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On India and wild-life management

In September, a Supreme Court-constituted Special Investigation Team (SIT) reported to the Court that Reliance Foundation's Vantara project in Jamnagar, Gujarat — India's largest private zoo — had been above board in the manner in which it had gone about acquiring wild animals from abroad; it had the right permits and the facilities for the upkeep of over 30,000 animals and that any criticism or aspersions of its activities on these grounds were wholly "unjustified". The Court chose not to make the report public and only appended a summary in its order with the operative observations. What the report contained in its entirety becomes relevant given that a global body has made some concerning observations and "recommended" that India's wildlife authorities pause the issue of permits that allow endangered animals to be imported by zoos. This came after the CITES committee — the most influential agreement on cross-border wildlife movement — visited Jamnagar. The visit was just after the SIT had submitted its report to the Court and from what is known from its exhaustive, public report, investigated the same issues as the SIT: permits, acquisition of animals, the facilities in Jamnagar. The CITES committee too commended Vantara's infrastructure and the expertise available for animal care. Its observations on the issue of permits casts aspersions on India's wildlife management system, not on Vantara. The committee's reservations stemmed from observations that permit codes accompanying several animal transfers did not always accurately reflect the arrangement between the exporting country and India. For instance, the Czech Republic says that it had "sold" several animals to the procuring arms of Vantara, which denies it was a sale and that the costs incurred were ancillary (insurance and transport).

Warangal Students Excel in State-Level Quiz Competition

““Warangal, November 10 (Indian Chronicle): Students of Sharada High School from Warangal showcased their outstanding talent at the “Bharat Ko Jano” state-level quiz competition organized by Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), Oorugallu branch, held in Hyderabad on



Sunday. ““In a joint statement, BVP Warangal General Secretary K. Satyanarayana and school correspondent Suresh announced that the Sharada High School students had earlier won the first prize in the district-level competition and later secured the third prize at the state level. ““A total of 68 students participated in the state-level event. In the junior category, Warangal Sharada High School students R. Mahindra and M.D. Ayaan Ali performed exceptionally well and received the State level Award. ““The winners were presented with mementos and appreciation certificates by BVP Telangana Patrons Hanumanth Rao, Ashwini Subbarao, and regional officials E.D. Nagaraju, Nagasekhar Gupta, Shivaramakrishna, and Sadashiva Reddy. ““BVP warangal President Dr. Sudhir Kumar, Finance Secretary B. Venkat Reddy, and conveners Vivekananda Prasad, V.C. Rama Rao, Venkatramana, Damodar, and Santosh Reddy congratulated the students and their guide teacher R. Santosh for their achievement.

UPPAL CONHRESS IN-CHARGE PARAMESHWAR REDDY

Assures Support to Deceased Sai Babu's Family; Promises to Educate Three Children at His Own Expense

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 10 (Indian Chronicle): ““Velanda Sai Babu, a resident of Indira Nagar, Uppal, passed away three days ago due to a heart attack. He is survived by his wife and three children. After learning about the incident, Uppal constituency Congress in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy visited Sai Babu's family on Monday along with local Congress lead-



ers. He spoke with the family and inquired about their situation. ““Expressing deep sorrow over Sai Babu's untimely death, Parameshwar Reddy provided immediate financial assistance to the family and announced that he would personally bear the educational expenses of all three children. He assured that the Congress Party would stand by the family in every possible way. Those who accompanied him include Bakaram Laxman, Lingampalli Ramakrishna, Thokata Raju, Madduuri Kumar, Ganja Prakash, Eldanda Raju, Dappu Nandu, Okkas Narendar, Alugula Anil Kumar, Mandala Nagaraju, Jajarla Sai Kumar, Thokata Ramu, Krishna, and others.

AMRITHA Senior Living Launches Hyderabad's First Assisted Living & Advanced Rehabilitation Centre



Hyderabad:AMRITHA Senior Living, an initiative focused on compassionate assisted living and clinically guided rehabilitation for senior citizens, was formally inaugurated today at the NTR CREST Building, Gachibowli, Hyderabad. The center was inaugurated by Mrs. Nara Bhuvaneshwari, Managing Trustee of NTR Blood Bank and Vice Chairperson & Managing Director of Heritage Foods Ltd., in the presence of distinguished guests and dignitaries.

The event witnessed participation from notable personalities including Mr. Maganti Murali Mohan, Founder & Managing Director, Jayabheri Group; Artist, Producer & Former Member of Parliament; Mr. Nandamuri Ramakrishna, Film Producer; and Dr. B. Prabha Shankar, Managing Director & CEO — Leads Pharma Pvt. Ltd. & Chairman, SN Vanita Pharmacy Maha Vidyalaya. Their presence added significance to this milestone launch dedicated

to redefining “Happy Aging & Elegant Living” for the elderly. The center has been founded by Mr. Sesh Kondapalli along with Vijay Oddiraju, Dr. Madhavi, and Dr. Saritha, who bring combined expertise in healthcare administration, senior wellness strategy, and clinical governance. AMRITHA Senior Living has been established in response to the rapidly rising need for structured elder care, especially in the areas of post-surgical rehabilitation, chronic illness recovery, mobility assistance, and daily living support.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony, Mrs. Nara Bhuvaneshwari said that “Senior citizens deserve dignity, respect, and emotional warmth—especially at a stage where life should feel peaceful and fulfilling. AMRITHA stands as a thoughtful and compassionate model for elder care. I am pleased to see such a well-planned, medically supported, and humane living environment being created in Hyderabad. Centers like this remind us that mental and emotional well-being are just as important as physical health. I hope to see many more such initiatives from Mr. Sesh in the future.”

Mr. Maganti Murali Mohan shared his thoughts, stating: “AMRITHA Senior Living has been inaugurated today in a meaningful way by Madam Bhuvaneshwari, and I thank Mr. Sesh Kondapalli for inviting me to be part of this wonderful initiative. With cities expanding rapidly and living costs increasing, it is becoming difficult for working families to care for elders at home. Thoughtful senior living homes like this bring relief and dignity. I have seen such models abroad where retirement planning begins early. This approach is timely and necessary for urban India.”

Airtel Payments Bank crosses 800 crore in Quarterly Revenue for the First Time



Hyderabad:Airtel Payments Bank today announced its financial results for the second quarter ended September 30, 2025. For the first time, the Bank's quarterly revenue breached the ₹800 crore, marking a 19.4% Y-o-Y growth. EBITDA for the quarter stood at ₹89.3 crore, up 17.4% compared to the same period last year. The Bank's profit for the quarter rose to 11.8 crore.

The annualised Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) reached ₹4,560 billion, reflecting the growing adoption of the Bank's Safe Second Account, merchant propositions,

and other product offerings. Airtel Payments Bank remains the third-largest mobile bank in India by user base, underscoring the increasing trust and engagement of its customers. Anubrata Biswas, MD & CEO, Airtel Payments Bank, said, “Our consistent growth reflects the strength of our digital-first model and the deep trust our customers place in us. The Safe Second Account continues to be a key growth driver, empowering customers to manage their everyday digital transactions with ease and confidence.”

The Bank continues to deepen its focus on Safe Second Account proposition and launched its first ever 360-degree brand campaign to highlight the differentiated offering designed for safe, seamless everyday digital payments. The campaign has been well received, driving strong traction in digital account openings and reinforcing the Bank's position as a trusted partner for customer's daily banking needs. The Bank's customer balances have increased to INR 3,987 crore in the quarter, up by 35% YoY. Airtel Payments Bank continues to lead the RuPay On-The-Go NCMC cards ecosystem, with over 4 million users leveraging its cards across major metro networks. It is also India's largest NCMC acquiring bank, processing nearly 65% of total transaction volumes in the category.

