister's remarks highlighted the party's continued focus on empowering farmers, promoting sustainable agriculture, and fostering rural development across the state.



# Uppal MLA B. Laxma Reddy Appeals to Protect Government Land in Mallapur Survey No. 110“



“ K I S H O R E VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 13 (Indian Chronicle):““Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy met Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collector Manu Choudhary

on Thursday, urging her to take immediate action to protect 300 square yards of government land located in Mallapur Survey No. 110 from illegal encroachment and to ensure that it is utilized for public

purposes. “The MLA submitted a formal representation to the Collector, stating that the land had originally been allocated in 1996 to Navodaya Mahila Mandali by the then Ranga Reddy District Collector. as per

government orders. Subsequently, the then Kapra Municipality constructed a permanent building on the site. After the construction, the remaining open land was fenced with a boundary wall foundation. “However, Laxma Reddy informed the Collector that certain individuals are now attempting to grab the land by creating fake documents. He urged the district administration to take necessary steps to safeguard the land from encroachers and to ensure it continues to serve public welfare. Corporator Pannala Devender, P.G. Sudarshan, Rajesh, Gunna, Raghu, and several others were present during the meeting.

# Young Innovator from Hyderabad to Represent India at World Robotics Festival in the USA



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) In an inspiring achievement for Telangana, Vedansh Reddy Vantelu, a third-grade student from A.S. Rao Nagar, Hyderabad, has been selected to represent India at the FIRST LEGO League World Robotics Festival Expo (Under-9) to be held on April 29 in Detroit, USA. Vedansh is among four students chosen from the state to participate in this global robotics event, which brings together young innovators from around the world to showcase creative technological solutions. The young prodigy, a student of a private school in Yapral, is the son of Vantelu Chandrasekhara Reddy, a software professional, and Jyothi, a homemaker. From an early age, Vedansh has shown a deep interest in science and technology, nurturing a dream to become a scientist. Encouraged by his parents, he joined the Intellectra Institute in A.S. Rao Nagar two years ago a research and training center specializing in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence for children under 12. After school hours, Vedansh dedicates two hours every evening to robotic design and innovation. His commitment has earned him remarkable success in a short span of time. He first qualified at the Andhra–Telangana regional-level competition held in Shamshabad on January 18, followed by the national-level championship in Chennai, where he secured a spot to represent India on the international stage. At the upcoming World Robotics Festival Expo, Vedansh plans to present robotic models aimed at reducing air pollution and developing sustainable housing solutions for the future. His mentor, Vidya Bhaskar, chief coach at Intellectra Institute, said that robotics-driven technology can significantly contribute to solving environmental challenges and improving global living conditions. Expressing their pride and joy, Vedansh's parents said their son's passion for innovation and hard work have brought immense recognition to their family. They added that Vedansh aims to join ISRO in the future and contribute to India's progress in space and technology. This remarkable accomplishment by a young student from Hyderabad stands as a testament to the growing culture of innovation and STEM education among India's youth proving that age is no barrier when curiosity and creativity come together.

# Empowering Tribal Women through ITC’s Mission Sunehra Kal Initiative

““By Kranthi Kumar Dasari | Pinapaka Constituency | November 13 | Indian Chronicle““Burgampahad, November 13, 2025:““In a major step towards the socio-economic empowerment of tribal communities, ITC Limited, under its flagship community development program Mission Sunehra Kal (MSK), organized a livelihood asset and certificate distribution ceremony at the ITDA Bhadrachalam Sabha premises. The event was attended by Rahul, IAS, Project Officer, ITDA Bhadrachalam, along with senior officials from ITC and its partner organizations. As part of the initiative, 25 economically disadvantaged Scheduled Tribe women received livelihood assets including sewing machines, grocery stocks, clothing, and pushcarts. These resources aim to support them in establishing small-scale enterprises and creating sustainable income sources. Each beneficiary will also undergo two years of structured training and mentoring to enhance their business management skills and ensure long-term success. During the same event, 25 girl students who successfully completed vocational training in beautician and electrician trades at ITC-supported centers were awarded certificates recognizing their achievements and employability. Addressing the gathering, Rahul, IAS, congratulated all the beneficiaries and encouraged them to make the best use of the opportunity to improve their livelihoods. He stressed the need for women-led enterprises to become mobile and offer doorstep services to remain competitive in the changing market landscape. He also inter-



acted with Pasu Sakhi women trained in animal husbandry and appreciated their role in promoting livestock-based livelihoods across tribal regions. The program saw the active participation of ITDA officials including APO David Raju, DD G. Ashok, and JDM Harikrishna. ITC PSPD Deputy General Manager Chrngal Rao and ITC MSK Telangana Program Manager Jayaprakash were also present, along with representatives from Bandhan Konnagar, Pratham Foundation, BAIF, MYRADA, and more than 150 community members. The event reflected ITC's continued commitment to empowering tribal and rural women through livelihood generation, skill development, and entrepreneurship under its Mission Sunehra Kal initiative.

# MLA Appeals to Collector to Protect Government Land

“Nacharam, Indain Chronicle, November 13: ““Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy has appealed to the district collector to protect government land located in Survey No. 110 at Mallapur within the Uppal constituency limits. “On Thursday, the MLA, along with Mallapur Corporator Pannala Devender Reddy, met Medchal District Collector Manu Choudhary and submitted a representation in this regard. “The MLA explained that about 300 square yards of government land in Survey No. 110 had been allotted to the Navodaya Mahila Mandali by the then Ranga Reddy District Collector in 1996, following the directions of the government at that time. Later, officials of the Kapra Municipality constructed a permanent building on the allotted site. “He further mentioned that a compound wall foundation was laid on Wednesday to protect the remaining vacant portion of the land. However, some individuals are now allegedly trying to encroach on the property using fake documents. “MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy requested the collector to take appropriate action to safeguard the land from encroachment and ensure that it continues to serve the public. “It is learned



that the collector responded positively to the MLA's request. “Corporator Pannala Devender Reddy, P.G. Sudarshan, Rajesh, Gunna, Raghu, and others were among those who accompanied the MLA and submitted the representation to the collector.

# Diabetes Reversal Is in Our Hands, Say Doctor- “Dr. BadamManojKumar,Physician,Diabetologist.

CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, NOVEMBER 13, INDIAN CHRONICLE:““Doctors have emphasized that diabetes can not only be controlled but, in some cases, completely reversed. With proper dietary habits, regular exercise, weight management, and a positive lifestyle, diabetes reversal is possible, said Dr. Badam Manoj Kumar, Physician & Diabetologist. “Dr. Manoj Kumar advised diabetic patients to follow the “Ideal Plate Method.” According to him, the plate should be divided into two halves. One half should be filled with non-starchy vegetables such as lettuce, cabbage, beans, spinach, and broccoli — all of which are low in calories but rich in nutrients. The other half should be divided into two quarters: one quarter for protein foods like fish, chicken, eggs, lentils, or tofu, and the other for carbohydrates like chapati, a small portion of rice, or millet (ragi). He also recommended that those taking insulin or medication should eat smaller, more frequent meals for better glucose control. “He explained the “A, B, C, D, E” mantra for diabetes management. If the HbA1C level is below 8, reversal is possible, while the normal level is considered to be 5.6. Overweight is a major factor in diabetes, and losing weight significantly increases

the chances of reversal. The C-peptide levels indicate the body's insulin-producing capacity; if these levels are good, reversal is achievable. Patients who have had diabetes for less than 3–5 years have a higher probability of returning to normal glucose levels, he said. “Dr. Manoj Kumar concluded that enthusiasm, discipline, and consistent effort are essential to maintaining diabetes reversal.

# Congress Leader Borkut Shankar's Death: An Irreparable Loss For The District - MLC

““Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 13 ““The sudden death of Congress leader Borkut Shankar from Balaji Anukada village in Chintala Manepalli mandal is a huge loss for the Congress party, said Adilabad district MLC Dande Vithal.



## Financial Assistance To The Victim's Family In The Komaram Bheem District Murder Case



“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 13 “The district administration has provided financial assistance to the victim's family in the murder case of Talandi Sravani of Gerre village, Dahegam mandal, Komaram Bheem district. Collector Shvenkatesh Deetre, SP Kantilal Patil handed over a financial assistance of Rs.4,12,500, a cheque of Rs.1,00,000 through the proceedings related to the construction of a house worth Rs.5 lakh and the savings women's association. The younger brother of the deceased has been admitted to a government school.

## Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) to Hold State Conference in January; Ad Hoc Committee Formed with Ranchander as Convener



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “The Telangana Working Journalists' Federation (TWJF) has decided to hold its state-level conference in the last week of January 2026. The decision was taken at the federation's extended executive meeting held at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram in Hyderabad on Thursday. Senior journalist and federation vice president P. Ranchander was appointed as the convener for the state conference, and an ad hoc committee with 23 members has been formed to oversee the arrangements. The meeting was chaired by Ranchander and attended by state general secretary B. Basavapunayya, vice presidents G. Manik Prabhu, Tatikonda Krishna, Gudiga Raghu, B. Rajashekar, secretaries S.K. Saleem, E. Chandrasekhar, B. Jagadish, Koppu Niranjana, B. Dayasagar, and executive members Manimala, Vijaya, B.V.N. Padmaraju, Hariprasad, among others. Office-bearers, executive committee members, district presidents and secretaries from all 33 districts, along with representatives of the state council, national council, and accreditation committee, also participated. The federation resolved to submit formal representations to the state government seeking action on issues related to press accreditations, health cards, and housing sites for journalists. During the meeting, the state executive's earlier resolution to cancel the primary membership and permanently expel members Mamidi Somayya, Bandi Vijay Kumar, Vallala Jagan, Tanneeru Srinivas, and Kudithudi Bapurao was unanimously ratified. The federation clarified that the expelled members no longer have any association with the TWJF and are not authorized to conduct or organize any programs in the name of the federation. The extended executive meeting also announced the cancellation of district committees formed unilaterally by Somayya, declaring them null and void. The federation urged all journalists and well-wishers to recognize the officially constituted committees and not to cooperate with unauthorized groups.



(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..November 13):- PCC General Secretary Potnak Pramod Kumar... On the occasion of the birth anniversary of his wife Late Potnak Roja“Rs. 10000/ (ten thousand) was donated to the Chairman of the Library Awais Chisti... Pramod handed over a donation for books related to Public Service Commission examinations in the District Library. The library staff and others participated in this program.

## Man Dies While Out For A Walk

“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 13 “The family of Parchaki Maruthi (38), who worked as a contractor in the Mangi feeder of Tiryani mandal under the jurisdiction of the Electricity Department, said that he died of a heart attack while going for a morning walk. When Maruthi did not return after going for a walk on Thursday morning, his wife Vijayalakshmi went to see him and found him lying in the middle of the road. Maruthi was taken to the Tiryani Gov-

## Appeal to Officials for Installation and Repair of Streetlights



“Nacharam, Indian Chronical, November 13: “Local leaders have appealed to the Kapra GHMC offi-

cials to install new streetlights and carry out repairs in Errakunta, Nacharam Division, particularly along Patel Cheruvu Road. “On Thursday, under the leadership of former ward member and Congress leader Gadda Kranti Kumar, a delegation met Kapra Circle Electrical DE Ravinder and submitted a representation highlighting several power-related issues. “During the meeting, the leaders brought various local problems to the attention of the officials. They requested immediate repairs to streetlights in the Errakunta main road and Basti Colony areas, and also urged the installation of new lights around the Errakunta lake surroundings. “Those who participated in the program included NSUI President Gowdelli Rakesh and Youth Congress leader Mohammed Shahid, among others.

## Uppal MLA Meets Medchal–Malkajgiri District Collector

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Uppal MLA Bandi Laxma Reddy met Medchal–Malkajgiri District Collector Manu Chowdhary (IAS) and submitted a memorandum regarding the protection of government land located in Survey No. 110 of Mallapur. The 300-square-yard government site was allotted to Navodaya Mahila Mandali in 1996 as per the orders of the then government and the Ranga Reddy District Collector. Subsequently, the Kapra Municipality constructed a permanent building on the allotted site. After the building was completed, a boundary wall was also laid around the remaining open area. However, in recent times, a few individuals have allegedly created fake documents and are trying to encroach on this land. In response, the MLA urged the District Collector to take immediate action to safeguard the land from encroachments and to ensure it is utilized for



public benefit. Corporator Pannala Devender Reddy, along with P. G. Sudarshan, Rajesh, Gunna, Raghu, and others, were present during the meeting.

## Empowering Women and Students: Manchiryal Police Launches Comprehensive Awareness Program on Cyber Safety and Personal Security



“P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU “Under the esteemed guidance of Ramagundam Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha and the vigilant supervision of DCC Bhaskar, the Manchiryal Police recently conducted a comprehensive awareness initiative at Carmel Convent High School, Manchiryal, prioritizing the safety and protection of women and female students. The program was meticulously orchestrated by the Manchiryal District She Team, led by SIs Usharani and Haim, in collaboration with the Manchiryal Traffic Police. “During the initiative, students received in-depth guidance on crucial issues such as cybercrime, social media harassment, eve-teasing, human trafficking, good touch–bad touch, traffic safety, the T-Safe mobile application, and She Team services. “Manchiryal ACP R. Prakash, attending as the chief guest, addressed the students and emphasized: “Cyber vigilance: Students were urged to exercise caution while interacting with unknown individuals on social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp. Sharing personal details or photographs indiscriminately can lead to cyber threats. Any

online harassment should be promptly reported to cybercrime authorities. “Responding to harassment: Female students were encouraged to contact Dial 100 or the She Team without hesitation in cases of eve-teasing or harassment, confronting such incidents with courage rather than neglect. “Understanding good touch–bad touch: Children were advised to recognize inappropriate physical contact or behavior as “bad touch” and immediately report it to parents or teachers. “Emergency preparedness: Students were instructed on downloading and utilizing the T-Safe app for immediate assistance during emergencies. “Accessibility of She Team services: Detailed information about She Team objectives and services was provided, alongside essential WhatsApp contact numbers: Ramagundam She Team – 6303923700, Manchiryal She Team – 8712659385. “ACP Prakash reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the police to the safety and security of women and female students, and exhorted students to pursue their studies with diligence and perseverance to achieve academic and personal excellence. “Traffic Safety Advocacy: Manchiryal Traffic Inspector Satyanarayana addressed students on the significance of traffic compliance, emphasizing the mandatory use of helmets, the prohibition of driving without a valid license, and adherence to traffic regulations to mitigate accidents. “The awareness initiative witnessed participation from ACP R. Prakash, Traffic Inspector Satyanarayana, She Team SIs Usharani and Haim, Principal Sister Sarupya, Vice Principal Sister Seema, female constables Jyothi and Srilatha, Constable Satish, school staff, and approximately 600 students. “This program underscores the Ramagundam Police's proactive efforts to empower young women, foster a culture of safety, and cultivate vigilant, socially responsible citizens.

## Four Persons Arrested for Selling Ganja

1.720 kg Ganja and Royal Enfield Bike Seized“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 13 (Indian Chronicle): “Following the directions of the Malkajgiri Deputy Prohibition & Excise Officer (DPEO) and under the supervision of Malkajgiri Assistant Excise Superintendent, the Uppal Excise Inspector (SHO) B. Onkar along with his team conducted a raid on Wednesday night in Ramantapur and Uppal surroundings. Acting on credible information about illegal transportation and sale of dry ganja, officials apprehended four individuals — Paripalli Saharsha Raj, Ponavajju Manoj Chary, Kavadi Jayavardhan, and Kalyan Reddy — in Gokhale Nagar area of Ramantapur. “During the operation, the team seized 1.720 kilograms of dry ganja, a mobile phone, and a Royal Enfield motorcycle from their possession. A case has been registered against the accused. “Upon interrogation, the accused revealed that they had procured dry ganja from Seeleru in Andhra Pradesh at ₹10,000 per kilogram and were repackaging it into smaller quantities for resale at higher prices to make illegal



profits. “The operation was carried out by B. Onkar, Excise Inspector, Srinivasulu, Excise Sub-Inspector, P. Naresh Reddy, Excise Sub-Inspector, and the Uppal Excise Station staff.

## From Humble Beginnings to State-Level Excellence: Dr. Sahana Reddy Secures 9th Rank in PG General Medicine.

“P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU “Heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Sahana Reddy, daughter of former ZPTC Moola Sarojana Purushottam Reddy, for achieving an impressive 9th rank at the state level in PG General Medicine. “Dr. Sahana's remarkable journey began at Akshara High School, Manthani, where she studied up to the 7th grade. Reflecting on her early education, she compared it to the foundation of a building, emphasizing that strong fundamentals are essential for any future success. She fondly acknowledged the guidance of Asokan Sir and Bindu Madam, whose mentorship provided the solid groundwork for her academic achievements. “Her inspiring story highlights the transformative power of dedication, mentorship, and quality education, proving that even modest beginnings can lead to extraordinary accomplishments. Dr. Sahana Reddy stands as a shining example for students across the state, demonstrating that perseverance and the right guidance can help one reach the pinnacle of success.



