

Chiranjeevi leads ‘Run for Unity’ in Hyderabad, urges awareness on deepfakes

Hyderabad: Film actor K Chiranjeevi led the ‘Run for Unity’ organized by the Hyderabad Police at People’s Plaza in PVNR Marg on Friday, as part of the nationwide celebrations marking the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India and architect of national integration.The event, held on the occasion of ‘Rashtriya Ekta Diwas’ (National Unity Day), drew over 5,000 enthusiastic participants, including citizens, youth, and police personnel. Parallel runs were also organized across all seven zones under the city police limits to reaffirm the nation’s commitment to unity, integrity, and security.Speaking at the event, Chiranjeevi hailed Sardar Patel as “a great blessing who unified 560 princely states into one nation,” calling his vision and resolve an inspiration for the present generation.

PM Modi recalls Sardar Patel's contribution to uniting over 500 princely states on his 150th birth...



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

New Delhi: Recalling Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's contribution to uniting over 500 princely states on his 150th birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that the vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' was paramount for the Iron Man of India.Addressing the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations at the 'Statue of Unity' in Ekta Nagar, Gujarat, PM Modi said, "We are witnessing a historic moment and feeling the power of determination of a 'Naye Bharat' (New India). The performances we have seen today reflect our

In my personal opinion, RSS should be banned, says Mallikarjun Kharge

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday (October 31, 2025) hit back at Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he attacked the party on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, and cited Patel's remarks criticising the RSS following the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948.Noting that today is the birth anniversary of Patel and death anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the Congress president said these two great leaders — “iron man” and “iron lady” — made a big contribution to the country and strived to maintain unity.

This is the history of the Congress and its contribution, Mr. Kharge said at a press conference here.Mr. Kharge cited a letter written by Patel to Syama Prasad Mookerjee in which the then-Home Minister said the RSS had created an atmosphere that led to the tragedy of Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.They always tried to portray a rift between India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Patel when they had great ties and both had praised each other, Mr. Kharge said, adding that Nehru hailed Patel for shaping India's unity and Patel called Nehru an ideal for the country.Responding to a question on banning RSS, Mr.

glorious past, the hard work and courage of the present, and a glimpse of the bright future ahead."Marking the occasion, the Prime Minister released a special commemorative coin and postage stamp in tribute to Sardar Patel.

"I congratulate all 140 crore citizens of our country. Sardar Patel believed that instead of waiting for history to happen, we must work hard to create it. His life is a testament to this principle. After Independence, Sardar Patel united more than 500 princely states and turned the dream of a united India into reality. For him, Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat was always the top priority," PM Modi added.Calling Patel's birth anniversary a "Maha Parv of National Unity", PM Modi compared its significance to Independence Day and Republic Day."Just as we celebrate August 15 and January 26 with pride, October 31 too has become a day of inspiration. Today, crores of people across the nation have taken an oath of unity - a pledge to strengthen the bonds that hold our country together," he added.Earlier in the day, PM Modi took an oath to protect the nation's unity and integrity.Addressing the gathering, he said, "I take this oath to protect the unity and integrity of our country and dedicate myself to this cause."He further added, "I take this pledge with the spirit of national unity and commit myself to maintaining internal security."The Ekta Shapath, or unity pledge, is a solemn resolve to dedicate oneself to preserving the unity, integrity, and security of India.



Kharge said, "It is my personal opinion, it should be done" as most of the issues and law and order problems are arising because of the BJP-RSS.Mr. Kharge's remarks came after Mr. Modi said Sardar Patel wanted to unite the entire Kashmir, just as he did with other princely states, into India, but then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru did not allow it to happen.Mr. Modi also said the Congress inherited the slave mentality from the British who ruled India. The country is removing every trace of colonial mindset, he added.

Panic as fire breaks out at Begumpet apartment; child rescued safely

Hyderabad: Panic gripped in the residents after a fire broke out at Shyam Lal Building in Begumpet on Thursday night.The blaze reportedly started suddenly in the balcony of an apartment, where clothes were left to dry.Smoke and flames spread quickly, causing alarm among the occupants. A child who was reportedly present at the spot was rescued safely by local residents.Residents acted swiftly and managed to douse the flames using water before it could spread further.Fire officials are investigating the cause of the incident.

India storm into final after record chase, Jemimah plays messiah with unbeated 127 against Australia



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Navi Mumbai: A diminutive Jemimah Rodrigues stood tall on the biggest stage with the innings of her life as her unbeaten 127 off 134 balls sent India into their third Women's ODI World Cup final, halting the juggernaut of seven-time champions Australia with a record chase here on Thursday.Jemimah's arduous knock for only her third century and first in a World Cup was built along with a robust 167-run stand for the third wicket with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (89 from 88 balls, 10x4s, 2x6s), which helped India to end the reigning champions Australia's 15-match unbeaten run in the competition across two editions.Chasing a mammoth 339, Jemimah anchored the spirited response with an incredible 127 not out from 134 balls including 14 fours, as India scored 341/5 in 48.3 overs to win with five wickets and nine balls to spare. It was the highest ever chase in Women's ODIs.Having lost knock-out games from winning posi-

tions several times in the past, India finally found a way to get over the line on this occasion. No wonder tears of sheer joy rolled down the eyes of skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and Rodrigues who did have all those heartbreaks at the back of their mind during the run chase.A first time winner of the tournament is assured with India meeting South Africa here on Sunday.In the middle as early as in the second over, Jemimah built her innings with utmost resolve of keeping it simple, finding boundaries regularly and not taking any risks.Towards the end, an exhausted Jemimah kept slumping on her haunches to preserve whatever little energy she was left with, and thrived on cheers of a packed house here at the DY Patil Stadium to take the hosts one step closer to that elusive title.Skipper Harmanpreet would have never imagined walking out to bat in front of a shellshocked home crowd which was reeling in silence when the team's best batter Smriti Mandhana fell in the 10th over.

At 59 for two inside the powerplay with their best batter (Mandhana) back in the hut, that was that moment where this team had botched up from winning positions not too long ago.But eventually, they did not. Harmanpreet (89 off 88) and Jemimah batted with purpose and at no stage of their third-wicket association did they look under stress with the asking rate.A lightning quick outfield aided to their benefit and once well-settled, Harmanpreet launched one over cover off McGrath and another off Gardner. The dew also arrived late in the evening, making batting easier.A pivotal moment arrived in the 33rd over when Jemimah was gifted a lifeline by the Australian captain Alyssa Healy when she was on 82, spilling a sitter when the batter got a leading edge off King while trying to sweep. Later on, she was given another lifeline on 106.

Telangana CM Conducts Aerial Survey Following Cyclone Mondha Devastation

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy undertook an aerial survey of the Husnabad constituency, assessing the damage caused by Cyclone Mondha. Accompanied by Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, the CM surveyed the affected regions from a helicopter before visiting flood-hit areas in Hanumakonda, where he inspected inundated streets and damaged drainage systems in Sammayyanagar.The combined Warangal district has suffered significant devastation due to heavy rains and floods resulting from the cyclone, with lakhs of acres of farmland submerged and thousands of homes rendered uninhabitable. During the visit, CM Reddy met with victims who had lost everything and listened to their accounts of the disaster. He assured them that the government would extend all possible support in their time of need.In addition to the Chief Minister, the delegation included Minis-



ters Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Konda Surekha, as well as several MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and high-ranking officials, all working together to assess and address the ongoing crisis.

Telangana Speaker seeks two-month extension from SC on BRS MLAs' disqualification cases



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Hyderabad: Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar has sought two months extension of time from the Supreme Court on the disqualification cases of 10 Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) MLAs, who are being charged of defecting to Congress party after the assembly elections in 2023.After the BRS approached the Supreme Court appealing disqualification of the defected MLAs, the apex court on July 31 had asked the Speaker to act on the disqualification of MLAs within three months. Accordingly, the three months deadline elapsed on October 31.

The Speaker was to resume hearing on Friday but had

sought two months extension on the disqualification cases hearing.As per the directions of the apex court, the Speaker had issued notices to the 10 BRS defected MLAs. Of them, eight had submitted their affidavits and two, including Khairthabad MLA Danam Nagender and Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari had sought additional time to respond.The hearing and cross examination of four MLAs, including Bandla Krishnamohan Reddy (Jogulamba Gadwal), Gudem Mahipal Reddy (Patancheru), Kale Yadaiah (Chevella) and T Prakash Goud (Rajendranagar) commenced on September 29.During the hearing and cross examination, the four MLAs claimed they were technically associated with the BRS. They claimed that they had met Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to seek support in the development of their respective constituencies.The hearing and cross examination of six other MLAs, including Danam Nagender, Kadiyam Srihari, Banswada MLA Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Serilingampally MLA A Gandhi, Bhadrachalam MLA T Venkat Rao and Jagityala MLA Dr Sanjay, is still pending and there is no update on the same.On October 23 at a party programme in Banswada, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy had openly admitted that he had won the elections on the BRS party symbol. "Technically, I will abide by the Speaker's decision," Srinivas Reddy had said.Under these circumstances, the Speaker sought two months more time from the Supreme Court on the case.

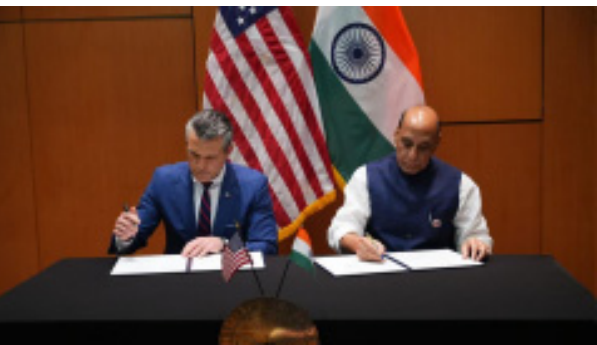
KTR accuses Congress of ‘looting poor, protecting rich’, urges voters to back BRS in Jubilee Hills

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on the Congress government, accusing it of looting the poor and safeguarding the rich. He said the ruling party corrupted Telangana in just two years and betrayed people with false promises and failed governance.Addressing a gathering of several AIMIM leaders who were inducted into the BRS at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Rama Rao said the Congress came to power by making tall promises, from distributing one tola gold, scooters for women, and Rs 4,000 pensions for the elderly, to Rs 2,500 monthly aid for women, but failed to deliver a single

one. "They did not give gold or rice. They are looting the poor and protecting the rich," he said.He urged voters in Jubilee Hills to act wisely and punish the Congress by electing BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha with a huge majority. He asserted that the BRS victory would send a clear message that people would not be deceived by money or empty promises.The BRS working president ridiculed the Congress campaign tactics to induce voters, stating that the ruling party was trying to buy votes. He suggested that voters take the money and demand for the remaining balance of the promises made to them by the Congress during the 2023 elections."

India, U.S. ink 10-year defence framework pact as Hegseth meets Rajnath Singh



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

India and the United States on Friday inked a 10-year defence framework agreement, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh describing it as a "signal" of growing strategic convergence between the two nations.The pact was sealed at a meeting in Kuala Lumpur between Mr. Singh and his American counterpart Peter Hegseth.The firming up of the pact came amid efforts by the two sides to repair ties that came under severe strain following Washington's slapping of 50% tariffs on Indian goods."We signed the 10 years 'Framework for the US-India Major Defence Partner-

ship'. This will usher in a new era in our already strong defence partnership," Mr. Singh said on X, formerly Twitter, after talks with Mr. Hegseth. I just met with @rajnathsingh to sign a 10-year U.S.-India Defense Framework. This advances our defense partnership, a cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence.The Defence Minister said the pact will provide policy direction in the entire spectrum of the India-U.S. defence relationship."It is a signal of our growing strategic convergence and will herald a new decade of partnership," he said."Defence will remain as a major pillar of our bilateral relations. Our partnership is critical for ensuring a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific region," Mr. Singh added.Mr. Hegseth said the agreement "advances our defence partnership, a cornerstone for regional stability and deterrence." "We're enhancing our coordination, info sharing, and tech cooperation. Our defense ties have never been stronger," he said. Had a fruitful meeting with my US counterpart @SecWar Peter Hegseth in Kuala Lumpur. We signed the 10 years 'Framework for the US-India Major Defence Partnership'. This will usher in a new era in our already strong defence partnership.Mr. Hegseth and Mr. Singh are in Kuala Lumpur to attend a meeting of a grouping of nations comprising ASEAN member states and some of its dialogue partners.

Azharuddin Sworn in as Telangana Minister

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Hyderabad - In a significant political event, Azharuddin has officially taken the oath of office as a minister in the Telangana government. The ceremony was conducted by Governor Jishnu Dev Verma, with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and other ministers in attendance.Born on 8 February 1963 in Hyderabad, Azharuddin received his education at All Saints High School in Abids before pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce degree at Nizam College. He was inspired by his uncle, Zainulabuddin, to pursue a career in cricket. Making his international debut in 1984, Azharuddin quickly garnered attention, scoring centuries in his first three Test matches and establishing himself as a prominent cricketer. Throughout his 16-year career, he played 99 Tests and 334 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and captained the



Indian cricket team from 1989.Following his retirement from cricket, Azharuddin ventured into politics, joining the Congress Party on 19 February 2009.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Netanyahu, the Gaza ceasefire

When the U.S.-brokered ceasefire took effect in Gaza on October 10, 2025, a big question that loomed over all parties was whether Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who accepted the truce under pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump, would honour his commitments once the hostages were released. Barely three weeks later, Mr. Netanyahu, who had vowed to destroy Hamas, found a convenient pretext to resume strikes. He accused Hamas of violating the ceasefire, and claimed that the remains returned by the group were the body parts of a hostage already retrieved. Several hostages are believed to have been buried under the rubble, while Gaza's officials and Egyptian excavators continue struggling to locate and identify bodies of captives. On Tuesday, Israel said militants fired anti-tank missiles at soldiers in Rafah, southern Gaza, killing one soldier — Hamas has denied any involvement. Mr. Netanyahu ordered retaliatory strikes, killing 104 Palestinians overnight, including 46 children and 20 women. After the assault, Israel announced that the ceasefire offered a respite to the Palestinians from daily Israeli bombardments and allowed the release of hostages and Palestinian prisoners, the absence of any credible enforcement mechanism makes it extremely fragile. Israeli troops still control roughly 55% of Gaza's territory. It would be unrealistic to expect that the Palestinians, who were bombed and displaced repeatedly over 24 months, would quietly accept the Israeli military occupation. Hamas has enforced its control in the rest of Gaza. Within Israel, Mr. Netanyahu's far-right coalition allies want the war to continue and Gaza ethnically cleansed of Palestinians. Despite the deep mistrust, all sides agreed to the ceasefire largely under U.S. pressure — Hamas needed a reprieve and Israel wanted its hostages back.

Essay writing competitions across the country to encourage students on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary:



- Rajya Sabha member Bhagwat Karad's instructions to district collectors in video conference "Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's role..By encouraging youth in nation building, programs will be organized in the districts in phases from 31st of this month to 25th November for students with the aim of Vikasit Bharat by 2047.. Padayatras.. Unity March.. Essay writing competitions... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao "“(Mandu Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. October 31):- In order to promote national unity and patriotism among the people on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary, the Central Youth MP and Rajya Sabha member Bhagwat Karad said that the "Sardar@ 150 Unity March" will be organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Sports in collaboration with My Bharat and NSS. He spoke at a video conference organized with district officials and media representatives from the video conference hall on Thursday as part of the implementation of the Sardar @ 150 Unity March program. He said that as part of the Sardar @ 150 Unity March program, the program is being organized with the aim of promoting national integration, patriotism, especially the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in unifying the nation, and encouraging the youth in nation building with the aim of Vikasit Bharat by 2047. "As part of this, programs will be organized in phases in the districts from last month's 31st to November 25th.

He asked the officials to organize a 3-day padayatra at the district level during the Sardar @ 150 Unity March, ensure that each padayatra is 8 to 10 kilometers, and ensure that at least 500 youth and students participate in this padayatra. As part of the Sardar @ 150 Unity March, Vallabhbhai Patel said that core committees have been formed at the district level under the chairmanship of the District Collector with officials, and coordination committees have been formed with officials, District Youth Service Officer, other officials and representatives. Speaking on this occasion, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao said that as part of the Sardar @ 150 Unity March programs, the youth will be informed about the life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the district level, and debates and essay writing will be conducted for college and school students. He informed that a national level Maha Aikita Padayatra will be organized on November 26.

This program will start from Karamsad (Gujarat), the birthplace of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and will cover 152 km. and end at the Statue of Unity. These are 5 5 5 My Bharatportal (<https://mybharat.gov.in/>) Essay writing competitions, quiz competitions, etc. Competitions are organized. Young men and women should participate in the competitions online. They want to prepare a route map district-wise. A padayatra will be organized in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on November 10th, and he asked the district administration to take appropriate steps in this regard. "Local body additional collector Bhaskar Rao told media representatives on Thursday that as per the orders of MP and Rajya Sabha member Bhagwat Karad and the central government, programs will be organized in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on the 10th of next month under the auspices of the district collector to make the Sardar 150 Unit March program a success." District Youth Officer Ganta Rajesh, District Youth Sports Development Officer Dhananja Neyulu, Intermediate Education Officer Ramani, District Public Relations Officer Arundhati and others participated in this program.

Indira Gandhi Death Anniversary Celebrated Grandly under the Leadership of Uppal Constituency Party In-Charge Parameshwar Reddy

"VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 31 (Indian Chronicle):""The death anniversary of the late former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was observed with great reverence and grandeur in Uppal. The event was held on Friday at the Indira Gandhi statue near the Survey of India, Uppal, under the leadership of Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-Charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy."On this occasion, Parameshwar Reddy paid rich tributes to Indira Gandhi, recalling her remarkable services and sacrifices for the nation."Senior Congress leaders Tafeeq, Kandi Aggi Reddy, Boppanapalli Sudhakar Reddy, Bazaru Jagannath Goud, Telakala Mohan Reddy, Lukus, Eega Anjayya, Kompalli Balaraj, Akiti Agam Reddy, Jaleel Pasha, along with Habsiguda and Ramanthapur Division Presidents Rafeeq and Vijay Kumar, Block Mahila President Amreshwari, Tummala Devi Reddy, Vallapu Srikanth Yadav, Garika Sudhakar, Vittal Naik, Khaja Bhai, Pyat Murali Mudiraj, Bokka Suresh, Bottu Rajesh, Srinivas Reddy, Sunku Shekhar Reddy, Alugula Anil, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Manda Murali Krishna Reddy, Srihari, Pujari Hanumantu, Mashetty Raghavendra, Suman Krishna Reddy, Kumar, Janagama Ramakrishna, Naveen Yadav, Bhaskar Reddy, Sudhakar, David, Bodige Mallesh, Tummala Rajender Reddy, Anwar Pasha, Afzal Bhai, Rajanna, Raji Reddy, Sandeep, Bhaskar, Saga Sridhar, Nageshwar Rao, Sudhakar, Muthyala Babu, Aleem, Mittu, Nagamallayya, Kasim, Sandhya Rani, Gayatri, Shobha, Sattanna, Bhaskar, Shaga Sridhar, Kashamalla Shankar, Ashok, Chintu, Prashanth Reddy, Vasu Naik, Chintakindi Srinivas, Suresh Yadav, M.B. Raghavendra Prasad, Ajezuddin, Sai Kumar, Baburao, Sak Kiran, Nandan Raj, Mahender, Shankar, Aslam, Mukhtar Subba Reddy, Rajender Reddy, Kumar, Radhakrishna, Kiran, Shankar Toorpati Jangaiah, Jagadish, Shrvan Kumar, Tail Sirinu, Balaji Ramu Goud, Pallo Ramesh, Rama Goud, Shekhar Pittala, Sailu, Geetha, Vijaya, Shobha, Bandari Jyothi, Jangaiah, Shravan, Jagadish, Sonu, Kiran, Sailu, Ram Goud, Surender,



Shekhar, Tunga Tirupati, Santosh Reddy, Kranthi Kishore, Ravinder Reddy, and several Division Youth Congress, NSUI, Mahila Congress, SC Cell, BC Cell leaders and party workers participated actively in the program."The ceremony reflected the Congress Party's deep respect for Indira Gandhi's legacy and her dedication to the nation's progress.

