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JNTU-Hyderabad says BPharm exams to be held as scheduled

Hyderabad: The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) – Hyderabad on Tuesday announced that first-year BPharmacy examinations will be conducted as per the earlier notified schedule.

According to JNTU-Hyderabad Registrar Prof. K Venkateswara Rao, morning examination has already commenced and after exams will also be conducted without any hindrance. The clarification from the university comes in view of private professional colleges, including those offering pharmacy programmes, are on indefinite strike that commenced on Monday.

Elderly woman run over by earthmover in Sangareddy

Sangareddy: A 70-year-old woman was killed on the spot after being run over by an earthmover at Lakshmi Nagar in Kandi mandal headquarters on Tuesday.

The victim, identified as Igave Lakshmibai, was crossing the road near the RTA office when the JCB driver, reportedly driving recklessly, ran over her. She sustained multiple injuries and died instantly. The driver fled the scene after the incident. Police registered a case and shifted the body to the government hospital in Sangareddy for a postmortem.

63 pc Bihar voters swear by PM Modi's popularity

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity is expected to have a significant bearing on the outcome of the Bihar Assembly elections, as 63 per cent of respondents indicated their willingness to vote on his face value, said IANS-Matrize Opinion Poll on Tuesday. The IANS-Matrize Opinion Poll, conducted between October 10 and November 3 with a sample size of 73,287, showed that 63 per cent of voters see PM Modi's popularity as a very big influencing factor ahead of the voting on November 6 and 11.At least 9 per cent of respondents had not decided about the possible impact of PM Modi's popularity on the Assembly elections. At the same time, 8 per cent of respondents said that his popularity would have some impact on the results. As many as 19 per cent of respondents said PM Modi's popularity would have no impact on the Bihar elections, according to the Opinion Poll. The margin of error stands at 3 per

Almost half of the opinion poll respondents, which included 15,390 first-time voters, favoured Chief Minister Nitish Kumar continuing in office after the elections, whose results will be declared on November 14.A total of 46 respondents in the IANS-Matrize Opinion Poll said that Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United) is their first choice for the post of Bihar Chief Minister. The Mahagathbandhan's chief



ministerial face, Tejashwi Yadav, is the choice of 15 per cent of respondents. Nitish Kumar's popularity as the CM face is also linked to the satisfaction of electors with his functioning. As many as 44 per cent of respondents said they were "very satisfied" with the work of the Nitish Kumarled government, and 38 per cent said they were "satisfied" with the regime's performance. A total of 121 assembly seats will go to the polls in the first phase and 122 seats in the second. The current 243-member Assembly's term ends on November 22, 2025. There are 2,616 candidates in the fray for both phases. Bihar has 7.43 crore registered voters, including 3.92 crore men and 3.5 crore women. The elections will be conducted across 90,712 polling booths.

German Consul General Meets Telangana CM discuss launch of new centre

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

In a significant meeting today, German Consul General Michael Hasper and his team discussed the launch of Deutsche Börse's Global Capability Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The establishment of the centre is part of Deutsche Börse's expansion efforts and is expected to create around 1,000 job opportunities in the IT sector over the next two years.

During the meeting, CM Reddy expressed gratitude to the German delegation for selecting Hyderabad as the location for the GCC. He emphasised the need for further investments in the region and assured the German team of the Telangana government's full support in facilitating business initiatives. The Chief Minister urged the German team to collaborate in transforming Hyderabad into an innovation hub. He also highlighted the importance of appointing German teachers to instruct local students in the German language, enhancing educational ties between the two regions. Reddy expressed interest in Germany's partnership in sectors such as IT, pharmaceuticals, and automotive



industries. Furthermore, the Chief Minister called for collaboration in vocational education and skill development through TOMCOM, underscoring the state's commitment to workforce development. The delegation included Deutsche Börse's Chief Information Officer/Chief Operating Officer Amita Desai and Dr. Christoph Bohm, among others.

Azharuddin gets Minorities Welfare, Public Enterprises portfolio



GNS News Agency, Nov 4 HYDERABAD: The Congress government on Tues-

day allocated the Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises department to former cricketer Mohammed Azharuddin, who was inducted into the cabinet on October 31. There was suspense for three days over the portfolio allocation to the former cricketer.

Apart from political circles, there was curiosity in Gandhi Bhavan also over his portfolio allocation. Drawing curtains to the uncertainty, the government allocated two portfolios to Azharuddin on Tuesday. The sudden decision of the Congress government to induct Azharuddin into the cabinet had drawn sharp criticism from different sections. Many criticised that his induction into the cabinet was appeasement politics to win the confidence of the Muslim community in the Jubilee Hills by-election.

15 injured as TSRTC bus rams tractor near Karimnagar



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Karimnagar: Fifteen persons were injured in a road accident near Renigunta bridge in Thimmapur mandal on Rajiv Rahadari early on Tuesday. The mishap occurred around 5 am when a TSRTC bus from Metpally depot, heading towards Karimnagar from Hyderabad, rammed a tractor loaded with paddy bags from the rear. The impact caused the bags to spill across the road, disrupting traffic for some time. The bus passengers and the tractor driver sustained injuries in the collision. On being alerted, LMD police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the district headquarters hospital for treatment.

Telangana private colleges announce Chalo Secretariat with 10 lakh students on Nov 11

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Hyderabad: The private professional colleges, which commenced indefinite closure of institutions from Monday over fee reimbursement dues, announced 'Chalo Secretariat' with 10 lakh students on November 11.

Prior to the march towards Secretariat, the colleges will be holding a massive protest with around 30,000 staff, including teaching and non-teaching members, against the State government demanding release of their promised fee dues. The protest will be held at LB Stadium here on November 8.

The Federation of Associations of Telangana Higher Institutions (FATHI) comprising private professional colleges reiterated that they will continue to shut their institutions until the government clears Rs.5,000 crore out of Rs.10,000 crore fee reimbursement arrears.Initially, the State government assured to release Rs.1,200 crore dues to colleges before Diwali festival. However, only Rs.300 crore had been released that has angered colleges.Further, so far, there is no word from the government on colleges'



suggestion for setting up a trust bank for remaining fee dues amount and preparing a roadmap for paying fee arrears. With the government recently ordering a vigilance inquiry, the private professional colleges enhanced their demand and now want Rs 5,000 crore, 50 per cent of the total Rs 10,000 crore fee reimbursement dues, be released immediately.

KTR slams Revanth Reddy over 'one chance' pitch, blames him for Telangana's decline

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Hyderabad: In a scathing attack on Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his election pitch of 'one chance' in Jubilee Hills, BRS working president KT Rama Rao said the mistake of giving him 'one chance' had already devastated Telangana, forcing 160 auto drivers and 700 farmers to end their lives and ruining the State in just two years. "Due to one chance, real estate in Hyderabad collapsed and Telangana now figures among the last when it comes to several parameters of development," he said, while addressing a roadshow in Borabanda on Monday. Enforcement teams seize cash, liquor, drugs and freebies, worth Rs.34 crore ahead of Jubilee Hills bye-election

Rama Rao accused Revanth Reddy of hypocrisy. saying that while he boasts of Indiramma Rajyam and promises Indiramma Houses, his government demolished hundreds of homes belonging to the poor in Hyderabad. "Indira Gandhi gave the slogan 'Garibi Hatao', but Revanth Reddy is chanting 'Garibon ko hatao'," he said. Terming the Jubilee Hills by-election a contest between the 'Car' (BRS symbol) and the 'bulldozer' (Congress demolitions), he said, "If you want bulldozer to stay away from your area, elect Maganti Sunitha Gopinath. What happened in Kukatpally or Sunnam Cheruvu should not happen in Borabanda." Videos of HYDRAA demolitions and distressed residents were played on giant screens at the venue. He said people across communities wanted BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao to return to power, and the crowd turnout reflected this sentiment. "Going by people's support, the BRS candidate's victory appears to be a formality, only the majority needs to be counted," he remarked. Reading from a note handed to him by a local resident, Rama Rao said, "Jo Telangana chamka tha KCR ke daur mein, ab woh doob raha hai Revanth ke shor mein (The Telangana that sparkled during



KCR's rule is now sinking under Revanth's empty rhetoric)."He accused the Congress government of deceiving every section of society and played multiple videos of Revanth Reddy promising before the Assembly elections to raise monthly pensions from Rs 2,000 to Rs 4,000, deposit Rs 2,500 in women's accounts, and give one tola gold under the Kalyana Lakshmi/Shaddi Mubarak scheme. "It has been two years. Did anyone get Rs 4,000 pension, did women get Rs 2,500, did brides receive one tola gold?" he asked, drawing a resounding "No" from the crowd."Telangana Congress has money to send to New Delhi but not to fulfil promises made to the people," he added.Rama Rao also countered the Chief Minister's claims of development in Jubilee Hills, questioning why Congress MLAs, including Yennam Srinivas Reddy, were demanding funds for their constituencies. He pointed out that the Yellareddy MLA had even written to the World Bank seeking Rs 100 crore for local works, calling it the ugly side of the Congress government's so-called development.

Chevella accident: Govt fails to ensure respect to dead, shift bodies in towing vehicles



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Hyderabad: The manner in which the official machinery shifted the bodies of the victims of Chevella bus tragedy is drawing severe flak, with many questioning how the government could dump them in the back of towing vehicles and open tractors and transport them like trash. Videos of the bodies being heaped into the rear portion of a towing vehicle from the accident site are

being shared, with netizens asking how could the government be so inhuman. Why couldn't the bodies be shifted in ambulances was what many asked.

While BRS spokesperson Manne Krishank politely requested the State government to use ambulances, there were many others who slammed Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and the State government, asking how arranging an ambulance was such a difficult task for this government. Some, in posts on X, tagged the National Human Rights Commission, requesting its attention to the inhumane manner in which the bodies were treated. While an X user, @ Always Telangana, called this 'an absolute failure of administration and humanity', others pointed out the manner in which even the bodies were shifted onto the towing vehicles. There were no stretchers used, with some being pulled up with bare hands while some were loaded onto the vehicle in sheets. The Ministers concerned, district administration and police should have called in more ambulances from Hyderabad or any nearby place if needed and ensured dignity in death to the victims, they pointed out.

KTR slams Telangana Govt over 'inhuman' handling of bodies of Chevella accident victims



Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao on Monday expressed outrage over what he described as a shocking disregard for human dignity in the transportation of deceased individuals and their grieving families in Telangana.

GNS News Agency, Nov 4Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president KT Rama Rao on Monday expressed outrage over what he described as a shocking disregard for human dignity in the transportation of deceased individuals and their grieving families in Telangana. He questioned the State government's preparedness, highlighting the absence of basic emergency services like ambulances and hearse vehicles in the context of the Chevella bus tragedy."Absolute lack of basic dignity in death!! Are there no ambulances / hearse vehicles in the state? @TelanganaCS," he wrote, tagging the Chief Secretary.Rama Rao decried the use of makeshift modes of transport, such as pushcarts, tractors, garbage vans and towing vehicles to ferry the bodies. "Don't the dead and their families deserve some basic respect? What is this inhumanity?! Which era are we living in to transport someone's family on pushcarts, tractors, gar-bage vans, towing vehicles? Why are we so insensitive as a society?" he asked, calling for immediate account-

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

On India's victory in the World Cup

At the midnight hour on a magical Sunday Harmanpreet Kaur and her incredible women made their tryst with destiny. India was finally crowned world champions in women's cricket. It was a journey marked by a long history of angst and joy, shaped by the sweat and dreams of pioneers such as Shantha Rangaswamy, Diana Edulji, Mithali Raj, and Jhulan Goswami. In a high-stakes final befitting an ICC World Cup, India prevailed over South Africa by 52 runs at Navi Mumbai's D.Y. Patil Stadium, which turned into a teeming mass of raucous energy. This moment is as epochal as it was for Kapil Dev and his men in 1983 when they seized the World Cup at Lord's. That caused a seismic shift in the way cricket was perceived and administered and paved the way for India to become a commercial behemoth. A similar turn of events awaits Harmanpreet and company and women's cricket at large. The coach, Amol Muzumdar, too had his moment. A domestic giant, he never got a chance to play for the senior men's team as his career ran parallel to the likes of Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. Harmanpreet's feisty women ensured that their mentor finally understood what it means to prosper at the highest level. Having faltered in the 2005 and 2017 World Cup finals, India also had to contend with the pressure of playing at home. When three league matches were lost on the trot against South Africa, Australia, and England, the knives were out on social media. Still, the team persevered and every game produced a new star -Pratika Rawal, for instance. In the final, Shafali Verma and Deepti Sharma turned in an all-round show, while Smriti Mandhana was as solid as ever. Earlier, the turn towards glory happened in the semifinal when Jemimah Rodrigues anchored an astounding chase against defending champions Australia.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy: "Elect BJP candidate Lankala Deepak Reddy in Jubilee Hills"



""Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, November 4:""In view of the Jubilee Hills by-election, Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy participated as the chief guest in the Basti campaign and padayatra program held in the Borabanda Division. "The event was attended by Borabanda in-charge and former MLA of Hanamkonda Dharmarao, Division Coordinator Taduri Srinivas, Madhavaram Kantha Rao, Marri Mohan Reddy, and several local leaders. "During his address, Minister Kishan Reddy stated that "People have witnessed how the Congress deceived them with false guarantees, and how the BRS Party, after ruling for ten years, ignored this constituency. Today, under the leadership of the BJP government, India has earned a place among the leading nations of the world. Therefore, in this election, I urge all voterconstituency." The event saw the participation of booth in-charges, coordinators Potagani Gopal Goud, Borabanda Division President Venkatesh, Venugopal, Kranti Kumar, along with several division leaders, party workers, and a

85% of CC Road Works Completed in Chiluka Nagar Division: Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 4 (Indian Chronicle): ""Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj inspected the CC road construction works being carried out at Beerappa Gadda in the Chiluka Nagar division, which are being built at an estimated cost of ?23 lakhs, along with GHMC officials. Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen said that with the support of MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, the CC road works in Chiluka Nagar Division are being completed in phases. She stated that around 85% of the works have already been completed, and the remaining works will be finished soon after the completion of the sewerage pipeline works. Officials D.E. Vennel Goud, A.E. Radhika, Working Inspector Kedar, BRS Party State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Senior Leaders Eddula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Marka Srinu, Ganesh, Indrasena Reddy, Satyanarayana, Shyam, Banti, and several local residents participated in the program.

Google's Where is My Train App, Used Monthly by over 100 Million People, Now Available on iOS



Hyderabad; Google announced the launch of "Where is My Train" on the Apple App Store, bringing one of India's most trusted travel apps to iPhone users.

The app, which is used by more than 100 million people every month to navigate train journeys across long-distance trains, local trains, and stations in the country. Within a short span of its launch, the app has seen remarkable adoption, quickly becoming one of the top travel apps on the Apple App Store in India. The iOS version offers a comprehensive suite of features designed for the Indian traveler. Users can get accurate, live train tracking with real-time locations and ETAs, while a key feature is its ability to work offline, providing full access to schedules and routes even in areas with poor network coverage. To further simplify the journey, the app provides updated platform numbers and is optimized for low data and battery usage, making it a practical travel companion. It also includes a Dark Mode for comfortable viewing in low-light environments.

"At Google, we're committed to building products that help people in their daily lives. The 'Where is My Train' app has already proven to be incredibly valuable for millions on Android, simplifying their journeys and providing peace of mind," said Lalitha Ramani, GM, Google Maps, India. "We're thrilled to extend this comprehensive and reliable train tracking experience to iPhone users, making train travel easier for even more people across India.'

Key Features of Where is My Train app on iOS:

Live Train Tracking: Get the exact location of trains in real-time, along with estimated arrival times (ETAs) and delay information. Works Offline: Access full train schedules, station lists, and route information without needing an internet connection or GPS-ideal for travel in areas with poor network coverage.Platform Numbers: Simplify the boarding experience with correct and numbers.Low Data and Battery Usage: Optimized to be light on resources, ensuring it's a practical companion for regular travelers.Dark Mode: Enjoy a comfortable viewing experience in lowlight environments.Live Station: Get live station departure board information for all train stations across India. Where is My Train app is available for free download from the Apple App Store. Download here: https:// apps.apple.com/in/app/ where-is-my-train-bygoogle/id6738965857

Ginning Mills Must Operate Without Disruption – District Collector Jitesh V. Patil



"""Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradri Kothagudem Bureau, November 4, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil directed that all ginning mills in the district must continue operations as usual, ensuring no inconvenience to farmers. On Tuesday, he conducted a review meeting at the IDOC Conference Hall with representatives of ginning mills, officials from the Marketing Department, and representatives of the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI). "Speaking on the occasion, the Collector referred to the bandh call given by the State Ginning Mills Association from November 6 and stated that there is no justification or necessity to shut down ginning mills in Bhadradri Kothagudem district. He said a decision has been taken to ensure uninterrupted mill operations keeping farmers' welfare as the top priority. ""The Collector clarified that there are no L1, L2, or L3 category issues in the district to warrant a bandh. As farmers are already facing difficulties due to rains, he instructed that ginning, purchasing, and processing of cotton must continue smoothly without any delay or disruption. ""He advised farmers to ensure that the moisture content in cotton does not exceed 12%. Marketing officials were instructed to create awareness among farmers regarding moisture control and proper post-harvest practices to safeguard cotton quality. He also directed them to provide adequate facilities in market yards for drying cotton, ensuring that harvested produce does not get wet. "The Collector further encouraged farmers to bring high-quality cotton to the markets so that they can secure the Minimum Support Price (MSP). He expressed confidence that timely supply of cotton by farmers and uninterrupted procurement by mills would ensure the agricultural supply chain in the district functions efficiently. ""District Marketing Officer, CCI buyers, market committee secretaries, and representatives of ginning mills participated in the meeting

MMRDA's 70 KM Underground Tunnel Project - A Game-Changer For Mumbai's Traffic Problems



"DNV Srikanth, "Manikonda, "Nov 03, "Indian Chronicle""Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) had proposed a 3 stage underground tunnel project which is aimed to be completed in 3 phases. This underground tunnel project constitutes the construction of network tunnels across Mumbai connecting key locations and roads. An official from MMRDA had elucidat-

ing the 3 phases told "To avoid congestion and bottlenecks in city the project is aimed to divert through traffic via underground tunnels". ""- Phase 1: A 16-km tunnel linking Worli (coastal road) to BKC and Mumbai Airport Terminal 2."-Phase 2: A 10-km stretch connecting both express highways with direct airport access. "- Phase 3: A 44-km northsouth corridor to streamline freight and commuter traffic.""MMRDA plans to take up the implementation of first phase immediately in which a feasibility report is being prepared that helps in finalising cost estimates, construction methodology and essential approvals and permissions.""The first phase of the project is a tunnel which is nearly 16 km long tunnel linking Worli (coastal road) to BKC and Mumbai Airport Terminal 2, also provides connectivity to the proposed Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train station at BKC. "The second phase of the project connects two major thoroughfares - the Eastern Express Highway that links commuter belt on the eastern part of the city and Western Express Highway that links commuter belt on the western part of the city. "The third phase is a longest tunnel which is roughly 44 km long north-south corridor that serves

School Development Hinges on the Role of Headmasters – District Collector Jitesh V. Patil"



"""Bhukya RanjithNaik ,Bhadradri kothagudem Bureau, November 4, Indian Chronicle: The role and commitment of headmasters are crucial for the holistic development of schools, stated District Collector Jitesh V. Patil. The Collector made an unexpected visit to ZPHS Sujathanagar on Tuesday, where he reviewed school management, cleanliness, student attendance, and available amenities. ""As part of the Swachhta Campaign 5.0 activities, the Collector enquired about the cleanliness initiatives taken up in the school. Expressing displeasure over the incomplete tasks scheduled for the day, he directed staff to ensure that responsibilities are carried out promptly and effectively.""The Collector emphasized that true educational development can be achieved only when government initiatives are implemented at the school level with proper coordination between teachers, student participation, and parental involvement. "School progress is not limited to infrastructure; it is a comprehensive process. The headmas-

ter must provide proactive leadership. Academic standards, discipline, hygiene, and the overall personality development of students depend largely on their direction," he said.""During the inspection of school toilets, the Collector found several units locked and unused. Terming it negligence to leave available facilities inaccessible, he instructed school authorities to open the toilets immediately and com plete necessary repairs using school management grants.""Noting inadequate drinking water supply on the premises, Collector Patil directed the Education Department officials and Mission Bhagiratha engineers to submit proposals for a new borewell without delay. He stressed the importance of ensuring continuous access to clean and safe drinking water for students. ""As the school is designated under the PM SHRI scheme, the Collector advised proper utilization of sports development funds for the establishment of courts for various games. He highlighted that participation in sports enhances physical fitness, mental strength, discipline, and teamwork among students.""Examining the Bhavita Centre under construction on the school campus, the Collector observed that the structure was being built at a lower ground level, posing the risk of waterlogging during rains. He instructed the engineering officials to raise the structure level and maintain quality standards, stating that these centres are intended to be vital resource hubs for schools.""The Collector also interacted with teachers regarding student attendance, academic performance, and methods to enhance learning outcomes. He encouraged teachers to take an active role in transforming government schools into model institutions through their dedication and efforts. "District Education Planning Coordinator N. Satish Kumar, the school headmaster, and other teaching staff

were present during the inspection.

UPPAL CORPOTATOR RAJITHA PARAMESHWAR REDDY Calls for Massive Victory of Congress Candidate Naveen Yadav in Upcoming By-Elections"



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 4 (Indian Chronicle):""Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy participated in an election campaign at Rajeev Nagar, Erragadda Division of the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency, in support of Congress Party candidate Naveen Yadav. She was accompanied by Cantonment MLA Ganesh, Deputy Mayor Srilatha Reddy, and Cherlapally Corporator Bonthu Sridevi."Speaking on the occasion, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy said that ever since the Congress government came to power, it has been implementing several welfare schemes for the people. She highlighted that under the Maha Lakshmi Scheme, all women in the

state are provided free bus travel, and added that unlike the previous BRS government, which did not issue a single new ration card in ten years, the Congress government has ensured that all eligible families receive ration cards. "She emphasized that the Congress government is introducing women empowerment programs that enhance their selfrespect and economic independence. She also said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy aims to make every woman in Telangana a millionaire by providing interest-free loans and creating entrepreneurial opportunities through women's self-help groups. "Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy further stated that the victory of Naveen Yadav in the Jubilee Hills byelection is crucial for the development of the constituency. She added that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Telangana is progressing rapidly and the government is working in line with the aspirations of the people. She appealed to every voter to take the responsibility of ensuring Naveen Yadav's victory to continue this journey of progress. She expressed confidence that the people of Jubilee Hills, who have strong faith in the Congress Party, will once again demonstrate that trust through their votes, ensuring a resounding victory for Naveen Yadav in the upcoming by-election.