Manthani Karate Kids Shine Bright at National Championships – Bring Glory to Telangana

P. S. ASHOKAN. “KARIMNAGAR BUREAU Students from the Japan Shito-Ryu Shiko-Kai Karate International Academy, Manthani, displayed remarkable talent and discipline at the National Karate Championship held from 7th to 9th November at Ambedkar Stadium, Karimnagar. ““Under the expert guidance of Sensei Kaveti Sammayya, the young karatekas competed with great spirit and excellence in both Kata and Kumite events, across the Below 12 years and Above 12 years categories. Their hard work and determination earned them multiple gold and silver medals, making Telangana proud on the national stage. ““ Gold Medal Winners: ““Md. Tahseen Taiba ““Maredu Konda Rishi ““Macherla Shiva ““Maredu Konda Niharika ““Ela Vena Nishith ““Silver Medal Winners: ““Boggula Manognya ““Jadagala Sahasra ““Jadagala Manasvi ““The champions were lauded by eminent personalities including P. Bharat Sharma, President of Shito-Ryu Shiko-Kai & Kyo India, B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of Telangana Sports Karate Association, Palakurthi Papayya, Telangana Representative of Shito-Ryu Shiko-Kai Karate, and Guntupalli Sammayya, Working President of Telangana and Chief Organizer of the tournament. ““Instructors Ippa Srinivas, Malyala Ramaswamy, Nagelli Rakesh, Jadagala Shivani,



Kaveti Shiva Ganesh, K. Vishnu, Harsha Vardhan, Mettu Hasini, Geya Sri Ram Teja, and Sri Ramulu extended their heartfelt congratulations to the winners for their stellar performances. ““The victory of these young martial artists stands as a testament to their dedication, discipline, and the strong coaching foundation provided by Shito-Ryu Shiko-Kai Karate International Academy, Manthani — inspiring many budding talents to follow in their footsteps. ““Hard work, focus, and perseverance always lead to victory,” said Sensei Kaveti Sammayya, expressing pride in his students' achievements. ““ Heartiest congratulations to all the medal winners and their mentors!

Inauguration of Paddy Procurement Centres in Medchal Constituency



““NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 10, (Indian Chronicle): ““Paddy procurement centres were formally inaugurated at Muduchintalapally (Lakshmapur) and Uddamaru villages under the Muduchintalapally Municipality in Medchal constituency. Medchal Constitu-

ency In-charge Totakura Vajresh Yadav and Medchal–Malkajgiri District Market Committee Chairman Bommalapalli Narasimhulu Yadav attended as chief guests and inaugurated the centres. They interacted with local farmers during the program. Speaking on the occasion, Vajresh Yadav said that the government is implementing several schemes for the welfare of farmers. He urged farmers to sell their paddy on time and assured that the government would extend full support to them in the procurement process. Farmers participated actively and shared their concerns with the officials. Authorities stated that all necessary arrangements have been made to ensure smooth and timely procurement of paddy. Among those present were Medchal Constituency B-Block President Venugopal Reddy, Muduchintalapally Municipality Chairman Dosakayala Venkatesh, former public representatives, and senior Congress leaders.

Grand Celebration of Lord Shiva-Parvati Kalyanam at Velugu Gutta Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 10 (Indian Chronicle): ““The Velugu Gutta Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple, located beside the Uppal Cricket Stadium, witnessed a grand celebration on the occasion of the third Monday of the holy Kartika month. “The day began at 4:30 a.m. with Maha Nyasa Rudrabhishekam and group Rudrabhishekam rituals at the Vayu Linga, conducted with great devotion. Temple officer Peddi Gari Srikanth said the rituals were performed in a traditional and spiritual manner. “At 10 a.m., the Shiva-Parvati Kalyanam (divine wedding ceremony) was celebrated in a festive atmosphere, attracting a large number of devotees who witnessed the event with joy and devotion. Following the ceremony, Anna Prasada (food distribution) was organized for all attendees. In the evening, Akasadeeparadhana was held at 6:00 p.m., followed by Annabhishekam at 6:30 p.m. Temple EO Srikanth said that necessary arrangements were made to ensure devotees faced no inconvenience during the Kartika month celebrations.



Women's Empowerment Vital for Nation's Growth: Singer Kausalya



Hyderabad: Empowerment of women is essential for the overall progress and sustainability of society, said noted playback singer Kausalya. She was speaking at the ‘Selfie with Bathukamma’ award distribution program jointly organized by Mundadugu Foundation and Save the Girl Child.

Kausalya stated that women possess immense strength and can achieve outstanding feats when encouraged. She referred to the recent World Cup victory of the Indian Women's Cricket Team as a proud example of women's capabilities. She appreciated the efforts of both organizations for taking up meaningful initiatives to support girls and women. Congratulating the winners, Kausalya urged women to continue competing and progressing in every field, adding that one should never think “I cannot do it.” Bathukamma gifts were later distributed to participants from across the Telangana districts. The event was coordinated by Rajendra, alongside Dr. Sravanthi, Ragi Swapna, Pabba Sharanya, Geethanand, Maria Anthony, Aparna, Komati Ramesh Babu, Kokkula Prashanth, Vamsikrishna, L. Rajesh, and Pabba Sridhar. Bathukamma Contest Winners: Lavanya (Kothagudem), Gayatri (Hyderabad), Rohini (Hyderabad), Hemalatha (Siddipet), Jhansi (Suryapet), Kalyani (Kamareddy), Latha (Husnabad), Lavanya (Husnabad), Manasa (Karimnagar), Manasa (Siddipet), Mounika (Karimnagar), Narmada (Karimnagar), Padmaja (Hyderabad), Poornima (Peddapalli), Rakshita (Hyderabad), Ramadevi (Suryapet), Gouthami (Hyderabad), Santosha (Hyderabad), Shabari (Hyderabad), Shirisha (Hyderabad), Sujatha (Hyderabad), Swathi (Karimnagar), Sandhya (Warangal), Sharada (Hyderabad), Radhika (Warangal), Krishna Priya (Hyderabad), Pravallika (Hyderabad), Manika Reddy (Hyderabad), Supraj (Hyderabad), and Soujanya (Mancherial).

Rs 1.83 Crore CC Road Works Underway in New Vijayapuri Colony: Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Inspects Progress

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 10 (Indian Chronicle): ““Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy said that efforts are being made for the overall development of Uppal Division. On Monday, she inspected the ongoing CC road construction works



in New Vijayapuri Colony, being carried out at a cost of ₹1.83 crore. During the inspection, Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy directed officials to install new drinking water pipelines in the colony soon. She mentioned that CC roads and drainage works are being developed in all colonies within the division. She added that steps are being taken to transform Uppal Division into a model division free of civic problems. Among those present were AE Raj Kumar, colony president Venkatesh, Telkala Mohan Reddy, Nagi Reddy, Pabbu Narsimha, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Varkala Madan Goud, Papayya, Shankarappa, Pusa Satish, Bhaskar, Danayya, Narsimha Kurma, Venkateswara Rao, Padma, Sumitra, Savitri Andalu and others.

Prajavani Voluntary Organization Pays Tribute to People's Poet Andesri

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 10 (Indian Chronicle): ““Prajavani Voluntary Organization members paid floral tributes to the late people's poet



Andesri, who passed away due to a heart attack. The event was held at Rajendranagar in Ramanthapur under the organization's leadership. “Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that Andesri, despite having no formal education, lived a simple life as a shepherd and carpet weaver. Through his deep observation and self-learning, he became widely known as a people's poet. His songs not only inspired and awakened society but also earned him a place among the most respected literary figures, even a thousand years from now. “They recalled that the state government had recognized Andesri with the Dasharathi Award and Suddala Hanmanthu Janakamma Award. His song “Jaya Jayahe Telangana Janani Jayaketanam” was officially declared as the Telangana State Anthem. “The leaders also mentioned that his famous song “Mayamaipothunnadamma Manishannavadu” reflects the fading humanity in society and continues to touch people's hearts. They expressed that Andesri's death is an irreparable loss to the people, poets, writers, and singers alike. “Those present at the event included organization president Erram Srinivasulu, secretary Vijay Kumar, Kiran, E. Raj Krishna, Kumaraswamy, Ompu Lakshmaiah, and Namala Srinivas, among others.

Foundation Stone Laid for New City Training Centre at Medipally

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 10, (Indian Chronicle):“Director General of Police (DGP) Shivadher Reddy and Rachakonda Commissioner of Police (CP) Sudheer Babu laid the foundation stone for the new City Training Centre (CTC) at Medipally. DGP Shivadher Reddy He congratulated the Rachakonda Police for the establishment of the new City Training Centre. He stated that though Rachakonda Commissionerate doesn't have a full-fledged training facility yet, Divis Laboratories has come forward under its social responsibility initiative to construct the building. The new CTC will have facilities for training related to decoy operations, robbery, general crime investigation, and cybercrime. He highlighted the growing threat of cyber fraud, saying that scams worth thousands of crores are taking place through online activities and OTP-based frauds. Over the past two years, the department has been focusing on cyber security awareness and specialized training for officers. He said that such training centres are essential for skill enhancement and that similar centres will be established in all districts. He also emphasized the importance of road safety training for officers. He pointed out that many people drive recklessly and misunderstand traffic signals for example, using the left indicator to turn left instead of



the correct right indicator. Awareness will be created on these issues, he added. Roads are not meant for racing, he said, adding that a special program named ALIVE will soon be launched to promote road safety awareness. CP Sudheer Babu Speaking at the event, he said the new City Training Centre is being constructed adjacent to the upcoming Rachakonda Commissionerate building, which is being developed over 56 acres. The CTC foundation was laid at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore. The centre will provide training for personnel from all levels of the force. He thanked Divis Laboratories for taking up the construction of the training centre.