## Corporator Raj Jitender Nath Launches Rs.35 Lakh CC Road Works in Machabollaram Division



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Corporator Raj Jitender Nath inaugurated new CC road construction works worth Rs.35 lakh in the Machabollaram 133rd Division on Thursday. The first project, taken up at Harijan Basti–Kummari Basti, involves laying a new CC road with an estimated cost of Rs 26 lakh. Additionally, another CC road connecting Gangaputra Sangham near Venkateshwara Colony and Krishna Nagar is being developed at a cost of Rs 9 lakh. Speaking on the occasion, the corporator said that drainage facilities had already been provided in the area earlier, and the new CC roads were being laid following requests from local residents. He added that these long-pending works will greatly benefit the people living in the colonies, especially working-class families who face daily inconvenience due to poor road conditions. Local residents including G. Venkatesh, Rajayya, Narasimhulu, Yadagiri, Anuradha, Vanaja, Bharathi, Begum, Khaja, and Congress leaders Sunder Reddy (Division President), Srisailam Yadav, Sarvesh Yadav, Venkatesh Goud, Srinivas Goud, Venkatesh, Laddu Reddy, Deva, Sampath Yadav, Vishnu, Swamy, Anand, Ramesh, Bhageerath, Shankar and others participated in the program.

## Vigilance Officers Conduct Inspections at MGM Hospital



\* Verification of Arogyasri Funds Utilization Records“Warangal, November 13 (Prajajyothi): “Vigilance officials carried out surprise inspections at Warangal's MGM Hospital on Thursday, focusing on the utilization of Arogyasri scheme funds. A special team led by Vigilance DSP Narayana Reddy visited the hospital and examined related records. The officers thoroughly verified details of funds received under the Arogyasri scheme for surgeries conducted between 2021 and 2024. The inspection was initiated following complaints that the funds were allegedly diverted for non-essential expenses instead of the intended purposes. “Over the past four years, the hospital reportedly received more than ₹30 crore under the Arogyasri scheme. Daily surgeries are conducted under this program, and part of the funds are paid as fees to the operating doctors, while the rest are meant for hospital development. “The vigilance team, led by DSP Narayana Reddy, conducted inspections for nearly two hours, reviewed all relevant documents, and collected certain records for further examination. They reportedly instructed the hospital staff to submit additional information when requested. MGM Superintendent Dr. Harichandra Reddy confirmed that the Vigilance team had visited the hospital to review Arogyasri-related fund transactions. He added that such inspections are part of routine administrative procedures.

## Mallapur Congress Leader SV Kittu Slams MLA Bandari Laxmareddy Remarks on Land Grabbing Allegations

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 13, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Uppal constituency MLA Bandari Laxmareddy comments accusing Congress leaders in Mallapur division of land grabbing have sparked a strong reaction from local Congress senior leader S.V. Kittu. Speaking at a press meet held at his office, Kittu criticized the MLA statement as baseless and absurd. He said, The MLA claimed that a Congress leader named Soornam Shiva occupied 96 square yards of land in Survey No. 109 of Mallapur and that a boundary wall was being built to protect it. The truth is, Soornam Shiva is not a Congress leader he is a former TRS (now BRS) activist. We have evidence to prove this. Kittu alleged that it was in fact several BRS leaders who were involved in land encroachments, while the MLA was trying to shift the blame onto Congress members. Instead of protecting public lands, the MLA is covering up the misdeeds of his own party associates, he said. He further added that since coming to power, the Congress government has taken firm steps to safeguard government lands across the state. We welcome genuine efforts like building boundary walls to protect public property, Kittu said, but spreading false accusations against Congress leaders for political mileage is unacceptable and must stop.





# Inside Jhama Sweets, the refugee stall that became favourite of Salman Khan, Abhishek Bachchan and Shilpa Shetty



GNS News Agency, Nov 13

What's common between Salman Khan, Abhishek Bachchan, Shilpa Shetty, Vidya Balan, Bhumi Pednekar, Tara Sutaria and Arjun Kapoor? They all swear by Jhama Sweets' slightly spongy, melt-in-the-mouth hot gulab jamun.Now 77 years old with 11 branches across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Jhama Sweets began as a tiny 2 ft x 4 ft roadside stall where a young Jhamamal Lulla sold just two mithais — a fudgy, slightly crunchy Sindhi delicacy called sev barfi and their signature gulab jamun. Those two sweets continue to draw crowds from across the city.

"Like most refugees, we came from Sindh and were moved to a camp in Chembur. My father was in his 20s, married, with a child in tow," recalled Vinod (Vicky) Lulla, 56, who now runs the business with his elder brother Govind, 77.Back in Sindh, Jhamamal had worked at his maternal uncle's sweet shop, doing everything from making mithais from scratch to selling them. In Mumbai, with a family to feed, he leaned on what he knew best — creating sweets.

"He would wake up at dawn and begin making sev barfi and gulab jamun. He did everything himself, from preparing the mawa and roasting it to the right colour and texture, to making the sugar syrup," said Vinod. Sharp at 7 a.m., Jhamamal would open his stall and sell until the stock ran out. His mithais quickly earned him a reputation. A few years later, when the government allotted refugees small plots for shops, he was able to buy an adjoining one. Through the 1950s and 60s, he gradually expanded into a 2,000 sq ft space."Once we moved into a permanent shop, he brought in relatives to help and began adding more mithais. He also

created a savoury section with samosas, pattice, dahi bhalla, and our very popular dal pakwan, a Sindhi delicacy served until a few years ago," Vinod said. His earliest memories include boarding a bus from home in Chembur to visit the store, asking his father for money to buy Diwali crackers. After Jhamamal passed away in 1985, Vinod, still in school, began spending a couple of hours daily at the shop before formally joining full-time in 1991.Soon after, the brothers standardised recipes and began expanding beyond Chembur to Nerul, Kharghar, Vashi, Sion, Ghatkopar and Thane. "Until then, everything was made for one shop. My father would personally oversee the production and knew measurements by hand. But when we decided to open multiple branches, we had to standardise recipes and set up a central kitchen to ensure consistency," Vinod explained.

When we visited Jhama Sweets a day before Dussehra, the snacks section had been shut and chaat scaled down so the team could focus entirely on mithais. "Festivals are very hectic. Everyone wants mithai, so we put all our resources there," Vinod said. Diwali is their busiest season, when sales of kaju katli surpass even sev barfi and gulab jamun. "It goes in tonnes," he smiled, adding that Ganpati has also become a major occasion. "Earlier, Ganpati was celebrated mostly in pandals, with little to no mithai exchange. Now that everyone brings bappa home, they need mithai for puja, prasad, and for gifting visitors."In the last decade, the third generation has stepped in. Govind's son Ravi manages the Ghatkopar outpost, while Vinod's son Rishay has launched e-commerce. "You can now order directly from our website. Since our mithais are made from milk, their shelf life is two days — three for kaju katli. But with MAP (modified atmospheric pressure) packaging, we can extend it by a week without preservatives," Vinod noted.So why do so many celebrities swear by them? "In the early days, many actors lived in Chembur, which was also home to film studios like Raj Kapoor's RK Studio. They would order from us for Diwali and Holi parties. Actors shooting at Basant Studios, like Amitabh Bachchan, often stopped by to pick up sweets. That's probably how we became popular among them," he said.And what makes their gulab jamun so beloved? "Unlike most, we use very little maida, say less than 10 percent, and a high proportion of mawa, about 70–80 percent. Plus, we never compromise on quality," he explained.

# At 59, Punjab saw highest no. of clashes inside jails: NCRB data

GNS News Agency, Nov 13

Punjab saw the highest number of clashes (59) inside prisons in the country, as per the recently released National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data for the year 2023. The state was followed by Kerala (15) and Madhya Pradesh (14). Thus, Punjab jails have more than three times the clashes compared to their nearest competitor states in this parameter.In other worrying prison statistics, data shows that the state releases second highest number of jail inmates on parole in the country and that it also has the third highest absconders from these paroles.

These statistics, coupled with many other important ones, points towards the need for urgent reforms in the prison system of the state especially in light of regular reports of the several major drug networks in the state being run from the prisons of Punjab.During the year 2023, total of 25,483 people were released on parole in the country out of which the highest (6,577) were from Madhya Pradesh and the second highest were from Punjab (3,882). Gujarat followed at the third place with 2,969 people given parole.

When it comes to persons absconding on parole, Punjab again figures in the top three states. Gujarat has the maximum absconders at 109 followed by Madhya Pradesh (34) and Punjab (31).For persons convicted for alcohol and drugs related offences in the country, Punjab is again at the top of the charts with the maximum 2,383 convictions in 2023 followed by Madhya Pradesh (1,201) and Bihar (931). Punjab's conviction rate for these specific offences are 25.6 per cent of the total convicted inmates lodged in the jails across the country for these cases.As far as undertrials under prosecution for alcohol and drug related cases are concerned, Punjab cedes the top position to Bihar at 14,301, coming at second position with 9,073 undertrials followed



by Uttar Pradesh at 5,063 persons. For undertrials in arms and explosives related offences too, Punjab is in the top three positions with Bihar at top with 2,840 persons, Uttar Pradesh (2,564) and Punjab with 1,223 persons.Punjab is at the second position in the country when it comes to detention of undertrials for a period of one to two years with Uttar Pradesh topping the list at 10,283 persons, Punjab with 5,076 persons and Maharashtra with 4,978 persons.For undertrials in special and local laws crimes taken cumulatively, Bihar has the maximum undertrials at 19,181 persons, Uttar Pradesh comes second at 11,010 persons and Punjab at third place with 10,832 persons.Punjab also has the highest number of complaints which prisoners have submitted against their condition in prisons to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Human Rights Commission (SHRC). The data shows that 345 complaints to various commissions were submitted from Punjab prisons in 2023 with the nearest highest number being 89 complaints from Uttar Pradesh and 68 complaints from Odisha.

# No eyewitnesses, little evidence: how Delhi Police solved hit-and-run case in 2 weeks



GNS News Agency, Nov 13

The Delhi Police solved a blind fatal hit-and-run case that had left investigators without witnesses or clear leads for more than two weeks by arresting the driver and recovering the offending vehicle after an extensive probe across Delhi-NCR on Friday.On September 13, a 43-year-old motorcyclist, Bijender Kumar Meena, a resident of Dausa in Rajasthan, suffered severe head injuries when his two-wheeler was struck by an unidentified vehicle on Ring Road near Hotel Hyatt Regency at Bhikaji Cama Place.

Meena was rushed to AIIMS Trauma Centre but succumbed to his injuries three days later. With no eyewitnesses and little evidence at the scene, a case was registered at R K Puram police station under sections 281 (rash driving or riding on a public way) and 125(A), which is related to acts endangering the lives or personal safety of others, of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the police said.A police team began combing through surveillance footage along the accident stretch. More than 500 CCTV cameras were analysed, including ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) systems and feeds from National Highways Authority of India's (NHAI's) control rooms on NH-48 and the

Dwarka Expressway, the police said.

"The team meticulously reviewed CCTV footage along Ring Road from World Trade Centre (Nauroji Nagar) to Bhikaji Cama Place, Dhaula Kuan, and observed a white Suzuki Ertiga car trailing the victims' motorcycle. Due to poor lighting, the vehicle's number plate could not be read initially. The team traced the vehicle's suspected route through multiple areas, including Safdarjung Enclave, R K Puram, Moti Bagh, Dhaula Kuan, Mahipalpur, and Gurugram," said Amit Goel, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South West.The driver, identified as 39-year-old Satyvir Singh, a resident of Deroli Jat village in Mahendragarh, Haryana, was arrested. The police said he had hired the car commercially to transport passengers between Delhi and NCR.During questioning, Singh allegedly confessed to hitting the motorcycle while driving from Anand Vihar ISBT to Gurgaon with passengers. Panicking, he fled the spot despite seeing the rider grievously injured, the police said. The damaged Ertiga was seized as evidence.

# Hyderabadi to launch 'hail ride' for satellites in space

Hyderabad: This 26-year-old Hyderabad resident has set out to redefine in-space transportation with what could be described as 'the hail ride for satellites' out in space.

Sankarsh Chanda's Stardour Aerospace, a stealth-mode Indian space-tech startup, recently completed the test fire of India's first hydrogen and oxygen propulsion engine, developed in-house by Stardour, and tested at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

# 'No one needs to worry': Deve Gowda asserts JD(S)-BJP alliance will endure till next state polls



GNS News Agency, Nov 13

In the light of questions being raised on the longevity of an alliance forged in Karnataka ahead of the 2024 Parliamentary polls by the Opposition Janata Dal (Secular) and the BJP—especially after the two parties recently chose to protest separately on issues like the Dharmasthala secret burials controversy—former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda has clarified that the partnership will endure up to the next Assembly polls in 2028."The JDS-BJP alliance was formed for the Lok Sabha elections. This alliance will continue unabated for the next elections as well. The alliance will not be affected by any election. No one needs to worry about this," Gowda said on Friday at a briefing."The alliance will continue for the panchayat and Assembly elections as well. My relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi will never change. Our relationship is good. Show me an occasion in the last 10 years when I have spoken lightly about him," Gowda said.

Gowda, 92, also set a 48-hour deadline on Friday for the Congress government in Karnataka to provide comprehensive information about the relief to be provided to flood-affected districts in the northern part of the state. Gowda said he would visit flood-affected areas in four to five days "to see what kind of relief this government has provided". "I will go by road wherever possible and meet the affected people. I will see the problems they are facing first-hand and get information from them. I will get details about the damage done and find out whether the state government has come to their aid accordingly. I will then prepare a report and submit it to PM Modi," Gowda said."The state's financial condition has deteriorated due to the five guarantees' scheme. The government does not have the resources to deal with the flood situation," Gowda alleged.A JD(S) women's convention will be organised on October 12 with 50,000-60,000 women participating as part of efforts to reorganise the party at the grassroots, he added.Ahead of

the Lok Sabha elections last year, the JD(S), which won only 19 seats in the state polls in 2023, allied with the BJP, which won 66 seats, in an effort to counter the Congress, which won 135 seats. The alliance partners won 19 of the 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka compared to the 2019 polls, when the BJP alone won 26 seats.Considered down and out after the 2023 Karnataka Assembly polls, where its vote share plummeted from 18 per cent to 13 per cent as the Congress grabbed the majority of seats in the traditional JD(S) stronghold of south Karnataka, the JD(S) made a comeback in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls on the back of an alliance with the BJP.Despite a pre-poll controversy surrounding its Hassan candidate and Deve Gowda's grandson Prajwal Revanna over alleged incidents of sexual assault on women, the JD(S) made gains as a regional party in Karnataka within a span of a year of its massive loss in the Assembly polls.The strategic decision to join the BJP-led NDA alliance, after being rejected by the Congress for the INDIA alliance, paid dividends for the JD(S) and re-established the credentials of Gowda and his son H D Kumaraswamy as the foremost leaders of the dominant Vokkaliga community in south Karnataka.Realising that it was losing ground to the Congress in a three-way fight in the region with the BJP, the JD(S) forged an alliance with the BJP ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on the basis of a good relationship between PM Modi and Gowda.Following the formation of the NDA government in 2024 with the JD(S) as an ally, Gowda's son, H D Kumaraswamy, was given a key ministerial portfolio in the Modi government in the form of the heavy industries ministry.There have, however, been minor irritants in the JD(S)-BJP alliance since the parties came together last year, suggesting internal pressures for the former to retain its independent identity in southern Karnataka and not be seen as a part of the BJP.In August last year, the JD(S) had initially shown reluctance to participate in a protest march from Bengaluru to Mysuru with the BJP over alleged irregularities in land allotments by the Mysore Urban Development Authority, where Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's family was also initially accused by an RTI activist in a private complaint.

The JD(S) and the BJP, however, put up a united front in the end after the latter agreed to share the centre stage with the regional party's young leader and Kumaraswamy's son, Nikhil.There were doubts about the alliance again in recent weeks when both parties took out separate protests to Dharmasthala while alleging a witch hunt against temple administrators on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations of secret burials in the temple town between the years 1995 to 2014.

# Hold Bihar polls in one or two phases, identify women turning up at booths in burqa: BJP to EC

GNS News Agency, Nov 13

Bihar BJP president Dilip Jaiswal on Saturday urged the Election Commission to conduct the upcoming assembly polls in one or two phases and ensure that faces of women turning up at booths in burqas were tallied with voter cards.Jaiswal, who led a BJP delegation that met the visiting EC team headed by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, also requested adequate deployment of paramilitary forces in areas that were vulnerable to booth capture and intimidation of voters.

"We have urged the EC to conduct the elections in one or two phases. The election process need not be staggered. Also, tallying of faces of voters, especially burqa-clad women, must be ensured with respective EPIC cards so that only genuine voters get to exercise their franchise," he told reporters after the meeting."We have also requested that paramilitary forces be deployed in villages with a heavy population of weaker sections like extremely backward classes, a few days in advance and a flag march-like exercise be conducted to instil confidence among the voters," he added.Jaiswal said that in riverine areas, which have had a history of booth capturing, deployment of cavalry must also be ensured."The EC also has a few suggestions for



political parties. It said that upon completion of voting, polling agents must obtain Form 17C from the presiding officer. Many times, the agents leave their assigned booths without doing so, leaving the scope for unnecessary disputes later," he said.As regards dates, we told the EC that, as per rules, polls can be held after a gap of at least 28 days from the date of announcement. If, for example, elections are announced in a few days from now, then the polls can be held by November 3-4," he said.