Bonthu Sridevi Yadav Leads Door-to-Door Campaign in Support of Congress Candidate Naveen Yadav at Erragadda"





"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, Cherlapally, November 04, (IN-DIAN CHRONICLE): In Erragadda, Jubilee Hills constituency, Congress Party candidate Naveen Yadav, known for his dedication and tireless service to the people, continues his campaign with great enthusiasm. Corporator and Standing Council Member Bonthu Sridevi Yadav, along with fellow corporators, carried out an intensive door-to-door campaign, interacting with residents and explaining the development vision of the Congress candidate. During the campaign, they appealed to voters to support Naveen Yadav, emphasizing his commitment to addressing local issues such as better civic amenities, improved infrastructure, and welfare programs for all sections of society. The campaign received a positive response from the public, reflecting growing support for the Congress Party in the re-

Taxila teachers receive National Educator Award*

"Indian Chronicle Tarnaka ou October 04: Several teachers from Takshashila Public School received the National Educator Awards presented by Dr. Radhakrishnan Teachers Self Help Group. Teachers Pooja Singh, Sirisha, Shilpa Sanga, Rekha were also honored as national level



organization's president Dr. Ajit Kumar Chauhan said, "Teachers with new innovations and a sense of service in the field of education are an inspiration to the country." Director Bhola Singh, Telangana in-charge

Singh, Telangana in-charge Babita Chakkilam, Dr. Surabhi Dutt, Dr. Rajiv Singh and others participated in the program Ranga Reddy | WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2025

Let's achieve 42% reservation for BCs: BC JAC



""Chairman: R. Krishnaiah""Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU November 04:The BC student initiation program organized at the Osmania University Arts Kalashala premises to achieve 42% reservations was presided over by Nukala Madhu Yadav. The chief guest was BC JAC Chairman R. Krishnaya, former Rajya Sabha member Hanumantha Rao, BC JAC Coordinator Gujja Satyam Naragoni, and Mineral Corporation Chairperson Irawat Anil participated and inaugurated the initiation by garlanding the students. On this occasion, they said that all BCs in Telangana should be

ready to fight together for the rights that BCs deserve, and that the upcoming. Students are educated and employed during the day. For 42% reservation in sectors "Be ready for the movement, 42%Local authority implementing reservations"Elections of organizations, employmentNotifications"To be releasedResistance to governments without "They warned against it." Vice Principal of Arts CollegeKonda Nageshwar, Professor Bhinaveni Ram Shepherd, give me lemon juice. Retired "BC student in this program"Honorary President of JAC"Dr. Jampala Rajesh, Chairman Kommanaboyina Saidulu, Vice Chairman "Barry Ashok, President, Join Vamsi, Working President Mamidala"Ravi Kumar, Secretary Kadari Ramesh Yadav, Santosh, Venkat"Bhushan, Women Leader"Dasoju Lalita, BC Student Union State Convenor Lingam, Rambabu supported by BC Welfare Union National Secretary Arun, BC Union Presidents Narender, Bhim Drum Venkat, Vedant Maurya, High Court Advocate Vamsi Krishna, Amrit Kalyan, Harish, Raju leader, Human Rights Struggle Balaraju, Yadav student leaders Siddu Yadav, leaders of various student and cool associations. In the program

Uppal Congress leaders join Minister Ponnam Prabhakar in campaign at Yousufguda Division"



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 4 (Indian Chronicle):""In support of Congress Party's Jubilee Hills by-election candidate Naveen Yadav, Minister Ponnam

Prabhakar participated in a campaign held at Yousufguda Division, accompanied by senior Congress leaders from Uppal — Gaddam Ravi Kumar, Ramantapur Congress incharge Tavidaboyina Giribabu, and Vishwabrahmin Greater Hyderabad President Pabboju Bikshapathi Chary. "Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar stated that the victory of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the Jubilee Hills constituency is almost certain.

He appealed to the public to ensure Naveen Yadav's win for the continued development of the Jubilee Hills constituency. He further assured that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is taking special interest in the development of Jubilee Hills and will make dedicated efforts to improve the area. Minister Ponnam also cautioned that TRS (BRS) groups are trying to mislead people with false surveys, urging citizens not to be confused or influenced by such tactics and to vote for Naveen Yadav.

Telangana State President Prof. Dr. Gali Vinod Kumar says RPI (Bhim Rao Ambedkar) Women's State Committee should work towards winning in GHMC

"Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU November 04 : RPI (Bhim Rao Ambedkar) Mahila Rashtra Committee has been called upon by its Telangana State President, Professor Dr. Gali Vinod Kumar, to work towards winning the GHMC. On Tuesday, at the state office in Tarnaka, Smt. S. Kaveri was appointed as the party's Mahila State Vice President, Smt. J Vasanta as the Joint Secretary, Smt. Jamuna and Smt. Medaram Maria as the members of the state committee, and Dr. Vanajala was appointed as the GHMC President. On this occasion. He said that on January 3, 2026, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Savitribai Phule, a huge public meeting is being organized at the Saroor Nagar Stadium with thousands of women under the name of Spoorti Diwas. Ambedkar's grandson Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar will be the chief guest of this meeting. People have come in thousands and have requested to make the meeting a suc-



cess. In addition, the party's AP Telangana in-charge Dr. Major Chandrakant, state treasurer Murali and others participated in the event.

Swami Vivekananda's ideals.. Today's youth should move forward

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao



""(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..November 4):- As per the orders of the Telangana State Government, the District Youth Sports Festival was organized grandly under the auspices of the Youth Services and Sports Department, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, at Bhuvanagiri Fort, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District on Tuesday. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector (Local Body) Bhaskar Rao participated as the chief guest of this program. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao said that students should move forward by taking Swami Vivekananda's ideals as an ideal and show talent in all fields and contribute to the development of the country. District Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao congratulated the students and artists who participated in these competitions. Later, he said that Vivekananda initiated key reforms and changes in India, increased unity among Indians and awakened national sentiment. He said that his teachings and messages guided the youth of that time on the right path. That is why he became a youth icon, and today's youth should follow his ideals and follow his path. Heritage Archaeology Assistant Director Nagalakshmi said that this year we are celebrating Swami Vivekananda Jayanti. On this occasion, Swami Vivekananda showed the world the greatness of India. As soon as Swami Vivekananda's name was mentioned, he started his speech by saying, "Dear brothers of America" ??at the All-Faith Conference held in Chicago 125 years ago. She said that the youth should take forward the ideas and ideals of Swami Vivekananda and achieve development. District Youth Sports Officer K. Dhananjaneyulu said that Swami Vivekananda not only awakened India but also introduced Yoga and Vedanta sciences in America and England through his lectures and arguments. He said that Swami Vivekananda was one of the most important people who wanted India to regain its ancient glory and that he established the Ramakrishna Order in India and through this he

gave direction to the youth of India. He said that the follow-

ing group and individual exhibitions were organized at the

district level. As part of this, individual exhibitions were held

1. Essay Writing Competition: (Story Writing): 2. Poster Making: (Painting): "3. Declamation Competition: 4. Poetry Competition: "5. Folk Dance Group: "6. Folk Song Group: (Folk Song Group) Competitions were held. District Youth Sports Officer Dhananjaneyulu, Heritage Archaeology Assistant Director Nagalakshmi, Cinema Dance Choreographer Kapil Master, Dance Masters Ramesh Raj, Srinivas, Ganesh, students, youth and office staff participated. District Collector Bhaskara Rao presented certificates to the students and artists who participated in these competitions.

Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Pays Tribute to His Father on 20th Death Anniversary"



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 04, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy paid tribute at the memorial of his father, the late Bandari Janga Reddy, on the occasion of his 20th death anniversary at the Bandari agricultural fields in Cheeryala. Family members, including Bandari Narsimha Reddy, Venkat Reddy, Neelam Reddy, and several relatives, participated in the

Laksha Deepotsavam Celebrations Continue Grandly – Discourse by Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Devanadha Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamy



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 4 (Indian Chronicle):"""Under the leadership of Mekala Madhusudhan Reddy, President of the Uppal Bhagayat Welfare Associa-

tion, and the executive members, the Laksha Deepotsavam celebrations continued for the third day at the Bhagayat Association Community Hall premises. "The day's program began with the traditional lighting of lamps (Deeparadhana), followed by the grand celebration of the divine wedding of Lord Parvathi and Lord Parameshwara, beautifully decorated for the occasion. "Later, Sri Sri Sri Tridandi Devanadha Ramanuja Jeeyar Swamy delivered an enlightening discourse, sharing spiritual messages and explaining the significance of lighting lamps during the holy month of Karthika. Rudrabhishekam and Maha Mangala Harathi performed by the temple priests captivated the devotees. "BJP State President Ramachandra Rao, members of the Bhagayat Welfare Association, residents of Bhagayat, women, and a large number of devotees participated in the event and received theertha prasadam, seeking divine

Fee reimbursement dues.. should be sanctioned by the government..

. Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, managements of degree and PG colleges and students request "(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 4):- The indefinite bandh undertaken by the managements of private degree and PG colleges across the Telangana state for the release of fee reimbursement dues continued for the second day. On this occasion, today, the managements of private degree and PG colleges submitted a petition to the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Vinayaka Chaurasta. Bhuvanagiri constituency legislators also handed over a petition to Kumbham Anil Kumar. On this occasion, Telangana Private Degree PG Colleges Association Mahatma Gandhi University Associate President Daripalli Praveen Kumar said, "All private degree and PG colleges across the state participated in the bandh for the second day, and on Tuesday, we submitted a petition at the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and requested the government to respond to respect our right to educa-

If the fee reimbursement arrears are not released immediately, we will intensify the movement." The Principal of Sri Navabharat Degree College said that the government should not be negligent towards the future of students, saying that the financial condition of private colleges is being



affected, and appealed to release the arrears immediately. The event was attended by Daripalli Praveen Kumar, Associate President of the Mahatma Gandhi University Chapter of the Telangana Private Degree PG Colleges Association, Chikka Prabhakar, Principal of Sri Nava Bharath Degree College, Manipal Reddy, Vice Principal of Jagruthi Degree College, and principals and faculty members of various colleges.

Farmers should buy paddy quickly in the wake of rains

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao ""Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... November 4):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that farmers should be alert in the wake of rains and should buy damp paddy quickly. On Tuesday, the District Collector... conducted a surprise inspection of the I.K.P paddy purchase center in Kolanupaka, Aleru mandal. On this occasion, District Collector Hanumantha Rao said.. He asked if any paddy got wet due to the rain that fell today at the purchase center. He said that all farmers should always be alert as there is a situation where you do not know when these untimely rains will come. He suggested that the paddy heaps should be covered with tarpaulin covers. He asked how much paddy has been purchased so far. They should ask whether the tab entry is complete until the purchase is made and complete it from time to time. "The organizers were ordered to check the moisture content daily and to fortify the piles of paddy that arrived. "The local Tahsildar was told to arrange all the necessary facilities for the farmers to rest until the next season at the purchase center. Later, the District Collector inspected the flood flow passing over the low-level bridge in Kolanupaka village of Aleru mandal. On this occasion, the Collector inspected the bridge and found that the bridge was damaged due to the flood flow, causing accidents while motorists were traveling. Therefore, before the new bridge is completed, the District Collector ordered the contractor to immediately make repairs by pouring gravel from the side and leveling it so that it can be driven, and to



immediately fill the potholes where there are potholes. "Next, the District Collector made a surprise inspection of the CCI purchase center in Aleru mandal center. Speaking on this occasion, the District Collector said that the CCI purchase centers should check the moisture content properly." He asked how many farmers had brought cotton today. He asked what the moisture content was. The moisture content of the cotton in the mill was checked. He said that sometimes the moisture content is high due to machine problems, so he said that the cotton with high moisture content should be checked again and purchased. The CCI procurement managers should ensure that the farmers do not face any trouble. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Grain in the purchase centers should be purchased regularly without storing it

- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy""(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri Bureau... Indian Chronicle... November 4):-Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy said that grain in the purchase centers should be purchased regularly without storing it. On Tuesday, the Revenue Additional Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the F. P. O. grain purchase center in Aleru Mandal Center. On this occasion, the Additional Collector said... They asked how many piles of grain have arrived so far. They told the concerned officials to buy immediately after checking the moisture content in the morning and evening. The government has provided tarpaulins, and since there is a forecast of rain, they should keep tarpaulins available and cover the grain so that it does not get wet. Then, no matter how much rain it gets, the grain will not get wet, he said. Farmers should be careful about the grain. He said that there is no need for farmers to worry, as the grain that reaches the purchase centers will be purchased as soon as the moisture content is found. He said that the piles of grain that have reached the moisture content should be weighed regularly, loaded into lorries and sent to the relevant mills. He said that it is not possible to have grain stocks in the purchase centers. He said that the grain should be sent only when it arrives. Later, Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy visited the Aleru Mandal Tahsildar's office and said that the special intensive revision process should be completed within the specified time limit. He said that the special intensive revision process should be completed in the right manner as directed by the Election Commission. He said that the duties prescribed by the Commission should be given top priority. He said that the 2002 voter list and the current 2025 voter list should be thoroughly examined and the mapping should be completed within the deadline. BNO supervisors and AEROs should conduct self-monitoring so that the BLOs complete this process for each polling station." The Additional Collector was accompanied by Satvik Nayak and relevant officials.





KTR Roadshow Set to Turn Somajiguda Pink BRS Aims for Massive Majority



""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal -Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 04, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Goal to Secure a Massive Majority from Somajiguda Division BRS MLC Naveen Reddy stated that

the target is to achieve a huge majority from Somajiguda Division as the area turns completely pink with BRS supporters. A massive roadshow and corner meeting by BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao are scheduled to take place today at Ellareddyguda in the Somajiguda Division under Jubilee Hills limits. Former ex Minister and Maheshwaram MLA Sabitha Indra Reddy, along with Palamuru MLC Naveen Reddy, inspected the arrangements for the event. Speaking on the occasion, they expressed confidence that the rally and corner meeting led by KTR will be a grand success and that the BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha Gopinath will secure a thumping victory with a huge majority from the Somajiguda Division. Former ex corporator Mahesh Yadav, division leaders Appu Khan, booth incharges, Shadnagar BRS leaders Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Shekhar Panthulu, and several other local leaders participated in the preparations.

BC Hostel Blanket Distribution Program Held at Medipally

""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal -Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 04, (INDIAN A blanket distribution program was organized at the Telangana BC Welfare Hostel in Medipally under the Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation limits for the welfare of hostel students. Congress Party Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation President Tungathurthi Ravi participated in the event along with Principal Shankar. Speaking on the occasion, Tungathurthi Ravi said that he would continue to extend his support in ensuring necessary facilities for students in government hostels. He highlighted the importance of providing timely amenities to enhance the comfort and learning environment of the students. He also appreciated the efforts of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for implementing various welfare initiatives aimed at improving the education sector. He said that the government's focus on improving hostel dining facilities and providing nutritious food for students is commendable. Ravi noted that under Revanth Reddy leadership, schools and hostels across the state are moving toward modernization.



He emphasized that proper food and infrastructure are essential for students health and concentration, contributing to better academic outcomes. He urged students to make the best use of the facilities, study diligently, and achieve success to contribute to the progress of society. Principal Shankar, staff members, and students participated in the program.

Free Eye Check-up and Spectacle Distribution by Nerdham Balayya Bhagyalakshmi Seva Trust

""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 4 (Indian Chronicle): ""Under the auspices of Nerdham Balayya Bhagyalakshmi Seva Trust, a free eye check-up and spectacles distribution camp will be organized on Wednesday, November 5, at 10 AM at Nova Benqic Hall, located on Uppal—Chiluka Nagar Road, announced Trust Chairman Nerdham Bhaskar Goud. "He further informed that Dr. Nerdham Manusha Goud will conduct homeopathy consultations and medicine distribution during the event. He appealed to the residents of Uppal and Chiluka Nagar surrounding areas to make the best use of this free medical service.



Divine Karthika Pournami Harathi at Sri Shirdi Sai Temple, Manthani"



"P.S.ASHOKAN"KARIMNGAR BUREAU""In a serene atmosphere filled with devotion and spiritual fervor, the devotees of Sri Shirdi Sai Baba are set to observe the sacred Karthika Pournami Harathi on Wednesday at 6:00 AM, seeking universal peace and prosperity through the divine grace of Sadguru Sri Sainath Maharaj. ""Women devotees have been earnestly invited to participate in this auspicious occasion by bringing mangalaharathi, fresh flowers, incense sticks, camphor, coconuts, fruits, and sacred blossoms from their homes as offerings to the Lord.""Temple priest Sri Ramadugu Sai Srinivas announced that the collective Harathi ceremony will be conducted between 6:00 and 6:30 AM, invoking divine blessings for the well-being of all devotees. He further appealed that, following the Harathi, devotees should return directly to their homes, maintaining the sanctity of the ritual. ""He emphasized that those who partake in this holy Harathi shall be recipients of Baba's boundless grace and spiritual benevolence. Lighting lamps in temples on Karthika Pournami is an age-old tradition symbolizing the victory of light over darkness and the triumph of virtue over ignorance. ""As part of this sacred observance, the Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Temple located on Thammicheruvu Katta Street, Manthani, will host this divine Harathi program, offering devotees an opportunity to immerse themselves in spiritual bliss and divine enlightenment.

Efforts to Resolve Voltage Issues in Peerzadiguda – Tungathurthi Ravi

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 04, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Action has been initiated to address the ongoing low-voltage problems faced by residents across the Peerzadiguda Municipal Corporation area.

As part of these efforts, Congress Party Corporation President Tungathurthi Ravi, along with officials from the electricity department, conducted an inspection in several localities to identify suitable locations for the installation of a new transformer. During the visit, Ravi personally interacted with residents to understand the electricity issues they were facing and urged the officials to take immediate corrective measures. He stated that the installation of the new transformer aims to ensure stable power supply to every household affected by voltage fluctuations. Ravi also appreciated the efforts of AE Sathyanarayana Reddy and his team from the electricity department for their cooperation in addressing the issue. AE Sathyanarayana Reddy, lineman Bhaskar, contractors Rangopal Rao and Srinivas, along with local residents, took part in the inspection.





New Executive Committee of Retired Employees' Association Formed"—Mohan Sharma Elected as President



"P.S.ASHOKAN"KARIMNGAR BUREAU""The Telangana State Government Retired Employees' Association, Manthani Unit, has announced its newly elected executive body. In the recent elections, Mr. Mohan Sharma

was unanimously elected as President, Mr. Chandupatla Sudhakar Reddy as Secretary, Mr. Marupaka Satyanarayana as Treasurer, and Mr. T. Satyanarayana as Associate President.""Prominent well-wishers Mr. Moola Purushotham Reddy, Mr. Ramadugu Maruthi Rao, and Mr. Bejjanki Digambar extended their heartfelt congratulations to the new office-bearers. "Speaking on the occasion, they lauded the dedication and commitment of the newly elected committee members. They expressed confidence that the new team will continue to uphold the association's legacy by striving relentlessly for the welfare and rights of retired government employees.""They also appreciated the continuous efforts of the Manthani unit in addressing pensionrelated grievances, ensuring social security, and providing moral and administrative support to retired employees. The newly elected body reaffirmed its commitment to work with unity, transparency, and service-oriented zeal for the bet-

India Mission School Students Shine — Selected for Prestigious South Zone Inter-State Chess Tournament in Bengaluru.

ment of immense pride for India Mission School, Basant Nagar, three talented students — Kota Abhishek, B. Sharath Chandra, and Vishwa Virat — have earned selection to participate in the South Zone Inter-State School Chess Championship, organized by Ultratech Cement Company on the 7th and 8th of this month at Bengaluru, Karnataka.""Announcing this achievement, the school's chess coach Mr. M. Krishnamurthy Goud expressed that the students' selection reflects their unwavering dedication, strategic brilliance, and consistent hard work on the board.""On this proud occasion, the Principal, Mr. Mahendran, and Mr. Premanand, along with the Ultratech Cement management, faculty members, students, and parents, felicitated the young champions for bringing laurels to the institution.""The Principal, while congratulating the achievers, remarked that such accomplishments not only highlight the school's commitment to holistic education but also inspire other students to pursue excellence beyond



academics."" According to the school authorities, this recognition serves as a testament to India Mission School's enduring focus on nurturing intellectual talent and promoting co-curricular excellence across all spheres.

Manthani Mandal Students Excel in TSAT—TGHM Quiz, Elocution, and Essay Competitions.



"P.S.ASHOKAN"KARIMNGAR BUREAU""In an inspiring initiative to promote academic excellence and holistic learning, TSAT and TGHM jointly organized a series of Quiz, Elocution, and Essay Writing Competitions across various High Schools in Manthani Mandal. The event aimed to enhance students' analytical thinking, communication skills, and awareness of contemporary issues, while nurturing a healthy spirit of competition among young learners. "In the Essay Writing Competition, B. Sahasra from Girls High School, Manthani, secured the First Prize for her outstanding articulation and original thought. R. Mahashaswini won the Second Prize, and P. Sagarika from

ZPHS Gunjapadugu earned the Third Prize, demonstrating remarkable clarity and expression in their writings.""The Elocution Competition showcased eloquence and confidence as G. Meghana from Girls High School, Manthani, claimed the First Prize, followed by N. Anjani Sri from Eglaspur with the Second Prize, and Bharath Kumar from ZPHS Boys, Manthani, who secured the Third Prize for their impactful speeches and stage presence. ""In the Quiz Competition, V. Vikranth from Girls High School, Manthani, impressed the judges with his quick reasoning and knowledge to win the First Prize, while N. Anjani Sri and N. Dhanush displayed commendable teamwork to secure the Second Prize. "MEO Smt. Lakshmi, the chief guest of the programme, lauded the winners for their exceptional talent and presented Certificates of Appreciation, emphasizing that such events help students develop confidence, critical thinking, and leadership qualities — essential traits for success in the 21st century.""The event was successfully coordinated under the supervision of Smt. Sridevi, In-charge Headmistress of Government High School, with active participation and support from Bharath Reddy, Rajashekar, Swamy Srinivas, Devender Reddy, and CRPs Mallanna, Radhika, Supraja, and Swapna. "" According to the organizers, initiatives like these not only strengthen students' academic foundation but also cultivate essential life skills such as teamwork, discipline, creativity, and public speaking contributing to the holistic development of every learner.