Awareness Programme on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Held at Uppal Government Degree College“



"VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 31 (Indian Chronicle):""On the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary, an awareness programme on vigilance and anti-corruption was organized at Uppal Government Degree College under the joint aegis of the National Service Scheme (NSS), Department of Political Science, and the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN). The programme was conducted as part of the Vigilance Awareness Week being observed across the country with the theme "Vigilance – A Shared Responsibility." College Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar, who presided over the event, urged the youth to take the lead in eradicating corruption and recalled the exemplary services of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Speaking on the occasion, senior scientist Dr. P. Suryanarayana said that corruption is a major obstacle to the nation's economic, political, and social progress. He emphasized the need for collective efforts from the government, citizens, and the private sector to eliminate corruption."NSS Programme Officer Jalda Vishwanath Kumar administered the anti-corruption pledge to students. Senior scientists from the National Institute of Nutrition's Extension and Training Division — Dr. P. Suryanarayana, Dr. M. Maheshwar, Dr. Sylvia Fernandez, and technical officers Kumari Swamalakshmi, Dr. Vahini, Atul Kumar, and Kumari Vibhashree — presented short skits promoting

awareness on vigilance and integrity."Various competitions, including quiz, essay writing, and slogan writing on the themes of corruption and the Central Vigilance Commission, were conducted for students, and prizes were awarded to the winners.Vice Principal Dr. A. Ravi Prasad, NSS Programme Officer J. Vishwanath Kumar, Political Science faculty members P. Vijay Kumar, Dr. N. Rajasree, Dr. G. Tirupathayya, K. Geetha, Dr. S. Yamuna Rani, Dr. V. Srinivasa Rao, Dr. R. Chandrasagar, Dr. P. Venkateswarlu, M. Sravanthi, and L. Anusha also participated in the programme.

Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sudheer Babu Participates in 'Ekta Run' at Uppal

Hyderabad:On the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, the Rachakonda Commissionerate Police organized a Run for Unity, which was flagged off by Rachakonda Police Commissioner Sudheer Babu, noted film lyricist Anantha Sriram,



stated that the Run for Unity symbolizes the message that all citizens of India stand united.Senior officers of Rachakonda Police, including DCP Malkajigiri Padmaja and DCP Crimes Aravind Babu, along with several others, took

People should be vigilant and not cross streams until the flood subsides: Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao“



"(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..October 31):- District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that people should be vigilant and not cross streams until the flood subsides. On Thursday, the District Collector inspected the flood situation at Rudravelli in Bibinagar mandal. Due to the incessant rains for the past two days, the flood is flowing rapidly at Rudravelli and Sangem in the district. He said that due to the flood, traffic has been stopped between Rudravelli, Juluru, and Bollepalli-Sangem villages until the flood subsides. He said that no passenger or motorist should dare to cross the flood stream and put their lives at risk. He said that people should not go to take photos or go fishing. He said that all the revenue, police, Panchayat Raj and medical staff in the district are also alert and will provide services to the people. He also advised the people to drink only boiled and filtered water after the rains subside. He said that this can prevent the spread of diseases and keep them healthy. He told the concerned officials to put oil lamps in places where rainwater stagnates. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Eligible unemployed persons should apply for setting up Meeseva Kendras:- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao

"“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle... October 31):- As the District Meeseva Committee has decided to set up new Meeseva Kendras in the villages shown below in Addagudur, Atmakur (M) and Motkur mandals of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district as per the existing rules, interested candidates should apply, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said in a statement. 1. Addagudur: Addagudur village “2. Atmakur (M): Atmakur village“3. Motkur: The qualifications for setting up Meeseva Kendras in Motkur village are as follows. Good computer knowledge, minimum educational qualifications (degree and above qualifications). Age: 21 years to 44 years. Those between the ages of 21 years and 44 years should have adequate capital to run the centers. Police clearance certificate. "Candidates will be selected after conducting a written test/oral test to run these service centers. The specific application form can be obtained from the official website of the district <https://yadadri.telangana.gov.in/> . Complete details along with relevant supporting documents can be submitted to the Collector's office in the "In-ward and Out-ward" section by 07.11.2025. Contact number for this matter: 9121147135"Starting date of receipt of applications: 03.11.2025. "Last date for receipt of applications: 07.11.2025." (Only during office working days) said District Collector Hanumantha Rao.

Bhagavad Gita and Hanuman Chalisa books in Braille script launched:- State Governor Jishnu Dev Varma “



"(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle...October 31):- Bhagavad Gita and Hanuman Chalisa books in Braille script were launched under the auspices of Veda Bharati Organization in Pilayipalli village of Pochampally mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. State Governor Jishnu Dev Varma, District Collector Hanumantha Rao, DCP Akanksha Yadav, Choutuppal Revenue Divisional Officer Sekhar Reddy, concerned officials participated in the program.

Support BJP Candidate Lankala Deepak Reddy in Jubilee Hills: Gopal Goud Pothagani“



"VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 31 (Indian Chronicle):""In the wake of the Jubilee Hills by-election, a door-to-door campaign was held in Booth No. 314 under the Borabanda division. Former MLAs Dharmarao, Ramantapur Corporator Sriyani Venkata Rao, and Booth Incharge & Medchal Urban District BJP Official Spokesperson Pothagani Gopal Goud attended as chief guests.Borabanda Division President Venkatesh, Manjulavani, Kalavathi, Lavanya, Geetha, Lakshmi, Booth President Abhishek Naik, and several BJP division leaders and activists also participated in the event.Speaking on the occasion, Pothagani Gopal Goud said that the victory of BJP candidate Lankala Deepak Reddy is certain. He stated that the campaign is receiving an overwhelming response from the public and appealed to everyone to ensure Lankala Deepak Reddy's victory with a huge majority.

Rachakonda Commissioner Sudheer Babu Participates in ‘Ekta Run’ at Uppal



“VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 31 (Indian Chronicle):““On the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), the Rachakonda Commissionerate Po-

lice organized a “Run for Unity” event. Rachakonda Commissioner Sudheer Babu, film lyricist Ananta Sriram, Anvitha Reddy (who climbed Mount Everest), and athlete Kalpana Reddy flagged off the run on Friday morning. The 2K run was held from Uppal Ring Road to Uppal Cricket Stadium. The event was organized to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Officials stated that the Run for Unity symbolizes that all citizens of India stand together in harmony. “They also highlighted that after India’s independence, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a pivotal role in uniting 565 princely states into one nation, thereby laying the foundation for a united India.” Senior officers from the Rachakonda Police, including DCP Malkajgiri Padmaja (IPS) and DCP Crimes Aravind Babu, also participated in the event.

Janhavi Shankar Celebrates “Amma Paata” Crossing 100 Million Views — Grand Success Meet Held in Hyderabad*

Hyderabad; In a heartfelt celebration of independent music and motherhood, singer Janhavi Shankar hosted a Grand Success Meet in Hyderabad to mark her soulful song “Amma Paata” crossing 100 million views on YouTube. The event, held at Srikanth Shooting House, Film Nagar, brought together influencers, media representatives, and well-wishers, all joining to celebrate Janhavi’s musical milestone.

The Guest of Honour, actress Swetaa Varma, graced the event and congratulated Janhavi on the overwhelming success of Amma Paata, calling it “a song that touches the soul of every listener and reminds us of the purest bond — a mother’s love.” Expressing her gratitude, Janhavi Shankar shared, “Amma Paata is not just a song — it’s a piece of my heart dedicated to every mother. Reaching 100 million views is not my success alone; it belongs to every listener who felt their mother’s love through this melody.” The event featured a musical showcase, heartfelt interactions, and a visual journey of Amma Paata’s rise — from its humble



release during the lockdown to becoming one of South India’s most loved independent songs. Several social media creators, admirers, and fans joined Janhavi in celebrating this milestone, making the evening one of music, emotion, and gratitude.

Workshop and Hands-on Training on “Mutual Fund. Government Degree College, Hussaini Alam,



Hyderabad: The Department of Commerce and Computer Applications, Government Degree College, Hussaini Alam, organized a Workshop and Hands-on Training on “Mutual Funds and Capital Markets” on 30th October 2022. The program aimed to enhance students’ financial literacy

and provide practical exposure to various investment avenues. The event commenced with the opening remarks by Vice Principal, Dr. Mohd Ghouse, who highlighted the importance of financial awareness among students. The workshop was led by Head of the Department, Dr. P. Manjula, with the active support of faculty members — Dr. Anitha Monga, Prof. Prasanna Khadkikar, K. Aruna, Zehra Fatima, Dr. Rayees Fatima, Qudsiya Noreen, Syed Younus, Arshiya Fatima, Durga Bhavani, Shanthi, Juveriya Begum, and Gazala Unissa. The first session was conducted by Mr. Varun H. Upadhyaya, NISM & AMFI Certified, COO of AGS Group, who provided valuable insights into Mutual Funds, explaining their types, benefits, and investment strategies. He emphasized the role of Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) as an effective approach to long-term wealth creation. The second session, led by Mr. Natraj, AMFI Certified, focused on Capital Markets. He explained the functioning of stock exchanges, trading mechanisms, and the importance of maintaining financial discipline in investment practices.

Job Fair at Uppal Zilla Parishad High School on November 2

““VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 31 (Indian Chronicle):““A Job Fair will be organized on November 2 (Sunday) from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Zilla Parishad High School, Uppal, located in Uppal Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, according to a statement issued by Headmaster Poosa Ashok. “He informed that around 2,000 unemployed youth, who have completed 10th and 12th vocational courses, are expected to participate in the event.” This Job Fair is being organized under the Samagra Shiksha — Government of Telangana, with the objective of providing employment opportunities and career development support to local unemployed youth. “The headmaster further stated that the presence and encouragement of guests will serve as a great inspiration to the participating students and job



seekers, and urged unemployed youth to make the best use of this opportunity.

* *Shrimati Raya Rao Saraswati Memorial Govt Junior College Veldurthi“*



““ The Board of Intermediate Education Annual Exams Time Table has been announced by the press. It will be conducted from 25.2.2026 to 13 .3 .2026 so all the students can pay the exam fee from 1 November 2025 to 14 November 2025 without any delinquency fee so all the students studying in the college can also pay the exam fee. All first year Arts and Science students also have to pay Rs 630. Second year arts students will have to pay Rs 630 and science students will have to pay Rs 870. First year students have English Practical, Ethics and Human, Values ??Environment Education exam in January. Sec-

ond year students have English practical in January and Science students have Botany, Zoology, Physics and Chemistry practicals in February so every student who has paid the fee is informed to attend this College Principal B Srinivasulu*"

Ramanthapur Government Homeopathy Doctors’ Rally

“Vaddepalli Kishore, Uppal, October 31 (Indian Chronicle):““On the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s Jayanti, a Unity Rally was organized at JSPS Government Homeopathic Medical College, Ramanthapur under the coordination of NSS Unit Coordinator Dr. Parthasarathi. “After the rally, floral tributes were paid to the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on the main road of Ramanthapur. “The college Principal Dr. Lingaraju, Vice Principal Dr. Krishnamurthy, and Dr. Suresh Kumar participated in the event. “Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Lingaraju said that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a visionary leader with great leadership qualities. After independence, he united 565 princely states with his determination and efforts, thereby forming a truly “United India.”

Science Exhibition at Ave Maria School Showcases Students’ Creativity



““VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 31 (Indian Chronicle):““A grand Science Exhibition was organized at Ave Maria School, Ramanthapur, providing a vibrant platform for students to showcase their creativity, scientific thinking, and intellectual talent. The event was held under the inspiring theme “Connecting Ideas, Creating Our Future.” “The exhibition was inaugurated by Cardinal Poola Anthony, President of the Hyderabad Archdiocese Educational Society (HAES), along with Vice-President Eruva

Balashour Reddy and renowned CSIR scientist Dr. Lingayya Nagarapu, who graced the occasion as chief guests. The dignitaries praised the students for their outstanding exhibits and innovative ideas. “Speaking on the occasion, the guests remarked that such science exhibitions serve as excellent platforms to ignite curiosity, creativity, and the spirit of exploration among students. They emphasized that events like these encourage learners to think beyond textbooks, transforming teachers into guides, students into innovators, and classrooms into research centers. “They also noted that these efforts dedicated to science help light the lamp of scientific spirit in young minds. Through such initiatives, students develop teamwork, presentation skills, and technical understanding, preparing a new generation of scientists who will lead the nation’s progress in the future. “Principal Koorapati Jayapratap expressed that Ave Maria School has always been at the forefront of nurturing the hidden talents of its students. He extended heartfelt thanks to the chief guests, teachers, students, and parents for their cooperation in making the event a grand success.

Unity Run organized by NSS Unit of Little Flower Degree College, Uppal on National Unity Day

““VADDEPALLI KISHORE, Uppal, October 31 (Indian Chronicle):““On the occasion of National Unity Day, the NSS Unit of Little Flower Degree College (LFDC), Uppal organized a grand event titled “Unity Run.” The program was conducted to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, known as the Iron Man of India. “The event was graced by Director Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, Principal P. Jayanti Reddy, NSS Program Officer Dr. M. Prashanth, Naveen, and several NSS volunteers. Speaking on the occasion, Principal P. Jayanti Reddy administered the National Unity Pledge to all participants and urged everyone to work towards protecting the unity and integrity of the nation. The Unity Run was organized from Little Flower Degree College to Uppal, spreading the message of unity, patriotism, integrity, and brotherhood among the public. NSS volunteers actively participated by raising slogans and displaying placards with inspirational



messages promoting national integration. The event concluded successfully, with all participants reflecting the true spirit of “Ek Bharat – Shreshtha Bharat” (One India – Great India).

We will expand public culture and art forms to solve the problems of the working class and workers against the frauds of the rulers:



- All India Agricultural Workers' Union National Vice President Nagayya ““(Manduva Srisailam Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..October 31) All India Agricultural Workers' Union National Vice President G. Nagayya said that we will expand public culture and public arts to solve the problems of the working class and workers against the anti-people policies of the central and state governments, against the culture of humanism. On Friday, a state-level meeting of cultural sector activists was organized under the auspices of the Telangana Agricultural Workers' Union State Committee at the local Sundaraiah Bhavan, Bhuvanagiri. Nagayya participated in this meeting and said that the public arts of that time moved the people and led them to the forefront in struggles, starting from the Telangana armed peasant struggle and on issues like wages, land and discrimination. He criticized that in today’s society, rulers and capitalists are deceiving the people with new economic policies and traditional methods. He said that instead of rebelling against those frauds, people are being oppressed and deceived in the name of traditional religion. He called on agricultural laborers and workers to unite and prepare to fight against these policies and frauds

of the rulers by taking public culture and public dreams forward. Speaking, Telangana Praja Samsukthara Kendra State In-charge G. Ramulu said that public dreams and culture have played a key role in the development of human beings in their daily lives. He criticized that today’s rulers have polluted the culture of the past and are diverting people towards third faiths. He said that while many countries are developing with awareness and using new technology, today’s ruling BJP is pushing the people of the country towards third faiths. He called for taking public culture and public culture forward as an alternative to this traditional culture. “Telangana Agricultural Workers’ Union State General Secretary R. Venkatramulu said that state-level political training classes are being held at Sundarayya Vigyan Kendra in Hyderabad on November 3 and 4 and urged the leadership of the Agricultural Workers’ Union to participate in these classes in large numbers and make them a success. He said that the main issues in the state are land, wages and employment, which are on a large scale, and that they will discuss them and continue the movements by organizing struggles in villages across the state in the months of November, December and January. He said that the state committee of the union strongly condemns the killing of Comrade Rama Rao, who served as the state general secretary of the Farmers’ Union in the united state, by Congress goons today and demanded that the government immediately arrest the accused and punish them severely. He said that the state committee of the union expresses its condolences for their deaths. State Secretary Kondamadugu Narasimha, State Committee Member Bollu Yadagiri, District Officers Pallerla Anjaiah, Jukanti Paul, Mallesham, Pandu, Prajanatyamandali Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Secretary Irlapalli Mutyalu and others participated in the meeting.

Congress candidate Naveen Yadav campaigning vigorously for victory in Jubilee Hills



- State Congress PCC Observer Potnak Pramod, Sewadal Secretary Pittala Balaraju ““(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..October 31):- Congress party state leaders from Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district participated in the Jubilee Hills election campaign. As part of this, a campaign program was held in booth numbers 281,282, 280 in Somajiguda Division Yella Reddy Guda area under the auspices of Congress Sewadal. In the morning and evening, door to door voters should join hands and vote for the symbol. Voters were asked to join hands and vote for the symbol of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav. The Congress government in the state has provided free buses to women, 200 units of electricity, waiver of farmer loans, ration cards, rice, and many other programs. The state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yanamala Revanth Reddy, is providing many welfare schemes to the people. In the coming days, the Congress party will take up many more programs. A meeting will be held under the auspices of the Congress Seva Dal to organize a campaign program for the victory of the Congress candidate. State Congress PCC Observer Potanak Pramod Kumar, PCC General Secretary Kasuba Srinivas, State Seva Dal Secretary Somajiguda Division In-charge Pittala Balaraj, Co-Convenor Shakuntala

Reddy, Sridevi Bonagiri Town Seva Dal President Dhakuri Prakash Seva Dal Block Congress leaders MD Akhil Kalyan, MD Siraj Srinivas Prem Kumar and others participated in this program.

Indira Gandhi – A Great Leader Who Brought Light into the Lives of the Poor–

Velichala Rajender Rao ““CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, OCTOBER 31, INDIAN CHRONICLE:““Former Prime Minister and Bharat Ratna awardee, the late Indira Gandhi, was a symbol of women’s empowerment and a true champion of the poor, said Velichala Rajender Rao, Congress Party Karimnagar



Parliament Constituency Incharge. On the occasion of Indira Gandhi’s death anniversary on Friday, Rajender Rao, along with Congress leaders, paid rich floral tributes to her portrait at the Karimnagar DCC office. “Speaking on the occasion, Rajender Rao said Indira Gandhi was a staunch supporter of the underprivileged and a beacon of hope for the weaker sections. He described her as the Iron Lady who faced crises and challenges with courage and emerged victorious. He added that the party members paid their heartfelt homage to her divine memory on this solemn occasion. “Congress leaders Arsha Malleshham, Ananthula Ramesh, and several others participated in the program.

Gujarat Cabinet rejig: A look at who has been dropped



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Among the ten ministers who have been dropped in the latest major reshuffle of Gujarat Council of Ministers, five are Cabinet rank ministers, including the lone female ministers, and five the ministers of state. Several of the Congress turncoats have been dropped from the new list of ministers. The former Congress leaders who have been dropped are Balvantsinh Rajput, Kunvarji Halpati and Raghavji Patel. However, while Kunvarji Bavaliya has been retained and allocated the portfolio of Labour, Skill Development and Employment, Rural Development, he is joined by former senior Congress leader from Porbandar, Arjun Modhwadia, who has been included in the Cabinet as the new Forests and Environment, Climate Change, Science and Technology minister. So, instead of four Congress turncoats who were Ministers, there are only two now.

The other dropped Cabinet – rank ministers are Raghavji Patel who held the portfolio of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Cow-Breeding, Fisheries, Rural Housing and Rural Development, Balvantsinh Rajput, the Minister of Industries, Micro, Small and Medium Industries, Cottage, Khadi and Rural Industries, Civil Aviation, Labour and Employment, Mulubhai Bera (Tourism, Cultural Activities, Forest and Environment, Climate Change), Kuber Dindor (Tribal Development, Primary, Secondary and Adult Education) and Bhanuben Babariya, the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Women and Child Welfare. Among the five Ministers of State dropped are Jagdish Vishwakarma, Co-operation, Salt Industries, Printing and Stationary, Protocol (All Independent Charge), Micro, Small and Medium Indus-

tries, Cottage, Khadi and Rural Industries, Civil Aviation (state) who has rather been elevated as the BJP state president, Bachubhai Khabad (Panchayat, Agriculture), Mukesh Patel (Forest and Environment, Climate Change, Water Resources and Water Supply), Bhikubhai Parmar (Food and Civil Supply, Social Justice and Empowerment) and Kunvarji Halpati, the Minister of State for Tribal Development, Labour and Employment, Rural Development. Reacting to this major rejig, the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee President Amit Chavda alleged the BJP government was forced to drop these names due to corruption charges.

“The Ministers in the BJP government were involved in corruption and 50 per cent ministers were dropped, which manifests the CM’s failed team. As the entire government is suffering from policy paralysis major corruption scams like MNREGA scam in which Bachubhai Khabad, GIDC scam involving Balvantsinh Rajput, Bhikhusinh Parmar in the BZ scam, Mukesh Patel’s family members were involved in the arms license scam. Even though complaints of corruption and mismanagement were received against many ministers, no action was taken for two and a half years,” Amit Chavda told

While Balvantsinh Rajput, also a Congress turncoat, is a businessman who owns the Gokul Group of companies, the three-time BJP MLA Bachubhai Khabad represents the Koli community and has been winning from Devgadhi Baria in Dahod district since 2012. Further adding, Chavda said after celebrating the Vikas Saptah, the government realised that the government’s administration has gone into a ditch. “The public has recognised BJP’s policy and destiny, changing faces does not wash away sins. The change in the cabinet will not benefit the public at all,” he said. While Raghavji Patel is the MLA from the Jamnagar Rural constituency who was earlier associated with the Congress, Kunvarji Halpati is a well-known tribal leader of south Gujarat and has been in and out of the BJP over the last decade. In the 2007 Assembly elections, Halpati defeated BJP as a Congress candidate from the Bardoli seat, but joined the BJP in 2013 after the Congress denied him ticket from the Gandevi (ST) seat. After suspension for almost two years – after he unsuccessfully fought the 2017 polls from Mandvi as an independent – he rejoined the BJP in 2019.