The government should immediately pay the pending ex-gratia dues of Rs 13 crore to Geeta workers

Geeta Panivarala Sangam State General Secretary DG Soil Goud Demand

“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 10):- Geeta Panivarala Sangam organized a dharna in front of the District Collectorate office under the auspices of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Council and later submitted a petition to District Collector Hanumantha Rao. Geeta Panivarala Sangam State General Secretary DG Soil Goud attended this dharna program as the chief guest and said that the toddy profession is an ancient and important profession among the livelihood of the people in the state of Telangana. Lakhs of people from poor and backward classes are engaged in this profession and continue their lives by providing natural beverages to the people. He said that the late Bommagani Dharma Biksha, a prominent freedom fighter and former member of parliament, was a leader who formed the Geetapanivarala Sangam, studied their problems, and played a prominent role in organizing and achieving many struggles. The government should immediately release the arrears of Rs 13 crore to the families of the tree workers who died and were disabled due to accidental falls from trees in the state, increase the expropriation from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh for the families of those who died in the tree profession and increase it to Rs 2 lakh for those who sustained temporary injuries, abolish the medical board system and restore the temporary and permanent disability certificate system under the supervision of the government's civil assistant surgeon, provide complete safety kits to all the tree workers who draw trees in all TFT cooperative societies in the state, hold coordination meetings at the government level with the representatives of the society for the development and welfare of the tree profession, provide permanent licenses to all eligible TFTs and identity cards to the members of the Kallu Geeta cooperative societies, allocate 100 square yards of land in villages and 2000 square yards of land in towns for setting up shops for professional equipment and bikes,



and provide adequate financial support for their construction, and provide villages as the foundation for TFTs for each society. They want to increase the area of ??forest plantation from 5 to 10 acres as per 560 G.O. and give government land. In this dharna program, Geetha Panivarala Sangam State Assistant Secretary Bolagani Satyanarayana, Geetha Panivarala Sangam State Former Vice President Goda Sriramulu, District President Chapala Anjaiah, General Secretary Pabbu Yadayaiah, District Vice Presidents Kallem Krishna, Bandi Jangamma, AITUC District General Secretary M.D. Imran, BC Rights Movement District Secretary Eshala Ashok, leaders Putta Ramesh, Annepu Venkat, Ganaboyina Venkatesh, Samala Shobhan Babu, Dasari Lakshmaiah, Pandula Yadagiri Erra Ramesh, Bathini Naresha Balagani Satyanarayana, Bolagani Lakshminarayana, Seesa Krishna, Gajula Balaraju, Nethi Krishnaiah, Veeramalla Yadayaiah, Pulpalupula Mallesh Jakkarla Venkatesh District Venkatayya Bhimavaram Narasimha Battini Srinivas Gundu Venkatesh Bolagani Jahangir Tallapalli Venkatayya Palte Venkanna Sudagani Venkanna Durgapati Narasimha, Gopagani Raju and others participated.



Manduva Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle November 10):- Telangana Jaya Jayahe Telangana lyricist Andesri passed away..May his soul rest in peace. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collectorate premises observed a moment of silence and paid tributes. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao, Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy, Local Bodies Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao, D.R. O Jayamma, district officers and employees of various departments participated in this program.

Instructions to the officials to complete the purchase of grain from farmers quickly

-Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 10):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the purchase of grain should be completed quickly. On Monday, District Collector Hanumantha Rao conducted a surprise inspection of the I.K.P. grain purchase centers in Chimala Kondur and Chandupatla of Bhuvanagiri Mandal.“On this occasion, the District Collector spoke to the farmers.... and inquired about how many acres they had planted and whether there were any problems at the purchase center. As soon as the farmers informed that no garbage tractors were coming to the village, they immediately called the district panchayat officer and ordered him to send tractors to the villages from tomorrow. The collector said that grain would be purchased till the last grain. He asked the center managers how much grain had been purchased so far at the purchasing center. He said how many heaps of grain had been purchased to-



day by placing a fork. The district collector himself checked the moisture content of the grain. As soon as the moisture content was found, the grain should be purchased without storing it and transported to the mills by lorries. He suggested that the heaps of grain should be covered with tarpaulin covers. He should ask whether the tab entry has been completed until the purchase is made and complete it from time to time.“All the facilities required by the farmers should be arranged at the purchasing center until the next season.“The concerned officials participated in the program.



Rampant Illegal Constructions in Boduppall 23rd Division

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 10, (Indian Chronicle):“Illegal constructions are mushrooming across various divisions of Boduppall Municipal Corporation, especially in the 23rd Division. Locals have accused municipal officials of turning a blind eye to these violations, allegedly using the excuse that the Municipal Commissioner is on leave. Residents allege that certain builders, backed by ruling party leaders, are blatantly constructing illegal sheds, shops, and commercial buildings without proper permissions or approvals. Despite repeated complaints from the public, officials are reportedly taking no concrete action, raising suspicions of collusion between the municipal authorities and the violators. The unchecked construction of unauthorized commercial structures is causing a significant loss to municipal revenue. Locals question why permissions are not being verified and why illegal shuttered sheds are being allowed to operate openly. Citizens are demanding immediate intervention from higher authorities to stop these illegal constructions and hold negligent officials accountable.



Instructions to officials to resolve applications received in Prajavani promptly

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 10):- “Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao has instructed the concerned officials to resolve applications received in Prajavani promptly. In a Prajavani program held at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Monday, the

District Collector, along with Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy and Local Bodies Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao, received 50 applications from people from different areas. The concerned officials should examine and resolve the applications received in Prajavani from time to time at the field level without any pending issues. It was informed that 33 applications were received from the Revenue Department, 4 from the District Panchayat, 2 from the Special Deputy Collector, 2 from the Lands & Survey Department, 2 from the Irrigation Department, 2 from the Municipality Department, 1 from the Medical Department, 1 from the Marketing Department, 1 from the District Welfare Department, 1 from the Civil Supply Department, and 1 from the Housing Department. The concerned officials were instructed to immediately examine the applications received by various departments and resolve the problems of the people. DRO Jayamma, ZP CEO Shobharani, DRDA PD Nagi Reddy, Housing PD Vijaya Singh, and district officials of various departments participated in this program.

Former ex Corporator Bhukya Suman Attends Idol Installation Ceremony of Sri Jagadamba Mata and Sant Sevalal Maharaj



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 10, (Indian Chronicle):“The idol installation ceremony of Sri Jagadamba Mata and Sadguru Sant Sri Sevalal Maharaj was held in a grand manner at the newly constructed temple in Annojiguda under Pocharam Municipality. The rituals were performed with traditional Vedic chants under the supervision of Sri Shankar Maharaj and his team. On the invitation of the temple committee members, former ex vice chairman Reddy Naik, along with former ex corporators Bhukya Suman and Subash Naik, participated in the ceremony, offered prayers, and received theertha prasadam. Former ex chairman Kondal Reddy, Roop Singh Naik, Jitender Naik, Kashiram, committee members, and several local leaders were also present on this occasion.



- “(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 10):- Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy led a meeting with booth agents in Somajiguda division to ensure the victory of Congress Party candidate Valalla Naveen Kumar Yadav in the Jubilee Hills by-election. 282 Booth Observer Potnak Pramod Kumar was explaining various things.

Indiramma Housing Inauguration Ceremony Held in Medchal



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 10, (Indian Chronicle):“The inauguration of an Indiramma Housing Scheme house took place in Ward No. 4/19 under Medchal Municipality. The housewarming and puja ceremony was conducted with great enthusiasm. The event was inaugurated by Medchal Constituency Congress in-charge Totakura Vajresh Yadav in the presence of Singireddy Harivardhan Reddy, Medchal District Congress Committee President, who attended as the chief guest. Prominent participants included Medchal Market Committee Chairman Bommalapalli Narsimhulu Yadav, Medchal Municipal Chairman Srinivas Reddy, ex-Vice



Chairman Ramesh, ex-councillors, senior Congress leaders, and local residents. Speaking on the occasion, Totakura Vajresh Yadav said that the Congress Party's aim is to ensure every eligible family owns a home. He added that the Indiramma Housing Scheme stands as a symbol of social equality and plays a key role in fulfilling the dream of home ownership for poor families.