# 12 kg tobacco products seized in 1 week; Pune Metro requests passengers to avoid dirtying public space with paan stains



GNS News Agency, Nov 13

Though tobacco and related products are not permitted on the Pune Metro, spit stains were visible at the entrance of Swargate station and on the tracks and escalator at the District Court and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Garden stations. Though tobacco and related products are not permitted on the Pune Metro, spit stains were visible at the entrance of Swargate station and on the tracks and escalator at the District Court and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Garden stations. The Pune Metro has confiscated over 12.4 kilograms of tobacco-related products at its entrances from September 22 to 29, according to data shared with The Indian Express.The Indian Express visited metro stations and found tobacco stains at isolated locations. Though tobacco and related products are not permitted on the Pune Metro, spit stains were visible at the entrance of Swargate station and on the tracks and escalator at the District Court and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Garden stations. The flanks of the foot overbridge at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Garden station also had noticeable stains.

Guards at the entry points of all stations scan passengers and confiscate any prohibited items that include tobacco products, firecrackers, alcohol, explosives, petrol, diesel, arms, and hazardous chemicals, among others. Guards at the entry points of all stations scan passengers and confiscate any prohibited items that include tobacco products, firecrackers, alcohol, explosives, petrol, diesel, arms, and hazardous chemicals, among others.Pune Metro

spokesperson Chandrashekhar Tambavekar said, "Metro is taking a lot of efforts to keep the premises clean. However, passengers should also maintain decorum in public spaces and avoid damaging public places. There are very few instances of such damage; however, it creates a bad impression about the city and its culture. MahaMetro is committed to providing clean, pleasant, and safe public transport for Puneans, and requests all stakeholders to help us in this mission".The officials have seized 3.7 kilograms of tobacco products on the Purple Line (PCMC to Swargate), while 8.7 kilograms on the Blue Line (Vanaz to Ramwadi). Guards at the entry points of all stations scan passengers and confiscate any prohibited items that include tobacco products, firecrackers, alcohol, explosives, petrol, diesel, arms, and hazardous chemicals, among others. All bags are also passed through an X-Ray machine.A cleaner at the foot-over bridge at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Garden station said, "Whenever there is a complaint made by the Metro to our cleaning company, we come to clean the bridge. There are a lot of tobacco stains, and they are very difficult to remove. They leave behind a deep red stain, and even after you scrub them off, a black mark is left behind."

# Direct air cargo mission flagged off to Antarctica from Goa

Panaji: The Goa-based National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has sent a direct air cargo flight from the state to Antarctica, marking a significant step in enhancing logistical efficiency for India's polar expeditions, an official has said.The cargo flight loaded with 18 tons of essential supplies, including scientific equipment, medicines, and annual provisions for Indian research stations in the Antarctic, took off from Manohar International Airport, Mopa, in North Goa on Thursday.Dr Thamban Meloth, director of NCPOR, flagged off the flight, a DROMLAN-operated IL-76 aircraft, the official said.



# Russia uses missile in Ukraine that led Trump to quit nuclear treaty, Kyiv says



LONDON,- GNS News Agency, Nov 13Russia has in recent months attacked Ukraine with a cruise missile whose secret development prompted Donald Trump to abandon a nuclear arms control pact with Moscow in his first term as U.S. president, Ukraine's foreign minister said.Andrii Sybiha's comments are the first confirmation that Russia has used the ground-launched 9M729 missile in combat - in Ukraine or elsewhere.

Make sense of the latest ESG trends affecting companies and governments with the Reuters Sustainable Switch newsletter. Sign up here.Russia has fired the missile at Ukraine 23 times since August, a second senior Ukrainian official told Reuters. Ukraine also recorded two launches of the 9M729 by Russia in 2022, the source said.

The 9M729 led the United States to quit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in 2019. Washington said the missile was in breach of the treaty and could fly far beyond its limit of 500 km (310 miles) although Russia denied this.The missile, which can carry a nuclear or conventional warhead, has a range of 2,500 km, according to the Missile Threat website produced at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.A military source said a 9M729 fired by Russia on October 5 flew over 1,200 km to its impact in Ukraine.

"Russia's use of the INF-banned 9M729 against Ukraine in the past months demonstrates (President Vladimir) Putin's disrespect to the United States and President Trump's diplomatic efforts to end Russia's war against Ukraine," Sybiha said in written remarks.He told Reuters that Kyiv supported Trump's peace proposals and that Russia should face maximum pressure to push it to peace, saying that boosting Ukraine's long-range firepower would help persuade Moscow to end its war in Ukraine.Ukraine has urged Washington to provide it with long-range Tomahawk missiles that were not banned under the INF because they were only sea-launched at the time. Russia says this would

# No spoils of war: Syria's new ruler lays down the law to loyalists

DAMASCUS, GNS News Agency, Nov 13 "I didn't know the salaries the government pays were this high!" Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa joked after more than 100 loyalists arrived at his former rebel base, many pulling up in luxury SUVs."Have you forgotten you are the sons of the revolution?" Sharaa rebuked the gathered officials and business leaders, according to two people present, remarking upon the large number of Cadillac Escalades, Range Rovers and Chevrolet Tahoes parked outside. "Have you been tempted so quickly?"The Reuters Gulf Currents newsletter brings you the latest on geopolitics, energy and finance in the region. Sign up here.

Syria's militant commander-turned-ruler has faced a turbulent 10 months since toppling President Bashar al-Assad after 14 years of civil war. The country has suffered sporadic bouts of sectarian violence involving ex-rebel factions linked to his new government, leaving more than 2,000 people dead, and there's been a spate of forced evictions and property seizures.The meeting on August 30, which hasn't been reported before, took place at Sharaa's former headquarters in Idlib province in northwestern Syria, far from his official presidential offices in Damascus. The leader, a one-time al Qaeda commander, was flanked by two senior security officials as he spoke.Sharaa ordered civil servants with luxury cars to hand over the keys or face being investigated for illicit gains, according to the two attendees as well as two civil servants briefed on the address, who all requested anonymity to discuss confidential matters. A handful of keys were handed in as people filed out at the end, the attendees told Reuters.The message delivered to loyalists points to a critical challenge facing the 43-year-old president, according to Syrian officials and analysts: how to pivot from an insurgency to a civilian government without replicating the endemic corruption of Assad's reviled police state.

At stake: the legitimacy Sharaa has gained among many Syrians, and abroad, by ousting the dictator."Sharaa lacks any institutional framework or textbooks to rely on," said Hossam Jazmati, a Syrian researcher on Islamist groups who has studied the former warrior-sheikh for more than a decade."He's not a product of a state institution but of a faction. Since 2003, he has operated within a militia environment," he said. "Power was based on alliances, favoritism and monopoly.Now, loyalists taking spoils of war would threaten his ability to consolidate power, Jazmati said. "He requires substantial financial resources to sustain his administration — not necessarily for personal gain, but to maintain authority."Syria's Ministry of Information told Reuters that Sharaa had arranged a "friendly, informal meeting" in Idlib with former commanders, officials and other notables which touched on political and security challenges as well as the need to change the "investment culture established by the former regime". "He stressed that he would not tolerate any suspicion of corruption among state employees," the ministry said.It denied any car keys were handed over.SHARAA SHUTS OUT BROTHER, SOURCES SAYSharaa's balancing act can be seen even within his own family.Two older brothers hold top jobs in the new government. Hazem oversees foreign and local business and investment in Syria, including the work of former rebel fighters tasked with overhauling Syria's economy. Maher, a gynaecologist with Syrian-Russian dual nationality, is secretary-general of the presidency, chairing official meetings and attending talks with foreign dignitaries, including Sharaa's meeting with Vladimir Putin in Moscow this month.Multiple Syrian officials said Sharaa's reliance on relatives and others close to him was a result of needing to quickly fill gaps in his new administration following the unexpected collapse of Assad's government. Critics see it as a worrying emulation of family rule under the old regime.But another elder brother - Jamal, a businessman - has fallen foul of Sharaa's fledgling anti-corruption drive, according to six people familiar with the matter including government officials and business figures.Following Sharaa's rise to power, Jamal set up an office in the capital Damascus from

be a dangerous escalation.'AN ISSUE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY'Use of the 9M729 expands Russia's arsenal of long-range weapons for striking Ukraine and fits a pattern of Moscow sending threatening signals towards Europe as Trump seeks a peace settlement, Western military analysts said."I think Putin is trying to ramp up pressure as part of the Ukraine negotiations," said William Alberque, a senior adjunct fellow at the Pacific Forum think tank, adding that the 9M729 was designed to hit targets in Europe.Russia tested its nuclear-powered Burevestnik cruise missile last week, and on Wednesday said it had tested a nuclear-powered torpedo named Poseidon.

The White House did not respond to specific questions about Russia's use of the 9M729. Trump ordered the U.S. military on Thursday to resume testing nuclear weapons, citing "other countries' testing programs".After the U.S. withdrew from the INF treaty, which banned ground-launched missiles with a range of 500-5,500 km, Russia declared a moratorium on deploying intermediate-range missiles. The West said Russia had already deployed some 9M729 missilesOn August 4, shortly before using the missiles in Ukraine, Russia said it would no longer limit where it deploys INF-range missiles that can carry nuclear warheads."If it's shown that Russia's using INF-range missiles, which could easily be nuclear, in Ukraine, then that is an issue for European security, not just Ukraine," said John Foreman, a former British defence attache to Moscow and Kyiv.Reuters reviewed images of debris after a Russian attack in which a residential building was hit and four people were killed in the Ukrainian village of Lapaiivka on October 5 - over 600 km from Russian territory.The images showed that two missile fragments, including a tube containing cabling, were marked 9M729.Jeffrey Lewis, Distinguished Scholar of Global Security at Middlebury College, reviewed the images with analysts.He said the tube, engine and engine panelling were consistent with what he expected the 9M729 to look like and that the markings made a match even more likely.Russia has various missiles that can reach across Ukraine, including the sea-launched Kalibr and air-launched Kh-101, but Lewis said the 9M729 offers something slightly different."This gives them slightly different attack axes, which is difficult for air defences, and it increases the pool of missiles that are available to the Russians," Lewis said.The INF prohibited ground-launched missiles because the launchers are mobile and relatively easy to conceal.Douglas Barrie, Senior Fellow for Military Aerospace at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, said Russia could use the 9M729 to conduct ground-launched strikes from safer locations deeper inside Russia.Russia would also benefit from testing the system in a battlefield environment in Ukraine, though 23 uses would imply a military purpose, said Barrie.



where he ran various ventures including import-export and tourism businesses, they said.He became a common sight in upmarket hotel lobbies and restaurants, to which he was driven in a black Mercedes S-class saloon with tinted windows and no license plates.Sharaa ordered the office be shut in August and instructed government entities not to deal with his brother, the sources told Reuters. The decision concerned allegations that Jamal had used his family link to the president to set up dozens of meetings with government and business figures to advance his personal interests, they said.A Reuters reporter found the office shut and locked this month, with red wax blotched on the doors. No one answered the doorbell.Red wax is often used in the region, including in Syria, to seal properties ordered shut pending corruption investigations.Syria's information ministry confirmed the office had been closed down. "Jamal al-Sharaa was not permitted to work as an investment or commercial entity," it told Reuters. "The presidency has clarified since the formation of the government that Jamal al-Sharaa did not hold any official position."The ministry didn't say whether, or what, specific charges authorities had been levelled against the president's brother.Reuters was unable to contact Jamal for comment. Reached by phone, the head of Jamal's office said the pair were outside Damascus and didn't comment further.Shortly after closing Jamal's office, Sharaa held a meeting with family members, including his 79-year-old father, warning them against exploiting the family name for personal gain, according to a relative who attended the meeting.The warning that Sharaa delivered to loyalists in August followed complaints voiced by ordinary Syrians at a meeting with the president earlier that month over the newfound luxury of some former rebels now in the civil service, according to an attendee.Sharaa has since reiterated his anti-corruption message in public in Damascus.In an October 13 clip released by state media, he told officials they must disclose existing investments and were banned from entering into new private projects. He also said personal relationships with businessmen should be avoided, warning them not to repeat the model seen under Assad.Corruption nonetheless persists in post-Assad Syria, including the payment of bribes to get out of jail or recover houses, vehicles and other valuables seized by members of the new ruling order, according to interviews with nine Syrian business figures and former and current officials.One industrialist and two senior factory managers, who all requested anonymity to speak freely, said they had been forced to pay cash to well-connected intermediaries, with no receipt or formal documentation, to keep their businesses running or secure the release of employees detained over alleged past ties to the Assad regime.One said he paid \$100,000 for the release of a worker, only to be told he would have to fork out another \$100,000 if he wanted the employee to be allowed to resume work.Another said he paid \$25,000 to get an employee released.The information ministry said such practices were not widespread and that some people suspected of taking bribes in exchange for releasing detainees or doing other official business had been referred for "immediate investigation".

# China's Xi and Canada's Carney vow to advance relations



GYEONGJU, South Korea/BEIJING,GNS News Agency, Nov 13 - China's President Xi Jinping met with Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney on Friday, with the leaders vowing to advance bilateral relations and Carney accepting Xi's invitation to visit China.They held a summit on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in Gyeongju, South Korea, part of Carney's tour of Asia in an effort to deepen trade and security ties in the region, at a time when Canada is struggling to lessen its dependence on the U.S. and seek new markets.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you

# Kremlin refers questions to defence ministry on Russian missiles strikes on Ukraine

MOSCOW, GNS News Agency, Nov 13- Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov referred journalists to the Russian defence ministry on Friday when asked about a Reuters report that Russia had fired 9M729 missiles at Ukraine.Senior Ukrainian source said that Russia has fired the missile, whose secret development prompted the U.S. to abandon a nuclear arms control treaty with Moscow, at Ukraine 23 times since August this year.Make sense of the latest ESG trends affecting companies and governments with the Reuters Sustainable Switch newsletter. Sign up here.

"This question should be addressed to the military - what specific missiles, delivery systems, and weapons are being used. This should be asked of the Ministry of Defence," Peskov told reporters.The 9M729 led the United States to quit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty in 2019. Washington said the missile was in breach of the treaty and could fly far beyond its limit of 500 km (310 miles), although Russia denied this."If you remember this story, in fact, the American side did make claims at that time, but the Russian side refuted all these claims very convincingly and, on the contrary, explained that the claims

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Canada remains embroiled in a bitter trade dispute with the United States, its biggest trading partner, followed by China. Carney has previously stressed the need to restart broad engagement with China after years of poor relations."Prime Minister Carney accepted President Xi's invitation to visit China at a mutually convenient time," Carney's office said in a statement.Carney and Xi discussed solutions on trade issues including agriculture and agri-food products, such as canola, as well as seafood and electric vehicles, Carney's office said.The leaders also discussed a framework to deepen cooperation across a range of areas – from energy, agriculture, manufacturing, climate change, and international finance, according to Carney's office.Xi told Carney that China values Canada's stated readiness to improve bilateral relations, according to state broadcaster CCTV, adding that China was willing to work with Canada to put ties back on track.Both sides agreed to advance the resolution of specific economic and trade issues, and promote the development of the China–Canada strategic partnership, CCTV said.Earlier on Friday, Carney told a business event at the APEC gatherings the world of rules-based liberalised trade and investment had passed, adding that Canada aimed to double its non-U.S. exports over the course of the next decade.



were unfounded," Peskov said.Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said in 2018 that the 9M729 missile had not been developed or tested for a range equal to or exceeding the 500 km limit established by the INF treaty for this class of missiles.

# French lawmakers weigh wealth tax to fix budget hole

PARIS, -GNS News Agency, Nov 13 France's government defended its alternative to a broad levy on the ultra-rich proposed by left-wing parties, as lawmakers debated a wealth tax to help plug a budget hole on Friday.Deep divisions in France's raucous parliament have crystallized over how to tax the wealthiest citizens as lawmakers debate Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu's belt-tightening budget for next year.Get a daily digest of breaking business news straight to your inbox with the Reuters Business newsletter. Sign up here.

Left-wing lawmakers want a 2% tax on wealth over 100 million euros - a measure promoted by French economist Gabriel Zucman, who says it could generate 15-20 billion euros annually.Zucman argues that his tax, hugely popular in polls, would ensure the ultra-rich pay at least as much, proportionally, as average earners.Wary that such a broad tax could hurt French firms, deter investment and destroy jobs, Lecornu has proposed instead a 2% levy on assets in holding companies not used for business purposes.The tax, expected to raise up to 1 billion euros, would target taxpayers' personal assets held in some 4,000 holding companies that serve no economic purpose other than to reduce their tax bill, Budget Minister Amelie de Montchalin said."Our aim is not to achieve tax justice at the expense of the economy," Montchalin told lawmakers during the debate. 'TAX JUSTICE'

Lecornu does not have a majority and is reliant on support from Socialist lawmakers if he wants the budget to



be passed and the government to survive potential votes of no confidence.Socialist lawmakers have acknowledged that amendments to introduce the Zucman tax were likely to fail, but pushed to tighten the proposed levy on holding companies."We are not calling for dispossession or confiscation, we are demanding tax justice," Socialist lawmaker Boris Vallaud said ahead of the vote, likely Friday afternoon.The final shape of the tax could still change when the budget bill reaches the Senate in the coming weeks, though the lower house will have the final say.The legislation will also face scrutiny from the constitutional court, which has previously struck down tax laws it deemed confiscatory.