Bengaluru man who passed off wife’s murder as a bathroom accident arrested

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Reshma, a widow and a mother of a teenage girl who had been working in Mumbai, met Prashant Kammar on Instagram and developed a relationship leading to their marriage. Reshma, a widow and a mother of a teenage girl who had been working in Mumbai, met Prashant Kammar on Instagram and developed a relationship leading to their marriage. The Bengaluru police on Thursday arrested a 35-year-old man who attempted to pass off the alleged murder of his wife at their residence in the city as a death due to electrocution during a bathing accident on October 15.

The accused has been identified as Prashanth Kammar, a daily wage earner from Ballari, who was living with his wife Reshma H. 32, in the Hebbagodi region of south east Bengaluru after their marriage nine months ago, the police said. Reshma, a widow and a mother of a teenage girl who had been working in Mumbai, met Prashant Kammar on Instagram and developed a relationship leading to their marriage. The couple started living together in Bengaluru with Reshma’s daughter from her first marriage, the police said.

According to the police, Reshma was found in an unconscious state in the bathroom, which was locked from the outside, by her teenage daughter after she returned from school in the evening. The girl informed her aunt in Bengaluru, Renuka Anandkumar, who reached the spot and shifted Reshma to a nearby hospital. Meanwhile, Renuka also telephoned Prashanth Kammar to inform him about the incident. Kammar, who claimed to be travelling to his house in Ballari, also came to the hospital where Reshma was declared dead on arrival, the police said. The husband initially claimed that Reshma may have died due to an electric shock since she was preparing for a bath when he left the house on the evening of October 15, the police said. The police said that Renuka, who had suspicions regarding the



role of Kammar in her younger sister’s death, filed a police complaint at the Hebbagodi police station on October 16. “He had told Renuka that his wife had gone to take a bath and had placed an electric heater rod in a bucket of water, and that she might have led to her death. But later, when Renuka questioned her niece, she said their house was lying open with the bathroom latched from the outside. The girl also told her that her father had recently been quarreling with her mother, suspecting that she was speaking to another man the previous day,” said a police officer.

During the investigation, the police pursued multiple angles, gathered information from the complainant and witnesses, and detained the accused near a hospital on Hosur Main Road on October 16. During interrogation, the accused was taken to the crime scene along with the Scene of Crime Officers team, the police said. “Upon questioning, the accused confessed that he had suspected his wife of having an illicit relationship and, in a fit of rage, assaulted her and strangled her to death. To conceal the murder, he left the body in the bathroom and switched on the water heater to make it appear as though she had died of an electric shock,” the police said.

Legal support to volunteers, use of AI: BJP spruces up its social media strategy before Bengal polls



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

With the Assembly elections in Bengal just a few months away, the Opposition BJP has upped its social media outreach. According to party sources, the BJP will have a more active presence on social media, and it will induct volunteers from the mandal level to post reels and other election-related content. “The party has also decided that it will be providing legal support to those who post on social media. Previously, many volunteers would stay away from posting anything as they feared that the police would harass them, pressurise them to take down the posts or send notices to them... individuals posting anything on social media would get arrested... but the BJP would be behind them, providing all forms of legal assistance, this time,” said a BJP source.

Further, sources said that Artificial Intelligence would also be used for content creation. Sources said the Opposition party will focus on local issues, like the recent water-logging and electrocution deaths in Kolkata. Speaking to The Indian Express, Saptarshi Chowdhury, Social Media In Charge, West Bengal BJP unit, said, “We want to bring out the real poor condition of the state in front of the common man. We want to show how the state government and the ruling party are spreading misinformation.” On Thursday, Amit Malviya, Bengal BJP central co-observer and IT cell in-charge, held a meeting with state-level leaders and work-

ers responsible for social media. According to sources, they have been instructed to speak out against the ‘corruption’ in the state government on social media. In the meeting, it was also discussed what kind of content and slogans should be emphasised on social media. A senior BJP leader said, “We will raise the issue on social media that the chief minister blames others for everything, from floods to rape to corruption, yet it is she who has been in power for the past 14 years. What is she doing?” The party will also provide more training to volunteers to appeal to Gen Z voters, added the leader. He also informed that the party will be holding a larger meeting to thrash out its social media strategy at the Science City in Kolkata in the coming week.

Kerala man gets life imprisonment for murdering woman in 2019

Palakkad (Kerala): A court here on Saturday awarded life imprisonment to a 54-year-old man for murdering a woman at Ponthundi near Nemmara in 2019. The Additional District and Sessions Court-IV Judge, Kenneth George, sentenced life imprisonment to Chenthamara under IPC Sections 302 (murder) and 449 (house trespass).

The court also sentenced him to five years’ imprisonment under IPC Section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) and imposed a total fine of Rs 3.15 lakh for various offences. The sentences will run concurrently.

As recovery of the fine amount from the convict is unlikely, the court instructed the District Legal Services Authority to provide financial assistance to the deceased’s family. According to the prosecution, in 2019, Chenthamara hacked to death Sajitha (36), the wife of Sudhakaran, at Ponthundi near Nemmara.

Over 75,000 migrant labourers register under Bengal’s Shramasree scheme; 1,000 getting monthly allowance: officials



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Over 75,000 migrant labourers working outside West Bengal have applied under the Mamata Banerjee Government’s Shramasree programme, expressing interest in returning to the state, labour department officials said, adding that the verification process had started and that 1,000 of them had started receiving the monthly allowance of Rs 5,000. The chief minister has announced two benefits for returning migrant workers under the Shramasree scheme, launched in August: a one-time payment of Rs 5,000 and a Rs 5,000 monthly allowance for a year during the rehabilitation phase. To avail of these benefits, migrant labourers have to apply through a mobile app. The labour

department is seeking police help for verification. Labour Minister Malay Ghatak said that since 2011, Banerjee had taken several steps for the development of workers. “When West Bengal workers are facing threats in other states, she has come forward to stand by them. And the workers want to return home with trust in the project launched by her. We are also considering welcoming those who return and start work here after Kali Puja,” he said. Migrant Workers Welfare Association Chairman and Rajya Sabha MP Samirul Islam thanked the chief minister for the scheme.

Seven lakh migrant workers have registered on the Karmasathi portal in the last two months following alleged harassment in other states for speaking Bengali. The Government launched the Karmasathi portal in 2023 to collect information about migrant workers. As many as 22,40,000 migrant workers had registered on the portal till August. Atri Mitra is a Special Correspondent of The Indian Express with more than 20 years of experience in reporting from West Bengal, Bihar and the North-East. He has been covering administration and political news for more than ten years and has a keen interest in political development in West Bengal. Atri holds a Master degree in Economics from Rabindrabharati University and Bachelor’s degree from Calcutta University. He is also an alumnus of St. Xavier’s, Kolkata and Ramakrishna Mission Asrama, Narendrapur. He started his career with leading vernacular daily the Anandabazar

‘Surprised and shocked’: Mamata Banerjee writes to PM Modi, urges him to revoke appointment of interlocutor for Gorkhas



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to reconsider the decision to appoint an interlocutor for talks with leaders of the Darjeeling hills, saying she was “surprised and shocked” by the decision. Banerjee said the step was taken “without any consultation with the state government” and asked the PM to revoke the “unilateral action”. On Thursday, the Centre appointed former deputy national security advisor Pankaj Kumar Singh as an interlocutor to finalise various Gorkha-related demands, including a “permanent political solution” to the demand for Gorkhaland statehood and Scheduled Tribe status for 11 Gorkha sub-tribes. Several Gorkha leaders from the region had welcomed the Centre’s decision.

Here goes my letter to the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, communicating my surprise and shock at the unilateral appointment by the Government of India of an interlocutor for the issues relating to Gorkhas in Darjeeling Hills, Tarai and Dooars regions of West Bengal. In her letter, Banerjee said, “I am surprised and shocked to know that the Government of India has appointed Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, IPS (Retd.) as an interlocutor to hold discussions on the issues relating to Gorkhas in Darjeeling Hills, Tarai and Dooars regions of West Bengal. This appointment has been made without any consultation with the Government of West Bengal, even though the issues under reference directly

relate to the governance, peace, and administrative stability of the area under Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), an autonomous body under Government of West Bengal.”

“Such unilateral action is inconsistent with the spirit of cooperative federalism that forms one of the foundational principles of our Constitution...,” Banerjee added. Banerjee pointed out that the GTA was constituted following a tripartite agreement signed on July 18, 2011, at Darjeeling, between the Centre, the West Bengal government, and the Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM), in the presence of the then Union home minister and the West Bengal CM. The GTA, she wrote, was created “to ensure socio-economic, infrastructural, educational, cultural and linguistic developments of the hill areas, while safeguarding the ethnic identity of the Gorkhas and promoting peaceful co-existence among all communities, a hallmark of the unity and harmony of the hills”. “The government of West Bengal, therefore, is firmly of the view that any initiative concerning the Gorkha community or the GTA region must be undertaken in full consultation with the state government, in order to preserve the hard-earned peace and tranquillity in the region. Any unilateral action in this sensitive matter will not be in interest of peace and harmony in the region,” she added. Banerjee further urged PM Modi to “reconsider and revoke this appointment order issued without prior and due consultation with the Government of West Bengal, as is expected in the true spirit of federalism and mutual respect between the Union and the states”.

The demand for the separate state of Gorkhaland was first raised by GNLF leader Subhash Ghising in the 1980s. The separate state demand also witnessed 104 days of strikes and clashes in Darjeeling and the surrounding hills on September 26, 2017. Since 2012, the GTA has been in place in Darjeeling. It replaced the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC), which was established in 1988, following the movement led by Ghising. Talks between Darjeeling leaders and the Centre took place twice, first in October 2021 and then in April 2025.

Central Railway to operate special block at Kanjurmarg for FOB dismantling. Here are the trains that will be affected



During the block, several suburban train services on the Central line will be affected. During the block, several suburban train services on the Central line will be affected. The Central Railway will operate a special traffic and power block in the early hours of Sunday (October 19) to dismantle the old foot overbridge (FOB) at Kanjurmarg station. The block will be in effect from Saturday midnight to Sunday 5 am across all lines – up, down, fast, slow, and the 5th and 6th lines, between Vikhroli and Bhandup on the Kurla-Kalyan section. According to Central Railway officials, the operation involves dismantling and de-launching the ‘N’-type truss girders of the Kalyan-end FOB using a 100 MT road crane. The work, officials said, is essential for the upkeep and safety of railway infrastructure. During the block, several suburban train services on the Central line will be affected. Four local services will remain cancelled – the Thane-Kurla local departing Thane at 11.40 pm on October 18, the Thane-CSMT local at 4.04 am on October 19, and two CSMT-Thane locals departing at 11.38 pm on October 18 and 00.24 am on October 19.

Additionally, four CSMT-Thane locals departing between 11 pm and 11.55 pm on October 18 will be short-terminated at Kurla, while the Dombivli-CSMT local leaving Dombivli at 10.18 pm on October 18 will terminate at Thane. In the reverse direction, two early-morning services on October 19 will short-originate – the Kurla-Titwala local, scheduled to depart Vidyavihar at 4.45 am, will instead start from Thane at 5.09 am, and the Thane-CSMT local at 4.16 am will begin from Kurla at 4.42 am. Train movements be-

tween Matunga and Mulund will also be diverted during the block. Down-slow trains will run on the down-fast line, skipping halts at Vidyavihar, Kanjurmarg, and Nahur. Up-slow trains will use the up-fast line and will not stop at Nahur, Kanjurmarg, and Vidyavihar. “These blocks are essential for infrastructure upkeep and safety,” said a Central Railway official, requesting passengers to bear with the inconvenience.

‘Alimony can’t be granted to spouse who’s financially self-sufficient’: Delhi HC

The court was hearing a plea filed by a woman, employed as a Group ‘A’ officer of the Indian Railways Traffic Service. The court was hearing a plea filed by a woman, employed as a Group ‘A’ officer of the Indian Railways Traffic Service. The Delhi High Court on Friday held that grant of alimony “is not automatic” and without a finding of a financial hardship, it cannot be granted where the spouse is “financially self-sufficient”. The court was hearing a plea filed by a woman, employed as a Group ‘A’ officer of the Indian Railways Traffic Service. As per the order dated October 17, she sought permanent alimony and compensation from her husband, who is an advocate, after their divorce. Married in 2010, the couple lived together only for a year. The marriage was dissolved by a family court in August 2023 on grounds of cruelty. The woman also challenged the family’s court finding of cruelty inflicted by her on her husband, based on which it had refused alimony. Taking into account that the woman “did not appear to be averse to the divorce itself, but was seeking to canvass the need for financial security”, the HC observed, “When a spouse, while ostensibly resisting the dissolution of marriage, simultaneously predicates consent thereto upon payment of a substantial sum, such conduct inevitably indicates that the resistance is not anchored in affection, reconciliation, or the preservation of the marital bond, but in pecuniary considerations.”

‘I had to live...’: How an ISRO scientist beat breast cancer to work on Chandrayaan-3 mission



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Breast cancer survivor Rinku Agrawal wasn't as scared of chemotherapy as she was about losing her hair. And cancer didn't stop Agarwal from her professional pursuits. Since her recovery, she has worked on the hardware side of India's most prestigious missions such as Chandrayaan-3, Earth Observation Satellites and NISAR. She has also become a TEDx speaker and a vociferous advocate for breast cancer awareness. "Losing hair was a touchy subject for me. I've loved my long hair since I was a little girl. They are the best part of me. And when the time came, I only cut them short. I was not scared of chemotherapy as much as I was of losing my hair," said Agrawal, Senior Scientist/Engineer and Head of Department at the Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad. Speaking to The Indian Express on the sidelines of an event on early breast cancer diagnosis at Apollo Hospitals, 50-year-old Agarwal, who is mother to twin boys, said, "When I realised I had breast cancer, the first question I asked my ISRO doctor was whether I have to undergo chemotherapy because I knew that would lead to hair loss. When my hair began to shed due to chemo, I didn't let our house help sweep it away, I used to pick them up and dispose of them by hand."

Her very human telling of the psychological impacts of not just losing a breast to mastectomy but also her most prized possession – her hair – resonates with the stories of many survivors. Some of the advocates for breast cancer awareness plead with women to conduct self breast examinations routinely and seek medical opinion because more than 50-60% patients in India reach doctors only when it is too late. Speaking on her diagnosis, Agrawal said, "I had undergone several rounds of hormone therapy for three years and then gave birth to twin boys, through In-vitro Fertilisation (IVF) in 2007. Then, in June 2013, when the boys were about six-years-old, I received a setback at work. And at the same time, I began feeling my right side getting heavy and my hand would pain when raised. But I thought it was because the children were sleeping on my hands. But I did go to see our in-house ISRO doctors who recommended mammography and sonography. So, I came to Apollo Hospital where an acquaintance of mine was already under treatment."She added, "A couple of days later, my son was sick so I took him to the doctor and then went to work. My doctor called me and asked me to meet Dr Anagha Zope where I was told I had breast cancer. My family was counselled and my treatment began."At that time, Agrawal hadn't realised the full scope of what she would have to undergo. "But I had made up my mind that I had to live and get better for my kids."Dr Anagha Zope, Lead Consultant, Breast and Oncoplastic Surgeon at Ahmedabad's Apollo Cancer Centres said, "Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer in India accounting for 13.6% of all cancers in India. In Gujarat, we recorded 11,500 breast cancer cases in 2023 which amounts to 32 new cases per day and we lost 4,280 people in 2023, which is 12 deaths per day of women due to breast cancer in Gujarat."Agrawal said when the treatment began, she was in a bad mood, lashed out at people and was in extreme physical discomfort. However, the first major point in her treatment would come in October 2013.

Cong gears up for 2026 civic body polls, to launch ‘booth to ballot’ campaign

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Planning to launch a "booth to ballot" campaign, the Chandigarh Pradesh Congress Committee Thursday began its preparation for the 2026 civic body elections. Under the leadership of H S Lucky, president of the Chandigarh Pradesh Congress Committee, and Manish Tewari, Member of Parliament from Chandigarh, the party held an eight-hour-long marathon meeting with ward coordinators to strengthen the Congress organisation at the grassroots level. The detailed review and strategy session focused on booth-level empowerment, which forms the foundation of any successful electoral campaign.

Both leaders emphasised that each booth in Chandigarh will soon have a five-member booth committee along with a booth-level assistant responsible for coordinating activities, mobilising voters, and ensuring effective communication between the party and local residents. During the meeting, Lucky highlighted the importance of meticulous groundwork and the need for every Congress worker to connect personally with voters in their respective areas. He said that the Congress's strength lies in its committed workers at the grassroots and that the party is determined to ensure that every booth becomes a stronghold of the Congress ideology and a center of people's trust. Tewari, addressing the coordinators, emphasised organisational discipline and data-driven planning for the upcoming polls. He said that the Congress is not just preparing for an election but for a movement to restore Chandigarh's dignity, development, and democratic spirit. He added that the BJP's misgovernance and arrogance have alienated the citizens

Hyderabad insurance agent loses 72 lakh in WhatsApp stock trading scam

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Hyderabad: A 40-year-old insurance agent from Uppal fell prey to cyber fraudsters and lost Rs 72 lakh after joining a fake stock trading group on WhatsApp promising high returns. According to the police, the victim was added to a WhatsApp group named "Stocks VIP Exchange Group E8", where members promoted what was described as 'lucrative stock investment' opportunities. Convinced by their claims, he joined the group and interacted with its admins, identified as Karim Varma and Kristen, who claimed to represent Russell Investments. Initially, the victim invested Rs 50,000 and was shown small profits on a fake trading dashboard. Attracted by the returns, he continued investing in phases, totaling Rs 72,03,133. However, when he tried to withdraw his profits, the fraudsters demanded additional

She said, "I had four chemotherapy sessions and in October 2013 went for mastectomy and my right breast was removed." "When the mastectomy took place, I was given an option to have breast reconstruction surgery but I didn't want to go through more treatment at that time. I had already undergone so much treatment and I couldn't take more of it. My husband and I consulted on the issue and decided we didn't need to go for it. So, I use a prosthetic and now it doesn't make that much of a difference. But this is a very personal choice. And I think that if this had happened today, I would have perhaps opted for it because of development in the field." Striking a comparison between breast reconstruction and breast saving surgery, Dr Zope said, "We have procedures where patients can use their own body part tissues to reconstruct the breasts or use medical silicone. It is easy to tell someone to remove the breast but for the woman, it is an integral part of her identity. It's not just what others see but what she sees herself as. Saving a breast is every woman's right. We can also do breast saving surgeries where we can do so but that requires additional radiation therapy and costs also increase. The end result is the same in both procedures but the only thing in reconstruction is that the part of the breast that could cause more cancer, has been removed completely."

After the mastectomy, Agrawal said she received vital support at work. "In January 2014, my seniors told me I should go to the office and work to take my mind off all this treatment. At that time I was designing the hardware of a miniaturised subsystem for the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission. While this work was on, radiation dates came up so I used to go for radiation for two hours and then returned to the office."