Ray of Sunshine Foundation Launched in Hyderabad to Support Cancer Patients, Promote CPR Awareness, and Empower Athletes



""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal -Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 04, (INDIAN The Ray of Sunshine Foundation CHRONICLE): (ROSF), a new NGO founded in October 2025 by Srikanth Thaduri and Johannah Samuel Hull, was launched in Hyderabad with the goal of spreading positivity and providing meaningful support to those in need. The foundation works through three main focus areas: 1. Supporting Cancer Patients ROSF raises funds and offers motivation to cancer patients, aiming to bring hope and positivity into their lives. The foundation believes in being a source of light like sunshine for individuals and families fighting cancer. 2. CPR Awareness and Education The foundation plans to conduct CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) awareness drives and training programs across India. These sessions, which include hands-on demonstrations for both pediatric and adult cases, are designed to empower people with the skills to save lives in emergencies. 3. Supporting Deserving Athletes ROSF provides financial support to athletes from vari-

ous backgrounds, including sponsorships for race fees, jerseys, and shoes. The goal is to reduce financial barriers for athletes, especially those from rural areas, so they can continue to pursue their sporting dreams. The foundation will also host CPR workshops for young students and new parents, helping them learn essential first-aid techniques for emergency situations. As part of its first major campaign, ROSF has launched a Movember initiative aiming to raise INR 5,00,000 to support prostate cancer patients and spread awareness about men's health. Upcoming Activities by Ray of Sunshine Foundation (ROSF): Movember La Ultra, 5th Edition (November 2025): Fundraising ultra run for Movember. CPR Workshop (December 7, 2025): Community training session in basic life support. Year-long fundraising programs: Supporting athletes and CPR education initiatives. Media Contact: Srikanth Thaduri Mobile: 9949113931. Ph no: 70755 91085. Email ID: "rosf.jost@gmail.com

Jana Sena Party Extends Support to BJP in Jubilee Hills By-election

""NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 04, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Jana Sena Party has officially announced its support for the BJP in the Jubilee Hills by election. Jana Sena leaders are set to actively participate in the campaign in favor of the BJP candidate. Jana Sena Telangana in-charge Nemuri Shankar Goud, along with several party leaders, met with Telangana BJP president G. Ramchandra Rao and Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy to discuss joint campaign strategies and coordination between the two parties.

DPO Veera Buchaiah Stresses Systematic Maintenance of Gram Panchayat Records and Hygienic Village Management



""P.S.ASHOKAN"KARIMNGAR BUREAU.""District Panchayat Officer (DPO) Sri Veera Buchaiah underscored the imperative need for meticulous and transparent maintenance of Gram Panchayat records to ensure administrative efficiency and accountability at the grassroots level.""During his inspection of the Ratnapur Gram Panchayat Office in Ramagiri Mandal, Peddapalli District, the DPO meticulously reviewed various registers and official documents, emphasizing that all records must be

promptly updated and preserved in proper order. ""Highlighting the significance of civil documentation, he advised officials to maintain utmost diligence in the registration of births and deaths, cautioning against any form of negligence or delay in public record management. ""He further directed the staff to intensify awareness campaigns among villagers on cleanliness and environmental hygiene, noting that community participation is crucial for sustaining a clean and healthy rural ecosystem. The DPO instructed that any pipeline leakages must be rectified immediately to guarantee a continuous and safe drinking water supply to every household. ""Sri Veera Buchaiah also emphasized the need for organized garbage collection through the Panchayat tractor, ensuring that waste management is carried out systematically and efficiently."

Accompanied by MPO Sri Deverakonda Umesh, he inspected the cremation ground, Palle Prakruthi Vanam (Village Nature Park), segregation shed, Telangana Sports Complex, and nurseries, urging the officials to maintain these premises in a neat, green, and pollution-free condition. "Panchayat Secretary Sri Gangu Santosh, along with other Panchayat staff members, actively participated in the inspection. "According to the DPO, effective record management and civic cleanliness are cornerstones of good governance and play a pivotal role in realizing the vision of "Clean and Vibrant Villages" under the Telangana Panchayat Raj framework.

Rachakonda Women Safety Wing Conducts PG Hostel Safety Audit Under 'Stay Safe' Initiative



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 04, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Rachakonda Women Safety Wing and SHE Teams, in coordination with the Rachakonda Security Council, carried out a detailed audit of girls' PG hostels in the Saroornagar area under the 'Stay Safe' initiative. The program aims to ensure the safety and security of women residing in private hostels. During the inspection, teams verified essential safety and operational aspects such as food hygiene, the presence of trained security personnel, compliance with fire safety standards, proper functioning of CCTV cameras, and availability of first aid kits. This proactive initiative highlights the council's focus on building a safe and secure environment for women across the Rachakonda limits

Chief Judge B. Pushpalatha Emphasizes Expedited Settlement of Private Complaints in Upcoming Special Lok Adalat.



""P.S.ASHOKAN"KARIMNGAR BUREAU."""District In-Charge Chief Judge and Chairperson of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Smt. B. Pushpalatha, underscored the importance of prioritizing the resolution of private complaint cases and long-pending matters during the forthcoming Special Lok Adalat scheduled to be held on

November 15. "Addressing a coordination meeting organized with members of the Sircilla Bar Association at the District Court premises, the Hon'ble Judge highlighted that special emphasis must be laid on clearing old cases, including minor criminal and compoundable offences, through efficient and technology-driven procedures to ensure swift and meaningful justice to the public.""Smt. Pushpalatha observed that the Special Lok Adalat serves as a significant platform to reduce the burden on regular courts, while quick access to justice for the common citizen. She urged the legal fraternity to extend their wholehearted cooperation to make the initiative a model of judicial efficiency and public welfare. "She further emphasized that such programs reflect the judiciary's commitment to transparency, accessibility, and compassionate justice delivery, aligning with the broader mission of strengthening **people's trust in

Senior journalists elected as members of the Indian Journalists Union National Council.. G.V. Srinivas

(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 4):- He said that he will always provide his best help and support to solve the problems faced by journalists at the national and state level.. The newly elected Indian Journalists Union (IJU) National Council member and Telangana Working Journalists Union (TUWJU) Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District in-charge G.V. Srinivas said. For the past few years, he has been working in the media field, doing due justice to people from all sections of society.. and gaining public respect... He explained that he has brought the problems faced by the people to the attention of the government and provided his best help and support to solve the problems. Similarly, he said that he has worked hard to bring the problems faced by journalists at the state level and in the joint Nalgonda district to the attention of the ruling governments and solve the problems. He said that apart from being a journalist, he is also a member of a voluntary service organization, supporting the poor and providing services to the people by doing various voluntary service programs. On this occasion, he extended his best wishes to fellow national and state-level journalists who supported his election. Many fans of Bhuvanagiri resident Jeevi Srinivas said that it is the honor of Jeevi Srinivas to be a journalist, participate in public service and stand by the poor and receive the blessings of the people. On this occasion, many friends and fellow writers expressed their happiness at Jeevi Srinivas being elected as a council mem-



ber at the national level. Many fans wished that prominent senior journalists Jeevi Srinivas would hold many more high positions and scale higher heights.

'Justice Should Be Done To Sravani's Family'"

""Indian Chronicle" kumrambheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 04""A petition was submitted to the Asifabad District Collector under the leadership of the leaders of the public associations demanding justice for the family of Sravani, who was murdered due to casteist hatred. Speaking on the occasion, they demanded strict punishment for the accused who were responsible for the murder of a pregnant tribal woman named Talandi Sravani from Gerre village of Dahegam mandal. They demanded that the government should support her family.

A case has been registered against a dance studio man for allegedly sexually assaulting a girl."

SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT, November 4 (Indian Chronicle): "According to North Zone DCP Sadhana Rashmi Perumal, a case has been registered against the dance studio owner for allegedly sexually assaulting a four-year-old girl in Bowenpally police station limits. According to the DCP, Gyaneshwar, the manager of Subbu Dance Studio in Old Bowenpally, allegedly misbehaved with a four-year-old girl, who had been coming to him for dance lessons for the past two months, when no one was present at

the studio. When the parents questioned the girl, who had been refusing to go to dance school for the past few years, they came to know that the girl was being sexually abused and ill-treated at Gnaneshwar Studio for the past few days. Police registered a case under POCSO Act and arrested the accused. The DCP advised the parents to educate the children about good and bad touch in the school itself and take adequate precautions before sending them to such dance studios.

Two Held for Running Clinic Without Permission in Uppal

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 4 (Indian Chronicle): """Uppal police have registered a case and taken two individuals into custody for running a clinic without the required permission. According to Uppal Police Sub-Inspector Madhav Reddy, police conducted raids in Chilukanagar under Uppal Police Station limits after receiving information that a clinic was being operated illegally. "The two persons, identified as P. Kiranmayi and Ch. Bala Saidulu, were found running the clinic without any authorization. They were detained, and a case has been registered at the Uppal Police Station. Further investigation is underway.



Where is the development in the contomnet over the years.. Maheshwar Reddy.



"""Photo.. ""Former vice-president of the board Maheshwar Reddy was also present ex board m e m b e r s . " $^{\circ}$ S E C U N D E R A B A D CANTONMENT, November 4 (Indian Chronicle): ""Former vice-president of Cantonment Board Jakkula Maheshwar Reddy said that the Congress government should show where thousands of crores of development work has been done in the cantonment area for more than a year. He was addressing a press conference along with former BRS members of Cantonment Board Pandu Yadav, Nalini Kiran, Anitha and Shyam kumar Lokanatham at his residence on Tuesday. He said the Congress was scared of losing the elections in the state. """ "As part of the by-election campaign, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said," "" "It is interesting to say that Rs 4,000 crore has been brought for the development of the Cantonment constituency" """He said that Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh is an honour for them and it is ironical that the person who became an MLA by bearing the hardships of Cantonment has brought crores of funds to Cantonment and demanded that the development done in the constituency with those funds should be disclosed. He said there was no progress in the implementation of the schemes. He said that the people of the constituency are facing many problems like bad roads, uneasy drainage system, lack of drinking water supply and streetlights. He said that by-elections have come and thousands of crores have been brought to the Cantonment constituency and only Congress leaders will be able to con-

vince the people of Jubilee Hills constituency. He alleged that the Chief Minister was pressuring the Cantonment MLA to work for the victory of the Congress candidate in the byelection and asked him to prove whether the MLA had brought funds from anywhere other than the Rs 2 crore allotted to him for the development of the original constituency. He recalled that during the tenure of the previous BRS government in 2017, Rs 2,000 crore was sanctioned for the construction of the corridor. He said that orders have been issued to provide compensation of Rs 700 crore to the victims from this fund, the construction of the elevated corridor was delayed due to the non-allotment of land to the Defense Department by the BJP government at that time, about 25 to 30 projects under the SRD in the city were completed, and why the construction of the corridor in the North Zone was delayed "

He questioned why the construction work was not taken up when the defence lands under the board were completely under the control of the central government. He said the Congress and the BJP came to power in the state in alliance and hence it was not right to boast that only some construction work of the elevated corridor was being started and developed on their own. He recalled that the court had given an interim order for 12 months to the Congress, which claimed to have brought Rs 4,000 crore, and demanded that the Congress government should speak the truth and fulfill all the promises made to the people and others partici-

Two persons sentenced to two days jail and fined for drunk driving: Uppal Traffic CI Nagaraju

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 4 (Indian Chronicle): ""In an incident that took place under the limits of the Uppal Traffic Police Station, two individuals caught driving under the influence of alcohol were sentenced by the court to two days of imprisonment along with fines. "According to Uppal Traffic CI Nagaraju, "* Korapaka Satyanarayana (30), a private employee from Golnaka, Amberpet, was caught for the second time driving under the influence of alcohol (Case No. STC 9288/2025). His

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) was recorded at 79 mg/100 ml. When produced before the court, he was fined 21,500 and sentenced to 2 days in jail. "* Tankari Srinivasulu (52), a daily wage worker from Venkata Reddy Nagar, Ramanthapur, was caught for the third time in a drunk driving case (Case No. STC 9297/2025). His BAC level was recorded at 137 mg/100 ml. The court imposed a ?3,000 fine and 2 days imprisonment. "Uppal Traffic Police have stated that further investigation is in progress.

Govt launches 3rd round of PLI scheme for speciality steel to attract investment

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

New Delhi: Steel Minister HD Kumaraswamy on Tuesday launched the third round of Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for speciality steel to attract investment in the sector, as part of the government's aim to boost domestic output and reduce imports. The minister launched the third round of the PLI scheme named 'PLI 1.2' for speciality steel at a function held. The PLI scheme for speciality steel was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2021 with an overall outlay of Rs 6,322 crore. It aims to transform India into a global hub for the production of high-value and advanced steel grades. The scheme incentivises incremental production and investment in identified product categories, thereby enhancing value addition within the country and reducing import dependence in critical sectors, such as defence, power, aerospace and infrastructure.

Under the first two rounds, the PLI scheme has so far attracted a committed investment of Rs 43,874 crore, with Rs 22,973 crore already invested, and over 13,000 jobs created under the first two rounds. The scheme covers 22 product sub-categories, including super alloys, CRGO, al-



loy forgings, stainless steel (long and flat), titanium alloys, and coated steels. Incentive rates range from 4 per cent to 15 per cent, applicable for five years starting 2025–26, with disbursal beginning in the next fiscal.



No risk that Mehul Choksi won't get fair trial in India after extradition: Belgian court



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

There is no risk that fugitive diamantaire Mehul Choksi will not get a fair trial in India after his extradition, a Belgian court has ruled, underlining that he has failed to demonstrate any "serious risk" of being subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment. A four-member indictment chamber at the Court of Appeals in Antwerp has found no infirmity in the orders issued by the pre-trial chamber of the Antwerp district court on November 29, 2024, allowing Choksi's extradition

The district court had termed the arrest warrants issued by a Mumbai special court on May 23, 2018 and June 15, 2021 "enforceable", which has been upheld by the Court of Appeals in its order dated October 17. The third warrant, related to disappearance of evidence, was not accepted by the Belgian court. The Court of Appeals has held that the documents Choksi submitted do not substantiate his claims that he is the subject of a political trial. It said that it is up to the subject to provide evidence demonstrating substantial grounds to believe that there is a genuine risk of ill-treatment upon extradition. Rejecting the arguments put forth by Choksi that he may not get a fair trial if extradited to India the Court of Appeals held that the documentation provided by him is insufficient to make it "concretely plausible" that he personally faces a real, present and serious risk of being subjected to flagrant denial of justice, torture or inhuman and degrading treatment in India. Choksi's claims that he was kidnapped from Antigua and Barbuda by Indian agencies and tortured in Dominica did not find support from the court, which said the records submitted by the fugitive businessman do not "conclusively indicate" that he was the victim of a kidnapping in Antigua ordered by Indian authori-

The order of the Commission for the Control of Interpol's Files (CCF) an – independent body that ensures that all personal data processed through the Interpol's channels conforms to the rules of the organisation – that allowed the Interpol Red Notice against Choksi to be dropped on the grounds of alleged kidnapping, was cited by the fugitive businessman in Belgium to buttress that he may be tortured in India. The Court of Appeals said the CCF's October 12, 2022 decision provides no clarity on the matter and is formulated cautiously and conditionally.

Choksi did not cite any substantial document that would allow the indictment chamber to conclude that there is a real risk of violation of his right to a fair trial due to the al-

leged lack of independence of Indian judges, it said. The court order gave a major jolt to the fugitive businessman, who is wanted in connection with a ?13,000 crore fraud in the Punjab National Bank (PNB) allegedly orchestrated in collusion with his nephew Nirav Modi, who is lodged in a London prison. Modi too is facing extradition proceedings. Of the ?13,000 crore, Choksi alone has siphoned off ?6,400 crore, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has alleged in its chargesheet.

The Court of Appeals has held that Choksi's arrest by Belgian authorities on India's request was valid, officials in the know of the development said. The order has come as a strong validation for India's case seeking his extradition, with Choksi having the option of appealing against the decision in Belgium's Supreme Court, they said. "This is the first success for India in the ongoing extradition proceedings against Mehul Choksi in Belgium," an official said.Choksi (66) is in the Antwerp Prison since his arrest in April. His multiple bail petitions have been rejected after they were effectively countered by Belgian prosecutors, who were aided by the CBI. "The order has come in our favour. The court has termed his arrest by the Belgian authorities on India's request valid. The first legal step in getting him extradited is now clear," a senior official said. The Belgian prosecutors were aided by Indian officials from the Ministry of External Affairs and the CBI in putting forth strong arguments on Choksi's alleged role in orchestrating one of the biggest bank frauds. The prosecutors told the court that Choksi is a flight risk and cannot be released from the prison, the officials said. New Delhi has given a number of assurances to Belgium regarding Choksi's safety, the charges that he would face during trial in India, prison arrangements, human rights and medical needs. India has also assured Belgian authorities that if extradited, Choksi would be housed in Barrack No. 12 at Mumbai's Arthur Road jail, with no chance of overcrowding or solitary confinement, as at least one more economic offender is expected to share the cell with him. Daily newspapers in English and local languages, terrestrial TV channels, video-conferencing facilities and tele-medicine services are also available in the prison. The Union Home Ministry informed the Belgian authorities through a September 4 communique that the personal living space for each inmate in Barack No. 12 is in line with and fully meets the minimum space requirement of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) of Europe. The CBI has also invoked the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in its extradition request.

At least two open-ended arrest warrants, issued by the Mumbai court in 2018 and 2021, were shared by the Indian agencies with their Belgian counterparts as part of the extradition request, sources said. Choksi fled to Antigua and Barbuda in the Caribbean days before the scam was detected. He had taken citizenship there. The sources said he remains an Indian citizen as he has not renounced Indian citizenship, a mandatory requirement under the law. After Choksi was spotted in Belgium, the CBI, the MEA and the home ministry swung into action to get him extradited to India to face the law. Choksi and Modi are wanted for allegedly swindling ?13,000 crore through fraudulent letters of undertaking (LoUs) in connivance with some officials at the PNB's Brady House branch in Mumbai, the of-

Carabid beetles as potential bioindicators to track soil microplastics

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

The carabid ground beetles of the family Carabidae are as common as they come. These little nocturnal hunters are found in almost any terrestrial habitat on the planet. To some, they're simply pests — infamous for their pungent smell, which they emit when they're threatened. Others, but farmers in particular, are fond of them because they sate their voracious appetite by snacking on a variety of garden pests, including snails, caterpillars, slugs, and other small invertebrates. Unfortunately, their diet of late has also begun to include microplastics.

Small fragments, films, and fibres of this nuisance material are dispersed in our oceans and our lands. In soil, they have a tendency to accumulate, altering the soil's structure and the way it retains water, and reacting almost unpredictably with the microbes in their surroundings. The smaller a piece of microplastic is, the more easily it's digested by organisms. Researchers have found that their subsequent effects include deleterious effects on the surrounding tissue and metabolic stress. However, while the distribution and consequences of microplastics are well documented in aquatic environments, tracking them in terrestrial ecosystems has proven quite difficult. The primary challenge is the soil itself: unlike water, which can be filtered and analysed, soil is a complex, heterogeneous matrix. Here, microplastics become entangled with organic matter, clay particles, and mineral grains, rendering scientists' methods to extract them for study technically demanding. Even when scientists do recover them, they have difficulty distinguishing synthetic microplastic fragments from natural fibers, and need specialised labs to do so. Burrowing earthworms and insects also help spread microplastics through the soil, and they can be carried further underground by the roots of affected plants. As a result, scientists often have to engage in laborious soil-sampling endeavours, followed by chemical treatment and expensive techniques like spectroscopy. To fill the gap an innovative approach was necessary. Recently, scientists from Italy took a new look at this problem. The group started looking for insects that could help detect microplastics in soil rather than scientists having to do so directly. These insects, the Italy group figured, would have to be easy to sample, be distributed widely, and be well documented in the literature for further analysis. In a study published in Ecological Indicators, the scientists set pitfall traps along the Conero coast of Italy from July to October 2020. According to ScienceDirect, "Pitfall traps are plastic containers dug into the substrate until flush with the surrounding surface, often covered with plastic plates to prevent rain and debris from entering, and may contain preservatives such as ethylene glycol or saline solution."These traps captured carabid beetles from different sites with varying levels of human activity: a meadow, woodland, and a stony beach, among others. When the scientists had a sample of 50 carabid beetles, they dissected each specimen, extracted the contents of their guts, digested them with oxidising solutions, filtered the remains, and examined what was left under microscopes and using infrared spectroscopy. What they found was both encour-

aging and unsettling. Nearly a third of the beetles carried

microplastic fragments, most of them polyester and silicone,

ranging from 0.1 to 1 mm in size and often no larger than a



grain of sand. The highest rates of microplastic ingestion appeared on a stony beach popular with summer tourists, where up to 87% of beetles captured in August contained plastic. The encouragement came from the fact that the carabid beetles proved to be legitimate bioindicators of microplastics. While this study represents only the first step in this direction, according to the authors, more standardised techniques can be developed on this work. For example, carabid beetles can be integrated into bio-monitoring programs as a cost-effective way to assess the extent of microplastic contamination in a location. The idea of using bioindicators is not new. In India, farmers in particular already use bioindicators to help anticipate impending rain, to manage pests, to assess soil fertility, and to evaluate the success of certain organic farming practices. Plenty of research is also ongoing in the country to detect contaminants in rivers and agricultural lands using insects. But why insects? The new study had in fact also unearthed earthworms (which are annelids) that had ingested microplastics.