Annadanam Organized at Collector Office under the Aegis of Telangana Rythu Parirakshana Samithi



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 10, (Indian Chronicle):““Under the aegis of the Telangana Rythu Parirakshana Samithi, an Annadanam (food donation) program was organized on Monday at the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collector Office with the financial support of social worker Kommarajula Venkatesh. Speaking on the occasion, Telangana Rythu Parirakshana Samithi President Indrapala Bhavani said that many people from various parts of the district visit the Collector Office every

Monday during the Praja Vani program to seek solutions to their problems. To support such visitors, the organization has been conducting a Monday Annadanam initiative. She added that this was the second phase of the program, which served food to a larger number of people compared to the first phase. The initiative has been receiving positive response from various sections of society, and donors’ support would help extend assistance to even more people, she said. The organization expressed gratitude to Kommarajula Venkatesh for his financial contribution to this noble cause. Later, the organization’s General Secretary Indrapala Satyanarayana stated that ever since the establishment of the Samithi, it has been continuously involved in various service activities and has conducted multiple Annadanam programs in the past. He appealed to donors to contribute to the weekly Rythu Annadanam program and contact 9032088236 for donations. Telangana Rythu Parirakshana Samithi District President Panthula Srinivas said that despite challenges, the organization will continue conducting the Annadanam program every Monday without fail. The event was attended by Naresh, Ambala Mallesh, Ambala Vishnu, Rehman, and others.

Idol Installation Ceremony at Bhramarambika Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple, Charlapally Lakshminagar



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 10, (Indian Chronicle):““Malkajgiri Member of Parliament Etela Rajender will visit the Bhramarambika Sametha Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple at Charlapally Lakshminagar on Monday, take part in the idol installa-



tion ceremony. BJP leaders and activists from Nagaram Municipality have been requested to attend the event and make it a grand success. The ceremony was attended by Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender, former ex Nagaram Chairman Chandra Reddy, former Councillor Srinivas Goud, former ZPTC Suresh, Janga Reddy, and local residents who actively participated in the program.

UGD Works Launched at Chinna Charlapally Main Road

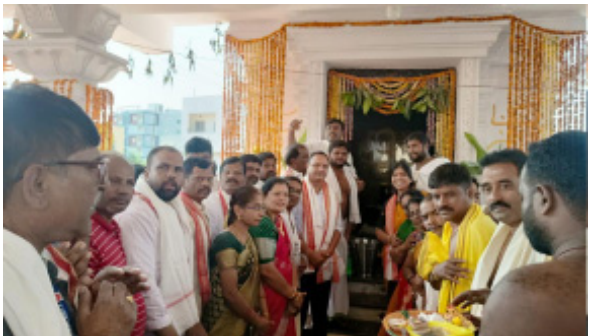


“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 10, (Indian Chronicle):““Standing Council member and Corporator

Bonthu Sridevi Yadav inaugurated 100 meters of underground drainage (UGD) pipeline works on the main road at Chinna Charlapally in Charlapally Division. Speaking on the occasion, she said that the works were taken up to resolve long-pending drainage issues and to improve sanitation facilities for local residents. She assured that the corporation is committed to developing internal roads, drainage systems, and other civic amenities across the division to ensure better living conditions for the people. Local residents and colony representatives appreciated the efforts of the corporator for promptly addressing public problems.

Idol Installation Ceremony Held at Laxmi Nagar Temple

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 10, (Indian Chronicle):““An idol installation ceremony of Sri Bhramarambika Mallikarjuna Swamy, Abhaya Anjaneya Swamy, and Navagraha deities was held at Laxmi Nagar in Charlapalli Division. Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy attended the event as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, he conveyed his wishes that with the blessings of the deities, everyone should lead a happy and prosperous life. GHMC Standing Committee Member and Charlapalli Division Corporator Bontu Sridevi Yadav also participated in the program along with BRS party leaders and activists.



Parameshwar Reddy Consoles Congress Leader Iqbal’s Family in Meerpet



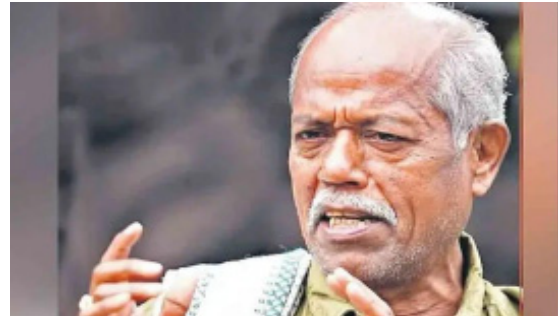
“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 10, (Indian Chronicle):““Congress in-charge of Uppal constituency, Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, visited the family of Congress leader Iqbal from Diamond Hills Colony, HB Colony Division, Meerpet, who recently lost his mother. Parameshwar Reddy offered condolences to the bereaved family and expressed his support during this difficult time. Senior Congress leaders from HB Colony including Srinivas Mudiraj, Kashetti Prasad, Vittal Naik, Ajeed, Kishore, Suresh Goud, Aleem, Sammayya, Gemini, Shiva, Rajesh, Srinu, and Murtuza were present on the occasion.

Song with words.. Song with words..

" For the voice of four crore Telangana people.. " Jaya Jayahe Telangana.. Jananirajanam Geetalapana " Writer.. Andesri.. Asthamayam "" Jaya Jayahe Telangana.. Janani.. Neerajanaam Geetalapana.." The honor of presenting the "Telangana Geeta" to the then Chief Minister KCR as a gift went to that intellectual Andesri.

“(Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 10):- Poet.. Singer.. Telangana movement leader.. The wave of Telangana that has risen. The rising sun.. has set today.. Who can believe the people of Telangana. Andesri (64) who collapsed at home with chest pain on Monday morning died while undergoing treatment at Gandhi Hospital. While the sun was rising... at 7:25 am Andesri (a fan of movement songs) has passed away, announced the doctors of Gandhi Hospital. Born on July 18, 1961 in Rebarthi, Siddipet district, Andesri, who was a good poet and singer in the united states, is now far from the people. No one can believe that Andesri, who was a good poet and singer in the united states, has left the people today. In the separate Telangana state that Telangana achieved after 60 years.. In his own state, "Telangana Geeta" was sung by the students with his own hands.. With his pen, he wrote the song "Jaya Jayahe Telangana".. It can be said that the intellectual got the credit of presenting the Telangana Geeta as a gift to the then Chief Minister KCR. Andesri, who played a key role in the Telangana movement"Recently, the government has given an award of Rs. crore"Andesri's real name is Ande Yellaiah.. Honorary doctorate from Kakatiya University.. Andesri is known for reciting poetry Diitta."Andesri received the

Nandi Award for Ganga in 2006"“Andesri has three daughters and a son. In 2014, she received the Academy of Universal Global Peace Doctorate"Andesri received the Dasarathi Literary Award in 2015..Ravuri Bharadwaja Literary Award in 2015"Andesri received the Janakamma National Award in 2022..Dasarathi Krishnamacharya Literary Award in 2024"Andesri, who received the Lok Nayak Award, is absent today.. Many intellectuals are commenting that Telangana state is in dire need of her.



Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy expressed deep sorrow over the untimely demise of renowned Telugu poet and writer Ande Sri. He stated that Ande Sri's literary works brought a new glory to the Telugu language. Extending heartfelt condolences to his family members and admirers, he prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace.