On the psychological impact of the cancer treatment on her work, Agrawal said, "My colleagues were very helpful and encouraging but since I was undergoing treatment, I thought I was down, I thought what work could I do now?" The majority of the treatment was completed by March 2014. But the first two years were critical and five years were crucial, where a lot of care had to be taken to reduce the scope of relapse. Speaking on the Check-Olate awareness campaign, a statement quoted her as saying, "Check-Olate is our way of turning a moment of indulgence into a reminder for proactive health. Dark chocolate, known for its antioxidant and mood-enhancing benefits, becomes a comforting messenger of care, reminding every woman that a simple self-examination, just a few minutes a month, can make all the difference. By making this message accessible and relatable, we aim to replace fear with awareness and action." In 2015, as Agrawal was recovering from her treatment, her work too saw an upturn and she was made a project manager with a team working on the components of the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS) Series. "This prestigious work gave me confidence, hope and encouragement to work harder. But on the side, there were constant check ups and I had to undergo another gynaecological procedure," she said. Even after the treatment, Agrawal said she had a kind of fear that there would be a relapse and she could lose her life. She found peace in a Buddhist community and began chanting as well as yoga to help with the lingering anxiety. "There was also a lack of confidence in the work I had done during treatment and that lingering fear of whether everything had been done right or not. However, things got even better because I got the opportunity to work on the Vikram Lander which went to the Moon on the Chandrayaan-3 Mission. That also gave me satisfaction that life would go on and I wouldn't be hindered by what I had gone through with the treatments. And on the personal front, both my kids have grown up and one is in Engineering and the other in the medical field," said Agrawal, adding that the experience had made her stronger. According to her, the experience has only made her stronger. "Today, I'm the head of my division and I have much more work left to do," she said.



and that it is the Congress party that will bring back transparent, accountable governance. The meeting also included detailed discussions on ward-wise voter outreach, social media coordination, door-to-door campaigns, and the identification of key local issues. Both leaders took feedback from each ward coordinator and assigned specific responsibilities to ensure timely implementation of organisational tasks. The Congress will soon launch a "booth to ballot" campaign aimed at connecting every household with the Congress message and highlighting the failures of the current BJP-led administration in Chandigarh. Hina Rohtaki is a Special Correspondent with The Indian Express, Chandigarh. She covers Chandigarh administration and other cross beats. In this field for over a decade now, she has also received the prestigious Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award by the President of India in January 2020.



payments in the name of taxes and commissions. Realizing he had been duped, the victim filed a complaint with the Rachakonda Cybercrime Police, who have registered a case and took up investigation.

‘Never said I will finish drugs from Punjab,’ says former CM Captain Amarinder Singh



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Punjab's former chief minister Capt Amarinder Singh Thursday said he had "never vowed to completely eradicate drugs from Punjab", but only to "break its back", and claimed that while all the gangsters were "put behind the bars" during his government, they are now "roaming free again." The veteran leader, who made a public appearance after months, sought to set the record straight on several issues, including his vow with Gutka Sahib (a Sikh holy scripture) in hand in 2015 that he will solve Punjab's drug issue within four weeks once voted to power.

"I had gone to Bathinda for a rally and the venue was near Takht Sri Damdama Sahib. I had held Gutka Sahib in my hand and said "main nasheyaan da laq tod dunga" (I will break the back of drug supply). "Laq todan da matlab eh nahi ki main khatam kar dunga (Breaking the back does not mean I will completely finish the drugs)," said Amarinder. Addressing a press conference in Moga, Amarinder said that he took several steps during his second tenure as the chief minister (beginning 2017) to break the drug supply chain.

"Senior IPS officer Harpreet Singh Sidhu was handling anti-Naxal operations in Chhattisgarh and I got him back to Punjab to head the anti-drug special task force. Over one lakh drug peddlers were arrested in our special anti-drug drive. My jails minister had told me that prisons were full and there was no space left to keep more drug peddlers. I told him to release pickpockets, but keep drug peddlers in jail," said Amarinder. He said, "When I was the CM in 2002, drug peddlers used to operate from across the border by jumping fence and crossing river and entering inside by 7 km. Then we had to deploy Border Security Force (BSF) in 7-km radius. Then came drones, which started entering 40 kms. Recently, Punjab Police confiscated 35 kg heroin. It's all coming from Pakistan which has only one motive: to finish our side of Punjab and our youths." Amarinder, who had earlier accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of 'targeted harassment' of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia, currently lodged in Nabha jail

Seemed bright, enthusiastic, very tragic what happened: Rohit Arya's neighbours in Pune shocked

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

In a five-minute-long video from 2023 on the website of Project Let's Change (PLC) Swachhata Monitor, Rohit Arya, who is identified as the Project Director, is seen passionately speaking about the initiative, how it is being implemented in schools across the state. In another video from 2023, Arya is seen with then Minister of School Education Deepak Kesarkar, in which the minister is seen praising the project and its results. In October 2024, Arya held a hungerstrike in Pune, claiming that he had not been paid the funds promised by the government. It was at this agitation held at the Pune Union of Working Journalists premises, Arya had suffered a seizure and had to be taken to hospital in an ambulance. On Thursday, Arya was at the centre of a hostage drama, where he held captive 17 students at a studio in Powai, at the end of which he was killed. At a residential society in Shivirth Nagar area of Kothrud, where Arya's elderly parents live, a neighbour said, "Rohit's father A R Harollikar lives in our residential society with his wife. Both are in their late 70s. We have heard that Rohit changed his surname sometime in the past. Harollikar is a heart patient. The couple left for Mumbai in the afternoon. Rohit stays at a residential society nearby with his wife and son, we have heard."

Another neighbour of the parents said, "The elderly couple always kept to themselves and hardly talked to anyone. I have interacted with Rohit a couple of times. He used to come here regularly during Covid pandemic to take care of his parents. I thought from my brief interaction that Rohit was a bright and enthusiastic man. What has happened is very tragic." At the agitation where Arya suffered a seizure, his wife Anjali had rushed to the location after hearing about it. In some of the videos of the time available online, Anjali says that her husband had been demanding and holding a hungerstrike for the pending payment for his project, which had been approved by the government. She said the government had taken up the project and approved Rs 2 crore for it. Activist Suraj Lokhande said he knew Rohit since last year when he held a fast outside the Patrakar Bhavan in

after being arrested in an alleged disproportionate assets (DA) case arising out of probe into the old drugs case, also sought to clarify his stand on the issue. "This country has a rule of law. The High Court had directed (then STF chief) Harpreet Sidhu to probe drug allegations against Majithia and put them in sealed over before the court and that is what Sidhu did (in 2018). So now when one investigation was done, who is (current Punjab CM) Bhagwant Mann to get the investigation done again? It is the court which should decide if that probe was right or wrong. In the US, it is called double jeopardy, which means one crime and two investigations is not possible," he said. The findings in Sidhu's 2018 report served as the foundation for the FIR against Majithia under the NDPS Act in December 2021. The senior BJP leader also targeted the AAP government over the law and order issue in the state. "Gangsterism is at its peak in Punjab. Main taan karte si seedhe (I had made gangsters fall in line). Tell me which gangsters were active during my tenure? We had put all of them behind the bars. Now all of them are roaming free again," said Amarinder. Announcing that he was now fit to campaign for BJP in coming days, Amarinder said that he has come out in public after a long time due to his "spinal cord issues" which were now sorted after "surgery."

"I had got injuries in spine during Army days and later got operated. It took time to settle down but now I am in Chardi Kalan and will rest only after we win. The BJP will form the next government in Punjab. We will work for the party at the ground level. I will soon visit Tarn Taran also where bypoll is scheduled," said Amarinder. After parting ways with the Congress on bitter note in 2021 without completing his tenure as CM, Amarinder had formed his own party Punjab Lok Congress (PLC) which contested the 2022 Punjab Assembly polls in alliance with BJP. However, the party drew blank, failing to win a single seat, including Amarinder's loss from his bastion Patiala. He later merged his party with the BJP and joined the saffron party along with his wife and former Patiala MP Preneet Kaur and daughter Jai Inder Kaur. Asked if he had left the Congress due to his bete noire and former cabinet minister Navjot Singh Sidhu, Amarinder said: "Who is Sidhu to decide if I had stayed in Congress or not? He was a minister. He was given culture and sports portfolios. For seven months, he would not clear his files. I called him (Sidhu) and asked and he had no explanation. Then I gave him power portfolio as he used to give a lot of statements on Punjab's power problem. He refused to work in that department too and resigned. That is what Navjot Sidhu was." Commenting on his former party colleague and now state Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring who has repeatedly criticized Amarinder's tenure as CM and also called him a "liability on Punjab", Amarinder said: "I better not say anything on Warring. He should first see his own actions and past."



Pune last year. "He had fasted last year in August demanding that the state government should pay him for the help he extended in implementing the My Beautiful School project launched by the education department. He claimed the idea behind the project was his," Lokhande said. Lokhande said his condition deteriorated during the fast and he collapsed. "After he collapsed, I took him to the hospital and in a way saved his life... The same thing happened when he undertook another fast a few months later," he said. Lokhande said during his interactions, Arya told him that the state government owed him between Rs 45 lakh and Rs one crore. "I have the copies of the letters which Arya had sent to the state government demanding his dues. However, the government did not respond," he alleged. Showing pictures of Kesarkar, Lokhande said, "Arya's family feels let down by Kesarkar... Arya had sent a letter to the state government in which he said Kesarkar had come to his home in August 2024 and promised to resolve his grievance including giving his name to a project. However, Kesarkar did not keep his word." Lokhande said Arya sounded polite and would discuss his problems with him freely. "But I never thought he would go to such an extent... The path he adopted to secure justice for himself was wrong. But at the same time, the government should also think as to how it refused to give justice to him despite his repeated demands," he said.

National-level wrestler from Maharashtra among 4 held as Mohali police busts arms supply racket

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The Mohali police has arrested a national-level wrestler and three alleged gangsters from Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, cracking down on an interstate arms supply network that had been funneling illegal weapons into the state. The arrests are linked to the notorious Papla Gujar gang, with the police recovering five pistols, live cartridges, cash, and two vehicles used in the operation.

The accused have been identified as Danveer (26) and Bunty (26), both residents of Shergarh Chauraha in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh; Sikandar Shaikh (26), a national-level wrestler from Solapur, Maharashtra, now residing in Mullanpur Garibdas, Mohali; and Krishan Kumar, alias Happy Gujar (22) of Nadda village, SAS Nagar.

According to Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Harmandeep Singh Hans, the CIA staff of Kharar had received intelligence on October 24 that two men from Mathura were transporting firearms to deliver in Mohali district. Acting on the tip-off, the police intercepted the suspects on the Kharar-Mullanpur-Airport Road and registered FIR No. 345 under sections 25, 54, and 59 of the Arms Act at Sadar Kharar police station. The operation led to the recovery of four .32 bore pistols with two live cartridges, one .45 bore pistol with two live cartridges, ₹1.99 lakh in cash, a white Mahindra XUV300 car (registration no. 24 BH 8220 C), and



a black Scorpio N (registration no. MH13 ES 1200).

The police said Danveer, a key operative of the Papla Gujar gang, had multiple previous cases of murder, dacoity, and Arms Act violations in Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. He allegedly procured the weapons from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh for supply to criminal groups in Punjab. Shaikh, a BA graduate and former Army recruit under the sports quota, had come to Mohali to purchase the weapons allegedly for a local network. He was arrested along with the two UP natives near Gopal's Sweets at Airport Chowk during the transaction while Krishan Kumar was nabbed two days later."

US Navy warship holding survivors from strike on Caribbean vessel, sources say



The U.S. military is holding two survivors aboard a Navy ship after rescuing them from a suspected drug vessel in the Caribbean hit by a U.S. strike that killed two others, three sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Friday. The disclosure, which has not been previously reported, raises the possibility that the survivors from Thursday's strike are the first prisoners of war in a conflict declared by President Donald Trump against a "narcoterrorist" threat he says is emanating from Venezuela. Read about innovative ideas and the people working on solutions to global crises with the Reuters Beacon newsletter. [Sign up here.](#) The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump told reporters that the strike was against "a drug-carrying submarine built specifically for the transportation of massive amounts of drugs." He did not comment on how many were killed or survived the strike. One of the sources said the vessel struck on Thursday moved below the water and was possibly a semi-submersible, which is a submarine-like vessel used by drug traffickers to avoid detection. Five sources familiar with the matter said the U.S. military staged a helicopter rescue to pick up the survivors of the attack and bring them back to the U.S. warship.

Afghan, Pakistani negotiators in Doha for peace talks after fierce clashes

Islamabad does not seek escalation, Pakistan's foreign office said, urging the Afghan Taliban authorities to address Pakistan's "legitimate security concerns by taking verifiable action against terrorist entities". "The Afghan regime must rein in the proxies who have sanctuaries in Afghanistan and are using Afghan soil to perpetrate heinous attacks inside Pakistan," the Pakistan Army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, said on Saturday, addressing a graduation ceremony of cadets. The Afghan government's spokesperson said Pakistan had conducted airstrikes in Afghanistan hours after the ceasefire was extended. He condemned the strikes, saying Kabul reserved the right to respond but that Afghan fighters had been directed to refrain from retaliating to maintain the status of and respect for its negotiating team. The Pakistani military did not respond to a request for a comment on the airstrikes. The airstrikes killed some local Afghan cricketers, prompting Kabul to announce that its national team will not play a cricket tournament in Pakistan scheduled for November, the Afghanistan Cricket Board said in a statement.

Britain's Prince Andrew gives up title of Duke of York

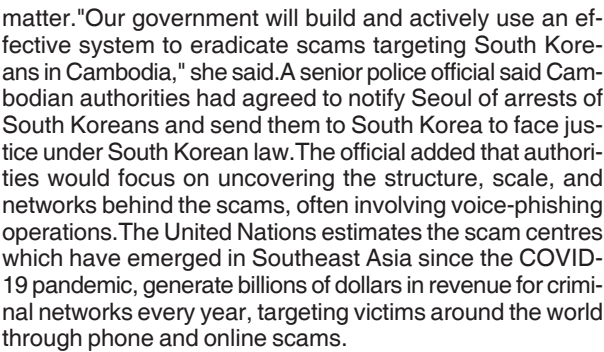
Andrew, 65, the eighth-in-line to the throne, was once regarded as a dashing naval officer and served in the military during the Falklands War with Argentina in the early 1980s. But he was forced to step down from a roving UK trade ambassador role in 2011, before quitting all royal duties in 2019 and then was stripped of his military links and royal patronages in 2022 amid allegations of sexual misconduct which he has always denied. That year, he settled a lawsuit brought by Virginia Giuffrè, who died in April, which accused him of sexually abusing her when she was a teenager. Andrew has always denied her account, which has returned to prominence in the last week with the release of her memoir. In her book, she said "entitled" Andrew believed it was his birthright to have sex with her, according to extracts published by the Guardian newspaper. "Things are simply not going away," royal biographer Robert Hardman told BBC TV. "And I think the palace has decided, and Prince Andrew has agreed, that there really has to be a further separation. Britain's Prince Andrew leaves Westminster Abbey following the coronation ceremony of Britain's King Charles and Queen Camilla, in London, Britain May 6, 2023. REUTERS/Toby Melville/Pool/File Photo Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab

Some returnees wore caps and masks and were escorted by police after their arrival at Incheon Airport in Seoul, their hands appearing to be cuffed but covered with cloth. South Korea this week issued a "code-black" travel ban for parts of Cambodia and dispatched a team of high-level officials to help nationals lured into working in scam compounds and secure the release of those held against their will. More than 1,000 South Koreans are believed to be among about 200,000 people of various nationalities involved in the scam compounds in Cambodia, South Korea's National Security Adviser Wi Sung-lac said on Wednesday. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Friday ordered an urgent removal of online illegal job advertisements - not only for Cambodia but also for Southeast Asia as a whole - to stem the flow of nationals being lured in the first place. Second Vice Foreign Minister Kim Jina told reporters at the airport that the repatriation "confirmed the Cambodian government's continued crackdown" on scam operations and its close cooperation with Seoul on the

Pakistan launches air strikes in Afghanistan

No bilateral initiative for talks emerged during the first phase of the truce. However, Qatar, which, along with Saudi Arabia, had pushed both sides to halt hostilities, offered to host their meeting in Doha. Reports from Afghanistan suggest that the Taliban delegation would include Defence Minister Mullah Yaqub Mujahid and intelligence chief Mullah Wasiq. Pakistan's Foreign Office did not comment on the matter, but a late evening meeting between National Secu-

Prior to Thursday's operation, U.S. military strikes against suspected drug boats off Venezuela had not left any known survivors and videos presented by the Trump administration showed vessels being destroyed. The Trump administration has said the previous strikes killed 27 people, raising alarms among some legal experts and Democratic lawmakers, who question whether they adhere to the laws of war. The strikes come against the backdrop of a U.S. military buildup in the Caribbean that includes guided missile destroyers, F-35 fighter jets, a nuclear submarine and around 6,500 troops as Trump escalates a standoff with the Venezuelan government. On Wednesday, Trump disclosed he had authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct covert operations inside Venezuela, adding to speculation in Caracas that the United States is attempting to topple Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. In a letter this week to the United Nations' 15-member Security Council, seen by Reuters, Venezuela's U.N. Ambassador Samuel Moncada asked for a U.N. determination that the U.S. strikes off its coast are illegal and to issue a statement backing Venezuela's sovereignty. Earlier this month, the Pentagon disclosed to Congress in a notification reviewed by Reuters that Trump has determined the United States is engaged in "a non-international armed conflict." The document aimed to explain the Trump administration's legal rationale for unleashing U.S. military force in the Caribbean. Less than a week ago, the Pentagon announced its counter-narcotics operations in the region would not be led by the Miami-based Southern Command, which oversees U.S. military activities in Latin America. Instead, the Pentagon said a task force was being created that would be led by II Marine Expeditionary Force, a unit capable of rapid overseas operations that is based at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. That decision came as a surprise to U.S. military-watchers, since a combatant command like Southern Command would normally lead any high-profile operations. On Thursday, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said the admiral who leads U.S. Southern Command will step down at the end of this year, two years ahead of schedule, in a surprise move.



In a related development, Afghan authorities on Friday handed over the bodies of seven Pakistani citizens, including two security personnel, who were killed in the Chaman sector of Balochistan on Tuesday. There was outrage in Pakistan after videos were circulated on social media, showing Afghan soldiers dragging the bodies of security personnel and desecrating them. Foreign Office spokesperson responding to reports that bodies of some Pakistani soldiers had been mutilated said: "This kind of savagery, bestiality, is condemnable, and it needs to be condemned in the strongest words possible. This is beyond the pale. It is beyond humanity, and this has deeply offended us and deeply hurt the Pakistani people." "It is not something to be forgiven and forgotten easily," he further said.

HDFC Bank Q2 net profit rises 10 per cent to Rs 19,610 crore

The bank's overall income rose to Rs 91,040 crore as against Rs 85,499 crore in the year-ago period, and Rs 99,200 crore in the preceding June quarter. The gross non-performing assets ratio improved to 1.24 per cent as of September from 1.40 three months ago and 1.36 per cent in the year-ago period.

What are the enhanced powers of Foreigners Tribunals? | Explainer



The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently notified Rules, Order and Exemption Order, which made the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 operational. Parliament passed the legislation to regulate all matters relating to foreigners and immigration in April. It repealed and replaced several Acts, the Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Foreigners Act, 1946 and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000.

What was the rationale?

The Government said a new legislation was required to avoid multiplicity and overlapping of laws on passports or other travel documents in respect of persons entering and exiting from India, and to regulate matters related to foreigners' visa, registration and immigration issues. Though most provisions in the newly notified Immigration and Foreigners Rules, Immigration and Foreigners Order, Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order were there in notifications issued in the past, certain new clauses and conditions have been added, considering the vast changes that have occurred after the original pre-Independence Acts came into existence.

What does the Immigration and Foreigners Rules say?

For the first time, the Rules legally designate the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) to "examine cases of immigration fraud" and co-ordinate with the States to identify, deport or restrict the movement of foreigners and collate and maintain an immigration database among others. Though the BOI earlier also performed similar functions, its role was regulatory and not mentioned in the law. In another first, the Rules insert the legal provision for recording of biometric information of all foreigners, earlier restricted to a few visa categories and enforceable through executive orders of the MHA. Educational institutes will have to inform the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), which works under the BOI, about all foreign students and even provide semester-wise "academic performance" summary such as attendance details and "general conduct" report. While earlier, the "civil authority" could direct to shut down any premise such as a resort, club or an entertainment place if the place was frequented by foreigners who are "undesirable", involved in crime or members of an unlawful association, the new Rules add "illegal migrant" to the list too. The Rules define the role of an "immigration officer", who will be officers provided by the Intelligence Bureau.

What does the Immigration and Foreigners Order, 2025 entail?

Foreigners Tribunals (FT), so far unique to Assam, have been given the powers of a first class judicial magistrate. It paves the way to send a person to a detention or a holding centre if he or she fails to produce any proof that

they are "not a foreigner," earlier enforced through executive orders. The 2025 Order that replaces the Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 1964 empowers FTs to issue arrest warrants if a person whose nationality has been contested fails to appear in person. According to Assam's Home Department, there were initially 11 Illegal Migrant Determination Tribunals (IMDT) in the State which were converted to tribunals after the Supreme Court scrapped the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983 in 2005. A total of 100 FTs is currently operational in Assam. The number of FTs were enhanced after the National Register of Citizens (NRC) was published in 2019 in Assam on the orders of the Supreme Court. The NRC, again unique to Assam, excluded 19 lakh out of 3.29 crore applicants and FTs were to give adequate opportunity to those excluded from the NRC to present their case. The State government has challenged the NRC in its current form and the final register is yet to be printed. Those excluded are yet to be provided with rejection slips.