In a review published recently in Plant Archives, a team of scientists from Navsari Agricultural University (NAU) in Surat explained why insects present clear advantages. The principle purpose of a bioindicator is to be a simple and sensitive marker of an ecosystem's health. According to the Plant Archives paper, insects are effective bioindicators because they respond quickly to environmental stress, are abundant, and have short life cycles. They are also able to provide early warnings of ecological changes, are cost-effective to monitor, and sensitively reflect the consequences of pollutants on ecosystems, plants, and humans."Their prevalence in most terrestrial habitats followed by an ability to migrate makes them the best choice," NAU entomologist Malireddi Prasanna and lead author of the paper said of the carabid beetles in this regard. Humans' response She added that even if their populations are negatively affected when scientists pick up individuals from an area for study, what they learn could help protect the insects. The review paper also enumerated important challenges when workng with insects as bioindicators. They include natural fluctuations in their populations, temporary declines from calamities, predation pressure, and their absence in particular seasons. Their complex life cycles and varying activity patterns can also complicate scientists' ability to interpret the data and thus demand careful, long-term monitoring for reliable assessments. Research worldwide has established that microplastics have contaminated almost all known ecosystems and biospheres.

Country's first Ruskin Bond International School to open in Gujarat; with a focus on nature, emotional development



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

After being part of school curricula for decades, stories of legendary author Ruskin Bond will now come alive in a nature-themed school in Gujarat — the first franchise of the Ruskin Bond International School (RBIS) in the country. An initiative of the writer's adopted grandson, Siddharth Bond, the school is set to open The brand was launched in January this year in Mussoorie to mark the author's 91st birthday. The first franchise in Gujarat's Vadodara is in partnership with Advocate Kunal Sharma as well as President of Chhatra Sansad and Chartered Accountant-educationist Utpal Shah. The school aims to impart education based on the principles of "Nature, Nurture and Nourish", intertwining Bond's stories with modern learning.

The fact that Bond spent the first six years of his childhood in Jamnagar, Gujarat — where his father ran a school for the royal family — makes it fitting that the first school to carry forward his legacy is being set up in the state. Ruskin Bond told The Indian Express, "We only left Jamnagar when World War II broke out... I was sent to a boarding school. I have fond memories of my childhood in Kathiawar... I have not lived in Vadodara but I remember passing through several times. It is a city with a history, a culture of its own and a very vibrant part of Gujarat and of India. It is an ideal place... I am so happy that the school is starting in Gujarat and in Vadodara." Several of Bond's characters and stories will become part of the curriculum that is being "painstakingly curated". A popular Bond character, Rusty from The Adventures of Rusty, based on Bond's own childhood experiences growing up in Dehradun — will be brought to life in the pre-primary classrooms when the school launches.

Bond said, "The first six years of my life were spent in Jamnagar, a small state on the Kathiawar coast, where my father ran a sort of palace school for the royal children, particularly the girls, who, in those days, were not sent out to school. I have very vivid memories of that time — of the palace area, the little porch... Rozi Bandar, Bedi Bandar

and the seashore where we would go. For me, it is still a very fairy-tale atmosphere. Jamnagar also was the home of Indian cricket, as it was ruled by Ranjitsinhji and his nephew Duleepsinhji."With colourful classrooms themed on mountains, rainbows and oceans inspired by Bond's stories, the school aims to be a trendsetter for storytelling and academics.

Sharma, who is partnering with Siddharth Bond to expand the RBIS model, said, "Ruskin Bond has always been celebrated as an author and when his grandson, in a meeting in Goa, expressed his interest, we took the opportunity. Ruskin Bond's love for nature and for children gets into early education and will help us bring childhood back into education with nature walks, creative writing, storytelling sessions not just textbooks or academic readiness but also emotional development, love for life, forests, trees, water, oceans and music." Shah added that the research team curating the curriculum is also considering incorporating elements from Japanese elementary schools that focus on cleanliness and chores, giving students hands-on experience while blending it with Bond's stories like Till the Clouds Roll By and chapters on the trees of Dehradun — with integrated lessons in math and science. With plans to expand into a K-12 school model and multiple franchises across the country, Sharma said RBIS will ensure outdoor learning. "We intend to make sure that students get out of their classrooms... We would be making them experience music, nature walks and other activities," he said. For Bond, the school represents a way to bring nature back into education. "This whole project was a vision of my grandson, Siddharth Bond. He has worked very hard on it. I hope there will be more schools... The appreciation of nature and all that it offers us will be a part of our education. Over the years, human civilisation has put nature on the back foot. It has gone out of its way to trample on it, in a way. As a result, we are the ones who have suffered — climatically and in many other ways. Nature education is an essential part of our all-round education. I will be very happy if it is a part of the teaching that will take place in this school and in others."Bond added that while he had shied away from social media at first, he now sees it as a bridge that reduces the learning gap in smaller cities. "Social media certainly helps spread literature. I remember times when you lived in a small town in India and you wanted a book, but you could not get it unless you travelled to a big city. Today, you can get it online... Technology has helped and social media helps you with what is happening. Being an old-school person, at first I backed away from it, but I embrace it now and it is a vibrant part of modern-day life and spreading education,'

Man held for harassing minor in Andhra Pradesh; row over TDP link

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

The YSRCP accused the TDP of shielding him, while the TDP called the act "shameful" and denied his association. A 58-year-old man allegedly linked to the Telugu Desam Party was arrested in Kakinada for harassing a minor girl, sparking political tensions in Andhra Pradesh. A 58-year-old man allegedly associated with the Telugu Desam Party has been arrested in Andhra Pradesh's Kakinada district for sexually harassing a schoolgirl, triggering a political row in the state.

Police identified the suspect as T Narayana Rao. While the YSR Congress Party claimed Rao is a leader of the ruling TDP's Tuni unit, the latter has not commented on the alleged affiliation. According to Kakinada Police, Rao went to the girl's government residential school posing as a distant relative and persuaded her to leave with him to "meet his family". Instead, he allegedly took her on his scooter to a mango orchard in a nearby town. There, the orchard owner and workers noticed his "suspicious behaviour" and raised an alarm while recording a video, prompting Rao to hastily drop the minor back at school, police said. Once back, the student told her teachers about the incident, after which they helped her call her parents, who alerted the police. The orchard owner's video helped trace the suspect, who was arrested on charges of kidnapping under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and relevant sections of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. Police urged people not to "politicise" the case and warned against sharing the video on social media. Meanwhile, the student's parents held protests outside the school demanding strict



action and questioning how the school allowed her to leave litical row, with YSRCP spokesperson A Shyamala accusing Rao of being a predator. The party also shared purported photos of him with TDP leaders."(NDA) coalition leaders can commit atrocities against women and children. Rao took the minor girl and attempted to rape her in Tuni. If we and people protest, TDP leaders threaten," she said. The TDP has not commented on Rao's affiliation with the party, saying only that the suspect "holds no position in any of TDP's wings." It, however, condemned the incident as "shameful and unforgivable.""This government will not sit idly watching such actions. It will strictly punish [the culprit], regardless of their status or the party they belong to. If a crime is committed, whether by leaders or people, the punishment will be the same. Cases have already been registered and the accused has been arrested," the TDP said in its state-

Two more arrested for 'selling fake national park safari permits' across India



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

The Gujarat Cyber Centre of Excellence on Wednesday said it had arrested two persons from Delhi for allegedly black marketing and profiteering from the illegal sale of safari permits for national parks across India. The accused — Ajaykumar Ghanshyam Chaudhary and Arvind Shrikant Upadhyay, both residents of Delhi — were allegedly involved in the advance booking and resale of safari permits for Gir Jungle Safari (Sasan Gir, Gujarat) as well as other prominent wildlife reserves, including Ranthambore (Rajasthan), Tadoba (Maharashtra), Jim Corbett (Uttarakhand), Kaziranga (Assam), and Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh).

in the advance booking and resale of safari permits for Gir Jungle Safari (Sasan Gir, Gujarat) as well as other prominent wildlife reserves, including Ranthambore (Rajasthan), Tadoba (Maharashtra), Jim Corbett (Uttarakhand), Kaziranga (Assam), and Bandhavgarh (Madhya Pradesh).

According to officials, the accused used electronic devices to book forest safaris in bulk using false identities on official government websites. They allegedly created fake safari permits and sold them to tourists through travel agents, collecting inflated payments and defrauding customers. Investigators of the Gujarat Cyber Centre of

Excellence found that the accused had created a website

mimicking the official government portal. The probe revealed

that around 12,000 illegal safari permits had been allegedly

issued, with over 8,650 confirmation emails and payment

records allegedly recovered. Additionally, more than 10,000 PDF links containing fraudulent permit details were allegedly discovered. Three people were previously arrested in connection with the case, namely Alpeshkumar Mansukhlal Bhalani, who runs a tours and travels company in Thaltej, Ahmedabad; and Sultan Usman Baloch and Ajoj Nurmohammad Shaikh, both residents of Mendarda, Junagadh. The FIR, filed on October 10 at the State Cybercrime Cell on the basis of a complaint by the Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Sasan Gir, on behalf of the State, booked several unknown persons under Section 112 (organised petty crime) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

LG Electronics India launches Essential Series, home appliances designed for Indian households

Hyderabad: LG Electronics India Ltd. (LGEIL) unveiled its Essential Series, a new line of home appliances designed "Made for India" to combine performance, durability, and affordability for Indian consumers. Launched under the campaign slogan "Har Ghar Appliances, Har Ghar Happiness," the series reflects LG's commitment to making innovation accessible to millions of households across the country. Developed after engaging with over 1,200 families across India, the Essential Series incorporates two core philosophies: "Made in India" and "Made for India." Each appliance addresses everyday challenges while offering thoughtful design, superior performance, and reliability at accessible price points.

Australia tells AI chatbot companies to detail child protection steps



SYDNEY, GNS News Agency, Nov 4 Australia has ordered four artificial-intelligence chatbot companies to explain their measures to protect children from exposure to sexual or self-harm material, as its internet regulator beefs up safety measures on the Al frontiThe realistic conversational abilities of such services have taken the world by storm, but have also fanned concern that a lack of guardrails exposes vulnerable individuals to dangerous content. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

In a statement, the eSafety Commissioner said it sought details of safeguards against child sexual exploitation, pornography and material promoting suicide or eating disorders. It sent notices to Character Technologies, owner of celebrity simulation chatbot tool character.ai, and rivals Glimpse. AI, Chai Research and Chub AI. "There can be a darker side to some of these services, with many ... chatbots capable of engaging in sexually explicit conversations with

minors," Commissioner Julie Inman Grant said in the statement. "Concerns have been raised that they may also encourage suicide, self-harm and disordered eating."

Australia's online regulatory system gives the commissioner the power to compel internet firms to report internal safety processes or face daily fines of up to A\$825,000 (\$536,000). The most popular of the services gueried, Character.ai, is being sued in the United States after the mother of a 14-year-old said her son died by suicide following prolonged interaction with an Al companion on the site. Character.ai has sought to dismiss the lawsuit and says it introduced safety features, such as pop-ups directing users to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline if they express thoughts of self-harm. Schools in Australia have reported children as young as 13 spending up to five hours a day talking with chatbots, sometimes sexually, the regulator said, adding that minors risked forming sexual or emotionally dependent ties with them, or being spurred to selfharm. However, the regulator did not query OpenAI, owner of the world's most popular AI search tool, ChatGPT, as its crackdown focused on companion-based tools and ChatGPT is not covered by an industry code until March 2026, an eSafety spokesperson said. Australia has one of the world's strictest internet regulation regimes. From December, social media companies will be forced to deactivate or refuse accounts for users younger than 16 or face a fine of up to A\$49.5 million, in a bid to safeguard young people's mental and physical health. Byron Kaye is the Reuters chief companies correspondent for Australia, based in Sydney. Over 10 years at Reuters he has covered banks, retail, healthcare, media, technology and politics, among other topics. He can be reached at +612 9171 7541 or on Signal via username byronkaye.01

Paris' Louvre reopens after heist, as backlash grows over security flaws

PARIS, -GNS News Agency, Nov 4 The Louvre in Paris reopened on Wednesday, three days after thieves made off with historic jewellery worth an estimated 88 million euros (\$102 million) in a spectacular heist that has raised urgent questions over security lapses at the museum. Visitors queued to enter through the Louvre's glass pyramid for the first time since Sunday's brazen robbery, in which hooded assailants broke through a second-floor window using a stolen movers' lift before making off with jewels from the royal collection. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here. Later on Wednesday the museum's director will appear before the French Senate to answer lawmakers' questions. The Galerie d'Apollon, the ornate gilded hall that was robbed, remains closed.

Amid rising frustration in France that no senior official has taken responsibility, French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said there had clearly been security failures and Culture Minister Rachida Dati had launched an administrative inquiry."There was a burglary at the Louvre, some of the most precious jewels in France were stolen. So obviously it's a failure, there is nothing else I can say," Nunez told Europe 1 radio. But he added that "the alarm system worked perfectly, as soon as the window was attacked, it was activated. Police were notified, and within three minutes they were on the scene. The whole system worked, it didn't fail, but what happened has happened."He declined to comment on the police manhunt, but said he was confident the perpetrators would be found. Item 1 of 6 Visitors take pictures of the painting "La Liberte guidant le peuple" (Liberty Leading the People, 1830) by French artist Eugene Delacroix (1798 -1863) displayed in the salle Mollien of Denon wing at the Louvre Museum on the day it reopened to the public for the first time since last Sunday's heist, while the Galerie d'Apollon where eight pieces of Napoleon and the Empress's jewelry collection displayed in the gallery were stolen by thieves, remains closed, in Paris, France, October 22, 2025. REUTERS/Gonzalo Fuentes[1/6]Visitors take pictures of the painting "La Liberte guidant le peuple"



(Liberty Leading the People, 1830) by French artist Eugene Delacroix (1798 -1863) displayed in the salle Mollien of Denon wing at the Louvre Museum on the day it reopened to the public for the first time since last Sunday's... Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab Read moreDati came under fire after saying in parliament on Tuesday there had not been any security lapses. Louvre director Laurence des Cars will be questioned by senators later on Wednesday. Des Cars warned in January that the centuries-old building was in a dire state. President Emmanuel Macron has announced a six-year renovation of the Louvre, which will include money for security upgrades. Asked on RTL radio whether state budget cuts had led to security lapses in French museums, the head of France's national audit office Pierre Moscovici said that was not the case for the Louvre."It is richly endowed, there are sponsorships, really, the Louvre is not without resources. "Built in the late 12th century, the Louvre Palace used to be the official residence of the kings of France, until Louis XIV abandoned it for Versailles. It was turned into a museum for the royal art collection in 1793, four years after the French Revolution.last year. It hosts the Mona Lisa, the world's most famous painting, and the Venus de Milo statue, as well as countless old

World Court to give opinion on Israel's obligations to allow aid to Palestinians



THE HAGUE, GNS News Agency, Nov 4 The United Nations' top legal body, the International Court of Justice, will issue an advisory opinion on Wednesday on what Israel's obligations are to U.N. and other aid organisations trying to work in Gaza and the West Bank. The opinion, which was requested by the U.N. General Assembly in December, will be closely watched as it could have effects beyond the Gaza conflict. It is expected to address the protections states must provide for U.N. staff worldwide. The Reuters Gulf Currents newsletter brings you the latest on geopolitics, energy and finance in the region. Sign up here.

Advisory opinions of the ICJ, also known as the World Court, carry legal and political weight, but they are not binding and the court has no enforcement power. In April this year lawyers for the United Nations and Palestinian representatives at the ICJ accused Israel of breaking international law by refusing to let aid into Gaza between March and May. Since then some humanitarian aid has been allowed in but U.N. officials say the relief is nowhere near what is needed to ease a humanitarian disaster.

The 20-point ceasefire plan mediated by the U.S. earlier this month allows for 600 trucks of aid a day into Gaza. Israel has previously accused Hamas of stealing food delivered into the enclave, which it denies, and has said the aid restriction was to put pressure on the militant group. Israel did not appear before the ICJ in hearings but did submit its legal position in writing. In April, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar dismissed the hearings as a "circus" and said the court was being politicized.

The request for an ICJ opinion was prompted by a

2023 Israeli law that banned U.N. Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA from operating in the country, as it said the organisation had employed members of Hamas who took part in the attacks on Israel The U.N. said in August last year that nine UNRWA staff may have been involved in the Hamas assault and had been fired. Another Hamas commander, confirmed by UNRWA as one of its employees, was killed in Gaza in October 2024, according to Israel.In an earlier 2024 advisory opinion, the ICJ found that Israel na earlier 2024 advisory opinion, the ICJ found that Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories is illegal and should end immediately. The court also said that Israel had human rights obligations to the Palestinians because of its position as an occupying power.

Journalists imprisoned in Belarus and Georgia win EU's top human rights award

Two journalists, one imprisoned in Belarus and the other in Georgia, have won the European Union's top human rights honour, the Sakharov Prize, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced

Andrzej Poczobut is a correspondent for the influential Polish newspaper Gazeta Wyborcza. He was convicted of "harming Belarus' national security" and sentenced to eight years, which he is serving in the Novopolotsk penal colony.Mzia Amaghlobeli, a prominent journalist who founded two of Georgia's independent media outlets, was convicted in August of slapping a police chief during an antigovernment protest. She was sentenced to two years in prison in a case that was condemned by rights groups as an attempt to curb media freedom. "Both are journalists currently in prison on trumped up charges simply for doing their work and for speaking out against injustice. Their courage has made them symbols of the struggle for freedom and democracy," Ms. Metsola said at the parliament in Strasbourg, France. The annual EU award, named after Soviet dissident Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov, was created in 1988 to honour individuals or groups who defend human rights and basic freedoms

Saudi Arabia abolishes Kafala system – What it means for migrant workers



GNS News Agency, Sept 21

Hyderabad: In a landmark reform, Saudi Arabia has officially abolished the decades-old Kafala (sponsorship) system, marking a major shift in the treatment and rights of migrant workers in the Kingdom. The move, effective since March 2021 and part of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's Vision 2030 initiative, is expected to benefit 'around 13 million migrant workers,' making it one of the most significant labour reforms in the Gulf region.

What is the Kafala system?

The Kafala system—Arabic for "sponsorship"—is a legal framework that binds migrant workers to a specific employer or sponsor (kafeel) for the duration of their stay in a host country. It has been widely implemented in countries across the Middle East, especially in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, and also in Lebanon, Jordan, and formerly Israel.

Under this system Employers controlled workers' legal status, work permits, and even their ability to leave the countrMigrant workers were often unable to change jobs or return home without the employer's permission. Employers sometimes confiscated passports, restricted movement, or withheld wa Human rights organizations have long criticized the system for facilitating exploitation and abuse with little legal recourse for workers.

Why was Kafala controversial?

According to Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, the kafala system gave employers unchecked power over foreign workers, especially in domestic, construction, and low-skilled sectors. In 2008, HRW said it was "incompatible with Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."In 2014, the International Trade Union Confederation estimated that 2.4 million domestic workers in the Arab Gulf and Levant were effectively enslaved, most from South Asia, Southeast Asia, and West Africa.

Where has Kafala been abolished?

Bahrain (2009): First GCC country to scrap kafala. Its labour minister publicly likened the system to slavery.

Israel (2006): The "binding system" was struck down by the Supreme Court in a landmark ruling citing human rights violations. Saudi Arabia (2025): Though reforms began in 2021, a complete abolition was announced in June 2025, ahead of global events like the 2034 FIFA World Cup, in a bid to improve Saudi Arabia's international image and attract investment. Drawbacks of the Kafala systemRestricted Movement: Workers couldn't leave or reenter the country without sponsor permissionPassport Confiscation: Common and often unpunishedForced Labour: Some employers exploited legal control to force migrants to continue working against their will. Limited Legal Protection: Workers had minimal access to justice in cases of abuse.

What has changed in Saudi Arabia?

The reforms, which started as early as November 2020, introduced several key changes:

- 1. Freedom to Change Jobs: Workers can now switch employers without sponsor approval, provided certain contract conditions are met.
- 2. Exit and Re-entry Without Sponsor Approval: Migrant workers no longer need permission to leave or reenter Saudi Arabia.
- 3. Access to Labour Courts: Workers now have improved legal access to report abuse or contract violations.
- 4. Digital Labour Contracts: All employment contracts must be digitally documented, increasing transparency and legal accountability.
- Implementation via Absher and Qiwa Platforms: Saudi Arabia's e-government systems now process visa and employment-related services.

Why Now?

Saudi Arabia is undergoing a broad transformation under Vision 2030, a plan to reduce dependence on oil and open its economy to the world. The reform: Aligns with international labour standards. Aims to attract foreign investment and skilled labour. Addresses long-standing criticism from rights groups and foreign governments. Prepares the Kingdom for hosting the 2034 FIFA World Cup, amid global scrutiny. The abolition of the kafala system is a historic step for labour rights in the Gulf. While implementation and enforcement remain critical, the reforms provide migrant workers with unprecedented freedom in Saudi Arabia. Activists and labour groups say continued pressure is necessary to ensure these changes lead to real, on-the-ground improvements for millions of workers.

IRA in the making: Ghazwa-e-Hind rhetoric, 8,850 trainees at seven camps in Bangladesh



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

New Delhi: The disclosure by a senior adviser to the Muhammad Yunus government in Bangladesh clearly suggests that the first phase to set up the Islamic Revolutionary Army (IRA) is underway. On October 20, Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, an adviser to the interim government, said on social media that recruitment and training were being imparted to 8,850 individuals across several centres. He said that these individuals would undergo training in martial arts, firearms instruction, taekwondo and judo.

This revelation confirms what the Indian agencies have been saying for a couple of months. The Yunus government, labelled as a puppet of the Jamaat-e-Islami and ISI, has been planning the IRA for several months now. The idea is to replace the existing army with the IRA. The IRA, according to Indian officials, would be on the lines with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The IRA would be a highly radicalised institution, which would help the establishment convert Bangladesh into an Islamic state. It would be used for moral policing, like one gets to see in Iran, officials add. However, the bigger target would be India, and this would mean that once the IRA is set up, the tensions along the border would be very high.