# If US resumes nuclear weapons testing, this would be extremely dangerous for humanity

Melbourne: US President Donald Trump has instructed the Pentagon to resume nuclear weapons testing immediately, "on an equal basis" with other countries' testing programs.If Trump is referring to the resumption of explosive nuclear testing, this would be an extremely unfortunate, regrettable step by the United States.It would almost inevitably be followed by tit-for-tat reciprocal announcements by other nuclear-armed states, particularly Russia and China, and cement an accelerating arms race that puts us all in great jeopardy.

It would also create profound risks of radioactive fallout globally. Even if such nuclear tests are conducted underground, this poses a risk in terms of the possible release and venting of radioactive materials, as well as the potential leakage into groundwater.The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has been signed by 187 states – it's one of the most widely supported disarmament treaties in the world.The US signed the treaty decades ago, but has yet to ratify it. Nonetheless, it is actually legally bound not to violate the spirit and purpose of the treaty while it's a signatory.What testing is used for, and why it stoppedIn earlier years, the purpose of testing was to understand the effects of nuclear weapons – for example, the blast damage at different distances, which provides confidence in destroying a given military target.Understanding the consequences of nuclear weapons helps militaries plan their use and, to some extent, protect their own military equipment and people from the possible use of nuclear weapons by adversaries.But since the end of the Second World War, states have mostly used testing as part of the development of new weapon designs. There have been a very large number of tests, more than 2,000, mostly seeking to understand



how these new weapons work.The huge environmental and health problems caused by nuclear testing prompted nations to agree on a moratorium on atmospheric testing for a couple of years in the early 1960s. In 1963, the Partial Test Ban Treaty banned nuclear tests in all environments except underground.Since then, nuclear-armed states have stopped testing at different times. The US stopped in 1992, while France stopped in 1996. China and Russia also aren't known to have conducted any tests since the 1990s. North Korea is the only state to have openly tested a nuclear weapon this century, most recently in 2017.These stoppages came in the 1990s for a reason: by that time, it became possible to test new nuclear weapon designs reliably through technical and computer developments, without having to actually explode them.So, essentially, the nuclear states, particularly the more advanced ones, stopped when they no longer needed to explosively test new weapon designs to keep modernising their stocks, as they're still doing.



# Under-scanner 22 de-addiction centres: Months after Vigilance Bureau registered FIR, Punjab health department to register separate FIRs for ‘theft’ at these centres

GNS News Agency, Nov 13

Ten months after the Punjab Vigilance Bureau (VB) accused Dr Amit Bansal’s de-addiction clinics of selling banned drugs to addicts, the Punjab Directorate of Health and Family Welfare recently directed Civil Surgeons across the state to register First Information Reports (FIRs) in connection with incidents of ‘theft’ during inspections of Bansal’s 22 de-addiction centres. According to the communication issued by the Director, Health (Family Welfare), Punjab, the directive follows the advice of the department’s law officer. The law officer opined that any theft identified during inspection should be formally reported through an FIR by the Civil Surgeon concerned.

The letter dated October 28, 2025, stated that incidents of ‘theft’ at some centres came to light during the inspection by the District-Level Committees. VB had registered FIR No. 12 dated December 31, 2024, against Bansal under Sections 7 and 7-A of the Prevention of Corruption Act and 120-B of the Indian Penal Code. The Vigilance Bureau alleged that Bansal was running 22 de-addiction centres in Punjab, where tablets Addnok-N 0.4 and Addnok-N 2.0 (Buprenorphine and Naloxone) were used for the treatment of addicts. “During interrogations, it had come to fore that

these tablets were misused in the drug de-addiction centres run and owned by Bansal and were sold in the market to other persons (addicts) who were not on the rolls of these rehabilitation centres,” alleged VB in January 2025. Despite such serious allegations, the health department took eight months to conduct the inspections of these centres. The owners or authorised representatives of Bansal’s 22 de-addiction centres were informed through email about the inspection schedule and instructed to coordinate with the Civil Surgeon or Programme Officer (Mental Health Cell), Office of the Director, Health Services, Punjab. These inspections were conducted in the month of August. During the inspection, the authorities examined several parameters, including the verification of purchase bills of medicines, payment records, stock registers, and the details of medicines received, entered, issued, and consumed. Physical verification of medicine stocks was also conducted. Due to the large size of physical data, the committee randomly scrutinised around 100 patient files from each centre. These physical records were cross-checked with online entries to confirm data accuracy. In addition, attendance registers, salary records, and counselling registers of the staff were reviewed. Where available, biometric attendance data was matched with the dispensing records.

# ‘How close I came to being there’: Marathi actress Ruchita Jadhav says Rohit Arya had approached her for ‘hostage drama’

GNS News Agency, Nov 13

Marathi actress Ruchita Jadhav revealed on social media on Friday that she too had been approached by Rohit Arya, who allegedly held 18 people, including 17 children, hostage in Powai, for a role in a film project on a “hostage situation”. Jadhav said that Arya asked her to come to the same Powai studio where the hostage crisis took place on the dates coinciding with the audition of the children. She said she could not make it due to a family emergency. A police official said that they would record her statement as part of the probe into the hostage drama at RA Studio on Thursday that left Arya dead.

Sharing screenshots of her purported chats with Arya, Jadhav said, “Hi everyone, I want to share something very personal that has shaken me deeply. On 4th October, I was contacted by someone named Rohit Arya regarding a film project. The subject he described was about a hostage situation. As an actor, I agreed to hear more.” Marathi actress Ruchita Jadhav shared on Instagram that she had been contacted by Rohit Arya. Marathi actress Ruchita Jadhav shared on Instagram that she had been contacted by Rohit Arya. She added, “On 23rd October, he asked if we could meet on 27th, 28th, or 29th, and I confirmed I could meet on the 28th. On 27th October, he sent me the details including



the location of a studio in Powai and asked if we could meet the next day.” “However, due to unavoidable family commitment, I cancelled the meeting. Today, 31st October, when I saw the terrifying incident in the news – involving this same person – I felt a chill. I can’t stop thinking about how close I came to being there. I’m feeling incredibly grateful to God, and to my family, and I truly believe someone up there was protecting me. This has reminded me—and I hope it reminds you too—that we need to be extremely careful when meeting new people for work, no matter how normal things appear,” her post added.

# Haryana-cadre IPS officer Y Puran Kumar suicide: Show lapses before seeking CBI inquiry, High Court tells petitioner



GNS News Agency, Nov 13

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday asked the petitioner seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the death of Haryana-cadre IPS officer Y Puran Kumar to point out specific lapses or bias in the ongoing investigation by the Chandigarh Police before the court could consider transferring the case to a Central agency.

The Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Navneet Kumar, who has sought that the probe into the officer’s death on October 7 in Chandigarh be handed over to CBI.

Navneet Kumar’s lawyer said that a fair and impartial investigation was needed “to restore public confidence in the system”, as the deceased — a senior officer of the rank of Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) — had allegedly named over a dozen senior IPS and IAS officers in his suicide note. He further contended that the officer had been “systematically victimised” by the system and that even the police officer who was probing him had later taken his own life — a circumstance, he argued, that made a CBI investigation necessary. The opposing counsel from Haryana, however, questioned both the basis of his claim

and his standing to approach the court in the matter. “You are a resident of Punjab, filing a PIL on an issue arising in the Union Territory of Chandigarh. The complainant, the wife of the deceased, has not approached this court. Where is your locus?” he asked. The court also noted that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by a senior IPS officer had already been constituted by the Chandigarh Administration. “There has to be some material on record showing bias, flaws in investigation, or political interference. None has been placed before us,” the bench observed.

When the petitioner argued that the Supreme Court has held that cases requiring restoration of public faith could be transferred to the CBI, the Bench asked him to cite a judgment where such transfer was made without material showing defects in the probe. “That by itself (a senior officer’s suicide) cannot be a reason. You have to point out some anomaly in the investigation,” the Chief Justice said. The Bench also discussed whether the allegations in the suicide note could attract the charge of abetment to suicide under Section 306 IPC. “Even if a person is harassed departmentally or transferred, that by itself cannot make out an offence under Section 306,” the bench remarked, asking the petitioner to cite any conviction upheld by the Supreme Court in such circumstances. During the exchange, the court noted that the deceased officer’s suicide note reportedly referred to transfers, lack of official facilities, and departmental harassment, but said these allegations would be a matter of trial. The opposing counsels argued that the PIL appeared “premature” and that there were “no exceptional circumstances” warranting CBI intervention at this stage, “this would rather scuttle the investigation already going on.” The court then asked the petitioner to prepare further and posted the matter for hearing next week. Puran Kumar was earlier posted as additional director-general of police (ADGP, Rohtak range) and was transferred as inspector-general, Police Training Centre, Sunaria in Rohtak, on September 25.

# Rohit Arya ran a café in Pune that closed a few months ago; neighbours recall a ‘calm, composed man’

Ra Studio hostage incident: Rohit Arya, who was gunned down by the Mumbai Police on Thursday after he held 18 people, including children, hostage in a studio, ran a cafe in Pune that closed down a few months ago.

Arya had held the 17 children, aged between 10 and 12 years, and an adult hostage at Ra Studio in the Mahavir Classic building and claimed that he wanted to have a conversation with the authorities as the Maharashtra Government had not paid the dues for his work in the School Education Department’s ‘Swachhata Monitor’ scheme, which he had conceptualised. Jelly’s Café, the establishment he ran, functioned out of rented premises in Girija Shankar Vihar, Karve Nagar. According to the other shopkeepers there, Arya started the cafe around December last year and closed it down by June-July. The place now houses a garage, but the underside of the plastic roof protruding from the garage still displays the cafe’s logo. One shopkeeper

said, “I was not aware of the news. I am completely shocked. We had normal ‘hi-bye’ interactions when he would come and go. Whenever he would step away for a few minutes, he used to ask us to look after his cafe. Other than that, there was not much interaction with us. The cafe had sandwiches, burgers, and other such items. He also had a special jelly chocolate. However, it was not very successful and did not see much sales. He shut it down in some six months.” Another shopkeeper said, “Someone called me yesterday informing that this had happened, and then I checked the news. Sometime ago, he had mentioned that he was going to carry out some protest in Mumbai, but I did not know what it was about.” Lived here with his family around 2 years ago Arya used to reside in a building near the cafe and shifted a year or two ago. One of its residents told The Indian Express, “He was a normal person. He used to talk, just like you and I are talking.

# Congo-based hotel manager ‘tried to extort’ 3 Gujarat MLAs; ‘threatened to harm’ Junagadh MLA’s family, say police



GNS News Agency, Nov 13

An Indian national working as a hotel manager in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) of western Africa is suspected of making extortion calls to at least three members of the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, police said. While Sameer Galif Ringbloch, a native of Talala in Gir-Somnath, still allegedly remains at large out of India, his two alleged accomplices were arrested by Junagadh Police on Friday after Junagadh MLA Sanjay Koradia filed a police complaint. The Junagadh Police arrested Imran alias John Noormohammad Simari, resident of Gir-Somnath, and Ronak Raju Thakor of Ahmedabad as co-accused in the case, filed at Junagadh ‘B’ Division police station. Police officials from different districts said that according to preliminary information, Ringbloch had allegedly attempted to extort Koradia in Junagadh and two other MLAs from Rajkot and Ahmedabad. However, police said the other two did not file an official complaint. Local officials

said they are simultaneously inquiring into these extortion calls. According to the FIR, MLA Koradia allegedly received the extortion call on his WhatsApp number on October 26. The caller allegedly abused him and then demanded Rs 30 lakh, following which Koradia stated he blocked the number. However, on October 28, he allegedly received another threatening call and several messages from another number, threatening to harm his family members if he did not pay the money. The caller allegedly also told Koradia that he “had several men in Gujarat” and that the Gujarat Police “would not be able to touch him”. The caller allegedly then gave Koradia the Indian phone number of accused Ronak Raju Thakor of Ahmedabad and allegedly told him to send the money through Angadia to him. Ronak Thakor, the anonymous caller, and other unknown persons were booked under BNS sections of extortion, criminal intimidation, criminal intimidation through anonymous communication, and being present as an abettor. Subsequently, Junagadh Police said they managed to trace Ronak Thakor and, through him, Imran Simari. However, DySP Hitesh Dhandhaliya said that these two were only involved in allegedly attempting to collect the extortion amount and Ringbloch was the “main mastermind”. PI A B Gohil said that Ringbloch had “threatened to kill” Koradia’s family members if not paid. DySP Dhandhaliya said, “Ringbloch had been booked several years ago in a case of assault but has been in Congo for about seven years now, working at the hotel of a businessman from Morbi. He comes to India intermittently and we are exploring avenues to apprehend him.”

# ‘Followed me... smashed my car’s rear view window’: Journalist chased by two men on her way back from work

GNS News Agency, Nov 13

A senior journalist working for an English news channel was allegedly chased by two men while she was on her way back home from the office late Thursday night. According to the woman, she was travelling from Noida Sector 129 to Vasant Kunj in her car when two men began following her on their two-wheeler. On Friday afternoon, police detained two men for harassing the woman. The two men were identified as Deepak and Shubham, both residents of Dabri, and have been booked under BNS sections 324(4) (mischief), 126(2) (wrongful restraint), 79 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 3(5) (common intent).

According to police sources, the two men work as bartenders and were allegedly drunk at the time of the incident. Police acknowledged that the woman showed great “courage and alertness” while handling the situation. Speaking to The Indian Express, the woman said, “I left the office around 12.45 am... While I was on the (Noida-Greater Noida) expressway, I noticed two men on a bike following my car. They also tried to stop my car... At first, I ignored it because I assumed they were just having fun at my expense but then they began blocking my car repeatedly.”

Recalling how scared she felt, she said she stopped by some parked cabs and asked the drivers for help. Recalling how scared she felt, she said she stopped by some parked cabs and asked the drivers for help. When the men continued to follow her, the woman said she tried to take a video so that she could have proof of the harassment. However, when the victim had to stop her car due to traffic, the pillion rider allegedly got off the bike, tried to smash her windshield and tried to open the door on the driver’s side. “By this time, the traffic cleared up and I sped my car out of there. The men continued following me... I somehow reached the DND (flyover) and I saw one of the



men take something out of his bag, like a long stick,” she said.

Terrified of what was unfolding, the victim called a colleague asking what to do, who told her to drive away as fast as she could. “By this time, one of the men smashed my rear view window with the stick... I kept driving away. The men chased me down and smashed the left side (passenger) window... I had reached Ashram by this time and I called another friend and the police and gave them my location,” she said. She said she stopped by some parked cabs and asked the drivers for help. “The cab drivers asked me to park my car there and told me that they’d help me... By this time, the men had run away and a crowd had formed around me... the police came after a while and took my statement,” she said. According to police, multiple teams were formed to identify and trace the accused. “CCTV footage from the route and nearby areas was meticulously examined, and intelligence from local sources was developed. Within a short span of time, both accused were identified and detained. We found they were previously involved in a case under the Arms Act... Both accused are being questioned and further investigation is in progress,” said DCP (Southeast) Hemant Tiwari.

# To allow seamless traffic, Mumbai’s first double-decker flyover to come up at Prabhadevi



GNS News Agency, Nov 13

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, a double-decker flyover is set to come up at the heart of South Mumbai, in Prabhadevi. The project aims to ease the flow of vehicles and establish a direct connection with the upcoming Sewri – Worli connector. Why is this project important?

To ensure there is direct connectivity between Navi Mumbai and Worli, the authorities have proposed constructing the Sewri Worli Connector, which is going to bring down travel time between the two places to 25-26 minutes. As part of this longer corridor, the authorities will be demolishing the existing 112-year-old Elphinstone Bridge and constructing a new double-decker flyover in its place. About the project The Elphinstone Bridge was constructed in 1913 and passes above the railway tracks. Over time, cracks and corrosion have emerged on the surface of the bridge, and the authorities have decided to pull it down and merge it with the proposed Sewri-Worli connector.

Features of the project The new bridge will be a double-decker. While the lower deck will provide seamless east-west movement for local traffic, the upper deck will be part of the larger Sewri-Worli network. Each deck will have two vehicular lanes to ensure a smooth flow of traffic. Status, cost and timeline The cost of this bridge has been pegged at Rs 167 crore, and currently, the demolition work is underway. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is executing the project via Maha Rail and has set a 2027 deadline Administration speaks “This

transformational corridor is not merely an engineering achievement — it is a game changer that makes it possible to travel from Navi Mumbai to South Mumbai, from Navi Mumbai to the Western Suburbs— all within minutes. It marks a decisive leap toward realising the ‘Mumbai in 59 Minutes’ vision.

MMRDA is steadfastly building a comprehensive mobility network through interconnected ring routes that integrate new corridors with existing road systems, ensuring faster, smoother, and more efficient connectivity both within and beyond the city,” Dr Sanjay Mukherjee, Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA.