The 1964 Order did not specify the provision to detain a person if they failed to secure bail or furnish proof that they are Indians. Earlier, the FTs could have unspecified number of members, now the number of members has been capped at three, and the ex-parte orders can be set aside if the appellant files the review within 30 days. Though the Order is applicable across the country, FTs are functional only in Assam. In other States an illegal migrant is produced before a local court. The order also legally allows border guarding forces or the coast guard to prevent illegal migrants attempting to enter into India by sending them back after capturing their biometric information and available demographic details on the designated portal of the Central Government. The Border Security Force (BSF) and the Assam Rifles (AR) posted along the Bangladesh and Myanmar borders had been practising this through executive orders of the MHA — now, it has been stipulated under law. Though India reserves the right to refuse the entry of foreigners, certain classifications have been added to the provision which includes conviction or even involvement in crime. The list includes anti-national activities, espionage, rape and murder, crime against humanity, terrorist and subversive activity including arranging financial support or money-laundering or hawala for such activities, trafficking in narcotics and psychotropic substances, human trafficking including child trafficking, racketeering in fake travel document and currency (including crypto currency), cybercrime and child abuse.

What is the Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 2025?

The Order exempts Nepalese, Bhutanese citizens and Tibetans from the provisions of the Act. It has, however, added two other categories. Registered Sri Lankan Tamil nationals who have taken shelter in India up to January 9, 2015 have been exempted from the provisions of sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of Section 3 (requirement of passport or other travel document or visa) of the 2025 Act. The notification also exempts undocumented members of six minority communities from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Pakistan from penal provisions and possible deportation if they entered India without passports or visas, or with expired travel documents, before December 31, 2024. Officials from the MHA clarified that while minorities from the three countries could apply for long-term visas (LTVs), a precursor to citizenship, this is not applicable for Sri Lankan Tamils.

The daily commute to Madras



A travel ticket can take its keeper places even decades after it had lost its validity — that is, if you happen to be one Thirupurasundari Sevvell, who is constantly on the lookout for "tickets" that enable a time travel to the past. Her name rings a bell in many history circles, and a resounding bell in groups that relish the pursuit of decoding Madras. Multidimensional, Thirupurasundari is an architect and urban planner and a relentless tracker of history. And Madras is her passion project, one without a deadline, meant to last a lifetime. She has taken multiple "routes" to Madras through documentation of historical records and engaging storytelling filtered out of oral histories. Her efforts to map out the historical and cultural landscape of Anna Nagar (she

is a resident of Shenoy Nagar, which is a part of Anna Nagar) through a collection of stories have been inspirational for heritage and history enthusiasts.

One particular route she has been travelling on since 2010–11, with a fascicle of tickets, has been hugely gratifying. When she was working on the thesis for her bachelor's degree — "Revival and Revitalisation of a Historic Urban Precinct: Case of Triplicane", her father handed her a newspaper clipping about S.A. Govindaraju, a heritage enthusiast, who was largely known for accumulating rare books. Meeting him, "I began to see the value of everyday objects in telling the story of a city," observes Thirupurasundari. By March 2011, she had become richer by a trickle of tram tickets. She had sourced a few of them from Govindaraju, a few others from Chettinad Vintage Collection, a Facebook page dedicated to memorabilia. Today, she has ten delicate tram tickets, printed in Tamil and English, dating as far back as the 1910s. Among Thirupurasundari's most treasured finds are the original Madras Electric Tramways tickets, dating from the early to mid-20th century.

The fragile slips printed on thin card paper bear routes, fares and rules — tiny documents that once powered an entire city's commute. One of the tickets, priced at 1 anna, lists a route that includes Parry's, Egmore, Pachaiyappa's College, Luz, Triplicane and Harbour — names that have outlasted time and the trams. Having amassed a personal archive of enviable proportions, Thirupurasundari felt compelled to train herself in archival conservation, essentially learning how to protect fragile paper from agents of decay — that explains why the tram tickets are in good shape still. Beyond those tickets, she plodded towards a collection of material about trams, which would go on to take shape as a booklet on the history of Madras trams. She explains the motivation to create this resource to decipher the past: "When I was in France pursuing a master's degree, there was a proposal in the city where I was studying to revive trams. I witnessed the tracks being laid; and that inspired me to put everything together." And as anyone who has known Thirupurasundari for any amount of time would agree: she needs no reason to discuss Madras; having a reason, sometimes, helps others make sense of why she values the city's past as much as its present.

From the Bench to the helm

In 2008, Nepal declared itself a federal democratic republic. The 2015 Constitution formalised it. But who would have thought, on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the Constitution, the Himalayan nation of 30 million people would be picking its Prime Minister at the Army Headquarters? After Nepal's youth-led protests against misrule and corruption led to the fall of the K.P. Sharma Oli government last week, the Army stepped in to maintain law and order, with Army chief Gen. Ashok Sigdel appointed as the chief negotiator. When youth campaigners, largely dubbed as Gen Z, proposed the name of Sushila Karki, Gen. Sigdel facilitated the process to appoint her as the head of the new government. She was administered the oath of office by President Ram Chandra Poudel on Friday at a brief ceremony. Ms. Karki, the first woman Chief Justice of Nepal, is now the country's first woman Prime Minister. Born on June 7, 1952, in Biratnagar, some 380 km southeast of Kathmandu, she holds a Master's degree in political science from Banaras Hindu University, and a law degree from Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu.

She married Durga Subedi, who was then a leader of the Nepali Congress. A 1973 plane hijack to raise funds for the Nepali Congress was reportedly masterminded by Mr. Subedi. Those who have worked with her and known her personally say Ms. Karki has maintained probity throughout her career. Her anti-corruption stand has been exemplary. She began her career in law in 1979 and became a senior advocate in 2007. Two years later, she was appointed a Supreme Court judge. In 2010, she became a permanent justice of the Supreme Court. After serving as Acting Chief Justice from April 13 to July 10, 2016, she was appointed Chief Justice on July 11. She retired on June 7, 2017. Her refusal to bow to political pressure earned her a reputation as a woman of mettle, while also inviting an impeachment motion by the Nepali Congress and the CPN (Maoist Centre). The motion was later withdrawn after the Supreme Court barred further proceedings. Balram K.C., a former Supreme Court judge, says there could not have been any better person to lead the country at this time. "The Gen Z campaigners, whose entire campaign was against corruption, are right to back someone who always championed clean and transparent governance," he said. Since her retirement, Ms. Karki has remained active in public forums on various judicial and social issues, including anti-corruption efforts. She rose to public prominence as a judge in 2012 when she convicted Nepali Congress leader J.P. Gupta in a corruption case while he was still serving as Minister of Information and Communications. It was she who had issued the order to reopen a case against then-Chief of the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, Lokman Singh Karki, in response to a review petition. Later, in a landmark verdict, a full bench of three



justices, excluding her, disqualified Lokman Singh from office in 2017. Ms. Karki's decision to revive the case had drawn widespread attention at the time. In yet another landmark ruling, she directed the government to investigate an Army official in the rape and murder of Maina Sunar, a case that became a symbol of human rights violations from the state side during the 1996–2006 Maoist insurgency. On more than one occasion after her retirement, she publicly stated that political party leaders often exert undue pressure to appoint judges under "their quota" — a revelation of how the judiciary was being politicised and maligned. Hardly any politician has escaped her straightforward and scathing opprobrium. Despite making it to the Supreme Court on the Nepali Congress quota, Ms. Karki never hesitated to call out Congress leaders for their wrongdoings and misconduct. Lok Raj Baral, a professor and former Ambassador of Nepal to India, says his acquaintance with Ms. Karki goes back a long way and he has always been impressed by her no-nonsense personality. "She speaks her mind and refuses to compromise," Mr. Baral said. "It's her integrity that gives her the strength." She has faced allegations of favouring political figures in judicial appointments and of lacking impartiality in some decisions. In 2013, when then-Chief Justice Khil Raj Regmi was picked by Nepal's political parties to lead an interim government to oversee elections to the Constituent Assembly, Ms. Karki and then-Acting Chief Justice Kalyan Shrestha had argued that Justice Regmi's dual role was against the spirit of the Interim Constitution. At the time, criticism had mounted that a sitting Chief Justice leading the executive violated the principle of separation of powers. So, as Ms. Karki was being considered to lead an interim government — akin to the one once led by Mr. Regmi — some critics were quick to point to her past stance. However, observers say it's not the right time to dwell on past incidents and debate over the constitutionality of the process. "If one were to split hairs, one can find foibles in everyone. So that's not the issue here. Her anti-corruption stand has been impeccable and our Gen Z fought to root out corruption,"

Notre Dame: a cathedral of memory and musings

Almost every Communist village of Kerala's northern Malabar has a Martyr's Column and a library. My village, Madikkai in Kasaragod, has a memorial for slain DYFI leader, comrade Bhaskara Kumbala, and a library built in memory of Communist revolutionary A.K. Gopalan. They say libraries played a significant role in shaping Kerala's reputation as an erudite State. And like many others, it is from one of these tiny, tiled-roof libraries that my world opened up. I first heard of Victor Hugo from an uncle one summer afternoon, while we were building castles with wet mud in a palm orchard. He said to us children: "All of you should definitely read Victor Hugo's Pavangal [Les Misérables]." That must have stayed on, for one evening I found myself at the library waiting for comrade Kottan, the librarian, to get there. He also had a job in a beedi company. As Kottettan (brother Kottan, as I used to call him) came in, I eagerly asked about Pavangal. With a torch torch in hand, he led me through the book-lined shelves of the dimly-lit, sparsely furnished library. However, we could not find the book that day. Instead, he handed me another one, Maxim Gorky's Amma (Mother). A few days later, Kottettan told me he found the book I had been looking for. But it turned out to be another one by Hugo, Notre Damile Koonan (The Hunchback of Notre-Dame). And that was the beginning of an experience I cherish to this day. In that dingy library, I read about the famed winters of St. Petersburg, the medieval cathedrals of Paris, and the cobbled streets of ancient cities. I felt a deep sense of anemoia — a word the dictionary describes as nostalgia for a place one has never been to. In a village with only harsh summers, brooding rains and a mere whiff of spring, I yearned for the alleyways of strange cities, their biting winters, and golden wheat fields. This January, on a particularly cold evening, while walking across a bridge over the Seine to the Notre-Dame de Paris, I felt a sense of familiarity — the memories of what I had read intertwining with real life. It had only been weeks since the cathedral, which was shut for restoration following a fire in 2019, was reopened to the public. Overwhelmed, I felt an urge to shout out to the tourists queuing to enter the cathedral that beneath the ground upon which they were standing, once upon a time, there had been 11 steps. I had read in The Hunchback... that the steps leading up to the cathedral had been destroyed by the repeated flooding of the Seine. As I stepped inside Notre Dame through the triple-arched entryway, I was struck by how much I remembered from the book. Did I hear someone call out "refuge" from behind the altar? Did I hear a faint Spanish lullaby from some secret chamber above? Or did I spot a lamb running through the maze of the visitors' feet?

Though I knew I wouldn't find it, I kept looking for a word. On the floors speckled with sunlight filtering in through the coloured glass windows, in the gloomy corners with giant sculptures, on the walls adorned with pictures — ANArKH. Hugo, in his preface to the novel, says he chanced upon this mysterious word, meaning fate in Greek, casually scribbled on one of Notre Dame's towers.... The man who wrote that word upon the wall disappeared from the midst of the generations of man many centuries ago; the word, in its turn, has been effaced from the wall of the church; the church will, perhaps, itself soon disappear from the face of the earth," he writes, also alluding to the state of



disrepair the cathedral had fallen into in the early 19th century. The Hunchback of Notre-Dame helped renew interest in the building and led to the efforts in its restoration. Over 860 years old, the cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture, took 200 years and thousands of workers to build. Scores of artists and sculptors whose works it holds, the ordinary and the extraordinary people whose prayers and silences it has witnessed. Does this colossal monument know just how many lives have been linked to it in innumerable ways? Lives like mine?

Charlie Kirk | Death of a culture crusader

Although Kirk has never held an official position in either the government or in the Republican Party, his killing has reverberated beyond the U.S. Calling him a "giant of his generation", Mr. Trump announced that Kirk would posthumously be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom — the country's highest civilian honour. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, praised him as a "lion-hearted friend of Israel", who "stood tall for Judaeo-Christian civilisation". Luminaries of Europe's far-right, from Alice Weidel of Germany's neo-Nazi Alternative for Germany (AfD) to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Jordan Bardella of France's National Rally have lionised Kirk, describing him as a champion of free speech and liberty. It is unusual for the passing of a political organiser little known outside the U.S. to trigger such an outpouring of tributes from across the Western world. What made Kirk so special?

Political entrepreneur At the time of his death, Kirk's net worth was \$12 million. His journey to the summit of wealth and power has many parallels with the stereotypical journeys of Silicon Valley tycoons, starting with the trope of quitting college to set up their own outfit. Kirk was a political entrepreneur, and a genius at raising money, especially from ageing Conservatives who instantly took a shine to him. He was raised in Prospect Heights, Illinois, and his father was an architect whose firm designed the Trump Tower in New York. His mother was a mental health counsellor. In high school, he spent his lunch breaks listening to the talk radio host Rush Limbaugh. Hypnotised by the right-wing commentator, he dreamed of emulating him. In addition to Mr. Limbaugh's anti-feminism and anti-environmentalism, he

also embraced Conservative author Christopher Caldwell's notion that the Civil Rights Act upended the Constitution by instituting a regime of racial preference. To these, he added a layer of Biblical obscurantism that added a Christian nationalist 'finish' to his political ideas.

In April 2012, Kirk wrote an essay for Breitbart News, the influential far-right website, alleging "liberal bias" in high school economics textbooks. It earned him an appearance on Fox News which, in turn, fetched him an audience with Tea Party activist Bill Montgomery, a man half a century his senior. Mr. Montgomery, and subsequently, conservative investment manager Foster Friess, 81, became Kirk's early donors and mentors. In July 2012, at the age of 18, Kirk co-founded Turning Point USA, a non-profit focused on advocating conservative politics on college and university campuses. This was a field dominated by the likes of Young America's Foundation and Young Americans for Liberty, whose primary mode of advocacy was to get celebrated right-wing provocateurs to give talks on campus. Kirk, according to the New York Times journalist Robert Draper, took the game to another level — by training and funding student-government candidates, acting "as a kind of PAC for youngsters". He also set up the notorious 'Professor Watchlist', which sought to red flag academics who espoused views contrary to Turning Point's, especially on LGBTQ persons and race. Scholars on the watch list were subjected to relentless attacks by right-wing trolls who also pressured their employers to fire them. On university campuses where liberal progressives were part of the establishment, Kirk presented conservative politics as a 'cool' space for youthful rebellion, particularly among youngsters who saw themselves as non-ideological. At the same time,



he promoted conservatism in a Trumpist avatar, creating a heady cocktail of MAGA populism and Christian nationalism which he showcased through public debates with campus liberals. Kirk's penchant for these 'open debates' is often invoked by those who present him as a champion of free speech. But these were less 'debates' and more performative spectacles where oppositional voices were a structural requirement — they were needed for Kirk to put on an exhibition of verbal combat whose terms he controlled. He recorded these exchanges and posted them on social media where they went viral.

BMC designates four areas in Mumbai to allow controlled feeding of pigeons



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Friday announced that it has finalised four locations in Mumbai where controlled feeding of pigeons will be allowed. The BMC has also maintained that pigeon-feeding will be allowed only between 7 am and 9 am daily in these specific locations and the existing pigeon feeding spots like the Dadar Kabutarkhana will continue to stay shut as per the orders of the Bombay High Court.Issuing a statement on Friday evening, the BMC said that the four locations where pigeon feeding will be allowed include Mangrove zone in the western section of Worli reservoir, the Lokhandwala backroad where the new sewage treatment plant (STP) is being constructed, the creek area near old Airoli-Mulund Zakat naka and Gorai Maidan at Borivali (west). Civic officials said that these places have been selected since there is minimum human presence to ensure that feeding of pigeons doesn't harm the human lives."Feeders will be allowed to provide only grains to the pigeons between 7 am and 9 am every day and food items will not be allowed. Pigeon feeding will also not be allowed outside the specified time zone and private NGOs working in the area of animal feeding should come forward. These NGOs will

maintain the feeding operation and ensure vehicle and pedestrian walkability are not affected during the process," said civic officials.The BMC's move came three days after a delegation from the Jain community met Mumbai's municipal commissioner and state-appointed administrator Bhushan Gagrani asking him to designate alternative pigeon feeding spots.Further, the civic officials said that in each of these newly designated sites, signboards will be set up citing the health hazards of pigeon feeding and assistant municipal commissioner-level officers will be made nodal officers to look after the overall issue.The BMC had earlier acted on the HC's July 30 order directing the civic body to curb "illegal" and "defiant" feeding of pigeons in public areas such as Dadar West, citing health hazards like fungal infections and respiratory issues. Following this, the BMC had covered the Kabutarkhanas by putting scaffolding on them. This move met with serious opposition from the Jain community since in many religious communities feeding of pigeons is considered to be a pious act for which Kabutarkhanas were set up in several parts of Mumbai right from the colonial era.

These Kabutarkhanas are open public spaces where feeding of pigeons is a regular practice, particularly at major junctions in Mumbai. The Dadar Kabutarkhana, built in 1933, is managed by a local trust and has been a focal point for bird lovers and religious communities alike.Meanwhile, the members of the Jain community held public protests and in one such protest gathering, members of the community tried to remove the scaffolding all by themselves. In Jainism, feeding pigeons is a form of jeev daya or compassion for living beings, one of the central tenets of Jain ethics. Many Jain families and temples organize regular pigeon feeding, often near temples or trust-run kabutarkhanas. The Dadar Kabutarkhana is one such feeding spot that was set up by a Jain Temple.

Surat zoo's 5 captive-bred otters to be exchanged for Bengal tigers from Odisha

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

The Surat Municipal Corporation-run Dr Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Zoological Garden (Nature Park and Zoo) will get a pair of Bengal tigers from Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park in exchange for smooth-coated otters.One of the silver linings amid the devastating 2006 floods in Surat was the finding of a pair of otters in the floodwaters. Since then, this municipal zoo in the Sarthana area has seen captive breeding of this species of otters, taking the numbers up to 61 to become the only zoo in the country reporting such an event.Wildlife Superintendent Dr Rajesh Patel told The Indian Express, "Presently we have 36 otters, which includes 21 puppies (8 females and 13 males) and 15 adults (nine males and six females). In the last two years, 21 puppies were born in our captive breeding centre."

"There is no captive breeding centre of Otter across the country, and we have success stories of it. We acquired a pair of otters during the 2006 Surat floods from the waters, which were spotted by a passerby who intimated us. We rescued them and brought them to our nature park, where we took good care of them. After one year, we again got an adult female otter from some part of Surat city. We had three otters, two females and a male," Patel said."We noted down all their behavioural patterns and researched their breeding. After two years, these otters had become habituated to the conditions at our location, and they started breeding in 2008-09 onwards. Over the course of years, we have delivered otters to zoos across the country under the animal exchange programme," he added.The zoo will soon receive a pair of Bengal tigers in exchange for smooth-coated otters from the Nandankanan Zoological Park in Bhubaneswar. Last year, the zoo gave away an otter each to the Rajkot zoo and to the ChatBir zoo in Chandigarh in exchange for other animals.Central Zoo Authority accepts proposal

The Central Zoo Authority, which falls under the Ministry of Environment and Forest, had sent a letter a couple of days ago to Gujarat's chief wildlife warden, accepting the



proposal for the exchange of animals, including the Bengal tiger, against the otters. The letter was forwarded to the in-charge wildlife superintendent at Nature's Park and Zoo, which is run by the municipal corporation.As per the deal, the Surat Nature Park will deliver five otters (three males, two females), Indian grey wolf (two males), Indian star tortoise (five males, five females), silver pheasant (one male, one female) to Nandankanan Zoological Park, and in return will get a heterogeneous pair of Bengal tigers, Indian grey wolf (two females), four-horned antelopes (one male, two females), barking deer (two females) and Indian jackal (two males, three females).Sources in the Surat Nature Park stated that the zoo had a pair of white tigers. The park will get an adult male and female tiger each in exchange for the five otters.Patel further said, "We have a pair of white tigers which have high display demand. The white tiger was brought from the Rajkot zoo in 2021. The royal Bengal tiger is an endangered species and has its own importance. We have enough space to keep the pair of tigers once delivered from the Nandankanan Zoo. These pairs are adults around five years old. Once they settle here, we will work on their breeding and are hopeful to get more cubs at our zoo.""We have got an approval letter from the Central Zoo Authority. We have now started working on making the documentation of the animals to be delivered and are working on the logistical aspects," he added.