Recently, Dr Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher, a Jamaat leader, said in New York that five million Jamaat youth were ready to fight against India. He said that if India enters Bangladesh, the bad name that was given in 1971 will be wiped out. We will prove ourselves as true freedom

fighters, and one part of the Jamaat's five million people will engage in guerrilla warfare, while the rest will spread inside India to implement Ghazwa-e-Hind. Analysts say that the developments and statements clearly indicate that the ISI has taken over Bangladesh. It has been the wish of Pakistan to get Bangladesh back to the pre-1971 situation, and since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina, it has been working relentlessly on this plan. Currently, seven training camps cater to 8,850 individuals. All these people are being trained by retired Bangladesh Army officials who are pro-Pakistan.

Plans are afoot to set up more such camps in the future. The plan would be to train over 160,000 individuals, which is the current strength of the Bangladesh Army. Further, these camps are frequented by both the Pakistan army and ISI officials. They are the ones who are providing the to Pakistan by Muhammad Yunus, arms and ammunition have come to Bangladesh in large numbers. All these are currently being stored in the universities, which are largely controlled by the Jamaat. As per the requirement, these arms and ammunition are being transported openly to these training camps. The Jamaat-backed institutions are also open about their intentions where the IRA is concerned. In December 2024 itself, a group called the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, which comprises students close to Yunus, had announced the launch of a militia called the IRA. In a Facebook post, the organisation had called upon the youth to gather at the Dhaka University for enrolment. The plan was to set up training camps, and during the initial phase, there would be a martial arts session followed by a month-long military style training. They said that this would be conducted by the army and paramilitary forces. These developments clearly indicate that the Yunus administration, at the behest of the Jamaat and ISI, is looking to shut down both the army and DGFI in Bangladesh. There have been rumours of a rift between the army top brass and the ruling dispensation. Courts have been passing orders to arrest many army and DGFI personnel. While the courts have said that these persons have indulged in atrocities, in reality, all these persons who have been targeted are perceived to be close to Sheikh Hasina. These developments have caused a deep rift within the Bangladesh Army, officials say, while adding that many are in favour of the IRA being set

Man crashes car into White House security gate, taken into custody

Washington: A man was taken into custody after crashing his vehicle into a security gate outside the White House in Washington, according to local media reports. The incident occurred around 10:37 p.m. on Tuesday (local time) at the intersection of 17th Street and E Street NW, near the southwest perimeter of the presidential complex. According to the US Secret Service, the driver rammed his car into the secured gate, prompting an immediate response from security personnel. Agents quickly arrested the suspect on the scene, deploying a heavy security presence in the area, reports Fox News. Armed officers were seen securing the perimeter, while forensic teams examined the damaged vehicle. Authorities have not yet released details about the suspect's identity, possible motive, or the circumstances leading to the crash.

Visuals circulating on social media show Secret Service officers surrounding the vehicle, conducting measurements, and photographing the scene. Following the collision, access to the area was temporarily restricted while officials assessed the situation. The White House itself was not placed under lockdown, but the road leading to the gate was closed until the vehicle was towed away. No injuries have been reported. The Secret Service said it is reviewing

surveillance footage and other evidence to determine the driver's intent. Some media reports also suggested that US President Donald Trump was inside the White House at the time of the crash.

The site of the incident lies southwest of the main residential complex, close to the headquarters of the American Red Cross. This is not the first time a vehicle has breached security near the White House. In January 2024, a driver crashed into an outer gate and was detained by law enforcement. A few months later, in May 2024, another vehicle struck a security barrier near the complex, resulting in the driver's death. In both cases, the Secret Service ruled out any broader threat to public safety. The latest incident comes amid ongoing construction work for a new East Wing ballroom, which has already increased security measures around the White House.

It also follows a separate security concern just days earlier, when a suspicious hunting stand was found overlooking the area where President Trump was scheduled to exit Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport in Florida. Authorities have not yet confirmed whether there is any connection between the two incidents, but investiga-

Ranga Reddy | WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2025

'Is settling scores': Mann slams ban on Sikh jathas to Pak, says 'BJP has deep-rooted enmity with Punjab'



Mann's reaction came a day after the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India advised states including Punjab not to allow Sikh pilgrims to PakistanMann's reaction came a day after the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India advised states including Punjab not to allow Sikh pilgrims to PakistanPunjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday accused Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of "settling scores with Punjab", after having "some deep rooted enmity" with the state on the issue of Centre asking the states not to allow Sikh Jathas to Pakistan on the occasion of parkash utsav of Guru Nanak Dev.

Mann's reaction came a day after the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India advised states including Punjab not to allow Sikh pilgrims to Pakistan. Addressing media, he said, "I have said it so many times that BJP is taking revenge from Punjab...sometimes they withhold our funds...I have even stated that if they had their way then they would delete Punjab from the National Anthem...They have so much of enmity with Punjab that they can do that... would like to ask state BJP chief Sunil Jakhar to ask Prime Minister Narendra Modi as to what they have done. Cricket matches can wait...even the films can wait...but faith cannot wait," he said. He questioned the policy of the BJP, "What is BJP's policy? It is against Pakistan or against people? If a Pakistani artiste is taken in a film in which the shooting of the film is done before then they will be called traitors and do not want to have any relation with Pakistan. They said they will not allow any such movie released. They called out names like traitor. Entire troll army got at work. When they stop a fit then who suffers? The producer. But in case of the cricket match that took place on Monday, in which the producer is the son of 'bade sahib' and this loss cannot be allowed. Now the main stream media is saying hands were not shaken. Did we not played the match? What is this? Were the catches not taken? Did they not bowl? Can we say we will not touch the ball because it has touched Pakistanis bat? Why play? this loss cannot be allowed because he is the son of 'bade sahib'. "The Chief Minister said that, "It is sad that our own government has been putting restrictions of us...had the British done this...or Pakistanis banned us it would have been different. We lost 10 lakh in partition. How we came from the other side hiding our daughters...trains carrying bodies crossed borders. The Independence came vey expensive for us. I want to tell Modi not to play with the emotions of Punjabis. We seek 'Sarbat da Bhala (well being of the entire universe).' Punjab is a land of progress. Even if you would not give us anything, Punjab will still stand up. But we will remember these excesses. We will see when you come to us...you will come seeking votes...you will seek rice...when you will seek rice, we will provide..."In a strongly worded allegation Mann said, "Why stop Sikh pilgrims? A cricket match took place yesterday but Sikh pilgrims cannot pay obeisance at a Gurdwara? It is about our faith. This is not about politics or business. It is in our ardas that we seek to serve at those gurdwaras which went to the other side after partition. But we cannot go there because those are in Pakistan."

Taking on the BJP, he siaid, "We are not like them. We will tell our views in a straightforward way. We have a common culture. We have one brother on this side and second on the other. We go to meet each other. Guru Nanak Dev ji was born in Nankana and he spent his last days at Kartarpur. These two places are of immense faith for us. These are our pilgrims. These two places mean so much for us. You can send help to Afghanistan. But for Punjab, you do not get time. They want the winds should flow according to them...the rivers and oceans should also flow as they want...Punjabis follow their own will. Had they not followed their will then you would not have been the Prime Minister of an Independent India. Because Bhagat Singh followed his will that Independence struggle will only get intense after sacrifice of life. We follow the path shown by our Gurus. I had stated that earlier also that either boycott everything or allow cultural change also alongwith the sports. We are all social people. Don't you think they are putting too many restrictions on us? Now, they will ask rice from us. Why don't they get rice also from the other side. Wheat, sarson, maize and sugarcane...When it comes to satiating hungers then Punjab is the food bowl of India. When Punjab faces a disaster then they say you face it on your own. Now, Assam has got a package of Rs 12,734 crore...Did they give Rs 1 lakh crore from Bihar? Why the BJP leaders in Punjab, who are seeking details of SDRF from me, ask the Centre about

Mocking at BJP MP Anurag Thakur, the CM said the nation has to play a multi-national tournaments. I do not know when was Thakur Sahib born? There are so many instances where we have boycotted the match, even a World Cup in which Sri Lanka won. Film will not be released because of Pakistani artistes. But cricket match will take place. What was the pressing reason for the match? The Pakistani cricket board will also the money. Where will they use this money? There is no body which is independent. Everything is under the army there. They will take this money saying chitta and arms are to be sent across the border. "Chief Minister Mann said that he would also write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ask him about relief fund for Punjab floods being collected in Prime Minister Relief Fund by International Advertising Agency (IAA). He said, "Who are these people? Why are they collecting funds in the name of floods in Punjab? They are seeking funds in PM Relief Fund? Why shouldn't this be collected in CM Relief Fund? Who are they to collect fund in Punjab's name? Have they sought funds for other states in PM National Relief Fund? Then they say they have a lot of money? The Prime Minister should make it clear why the name of his relief fund is being used? They seek account of SDRF from us? Who will give the account of this fund being collected? Then they say this fund does not come under the scope of RTI. I will also write to the PM and i am asking him through you also to lend some clarity

What is 'involution' that is plaguing the Chinese EV sector? | Explained

For some years now, the Chinese economy has faced what has locally come to be called nêijuân, or an involution. It is a process in which rivals in certain sectors indulge in price wars, attempting to capture market share and clear out oversupply of goods. However, these price wars are counterproductive, as they reach thresholds where the retail price of the product is so low that even the production costs cannot be realised, pushing firms into losses. This has been most apparent lately in China's electric vehicle sector, so much so that China's President Xi Jinping has prescribed corrective measures in a recent article in Qiushi. This phenomenon is not new in China; a similar trend has been witnessed in the solar industry as well.

Where does the phrase "involution" originate from?

Involution is derived from the Latin phrase involutionem, meaning 'to turn inwards.' According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the earliest known use of the noun "involution" dates back to 1611, in the writings of lexicographer Randle Cotgrave. But the dictionary lists nine meanings for the noun, ranging from its usage in literature to mathematics and pathology. The term appears to have been popularised by American anthropologist Clifford Geertz in the 1960s. Geertz used "involution" in his 1969 book Agricultural Involution: The Processes of Ecological Change in Indonesia to describe a dynamic in Java's wet-rice (sawah) economy, where ever more labour and intricacy were packed into the same agro-ecological system, raising output per acre somewhat but not per person— so incomes stagnated even as effort and social complexity increased, according to a blurb of his book in the University of California Press website.

Have EU and U.S. tariffs exacerbated involution in the Chinese EV sector?

Yes, they have. The U.S. Section 301 tariffs on Chinese EVs, set at 100% (from 2024), along with higher duties on EV batteries and parts, effectively mean a trade embargo on Chinese EVs by the United States. Since October 30, 2024, the EU has imposed "countervailing duties" on Chinese EVs (e.g., BYD 17.0%, Geely 18.8%, SAIC ~35%), on top of the standard 10% import duty. This is to ostensibly counter the "subsidies" provided by China to its EV sector. But, Europe's auto sector is at an inflection point with plummeting sales in its iconic brands as Europeans begin to buy the technologically superior Chinese EVs at highly competitive prices. The countervailing duties are a desperate attempt to save Europe's once export-heavy auto industry. The commission has also entertained talks on minimum price undertakings in 2025. Turkiye added a 40% extra tariff on Chinese vehicles in 2024, and Mexico has moved toward a 50% tariff to head off U.S.-bound transshipment. As a result, Chinese Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) intensified competition at home,

Industry leaders themselves have called this an "involution." Beijing has begun an anti-price-war push as top executives warn of severe consolidation among the 120–130 EV makers in the country.

OEMs are localising abroad (e.g., BYD in Hungary/ Turkiye) and diversifying exports to emerging markets, but timelines and capacity ramps are uneven. Meanwhile, according to the International Energy Agency, Chinese imports accounted for 75% of the increase in EV sales across emerging economies outside China in 2024. What is the



Chinese government doing to rein in the process in the EV sector?On May 31, the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) assured to rein in involution in the EV sector. This was followed by June 30 news coverage in the Chinese media, which framed a Politburo communication as Mr. Xi's "war on price wars".On July 24, Beijing released a draft overhaul of the pricing law to curb below-cost selling and algorithmic pricing abuses.On Monday, Mr. Xi's article in Qiushi, the Chinese Communist Party's theoretical magazine, called for curbing "disorderly price competition" and an "orderly exit" of outdated capacity, the clearest sign yet that the Central government plans a phased slowdown of price wars.

Why internal assessments continue to be important in classrooms

Recently, the Telangana government withdrew its decision to remove the 20% internal assessment marks for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC exams) and award the entire 100% to external assessment. The 80:20 ratio has been a form of assessment for many years not just at the school level but also in higher education. In boards like the CBSE and ICSE, the system usually has 20% assessed internally at the institution level and the remaining 80% coming from the board exams, which are assessed by external examiners. The rationale in allotting 20% for internal assessment is that teachers are expected to know their students' capabilities in comprehending, retaining, and recalling the lessons taught and in observing the interest to learn and urge to improve. Thus, the teacher is the best judge of the students' performance. In an ideal situation, the teacher would be the examiner to award the entire 100% for the subject taught at the end of the course. However, the role of bias and misuse of the system cannot be ruled out. The role of internal assessment in the board exam has been a subject of repeated debates among educationists and administrators. Let us look at the benefits first. It provides a holistic evaluation of students' knowledge, skills and attitudes beyond written exams. Not only does it reduce the pressure and fear of exams but also helps students develop soft skills such as teamwork, communication and time management and increases self confidence.

Unlocking innovation with India's procurement reforms



Procurement policies, often designed with transparency and cost-efficiency in mind, have long had unintended consequences for research and development. While preventing fraud, these frameworks frequently kill innovation, one process at a time, by prioritising procedural compliance over scientific needs. India's recent reforms to its General Financial Rules (GFR) — particularly exemptions from the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal and enhanced financial thresholds for research and development (R&D) procurement — are a welcome change.

Procurement as innovation catalystThe tug-of-war between procurement policies and innovation is not new. Studies have shown that public procurement, when done properly, can give a push to private-sector R&D by creating stable demand for advanced technologies. Moreover, it has been found that targeted procurement spending is associated with increased patent filings and private R&D investment, forming a virtuous cycle of innovation. However, as the Brazilian case study in EconStor's 2023 report notes, generic procurement rules rarely achieve this unless explicitly designed to spur innovation. India's pre-reform framework fell into this trap: mandating GeM purchases for all sub-?200 crore equipment, regardless of specialisation, which forced scientists into a time-consuming exemption process for globally benchmarked tools. Vendors on GeM often supplied materials of poor quality, compromising research.

The Government of India's policy changes in June 2025 directly address these issues. By allowing institutional heads to bypass GeM for specialised equipment and raising direct purchase limits from ?1 lakh to ?2 lakh, the reforms acknowledge that cookie-cutter procurement is incompatible with R&D's bespoke needs. Delegating approval for global tenders up to ?200 crore to vice-chancellors and directors eliminates bureaucratic lag — a chronic grievance highlighted by the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. These adjustments align with theories of "catalytic procurement", where flexibility enables public institutions to act as early adopters of advanced technologies, stimulating private-sector innovation. Yet, the reforms stop short of a full paradigm shift. While empowering institutional leaders, they retain safeguards such as departmental purchase committees for higher-value acquisitions. This could be argued as a necessary balance. However, even the revised ?2 lakh direct purchase limit could remain inadequate for high-cost fields such as quantum computing or biotechnology. Additionally, the focus on global tenders, while ensuring quality, could marginalise domestic suppliers unless local R&D systems are empowered and left free to collaborate globally, and compete at that level. The policy's success will depend to a large extent on implementation. Trusting institutional heads with procurement discretion assumes high ethical standards, which is something that will have to be built up, slowly, in a system that has been historically plagued by inefficiency. As the policy rolls out, monitoring mechanisms will be vital to prevent misuse while preserving agility. How has procurement evolved globally? Globally, nations leading in R&D outcomes have already reimagined procurement as something that acts as a catalyst for innovation — not just a costcontrol mechanism. India can learn from their experiences. Procurement processes have evolved from ancient recordkeeping to Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven strategies. India would do well to learn from these.

Germany's approach is a good example of balancing procurement checks and R&D ambitions. Through its High-Tech Strategy, the federal government mandates that public procurement be used to promote innovative solutions, supported by KOINNO, which is a dedicated agency advising procurers, curating supplier databases, and hosting cross-sector innovation forums. This institutionalises what economist Mariana Mazzucato terms "mission-oriented procurement", where state-purchasing power deliberately shapes technological markets. Similarly, the 'Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program' of the United States reserves 3% of federal R&D funds for startups, us-

ing phased procurement contracts to derisk early-stage technologies while maintaining competitive tension among vendors. These models recognise that procuring innovation is not about buying predefined products but in fostering ecosystems where suppliers compete on breakthroughs. India's GeM reforms partially embrace this philosophy by exempting specialised research equipment from mandatory portal use — a nod to the fact that Indian labs often face delays extending to a few months when dealing with niche instruments. However, the policy lacks Germany's proactive market-shaping elements or the SBIR's staged funding structure. For instance, India's ?200 crore global tender limit for institutional heads still prioritises cost benchmarks over technical ambition, unlike South Korea's "pre-commercial procurement" system that pays premium prices for prototypes meeting moonshot criteria. Procurement's 5,000-year journey, from Egyptian

scribes tracking pyramid materials to AI predicting supply chain details, reflects an evolution from control to creativity. The Industrial Revolution looked at procurement as a costcentric function, but the two World Wars exposed its strategic role in securing scarce resources. Post-1945, this duality deepened: corporations adopted Just-In-Time inventory systems while governments used procurement to spur sectors such as semiconductors Today's frontier is "cognitive procurement", where tools such as generative AI analyse supplier ecosystems, simulate scarcity scenarios, and automate compliance — freeing researchers to focus on creative sourcing. Consider Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine effort, where Al-optimised procurement identified multiple critical suppliers within a few hours, compressing a months-long process into weeks. The discussion over procurement policies often leads to calls for privatisation of national labs, as that would probably open up the procurement process. However, it would be wise to consider that the debate over privatising India's national labs hinges on a false binary. As the U.S. experience shows, privatisation is not about abandoning public oversight but redefining it. When the Department of Energy handed over the management and operation of Sandia National Laboratories in 1993 to a private company, it retained mission control through performance-based contracts while unlocking private capital for laser and materials research. The result? A huge increase in patent filings and partnerships with a number of small and medium enterprises within a decade. India's Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) could adopt this hybrid model Laboratories working in strategic fields such as space tech or quantum computing might benefit from corporate-style agility in procurement and hiring, provided the government maintains some control to safeguard national interests. However, success requires robust accountability frameworks and some alignment with innovation road maps. Procurement as a research variable India's procurement reforms are necessary but insufficient. Four systemic shifts could anchor deeper change. The first would be outcome-weighted tenders. Following Finland's example, there must be an evaluation of bids not just on cost but also on an index that weighs various qualitative factors such as supplier R&D investment and scalability potential. The second would be providing sandbox exemptions. Allow institutions such as the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research or the Indian Institutes of Technology to bypass GFR entirely for some percentage of their purchases, provided they meet annual innovation targets audited by third parties.

The third intervention should be Al-augmented sourcing. Deploy the INDIAai ecosystem to create a procurement assistant that scans global catalogues, predicts customs delays, and suggests alternative materials - reducing decision cycles from months to hours. And finally, go in for coprocurement alliances. Replicate the European Union's Joint Procurement Agreement, enabling multiple Indian labs to aggregate demand for high-cost items such as cryogenic coolers, achieving economies of scale. Privatisation is not a silver bullet but a tool among many. As this study on U.S. labs warns, merely transferring ownership sans perfor mance-linked funding or competitive pressure risks creating ineffective labs. The goal must be creating a procurement continuum where public and private entities coexist each accessing shared innovation marketplaces but governed by distinct risk-reward matrices. India's GeM reforms are a tentative step toward procurement systems that value time-to-lab as much as cost savings. By marrying these changes with global best practices in market-shaping, cognitive tools, and hybrid governance, the nation could transform procurement from a research impediment to its accelerant. The lesson from history is clear: civilisations that procured for monuments left ruins; those that procured for inquiry built futures.

Plea at Madras High Court seeks making Election Commission of India website, polling stations universally accessible to the disabled

The Madras High Court, on Tuesday (September 16, 2025), sought the response of Election Commission of India (ECI) to a public interest litigation (PIL) petition which complained that the ECI's website and many polling stations were not universally accessible thereby depriving the disabled persons their valuable right to vote. First Division Bench of Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and Justice G. Arul Murugan directed ECI standing counsel Niranjan Rajagopalan to take notice and file a reply within four weeks. The judges asked the ECI not to consider it as an adversarial litigation since it had been filed for a genuine cause. Litigant Vaishnavi is the best person to espouse the cause' Pointing out that the litigant Vaishnavi Jayakumar, a cross disability rights activist, was the best person to espouse the cause of the disabled, the judges took a look at some photographs produced by her counsel S. Tanvi and asked how the disabled could be expected to climb steps to cast their votes. "We will take this matter seriously. You (ECI) have already taken many steps for making polling stations universally accessible but you must also ensure that these kind of physical accessibility barriers are removed completely wherever they exist," the Chief Justice told Mr. Rajagopalan.

In her affidavit, Ms. Jayakumar stated that Section 11 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 requires all polling stations to be accessible to persons with disabilities and all materials related to the electoral process to be made easily understandable and accessible to them. Despite such a statutory mandate in place for over seven years since the enforcement of the legislation and repeated requests made to the ECI, neither all the polling booths had been made universally accessible nor the information on the ECI website had been made accessible, free from all barriers, to the disabled, she said. "The present writ petition



is filed aggrieved inter alia by the fact that polling stations and websites of ECI, to even verify a voter's status and the candidates lists, are not universally accessible, thereby depriving persons with disability and other mobility impaired persons their valuable right to vote," her affidavit read.

ECI website must have multi-modal CAPTCHAs: PetitionerThe petitioner said websites such as www.eci.gov.in, https://electoralsearch.eci.gov.in, https://voters.eci.gov.in and officials.eci.gov.in have only a single image based CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Pulic Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart) instead of multi-modal CAPTCHAs that must also include audio, text, logic and OTP options. "The respondent (ECI) is the authority to conduct elections in the country and by taking simple measures like making candidate information available in an accessible form online, ensuring accessible ramps at polling booths etc., the entire process can be made barrier-free and legally compliant," the petitioner said.