Medchal MLA Mallareddy Pays Tribute to Poet Andesri"Medchal MLA and former minister Mallareddy paid his respects to noted Telugu poet and lyricist Dr. Andesri, who passed away recently. Mallareddy expressed profound grief over Andesri's demise, recalling his immense contribution to the Telangana movement through his inspiring poetry and the iconic song Jaya Jaya He Telangana. He described Andesri's death as a huge loss to the literary and cultural fraternity of Telangana and conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

Intensive Orthopedics PG Teaching Program Concludes at Gandhi Medical College Over 200 Postgraduate Medical Students from Across the State Attend

“ Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, November 10:““The Department of Orthopedics at Gandhi Medical College successfully organized the IOA Orthopedics Postgraduate Teaching Program, an intensive academic event that concluded on Sunday. The two-day program was held at the Gandhi Alumni Auditorium and saw the participation of over 200 postgraduate students from various parts of the state.“Designed to enhance students’ clinical skills and diagnostic understanding, the program included patient examinations, clinical discussions, case-based discussions, and hands-on training sessions.“The event was graced by several distinguished guests including Dr. Sandeep Kumar, Chairman of the IOA PG Committee; Course Chairpersons Dr. Bacchu Srinivas and Dr. Jagannmohan Reddy; Academic In-charge Dr. M.V. Reddy; Associate Professor of Orthopedics at Gandhi Medical College Dr. Ravi; and senior faculty members Dr. Anjaneyulu and Dr. Ravindranath, among others.“Organizers stated that the program aimed to pro-

Shyam Nayak With Ministers During Door- To- Door Campaign For Jubilee Hills By- Election

““Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas. November,10““Shyam Nayak campaigns door to door with Minister Sridhar Babu and Adluri Laxman The campaigning for the victory of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the by-election increased on Sunday. Minister Sridhar, along with former MLA Adluri Laxman, Asifabad constituency in- charge Ajmira Shyam Nayak participated in a door-to- door campaign in the Erragadda area. Speaking to the people,Minister Sridhar Babu explained the welfare programs undertaken by the Congress government for the development of the state. He said that if Naveen Yadav wins, there will be an opportunity to solve the problems of the people more quickly. Asifabad leader Deepak Munde,local leaders and activists participated in the program.During the campaign,the local people warmly welcomed the leaders.

Intensive Orthopedics PG Teaching Program Concludes at Gandhi Medical College Over 200 Postgraduate Medical Students from Across the State Attend



mote practical learning and real-time clinical feedback, fostering awareness of patient-centered orthopedic care among the participants.“The Department of Orthopedics at Gandhi Medical College extended its gratitude to the Indian Orthopaedic Association (IOA) and all faculty members for their support in making the event a grand success.

More Quest Teachers in Junior Colleges

““Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte,Jade Srinivas. November,10““Hyderabad: The state government junior““The Finance Department has granted permission to appoint a total of 566 employees, including 494 guest teachers, in junior colleges. To this end, the Principal Secretary of the Department, Sandeep Kumar Sultania, recently issued a GO. The government has given permission to the Inter Education Department to appoint 494 guest teachers and 72 data entry operators and office subordinates under the neighboring services. Guest teachers will be paid a maximum of Rs. 28,080 per month, data entry operators Rs. 19,500, and office subordinates Rs. 15,600. Till the last academic year (2024-25), 1,654 guest teachers were working in junior colleges across the state. After regular teachers were appointed in February last year, the government issued orders two months ago to continue only 398 guest teachers. Krishna Aditya, Director of Inter Education, sent a proposal to the government last September stating that another 494 people were needed. In this order, the government issued a GO allowing the appointment of 494 people. A total of 892 guest teachers will work till March 31.

OU faculty protests enter 40th day



““Indian Chronicle Tarnaka OU November 10: Osmania University faculty members' protest against irregularities in CAS promotions has entered its 40th day. They protested at the OU Physics Department on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, they alleged that while OU officials claim that promotions were given on the basis of merit, the OU VC has implemented a measure of patronage bias towards some faculty members and favoritism towards others in the CAS interviews. The faculty members have been protesting during the lunch hour for the past few days wearing black badges, but it is very regrettable that the OU administration has not responded to the faculty members' protests and that the OU has not been called to discuss it, said OUTA President Prof. Manohar Rao. Professors Venkata Das, Nathaniel, Madhuri, Sujatha, Sasikala, Aparna, Commerce College Gangadhar, Ramachandra Nayak, Aravind, Ramesh Babu, P. Ramesh, Suresh Kumar and others were present at the event.

BRS moves EC against Congress’ plot to influence Jubilee Hills bypoll with fake voter IDs, cash

Hyderabad: Continuing its fight against the alleged large-scale electoral malpractices by the ruling Congress, the BRS on Monday once again approached the election authority seeking official action.

Authorities should take action to ensure that farmers do not face any difficulties at the procurement centers of grain, cotton and soya crops across the state:

- State Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy instructs collectors in video conference

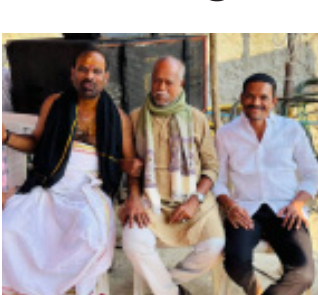


“(Mandava Srisailem..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 10):- State Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Government Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, held a video conference on Monday with the collectors of all the districts of the state, civil supplies, cooperation and related officials from the Hyderabad Dr. BR Ambedkar Secretariat on the management of grain, cotton, soya, procurement centers and other issues. District Collector Hanumantha Rao and Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy participated along with the concerned officials from the District Collectorate Video Conference Hall. Speaking on the occasion, the ministers said that all facilities should be provided to the farmers in the management of the procurement centers of paddy, cotton, soya and other crops across the state without any difficulties, that the centers should be opened immediately, that the purchased paddy should be transported immediately, that the farmers

should be kept alert by informing them about the weather conditions, and that paddy cleaners, machete machines, missionaries, gunny bags, tarpaulins and lorries should be kept ready at the centers. They said that advance measures should be taken without any difficulties regarding millers, contractors, porters, etc.”He said that all the departments should work together in full coordination to successfully conduct the procurement of paddy.“ After the video conference, District Collector Hanumantha Rao spoke to the concerned officials and said that farmers in the district should not face any difficulties in purchasing paddy. District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy, Civil Supply Officer Rojarani, District Cooperative Department Officer Sridhar, Agriculture Department Officer Ramana Reddy, DM Civil Supply Harikrishna, Marketing Officer Sabita and concerned officials participated in this video conference.

Special prayers were offered at the Ayyappa Swamy Padi Puja on Sunday..

He died on Monday morning..." Telangana National Anthem writer Andesri passes away " An irreparable loss to the state:- Telangana State Right to Information Chairman Boreddy Ayodhya Reddy



“(Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. November 10):- Poet.. Singer.. Writer of Telangana National Anthem.. Leader of Telangana Movement.. The wave of Telangana that has surged. The rising sun..if it sets today..who can't believe the people of Telangana."Jaya Jaya..Telangana Janani Jayaketanam..Three crore voices are one consciousness.."The voice is mute.."The human being is disappearing...Look at him not even a speck of him...Humanity is gone...Disappearing..It is very sad...I participated in the Ayyappa Swamy Padi Puja held at his house on Sunday and performed special pujas..Spent time with him till evening..Going to his house in the evening..Andesri, who collapsed due to chest pain at their house on Monday morning, passed away..Telangana State Information Rights Chairman Boreddy Ayodhya Reddy said that it is a great loss for the state of Telangana.

At Ayodhya Reddy's house in Turkapalli Mandal center of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district...Andesri, who participated in the Ayyappa Padi Puja on Sunday morning and performed special pujas and had lunch...Spent time with them in the evening.. Intellectual.. warrior.. hearing the news of his death on Monday morning.. Ayodhya Reddy could not hold back his tears.. The word is like a song.. The word is like a song from his mouth... Like a flowing river.. Like the flowing Godavari.. Through his word.. song.. "The famous poet.. singer.. who won the affection of four and a half crore Telangana people.. It is very sad that Andesri has gone to this world.. The poet and singer, who participated in the Ayyappa Swamy Padi Pujas that he used to perform till yesterday and performed special pujas.. Since Andesri was not present today.. Telangana State Information Rights Chairman Bo Reddy Ayodhya Reddy.. paid his tributes with his tears.