# Suspected leopard sighted near Choutuppal, search on

Yadadri Bhongir: Panic gripped Devalamma Nagaram village and its surroundings in Choutuppall mandal on Friday after locals spotted a suspected leopard moving in the area. Following a complaint from villagers, forest and police officials re-

sponded promptly. Farmers on their way to the fields reportedly saw the animal in the wild growth near the village. A joint team of Forest Department officials and police personnel rushed to the site and cordoned off the affected forest stretch to prevent any untoward incidents. Armed with tracking equipment and binoculars, they combed the area, scanning for paw prints to confirm the animal’s identity.

“We received a call around 6 a.m. and mobilised staff immediately,” said a senior forest official. “Going by the villagers’ description, it could be a leopard, though we cannot rule out a hyena.” Forest officials from the nearby Bhongir Wildlife Range are on their way to the village to join the operations and assist in identifying the animal.





# From Pajero culture to street protests: The struggle for accountability in Pakistan-administered Jammu & Kashmir

In January 2006, I stayed at Kashmir House in Islamabad's posh F-5 Sector, a neighbourhood of broad avenues framed by hills, a rare sight for a South Asian capital. Having spent much of my college life at Delhi University visiting Kashmir House in Chanakyapuri, I could not help but notice the contrast. In New Delhi, the compound was lined with ageing Ambassador cars, while in Islamabad the political elite showcased their clout with fleets of Pajeros, SUVs that were still a rarity in South Asia at the time. When I remarked on this to one of my hosts, a young journalist from Bagh, situated in central Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) and based in Islamabad, he quipped that it was the "Pajero culture" that ruled the region, a telling reflection of the elitism that has long defined its politics. For decades, the Pakistani state has diplomatically showcased Pakistan-administered Jammu and Kashmir (POJK) to the world as if it were a separate country, complete with its own constitution, a Prime Minister as chief executive, and a President as constitutional head. In actual practice, the diverse political unit of Jammu and Kashmir that came together because of a confluence of many factors in the 19th century, has propounded many myths. One such myth relates to POJK, a sliver of the undivided princely state that has been controlled by Pakistan since 1947, which has often escaped popular discussion. Pakistan refers to this area as "Azad Jammu and Kashmir", meaning independent Jammu and Kashmir. Its legislative assembly has the power to elect its prime minister and president. At international fora, the nomenclature of executive positions and a separate Constitution are presented as evidence by Pakistan that the region is an independent entity. However, the reality is a lot different.

Yet, the recent violent developments in the region have once again turned the global spotlight on the territory, underscoring the failure of a political structure devoid of accountability and transparency to the local people. According to independent sources, at least eleven protesters and three policemen have been killed in days of clashes, even as the government urges demonstrators to return to dialogue. There is communication blackout in the region. The protests are being spearheaded by the Jammu Kashmir Joint Awami Action Committee (JKJAAC), which has mobilised around demands for ending special allowances to government officials and securing subsidised electricity and wheat, as provided in other parts of Pakistan. The JKJAAC leadership accuses authorities of renegeing on promises. Its leaders draw members from traders, transporters, lawyers, students, and other grassroots groups. Formally established around September 2023, it emerged as a cross-regional platform to channel extensive public discontent over economic misgovernance, inequities, and the concentration of power in elite circles. JKJAAC's demands fall broadly into two interlinked categories: immediate economic relief and structural/constitutional reforms.

The JKJAAC has called for immediate economic relief in the form of subsidised electricity and wheat prices, on a par with other regions of Pakistan. It also demands the removal of elite perks and privileges for Ministers and bureaucrats, alongside free and equitable access to educa-

tion and health care. Longer-term reforms include judicial and governance restructuring as well as improved infrastructure, including the establishment of an airport. Beyond economic relief, the JKJAAC has also pressed for structural reforms, including the abolition of 12 reserved "refugee seats" in the POJK Legislative Assembly, widely viewed as a tool of Islamabad's control. It also calls for a reduction in the size of the executive, the rollback of elite perks and bureaucratic privileges, and guarantees that local communities benefit from POJK's hydropower and natural resources. Finally, the movement seeks the elimination of quota-based allocations that disadvantage the region's residents. In the recent violent protests, JKJAAC leaders claim that at least 11 protesters have been killed and more than 200 injured; "all suffering gunshot wounds." These claims, however, have been denied by the authorities, who insist that their offers to meet the demands have been ignored. Officials claim that about 90% of the demands were accepted during talks, including electricity and local government reforms, and withdrawal of protest cases. Rejecting this, JKJAAC leader Syed Hafeez Hamdani, in a written statement, asserted: "The claim that our demands have been accepted is contrary to the facts... If our demands had been accepted, we would have had no reason to keep protesting." In reality, the protests are not merely about local grievances; they reflect the deeper structural control exercised by Islamabad through constitutional provisions that have long shaped the uneasy relationship between Islamabad and Muzaffarabad since 1947. This layered history, with all its nuances, is often reduced to a simplistic binary. As a result, any critique of the system is too readily dismissed as "India-sponsored." Political demand for abolition of refugee seats At the heart of the current stalemate is the political demand for the abolition of refugee seats. The Prime Minister of POJK Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has openly acknowledged that "there is a deadlock on the seats of the refugees, which cannot end in the context of the Kashmir movement." To understand why these seats have become such a flashpoint, the issue must be examined through a historical and constitutional lens. The POJK Constitution reserves 12 of the 45 elected "general" Assembly seats for those who migrated from the Indian side of Jammu and Kashmir in 1947 and later settled across Pakistan. In practice, however, these constituencies represent Pakistani citizens with little connection to POJK's daily realities. Strikingly, nine of these 12 seats are located not in POJK at all but across Punjab, while the remaining three are in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, and Sindh. This arrangement has provided Islamabad with a direct and often decisive lever of influence over the Assembly and, by extension, POJK's political landscape. The larger demographic picture behind this allocation and distribution of the 12 seats is that refugees who arrived from Kashmir and Jammu, two culturally, ethnically and linguistically distinct provincial units, have been allotted six seats each. However, on the ground, this allocation and their distribution has resulted in an absurdity in terms of representation as in 1947, migration from the Kashmir valley was minimal.

Reportedly, in the 2021 election, 3,73,652 [3.73 lakh]

were registered in the six constituencies representing the refugees from Jammu, whereas only 29,804 (just 7%) were registered in the six constituencies representing the refugees from Kashmir valley. In 1947, approximately 80% of migrants from the Indian side of Jammu and Kashmir settled in Pakistani Punjab, not POJK. Several factors contributed to this phenomenon. Most migration occurred from the Jammu plains, geographically closer to the Sialkot district and culturally similar to the Punjab province. Compared to POJK, Punjab offered more economic opportunities for migrant communities.

Economist Mehboob-ul-Haq, the creator of the acclaimed Human Development Index, universally accepted as a better alternative to Gross Domestic Product as the measure of a nation's prosperity, was a Jammu migrant. Pakistan's famed female singer, Malika Pukhraj, who migrated to Lahore during the 1947 riots, was born in the Hamipur Sidhar village near Akhnoor in Jammu. In fact, the bulk of Muslim migration was from the Dogri and Punjabi speaking Jammu plains of Jammu province. Even before 1947, a substantial portion of the population living on the Jammu plains, Muslims as well as Hindus, was tied to neighbouring parts of Punjab province, now in Pakistan, because of family, trade, education and employment. The geography played its part as from Jammu city, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir, major Pakistani cities such as Sialkot and Lahore, the capital of Pakistani Punjab, are less than one hour and less than two hours away respectively. In contrast, the distance between the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, Srinagar, Lahore is at least 10 to 12 hours away. As mentioned earlier, equal seats, six each, have been allocated for refugees coming from Kashmir province and Jammu province respectively, the two culturally, ethnically and linguistically distinct provincial units of Jammu and Kashmir. However, on the ground, it results in absurdity in terms of representation. The data of the 2006 Assembly elections reveal that there were 5,46,031 registered voters for the six seats for Jammu whereas there were only 35,256 voters for the six seats reserved for the Kashmir province refugees. Although the number of seats is the same, the number of voters from the Kashmir province was only 0.06% of the total migrant vote bank. Even within the six seats for the Jammu province, the strength of the constituencies is uneven: LA5 and LA6 in Rawalpindi had 5,000 and 1,50,000 voters respectively. Holding elections for these refugee constituencies has little practical representational and legislative relevance as the descendants of the 1947 migrants are socially and economically well-integrated in Pakistan, particularly Pakistani Punjab. Past trends and experience demonstrate that the party ruling in Islamabad is able to corner the majority of refugee seats, giving the party ruling Islamabad the advantage in government formation in Muzaffarabad, the capital of POJK.

In 1975, Zulfikar Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) brought down the Muslim Conference government on the strength of these seats. In 1990, the Muslim Conference won all 12 refugee seats and Nawaz Sharif, the then Prime Minister, boasted that his government had "gifted" these seats to Muslim Conference founder and leader,



Sardar Qayoom. The pattern replicated in the 2021 POJK election. The PTI won 75% of the refugee seats, compared to 48% of seats in the remaining 33 elected seats within POJK. In December 2007, Sultan Mehmood Chaudhry, presently President of POJK and a jat from Mirpur, had demanded abolition of the 12 seats reserved in the Assembly for "Kashmiris" settled in other parts of Pakistan. He had alleged that the "ruling parties in Pakistan always manipulate elections for these seats. The holding of elections for Jammu and Kashmir migrants in various parts of Pakistan merely serves as an instrument to benefit the ruling party in Islamabad. More important, it perpetuates a selective pan-Pakistan societal narrative on Jammu and Kashmir that consequently limits the scope and ability of the Pakistani State to approach the Kashmir issue and the broader India-Pakistan peace process with realism. The protesters' demand to end elitism gains added urgency in a system where institutional frameworks enable elite capture of key appointments and decision-making. The Islamabad based POJK Council has long held authority, formal or informal, over high-stakes appointments, especially in the judiciary, bureaucracy, and constitutional bodies. It has influence over the selection of the Chief Election Commissioner (who is appointed by the POJK President on the advice of the Chairman of the Council). More broadly, the Council has historically had say in appointments of judges to the High Court and Supreme Court of POJK, often via advice or consultation roles vis-à-vis the President and the federal government.

In addition, it has wielded control over bureaucratic postings within the Council Secretariat itself, such as deputy secretaries, section officers, and drawing and disbursing officers—appointments that critics argue have often bypassed the jurisdiction of the POJK government and been driven by favoritism. Beyond appointments, the Council's reach historically extended to administrative oversight and control of departments, fiscal management, and legislative subjects: taxation, natural resources, tourism, infrastructure, and major development schemes have been subject to Council jurisdiction under its legislative list of 52 subjects. While the 13th Amendment of the POJK constitution in 2018 sought to strip many of these powers and devolve them to the POJK Assembly or to Islamabad directly, the structural role of the Council in appointments and oversight remains controversial and contested. POJK often been sidelined

## Karur stampede | Where there was no way out

On the evening of September 27, 2025, a Saturday, Lalli carried the infant in her arms and walked to the venue of the rally in Karur, a textile hub in Tamil Nadu. Her husband and their two children went as well. They were excited to hear the popular actor, Vijay, address the crowd as president of his fledgling political party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK). The rally was part of the actor-turned-politician's State-wide tour. Tamil Nadu is scheduled to have Assembly elections in 2026. At the venue, the crowd kept swelling despite the heat. Vijay arrived several hours late, and there was allegedly little security in place. Many people fainted, while others tried to get closer to Vijay's vehicle. Chaos erupted and the resulting crowd crush left 41 people dead, including 10 babies, and injured more than 100 people. Most of the adult victims were aged 18-30.

"I thought I could save him. This guilt will stay with me until I die," says Lalli, who is sitting with family members in Thuruvisshnu's house. The cries of the family echo through the house in Vadivel Nagar in Velusampyuram, barely 50 metres from where Vijay addressed the crowd. Lalli's brother Vimal, a 25-year-old daily-wage worker, and his wife Matheswari, 22, had Thuruvisshnu two years after getting married. On the morning after the stampede, the couple performed the last rites of their 22 month-old son. He was the youngest to die in the stampede. Matheswari (centre) lost her 22 month-old son in the crowd crush. For the people of Velusampyuram, where houses and textile shops can be found on both sides of the roads, the rally has left deep scars. Many residents insist that the disaster was neither accidental nor unforeseeable, and that it was the outcome of poor planning and official neglect.

Crowds had begun to gather at the spot of the rally, scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. on September 27, from the previous night. Young men roamed the stretch putting up posters, stringing banners, and blaring TVK songs on loudspeakers. "By around 10 a.m. on Saturday, many people had already arrived. By 3 p.m., traffic could not move through this road. And by evening, there was simply no space for anyone to even turn," says G. Sitharam, a resident. Many believe that the timing of the rally was poor. "Saturday evening is when textile workers collect their wages in Karur. There is already some rush at that time. If you hold a large political rally in such a congested pocket at the same time, you're just asking for trouble," says B. Balusamy, another resident. Vijay arrived late, say residents. Even as thousands of people waited to catch a glimpse of the actor, thousands more came from neighbouring hamlets and districts. "Had he kept to the schedule, people would have left early. But he arrived after 7 p.m. The town was overflowing with people by then," says V. Balaji, a textile worker from Gowripuram in Karur town. Residents also allege that they had little access to basic needs, especially drinking water. Karur has a hot, semi-arid climate and while September marks the end of the hottest season, temperatures during the day can soar to 37-38°C. "People stood in the sun for hours. I saw children faint, and boys climbing transformers just to catch a glimpse of Vijay," says G. Chitra, a homemaker and resident of Velusampyuram. "There was only one hotel nearby, which was open. But the food there was too expensive for workers and daily-wage families. In the surrounding shops, there was no food available." Lalli recalls the moments before the stampede occurred. "When Vijay began to speak, there was a power cut, and the mic failed. The crowd grew restless. I was holding Thuruvisshnu in one hand and my daughter in the other when someone shoved us. I fell and

he slipped from my arms." For two hours, a hapless Lalli, who was injured herself, searched the lanes, before being admitted to the Karur Medical College Hospital. She learned only the next morning that her nephew had been found dead. Thuruvisshnu's father, Vimal, had recognised him in TV footage from the government hospital. He had rushed to the spot to find his son's small body on a stretcher. K. Veeramani, a resident of Velusampyuram, says, "The DMK's Mupperum Vizha drew a much larger crowd. [Mupperum Vizha is a festival held in honour of icons of the Dravidian movement, such as Periyar and party founder C.N. Annadurai.] But it was held near the ring road, where there is space. Even the Opposition leader, Edappadi Palaniswami [of the AIADMK], addressed a meeting here two days earlier without incident. Why did this collapse into chaos?"

Participants say trouble began when Vijay's vehicle started moving through the crowd on one of the carriageways of the road with a median. His vehicle inched its way to the selected spot, where he was to address the gathering. As people, including those who had been waiting since morning, tried to get closer to the vehicle, a major commotion broke out. People were pushed back and many lost their balance and fell on the road, say residents. Minutes after Vijay climbed on a makeshift stage atop his vehicle, frantic people tried to leave the area any which way, to save their lives. Amid this confusion, Vijay delivered a few minutes of his speech. The atmosphere turned electric when he broke into a jingle, targeting former State Minister V. Senthilbalaji in connection with a money-laundering case. Photos and videos that emerged later show people throwing footwear towards the campaign vehicle while Vijay was speaking. Some video clips showed lathi-wielding policemen charging at some people in the crowd. On hearing the frantic cries of people in the crowd, Vijay tossed water bottles at them. A video also showed the actor pausing his speech when he saw ambulances struggling to make their way through the crowd. It was only when he seemed to realise the magnitude of the situation that Vijay cut short his speech. He quickly left the venue, went to Tiruchi, which is nearly two hours away by road, and flew to Chennai on a chartered plane; this drew a lot of criticism. He ignored journalists at the airport. Hours later, the actor posted on X, expressing grief over the incident and offering condolences to those killed. According to officials of the Karur Medical College Hospital, 39 of the victims were brought in dead, while two others died later. A senior doctor says the primary cause of death was compressive asphyxia, triggered by intense pressure on the chest during the crowd surge. "Many people collapsed within minutes of being caught in the crush," the doctor says, adding that in some cases, he found rib and spinal fractures. The First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Karur town police on September 27 says Vijay's arrival was deliberately delayed so more people could come to the rally. It says the police warned TVK leaders of the cadre's behaviour, but their warnings were not heeded. It also says that while the organisers had stated that 10,000 people would come, more than 25,000 people turned up at the rally. The people, who waited in large numbers for several hours without food, water, and medical assistance, became fatigued due to the heat and crowding, which consequently led to a crush resulting in multiple deaths, the FIR adds. The police charged TVK's Karur (west) district secretary V.P. Mathiyazhagan, party general secretary A

'Bussy' Anand, State joint general secretary C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar and others under Sections 105 (culpable homicide), 110 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 223 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant), and 125 (b) (endangering life of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and Section 3 of the Tamil Nadu Property (Prevention of Damage and Loss) Act, 1982. They have arrested Mathiyazhagan and central town secretary M.C. Pounraj and remanded them in judicial custody. The blame game The tragedy, believed to be the first of its kind in a political rally in India, drew nationwide attention. As soon as news of it broke, President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and leaders of various political parties expressed grief and shock over the tragedy. The State government responded swiftly, arranging medical aid and overnight autopsies, and promptly handed over the bodies to the grieving families. It also constituted a one-member Commission of Inquiry by retired High Court Judge Aruna Jagadeesan to probe the tragedy. Justice Aruna Jagatheesan, the one-woman inquiry commission formed to investigate the stampede, visits Velusampyuram in Karur, the site of the incident.