Image used for representation purpose only.



The story so far: A church-run school affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education in Kerala's Ernakulam district hit the headlines after the parents of a Class 8 student alleged that the management refused to permit her attend classes wearing a hijab (headscarf). The St. Rita's Public School in Palluruthy in Kochi under the Latin Catholic Church remained closed on October 13 and 14, 2025 to "avoid a possible tense situation triggered by the controversy". The Kerala High Court asked the Police to provide adequate protection on a plea by the school management against alleged "threats and intrusion by a few against its uniform policy". The escalating row over political and religious lines eased on October 14, 2025 after the parent agreed to adhere to the rules and regulations prescribed by the management following his parleys with a delegation comprising Hibi Eden, Member of Parliament representing the Ernakulam Lok Sabha constituency. Kerala's Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty, who had asked the school management to permit the student attend the classes wearing a hijab on October 14, softened his stance the next day following the conciliatory move while saying that "let the issue be laid to rest, if there is a consensus".

How did the issue snowballed into a controversy?

The school authorities raised a flag when the student appeared on the campus on October 7 wearing a hijab. The Principal informed the parents that it violated the uniform policy that "applied equally to all students, irrespective of religion, caste, or community". As pert the school diary, girls need to wear pants, shirt and an overcoat. The management pointed out that the student had complied with the uniform policy since the start of the new academic year in June and they had raised an objection only after she came to the campus wearing a hijab. The petition filed by the school authorities before the Kerala High Court seeking Police pro-

tection stated that the "uniform rule had been in place for nearly three decades and nobody had violated it in the past". They also accused the father of the student of creating a ruckus with a few outsiders on October 10, 2025 to press his demand. The parents rejected the allegations and blamed the management for not respecting their faith and beliefs.

What happened after the parents filed a complaint before the General Education Department?

An inquiry was ordered by the Minister for General Education on October 13 after the parents lodged a complaint. The district education authorities submitted a report alleging that the management had violated the fundamental rights of the student. It also accused the school authorities of having "denied the student her right to education by making her stand outside the class for violating the institution's dress code". The management, which rejected the allegation, submitted a reply on October 15, 2025 saying that they had never prevented the student from attending the classes even after the issue had emerged in the public domain. They highlighted a decision by the Kerala High Court in 2018 in a similar case that school managements have the right to frame the rules and regulations related to school uniform. They said that the court had stated that "a private entity has the fundamental right to manage and administer its institution as one enjoyed the liberty to choose the dress of their choice". The school resumed functioning on October 15, 2025, though the student did not turned up citing health reasons. The management has decided to collect an affidavit from the parents stating that they will comply with the uniform policy of the institution.

What were the after-effects of the controversy?

A flip-flop on the part of the General Education Minister, who initially asked the management to permit the student to continue wearing the headscarf, helped those in favour of it, including the Social Democratic Party of India raise a demand that the Minister's directive should be implemented in schools across the State. Kerala's Opposition Leader V. D Satheesan accused the government of aiding the interests of the communal forces by making such "thoughtless remarks". Bharatiya Janata Party's State general secretary M. T Ramesh accused Mr. Sivankutty of toeing the line of those trying to reap benefits out of the controversy. The Kerala Latin Catholic Association have also come out against attempts to politicise the issue and portray the educational institution in bad light. Mr. Sivankutty has blamed the school management and the Parent Teacher Association of trying to "politicse the issue".

Ensure safeguards for India's carbon market

The growth-driven model of development, rooted in the Industrial Revolution, has already pushed planetary boundaries beyond safe limits. Some call for "degrowth" to address environmental damage, but this is neither just nor feasible for developing countries that are still grappling with poverty and hunger. A more equitable path lies in decoupling growth from environmental harm. In other words, countries must find ways to reduce poverty and expand their economies without repeating the high-pollution, high-emission model of the past. This can be done by relying on cleaner technologies, renewable energy and sustainable farming practices. In India, for instance, the rapid expansion of solar energy and micro-irrigation illustrate how growth and sustainability can go hand in hand.

On carbon creditCarbon crediting is one such tool. A carbon credit represents a certified reduction or removal of greenhouse gases, expressed in carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalents. These can be generated through mitigation activities such as renewable energy or sequestration efforts such as reforestation, agroforestry and biochar. Firms buy them to offset emissions while transitioning to cleaner processes, ideally rewarding developing countries for adopting low-carbon practices.

Carbon credits are booming, with 175 million-180 million retired annually, primarily from renewable energy and nature-based projects such as REDD+ and afforestation. India is also building its own carbon market through the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS). The scheme will set emission-intensity benchmarks for energy-intensive sectors and include voluntary offsets. A national registry and trading platform will manage transactions, with draft methods for biomass, compressed biogas, and low-emission rice cultivation already released. Globally, agriculture-based projects lag despite high potential. Of 64 Indian agricultural projects listed under Verra, only four are registered and none has issued credits. CIMMYT's research links this to weak farmer engagement, training and follow-up, especially among smallholders and marginalised caste groups. Carbon markets and the risk of exploitationCarbon projects are meant to reward communities at the frontlines of climate action. But without safeguards, they risk replicating extractive power structures, echoing the logic of colonial plantations. Rising carbon prices only heighten this risk. The Northern Kenya Rangelands Carbon Project offers a cautionary tale. Launched in 2012, it spanned 1.9 million hectares and sought to remove 50 million tonnes of CO2 over 30 years. Though framed as community-led, the project has drawn scrutiny for bypassing consent and weakening local land rights, raising critical questions about who truly controls and benefits from carbon projects. The project introduced rotational grazing and rangeland restoration, but cracks soon appeared.

In 2023, Verra suspended credit issuance after advocacy groups highlighted flaws in soil carbon measurement and a lack of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) from indigenous communities. Petitioners alleged that the conservancies were created without public consultation, on unregistered community land, and enforced through armed rangers. In 2025, a Kenyan court confirmed that key conservancies had bypassed public participation, prompting a second suspension by Verra. Community conservancies, common across Kenya, are locally managed bodies meant to promote sustainability and protect livelihoods through elected governance. In principle, they embody decentralised, community-driven resource management. Critics argue that the project's top-down grazing restrictions and opaque governance structures mirror colonial-era resource control, infringing on pastoralist land rights and underscoring the urgent need for community-led, decolonised carbon initiatives. Similarly, the Lake Turkana Wind Power project (Kenya) fenced 1,50,000 acres of community rangeland, cutting off herders from grazing routes and water; it raised the question of whether sustainability is advancing at the expense of the vulnerable. India could face similar risks. Carbon projects in afforestation, reforestation and ag-

riculture often extend into areas with customary land use.



Plantations on village commons or forest fringes could disrupt access to grazing, fuelwood and forest produce without community consent. Agricultural projects have already shown signs of bypassing marginalised caste farmers while delivering few benefits. The Kenyan judgment is a timely warning: unless land rights, consent and fair benefit-sharing are secured, India's carbon market risks reproducing extractive models under the guise of climate action.

Why carbon projects are vulnerableCarbon projects can slip into "modern plantations" when powerful companies dominate and local communities are sidelined. In India, farmers and tribal communities often face information and power asymmetries that enable opaque deals and unfair benefit-sharing. Developers are not required to disclose benefit-sharing arrangements, and practices are often imposed top-down, with little regard for local contexts or consent.India's Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, while ambitious, focuses mainly on procedures and compliance, with scant attention to land rights, FPIC, and equitable revenue distribution. These blind spots may expose vulnerable groups to exclusion and exploitation as the market expands. Overregulation is not the solution, as burdensome legal frameworks could discourage even well-intentioned actors. What India needs is a balanced, lightweight regulatory architecture that guarantees transparency, formalises benefit-sharing, and protects community rights, without creating bureaucratic choke points. Achieving this will require stakeholder consultation, adaptive regulation and a cleareyed recognition of risks. Only then can India build trust and integrity in its carbon market while ensuring that climate action does not come at the cost of justice. K.S. Aditya is a Scientist at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), New Delhi. Adeeth A.G. Cariappa is an Environmental and Resource Economist at the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT)-India

Why does the earth's magnetic field have 'weak spots'?

Researchers analysed data from the European Space Agency's 'Swarm' mission and recently reported that the South Atlantic Anomaly, the region of weakest intensity in the earth's magnetic field, has expanded since 2014. Today, according to the data, it covers about 0.9% more of the earth's surface than it did in 2014.

The field has weak spots because the molten iron and nickel circulating in the earth's outer core don't move uniformly. Their motion generates the field in a process called the geodynamo. Since the flow is uneven, there are regions where the magnetic flux is concentrated and others where it spreads out. The earth's field is continuously reorganised as the fluid core moves, and the weak regions can expand, shrink or migrate over decades without threatening the planet's overall magnetic shield or indicating a magnetic reversal

Is landlockedness the reason for Bihar's underdevelopment?



It is election season in Bihar. While the Opposition often speaks about the lack of development and industrialisation in the State, in its campaigns, the National Democratic Alliance, which is in power, argues that a change of government will bring back the 'Jungle Raj' of the earlier decade. What makes Bihar one of India's most underdeveloped States? Is landlockedness a reason for its underdevelopment, as some argue? R. Nagaraj and Manindra Nath Thakur discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Saptaparno Ghosh. Edited excerpts:

It is often argued that Bihar is disadvantaged because it is a landlocked State. Punjab and Telangana are landlocked as well, and they are doing relatively well. So how is being landlocked a constraint for Bihar?

R. Nagaraj: If you look at the success of Telangana, especially Hyderabad, it is mostly because of the tertiary sector; it has nothing to do with geography. If a State has an educated workforce and good infrastructure, being landlocked will not be an issue. Punjab, too, has a developed network of railways and roads, and has FCI (Food Corporation of India) godowns across the country to help with export of crops. Manindra Nath Thakur: Let us look at Bihar's prominent exports: makhana, litchi, and corn. It has been difficult for Bihar to transport these items from Patna to West Bengal or to any port. These, alongside the vegetables Bihar exports, are perishable. Moreover, significant costs are incurred due to road transport; time and distance are crucial factors in agrarian exports. One way Bihar is attempting to resolve this issue is by launching projects along the Ganga. So, it is not that concerns about being landlocked are not genuine, but they cannot be cited as a major reason for the State's economic backwardness.

Prof. Nagaraj spoke of the tertiary sector; you spoke of agrarian exports. Bihar has been assessed as an agrarian economy. What should be its imperative going forward: industrialisation or agriculture?

Manindra Nath Thakur: In the last 10 years, the Chief Minister has tried to engage with industrialists. However, industrialists have often raised concerns about access to ports, citing the need to spend more on transportation. Having said that, I do think that in this modern capitalist system, no society can think of surviving with just agricultural products. While Bihar should capitalise on its potential in terms of agricultural production and processing, it must ultimately transition to industry. Without that, there is no future.R. Nagaraj: Before we think of high-technology and/or manufacturing industries, we should consider where the comparative advantage lies. Four-fifth of Bihar's labour force is in agriculture. But despite Bihar having fertile land and irrigation facilities, agricultural productivity is mostly less than the national average. Why is agriculture not picking up? That is the big question. In the 1970s or 80s, a committee set up under the agricultural economist, S.R. Sen, was figuring out how to take the Green Revolution to the Indo-Gangetic belt. It came up with a plan for massive State investments in infrastructure and electrification to ensure that States have abundant water for the cultivation of wheat and rice. Surprisingly, the Green Revolution spread to the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh rather than the Indo-Gangetic belt. We must understand what went wrong. I think it will be both in Bihar's interest and the national interest to get basic wheat, rice, and sugarcane cultivation going. This way, western India will be burdened less; it can conserve more water and move to value-added crops. Manindra Nath Thakur: On the agrarian front, I don't think Bihar should repeat the mistake that Punjab made during the Green Revolution, which produced a water crisis. Although Bihar has abundant water, it may face the same consequences as Punjab if water is overused. Moreover, increasing agricultural production is linked with the heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides, creating a health crisis. Therefore, I don't support the shifting of agriculture to eastern India. Agriculture is not profitable anywhere in the world unless it is heavily supported by the State.R. Nagaraj: Madhya Pradesh was also seen as a backward State. It does not have the same water resources as Bihar, yet the Green Revolution expanded there. Prosperity in the Malwa region is amazing. Therefore, I am sceptical about the idea that agriculture has no potential.

So what do you think are the factors that contributed to Bihar's underdevelopment?

Manindra Nath Thakur: Apart from what I have said, there are also notions that the Centre is not interested in Bihar's growth. The State, I think, is frozen in its transition from feudalism to capitalism. One of the reasons for this is the internal colonisation of the State. Earlier, Bihar supplied raw materials, but due to policies such as freight equalisation, it suffered significantly, and industries didn't develop locally, despite having the advantage of raw material availability. Bihar ultimately lost revenues and its natural advantage. Now, with a supply of labour from Bihar, nobody is interested in developing the State.R. Nagaraj: A commodity where freight equalisation was done and which benefited eastern India was cement. Steel did not accrue the same advantage. Cement has heavy transport costs compared to steel so the freight equalisation policy for it helped eastern India.Furthermore, why Biharis are leaving Bihar has no element of capitalist conspiracy. In fact, when investments in agriculture were made in Bihar, migration to Punjab declined. It is clear that if people have more options at home, they will not move out. Literature often suggests that Bihar has a 'socialist hangover', and that entrepreneurship does not draw confidence.R. Nagaraj: The socialist ideology in Bihar is often equated with caste politics and caste in general — basically, distributing limited resources across various castes. If the focus shifts to productive investment, it will do a lot of good for Bihar. Policy must focus on how to augment production rather than looking at redistributing the limited resources more equitably or in a manner that helps people stay in power. Manindra Nath Thakur: Bihar has never really followed the socialist model. It also failed to understand the logic behind India's shift to capitalism. Bihar is currently at a significant disadvantage. For any structural change, there must be a solid commitment to reinvestment by the Union government. Unless that is done, the transition to capital will not take place. With respect to migration, if there are good working conditions and a decent income, no Bihari would like to migrate. The amount of investment required to help Bihar move out of this 'frozen transition' phase has not been made. It could be linked to general societal politics. One argument, as Shaibal Gupta used to make, relates to the lack of a distinct Bihari identity. Or as Prashant Kishore says, of the concept of Bihari

Would special status be of any help to Bihar?

R. Nagaraj: I am not sure it would help. The bigger question relates to whether it will be utilised productively or not. Bihar lacks the state capacity to use it. Whereas, if you give the same money to Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu, they will grab it and use it better. Being among the poorest states, Bihar gets a considerable amount of resources from the Finance Commission on considerations of its backwardness and to bring greater equality among States. When those are not utilised, the money lapses. Many of these grants are performance-based — meaning the State must raise its own share of resources to access the full amount. This often doesn't happen in Bihar. Manindra Nath Thakur: If a good amount of money is invested, it would certainly be beneficial. However, no change will come unless we make sure that the money we reinvest is not appropriated by a small number of people — elites, politicians, and contractors. If the money is invested properly, it leads to capital formation. But this also requires a kind of social revolution, one that raises public awareness that these funds are not free gifts, but more like loans. People must understand that we need to rebuild and strengthen our society in order to repay that investment. About state capacity - many funding packages include a clause requiring the state to contribute a portion of the investment. Now, suppose you give me ?100 and tell me that I have add to it to utilise the amount. I can't do that as I don't have the money. In a way that amounts to forcing me not to use the money. The special status might be of help — it might remove these conditions and allow us

Durgapur gang rape case: Bengal has secondlowest conviction rate for crimes against women



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's recent remarks amid public outrage over an alleged gang rape in Durgapur have drawn sharp criticism from the Opposition and citizens alike. The incident has once again reignited concerns over women's safety and the lack of accountability in the State. The recent crime, in which the victim is a medical student from Odisha, has occurred barely a year after protests erupted over the rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's R.G. Kar Medical College. Last year, the State government issued a set of guidelines that included a proposal to minimise night duty for women doctors. It was later withdrawn after being flagged before the Supreme Court.

This time, speaking to the media, Ms. Banerjee, after expressing shock over the alleged gang rape, said that private medical colleges must take greater responsibility for their students and that students, particularly girls, should not be allowed to go out at night. She added, "In Bengal, we have zero tolerance for such crimes, and I appeal to the boys and girls who come to study here not to venture out at night." Later, she claimed that her comments had been "deliberately distorted." Despite Ms. Banerjee's stated commitment to not tolerating such crimes, data show limited progress on that front. Data show consistently low conviction rates and high pendency of cases of crimes against women in the State. West Bengal has reported more than 30,000 cases of crimes against women every year since 2018, consistently ranking among the top four States with the highest number of such cases. The chart below shows West Bengal's rank-

ing among all States under multiple crime categories related to crimes against women (2018-2023). Between 2021 and 2023, the State recorded the highest number of cases in the country under the categories of "acid attack" and "attempt to acid attack" on women. The State also ranked second in incidents reported under "attempt to rape," a trend that has remained consistent since 2019. Between 2018 and 2023, West Bengal was also one of the three states to record the highest number of cases under "cruelty by husband or his relatives," following Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.Put together, it is one of the top five States that have recorded the highest number of cases under multiple crime categories related to offences against women between 2018 and 2023, as shown in the chart above. In parallel with such a high caseload, data also show that West Bengal's conviction rate for crimes against women is among the lowest in the country.Between 2017 and 2023, West Bengal's conviction rate for crimes against women has remained abysmally low, averaging around 5%.

The chart below shows conviction rate for crimes against women in West Bengal and its rank among all States. Only in 2022 did it climb to 8.9%, indicating that convictions occur in just a fraction of the cases that reach court.A State-wise analysis of conviction rates in this category shows that West Bengal is among the poorest performers. The State ranked 35th out of 36 in conviction rates for cases of crimes against women in 2023. Consequently, the number of cases of crimes against women that ended in acquittals rose sharply from fewer than 8,000 in previous years to over 19,000 in 2023, the highest among all States that year. The chart below shows the number of cases of crimes against women in West Bengal that ended in acquittal. Moreover, around 3.7 lakh cases of crimes against women were pending trial in West Bengal at the end of 2023, the highest among all States. The number of pending cases has risen by 56% between 2017 and 2023. The chart shows the cases of crimes against women pending trial in West Bengal.Data clearly show that when it comes to crimes against women, West Bengal recorded the lowest conviction rate in the country, the highest number of acquittals, and the largest backlog of pending cases, collectively reflecting weak action against such crimes.

AI content regulation: Mandatory for creators to declare synthetically generated content, say draft IT rules



When the police approached the group and sought to know if they had police permission, the woman identified herself as Anjali, 25, a content creator, and said that they were shooting content for a YouTube channel, the complaint stated. Last month, China too rolled out its Al labeling rules, under which Al-generated content providers must now display clear labels to identify material created by artificial intelligence As artificially generated deepfakes flood social media sites, impersonating prominent politicians and movie stars, the Centre has framed draft rules that would require mandatory Al content labeling on social media platforms such as YouTube and Instagram, with the companies being required to seek a declaration from those posting on these platforms on whether the piece of content they have uploaded is synthetically generated information.

As per draft amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, the IT Ministry will also require platforms that allow for the creation of AI content to ensure that every such information is prominently labelled or embedded with a permanent unique metadata or identifier. In case of visual content, the label should cover at least 10 per cent of the total surface area. In case of audio content, it should cover the initial 10 per cent of the total duration. A deepfake is a video in which a person's face or body has been digitally altered so that they appear to be someone else. It is typically used to spread false information. To be sure, while media has

always been edited in a way to mislead people, the advent of AI has made it a much bigger problem. In the Indian context, the issue first surfaced in 2023, when a deepfake video of actor Rashmika Mandanna entering an elevator went viral on social media. Close on the heels of that incident, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called deepfakes a new "crisis".

In an explanatory note, the IT Ministry said, "Recent incidents of deepfake audio, videos and synthetic media going viral on social platforms have demonstrated the potential of generative AI to create convincing falsehoods depicting individuals in acts or statements they never made. Such content can be weaponised to spread misinformation, damage reputations, manipulate or influence elections, or commit financial fraud." As per the draft amendments, social media platforms would have to require users to declare whether information they are uploading is synthetically generated information and deploy "reasonable and appropriate technical measures," including automated tools or other suitable mechanisms, to verify the accuracy of such declaration. Where such declaration or technical verification confirms that the information is synthetically generated, these platforms must ensure that the same is clearly and prominently displayed with an appropriate label or notice, ndicating that the content is synthetically generated.

If social media platforms fail in this regard, they may lose the legal immunity they enjoy from third-party content. It means the responsibility of such platforms shall extend to taking reasonable and proportionate technical measures to verify the correctness of user declarations. They must ensure that no synthetically generated information is published without such a declaration or label. Last month, China too rolled out its Al labeling rules, under which Al-generated content providers must now display clear labels to identify material created by artificial intelligence. Visible Al symbols are required for chatbots, AI writing, synthetic voices, face swaps, and immersive scene editing. For other Al-based content, hidden tags such as watermarks will suffice. Platforms must also act as monitors — when Al-generated content is detected or suspected, they must alert users and may apply their own labels.

32-year-old had high blood sugar despite being thin, eating clean and exercising: How much do genes really matter?



If both parents have diabetes, their child would have a 100 per cent risk of developing diabetes. If both parents have diabetes, their child would have a 100 per cent risk of developing diabetes. A 32-year-old patient of mine was shattered when he was first diagnosed with diabetes. That's because he had followed the playbook - eating mindfully, watching his weight and regularly exercising. The only factor he couldn't control was his genetics. "My parents and grandparents have diabetes. Is it because of my family history? What more should I do to control my blood sugar?,' he asked. Family history of diabetes plays a vital role. If both parents have diabetes, their child would have a 100 per cent risk of developing diabetes. If the grandparents also have diabetes, then diabetes is inevitable. It does not matter whether you are thin. Genes have a powerful role in how your blood sugars are processed and how effectively your pancreas works. So you need to make an extra effort.

You may be active and thin-built. But the beta cells of the pancreas, which produce insulin, get burnt out early. Some people have a strong genetic predisposition where their pancreas simply cannot produce enough insulin, regardless of their lifestyle. Even at a lean body weight, small amounts of excess abdominal fat can lead to increased insulin resistance.