Himachal lost Rs 46,000 crore to natural disasters in five years: Human Development Report 2025

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

Himachal Pradesh has suffered an estimated loss of Rs 46,000 crore owing to natural disasters over the past five years, translating to an annual hit of nearly 4 per cent to the state's gross domestic product (GDP). This alarming assessment was made by the first Himachal Pradesh Human Development Report (HPHDR) 2025, released on Monday by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu. The report, jointly prepared by the state government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), underscores the growing impact of climate change on Himachal's economy, public health, and ecology. It notes that extreme weather events, recurrent landslides, flash floods, and prolonged droughts are reshaping the state's development trajectory. On the human development index (HDI) scale, Solan district ranked first with an HDI value of 0.880, followed by Lahaul & Spiti (0.839), Kinnaur (0.813), and Shimla (0.812). Kangra, the state's most populous district, ranked lowest with an HDI value of 0.695. Interestingly, when adjusted for climate resilience, Kinnaur, Lahaul & Spiti, and Chamba districts emerged as the top three in the climate-adjusted human development index (CAHDI), showcasing the adaptive capacity of communities living in some of the state's most remote and challenging terrains. Himachal's health landscape altered



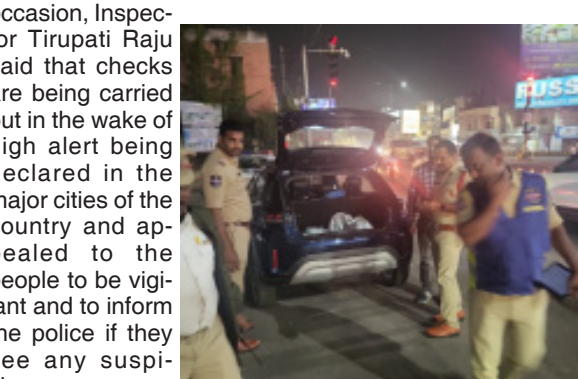
development assessment, offering a blueprint for sustainable policy interventions in the Himalayan state.

Extensive police checks in Bowenpally

..""Secunderabad Cantonment. "November .10. "(Indian Chronicle):"" "In the wake of the Delhi blast incident, Bowenpally police



stopped buses on Chowrastha Road. "Extensive vehicle checks were carried out at busy areas. Under the supervision of Bowenpally Inspector Tirupati Raju, Sivashankar Avinash Babu's staff sent forward checking each vehicle. "In this order, many people who looked suspicious were questioned. "On the



occasion, Inspector Tirupati Raju said that checks are being carried out in the wake of high alert being declared in the major cities of the country and appealed to the people to be vigilant and to inform the police if they see any suspicious persons

66 Punjab villages pass resolution appealing parole for Sikh militant Jagtar Singh Hawara, email sent to Delhi CM Rekha Gupta



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

The Beant Singh assassination convict's plea has gained public and religious backing, with the matter pending before the Delhi Home Department. Sixty-six Punjab panchayats have urged Delhi CM Rekha Gupta to grant parole to Jagtar Singh Hawara so he can meet his ailing mother. Sixty-six panchayats in Punjab recently passed resolutions requesting parole for Sikh militant Jagtar Singh Hawara, who has been convicted of the 1995 assassination of former Punjab chief minister Beant Singh. The panchayats appealed to Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta that Hawara be given parole on humanitarian grounds to meet his ailing octogenarian mother. Hawara's lawyer, Jaspal Singh Manjhpur, said that an email containing the 66 resolutions has been sent to CM Gupta's office. The convicted militant is currently lodged in Delhi's Mandoli Central Jail, where he is serving a life sentence. "Forty villages attached to Khamano police station of Fatehgarh

Sahib, 15 villages of district Ludhiana, and 11 in proximity to the village Hawara of Jagtar Singh Hawara have passed the resolution," said Manjhpur. All the resolutions read, "It is certified that Jagtar Singh @ Hawara S/O Late S. Sher Singh is the permanent residence of Village & Post Office Hawara Kalan, Police Station Khamano, Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib and presently confined in Central Jail No. 15, Mandoli, New Delhi as life convict. If Jagtar Singh comes on Parole at Village Hawara Kalan then there is no objection to Panchayat and villagers.

"We all undersigned strongly recommend the Parole to Jagtar Singh @ Hawara S/O Late S. Sher Singh and also take responsibility that Jagtar Singh will keep peace and law & order during the parole time." Last month, Hawara's mother, Narinder Kaur, 81, had written to CM Gupta, requesting that parole be granted regularly to her son. The chief minister's office forwarded her plea to Home Minister Ashish Sood. A separate plea was also submitted to National Commission for Minorities Chairperson Iqbal Singh Lalpura. Kaur argued that several co-accused in the Beant Singh case had already been granted parole and insisted that Hawara was equally entitled to the same relief. She highlighted her deteriorating health and emotional distress from prolonged separation for over 27 years since his imprisonment. Akal Takht officiating jathedar Giani Kuldip Singh Gargaj also publicly backed Kaur's appeal, urging the government to allow Hawara to visit his ailing mother. Hawara, convicted in seven cases and acquitted in 22, applied for regular parole on June 11. The matter is currently pending before the Delhi Home Department.

'Compromise not a passport out of a sexual offence': Delhi HC refuses to quash POCSO case

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

Refusing to quash a case of alleged child marriage and sexual assault of a minor under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the Delhi High Court has emphasised that "compromise cannot be a passport out of a sexual offence". The court has further underlined that cases of aggravated sexual assault are crimes against the society at large and not amenable to private settlements. The incident dates back to 2016, when a 15-year old girl purportedly ran away with a man. After police traced the duo's whereabouts, the man had produced a marriage certificate — even as the girl was found to be a minor.

In her statement under CrPC Section 164, the girl claimed that she had voluntarily married the man and had consensual physical relations. Despite her claim, due to her age, IPC sections 376 (rape) and 366 (kidnapping), along with sections 4 and 6 (sexual assault) of the POCSO Act, and Section 10 of the Prevention of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), were added in the FIR against the man. The accused man had moved the Delhi HC seeking quashing of the FIR on the ground that the two had arrived at a mutual agreement, and had married consensually after the girl disclosed that she was of legally marriageable age. The prosecution, on the other hand, objected to the quashing of the FIR. It had submitted that any purported "consent" is irrelevant under the POCSO Act. It also said the girl deposed in court, supporting the prosecution's case, and stated that she was subjected to sexual assault by the man. Justice Sanjeev Narula noted that when penetrative sexual assault results in pregnancy, "the law deems it aggravated penetrative sexual assault" and "marriage or cohabitation at a later stage does not erase the offence".

The judge recorded, "The Court's approach has been forthright: compromise cannot be a passport out of a sexual



offence... Rape is a non-compoundable offence, being an offence against society at large, and is not a matter that can be left to the discretion of the parties to compromise or settle"... the PCMA criminalises child marriages... Whatever the civil status of the marriage (void or voidable in terms of the statute), the conduct remains penal where the bride is a child. To quash a case of child marriage and sexual offences on the plea of settlement would, in effect, grant judicial imprimatur to unlawful conduct that the Parliament has explicitly sought to deter." Dismissing the petition, the court reasoned, "On a prima facie consideration of the material placed by the prosecution, it appears that the victim was a minor at the relevant time and, upon recovery, was found to be pregnant.

The medical findings, therefore, prima facie indicate penetrative sexual intercourse. In these circumstances, a subsequent compromise or mutual agreement between the parties, whereby the victim now expresses a wish to amicably resolve the matter, cannot obscure the nature of the offence alleged or dilute its gravity. Such offences are crimes against society at large, and not merely against an individual, and are therefore not amenable to private settlements."

BJP minister attends hotel launch by the former Congress MLA he defeated in 2022 Gujarat polls



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

BJP MLA and Gujarat Minister for Sports and Youth Services Dr Jayram Gamit attended the inaugural event of a new hotel owned by former Congress MLA Sunil Gamit at Uchhal in Tapi on Sunday. The BJP leader had defeated the sitting Congress MLA from Nizar constituency in Tapi district in 2022. Photos from the event, which featured Congress and BJP leaders sharing the stage, went viral on social media and drew mixed reactions.

The inauguration of Vishal Family Restaurant and Guest House at Jamki village on NH 53 was attended by Congress MLA and Leader of Opposition in the Gujarat

Jyoti Singh to lead India in FIH Women's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025

New Delhi: Hockey India on Monday announced the Indian junior women's team for the upcoming FIH Women's Junior Hockey World Cup 2025, scheduled to be held in Santiago, Chile, from December 7 to 13. The 20-member squad, comprising 18 players and two alternates, will look to put their intense preparations to the test and make a strong statement on the world stage. India has been placed in Pool C, alongside Germany, Ireland, and Namibia. India will begin their campaign against Namibia on December 1, followed by matches against Germany on December 3 and Ireland on December 5. The top teams from each pool will progress to the knockout stages, which will be played from December 7 to 13. The team will continue to be led by Jyoti Singh as captain, with Tushar Khandker serving as chief coach. Goalkeeping duties will be shared between Nidhi

and Engil Harsha Rani Minz, while the defensive duties will be handled by Manisha, Lalthanlualangi, Sakshi Shukla, Puja Sahoo, and Nandini. In midfield, India will rely on Sakshi Rana, Ishika, Sunelita Toppo, captain Jyoti Singh, Khaidem Shileima Chanu, and Binima Dhan. The forward line includes Sonam, Purnima Yadav, Kanika Siwach, Hina Bano, and Sukhveer Kaur, promising a sharp attacking front. Priyanka Yadav and Parwati Topno have been named as alternate players for the tournament. Speaking on the team selection, Indian junior women's hockey team chief coach Tushar Khandker said, "I am very happy with the squad and the way they are playing at this moment. My main principle is discipline in hockey and I have kept that in focus while building this squad. We have gone through a rigorous training phase and have worked hard on our defensive structure and finishing inside the opponent's scoring area.