Justice Aruna Jagatheesan, the one-woman inquiry commission formed to investigate the stampede, visits Velusampyuram in Karur, the site of the incident. | Photo Credit: R. Vengadesh Hours after the tragedy, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin flew down to Tiruchi and drove to Karur past midnight, to console the bereaved families and call on the injured. The government directed doctors and specialists to the Karur Government Medical College Hospital, to take care of the people who continued to arrive in ambulances until late at night. He later gave a statement saying, "No political party leader would ever wish for their followers or innocent civilians to die. When political parties and public organisations conduct such events, it is the duty of all of us to establish rules on how to act responsibly in the future." The next day, AIADMK general secretary Palaniswami and a host of leaders of various political parties also visited the injured at the hospital. Palaniswami blamed the police for failing to provide adequate security. Terming the probe panel an "eyewash", he demanded an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The TVK has moved the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, also seeking a CBI inquiry into the tragedy. The BJP constituted an eight-member delegation of Members of Parliament (MP) of the National Democratic Alliance, led by MP Hema Malini, to study the reasons for the stampede. The team visited Karur on September 30 and interacted with the survivors. They demanded an impartial probe led by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court. Malini told reporters that the venue was "inappropriate" for a rally held for thousands of people. She said that both the organisers and the administration should be held accountable. A day before the team visited the district, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman also visited Karur and consoled families who lost loved ones. The incident has emerged as a rallying point for the TVK and the main Opposition parties, including the AIADMK and the BJP, to hold the DMK government responsible for the tragedy. The State government has strongly refuted the charges made against it. Vijay, who has not yet visited the grieving families or the injured being treated in hospitals, issued a video statement three days after the tragedy. "As a human being, how could I leave the place when so many people were affected? I chose not to go there immediately only to avoid the risk of any further unforeseen incidents," he said. He also ad-



"I thought I could save him. This guilt will stay with me until I die," says Lalli, who is sitting with family members in Thuruvisshnu's house. The cries of the family echo through the house in Vadivel Nagar in Velusampyuram, barely 50 metres from where Vijay addressed the crowd. Lalli's brother Vimal, a 25-year-old daily-wage worker, and his wife Matheswari, 22, had Thuruvisshnu two years after getting married

ressed the Chief Minister and told him with a dramatic flourish to "take revenge against him, and spare the TVK cadre".

What the police say The police say Velusampyuram is often identified by political parties as a location for public meetings. According to S. Davidson Devasirvatham, Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, the organisers had originally sought permission for the rally at the light house roundabout. This was denied on the grounds that it was not a suitable location to hold a meeting. A day later, they sought permission at the Uzhavar Sandhai. They were denied permission again, on the grounds that the location was narrow. Finally, they were allotted Velusampyuram, and the organisers consented to this. Karthick from Erode district, who is one of the survivors, is critical of the police. "Only a few policemen were standing along the side of the road. Many of the policemen were posted in the outer ring of the meeting spot, only to regulate the traffic," he says. "Only around 10-15 policemen were walking alongside or in front of the vehicle. The tragedy could have been prevented if more policemen had been posted at the meeting spot and a large venue had been provided." Dismissing the accusations, Devasirvatham says there was adequate security in place. The police deployment was in a ratio of 1:20 (police-public), he says. As the crowd swelled, Devasirvatham says more policemen were called in from the neighbouring districts.

A policeman on the condition of anonymity says the situation caused panic, even among the police. "I saw a person try and get a glimpse of the actor and slip and fall near his vehicle. The crowd trampled over him. Many people, who became tired and dehydrated, fell down on the road, only to be crushed by others. No one came forward to save the injured. Everybody was focused only on catching a glimpse of Vijay." He says he lifted up seven people trapped in the crowd. Of them, he laments that he could save only one. While some blame the DMK and others blame Vijay for the tragedy, for many people, grief has not turned into anger against the actor.



# New CPI to measure rural housing inflation, exclude employer-provided dwellings



rural housing inflation, housing inflation, inflation, CPI to measure rural housing inflation, consumer price index, Indian express news, current affairsThe revision, when implemented, will help gauge the impact of rentals and housing prices on inflation more accurately as inclusion of only urban areas and employer-provided dwellings may not be reflecting the complete ground reality, especially with rentals having surged after the pandemic. (Representative)Monthly rent data collection in both rural and urban areas as opposed to the current practice of collecting it every six months only for urban areas are proposed to be one of the key changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) that will form the basis of the new retail inflation series beginning February, a discussion paper by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Thursday stated.

Also, “to eliminate distortions introduced sometimes due to concessional or employer-provided dwellings” in the CPI series, government accommodations and other employer-provided dwellings will be excluded from the housing index as these do not reflect transactions in the actual rental market, the Ministry said.The Ministry said the proposed changes in the methodology are being done with the objective of making the housing index more “robust and representative”. In the existing CPI, housing has 21.67 per cent weight for urban areas and 10.07 per cent weight at all-India level.

The revision, when implemented, will help gauge the impact of rentals and housing prices on inflation more accurately as inclusion of only urban areas and employer-provided dwellings may not be reflecting the complete ground reality, especially with rentals having surged after the pandemic. Further, the presence of government housing — provided by the Centre, states, and public sector undertakings to their employees — in the current CPI has been an issue flagged by economists for the better part of a decade. For these dwellings, the House Rent Allowance (HRA) is taken as a proxy for rent and used to calculate inflation, which is problematic as the rent — or the HRA in this instance — does not depend on the prevailing market rental rates but on the pay grade of the employee living in them. The Ministry released the third paper in the series — ‘Discussion paper on the proposed changes in the housing index compilation methodology in the new CPI series’ — as part of its base revision exercise of the CPI after having released two

papers earlier on the ‘Treatment of Free Public Distribution System (PDS) Items in CPI Compilation’ in October 2025 and December 2024. Earlier this week, MoSPI Secretary Saurabh Garg had told The Indian Express in an interview that the Ministry plans to bring out discussion papers and hold data conferences to outline the changes and the methodology for the new inflation series to seek comments from stakeholders, with transparency as a key objective.“In addition to urban expenditure on housing, the HCES (Household Consumption Expenditure Survey) 2023-24 has also captured house rent data for rural areas, including imputed rent for owner-occupied dwellings. Consequently, new series will compile the housing index for both rural and urban sectors. This marks a departure from the current series, which includes only the urban sector, due to the absence of imputed rent data for rural areas in the HCES 2011-12,” the discussion paper stated.

Feedback and comments have been sought on the proposed changes in the housing index compilation methodology and can be sent to psd-nso2020@mospi.gov.in by November 20, it said.The new housing index will also have an expanded sample coverage by collecting rent data from all selected dwellings each month instead of limiting rent collection to one-sixth of the sample at present. This change is being proposed after discussions with experts from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to address the issue of panel approach since that approach necessitates a larger sample size to ensure representativeness at the aggregate level, which is not feasible due to the limited availability of rented dwellings in many markets outside major urban centres, the Ministry said.“During a Technical Assistance Mission on base revision of CPI with IMF Experts, it was advised that since India uses the panel survey approach for the collection of rents, when calculating price change, the price change is based on a comparison of like with like, meaning that panel 1 in M7 is compared with the prices collected in M1. This results in a six-month change. To convert the 6 months change into a one-month change, the 6th root of the change may be calculated. This is then multiplied by the previous period index. Prices for the other panels are not imputed or used. Only the prices of the individual panels are used subject to the condition that each panel is broadly representative of the whole. Carrying forward the prices of the other panels may create a downward bias in the rent index,” the paper stated.

The MoSPI is undertaking the base revision exercise of the CPI and is revisiting methodologies, exploring new data sources and incorporating changes after consultations with experts, users, academicians and other stakeholders.Housing is seen as a crucial indicator for the overall well-being of the households not only in India but across the world as a significant amount of their income is spent either on house rent or maintaining an owned house, the Ministry said. “Inflation based on house rent index is an important tool not only for the policy and decision makers but also for the households. Therefore, a robust and relevant housing index compilation methodology for capturing its actual movement every month is of utmost importance,” it said.

# India-European Union talks gather pace

Ahead of the 15th round of negotiations likely early November, a delegation of the European Parliament’s Committee on International Trade (INTA) is already on a two-day visit to India.Ahead of the 15th round of negotiations likely early November, a delegation of the European Parliament’s Committee on International Trade (INTA) is already on a two-day visit to India. (Credit: Unsplash)Amid steep US tariff pressure on Indian goods, negotiations between India and the European Union (EU) for a free trade agreement (FTA) have gathered pace and an EU trade delegation is expected to visit New Delhi on November 3 for the next round of negotiations, an official said on Tuesday. The 15th round of negotiations comes close on the heels of Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal’s visit to Brussels this week, where he met several EU officials, including European Commissioner for Trade Maros Sefcovic.Sefcovic, during an address in Brussels, said that both countries have been able to touch upon “more sensitive issues”, but “more work is required”, and that “concrete guidance has been given to negotiating teams on industrial tariffs”, and the EU delegation will be in New Delhi next week to conclude technical tariffs negotiations.

Goyal said that the talks have “significantly reduced outstanding issues” between India and the EU and allowed both partners to create the framework that will help deliver a win-win for India and the EU.“The negotiations and discussions have laid the foundation for a robust and balanced agreement, which will significantly support businesses on both sides and add to the potential for mutual growth. The efforts of our teams have been truly commendable. I look forward to welcoming my friend Maros Sefcovic and the EU team again soon, as we work together to bring this dialogue to fruition,” Goyal said.Ahead of the 15th round of negotiations likely early November, a delegation of the European Parliament’s Committee on International Trade (INTA) is already on a two-day visit to India. This seven-member delegation is led by Cristina Maestre, who is the INTA Standing Rapporteur for India, and Brando Benifei, the INTA coordinator.

A visit by INTA officials assumes significance as they play a key role in concluding the EU’s trade agreements. An INTA rapporteur is tasked with drafting a report that includes a recommendation for the European Parliament’s



vote. An EU statement said that the main objective of this visit is to contribute to increasing mutual understanding amid intensive trade negotiations between the EU and India.“The mission is timely, taking place just a few months ahead of the deadline to conclude negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement by the end of 2025. We look forward to discussing the issues at stake as both sides have a mutual interest in reaching a meaningful bilateral agreement and in protecting the rules-based multilateral trade order,” the statement said.

While India and the EU have concluded several chapters, including digital services, both trade partners have differed on key areas, including automobiles and agriculture. A EU status report on negotiations in September said that high-level interventions by senior EU officials with Indian authorities were useful in better understanding each side’s position, but did not “allow sufficient progress in sensitive areas such as automobiles and agricultural products”.“The focus of negotiators was, as in previous recent rounds, to advance on the core pillars of a future agreement with the aim of getting closer to an economically meaningful market access package. While some progress was made in certain outstanding areas, in particular on rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, and investment, no additional chapter could be closed this time,” the report said.The European Commission, in a report to the European Parliament, had said that the EU is India’s largest trading partner, while India is the EU’s largest one in the Global South. In 2024, bilateral trade in goods reached €120 billion – an increase of nearly 90 per cent over the past decade, and around 6000 European companies operate in India.

# L&T signs pact with US firm to manufacture unmanned aircraft systems for Indian Army

New Delhi: Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) on Friday said that it has entered into a strategic pact with US-based Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) for manufacturing unmanned aircraft systems for the Indian Army.Under the partnership, both the firms will together manufacture Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) in India.L&T’s engineering, precision manufacturing and system integration capabilities in defence and aerospace and GA-ASI operational expertise will be utilised in this strategic pact.

“Under this partnership, L&T will participate in the upcoming 87 MALE RPAS programme of the Ministry of Defence, where L&T will be the prime bidder and GA-ASI the technology partner,” the infrastructure major said in a filing to the BSE.The collaboration will enable the production of GA-ASI’s MQ-series RPAS that are combat proven.

These are widely operational across the globe with millions of flight hours in surveillance and strike missions, it said.The partnership marks a milestone in India’s pursuit of



a self-reliant defence ecosystem, strengthening Indo-US defence collaboration and fostering a competitive, globally integrated aerospace manufacturing base.“This partnership offers India a unique opportunity to manufacture state-of-the-art unmanned platforms indigenously... this alliance will significantly enhance India’s defence capabilities and advance self-reliance in aerospace technologies,”

# Malala Yousafzai on ‘reliving the Taliban attack flashbacks’ and how therapy saved her: ‘It was terrifying, seeing the gunman...’



For many survivors of trauma, healing is a work in progress. And at times, the uneven road to recovery is marked by moments of the past unexpectedly resurfacing. Something similar happened to women’s rights and education activist Malala Yousafzai, who found herself reliving the terror of a Taliban attack she thought she had left behind.“I tried Bong with my friends, and suddenly, as soon as it entered my body, it took a sharp turn. I froze in that moment. And I was reliving the Taliban attack flashbacks...,” she revealed in an interview with CBS News.

The scars don’t fade so easily, as the 28-year-old social activist pointed out. “I thought I had forgotten...but that night I thought maybe I had seen it all. It was terrifying, seeing the gunman and just feeling so helpless... and after that, I started getting panic attacks, anxiety, and it was months later that I considered therapy... and it was only when a friend suggested that I see a therapist. She reminded me that it is common in college for kids to get therapy...,” Malala continued.

According to Delhi-based consultant psychiatrist Dr Suyash V. Shendye, “Trauma leaves deep marks on both the mind and body. Sometimes, a random smell, sound, or even alcohol or drugs can bring back those old emotions. The brain senses danger again, triggering fear or stress as if the event is happening now. Substances can also lower emotional guards, letting hidden pain or memories surface unexpectedly.”As a result of these experiences, a person may avoid certain people or places, feel on edge, or be

emotionally numb, added Dr Shendye. “Trouble sleeping, muscle tension, or mood swings long after the event can also signal that old wounds haven’t fully healed.”

Reiterating the same, behaviour strategist Vivek Vashist explained that trauma can silently live in the body, how therapy reawakens the brain’s ability to heal, and why proper recovery comes not just from medication, but from learning to trust safety again.What signs indicate that someone might be experiencing post-traumatic stress or anxiety?

Dr Shendye explained that symptoms like flashbacks, nightmares, or constant irritability are common clues. “Sometimes the body begins to live from reflex instead of reflection. There may be overreactions, panic attacks, as in Malala’s case, that we can’t explain. Moments of zoning out mid-conversation, or feeling as if we’re watching life happen from a little distance. The body remains tense even in safe situations.“It’s situations like these that call for therapy. On a friend’s request, Malala chose to revive from the “unaddressed part of her recovery from the Taliban attack.” “I saw it as just surgeries and medication, but I never considered it as part of the recovery. I feel like this was an unaddressed part of my recovery from the Taliban attack,” she revealed in the interview.

How did therapy help her?As Malala shared, therapy helped her work on her “unaddressed” fears; likewise, people who are healing from past trauma resort to treatment as a way out. “Our brains are neuroplastic, which means they keep on growing and absorbing information. It continually builds neural networks to make better decisions. Neuroplasticity means that, even after years of reacting the same way, the mind can learn a new pattern. Therapy helps when it reminds the brain that it can still change,” elaborated Vashist. In Dr Sheynde’s opinion, “Therapy works wonders. Mechanisms like Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) and Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) calm both mind and body. They help people safely process painful memories, challenge negative thoughts, and regain control. Research shows the benefits often last for years, helping survivors feel grounded and empowered again,” he concluded.

# Why dal will always be India’s ultimate comfort food

Few foods are as easy to store, travel with, cook, and eat as dal or pulses. To prepare a comforting bowl of yellow dal, you need little more than the lentils themselves, some water, salt, a pinch of turmeric, perhaps a tomato or onion, ginger or garlic (optional), and a few coriander or curry leaves. In ten minutes, you have a sustaining, delicious meal that carries you through the day.

Lentils and pulses have been part of Indian kitchens since the Indus Valley Civilisation. Archaeological findings show that peas, chickpeas, green gram, and black gram were staples of that era. Granules of these lentils were found inside storage jars at the Harappan site of Farmana in the Ghaggar Valley, Haryana — no wonder dal makhni, made with black and green gram, remains so popular in the region.If you love dal, as most Indians do, you’re in good company — Chandragupta Maurya shared your taste. Ancient texts record multiple dal recipes served at feasts and festivals. At Chandragupta’s wedding in 303 BC, guests were served a special dal — an early version of Bengal’s ghugni — made with large split peas. Ghugni, unlike most dals, isn’t eaten with rice. It’s often paired with luchi (puffed bread) or eaten on its own, spicy and tangy with onions, chillies, and lime, sometimes even with mutton. It’s a street food favourite and a beloved breakfast dish in eastern India.

In medieval India, the revival of the dum pukht (slow cooking) technique brought chana dal (Bengal gram) into royal menus. Panchmel or Panchratna dal — made with five lentils: moong, chana, toor, masoor, and urad — rose to fame in Mewar’s royal kitchens. Legend has it that Jodha Bai, who loved the dish, introduced it to Akbar’s Mughal court.The Mughals’ love for food matched their love for conquests. Akbar’s great-grandson, Murad, was fond of Rajasthani toor dal, which led to the creation of the smooth, aromatic Moradabadi dal. One of his cooks, experimenting with moong dal over a low flame, achieved a texture similar to that. Served in bowls made of dried betel leaves and topped with amchar, onions, and green chillies, the dish became the now-iconic Moradabadi dal.