What if one follows diet and exercise? What else could then be a trigger?

While my 32-year-old patient was following lifestyle routines, he didn't take care of his stress levels. Stress is one of the most overlooked causes of high blood sugar levels. It causes your body to release the hormones named cortisol and adrenaline, which can raise blood sugar levels. Over a period of time, this constant stress response can contribute to insulin resistance and early onset of diabetes. Managing stress is important just like diet or exercise.

Does family history mean you can't avoid diabetes at

Not necessarily. Think this way, your genes are like a gun loaded with bullets but your lifestyle is the trigger which brings out diabetes. Genetics may set the stage, your lifestyle determines when or whether you can develop diabetes. Many people, even though they have a strong family history, can delay the development of diabetes by 10 to 20 years.

How do I control my blood sugar with genetic history?

In the early stage, your diabetes can go into remission. However even if you cannot do so completely, just follow the ABCD technique, which can help you prevent complications. What is this ABCD?A - HbA1c: It is your three-month average blood sugar levels. You must keep it below 7%.B - Blood Pressure: Try to keep your blood pressure within normal limits. High BP and diabetes increase the risk of heart and kidney diseases. C - Cholesterol: Test your cholesterol levels and keep them under control. Managing cholesterol protects your heart and arteries.D - Discipline: Stay disciplined with your diet, stress, sleep and overall lifestyle. Mindful eating practices, regular exercise and stress management are the keys. By combining diet, exercise, consistency, awareness and regular medications, even genetically predisposed individuals can take charge of their health. Diabetes may run in families, but with the right steps, you can either prevent it or control it, so that it does not produce any complications in you. Monitor your sugar levels strictly. Since you can't change your family history, focus on the factors you can control to delay or prevent the onset of diabetes. Have whole foods and add strength training to your routines to build lean mass.

Russian oil and US trade talks: Latest Trump claim frames Delhi's challenge

ONCE again, US President Donald Trump has made a claim that may not square with facts — but is so closely linked to the ongoing diplomatic negotiations between India and US that New Delhi has little option but to tread with caution. Trump claimed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured him Wednesday that India would stop buying Russian oil. The Ministry of External Affairs Thursday denied knowledge of any such conversation and reiterated its stated position on the Russian purchase for which the US had slapped an extra 25% tariff penalty in August. New Delhi's task ahead is cut out even as a trade delegation is engaged in a fresh round of talks to seal a bilateral trade deal.

Trump's public posturing makes it all the more difficult for India to cut back on Russian oil immediately even if it wanted to. Oil, Russia's biggest source of revenue, is a lever that the Trump administration believes it can use to force Kremlin's hand into ending the Ukraine war. New Delhi is the second-largest buyer of its oil after Beijing, and is in the midst of sensitive trade pact negotiations with Washington. New Delhi's line is clear that it will not compromise on its strategic autonomy and will not be dictated to by anyone on whom it should be doing business with, particularly when it comes to Russia—an old and key strategic partner. The government had not issued any directive to Indian refiners on Russian crude, and public sector refiners maintained that their decisions on buying oil from Russia, or anywhere else for that matter, was guided purely by economic and commercial considerations. If India were to stop buving the discounted Russian crude, doing that quickly would be complicated and costly. Trump, too, said as much - that India could not stop buying Russian oil immediately and the process had started. Stopping Russian crude imports isn't as simple as turning off a tap-it's tied to longterm contracts, operational setups, and market adaptability that can't be undone overnight. "He (Modi) has assured me that there will be no oil purchased from Russia...He's not buying his oil from Russia. It's started. You know, he can't do it immediately. It's a little bit of a process, but the process is gonna be over soon," Trump said.

India's Russian oil imports in September declined only slightly compared to August, indicating that US rhetoric has had no telling impact yet on Indian refiners' oil purchases. India-bound crude oil loadings at Russian ports in September were also largely stable at August levels. So far in October, India's Russian oil imports are trending higher than the levels seen over the past three months. India's Russian oil imports in September were 1.60 million barrels per day (bpd), down around 5 per cent from August levels, according to provisional vessel tracking data from global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler. As of October 10, India's Russian oil imports have averaged at 1.81 million bpd. Oil loadings headed for India at Russian ports averaged at 1.52 million bpd, flat on a month-on-month basis. Notably, destinations of sizable volumes of Russian crude loadings in September—over 300,000 bpd—were not known, and much of this oil could make its way to India, according to

Industry sources said the slight dip in volumes of Russian oil imports into India in recent months appears to have been more because of the rise in freight cost and a narrowing of discounts on Russian crude rather than pressure from the US. Despite the slight decline in volumes, Russian oil continues to command a one-third share in India's total oil imports. The Indian government has consistently maintained that the country will buy oil from wherever it gets the best deal, as long as the oil is not under sanctions. There are no sanctions on Russian oil; it is only subject to a price cap imposed by the US and its allies that applies if Western shipping and insurance services are used for transporting the oil. Although there have been no strong signals of any meaningful reduction in oil imports from Russia, there has been a stronger push for diversification of supply from various regions by India's public sector refiners. While there has been some reduction in import of Russian crude by the public sector refiners in recent months, private sector refiners' imports have remained strong.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, Moscow's share in New Delhi's oil imports was less than 2 per cent. With much of the West snubbing Russian crude following the invasion, Russia began offering discounts on its oil to willing buyers. Indian refiners were quick to avail of the opportunity, leading to Russia—earlier a peripheral sup-



plier of oil to India-emerging as India's biggest source of crude with a commanding market share, displacing the traditional West Asian suppliers. And while discounts on Russian crude have narrowed considerably over time, even lower discount levels are lucrative for India, given that the country in the world's third-largest importer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet around 88 per cent of its requirement. Replacing such massive volumes of Russian crude is no mean task. In the eventuality that they are inapproach would be required, which would entail buying a lot more from India's traditional oil suppliers in West Asia like Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, while also increasing imports from other regions-West Africa, North America, and Latin America. According to experts, while Indian refiners can operate without Russian crude from a technical standpoint, the shift would involve major economic and strategic trade-offs. At the very least, India would try and work out a calibrated reduction of oil imports from Russia over an extended period, instead of a complete halt in purchases. West Asian medium-sour crude grades, while closer in quality to Russia's flagship Urals crude, come with higher costs, tighter availability, and logistical challenges, which could make the transition to these barrels commercially painful for Indian refiners, although not prohibitive."A full stop on Russian crude would involve major logistical, political, and economic hurdles. At best, India might slowly scale down imports under pressure, but treating this as a done deal would be premature... Even if there's an intent to reduce imports, it won't happen overnight," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling at Kpler. Forcing India to halt Russian crude imports without a universal embargo also risks intensifying competition for the same pool of non-Russian barrels. While alternatives exist—from the Middle East, Africa, or the US-they come with higher costs, tighter availability, and logistical challenges. A sudden redirection of Indian demand would tighten regional balances and likely push up oil prices, affecting both affordability and refining economics.

New industries, industrial investments fall drastically during Congress rule

Hyderabad: Telangana's once-celebrated industrial growth engine appears to be losing steam, with a sharp fall in both investments and employment generation since the Congress came to power in December 2023. Industrial investments in the State under TG-iPASS decreased by more than half to Rs 13,730 crore in 2024-25, against Rs 28,100 crore in the previous year. Compared to 2022-23, when the BRS was in power, when there were 3,103 new industries and Rs 26.916 crore in investments, with 1.00.966 new jobs created, there were only 1,125 new industries till September in 2025-26, with Rs 6,008 crore in investments and just 27,881 new jobs. In 2024-25 itself, the first full fiscal year under the Congress government, industrial approvals had plummeted to Rs 13,730 crore for 2,049 industries, down from Rs 28,100 crore across 2,659 units in the previous year. In the current fiscal of 2025-26, the State gave approvals for 1,125 industrial units with an investment of Rs.6,008 crore till September end. Job creation too fell steeply, from 84,342 posts in 2023-24 to just 50,311 in 2024-25. In the first half of the current financial year, only 27,881 jobs were created by industries established under TG-iPASS

Can peanut allergies in kids go down if they have powder or puree from six months? Why a new US study has shown results

Can peanut allergy or any food allergy be tamed if babies are introduced to such food groups early on? New research, which followed up on an earlier landmark study that recommended feeding babies peanut products in their early years to prevent allergies later in life, finds that such a change actually works in the real world. Peanut allergies have begun to decline in the US after the recommendation was first made in 2015. It suggested introducing the allergen to infants starting as early as four months. The rate of peanut allergies in toddlers up to three years of age fell by more than 27 per cent after guidance for high-risk kids was first issued in 2015, and by more than 40 per cent after the recommendations were expanded in 2017.

What is peanut allergy?

Peanut allergy is caused when the body's immune system mistakenly identifies proteins in peanuts as foreign invaders and releases chemicals that trigger allergic symptoms. These include hives, respiratory symptoms, breathing difficulties and a sudden drop in blood pressure, sending the body into a shock.

Dr David Hill, an allergist and researcher at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, and author of the study that was published in Paediatrics, analysed electronic paediatric health records to track diagnoses of food allergies in children before, during and after the guidelines were issued. About 60,000 children have avoided peanut allergies since 2015, including 40,000 children who otherwise would have developed them. "For decades, doctors had recommended delaying feeding peanuts and other foods likely to trigger allergies until age three. But the groundbreaking Learning Early About Peanut Allergy, or LEAP, trial in 2015 had shown that introducing peanut products in infancy reduced the future risk of developing food allergies by more than 80 per cent. Later analysis showed that the protection remained in about 70 per cent of kids into their adolescence. This study clears the air around the uncertainty and suitability of introducing peanuts to children in the first year of their lives," says Mukta Vashisht, clinical dietician who worked with the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi.

Are babies born with food allergies?

Food allergies are not congenital, infants are not born with it, according to Vashisht. "A baby's immune system must first be exposed to a food protein for familiarisation. An allergy develops later. However, having a family history



of allergies can increase a baby's risk of developing food allergies. The study works on the premise of early familiarisation with allergenic foods like eggs and peanuts being a key part of the baby's adaptability to food. Their food tolerance goes up, the immune system, which is not yet fully developed, adapts to the food and recognises it as harmless," she says.

When can allergenic foods be introduced to babies?

"Introducing allergenic foods like peanut and egg to babies around six months of age can lower their risk of developing food allergies, provided you work with a paediatrician on the child's general health status and immunity," says Vashisht. Current guidelines from organizations like the American Academy of Paediatrics advise against delaying the introduction of common allergens, as

delaying them may actually increase the risk of allergies. How should an infant be introduced to allergenic food?

Obviously, when it comes to nuts, they should be powdered or pureed in water or breast milk, suggests Vashisht. "Start with 1/4th to 1/2 teaspoon of the mix. For infants at a high risk of allergies, introducing allergenic foods early and regularly, such as two to three times a week, can help build tolerance. The continuity is key here. Grade up gradually and stop if there is a reaction," she says. After feeding, observe the baby for at least 30 minutes for signs of an allergic reaction like hives, swelling or breathing difficulties. Almond milk, she advises, can be given to the baby after a year as it is less allergic than peanuts. "Introduce one new allergenic food at a time and watch for a reaction. Always work with a paediatrician," says Vashisht.

What Delhi AQI is doing to your lungs: Pulmonologists tell you how to breathe easy

During Diwali, the joy of celebration often comes at a hidden cost to our lungs. Crackers release a thick mix of pollutants — fine particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and heavy metals — which together push the Air Quality Index (AQI) beyond safe limits. Regardless of whether it is 400 plus or even 1,000 (as quoted by social media), any air index above 100 becomes hazardous for everyone, not just those with existing respiratory illnesses. Even a single day of exposure to such toxic air can trigger inflammation and oxidative stress (when the body cannot fight free radicals with enough antioxidants) inside the lungs.

How air pollutants damage the lungsWhen we breathe polluted air, microscopic particles bypass the nose and throat and settle deep inside the bronchi and alveoli (air sacs) of the lungs. "The body responds as if fighting an infection — by producing mucus, swelling the airways and activating immune cells. This leads to coughing, throat irritation, burning sensation in the chest, and shortness of breath. For those with asthma, bronchitis, or allergies, symptoms can worsen dramatically," says Dr Nikhil Modi, senior consultant, Respiratory and Critical Care, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, New Delhi. Even healthy individuals may feel fatigue, heaviness in the chest or reduced stamina for a few days. "Repeated exposure to high AQI levels can damage the elastic tissue of the lungs, reduce oxygen absorption,

and increase the long-term risk of chronic bronchitis, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) and cardiovascular disease," adds Dr Modi.Why PM2.5 is most damagingIt has a large surface area and can carry toxins through breath, reaching the end of the respiratory tract, penetrating deep into the lungs and corroding their walls where air exchange happens. "The air sacs fill up with inhaled air and the oxygen from it passes into the blood. Now PM 2.5 also gets absorbed simultaneously and further damages cell walls, triggering inflammation," says Dr Ankit Kumar Sinha, senior consultant and unit head, Pulmonology, Respiratory & Sleep Medicine, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Vaishali. How to rescue the lungs The first step is to limit further exposure, particularly for those with co-morbidities, immune deficiencies, pregnant women and elders. "Stay indoors as much as possible after Diwali when pollution peaks, usually late evening to early morning. Keep windows closed, use air purifiers if available, and wear an N95 mask when stepping out. Avoid jogging or exercising outdoors, as deep breathing during workouts pulls more pollutants into the lungs," says Dr Modi.To help your lungs cleanse naturally, stay well hydrated — water thins mucus, making it easier to cough out trapped particles and eliminating toxins through the body. "Steam inhalation and saline nasal rinses soothe irritated airways and help remove pollutants lodged in the nose and throat.

Shafali Verma: The 'chhorri' from Rohtak who dared to dream — and make a comeback



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

The father of Shafali Verma, the player of the Women's World Cup final, sums up her unforgettable night in an earthy tone. It's quite a comeback story, indeed. Not selected for the tournament, she played domestic cricket in front of untenanted stands, piled on runs, bowled more often than before, and kept training at the nets. And hoped for redemption. When it came — due to an injury to opener Pratika Rawal — Shafali stamped her presence in a historic final against South Africa with both bat (76-ball 87) and ball (two game-turning wickets). Both these performances were her best returns in One-Day Internationals, helping script a 52-run victory at Navi Mumbai's D Y Patil Stadium as India became world champions for the first time.

One person who isn't surprised by the 21-year-old's fierce resolve is her father, Sanjeev. Last year, Sanjeev was admitted at a hospital after a heart attack when Shafali learnt that she had been dropped from the Indian team. She didn't tell him for a week, as she feared for his health."It was a tough time for our family but she would not share with me that she had been dropped from the team," says Sanjeev, speaking to The Indian Express from their home in Haryana's Rohtak a day after the World Cup triumph. "Cricket has been a passion for me as well as her, and I don't know how she hid the news from me."Once he learnt about it, Sanjeev did what he had always done — took Shafali to the nets. "When the doctors gave the go-ahead, I made her practise in a session 10 days after my heart attack, just to show her that all was fine. So that she does not have to worry about me and be stressed about my health," he says. But the World Cup call from the selectors never came. And so father and daughter went hard at work. She had even begun to bowl more in recent times, a fact that

would play a big role in the World Cup final when she snared two vital wickets at a time when it seemed South Africa were on the ascendency in the chase. "When Shafali came in (to the squad), we saw that she was bowling a lot of overs in domestic cricket," skipper Harmanpreet Kaur would say. "So, Sir (coach Amol Muzumdar) and I spoke to her about it, and she said, 'Sir, I'm ready for 10 overs'." The memory of that confidence prompted Harmanpreet to throw the ball to Shafali in the heat of the final. And the rest is "herstory". The father asserts that the confidence to bowl under pressure or bat a bit differently - more solid as compared to the all-out attack of the past - stemmed from Shafali's strong temperament. "It came from Shafali only. Jitney bhi ups-and-lows dekhein hain Shafali ne, usne yahi seekha hai ki comeback usko hi karna padhega. (Through all her highs and lows, she has learnt that only she can make a comeback)," he says. Sanjeev helped by reminding her of all her past achievements. "I would talk about her winning the U-19 World Cup, taking the team to the 2020 T20 World Cup final and scoring the fastest women's Test double hundred. I told her bus apne main, aur Bhagwan main vishwas rakh (just trust in God and yourself). Bus tu taiyar rehna (You be ready)."Shafali Verma with her parents and siblings earlier this year. (Shafali Verma/Instagram) Shafali Verma with her parents and siblings earlier this year.)In the days that followed after Shafali was dropped, in the BCCI One-Day Trophy, she amassed 527 runs at an average of 75.28, at a strike rate of 152.31. It included a knock of 197 in the quarter-final against eventual champions Bengal

She didn't stop there, tallying 414 runs at an average of 82.80 in the Women's Challenger Trophy, and following it up with 306 in this year's Women's Premier League. When she wasn't named in the World Cup squad, her father repeated his words, "Bus tu taiyyar rehna (You stay ready)". "She had come home on Diwali between tournaments and we would talk about how she should not leave her aggressive style of play, which has been her strength since her junior days. I also told her 'shuru ke 2-4 over nikal diye, toh puri innings teri (If you stay for 2-4 overs, the full innings is yours)'. And when the call for the World Cup came, I told her that it was her hard work that had paid off, apart from our prayers," he says. As soon as she got the call for the World Cup, Sanjeev visited the Mansa Devi temple at Dehmi, in Rajasthan. He is now waiting for Shafali's return, so that he can accompany her on another trip there. "We will visit the Mansa Devi temple as well as our guruji, Sant Rajinder Singh ji Maharaj, in Delhi," he says.

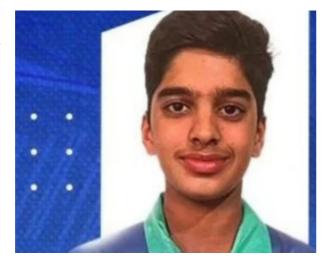
Rahul Dravid's son Anvay included in **Under-19 Challenger Trophy squad**

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Rahul Dravid's younger son Anvay Dravid has been included in Team C for the BCCI's Under-19 Challenger Trophy to be played in Hyderabad from November 5 to 11. Earlier in 2024, Dravid's elder son Samit Dravid was included in India's Under-19 squad for the bilateral home series against Australia which was held in Pondicherry and Chennai. But because of an injury, Samit happened to miss the fixtures. And this time, his younger son has been included in one of the four Challenger Trophy teams. With an eye on the next Under-19 World Cup set to take place in Zimbabwe and Namibia next year, the BCCI Challenger Trophy acts as a precursor to pick the squads for the tournament. In the recently concluded Vinoo Mankad Trophy, Anvay Dravid captained Karnataka to a quarterfinal spot. In the six matches that he played, he scored 220 runs with a high score of an unbeaten 82 to go with another half-century in Dehradun. Karnataka won four of the five matches to finish second in the group stages before losing to ever tual champoions Hyderabad in the quarterfinal.

Anway, top score of 82 came against Himachal Pradesh, when he came in at No 4 and took Karnataka home in the chase of 236. In that knock Anway's knock came off 93 deliveries including 6 boundaries and two sixes. His other half-century (63 off 75) came in their defeat to Chandigarh in the group stage.

While Anway has been picked as a wicket-keeper in Team C which also includes Saurashtra gloveman Yuvraj Gohil. So far in the current Under-19 cycle, there are two other wicketkeepers who are high in the pecking order. Left-



handed batsman Harvansh Singh, also from Saurashtra, started in India's home series against Australia where he made a century in the four-day fixture. Apart from him, there is also Mumbai's Abhigyan Kundu, another aggressive batsman who has emerged as the first choice. Team A is captained by Vihaan Malhotra from Punjab with Kundu being the vice-captain. Vedant Trivedi will lead Team B with Harvansh being his deputy. Aaron George, who captained Hyderabad to Vinoo Mankad Trophy without losing a game, gets to lead Team C which has Punjab's Aaryan Yadav being the vice-captain. Chandrahas Dash, a key performer for Bengal, has been put in charge of Team D.

Yashasvi Jaiswal completes 1000 Ranji Trophy runs with 5th century for Mumbai on IPL home ground



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Yashasvi Jaiswal cracked a blistering third-innings century for Mumbai in his first Ranji Trophy match since January 2025 against Rajasthan on his IPL home ground at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.Resuming from his overnight half-century after Mumbai were flattened by Rajasthan's massive first-innings score of 617 for six declared, Jaiswal stormed to his century on Day 4 off 120 deliveries with 11 boundaries. The hundred was Jaiswal's fifth century for Mumbai in only 21 innings in Ranji Trophy since his debut in 2019. The southpaw has cracked 17 First Class centuries in total, including seven Test hundreds. The 23-year-old also reached 1000 Ranji Trophy runs during the knock, averaging over 57 in 10 matches. Additionally, Jaiswal had also rolled his arm over the previous evening, dismissing Rajasthan's top-scorer, Deepak Hooda, on 248.

Jaiswal had flown back home from Australia where he was part of the Indian ODI team which lost the series 1-2 to Australia. He was benched for all three games. The ongoing Ranji contest is his first match for Mumbai, since his decision at the end of last season, to quit on Mumbai and a subsequent about-turn. Jaiswal is not part of India's T20I team which is currently playing a five-match T20I's series against Australia in coming days. With the South Africa series to be played at home next month, Jaiswal is

looking to get some match practice. The MCA selection committee will meet, after their ongoing Ranji Trophy game, against Chattisgarh. During the recently-concluded home Test series against West Indies, Jaiswal scored his seventh Test hundred at the Arun Jaitley Stadium. He became just the second batsman after South Africa legend Graeme Smith to have scored seven Test hundreds as an opener

'We are a very good team on flat wickets': Brendon McCullum says England struggle to adapt but have 'no excuses' for Ashes 2025



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

England head coach Brendon McCullum wore his candid self when he admitted that his team struggled to acclimatise to challenging overseas conditions and was a "very, very good" team when presented with flat batting wickets. The Bazball philosophy at home over the last three years has hinged largely on this template to outscore visiting teams on flatter wickets, putting oppositions under pressure. However, England are yet to turn those positives into silverware and their cricket in the ODI format has suffered a staggering slump since the last World Cup. England failed to bat out 50 overs in any of the three ODIs recently in New Zealand, suffering a 0-3 clean-sweep. Since the 2023 World Cup, England have lost six of the seven series they have played, four coming away from home.