'We must show that Indians stand for humanity, not genocide': protesters in Pune demand India ends ties with Israel



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Holding placards that read 'Ceasefire Now' and 'Free Palestine', dozens of protesters formed a human chain outside the Pune railway station Sunday afternoon, demanding that India sever diplomatic and defence ties with Israel over its ongoing military actions in Gaza.Organised jointly by the Indian People in Solidarity with Palestine (IPSP), Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) India, and the Revolutionary Workers Party of India (RWPI), the demonstration was part of a nationwide day of action across cities in India."The genocide in Gaza continues despite global outrage. People are being starved and starvation is being used as a weapon," Swapnaja Limkar, Pune coordinator of BDS India, told "There is still a nation struggling for freedom, and if we don't speak now, when will we?" she asked.Limkar added that the demonstration is also an effort to counter the perception that India is aligned with Israel. "Zionism and fascism have much in common," she said. "As citizens, we must show that Indians stand for humanity, not for genocide."Lalita T, spokesperson of the RWPI, said the protest was triggered by the recent detention of Freedom Flotilla activists, including Swedish activist Greta Thunberg, who were stopped from delivering aid to Gaza by Israeli forces."We have seen activists attacked and detained simply for trying to deliver food and medicine," she said."We demand that the Indian government sanction Israel, cut all bilateral and defense ties, and press for the release of de-

tained flotilla and Palestinian activists. You cannot say you support Palestine while signing trade deals with Israel- that's hypocrisy," she added.On the Israel military action that began on October 7,2023, following the Hamas attack, Viraj Khomne, a protester, said, "History did nto start on October 7, Violence has persisted since 1948, when Palestinians were displaced during the Nakba. Today, Gaza is the world's largest open-air prison."For Dikshanti Bhalerao, an educator in Pune, the protest was personal. "I go to school every day and see children learning freely, while in Gaza, schools have been reduced to detritus," she said."Education is a basic right- but those children are denied it. I'm here to stand for them."As chants of "From Pune to Gaza – Solidarity Knows No Borders" and "down with Benjamin Netanyahu", echoed through the crowd, Limkar said the protest was about humanity, not religion. "This is not about Jews versus Muslims: it is about oppressors versus the oppressed," she said.The protest concluded peacefully after one and a half hours, with organisers vowing to continue similar actions as protesters demand India should take a moral stand and cut all ties with Israel.

63-year-old man loses Rs 43 lakh to cyber fraud

Hyderabad: A 63-year-old man was duped of Rs 43 lakh on the pretext of online share trading in the city.According to the police, the victim received a WhatsApp message from a person who claimed to be associated with a private financial institution and offered IPO allotments and trading opportunities."The fraudsters regularly showed fake dashboards displaying profits and discounted share allotments, claiming the trades were under a Qualified Institutional Placement to the victim. To convince him to part with money, they allotted more shares than his balance, allowed labelling the difference as a non-interest loan, and then demanded repayment with threats to freeze his accounts," said Hyderabad cybercrime police.

Over 1,500 kg of fireworks seized in 48 hours, Delhi Police unearth modus operandi involving Porter vehicles, abandoned flats, illegal-liquor supply chains



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Over 1,500 kg of firecrackers seized in 48 hours, Delhi Police unearth modus operandi involving Porter vehicles, abandoned flats, illegal-liquor supply chainsA police official said that this year, many of the firecracker hoarders were using quick-delivery apps to reach out to customers. Porter vehicles, abandoned flats, and supply chains used to transport counterfeit liquor. All of these are part of how hoarders are stacking and selling banned firecrackers this festive season in the national capital, according to Delhi Police, whose Crime Branch seized over 1,500 kg of fireworks in the past 48 hours.

The operation started on Friday, when the Crime Branch team of the western range received a tip-off about a man named Akash Gupta, 24, a grocer who was allegedly storing crackers at his second-floor flat on Jhakaar Road in the Dwarka area. The police seized 320 kg of firecrackers from his house."During interrogation, Akash Gupta admitted to procuring the prohibited fireworks from a Porter driver named Chander Kant, 36, a resident of Uttam Nagar, Delhi. With the help of technical analysis, Chander Kant was traced coming from Murthal in Haryana's Sonapat towards Delhi. Acting swiftly, the police intercepted him in Rohini Sector 25, and his pick-up truck was checked, leading to the sei-

zure of 400 kg of prohibited fireworks," DCP (Crime) Pankaj Kumar said in a statement.

The police then arrested a client of Chander's named Rishi and seized 182 kg of crackers from him. Another operation on the same day saw the police raid a house in the Shastri Nagar area of Delhi, where a man named Rahul Sagar, 34, had allegedly stored about 412 kg of crackers. He was previously involved in four criminal cases, such as attempt to culpable homicide, causing hurt, and under the Delhi Excise Act, DCP Pankaj added.LED bulb unit and 24 brands of fireworksThe third operation took place on Saturday, when the interstate cell of the Crime Branch raided a purported LED bulb manufacturing unit in the Mukundpur area of Bhalswa Dairy and arrested a man named Sonu."During the operation, 311 kilograms of banned firecrackers of 24 different brands of Ginny, Coronation, Maheshwas, Nikhil, Sarvam, Vasantha, Joker, Jai Jawan, Sri Krishna, Khushi, among others, were recovered from the 1st floor of the premises," DCP Pankaj said adding that he bought the consignment for Rs 2 lakh and planned to sell them at double the price.On the same day, another team of the Crime Branch team raided a small shop in the Ashok Nagar market of Shahdara and nabbed a man named Vishal Sharma, 34."A raid was conducted at Main Road, Mandoli Road, Shahdara, Delhi, where one person, namely Vishal Sharma, who lives in Ashok Nagar and was found selling banned firecrackers of various types. During the course of action, banned firecrackers weighing a total of 106 Kg were seized," DCP Pankaj said.A police official said that this year, many of the hoarders were using quick-delivery apps to reach out to customers—a modus operandi that has also been used to supply illegal drugs."Porter- and Uber-registered vehicles are being used to deliver the consignments. The crackers are being procured from states like UP and Haryana, and the hoarders are using the tried and tested supply chains used to bring counterfeit liquor into the capital," a police official said.

'A universal guide for young professionals on balancing ambition with affection': Kiran Bedi on memoir of first couple with 3-star rank in armed forces

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

The event was presided over by D. Kiran Bedi, India's first woman IPS officer, with Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth, PVSM, AVSM, GOC-in-C, Southern Command, as chief guest; and Lt Gen Pankaj Rao, Director and Commandant, AFMC, as guest of honour.Published by Hay House, the memoir chronicles the journey of Lt Gen Dr Madhuri Kanitkar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM and Vice Chancellor of the Maharashtra University of Health Sciences, from childhood aspirations to becoming one of the highest-ranking officers in the armed forces. It also celebrates the couple's extraordinary four-decade partnership, offering insight into how two strong individuals balanced ambition, duty, and togetherness.

Dr Bedi described the book as a mirror for couples navigating demanding careers. "This is not just a memoir; it's a blueprint for balance and shared purpose. The journey of a couple who refused to let distance, duty, or ambition weaken their bond. It is a universal guide for young professionals on balancing ambition with affection," she said.

Written from Lt Gen Rajeev Kanitkar's perspective, the memoir provides an intimate portrait of a relationship built on mutual respect and shared dreams. "I wrote the book, but Madhuri got the last word. Each chapter ends with her postscript," he said, calling the process a joyful rollercoaster ride.On the title, Lt Gen Dr Madhuri Kanitkar recalled, "I was a Major, struggling, and had told Rajeev I



wanted to quit. He wrote back, saying there is no question of quitting, we have to grow together, without growing apart."Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth called it "a story told in two voices merging into one," while Lt Gen Pankaj Rao said, "Beyond the ranks, this is a journey of two individuals building life side by side, sharing responsibilities, and ensuring neither home nor profession was neglected."The memoir recounts a four-decade journey marked by growth, embracing differences, selfless sacrifice, shared humour, mutual respect for successes, and a family approach that treats them as a team. It emphasises the idea that true success is not just about the destination, but about the people who walk alongside you.

'It is a violation of our fundamental rights': Gurgaon Sector 21 residents fight four-decade battle for access road



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

This narrow, two-lane road is bumpy and riddled with potholes. Buildings line both sides. By afternoon, it is choked with e-rickshaws and trucks, leaving no space for parking.This is not the entry to an unauthorised colony. Cyber Hub is just 4 km away, and Ambience Mall is 6 km from here. Yet, the road paints a story of neglect and prolonged litigation, one in which residents of the area have been unwilling main characters.

For four decades, residents of Gurgaon's Sector 21 have been fighting for a direct entry road to their sector. In its absence, they have been forced to rely on this narrow, 8-metre-wide stretch for their daily commutes."It is a violation of our fundamental rights," said Kundan Lal Sharma, General Secretary of the Residents' Welfare Association (RWA), Sector 21.

Developed by the then Haryana Urban Development Authority (HUDA) — now Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) — Sector 21 houses at least 1,250 units where civil servants, industrialists, and retirees live.Gurgaon sec 21 entry lane The 8-metre-wide road that leads to Sector 21, Gurgaon. (Express Photo)Sharma said the issue dates back to the 1980s when HUDA acquired land for the sector's access road. "As per the original plans for the sector, land for a 24-metre wide approach road was identified and marked, but it spanned disputed properties where encroachers built pucca houses and buildings."Legal challenges followed, culminating in a 2014 Punjab & Haryana High Court ruling in Bharat Singh & Others vs State of Haryana. The court upheld the acquisition but allowed the release of built-up structures, except for land critical to public utilities like roads and drainage," he added.

When The Indian Express visited the site, residents were seen using the narrow road to enter the sector. After navigating 80 metres of the cramped stretch, it led to a non-litigious section of the 24-metre road and into the homes of Sector 21.In this area, the roads were wide and cars could be parked on either side. Plot sizes ranged from 220 to 1,000 square yards. Currently, a 200 sq. yard house costs over Rs 5 crore, a 500 sq. yard property is priced around Rs 11 crore, and 1,000 sq. yard plots exceed Rs 18 crore."Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Armed Forces veterans including Lt. General or equivalent rank, factory owners, entrepreneurs, and senior professionals live here," said Sharma.Highlighting how the lack of an access road impacts daily lives, RWA President Prakash Lamba, a businessman, said, "Emergency vehicles, including ambulances, face delays navigating circuitous routes. A direct road is a basic right."He pointed to a recent case in which the body of a deceased resident could not be moved for an hour as the entry lane was congested and choked with trucks.

Residents also claimed that open plots in the sector — some created as a result of demolition drives by the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority — have become dumping grounds for construction and demolition waste."At night, these become hotspots for gambling, drinking, drug use, and other illicit activities," a resident alleged.Apart from the lack of an access road, residents' woes were exacerbated by a waterlogged, sludge-filled lane — mixed with sewage — that ran along the boundary wall of several swanky glass buildings within a nearby Special Economic Zone (SEZ) office space. "Our complaints to the civic body have gone unheard. Officials even visited the site a few weeks ago. What you see is sewage discharged by the offices," Sharma alleged, pointing to the brownish-green sludge through which a stray dog waded.When contacted, an HSVP official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the situation regarding the (approach) road would be rectified after a site visit.On Sunday, Sharma told The Indian Express that the RWA had met MCG officials last Friday and a site visit took place. "Clear directions were issued to mitigate the serious concerns raised. Officials said estimates for the construction of a footpath and cement concrete road in Sector 21 will be prepared expeditiously... They said the accumulated sludge and water will be drained out," he said.

GST relief, festive demand push bank credit to 11.38% in 14 days ending October 3, shows RBI data



bank creditDuring the reporting fortnight, banks disbursed loans to the tune of Rs 192.66 lakh crore, compared to Rs 172.98 lakh crore in the fortnight ended October 4, 2024Aided by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate reduction and increased demand during the ongoing festive season, bank credit grew by 11.38 per cent, the fastest growth in over eight months, in the fortnight ended October 3, 2025, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data showed.During the reporting fortnight, banks disbursed loans to the tune of Rs 192.66 lakh crore, compared to Rs 172.98 lakh crore in the fortnight ended October 4, 2024. In

the fortnight ended January 24, 2025, bank credit had registered a growth of 11.41 per cent. On a fortnightly basis, bank advances saw an increase of 1.92 per cent. The government had rationalised GST with effect from September 22. It abolished multiple GST rates of 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent, and introduced a two-slab structure of 5 per cent and 18 per cent. The move has helped in spurring the domestic demand in the festive season amidst the US tariff related uncertainties.“There has been pent up demand. A lot of spending was held back in the early part of September since the new structure of GST was to be applicable from 22nd of the month,” Bank of Baroda said in a recent report.Inflation in general is trending downwards which will increase real disposable income, it said. Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation fell to an eight-year low of 1.54 per cent in September, from 2.07 per cent in August.“Income tax relief given in the Budget should also help to prop up spending. While such benefits accrue over the year, savings in tax in the first six months should provide a boost in spending in the second half,” the report said.Further, bank deposits grew at 9.94 per cent to Rs 240.98 lakh crore in the reported fortnight, compared to Rs 219.2 lakh crore in the fortnight ended October 4, 2024, the RBI data showed.

What Google’s \$15 bn AI hub in Andhra Pradesh means for India



Google AI Data Centre in Visakhapatnam: Google has announced an investment of \$15 billion over five years to set up an artificial intelligence (AI) data centre in Andhra Pradesh, in what will be its biggest investment yet in the country. The tech giant has partnered with the Adani Group and Airtel to build the infrastructure for the project, which also includes the construction of a new international sub-sea gateway.The big investment commitment comes amid soured ties between India and the United States, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi having called for people to prioritise local, or swadeshi, products, with key members of his Cabinet promoting domestically made communication and navigation apps.

Google’s data centre will come up in the port city of Visakhapatnam, and will be a part of the company’s global network of AI centres spread across 12 countries. Here’s a lowdown on what Google’s plans with the data centre are, and some policy imperatives on whether India should be incentivising these compute facilities. But first, a distinction between traditional and AI data centres:AI data centres vs traditional data centresAn AI data centre is different from a traditional data centre in terms of it being specifically tailor-made to support AI applications. Traditional data centres typically consist of CPU-powered servers that support tasks such as website hosting, cloud storage, and business applications.

An AI data centre, on the other hand, is needed to process vast amount of data, and is equipped with more cutting edge hardware such as GPUs to handle tasks like image and video production, generative AI, etc. Since these data centres handle high-performance GPUs, they require robust power infrastructure and cooling solutions, making them significantly more energy-intensive than traditional data centres.“According to an analysis conducted by Access Partnership and commissioned by Google, the AI hub is expected to generate at least \$15 billion over five years (2026-2030) in American gross domestic product (GDP) because of new economic activity from increased cloud and AI adoption, as well as the American talent and resources involved in developing and operating the AI hub. This initiative creates substantial economic and societal opportunities for both India and the United States — while pioneering a generational shift in AI capability,” Google said in a blog post.

Being developed with AdaniConneX and Airtel, the AI hub will be built with the same infrastructure that powers

Google products like Search, Workspace, and YouTube. AdaniConneX is a joint venture between Adani Enterprises and EdgeConneX, set up to develop and operate data centers throughout India. AdaniConneX will provide green energy services to the AI hub, which claims to be run entirely on clean energy.Google’s AI hub investment includes construction of a new international subsea gateway, including multiple international subsea cables to land in Visakhapatnam on India’s eastern coast — connecting to Google’s more than two million miles of existing terrestrial and subsea cables. Airtel will assist Google on this.Google will work with local partners to deliver new transmission lines, clean energy generation, and energy storage systems in Andhra Pradesh. “The project also builds on both companies’ commitment to sustainability, and will see co-investment in new transmission lines, clean energy generation and innovative energy storage systems in Andhra Pradesh. This will not only support the data centre’s operations but also enhance the resilience and capacity of India’s electricity grid,” the Adani Group said in a statement.

India’s data centre betIndia’s data centre market is currently estimated to be worth \$10 billion, with around \$1.2 billion revenue generated in FY24, according to a recent report by Anarock. As per real estate firm JLL, India is expected to add 795 MW of new capacity by 2027, taking the total capacity to 1.8 GW.

However, within sections of the government, there are some concerns on whether India should offer policy incentives for data centres, especially given how energy-intensive this sector is and the high capital-low employment intensiveness of this industry. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, an NDA ally in the Centre and the state, said Google’s data centre will directly or indirectly create 1.88 lakh jobs.AI data centres have a massive energy demand. As per the International Energy Agency (IEA), data centre power usage could double by 2026, making the challenge for companies to become net zero or carbon negative by 2030 increasingly unattainable.Power consumption and related infrastructure costs are a key part of a data centres’ capital and operational expenditure. According to CareEdge Ratings, 40 per cent of capex of such facilities goes towards electrical systems and 65 per cent of operating cost is on account of electricity consumption. It takes between Rs 60-70 crore to set up one MW of data centre capacity in India.While renewables have been the first choice for companies, there are hurdles that green power poses. Nuclear offers a solution, especially since the grid needs new electricity sources to support AI applications and nuclear solutions offer a clean, round-the-clock power source that can tide over the limitations of renewables — not generating power when the sun’s not shining or the wind is not blowing, and absence of adequate storage options to bridge the shortfalls.The Indian Express had earlier reported that the Indian government was open to exploring the use of nuclear energy to power the data centre boom in India, a trend which is already playing out in countries such as the US, since such centres grow exponentially owing to the rise of AI.

Gold ETF inflows surge over six fold: What is driving investor interest?

Surging gold prices, escalating geopolitical tensions, increased purchases by global central banks and tariff-related uncertainties have drawn investors towards gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs), resulting in a record six-fold jump in inflows into the asset class during September.Rising preference for gold as an investment option amid a lacklustre domestic stock market performance is also driving higher flows into gold ETF.Inflows into gold ETFs rose 578.28 per cent, or six times to Rs 8,363.13 crore in September 2025, compared with Rs 1,232.99 crore in the same period last year, according to the latest data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). In September, net inflows rose 281.96 per cent on a month-on-month basis from Rs 2,189.51 crore in August.Gold ETFs are the ETFs with gold as the underlying asset. It gives investors an option of holding gold electronically instead of physical gold. It is a safer option to hold the precious metal since there are no risks of theft or purity.Macroeconomic concerns“Escalating geopolitical tensions, global uncertainties and overall dynamic outlook seem to be boosting the safe-haven appeal of the bullion. Investors favour investing in gold ETFs due to liquidity, transparency, cost-effectiveness, and ease of trading compared to physical gold,” said Ashwini Kumar, Senior Vice President and Head Market Data, ICRA Analytics.

The attractive rate of returns on a majority of these ETFs has also been a big draw for investors. For investors seeking portfolio diversification, inflation protection, and tax-efficient exposure to gold, ETFs remain a compelling option.Global factors like central bank buying, geopolitical tensions, and expectations of US rate cuts have turned gold into a preferred safe-haven asset. This has led to a surge in gold prices to record high levels in the past few months, with prices crossing over Rs 1,25,000 per 10 gram (999 purity) recently.All these factors have turned gold ETFs into



the flavour of the season as investors prefer parking their funds due to better liquidity, transparency and global price alignment.“At the portfolio level, gold was significantly under allocated. Given the rising uncertainties, better performance of gold and a strong outlook on it, investors are considering allocating gold to their portfolios. That’s why you are seeing a significant flow coming to gold ETF,” said Chirag Mehta, Chief Investment Officer (CIO), Quantum AMC.Tax clarity drive inflowsOne of the important factors which has played out in favour of gold ETFs is the tax clarity provided in the Union Budget 2025-26. Earlier, gold ETFs were taxed as per individual’s tax slabs. However, this year’s budget clarified that long-term capital gains on gold ETF held for over 12 months will be taxed at 12.5 per cent.“This clarification (in Union Budget 2025-26) made it more attractive for investors to invest into gold ETFs,” said a fund manager.Analysts expect inflows into gold ETFs to continue supported by a weak US dollar, persisting geopolitical tensions, tariff uncertainties, increased gold purchases by global central banks.