Of course, the dal that has won over even the most sceptical foreigner is dal makhni — rich, buttery, and unapologetically indulgent. Invented by Kundan Lal Gujral, founder of the Moti Mahal chain, dal makhni used the same



tomato-and-cream base as butter chicken, but paired it with urad dal, chana dal, and rajma. Slow-cooked for hours and finished with butter and cream, it became a modern classic.Some of my favourite dal dishes include maacher muror dal — masoor dal cooked with fried fish heads; Parsi dal with coconut milk; Sri Lankan dal, thick and mashed rather than soupy; and Andhra’s spicy, tangy dal pappu, flavoured with tomato.Then there are dishes that disguise dal altogether. Take dhokar dalna, a Bengali delicacy from the “widow cuisine” of Bengal — a remarkable culinary tradition born of austerity. Made from boiled and ground chana dal shaped into spiced cakes, steamed, and cooked in a light gravy with potatoes and coriander, it’s a labour-intensive but deeply satisfying dish.A simpler alternative is moong dal chilla — thin, savoury pancakes made from ground moong dal batter, spiced and crisped in a pan. Eaten with curd or pickle, they make a wholesome North Indian breakfast.When I began living alone after college, dal was my go-to meal. I’d soak moong or masoor, rinse it till the water ran clear, and cook it with double the water, a tomato, turmeric, chilli powder, sugar, and salt — two whistles in a pressure cooker, and lunch was ready. Sometimes I’d make a quick tadka of ghee with red chillies, nigella seeds, garlic, and curry leaves, and pour it over the dal. Pure comfort food — simple, nourishing, and infinitely forgiving.Next week, I’ll be writing on the widow cuisine of Bengal with all its delicacies, and how necessity is indeed the mother of invention. Leading to the creation of some of Bengal’s finest delicacies, which are part and parcel of everyday and festival cooking.

# Salman Khan on being exhausted while shooting 15 films at once and getting irritated with Aamir Khan for arriving early on Andaz Apna Apna sets: ‘Jab iska final ho jaaye...’

During their appearance on Two Much with Kajol and Twinkle, Salman candidly shared how overcommitment once left him drained. “We were working together in Andaz Apna Apna, Mr Aamir Khan at that point of time used to land up on the set at 7 in the morning for a 9 o’clock shift because he had one film... I had 15 films,” he said, adding that the pressure of juggling three shooting schedules a day meant he often arrived exhausted. “By the time I used to come, I’d be exhausted, and he used to go on with his rehearsals. Ek ek scene ke itne itne rehearsals, baap re baap (For each scene, he would do so many rehearsals). I would say, ‘Jab iska final ho jaaye, toh mujhe bula lena take mein (Once he’s done with his final rehearsal, just call me for the take).”

Aamir, with his trademark precision, responded: “Jo time tha ussi par aata tha bhai (I used to come at the time that was scheduled),” before poking fun at Salman’s habit of catching naps on set. Salman admitted that sometimes, he simply didn’t see the point of putting in excess effort for smaller parts: “Toh usme main kaye ko energy daloon? (So why should I put my energy into that?).”

However, not all differences were overlooked. Aamir openly admitted: “Ye sach baat hai (this is the truth). Koi poochta tha toh main bolta tha ki uske saath kaam karna

mushkil hai (Whenever someone asked, I used to say that working with him/her was difficult).” To this, Twinkle Khanna laughed, recalling, “remembering Aamir’s old interviews where he said just that.”Yet, despite the friction, Aamir softened the story by recalling lighter moments, stating, “We would burst into laughter while doing a scene.” Their ability to look back with humour shows how even strained professional dynamics can evolve into mutual respect over time.How can overcommitting to too many responsibilities impact productivity, focus, and mental well-being in everyday jobs?

Gurleen Baruah, organisational psychologist at That Culture Thing, tells indianexpress.com, “When we juggle too many tasks, the brain keeps switching tracks. That switch costs attention and memory, often referred to as ‘attention residue’. Focus weakens, small errors increase, and complex thinking declines. Sleep and recovery shrink, so cortisol levels stay high, which can lead to irritability, low energy, and foggy thinking. Over time, this looks like burn-out: emotional exhaustion, feeling distant from work, and a dip in motivation, even for work once loved.”

Practical ways to reduce friction and build smoother working relationships?



## ‘Mentally, it’s killing me’: Alex de Minaur reacts to his defeat to Lorenzo Musetti in the ATP Finals Jimmy Connors group stage match



GNS News Agency, Nov 13

World No. 7 Alex de Minaur has conceded that he needs to work with his team to find a way to close out matches, instead of losing them from winning positions. The Australian failed to serve out his Jimmy Connors group stage match at the ATP Finals in Turin on Wednesday, going down 7-5, 3-6, 7-5 to Italy’s Lorenzo Musetti to dent his semi-final qualification chances. It was his second loss of

the group stage, and he admitted that such defeats were “killing” him mentally. “I don’t know how many times I can deal with a loss like this one. I just have to talk to my team and try to sort out these issues because these are issues that can’t keep happening.”

“I mean, if I really want to be serious about taking the next step in my career, these matches, I can’t lose them. I just can’t. It feels like I’ve lost a lot of them this year. More than anything, it’s getting to a point where mentally it’s killing me,” de Minaur said. The 26-year-old said that he was giving it his all in such matches and admitted that not getting the desired results for his efforts was starting to affect him. “I keep putting everything into these matches. When the result’s not there, it’s hard to keep pushing through. It’s something that if it doesn’t get sorted, it’s going to eat me alive. I need to get it sorted sooner rather than later,” he said. de Minaur will face American Taylor Fritz on Thursday, while Carlos Alcaraz will face Musetti later in the evening. The Spaniard is on top of the group with two wins and a 4-1 win/loss set record. His rival, Jannik Sinner, leads the Bjorn Borg group, with the same number of wins and a 4-0 win/loss set record.

## Greg Chappell on Harry Brook: ‘He reminds me very much of Sachin Tendulkar...’

GNS News Agency, Nov 13

Harry Brook is touted as the generational talent coming up in world cricket. Already in his short career, he has managed to pull off some marathon innings. However, the upcoming Ashes Down Under might be the biggest Test Brook has faced. Former Australian cricketer Greg Chappell, in his column for ESPNcricinfo, noted that Brook’s trigger moments have reminded the 77-year-old of India’s Sachin Tendulkar. “I’ve watched him bat, as I say, on television. He reminds me very much of Sachin Tendulkar in the early part of his career. Very minimal movement early on, picks off the angles very well, and can score off most deliveries,” Chappell wrote. “Brook has the tools to be one of England’s finest batters, arguably their most destructive, in the modern era,” he added. Still getting over India series

Earlier, red-ball vice-captain Brook, in his own words, is still trying to get over the intense India series earlier in the year. The India vs England 5-match Anderson Tendulkar Trophy series started from June and ended in August, with both teams sharing the spoils at 2-2 after all was set and done. “I don’t know what I’m stepping into. I know it’s a massive thing, but I’m still trying to get over that India series. That was awesome to be part of: to play 25 days out of 25



was mega. That was the most intense series I’ve ever been part of. If the Ashes tops that, I will be a very happy man,” Brook said as per ESPNcricinfo. “It is obviously intense. I can’t even remember much about the 2023 Ashes, if I’m honest. It’s a very similar group of players that we’ll come up against: a very strong bowling attack and on home soil they’ll present different challenges. I haven’t had too much experience of the pitches out there, so I have to stay in the moment as much as possible and play what’s in front of me,” he added.

## ‘Just because the “has-beens” have a different view does not mean these are not valid comments’: Michael Vaughan reacts to Ben Stokes’ comments ahead of Ashes

GNS News Agency, Nov 13

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has said that the current group of players must respect the opinion of former cricketers, who he felt desperately wanted the side to win the Ashes against Australia Down Under. The 51-year-old said that the former players were expressing their views because they were concerned about certain aspects and observed a risk in the way they were going about their preparations. Ahead of the first Test at Perth on November 21, England opted to play only one intra-squad match, which started at Lilac Hill on Thursday. Legendary all-rounder Ian Botham had questioned the team’s preparation, ahead of such a big series.

“England have to accept that there will be scrutiny. Just because the “has-beens” have a different view does not mean these are not valid comments. England should respect those views. They are coming from legends of the game who cannot play any more because they are too old, but that does not mean they do not desperately want England to win! All the former players and media I have spoken to want England to win this series. They are saying these things because they are concerned, and see the risk,” Vaughan wrote in his Telegraph column. The 2005 Ashes-winning captain, however, supported England’s idea of playing just one warm-up match ahead of the series, admitting that players needed to be fresh before the start of a big tour.

“I admire England’s approach. I have no qualms when leaders have clear direction. The theory behind playing just one warm-up is to keep the players fresh ahead of such a gruelling series, and also control the standard of cricket in



an era where the hosts have not always provided quality opposition. This sort of method has seen them get off to good starts in every away series under Stokes,” he wrote. He also alluded to the contrasting preparation for both teams in the lead-up to the series, referring to how many of the Australian regulars had turned up to play in the Sheffield Shield. “It is interesting how the two camps are taking different approaches. Almost all of Australia’s players have been in Sheffield Shield action this week, a more traditional approach. But I am sure there will have been some smiles in the England camp when Josh Hazlewood briefly became a doubt, having felt something while playing, and reserve quick Sean Abbott was ruled out having done a hamstring at the SCG, where there is an AFL outfield. There is risk attached to playing as well, and it is a fine balance. There are guys you want to wrap in cotton wool to make sure they are ready for the big moments,” he wrote.

## Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube allowed to skip Ranji Trophy by Mumbai to prepare for SA T20I series

GNS News Agency, Nov 13

Indian T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav has informed Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) that he won’t be taking part in the next Ranji Trophy game which will be played against Pondicherry. It is learnt that Yadav wants to prepare for white ball cricket keeping T20 World Cup 2026 in mind and he has made himself available for white ball cricket lined up ahead in the season. Understands that MCA has also agreed to Shivam Dube’s request to not take part in the next Ranji Trophy game and instead saying he should prepare for the upcoming South Africa T20I’s series. “Yadav has informed MCA that he won’t be available and we have accepted his request as we feel that with the T20 World Cup around the corner he should concentrate more on it. He has informed us that he will be available for Syed Mushtaq Ali and Vijay Hazare Trophy. As far as Dube is concerned, there is an upcoming T20I series against South Africa so he can prepare for the same. The selectors have picked Tanush Kotian and Mohit Awasthi for Mumbai’s next Ranji Trophy game,” a source in the MCA confirmed.

This will be the last round of the first leg of Ranji Trophy games as the second leg is scheduled to be played



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from January 22. India will be playing a five match T20I series against South Africa starting from December 9 at Cuttack and will conclude on 19 at Ahmedabad. In the previous assignment the defending World T20 champions beat Australia 2-1 Down Under.

## Axar Patel slams captaincy perceptions: ‘people say he doesn’t speak English, he is not captain material!’



GNS News Agency, Nov 13

Who should become a captain? Does it need special requirements apart from cricket intelligence, a vision for the future, and ability to inspire teammates as a leader? Axar Patel, India’s spin allrounder and skipper of Delhi Capitals, the IPL franchise co-owned by JSW Sports, weighs in on the perceptions around traits needed to be a good captain. In an interaction with The Indian Express, ahead of the first Test against South Africa, Axar brought up the notions about a player’s perceived personality that is not based on his cricketing skills but on vague “personality” traits and “English” speaking abilities.

“People start saying ‘oh he is not a captaincy material, he doesn’t speak English. How will he talk? Yeh hai, voh hai’. Arre! Captain’s work is not to just talk. Captain’s work is to know the player and see how to get the best out of him. What’s his strength, what’s his weakness. Captain knows that I have this player and what I need to do to get work out of him (“kaisey kaam nikalwaana hai”). And in game situa-

## ‘I don’t like to be called daring... I prepare so well that I am confident’

GNS News Agency, Nov 13

“Not daring, I don’t like that word. Confidence is my thing.” Two days before the first Test against South Africa, Axar Patel nails his character trait that has seen him blossom into India’s crisis man in all formats, with bat and ball. Runs needed in the middle-overs in an ODI, send him up. A left-handed option needed higher up in T20s, dial Axar. A Test collapse needs to be fixed, Axar hain na. Wickets needed when bigger names aren’t getting breakthroughs, throw the (red or white) ball to Axar. Delhi Daredevils are without a proper captain, give the responsibility to Axar, who did it so well last season that it stunned quite a few onlookers.

It’s his nonchalance that first strikes you. And laughter. The back-slapping jokes in seemingly crisis situations, the great ability to diffuse tension in any situation, and the skill to go with it. Hence the adjective ‘daring’ was thrown at him. He smiles, nods his head in disagreement and talks about confidence. “There is a difference. Daring is like tukka (freak luck). I am not going there with 50-50, laga toh laga type. You go hit out, or try some random balls as a bowler and hua toh hua (If it happens, it happens). I am not like that. I prepare so well that I am confident. Confidence in myself is my thing.” He also says a few ‘daring’ things about the public perception around the nature of players who can become captain, but we shall come to that. As the chat progresses it becomes clear that Axar Patel is like that prankster, fun-loving school kid who is out messing all day with us, and who we feel hasn’t studied for exams like us, but stuns us next morning. Confidence, you can’t buy that. Nor the self-discipline needed for preparation. It’s Wednesday evening when we chat. He is in his hotel room, seemingly chilled out on the couch after a hard day’s training.

He has gone through the videos of South Africa’s batsmen, and has thought about what he is going to bowl. “I don’t like to be surprised. See, the likes of (Aiden) Markram or (Temba) Bavuma, I know what they do. Other batsmen I watch videos. Look at what the performance analyst sends. Look at the apps, their batting. Tomorrow I don’t want to be surprised: ‘oh this guy sweeps or cuts or whatever the shots are.’ I generally tend to focus on my bowling. What I can do. But with the awareness of what to do against a few specific batsmen.” It’s not surprising that a Test bowler, who has taken 55 wickets at an average of 19.34, plans, but it’s surprising how Axar has managed to develop that perception of easy nonchalance of a ‘natural’ (read unthinking), performer.

“Why should I show it to the world? That I am serious about what I do,” he says with a smile. “I have that kind of personality. It’s my job to prepare as a batsman or bowler. Mujhe kyun duniya ko batana hai. Apna kaam karo, niklo chup chaap (Do your job, go quietly). It’s been from childhood. Not that ease of character isn’t a central trait; it is. He even pursues it actively. “When we are batting, and I am in the dressing room, in ODIs, I see 5 overs. In T20, I see one or two overs, and then go in. In Tests, I don’t watch at the start as I am not going to play the new ball. Every now and then, I see inside on the tv where it’s better to judge exactly what’s happening. But mostly, I will be taking my mind off the game. I joke around with my team-mates. Talk about anything but the game. I like to be relaxed and then when I go out there, I react in the moment.” Hard prep allied with confidence that allows him to filter off any preconceived stress about game situations or the pitch, and react to the moment. “I know what’s happening on the pitch, why take more tension by getting serious. I am confident that I can do it. Whether I should hit or see out a phase, all that comes with experience. I don’t think it can backfire or how it will affect my career. You have to accept that. But I see it as an opportunity and I want to make the most of it. If I am getting promoted up the order, it means I am going to get more balls to face. So I prepare well. I don’t also think of it as an excuse ‘oh they sent me ahead, so I failed’. No, I see it as an opportunity that if I do well here, I will get more chances. I was batting at No. 7, now if they send me ahead, I can showcase my skills.

It’s a great chance and I want to grab it — that’s my attitude. And that’s what I mean by confidence. “His mental strength then is the key to his success. Mohammad Kaif, who worked with him at Delhi Capitals, the IPL team co-owned by JSW Sports, as assistant coach once told this newspaper. “He is very ambitious; that desire is there now. Yet, he is so sorted, chilled out. Tension nahi leta, batting or bowling may (Doesn’t get tense, whether batting or bowling). In a crisis situation, those who play as if there is no crisis do well. As they say, it becomes a mental thing under pressure. It allows the confidence in the skill set to flow through. You see him in the fun videos that DC, or the Indian teams put out; that’s how he is off the field and on the

tions, who to give the ball now. “But yeah if we say ‘personality’ chahiye, acha English bolna chahiye — that’s a perception made by the public based on their own thinking. I captained Delhi Capitals this year and got a lot of praise. I think more of this happens, more will change in the coming time. It’s important that people have to change their personal thinking. Stop thinking ‘oh his personality is good, he can speak English — so he is captain material’. One thing about captaincy is there should be no language barrier.” Axar sees it as a byproduct of what the people see based on what media shows and how people form opinions based on social media. “It’s all about what you see and what the media is showing. How active you are on social media. How you talk. People judge you on all that. Everyone likes to give opinions these days. He is capable, he is not capable, take him, don’t take him, make him captain etc.” Axar captained Delhi Capitals last season and back then had spoken in a press conference about how he went about his captaincy approach. “I think it shows on my face. Is the captain angry right now, is he a bit serious...,” he joked. “It’s a thin line. I want to keep the team environment friendly and lively, but no one should take things for granted. No one should think that the captain is only having fun. There is a line. What needs to be done to win the game needs to be done first. Then we should have fun. It’s working at the moment. I believe that if you’re having fun, you do better. “I am having a lot of fun on the field and off the field. I am doing what I think is right. I am not following a template. I back myself. I am not too experienced [as a captain] but it’s not like I am turning to other people for help. Of course, I listen to everyone, but I back myself for the decisions I am making. Because you need to know what you are doing right and what you are doing wrong.”



field. How much he would pull the legs of Rishabh Pant, his very good friend. “A buffering Instagram video of Capitals offers more proof. When the host plays a video of Ponting not rating Axar’s humour quotient, and says, “coach saab aapka humour ka not a fan,” a relaxed Axar quips: “No, no, problem humour ka nahi hai, language ka locha hai, he doesn’t understand my English!” And laughs.