However, McCullum would not have any excuses for

his team when they set up to face Australia in the highstakes Ashes opener in Perth, starting November 21. "With the prep that we've had with the other Test guys who've been here for a while too, we'll have no excuses come Australia," McCullum was quoted as saying by Fox Sports.McCullum said England struggled to compete and adapt in overseas conditions which presented a bit of seam, swing or turn. Incredible on flat wickets" I think when we're confronted with good, flat wickets, we're a very, very good cricket team," McCullum said. "I think we play a high-octane style of cricket and those conditions suit us. When the wickets have a little bit in them and they're a bit more challenging, whether that be spin or seam or swing, we probably can't quite adapt our tempo quick enough," admitted the former Kiwi captain. "We've got some talented players but, unfortunately, our performances at the moment in this form of the game aren't quite up to scratch and we need to rectify that." "One-day cricket is clearly the area we need to improve, and my comments are more directed at one-day cricket. I think when we do come across the trickier conditions in Australia and Test cricket, we have a pretty good understanding of how we're going to go about it. England have opted against a practice game ahead of the first Test but McCullum maintains that the challenge for the series will be immense. "I'm proper excited," he said. "We're incredibly respectful of the challenge Australia is going to present us and we know how hard that tour is going to be. "It's going to require a team to stay together right throughout, to be as strong as we can to try and block out any of the outside noise," he added.

Kerala Blasters strengthen semis bid with win over SC Delhi



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Kerala Blasters FC produced a dominant display to thrash Sporting Club Delhi 3-0 in their second Super Cup Group D fixture and strengthen their semifinals prospects here on Monday. A brace from Koldo Obieta (17', 23') and Korou Singh Thingujam's acrobatic strike (34') sealed a comfortable victory for the Blasters, who now sit top of the group with six points from two matches. The result also confirmed SC Delhi's elimination from the tournament, while Kerala Blasters strengthened their bid for a semi-final berth.

For the Blasters, it was another statement perfor-

mance as they were disciplined at the back, creative in midfield, and ruthless up front. David Català's men were in complete control from the first whistle. They moved the ball fluidly, pressed high, and stretched SC Delhi's five-man backline. Within minutes, Adrián Luna's corner found Juan Rodríguez, whose header rattled the woodwork, setting the tone for a relentless half. Noah Sadaoui looked lively in attack, while Nihal Sudheesh's pace kept the capital side pinned deep. Kerala Blasters' breakthrough came in the 17th minute, and it was self-inflicted from SC Delhi's perspective. Ayush Adhikari played a loose back pass, which Koldo Obieta intercepted with ease. The Spanish striker made no mistake, rifling home a right-footed strike past Vishal Yadav, who got a hand to it but couldn't keep it out.Barely five minutes later, Obieta doubled his tally and Kerala Blasters' lead. A neat passing sequence saw Korou find Nihal, who slipped the ball into Obieta's path. The forward skipped past the SC Delhi defenders and calmly slotted the ball into the bottom corner to make it 2-0.By now, the Blasters were running riot. The third goal came in the 34th minute, and it was the pick of the bunch. Captain Luna delivered a delightful scooped pass into the box, where Korou Singh met it acrobatically, steering a right-footed finish into the far corner. It was a goal that summed up the Blasters' creative, composed and clinical performance.

'I will always love the club': Trent Alexander Arnold says jeers on return to Anfield won't affect his feelings for Liverpool

GNS News Agency, Nov 4

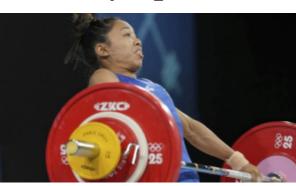
Ahead of his return to Anfield, this time as a Real Madrid player for a Champions League tie, former Liverpool player Trent Alexander Arnold said that no amount of jeers from the home fans will be able to dampen his love for his boyhood club. Alexander Arnold came through Liverpool's youth teams and has won two Premier Leagues, the Champions League and a Club World Cup with the Reds."I think whichever way I am received is the decision of the fans. I will always love the club. I will always be a fan of the club," Alexander Arnold said. "No matter what, my feelings won't change towards Liverpool. I have got memories there that will last me a lifetime and no matter how I am received, that won't change," he added.

The right back was subject to hostile reactions from Anfield in a match vs Arsenal after he had opted not to renew his contract in order to move to Real Madrid earlier this May.Liverpool manager Arne Slot told reporters later that the 27-year-old could count on a warm welcome from him."I can only tell you what kind of reception he gets from me. I only have good memories from him as a player and as a human being. I have memories of working with him that are only positive and memories of watching him when I'm in front of the TV and they are only positive. I can remember multiple great moments of him in a Liverpool shirt,"



the Dutch manager revealed. "Let's see if he is on the pitch and then how the fans react I've no clue but he gets a warm welcome from me, that's for sure," he said. Liverpool have struggled in recent weeks, suffering six defeats in their last eight games in all competitions, but Alexander-Arnold said no one at Real would underestimate the Premier League champions."It will be a very difficult game, the reception and atmosphere will contribute to that, but more so the football for me," he added. "Although they haven't had the results of late, they're still a top footballing team, and nobody here thinks it's going to be an easy game.'

Mirabai Chanu's weight category dropped from Los Angeles Olympics: 'Focus on Asian Games first,' her team says



GNS News Agency, Nov 4

Although the Los Angeles Olympics are not at the front and centre of her plans, Tokyo Games silver medallist Mirabai Chanu will be forced to rejig her approach after the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) dropped her weight category from the 2028 Games. In a brief statement on Monday, the IWF said it had chosen 12 weight classes - six each in men and women - for the LA Games. The lowest category for women now will be 53kg, instead of

49kg at the Paris Olympics. This is the second weight adjustment Mirabai will have to make after the world body recently changed the entry-level weight category for the World Championships to 48kg from 49kg. The latter class has now been restored, and the IWF said the new categories will come into effect from August 1, 2026. Last month, Mirabai won a silver medal at the World Championships in the 48kg category by lifting a total of 199kg (84 in snatch and 115 in clean and jerk). It was her third World Championship medal. Sources in Mirabai's entourage said the weight category change might not immediately impact the lifter, given that her first priority is the Asian Games next year. The Asiad remains unaffected by the Olympic programme, and Mirabai can continue competing in her pet weight category."The Asian Games is the only major event where she hasn't won a medal, so the priority is to stay fit and compete there. After that, depending on how she is feeling physically, we will take a call on whether she will stay on till the 2028 Olympics," the source said. However, it is believed that the weight change at the Olympics could be beneficial for India, as lifters who struggled to maintain their weight to compete in 48/49 kg categories will now have a chance to add muscle mass and challenge in the 53kg

class. Moreover, the current youth world record holder in the 53kg is India's Koyel Bar, who lifted a total of 192kg at the Commonwealth Championships in August. "If we plan well and groom the lifters, we can do well in this category. But this is something we will start considering after the Asian Games, once we have a clear picture for the road ahead," the source said.

Aaron to lead Team C in Challenger Trophy

HYDERABAD: Aaron George, who led Hyderabad to title-triumph in the recent Vinoo Mankad Trophy (under-19) cricket championship, will lead Team C and his teammates Y. Yashveer, Wafi Kachchi, Mohammed Malik and wicketkeeper-batter Alankrit Rapole have been selected to represent different teams in the IDFC First Bank Challenger Trophy (under-19) cricket championship to be held in Hyderabad from November 5 to 11.

Mumbai Police actor Nihal Pillai opens about facing sexual abuse as a child: 'Still remember the smell of that room'



Malayalam actor Nihal Pillai, known for his supporting performances in films like Mumbai Police and Tiyaan, recently opened up about a dark chapter from his childhood. The actor is married to actress Priya Mohan. Nihal runs a YouTube channel named 'Oru Happy Family', dedicated to videos about his family. The actor shared a video titled, 'The Most Traumatic Experience in My Childhood,' where he addressed a couple of instances from his childhood and the trauma that he still carries with him to this day. The actor specified that he is opening up about this experience after hearing of a similar case of child abuse.

The actor talked about the rampant cases of sexual abuse in children below a certain age before confirming, "I decided to speak about this after hearing from someone close to me about what happened to their child. Cases of child sexual abuse have been increasing lately. I, too, went through something similar. I never thought I would ever talk about it publicly. I faced sexual abuse two or three times, and two of those incidents were deeply traumatic." Nihal went into the specifics of these two stories, which happened in his childhood in two different places with two different men around him. The actor opened up about the first incident which happened about the incident which took place near his childhood home, "Near the house where I lived, there was a home where a staff member from a shoe shop stayed. I must have been around eight or nine years old. One of the men from the shop used to call us, saying he would give us football stickers. One day, he said he'd give us more stickers if we came inside.

He also added the bad experience he shared with those boys at the time and its lasting trauma on his psyche. 'There were three of us children. He told us we'd get big stickers if we went in. I can't remember exactly whether he touched our private parts or tried to, but I do remember him calling another boy inside and trying to pull down his shorts. After that, none of us ever went back there. The smell of that room still stays with me."The actor also shared the second incident, which happened during his stay in Kuwait, where he had a minor incident with an Arab national as a child, which luckily he was able to escape at the last moment by some quick thinking on his feet. Nihal also mentions a few ways for adults to deal with such situations if they come across children who have gone through similar conditions. Nihal's most popular film role was opposite actor Prithviraj Sukumaran in Mumbai police in an extended

Two days after welcoming baby boy, Raghav Chaddha shares adorable birthday wish for Parineeti Chopra: 'Bestest mommy in town'

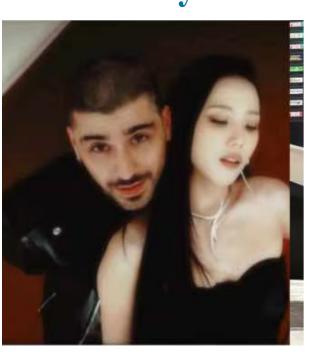


Two days after welcoming their baby boy, Raghav Chadha shared a heartfelt birthday wish for his wife Parineeti Chopra on Instagram. The politician took to the platform to post adorable photos from their maternity shoot, calling Parineeti the "bestest mommy in town." Raghav shared multiple photos with Parineeti. The first photo shows him kissing Parineeti's baby bump, while the second captures him trying to listen to the baby through her bump. The next photo

shows him hyping Parineeti as he poses with her romantically. He captioned the post, "Happy birthday to the newest and the bestest mommy in town ?? What an incredible journey it's been from Girlfriend to Wife to Mother of our little boy ??? @parineetichopra."

Raghav and Parineeti welcomed their baby boy on the occasion of Diwali, on October 20. The couple shared the news on Instagram and wrote, "He's finally here our baby boy. And we literally can't remember life before. Arms full, our hearts fuller. First we had each other, now we have everything...with gratitude Parineeti and Raghav." Soon after, several celebrities flooded the comments section with congratulatory messages. Huma Qureshi and Ananya Panday dropped heart emojis, while Kriti Sanon wrote, "Congratulations ??????."During Parineeti's recent podcast, the couple opened up about romance and love after marriage. Raghav asked during the podcast, "What have you learnt about love post marriage?" Parineeti replied, "Whatever I have learnt about love after marriage is all from you. Raghav is very simple and emotionally balanced, while I am more like a volcano, I erupt every now and then. I lack patience, and I have to express everything I feel. But after marriage, I've learnt that love is patience, respect, and not about being selfish. You've calmed me down without ever lecturing me. When I see how patient you are, I feel guilty about certain things I've done, and it makes me want to be a better person."arineeti also spoke about Raghav's intense care towards her and said, "Raghav's romance is aggressive care. Daant daant ke khayal rakhta hai (He scolds you while taking care of you)." Raghav and

BLACKPINK's Jisoo makes solo debut on Billboard Hot 100 with Zayn Malik's 'Eyes Closed'



BLACKPINK fans are currently rejoicing as band member Jisoo has made her much-awaited solo debut on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. She entered the list with her song "Eyes Closed," a collaboration with Zayn Malik. The track, released on October 10, debuts at No. 72 on

According to Luminate, the song managed to enter the chart thanks to 5.8 million official U.S. streams, 225,000 in radio airplay audience, and 2,000 copies sold through October 16. With Jisoo, the oldest member of BLACKPINK, now featured on the recently released list, all four members of the group have officially charted songs as soloists on the Billboard Hot 100. BLACKPINK has now become the first all-female K-pop group to have all its members reach the Hot 100 individually. Previously, other BLACKPINK members — Jennie, Rosé, and Lisa — have also had their solo songs listed on the Billboard Hot 100. Rosé achieved the highest ranking among the members with her global hit "APT," a collaboration with Bruno Mars, which soared to No. 3 on the Hot 100. Her other charted songs include "On the Ground," which reached No. 70 in 2021, "Toxic Till the End," which peaked at No. 90 in 2024, and "On My Mind," with Alex Warren, which landed at No. 60 in 2025. Lisa and Jennie each have an equal number of six solo entries on the chart. Lisa's songs include "Lalisa" at No. 84 in 2021, "Money" at No. 90 in 2021, "Rockstar" at No. 70 in 2024, "New Woman," featuring Rosalía, at No. 97 in 2024, "Born Again," featuring Doja Cat & Raye, at No. 68 in 2025, and "Priceless," with Maroon 5, at No. 76 in 2025. Jennie's charted songs are "One of the Girls," with The Weeknd & Lily-Rose Depp, at No. 51 in 2024, "Mantra" at No. 98 in 2024, "ExtraL," with Doechii, at No. 75 in 2025, "Handlebars," with Dua Lipa, at No. 80 in 2025, "Like JENNIE" at No. 83 in 2025, and "Love Hangover," with Dominic Fike, at No. 96 in 2025.BLACKPINK's group releases have also made a strong impact on the Billboard charts, including "Pink Venom" at No. 22, their latest track "JUMP" landing at No. 28, and "Ice Cream," with Selena Gomez,

reaching No. 13 in 2020.

leased)? Were there no dharmic people? There were," the lyricist says in the clip. He continues with the state-**Moscow to host Diamond Butterfly Film Award on Nov 24**

Hyderabad: Entries from over 20 countries will be vying for the coveted Diamond Butterfly Film Award being hosted by Moscow on November 24, 2025. According to Consul General of the Russian Federation in Chennai Valerii Khodzhaev, winners will receive cash prizes and the best movie will be rewarded a sum equivalent of US \$1million dollars. The finalists will be presented with a "Diamond Butterfly" statue containing 5,000 diamonds and made by the famous artist Yuri Kuper whose works have been exhibited in the best art galleries of Moscow, Paris, NY, Geneva. This event, being organised by Eurasia Academy of Cinematographic Arts, is already equated by many with the Oscars in terms of its scale and importance and is one of the most anticipated initiatives of the Russian Ministry of Culture and the Russian Culture Foun-

dation aimed at promotion of national cinema as an instrument of traditional values, history and cultural sovereignty, says KhodzhaevThe changing dynamics in the international cinema market with a freshly generated vibrancy in Eurasia creates further opportunities for investment in new joint incentives that can provide a momentum to the Russia-India filmmaking collaboration and coproduction.On India-Russia film industry, Khodzhaev says: "The positive effect of this intercultural infusion is visible in the stronger Russian-Indian bonds which beyond the political matrix transcend people-to-people affinity. The gravitational appeal towards India formed over the years in my country via cinema is inseparably linked to the names of Raj Kapoor, Amitabh Bachchan, Dharmendra, Mithun Chakraborty, Hema Malini. Indian



films maintain their popularity among Russians who continue to follow with keen interest the evolution of Bollywood and the current rise of Tollywood, Mollywood and Kollywood movies.

Karan Johar confesses he lost his virginity at 26, says an emotional line in Ae Dil Hai Mushkil is inspired by his heartbreak



After years of hosting celebrities on Koffee With Karan, filmmaker-producer Karan Johar switched seats and appeared as a guest on Prime Video's new chat show Too Much, hosted by his close friends Kajol and Twinkle Khanna. He was joined by Janhvi Kapoor for an episode that was equal parts hilarious and heartfelt. The fun kicked off when Janhvi challenged Karan to reveal one scandalous truth and make up one lie for them to

guess. With a cheeky grin, Karan said, "I lost my virginity when I was 26 years old, and I have been intimately involved with a member of your family." As Janhvi's eyes widened and the hosts burst into laughter, Karan clarified, "I was late to that party, yes, but the latter is a lie. I have not been intimate with any member of your familythough the thought has crossed my mind a couple of times."Later, Kajol and Twinkle pushed Karan to rank Akshay Kumar, Ajay Devgn, and the Pahariya brothers-Shikhar and Veer—on sex appeal. Janhvi jumped in with a playful compliment, saying, "Can I just say that Shikhar looks great riding a horse. I remember when Shikhar was playing polo and Ranveer was standing with me and he was like, 'He looks great on a horse'. And I was like yeah."Karan, never one to miss a punchline, quipped, "I am trying to unsee Shikhar on this horse and rank them in order: Akshay, Ajay, and then the brothers. They have grown up in front of me-they are my neighbours, they live just below my apartment."The episode also took a poignant turn when Karan opened up about his personal heartbreak and how it inspired a line in his 2016 film Ae Dil Hai Mushkil. He recited the emotional verse: "Jab pyaar mein pyaar na ho, jab dard mein yaar na ho, Jab aansu mein muskaan na ho, jab lafzon mein zubaan na ho, Jab saansein bas yuhi chalein, jab har din mein raat dhale, Jab intezaar sirf waqt ka ho, jab yaad uss kambakht ki ho... Kyun main rahi jab woh hai kisi aur ki manzil? Dhadkano ne saath chhod diya - Ae Dil Hai Mushkil."

'Let Shah Rukh Khan go to bat': How Sachin Tendulkar's suggestion made this ad 90s most iconic, reveals Prahlad Kakkar



While there are some who don't consider ad films to be all that, they are a highly effective medium and a big part of the television-watching experience in India. Ad-film 'guru' Prahlad Kakkar has helmed commercials for the biggest brands while working with the biggest stars. His close association with big actors, sportspersons and people of influence has equipped him with a lot of anecdotes, and he often shares them during interviews. In a recent interaction, Prahlad recalled working on some of his most iconic commercials, including the 1999 Cricket World Cup ad starring Shah Rukh Khan and Sachin Tendulkar.

1999 Indian team, including then captain Mohammad Azharuddin, Ajit Agarkar, Rahul Dravid, and the master blaster Sachin himself. Shah Rukh played a man who just wanted a can of Pepsi. Upon discovering that players have access to the soft drink in their locker room, Shah Rukh dressed up as Sachin and sneaked in. However, his disguise was so perfect that the captain sent him out to bat. He then meets Sachin in the tunnel, where instead of grabbing the bat, Sachin takes the soft drink can and leaves. Recalling the shooting of the ad, Prahlad admitted that Sachin was a shy boy from Mumbai, but he ultimately broke out of his shell. He said that Sachin even started suggesting changes in the script, including a crucial change in the climax. "Sachin was a Marathi Manush (Maharashtrian man) and shy. Later on in his career he got very confident, and he actually suggested things in the script which were very good. Like in that Shah Rukh film, where he dresses up as Sachin and walks into the dressing room to get a can because they were free, the original idea was for Sachin to take the bat and go on the field. But Sachin said, 'Why should I do that? That's not fun. Let me take the Pepsi, go back into the dressing room and let him (Shah Rukh) go to bat. We just went. 'Wow! What a great idea." Shah Rukh has worked with cricketers for other beloved ads as well, such as with Mahendra Singh Dhoni, where they play two brothers who were separated in their childhood. Shah Rukh would go on to become a cricketer, while Dhoni became an

After calling Javed Akhtar 'never original, ugly as f**k', Lucky Ali fires a fresh salvo disguised as apology: 'Monsters may have feelings too'

Singer Lucky Ali has taken sharp aim at veteran lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar after a resurfaced video of latter making provocative remarks about religious identity stirred controversy online. The clip, which began circulating widely on social media this week, features Javed Akhtar urging Hindus "not to become like Muslims." The origin or date of the video remains unclear, though it appears to be from a public event where he was discussing themes of free speech and democracy. Reacting to the video on X (formerly Twitter), Lucky Ali didn't hold back. "Don't become like Javed Akhtar, never original and ugly as f***," he wrote in a scathing post. In another post that ostensibly read like an apology, he added, what I meant was that arrogance is ugly.... it was a mistaken communique' on my part.... monsters may have feelings too and I apologise if I hurt anyones monstrosity......"The video shows Javed Akhtar reflecting on a now-iconic scene from the 1975 Bollywood classic Sholay, which he co-wrote with Salim Khan. "In Sholay, there was a scene where Dharmendra hides behind Shiv ji's murti and speaks, and Hema Malini (thinks) Shiv ji is talking to her. Is it possible to have a scene like that today? No, I will not write a scene (like this today). Were there no Hindus in 1975 (when Sholay rement that has drawn the most fire: "As a matter of fact, I'm on record, I'm not saying it right here. Raju Hirani and I were in Pune in front of a big audience and I said, 'Don't become like Muslims. Make them like yourself. You are becoming like Muslims.' It's a tragedy." Javed Akhtar, who has frequently spoken out against both Hindu and Muslim hardliners, has often found himself caught in the crosshairs of ideological clashes. Just last month, a planned cultural event in Kolkata featuring him as chief guest was postponed after Muslim organization Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind objected to his participation. In a past interview with NDTV, Javed Akhtar addressed the polar-

ized reactions he often receives from both communities. Some of them call me a jihadi and that I should migrate to Pakistan. Some say I'm a kaafir and I will 100% go to hell and I should change my name, that I don't have the right to have a Muslim-sounding name," he said. "In the last 20-25 years, Mumbai Police has offered me protection at least four times on their own... Three out of four times it was because of some Muslim organisations or people, and one time from the other side. This kind of reaction is nothing new for me." Lucky Ali, too, has had his share of controversy. In 2023, he faced criticism for claiming that the Sanskrit word "Brahman" was derived from "Abram," a claim widely dismissed by scholars and practitioners alike. He later deleted the post and issued a public apology.

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