‘I regret the misunderstanding’: Kangana Ranaut gets bail in 2021 defamation case, apologises to elderly woman farmer



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

BJP MP and actor Kangana Ranaut was Monday granted bail by a court in Punjab’s Bathinda city in a 2021 defamation case filed by Mahinder Kaur, an 81-year-old farmer, over an alleged derogatory remark made during the farmers’ protest.Ranaut, who represents Himachal Pradesh’s Mandi constituency in Lok Sabha, also apologised to Labh Singh, the husband of the elderly farmer, in the court.The next hearing in the case is on November 24.

After appearing in court, Ranaut told reporters there had been a misunderstanding, adding that she could not even imagine what had been portrayed.“Whether a mother is from Himachal or Punjab, she is respectable to me. Everyone loves me,” she said. “It was a meme that was retweeted. I had also spoken to mother Mahinder ji’s husband about this. I had nothing to do with it. There were many movements going on in the country. I had made a general

tweet about that. I regret the misunderstanding that has occurred,” she added.Kaur’s husband appeared in the court in place of her.Earlier in the day, Ranaut arrived at the court under tight security, escorted by police officers. Narinder Singh, Superintendent of Police, Bathinda City, said the police had installed barricades and strengthened security around the court complex.“Our main focus is to ensure that law and order remain intact so that no mischievous elements attempt to create any disturbance,” he said.The case dates back to the 2020-21 farmers’ protest, when Ranaut shared a social media post allegedly referring to Mahinder Kaur, who hails from Bahadurgarh Jandian village in Bathinda.

Ranaut commented on a post featuring a photograph of an elderly woman at the protest, claiming that some participants were being paid to attend. She also referred to the woman as “the same dadi featured in Time magazine among India’s powerful women,” adding that “she is available for Rs 100.”The post had drawn widespread criticism, including from farmers’ union leaders. It was deleted later following outrage and the registration of the case.Kaur lodged a defamation complaint against Kangana Ranaut on January 4, 2021, alleging that the actor’s remarks had insulted her and misrepresented her role in the farmers’ movement. After about 13 months of hearings, the Bathinda court issued a summons for Ranaut to appear in person.Subsequently, Ranaut approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking relief in the case, which was not granted. She then approached the Supreme Court but did not receive any reprieve there either. Following the court’s directions, the BJP parliamentarian appeared before the Bathinda court on Monday.

Massive paddy stubble dump burns for over 40 hours on Sangrur-Patiala road

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

A massive paddy stubble dump located along the Sangrur-Patiala road near Channo village in Sangrur district caught fire on Saturday night and continued to smoulder till the time of filing this report on Monday afternoon. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained.Gurmeet Singh Bhattiwal, Senior Vice President, Bharatiya Kisan Union (Dakaunda), who lives in the Bhawanigarh area of Sangrur, a few kilometres from the site, said, “The stock is huge, as if it were collected from various farmers to be supplied to a biomass power plant. But the entire dump has caught fire, and it hasn’t been extinguished even after more than 40 hours. Paddy stubble, once ignited, is highly inflammable.”

Manjeet Kaur, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Bhawanigarh, said, “Yes, we were informed about the fire on Saturday night, and fire tenders were rushed immediately. I personally visited the spot on Sunday. The teams are continuously working and will not leave until the fire is completely extinguished.”The SDM added, “The cause of the fire is not known so far. We even checked CCTV footage, but did not find any miscreant activity. The stock had been stored by a farmer who was to supply it to a biomass power plant. The initial call to the fire brigade also came



from his side.”Despite the unclear cause, the SDM has ordered the registration of a First Information Report.Sources said most of the stock has now been burnt to ashes, and the fire is likely to be brought under control soon. The fire brigade department sought a JCB machine earlier to pull out tightly packed stubble stacks, but no operator agreed to work in the hazardous conditions, they added.The incident comes amid heightened monitoring across Punjab following strict court orders against stubble burning, with local administrations under pressure to ensure compliance.

Mustafabad village to be renamed Kabir Dham: UP CM Yogi Adityanath



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday announced that the village of Mustafabad in Lakhimpur Kheri district should be renamed ‘Kabir Dham’ and directed officials to submit a proposal for the change.Addressing an event — ‘Smriti Prakatyotsav Mela-2025’ — in Mustafabad, the CM asked locals if any Muslim was living in that particular area. When they said no, he announced that the village’s name would be changed.

“Main jab yahan aaya to maine is gaon ke bare mein pucha. Mujhe bataya gaya gaon ka naam hai Mustafabad. Maine pucha kitni Muslim abadi rehti hai, kaha ek bhi nahi. Maine kaha ab naam badalna chahiye. Mustafabad nahi

Kabir Dham rakh do. (When I came here, I asked about this village and I was told its name was Mustafabad. I asked if there is a Muslim population living here, and I was informed that not a single one. So I told them that the name should change then),” Adityanath explained at the public meeting.He added that they will seek a proposal in this regard and take it forward.

Pointing towards officers, he retired, “Mustafabad nahi Kabir Dham rakh do (Not Mustafabad, name it Kabir Dham)”. Calling the move “Atmiyata ka bhav (feeling of intimacy)”, the CM said others changed the names of Ayodhya to Faizabad, Prayagraj to Allahabad and Kabir Dham to Mustafabad.Now that his government is in power, he said it has changed the name of Allahabad back to Prayagraj, Faizabad bak to Ayodhya and now, places like Mustafabad would be changed back to Kabir Dham. He told the people of the area that this would restore their pride.Adityanath also maintained that his government is working to revive and develop places of religious significance across the state. Taking a hit at previous governments, he alleged they just spent money on building the boundary walls of “kabristan”.Adityanath said, “We are working to provide funds to develop all such places associated with the common man’s faith — be it Kashi, Ayodhya, Kushinagar, Naimisharanya, Sukteerth, Mathura, Vrindavan or Barsana and even Maha Deva in Barabanki. Before this, funds used to go to building walls of Kabristans instead.”

Man tied up, beaten to death over ‘affair’ with married woman in Karnataka; 2 arrested

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

The police identified the victim as Vishnu, 27, who hailed from Gaunagaon village in Maharashtra’s Nanded district.The police identified the victim as Vishnu, 27, who hailed from Gaunagaon village in Maharashtra’s Nanded district. A Maharashtra native was allegedly tied up and beaten to death in Karnataka’s Bidar district last week by the family members of a married woman with whom he was suspected to be having an affair. The police said two accused have been arrested in connection with the incident.The matter came to light after a video of the assault went viral on social media.

The police identified the victim as Vishnu, 27, who hailed from Gaunagaon village in Maharashtra’s Nanded district. The arrested accused have been identified as the woman’s brother Gajanana, 29, and her father Ashok, 60. They were subsequently sent to judicial custody.According to officers, the incident took place on October 21, around 3 pm, when Vishnu was at a temple in Bidar’s Naganpalli village.As per the First Information Report (FIR) lodged at Chintaki police station, officers received information about a man being tied up and assaulted in the village. Upon arrival, the police found that Vishnu had lost consciousness and had sustained multiple injuries. He was initially rushed to Chintaki Government Hospital and later transferred to



Bidar BRIMS Hospital, where he succumbed to the injuries.In her complaint, Vishnu’s mother Lakshmi, 40, stated that her son had been in a year-long relationship with the woman who was married. She had reportedly left her husband to live with Vishnu, and her family was aware of the relationship.

Hours before ECI’s press conference on SIR, Bengal govt transfers 64 IAS officers, including 10 district magistrates, and 457 civil service officers



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

In the conference, the ECI is expected to announce dates for the first phase of SIR in some states including Bengal, which goes to polls in 2026.In the conference, the ECI is expected to announce dates for the first phase of SIR in some states including Bengal, which goes to polls in 2026.Hours before the Election Commission of India’s (ECI) press conference in Delhi — expected to announce the commencement date of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls — the West Bengal government, in a major reshuffle, transferred 64 IAS officers, including 17 district magistrates, and 457 WBCS officers, to new administrative posts.Among the WBCS officers, a number of block development Officers (BDOs), sub divisional officers (SDOs), and additional district magistrates (ADMs) were also transferred.