In the here and now, the talk about language comes up. But in a different angle — how the perceptions about language and notions about media-savvy personality play out in building-up a player as a potential captain. It stirs Axar. And it’s worth quoting him in full. “People start saying ‘oh he is not a captaincy material, he doesn’t speak English. How will he talk? Yeh hai, voh hai’. Arre! Captain’s work is not to just talk. Captain’s work is to know the player and see how to get the best out of him. What’s his strength, what’s his weakness. Captain knows that I have this player and what I need to do to get work out of him (“kaisey kaam nikalwaana hai”). And in game situations, who to give the ball now.”

“But yeah if we say ‘personality’ chahiye, acha English bolna chahiye — that’s a perception made by the public based on their own thinking. I captained Delhi Capitals this year and got a lot of praise. I think if more of this happens, more will change in the coming time. It’s important that people have to change their personal thinking. Stop thinking ‘oh his personality is good, he can speak English — so he is captain material’. One thing about captaincy is there should be no language barrier. It’s all about what you see and what the media is showing. How active you are on social media. How you talk. People judge you on all that. Everyone likes to give opinions these days. He is capable, he is not capable, take him, don’t take him, make him captain etc.” The flood of words stops. A smile pops up. And he adds, “The people in cricket know what’s the value of a player. At the end of day that’s what matters — what the people around you think. So yeah, just do your job.” Kaam karo, and niklo chup-chaap — that’s the Axar way.

## Keerthana, Anupama enter IBSF World Snooker semifinals

GNS News Agency, Nov 13

Hyderabad: India’s Keerthana Pandian and Anupama Ramachandran powered into the women’s semifinals of the IBSF World Snooker Championships in Doha on Wednesday. While Keerthana edged out Asian champion Narantuya Bayarsaikhan of Mongolia 3-1, Anupama, a former Asian champion, prevailed by a similar margin over Indonesia’s Annabella Putri Yohana, the top seed, in another quarterfinal. The two face each other in the last-four stage clash later in the evening.

However, Amee Kamani, seeded No. 2 in the knock-outs, let slip a 2-0 cushion and bowed out 2-3 to Hong Kong China’s So Man Yan in another last-eight stage match. So Man had late on Tuesday evening knocked out young Natasha Chethan in the pre-quarters.

Keerthana, a former World U-21 champion, came into her own after a slow start. The girl from Kolar seemed to find her rhythm and range after the loss of the first frame of the best-of-five frame encounter. She pocketed the next three frames to set up a meeting with Anupama.

Anupama, meanwhile, geared up for the semis with runs of 44 and 50 in her lopsided victory against her Indonesian rival.

In the men’s section, India’s Hussain Khan went down without a whimper, losing 0-4 to 14-year-old sensation from Poland, Michal Szubarczyk, in the last sixteen stage.



## Bigg Boss 19 producer answers if Salman Khan watches show before appearing on Weekend ka Vaar: ‘He watches an hour or two of footage...’



Salman Khan's remuneration for hosting the reality show Bigg Boss is a subject of conversations every season. This year too, several recent reports suggested that the actor charges between Rs 120-150 crore for hosting the season 19. However, in a recent interview, Bigg Boss 19 producer Rishi Negi (Banijay Asia and EndemolShine India) opened up around the superstar's salary buzz. He also addressed about the long-standing allegations against Salman of being biased towards certain contestants during the weekend ka vaar episodes. During a chat with India Today, Rishi revealed that the actor does watch the footages before hosting the 'Weekend Ka Vaar' episodes. "So, Salman does try to catch episodes, obviously. If he is not able to watch, he watches an hour or two of footage with us on the weekend, to go through all the big points that have happened in the house. So, he sees all of them being played out. He also has a lot of people who he knows watch the

show, who call him, and give him feedback," he said. The producer added, "So, he has a huge buy-in on what's happening in the house, what's happening with the contestant. He has a point of view. We, as the creators of the show, have a point of view in terms of how we are viewing it. We also have a lot of audience feedback that keeps pouring in. So, putting all of that together is how we stitch the weekend together." While talking about the accusations against Salman repeating only what is told to him by the production team, he asserted, "Whoever knows Salman Khan, it's not possible to make him say anything that he doesn't believe in, right? He has his own point of view on whether that particular thing is right or wrong. We discuss, debate, and then we go on the floor." Rishi was also asked about the constant buzz around Salman's fees for hosting the show, reportedly in ranging from Rs 150-200 crore every season. Without confirming or denying the figure, he replied, "This contract is between him and JioHotstar, so I am not privy to that. But whatever the rumour is, whatever it is, he is worth every penny.

For me, as long as he is there on my weekend, I am a happy person." Every season, Salman Khan claims that he wouldn't host the reality show anymore. Speaking about the same, Rishi shared, "But I think now even he has a huge emotional connection with this show. And that you see it playing out when he is on stage because, you know, the way he gets involved in a discussion or the way he gets involved in a mudda (issue), as we call it, is because it comes from within." "I think, while you know, some seasons that he has been, like, I can't do any more, I think till now we have been lucky that he has always said yes. But much before we go on the floor, we go sit with him, talk to him, brief him on the broadcasting that we are doing, all of that," he concluded.

## Police register case against actors Tiku Talsania-Mansi Parekh and others for performing stunts on bikes while promoting Misri



Film promotions are an integral part of the whole process of filmmaking, especially when there is so much competition. However the makers of Gujarati film Misri, might have gone a bit overboard while trying to get the word out about their film. Several of the cast members including veteran actor Tiku Talsania and actor Manasi Parekh were part of bike rally in Ahmedabad. After videos from the rally went viral online, and FIR was lodged against the actors for breaking traffic violations. Gujarati Actors Tiku Talsania, Mansi Parekh and others from upcoming film Misri are caught performing dangerous stunts on city roads during a promo rally in Ahmedabad. In the video that is making the rounds of the internet, the actors can be seen on several high-end bikes like the BMW GSA 1300 and the BMW GS 1300 which have an ex-showroom price of over Rs 24 lakh and Rs 22 lakh respectively. In the video, the rider of the first bike is seen

wearing an helmet, but Manasi who is riding pillion isn't wearing one. Tiku who is riding the GS solo, is wearing an helmet but the rest of the actors on other bikes aren't, and the pillion riders are also recording with their phone, making it dangerous.

Tiku Champaklal Talsania (70), Premkumar Ravidan Gadhvi (43) and Jesal Madhu Jadeja (34) were booked under BNS Sections 281 (rash driving) as well as Sections 177 and 184 of the Motor Vehicles Act, that deal with reckless and negligent driving endangering human life. The video has since then been picked up by every single news outlet, and users on social media are arguing that this isn't against the law, this is also setting a bad example for the fans. Directed by Kushal Naik, Misri started its theatrical run from October 31, and the cast of the film includes, Manasi Parekh, Tiku Talsania, Raunaq Kamdar, Prem Gadhavi, Hitu Kanodia, and Kaushambi Bhatt.

## Battling Alzheimer's, Satish Shah's wife Madhu sings with Anupam Kher, Ashoke Pandit pens emotional note for her.

Everyone in the Indian television and film industry was taken aback when they heard about veteran actor Satish Shah's passing. Tributes have been pouring in ever since then, and his close friends and co-stars have been very vocal about the kind of impact he had on their lives. Recently filmmaker Ashoke Pandit posted some pictures and videos with Satish's wife, Madhu Shah, and actor Anupam Kher.

In a heartwarming video, Kher can be seen singing tunes with Madhu, who is currently battling Alzheimer's disease. Even though it takes Madhu a few moments to gather the lyrics of the song that Kher is singing, she can be seen thanking him with folded hands for the performance. The caption of the video reads, "What a moment of hope and positivity while remembering our dear friend Satish Shah at his home with Madhu, when Anupam Kher and I spent some time with her singing, along with her sister, Arvind ji, and Ramesh ji."

Pandit also wrote, "Keep sending positive energies and blessings to Madhu so that she gets back to her original form with her vibrant smiles and laughter. Positive thoughts can do miracles." The filmmaker also posted a long, heartfelt message for Madhu, where he recalled his connection with Madhu's father and how he refuses to accept that she isn't doing well health-wise. He wrote, "Have known you for over 40 years. You have been a person who always believed in goodness and sharing love & affection towards people around you. Being the daughter of the respected ace photographer R.R. Prabhu, who whenever I met him, blessed me with his artistic smile and graceful gesture. I



refuse to accept that you are not well. For me, you are the same lovable & affectionate person. Satish owed his success to you, which he always used to mention." Interestingly, it was Ashoke who first announced Satish's demise on social media through a post in which he cited kidney failure as the reason. But it was later clarified by multiple sources, that Satish passed away due to a cardiac arrest. Actor Ratna Pathak Shah also wrote an obituary for Satish, where she mentioned Madhu and how she was in disbelief during his funeral.

## Jemimah Rodrigues opens up on dealing with anxiety during Women's World Cup, Deepika Padukone thanks her for 'sharing' her story



Indian cricketer Jemimah Rodrigues created magic on Thursday with her unbeaten 127 off 134 balls during the Women's World Cup 2025 semi-final against Australia, helping India secure a stunning victory. But it was what followed the match that truly moved people — Jemimah's emotional revelation about her struggle with anxiety, which later drew heartfelt praise from actor Deepika Padukone. Speaking to the media after the match, Jemimah said: "I will be very vulnerable here because I know if someone is watching this, they might be going through the same thing. That's my whole purpose of saying it — because nobody likes to talk

about their weakness." She went on to share that the initial phase of the tournament had been mentally challenging.

"I was going through a lot of anxiety at the start of the tournament. Even before some matches, I used to call my mum and cry — cry the entire time — just to let it all out. When you are going through anxiety, you feel numb. You don't know what to do. You're trying to be yourself. During that time, my mum and dad supported me a lot." The young cricketer also credited her teammates for standing by her. "Arundhati Reddy saw me crying every day. Later, I joked with her saying, 'Don't come in front of me, I'll start crying again!' But she checked on me every single day. And there was Smriti (Mandhana), who helped me too. She knew what I was going through. During a few net sessions, she would just stand there silently — she didn't say much, but she knew her presence mattered to me." Jemimah added, "Radha (Yadav) was also always there, taking care of me. I am so blessed to have friends I can call family. I didn't have to go through it alone — and it's okay to ask for help. My mum is as emotional as I am, and my family went through a lot too. But they all stood by me and believed in me when I didn't, when I couldn't." A clip of Jemimah Rodrigues's emotional post-match interview soon went viral, catching the attention of actor Deepika Padukone, who shared it on her Instagram Stories. Deepika Padukone thanked Jemimah for her vulnerability and for sharing her story. "Her message was accompanied by a folded-hands emoji. Deepika's advocacy for mental health advocates. Having spoken openly about her own battle with depression, she founded the Live Love Laugh Foundation, which works to spread awareness and provide mental health support. In a previous interview with CNBC-TV18, Deepika had expressed her vision for mental health awareness in India, saying, "My dream for mental health in India is what gully cricket is to India."

## ‘Officers should not be thin-skinned’: Red Chillies Entertainment hits back at Sameer Wankhede’s defamation case against Aryan Khan show Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood

Red Chillies Entertainment has opposed IRS officer Sameer Wankhede's defamation suit before the Delhi High Court over his alleged defamatory portrayal in Netflix's The Ba\*\*\*ds of Bollywood, a satirical series directed by actor Shah Rukh Khan's son, Aryan Khan. In its response to Wankhede's interim injunction plea, the production house maintained that the show is a work of satire and parody, and the depiction of characters cannot be construed as defamatory in any manner. Citing excerpts from its statement, LiveLaw reported that Red Chillies stated: "The allegations levelled against Defendant No. 1 relate to a clip lasting not more than one minute and forty-eight seconds, where a police officer in plain clothes is merely portrayed as an overzealous officer. There is nothing remotely defamatory about the said clip."

The production company further argued that the content constitutes artistic expression and satire, protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, and any attempt to impose prior restraint or censorship would only be justified under Article 19(2). Red Chillies also emphasised that Wankhede, being a public official, should be open to criticism and artistic interpretation, asserting that "those who occupy public positions must not be overly thin-skinned." The statement added that the show explores multiple facets of the Bollywood industry — such as nepotism, paparazzi culture, adultery, and the struggles of newcomers — through the lens of humour and exaggeration.

"Being a work of satire, all characters in the series are deliberately portrayed with exaggerated traits and mannerisms to elicit humour and highlight societal or situational absurdities. Satire, by its nature, relies on overstatement, caricature, and hyperbole, and is not intended to convey factual assertions about any real individual. Such exaggeration is a recognised and protected form of expression, designed to entertain, provoke thought, and critique, and cannot, by itself, constitute defamation," the production house reportedly stated. The matter was taken up for hearing by



Justice Purushendra Kumar Kaurav, who listed it for further proceedings on November 10, directing all parties to file their written submissions.

What is the case about?

Sameer Wankhede has sought Rs 2 crore in damages, alleging that the portrayal of a police officer in Aryan Khan's show has tarnished his reputation, especially since the case involving him and the star kid is still pending before the Bombay High Court and the NDPS Special Court. Wankhede has filed the defamation suit against Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment, the producers of the show, stating that the compensation — if awarded — would be donated to Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital for the treatment of cancer patients. Sameer Wankhede rose to prominence in 2021, when he arrested Aryan Khan in a high-profile drug case, sparking nationwide debate and controversy.

## ‘Bad luck’: Juhi Chawla made Shah Rukh Khan change Manish Malhotra’s ‘flashy’ black-and-gold KKR uniforms, thankful team lost initially

Shah Rukh Khan and Juhi Chawla's IPL team, Kolkata Knight Riders, has become one of the most successful franchises in the league's history, winning the IPL title three times and holding the record for the longest winning streak by any team. In an old conversation available on SoundCloud, Juhi Chawla opened up about how the idea of owning an IPL team first came into their lives, and how Shah Rukh Khan got involved.

"Lalit (Modi) has been a friend of Jai's (Juhi's husband). I mean, they've known each other since they were young. And this was Lalit's creation. He had worked on this idea, apparently for 10 years, of building an IP, a Premier League. And then he was offering it to people for ownership. He came to Jai saying that, you know, he'd like Shah Rukh to own it. He'd like Jai and myself to be owners with Shah Rukh. And, you know, shall we do this? And Jai was quite thrilled about the idea. And that's how he went to Shah Rukh. Because Shah Rukh and I have worked together for many years, so we've known each other a long time. So, you know, this was the connection. And it was quite an exciting idea."

Juhi recalled how, once they decided to go ahead, the team had to be built from scratch in very little time, with the league set to begin soon. "These people were suddenly in a frenzy, you know, Shah Rukh, Jai, the people they were hiring, they were thinking of everything apart from their regular work. They were suddenly working on this new idea. That's when the meetings started to happen, and they would usually be held at Shah Rukh's

house because, you know, Shah Rukh's place is in the middle of town. So everybody would congregate there around 10 o'clock at night: his secretary, Jai's team, people they were seeking advice from, friends, everyone was pitching in. The meeting would actually begin around 11 or 11:30, then the discussions would start, and by the time they'd arrive at some decisions, it would be four in the morning."

She went on to describe how the creative process behind the team's identity came together, crediting Shah Rukh's enthusiasm and her own small but meaningful contributions. "I remember Shah Rukh, he's just so creative, overnight, he already had this song ready. But I made some contributions. See, the team was Kolkata, so you needed somebody who knew Bengali. We were making the theme song. I had worked with this director called Sujoy Ghosh, so I introduced Sujoy to Shah Rukh. And you know, he gave us our motto for the song 'Korbo, Lorbo, Jeetbo Re,' which means we will do, we will fight, we will win. These lines were written by Sujoy." Juhi also revealed how top designer Manish Malhotra came on board to design the team's first jersey. "And Shah Rukh was really instrumental every which way. Being a filmy mind, where would he go? He said, 'Okay, who's the best designer in the Hindi film industry? Manish Malhotra. Okay, call him in.' And suddenly Manish was doing all the clothes. So we had these flashy gold-and-black uniforms for the boys for the first season. They were received very well, everybody said, 'Oh, that's really cool, that's really smart.'" Also Read | 'Thamma and Lokah are poles apart': Aditya Sarpodkar hits back at unfair