Why being bald could be your best dating move yet



“Aiyoi! Ivanu pennu kittillayirikkum alle? Mudi ilalo!” (Alas! He might not get a girl, no? He is bald!)— is my 85-year-old grandmother’s daily commentary on my love life. For her, my single status has always been directly proportional to the number of strands on my head. But last month, when my girlfriend came home and I introduced her as “the” girl, granny was in disbelief. She didn’t flinch before asking my partner, “Are you okay with his baldness?” And my girlfriend, without missing a beat, slapped her palm on my shiny dome and said, “I love it, granny.” I think my grandmother is still recovering.I’ve been bald for over a decade now. And let me tell you, people actually say, “Please stay like this—it suits you so much.” That’s a sentence I never imagined hearing in my life. It hasn’t always been easy. In 2014, when I started riding, I felt like the world was staring at my scalp every time I took off my helmet. I tried “fixing” it—bought an expensive wig, one of those high-tech, almost-life-like ones. Three weeks later, I ditched it and went fully bald—the best decision of my life. Confidence skyrocketed, and I finally embraced my chrome dome as my own kind of style.

Since Mind the Heart is about relationships, let’s talk about what baldness really means in the dating world. Spoiler alert: it’s more fun than you’d imagine.Despite a lot of people incepting—rather trying to—a fear in me that women hesitate dating bald men, I was confident. One of my exes—a fiery Delhi girl—once asked me mid-date, “Do you polish your head?” I deadpanned, “Only on special occasions, like when I reject bad pickup lines.” She laughed so hard she snorted. We didn’t last forever, but it taught me something crucial: my bald head isn’t a liability—it’s a conversation starter. Another ex, bless her, would literally run her fingers over my scalp while watching a movie and sigh, “I love how smooth it is.” Honestly, I’ve had moments where my head got more compliments than my shoes.

Family gatherings, meanwhile, are a comedy show in

‘Main toh de facto namkeen ka brand ambassador banna chahta hoon’: Abhishek Bachchan loves munching on snacks all day; here’s how it impacts the body



Our love for chatpata snacks often wins the war against our health goals and diet plans. But before you feel guilty, know that you are not alone. Abhishek Bachchan recently admitted to loving namkeen snacks a bit too much. In a recent episode of The Kapil Sharma Show, Bachchan said that he is a “full-on foodie” and doesn’t like normal food, instead favouring street and junk food.“Aap mujhe sev bhujiya de do main din bhar khaata rahunga (You give me sev bhujiya and I will keep eating them). Main toh de facto in sab namkeen ka brand ambassador banna chahta hoon (I want to de facto become a brand ambassador for namkeen). I keep eating,” he told the host of the show.

But what really happens if you munch on snacks throughout the day?

Dr Rashi Agrawal, Consultant, Endocrinology, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Navi Mumbai, told indianexpress.com that it’s common to see patients who, in an attempt to prevent rapid blood sugar spikes, resort to constant “savoury” snacking through the day.The typical Indian namkeen has become a default comfort food across age groups. However, what may seem like harmless grazing often sets off a cascade of metabolic consequences.Edwina Raj, Head of Services – Clinical Nutrition & Dietetics, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore, added that most namkeen is fried, salty, and high in refined carbs, which can raise blood sugar levels and lead to weight gain,

themselves. Aunties, bless them, love patting my head like I’m some sort of sage. “Poor boy, no hair,” they whisper. I usually tap my temple and say, “All moved inside, aunty.” A cousin’s friend overheard this at a wedding and—long story short—we had a brief summer fling. Confidence trumps follicles every time, people.My uncle once patted my head and said, “Son, you should try caps.” I replied, “Don’t worry, uncle, my scalp is air-conditioned.” He paused. Then nodded. And I swear he’s still trying to figure out if I’m joking or if my head is a metaphorical spa.While most women I approached adored the baldness, some, let’s say, had complicated feelings. One of them told me, “I need someone with hair.” But a week later, she texted, “Thinking about how smooth you are... ugh.” Baldness is fascinating that way—it’s impossible to ignore, impossible to forget, and often impossible to resist teasing.

If there’s one thing I’ve learnt, it’s this: baldness isn’t a curse. It’s an upgrade. Those of you still clinging to the last few stubborn strands, stressing over shampoos or hair oils—just shave it off. Own it. And start working on yourself. The statistics are on my side. While it is true that male pattern baldness affects nearly 40 per cent of men by the age of 35 and 60 per cent by 50, good news is that research from the University of Pennsylvania suggests bald men are often seen as more dominant, more mature, and, surprisingly, more attractive. I can vouch for this. Many polls have found that women consider bald men sexy if they own it. Basically, your hairline isn’t the problem—your attitude is.Trust me, your hairline doesn’t make you attractive. Confidence does. When I went fully bald, something changed. I stopped worrying about what people saw and started focusing on what I could actually bring to the table—humour, style, brain, personality. Suddenly, the bald head wasn’t a problem. It became my signature.Real freedom comes when you stop letting hair—or anything external—define your worth. You start noticing the little things that matter: the way you carry yourself, the way you speak, the way you make someone laugh. You realise attraction isn’t a checklist of features; it’s energy, it’s presence, it’s the way someone feels around you.Your baldness becomes part of the story, not the headline. The shine on your head? That’s just the garnish. The substance is everything else: how you love, how you laugh, how you handle heartbreak, how you show up for yourself. That’s what actually draws people in.So, shave it off if you need to, embrace the dome, and then get to work on the rest. Build the life, the personality, the self you’d want to date. Because in the end, hair is temporary, but who you are—the real you—sticks. And funny enough, once you own that, the shine on top becomes the least of anyone’s worries.

high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. Eating them often also reduces your appetite for healthy meals. “When we snack constantly, the body never gets the chance to enter a fasting phase. This means insulin levels—already elevated after a meal—remain chronically high. Over time, this sustained insulin exposure leads to insulin resistance, the root cause of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and metabolic syndrome. The very act of frequent namkeen munching keeps the body’s ‘fat-storing’ switch turned on,” she elaborated.Dr Agrawal explained that the typical namkeen combines refined carbohydrates with oil, salt, and additives, making it a perfect recipe for “metabolic confusion.” “Repeated insulin spikes, excess sodium, and trans fats together promote weight gain, dyslipidemia, and inflammation—what I call the ‘salty-savoury obesity cycle’. The more you snack, the more your body craves, and the harder it becomes to break the loop,” he said.“The ideal windows for a light snack are mid-morning and mid-evening, at least two hours after a main meal. This spacing allows insulin levels to fall before the next food intake, preventing constant stimulation of the pancreas,” said Dr Agrawal.Choose small portions and pair them with tea or water instead of sugary drinks. Raj’s suggestions for healthier savoury snacks include roasted chana and nuts sprouts, or homemade poha with vegetables. These options give energy, control hunger, and keep blood sugar levels more stable.

Dr Agrawal recommended the following options:

- Roasted chickpeas (chana)
- Puffed rice mixtures with nuts and seeds
- Air-fried makhana (fox nuts)
- Lightly spiced sprouts or boiled legumes

“These options provide fiber, plant protein, and healthy fats that slow glucose absorption and maintain satiety without abrupt sugar surges. Pairing them with unsweetened tea, black coffee, or buttermilk instead of sugary beverages further stabilises the glycaemic load,” said the expert.

Is it OK to use your phone on the toilet?

For many, bathroom breaks double as screen time breaks. We text friends, read the news and scroll through social media. But doctors warn that the habit may not be harmless.In a study published in September, for instance, researchers surveyed 125 colonoscopy patients at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston about their bathroom habits. Two-thirds said they had used a smartphone on the toilet at least once, with most saying they had done so at least once a week. The smartphone users also had a 46% increased risk for hemorrhoids — inflamed and swollen tissues and blood vessels in the lower rectum and anus.

“The next Reel, the next TikTok automatically starts playing,” causing people to linger on the toilet for too long, putting extended pressure on the rectal tissues, said Dr. Trisha Pasricha, a gastroenterologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and a co-author of the study. (Pasricha has also written for The New York Times in the past.)Although little other research has been conducted on the topic, doctors say that hemorrhoids may not be the only reason to think twice about bringing your phone onto the commode. Here’s what we know.Compared with those who said they had never used a smartphone on the toilet, the researchers found that the smartphone users were much more likely to spend more than five minutes going to the bathroom.

Regularly lingering on the toilet for five minutes or more

can harm the pelvic veins and muscles, Pasricha said. “The toilet bowl is just this open hole, and there’s nothing holding you up. There’s no counter pressure,” she said.The connective tissue supporting rectal blood vessels may weaken over time, causing them to bulge and become engorged, Pasricha added.There isn’t much research on the link between toilet time and constipation, and the new study did not find a relationship between the two. But it stands to reason that sitting on the toilet hunched over your phone could also make constipation more likely, said Dr. Eamonn Quigley, the chair of gastroenterology at Houston Methodist.Phone in toilet There isn’t much research on the link between toilet time and constipation, and the new study did not find a relationship between the two.When you’re bent over, you’re changing what experts call the anorectal angle, or the angle at which the rectum meets the anus. This makes the passage narrower and harder for stool to squeeze through, Quigley explained.Extended toilet sitting — especially if you’re straining — may also increase the chance of rectal prolapse, which occurs when the rectum (the bottom part of the large intestine) collapses and protrudes through the anus, said Dr. Lynn O’Connor, chief of the division of colon and rectal surgery at Mercy Medical Center and St. Joseph Hospital in New York. Rectal prolapse is rare, affecting about 1 in 400 people, mostly women, she said, and straining on the toilet can make it more likely.

FIDE World Cup 2025 prize money: Winner of marquee chess event to earn \$70,000 more than Divya Deshmukh did for Women's World Cup victory



The 2025 FIDE World Cup will be hosted in Goa, India. This is the first time in 25 years that the country is hosting the biennial event and a record 24 players in the field will be Indian. Among the headliners for the home nation will be reigning world champion D Gukesh, R Praggnanandhaa, Arjun Erigaisi, Nihal Sarin and Women's World Cup winner Divya Deshmukh. The marquee competition starts on November 1 and will go on till November 26. Round 1 is scheduled for November 1-3 (including tie-breakers), after which Round 2 takes place from Nov 4 to 6 (including tie-breakers). Round 3 is scheduled to be held from Nov 7-9 (including tie-breakers) after which Round 4 will be from

Nov 11 to 13 (including tie-breakers). Round 5 will be from Nov 14-16 (including tie-breakers) after which the tournament goes into knockouts. The latter stage starts with the quarterfinals from Nov 17-19 (including tie-breakers), followed by the semifinals from 21-23 (including tie-breakers). The final will take place from Nov 24 to 26 (including tie-breakers).

The total prize money fund for the tournament is \$2 million. The winner will get \$120,000. The runners-up will receive \$85,000. The 3rd placed players get \$60,000 while \$50,000 has been reserved for the player that finishes fourth. It has to be noted here that the winner of the Women's Chess World Cup earlier this year, Deshmukh, had earned a prize money of only \$50,000 after the title victory. The World Cup will feature 206 players competing in a head-to-head, two-game knockout format over eight rounds. Each round spans three days: two classical games (between two players) on the first two days, followed by tie-breaks on the third day, if necessary. In the first round, the top 50 players receive byes, while players seeded from 51 to 206 compete, with pairings based on the principle of the top half versus the reversed lower half. The FIDE World Cup is the event that offers the top three finishers direct qualification for the 2026 Candidates Tournament, which determines the challenger for the World Chess Championship.

'Dalmiya offered to have his suspension reduced...': Greg Chappell on how former BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya offered to have Ganguly's suspension reduced

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

With former ICC match referee Chris Broad making explosive allegations against the International Cricket Council (ICC) for flagrant leniency shown to India during his time as a match referee and talking about how the then Indian captain Sourav Ganguly did not listen to hurrying up the over rate, former Australian captain and former Indian coach Greg Chappell has revealed how former ICC president and former BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya offered to have Ganguly's suspension in 2005 for slow over rate reduced prior to India's Sri Lanka Tour in 2005. Chappell, who took over the role of India head coach in 2005, saw the 2005 Sri Lanka tour as his first assignment and Sourav Ganguly missed the first two matches of the Indian Oil Cup involving India, Sri Lanka and West Indies due to his suspension due to the slow over rate during Pakistan's tour to India in April the same year.

"(Jagmohan) Dalmiya offered to have his suspension reduced so that he could go to Sri Lanka at the start of my tenure. I said no, I don't want to rot the system, he has to do his time. Dalmiya seemed OK for him to miss." Chappell told Sydney Morning Herald. Broad was the ICC match referee during Pakistan's six-match ODI series against India during the 2005 tour to the country. During the third ODI of the six-match ODI series, Broad had fined Indian captain Sourav Ganguly for slow over rate post the match, which Pakistan won by 106 runs. With the Indian team once again behind over rate in the fourth ODI at Ahmedabad, which Pakistan won by three wickets, ICC had then imposed a six match ban on Ganguly for the repeat offence. Ganguly had appealed against the ban, which was then reduced to four ODI's. With him having not played in the last two ODIs against Pakistan, Ganguly did not play in the first two ODIs of the Indian Oil Cup. Although Broad did not specify the particular ODI match when Ganguly was banned, he talked about the 'politics' involved. "India were three, four overs down at the end of a game so it constituted a fine. "I got a phone call saying, 'be lenient, find some time because it's



India'. And it's like, right, OK. So we had to find some time, brought it down below the threshold. The very next game, exactly the same thing happened. He [Ganguly] didn't listen to any of the hurry-ups and so I phoned and said, 'what do you want me to do now?' and I was told 'just do him', Broad told The Telegraph in an interview. Broad, who is father of England pacer Stuart Broad, had overseen 622 international matches across formats as a ICC match referee in his 20-year-old match official career. Broad's contract was not extended post the solitary Test match between Sri Lanka and Afghanistan at Colombo in February 2024. Broad also talked about how India has 'taken over' ICC in many ways. "I think back to (Australian umpire) Darrell Hair, who was another one who was a right-and-wrong-type individual, and he was ousted because of his beliefs and that was a big learning thing for me. You try to be as honest to yourself as you can be, knowing that politically behind the scenes there are things going on. I think we were supported by Vince van der Bijl [ICC umpires manager] while he was in position because he came from a cricketing background but, once he left, the management became a lot weaker. India got all the money and have now taken over the ICC in many ways. I'm pleased I'm not around because it's a much more political position now than it ever has been," Broad said.

Man in wheelchair dies after being hit by car driven by Inter Milan goalkeeper



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

An 81-year-old man died after the electric wheelchair he was in collided with a car being driven by Inter Milan goalkeeper Josep Martinez. The incident took place in Fenegro, a small town in the province of Como in northern Italy, with the police saying that the wheelchair may have come in the path of the car. "The car driven by Inter goalkeeper Josep Martinez hit a man who was in an electric wheelchair travelling on a cycle path alongside a road in the province of Como," police told Reuters. "Martinez stopped his car in order to help the man, who died before the arrival of the ambulance."

The 27-year-old Martinez is the second-choice custodian for the Nerazzurri since joining last year from Genoa, and has made 12 appearances for the club. He has also played for Las Palmas and RB Leipzig. According to reports, Martinez was driving to Inter's training centre at Appiano Gentile on Tuesday morning when the tragedy struck. Some accounts said that the deceased, named Paolo Saibene, had a sudden physical illness, which resulted in his wheelchair veering into the path of the car. Preliminary investigations suggest that the elderly man may have lost consciousness or suffered a heart attack, BeIN Sports reported. Italian authorities are gathering evidence and eyewitness accounts to clarify the full circumstances of the incident. Police examined the tyre marks on the road to reconstruct the braking distance and initial speed, and it was established that the footballer was driving within the speed limit of 70 kilometres per hour.

Como's police command informed ESPN that Martínez was not harmed but was in a state of shock. He had to

undergo the mandatory blood tests at a nearby hospital to check alcohol or drug content, which returned negative. According to Gazzetta dello Sport, several of Martinez's teammates, who took the same route to training, saw him sitting on the side of the road, holding his head in his hands. He testified at a police station, accompanied by a club lawyer, and the investigators also seized his phone to check if he was using it when the accident occurred. Inter's training session took place but the press conference before the Serie A game against Fiorentina was cancelled. Martinez could return home only at 6 pm, and was accompanied throughout the day by several members of the club, including the team manager, security manager and the team doctor. There was also a psychologist when he got home. The player then switched off his social media accounts and is unlikely to return to training for several days, only after getting the go-ahead from investigators.

Bengaluru Torpedoes clinches maiden Prime Volleyball League title

Hyderabad: The Bengaluru Torpedoes, on Sunday, etched their name in history, clinching their maiden RR Kabel Prime Volleyball League powered by Scapia title with a commanding win over the Mumbai Meteors in the Season 4 final. It was a night of pure dominance and emotion as the Torpedoes rose to the top after years of near-misses, showcasing teamwork, belief, and relentless pursuit of excellence. Head Coach David Lee, the two-time Olympic medalist, praised the team's growth and heart after the historic win saying, "This team has been on the cusp for a few seasons, and finally, we went over the hump. We overpowered them with serve, pass, and pure heart. The experience of playing this final is huge for my guys, and the whole season was defined by them blending flair with efficiency to become the new champions of Indian volleyball." "The triumph was the culmination of a season defined by adaptability, resilience, and chemistry, on and off the court.

I remember thinking, 'I just don't see a way out of this': Former England pacer Steven Finn on mental struggles amid 2014 Australia tour



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

Steve Finn took 125 wickets in the 36 Tests that he played for England, eventually retiring in 2023. He had played in seven Ashes Tests, with the first of those coming in the 2010 series. The 36-year-old has had his share of ups and downs, including being once sent home by the England team management from the white-ball internationals in the Australia tour in 2014 after being termed as 'not selectable' by England's limited overs head coach Ashley Giles. The former England bowler has opened up on how that tour took a toll on him mentally and how his sending off was 'clumsy'.

"I remember being in Perth and feeling at my wits' end. I remember thinking, 'I just don't see a way out of this,' and I wasn't willing to voluntarily walk away from it, even more so given the reception that the guys who had left the tour (Jonathan Trott and, eventually, Graeme Swann would leave prematurely) received, even if it would have been kinder on myself to do so. I was just banging my head against a brick wall. And continued to do so for another three or four weeks until I got sent home. There was no malice in it, and Gilo (Ashley Giles) was always completely straightforward and honest, but it was clumsy, definitely clumsy," Finn told The Times in an interview days ahead of the launch of his book The Ashes Files.

Back in 2013-14, Finn did not play in the Ashes. The England bowler was part of the England ODI and T20I team but did not play in the first ODI as well the match against Prime Minister XI followed by the England team management sending Finn back home. "Sometimes through your career you go through those ups and downs and his timing is out. That then can affect your confidence and certainly it is not coming out as quickly as he would like either. I suppose he has been in this state for at least a couple of months and it hasn't worked. We feel now that it is best to take him out of it. Sometimes you do have to do that, you take guys back. At the moment Steven needs a bit of space in the very short term he probably needs a couple of weeks away from cricket full stop. Steven is not selectable at the moment." Giles had said at that moment. In a separate interview to Guardian, Finn admitted that the 'Unselectable' tag did damage him. "I hope I don't sound harsh on Ashley but it was clumsy language and I think it damaged me," Finn told The Guardian. Finn had played for Middlesex at the age of 16 before he made his Test debut for England at the age of 20 against Bangladesh. Finn would play in eight Tests

picking up 32 wickets before he made his Ashes debut in 2010-2011 in Australia, where he picked 14 wickets in three Test matches. Two years later, the lanky pacer would face the problem of knocking the stumps over with his right knee during his bowling run-up before a law was introduced by ICC to make such balls a no-ball.

Finn had then tried to remodel his run-up before he ditched the plan. In 2014, Finn did not play a Test before he made a comeback for the 2015 Ashes in England. The tall pacer took 12 wickets in three Tests in the series, which England won 3-2 and which also remains the last Ashes series to be won by England. During the third Test at Edgbaston, which was his first match of the series, Finn took eight wickets in the match including six wickets in the second innings. Finn also picked up the wicket of Steve Smith in both the innings of the Test and rated the series as the proudest moment of his career.

That is the proudest moment of my professional career. For my first over of that game I stood at the end of my mark and I had to fully commit to what I was doing. Eighteen months earlier, I wouldn't have had the confidence to do that. I would have been questioning everything in my head, so being able to clear my thoughts and commit to bowling that outswinger to Steve Smith was a fulfilment of all the work I had done," Finn told The Times. When asked about the lowest point of his career, Finn once again talked about the 2013-2014 Ashes series, where he cried in front of the England Lions psychologist Mike Rotherham. "The lowest point? Well certainly the most confusing was when I cried to the England Lions psychologist, Mike Rotherham. That was the first time I had ever met him and first time I'd ever let my guard down. That was in Brisbane where we'd gone for the first Test [of the 2013-14 series], but I'd been sent off to the Lions. I remember walking away from my bowling session there thinking, 'What the f***s going on?' Within the team environment, even though everyone was very friendly and I had a good relationship with everyone, I was never truly willing to let my guard down for fear of being perceived as weak. I was confused and there was the embarrassment and shame of crying in front of someone I hadn't met before," Finn told The Times.

Finn also talked about how he gets frustrated when there is criticism regarding the way present England skipper Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum work. "That's why I get frustrated when people criticise the way Ben Stokes and McCullum operate. When people said England weren't practising in the Champions Trophy and when people criticise them for not practising every single day, well I've been there. I did practise every single day and I found myself in a hole where I was f***ed for 18 months where I didn't want to leave the house and I sat in the corner of dressing rooms crying because I couldn't see a way out of the hole. So I look at this regime now and I wonder how many times I'd have stood at the end of my mark feeling completely free to be myself to try and take wickets, as I was in the best spells I bowled for England. In that free state where I felt like I could bowl forever and could have got anyone in the world out. I wonder how many more times I would have found that state of mind?" Finn said.

Donald Trump's granddaughter Kai to make LPGA Tour debut on sponsor's exemption before she starts college



GNS News Agency, Oct 31

When one is arguably the most powerful (and influential) man on the planet, a lot of doors open for their family and others close to them. It's no different in the case of current US president Donald Trump. His grand-daughter Kai, 18, is due to play college golf for Miami Hurricanes but before that will make her debut on the LPGA Tour, the toughest and most prestigious circuit in the women's game, when she tees up at the Annika at Pelican Golf Club in Florida from November 13-16 November. Kai will play on a sponsor's exemption the penultimate event on the LPGA schedule, which has a prize fund of \$3.25 million. Kai is the eldest daughter of Donald Trump Jr and has committed to play golf at the University of Miami in 2026, BBC Sport reported.

"My dream has been to compete with the best in the

world on the LPGA Tour," she said in a statement. "This event will be an incredible experience. I look forward to meeting and competing against so many of my heroes and mentors in golf as I make my LPGA Tour debut." Her wish may be realised as the tournament as the field includes stalwarts such as world number two Nelly Korda, England's Charley Hull, Lexi Thompson and 2023 champion Lilia Vu. Kai has more than six million followers across her social media platforms and recently launched her own apparel and lifestyle brand. The LPGA is keen to piggyback on her visibility and profile. "Sponsor invitations are an important way to spotlight emerging talent and bring new attention to our tournaments and the LPGA," said Ricki Lasky, LPGA's chief tour business and operations officer. "We're excited to see her take this next step in her journey." The tour added that Kai's "broad following and reach are helping introduce golf to new audiences, especially among younger fans." Kai is currently a senior at Benjamin School, a private institution in Palm Beach County of the Sunshine State. She plays in amateur events nationally with the American Junior Golf Association and locally in Florida and is currently No 461 in the AJGA (American Junior Golf Association) Girls ranking, having appeared in three events this year, the Associated Press reported. Kai made an emotional speech in support of her grandfather during the Republican National Convention, supporting his 2024 presidential campaign. Trump is himself an avid golfer and owns several courses around the world. But according to the Book 'Commander in Cheat: How Golf Explains Trump', by Rick Reilly, he doesn't play the game in a fair manner, lies about his scores, and violates the game's etiquette.

Rohit Sharma dethrones Shubman Gill, becomes No.1 ODI batter in ICC Rankings for first time in career

GNS News Agency, Oct 31

ICC Ranking Batsman ODI: Amid talks of his potential retirement from international cricket, India opener Rohit Sharma has surged to the top of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) ODI batting rankings during the latest update announced on Wednesday. Aged 38 years and 182 days, Rohit is the oldest batter ever to achieve the top spot in the ICC men's ODI batting rankings and is claiming the landmark for the first time in his career. India legend Sachin Tendulkar is the only other batter to top the charts after the age of 38, having recorded the feat in 2011 in the Test format. Rohit made a solid return to ODI cricket after seven months as he topped the batting charts in the recent three-match series in Australia, scoring 202 runs in three innings. He powered India to a nine-wicket in the third ODI in Sydney, recording his 33th ODI and 50th international century.

Rohit gained 36 rating points from 741 to reach 781 and dethroned his India teammate and fellow opener Shubman Gill to claim the top spot. Previously, Rohit had reached a career-high 882 rating points at No. 2 during the 2019 World Cup where he slammed a record five centuries. Record-breaking run in Oz The Mumbaia broke



a heap of records during the three-match series in Australia, bookended by his match-winning century at SCG. Most runs as India opener: Rohit surpassed Virender Sehwag's run tally (15,758) to become the highest run-scorer among all Indian openers across formats in 11 fewer innings. Most hundreds as India opener: The Mumbaia also equalled Sachin Tendulkar's tally of 45 international centuries as an opener, the most for India. Only David Warner has struck more tons as an opener in international cricket (49).

Pooja Bedi recalls when Parveen Babi believed that FBI was tampering with her food amid mental health crisis: ‘She said her makeup was contaminated’



Despite having an impressive filmography to boast about, actor Parveen Babi's legacy is often overshadowed by her struggles with mental health and the fallout that occurred due to that. The actor was once in a relationship with actor Kabir Bedi, whose daughter Pooja Bedi recently talked about Parveen and how she was losing herself even in her later years. Pooja stated that Parveen had grown more suspicious of everyone around her, and would claim to be the target in some kind of conspiracy. She recalled visiting the actor and discovering that she had switched to eating only eggs as a meal, and had even stopped shopping for things from outside. She told Siddharth Kannan that being around Parveen was a common occurrence, due to her relationship with Kabir. She thought back to one particular episode with Parveen and said, "I remember that many years later she had come back to India. Everyone was saying that

something was wrong with her. I went to her home; she opened her door, and she looked so different. She had put on a lot of weight, and she had wild hair."

She continued, "She was so excited to see me and said, 'Pooja! Hi! Come in.' Then she gave me a big hug, and we were sitting and chatting, and everything was completely normal. Suddenly, she said, 'I am sorry that I can't offer you food because I only eat eggs.' I asked her why she ate only eggs, and she replied, 'This is the one thing they can't tamper with.' I asked her, 'Who?' She said, 'The Secret Service, or the FBI.'" Pooja added that Parveen told her that people are contaminating all the products that she buys and that's why she has stopped buying things, like make-up, from the department stores. "She told me that she doesn't buy makeup from the markets because someone contaminates it. I asked her, 'How would someone know what you are going to buy and when you are going to buy it?' She said, 'They know everything.' I immediately thought that there was something extremely wrong that was going on around there. I got really concerned and confused at that point in time," said Pooja.

Kabir Bedi has talked about his relationship with Parveen extensively and how her biggest fear was people finding out about her struggles with mental health. During an interaction with Filmfare, Bedi stated that Parveen was completely against seeking any kind of help and how he kept convincing her to do the opposite. "I advised Parveen to see someone in London because there were best people to treat her there and also she was away from all this, but she wouldn't hear of it. She didn't like the pressure that I was putting on her and, at the same time, her film Amar Akbar Anthony in India became a huge hit," Bedi told Filmfare. The actor also responded to people villainising him after the breakup with Parveen and said that he did not feel the need to clarify himself, because that would mean he would have to talk about Parveen's condition and what she was going through.

This actor won a National Award at 17, starred in three movies that earned Rs 3000 crore, quit acting at 19: ‘Life is too short yet too long’

Bollywood witnesses hundreds and thousands of faces that have their 15 minutes of fame, sometimes less, and they disappear, never to be seen again. While many struggle to stay in the limelight, actor Zaira Wasim left when she wanted to. And once she announced her decision to leave at 19, she stayed away from social media and other platforms, that could have brought her back to the limelight, until now. At 24, Zaira announced her wedding via social media. The Kashmiri actor made her debut with Aamir Khan's Dangal, where she played the role of Geeta Phogat. Fatima Sana Shaikh played her grown-up version. The film was based around the real-life story of Mahavir Singh Phogat and his daughters Geeta Phogat and Babita Kumari. For her work in the film, Zaira won a National Award for Best Supporting Actor at 17. Zaira Wasim President Pranab Mukherjee presents Best Supporting Actress Zaira Wasim the National Award. (Photo: Express Archive)

While Zaira's work in the film was critically appreciated, the film's success in China got her a lot of love. Dangal earned over Rs 370 crore in India, but its global collection, after its China release, was over Rs 2000 crore, making it the most successful film of Aamir Khan's career. During an older interview with IANS, Zaira opened up about her journey and revealed how her aunt and school principal convinced her parents to let her audition for the film. "Before Dangal, I had done two ads. I got a call from Mukesh Chhabra (the film's casting director) to attend an important workshop for a week. I went to Mumbai to attend the workshop. There were a lot of girls who had already done one or more ads or serials, and I had to do some scenes in front of them, so I was like, 'There is no space for me,'" said Zaira. She continued, "It was my school principal and my aunt who supported my decision. They both convinced my parents and handled the situation very well." Zaira's doubts in getting selected were well founded because casting director Mukesh Chhabra revealed in an earlier conversation with Rediff that they auditioned over 10,000 girls for the four parts in the film.

After Dangal, Zaira appeared in Secret Superstar, where she had the title role, and was ably supported by Aamir Khan. While the film didn't break any box office records in the country with a domestic collection of Rs 63.4 crore, its overseas collection grew to Rs 831 crore, thanks to the film's release in China. Zaira commented on the film's success during an exclusive chat with SCREEN and said that more than the numbers, it was "important that people all around the world were watching" her film. "We knew it



was a film with a soul, and doing so well is definitely a great feat. To be honest, I don't get into the business of a film, but for me what's more important is that so many people across nations got to see and love our film. That's a bigger achievement for an actor. But I am truly thrilled that the film was appreciated globally," she said.

Even Mr Perfectionist Aamir Khan had lauded Zaira for her acting chops during a promotional event in Singapore and said, "There's a very famous quote by a Hollywood personality, 'Never work with animals and children because they steal the scene away from you, and as an audience, your heart goes out to them.' These kids are so bright and intelligent. Zaira, for me, if you ask me who is the finest actor in the Hindi film industry today, I would say Zaira. She's absolutely amazing." Zaira then went on to work in The Sky is Pink, where she worked alongside Farhan Akhtar, Priyanka Chopra and Rohit Saraf. Here too, Zaira had a prominent part in the film, that was based on the real-life story of Aisha Chaudhary, who suffered from an immune disorder and pulmonary fibrosis. But, this became the last film of the actor.

In 2019, Zaira shocked everyone by announcing her retirement from acting. She wrote a lengthy post on Facebook and explained to her fans that her job was coming in the way of her imaan (faith), and she could no longer live like that. A part of her statement read, "This journey has been exhausting, to battle my soul for so long. Life is too short yet too long to be at war with oneself. Therefore, today I arrive at this well-grounded decision, and I officially declare my disassociation with this field (film industry). This field indeed brought a lot of love, support, and applause my way, but what it also did was to lead me to a path of ignorance, as I silently and unconsciously transitioned out of imaan. While I continued to work in an environment that consistently interfered with my imaan, my relationship with my religion was threatened."

Pradeep Ranganathan on his way to deliver another hit as film mints Rs 10 crore

Dude box office collection day 1: Pradeep Ranganathan is quickly establishing himself as a formidable force in the Tamil film industry. After delivering hits like Comali, Love Today, and Dragon, the actor-director has struck gold yet again with his latest release, Dude. The film, which hit theatres on the weekend before Diwali, opened to an impressive Rs 10 crore on its first day, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. Dude had approximately 1,490 shows in Tamil and 673 shows in Telugu, across India. Benefiting from a festive release, Dude recorded an overall occupancy of 48.85% in Tamil and 49.61% in Telugu. With the Diwali holidays just around the corner, Dude is expected to witness a surge in foot-falls, likely boosting its first week collections. The Keerthiswaran film also stars Mamitha Baiju, best known for her role in the sleeper hit Premalu. That film, produced on a modest Rs 10 crore budget, went on to collect Rs 131 crore worldwide. However, her subsequent film Rebel underperformed at the box office. Pradeep Ranganathan, who directed and starred in Comali and



Love Today, has earned acclaim for creating commercially successful content at relatively modest budgets. Collectively, Comali and Love Today grossed over Rs 200 crore at the box office. Previously,

Pooja Bedi recalls being scared of having a miscarriage after she heard of brother Siddharth's suicide, breaks down: ‘That incident was unnecessary’



Kabir Bedi, a prominent actor and heartthrob of the 80s and 90s, earned immense popularity both in India and internationally with iconic roles in projects like Khoon Bhari Maang and the Italian TV series Sandokan. While he enjoyed mass adoration at the peak of his career, his personal life was marked by profound tragedy—the loss of his son, Siddharth Bedi, at the young age of 26. Siddharth, a bright and gifted young man with a passion for technology, was a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University with honours. He had a deep interest in computers and a sharp mind. However, behind his brilliance was a painful struggle. Siddharth was diagnosed with schizophrenia, which eventually led to his suicide. This heartbreaking period unfolded while Kabir Bedi was also facing severe financial challenges, making it an incredibly difficult time for the entire family.

In a recent interview with Siddharth Kannan, Kabir Bedi's daughter and actor Pooja Bedi opened up about the devastating loss of her younger brother and the emotional toll it took on the family. "My brother died by suicide when I was pregnant with Alaya. His death came as a huge shock,"

Pooja revealed. "Dad was there with him in America when he passed away. It was very tough for my father—he walked into the room and saw it. I can't imagine what they went through at that point in time." Due to her pregnancy, Pooja had to maintain emotional stability despite the overwhelming grief. "They tried to calm me down. I wanted to stay calm for the child in my tummy. I didn't want the trauma to lead to a miscarriage or impact my baby. I stayed positive. As much as I loved him and missed him, I knew his journey had ended—and mine still had to continue." She shared that Siddharth left behind heartfelt messages for the family in his final note. "He had left a very sweet message for me and my child. He even wrote a letter to my mom. That incident was unnecessary, but he decided to end his journey," she said, her voice filled with emotion. "I really wish he had done things differently and lived." Pooja reflected on the emotional distance created by geography and personal struggles during Siddharth's illness. "He was in America. I was in India. I was dealing with my own challenges—being married, trying to be the perfect wife. I was busy while he was suffering. Initially, they didn't diagnose him correctly. First they said, it was depression, then bipolar disorder. It took a long time to reach the correct diagnosis of schizophrenia." Recalling their childhood bond, Pooja said, "My brother and I were inseparable. We shared everything—even the same bedroom, sometimes even the same toothbrush. We had the same friends, loved the same food, and went to the same boarding school. He was just one and a half years younger than me. We were extremely close." Despite the tragic outcome, the family chose not to shy away from discussing Siddharth's mental health. "He had schizophrenia. He later died by suicide. His death made me think deeply about mental wellness and how little it was spoken about back then. Most people would sweep such issues under the carpet. But we talked about it openly, and I believe that openness gave others the courage to come forward." Previously, Kabir Bedi recalled the incident in an interview with Aaj Tak, where he said: "I suffered heavy losses due to bad investments. This happened at a time when my son was suffering from schizophrenia, there is a chapter in my book too which details how I dealt with it and how people should deal with it. I tried to prevent him from suicide. When the tragedy did happen, and I couldn't save him, I suffered immense guilt."

Sanjeev Kumar demanded Rs 3 lakh more than Amitabh Bachchan for Trishul: ‘Industry mein mujhse bada baap nahi’

Actor Sanjeev Kumar has a troubled and complicated legacy in Bollywood. He was revered for his acting ability, despite having a difficult relationship with a lot of people in the industry, including actor Dilip Kumar. In a recent interview, Sanjeev's niece Jigna and author Hanif Zaveri recalled how the supposed rift between Sanjeev and Dilip started. Jigna also spoke about the time when Sanjeev Kumar demanded for more money than Amitabh Bachchan, who was the biggest star of the era. While talking to Vickey Lalwani on his YouTube channel, Jigna spoke about the supposed rift between Dilip and Sanjeev and shared that it apparently started when they worked together in HS Rawail's 1968 film Sunghursh. "He (Sanjeev) was in the film for hardly 10 minutes, and he had a basic death scene in it. The lead actor was Dilip Kumar, and he (Sanjeev) was so intense in that scene that Dilip saab started refusing projects with him. He would find ways to avoid working with him, because he thought he would fade in front of him." She recalled that the two ultimately worked together in Vidhaata in 1982 where they "proved to be equals" and for Jigna, Sanjeev Kumar "took the limelight."

Jigna also spoke about Yash Chopra's Trishul, where Sanjeev Kumar played the role of Amitabh Bachchan's father. It was said that Dilip Kumar was offered this role but he did not take it up. "It's true that Dilip Sahab was first considered for Trishul, but I am sure he said no because of logistical issues and not because there was a rift between them," said Jigna. Hanif also recalled an anecdote from Trishul's screening, which hints that the relationship between Dilip and Sanjeev wasn't all that bad. "Sanjeev went to the trial screening of Trishul,



and he hated it. He came out of the screening and told Dilip sahab, 'Yeh bakwaas picture hai, kahi nahi chalegi (This is a very bad film, and no one will see it.) Dilip Sahab told him, 'Pagle, yeh picture boht chalne wali hai (A lot of people are going to watch this film.)"

The interviewer then brought up the rumour that Sanjeev was allegedly paid more money than Amitabh for Trishul, which, Jigna confirmed, was the truth. "Vikram Bhatt told me this story. His father and my uncle were having a drink in London when he got the call for Trishul. He was told about the role, and he quoted his price. Bhatt told him that there is no way he would get paid more than Amitabh Bachchan. My uncle said, 'Unhe bhi Amitabh ka baap chahiye, aur industry mein mujhse bada baap nahi hai. (They need a father for Amitabh, and there's no one bigger than me.)'" She added that Amitabh was paid Rs 9 lakh for the film, while her uncle received Rs 12 lakh.

Raghav Juyal declares he's making a five-storey bungalow as he arrives at Farah Khan's house with a bodyguard: ‘Ab tu Nala Sopara ka nahi raha’

Raghav Juyal, who first shot to fame with his viral Dance India Dance audition and his unique stage name "Crockroaxz", has become a constant presence in the entertainment industry. He came to Mumbai with the dream of becoming a background dancer, and eventually became a renowned dancer. He then went on to become a television host and graduated to becoming an actor. While he was part of films like ABCD 2 and Street Dancer 3D, it was his work in Kill and The Ba***ds of Bollywood that brought him immense fame.

As part of the fame, Raghav recently appeared on filmmaker Farah Khan's YouTube series. He made a stylish entrance in a denim-on-denim ensemble along with a bodyguard. Impressed by his transformation, Farah exclaimed, "Oh my God! This is what stardom looks like. You look like a rockstar from Hollywood. You used to look like you were from Nala Sopara... now you have changed." She added with a smile, "You look so nice, success is working for you."

During their chat, Raghav jokingly complained that Farah didn't make him a star like Dilip. Surprised, Farah shot back, "What are you saying? Who got you your first acting audition?" Raghav corrected himself and fondly recalled, "Farah ma'am was the one who referred me to casting director Anmol Ahuja for an audition for Satte Pe Satta. When I auditioned, all the casting directors were shocked. That led to more opportunities and eventually roles in Kill and other projects." Farah chimed in, referencing Satte Pe Satta, "Picture toh bani nahi par tu nikal pada! (The film didn't

happen, but you took off!)"

As he entered Farah's house, Raghav was asked, "What do you want to drink?" He replied, "Coffee." Farah quipped, "Your Americano? Because now you no longer belong to Nala Sopara!" Raghav laughed and added, "Abhi main Ulhasnagar se Las Vegas mein aa gaya hoon! (I have gone from Ulhasnagar to Las Vegas now!)" Farah, clearly impressed, asked, "Tell me about this Hollywood rockstar look!" When Raghav remained quiet, she teased him again, "Has this change come after the success of Ba***ds of Bollywood?" Raghav humbly responded, "I don't know! That show brought me a lot of fame and praise." Farah went on to compliment his role in the Aryan Khan series, especially praising a scene with Emraan Hashmi. Curious, she asked, "When did you learn Arabic?" Raghav chuckled, "Mostly during travelling. Sometimes my driver, Ram, would freak out when I would suddenly start singing in Arabic!"

Later in the conversation, Raghav proudly revealed, "I'm building a huge house in Dehradun. It's a five-storey building." He added that once it's ready, he would invite Farah over to shoot another video there. Farah then asked, "So do you live on rent in Bombay?" Raghav confidently replied, "Not at all! I own a house here!"

Raghav has been in the industry for nearly 15 years. Long before Kill and Ba***ds of Bollywood, he featured in films like ABCD 2, Street Dancer 3D and Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan, among others.