While the state administration described the move as routine, senior officials said the timing was strategic. “It was expected that after the SIR announcement, the ECI would move those district magistrates who have held the post for more than three years. So, before the ECI could do that, the state administration transferred them to avoid controversy,” said a senior administrative official, requesting

anonymity.In the conference, the ECI is expected to announce dates for the first phase of SIR in some states including Bengal, which goes to polls in 2026.Among those transferred are Sharad Kumar Dwivedi, DM North 24 Parganas, who has been moved to the Health and Family Welfare Department as secretary; Sumit Gupta, DM South 24 Parganas, now posted as Municipal Commissioner of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation; and Shashank Sethi, MD of WBHIDCO, who will take charge as DM North 24 Parganas. Arvind Kumar Mina, DM Cooch Behar, has been transferred to South 24 Parganas, while Rajarshi Mitra, DM Murshidabad, will join as MD, WBHIDCO.Rajat Nanda, DM Purulia, has been appointed Director of Tourism; Preeti Goyal, DM Darjeeling, will now serve as DM Malda; and Nitin Singhania will take charge as DM Murshidabad. Bidhan Roy, DM Birbhum, has been moved to the Food and Supplies Department as social secretary.Senior BJP leader and former state party president Rahul Sinha claimed, “This is not a routine transfer. These DMs held their positions for years. Now, since SIR will start, the state government is forced to change so many of them. This is to save themselves from embarrassment.”Sujan Chakraborty, CPIM central committee member, said, “In our state, no rules are followed... There is a definite purpose behind the transfer. Who knows what the plan of the government is?”However, Debangshu Bhattacharya, state president of TMC social media and IT cell said, “The Opposition has no issue, that is why they are creating an issue. Such transfers take place throughout the year. This is normal.”On August 22 this year, after an ECI directive, the state government had suspended four officials, including two Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) Debottam Dutta Choudhury and Biplab Sarkar and two Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) Tathagata Mandal and Sudipta Das, over alleged fraudulent voter list entries in Baruipur Purba and Moyna Assembly constituencies. A data entry operator was also suspended earlier.

Darshan and his co-accused using delaying tactics in Renukaswamy murder case, prosecution alleges in memo to court

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

The special public prosecutor in the Renukaswamy murder case Friday filed a memo in a sessions court in Karnataka alleging that the accused film star Darshan Thoogudeepa and his co-accused are employing tactics to delay the framing of charges against them despite the Supreme Court ordering a speedy trial.“It is humbly submitted that though the prosecution has been ready and willing to go ahead with the matter, the accused, by employing delaying tactics, started filing applications seeking discharge one after the other,” the prosecution stated in its memo dated October 24.

“It is also relevant to submit here that though this Hon’ble Court has been calling upon all the other Accused persons i.e. Accused Nos. 1-4, 6-11, 15-17 to submit on charge/hearing before charge, even after lapse of around two and half months with about 20 number of hearing dates, the accused have failed to make any submissions,” the prosecution stated.The prosecution referred to several accused in the case filing applications for discharge, as well as for the provision of better facilities in the prison by Darshan, as efforts to delay the trial process.The Supreme Court, in its August 14 order cancelling bail for the actor and others, stated that “given the gravity of the offence, the trial shall be conducted expeditiously, and a judgment rendered on merits, in accordance with law”.

The developments since August 14 “clearly indicate that none of the accused are cooperating with this Hon’ble Court in the early conclusion of the trial as per the directions of the Hon’ble Apex Court,” the prosecution stated.The



special prosecutor called for the trial court to take note of the delaying tactics and to “proceed with the trial expeditiously, in accordance with law and in accordance with the directions issued by the Hon’ble Apex Court... in the interest of justice”.Darshan was arrested on June 11, 2024, with his friend Pavithra Gowda and 15 others in connection with the murder of Renukaswamy, a resident of Chitradurga.Renukaswamy was allegedly murdered for sending lewd comments to Gowda on Instagram. His body was discovered near a stormwater drain close to an apartment complex in Sumanahalli, Bengaluru, on June 9, 2024.Darshan was released from prison on October 30, 2024, on interim bail after spending 131 days in jail. On December 12, 2024, the Karnataka High Court granted regular bail to him and Gowda. The state government approached the Supreme Court challenging his bail, and on August 14, 2025, the court cancelled it.

‘I felt trapped, caught between two countries for years’: Woman born in Pakistan gets Indian citizenship after two-decade struggle

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

In 2004, as militancy began to creep into Pakistan’s Swat Valley, a Hindu business family in Mingora — the region’s bustling trade hub — made a difficult decision. Dina Nath, who runs a wholesale food business, decided to send his young daughter, Poonam, and son, Gagan, across the border to India, hoping to secure a safer future for them. He and his wife, Paramjeet, planned to follow soon after.Poonam had just completed Class XII. The siblings were told they would be visiting relatives in India, unaware it would be a permanent move. Paramjeet accompanied them and returned after ensuring that her children were safely settled.Over the next few months, the siblings moved between Delhi, where their aunt Shahej Kaur lived, and Rampur, staying with their paternal uncle Jagan Nath Chawla, as they gradually adjusted to their new surroundings.In 2005, Poonam, then in her 20s, married Puneet Kumar, a local businessman living near her uncle’s house in Rampur’s BP Colony. While living in India on a Long-Term Visa (LTV), she continued to make trips to Pakistan to see her family. But in 2013, that lifeline was suddenly cut. A missing document — a Pakistani ID — blocked the renewal of her Pakistani passport, cutting off her visits. This week, after nearly two decades of dealing with bureaucratic hurdles and uncertainty, Poonam, now 38, was finally granted Indian citizenship.

“This is extremely important for me... Without a passport, I haven’t been able to travel to Pakistan to see my parents. They, too, have not been able to come to India for a long time,” Poonam told The Indian Express over the phone. “... 2016 ke baad unhoney (Indian government) visa (Long Term Visa) extend nahi kiya... mera passport phir expire hua tha. Mai beech mai kaafi pareshan thi. Na mai idhar ki thi an udhar ki thi. Hum toh proper apney time par apply kartey they har saal visa extend key liye. Lekhin unhoney hamari process ko aagey nahi badaya. (The government didn’t extend my Visa and my passport had expired. I felt trapped, caught between the two countries for years. I used to apply every year at the correct time for the visa extension, but saw no movement),” she added.Poonam now plans to get her Aadhaar and voter ID cards and then apply for an Indian passport.“We received an email from



the department concerned confirming that she has been granted Indian citizenship. The hard copy will arrive soon, after which we’ll proceed to get her Aadhaar, voter ID, bank account, and other documents,” said Puneet (45).

Rampur Police also confirmed that Poonam has obtained Indian citizenship.Poonam said her father, who was born in Pakistan, had married her mother, who was from Rampur, in the 1960s. After their marriage, Paramjeet moved to Pakistan.Reflecting on her early years in India, she added,,

“When I first came here, I didn’t realise tensions were rising back home. Three years later, on returning to Pakistan, I saw that the situation was bad — there was unrest in several areas, and a curfew had been imposed.” She added that the internet was shut down and people were avoiding sending their girls to school as a precaution.When she married Puneet, who runs a general merchant shop, Poonam’s parents, along with her two other brothers — Dileep and Sunny — travelled from Mingora for the ceremony but returned soon after the celebrations ended. “My parents decided they would move to India only once they completed all the formalities and wrapped up their business in Pakistan,” said Poonam.Puneet, meanwhile, said he expressed no hesitation about the alliance. “Before we got married, I was aware that she was a Pakistani national.”

Trump gets royal welcome in Japan, China trade truce hopes rise



TOKYO, GNS News Agency, Nov 10- U.S. President Donald Trump received a royal welcome on Monday in Japan, the latest leg of a five-day Asia trip which he hopes to cap with an agreement on a trade war truce with Chinese President Xi Jinping.Trump, making his longest journey abroad since taking office in January, announced a flurry of deals on trade and critical minerals with four Southeast Asian nations during the first stop in Malaysia and is set to meet Xi in South Korea on Thursday.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.Negotiators from the world’s top two economies hashed out a framework on Sunday for a deal to pause steeper American tariffs and Chinese rare earths export controls, U.S. officials said. The news sent Asian stocks soaring to record peaks."I've got a lot of respect for President Xi and I think we're going to come away with a deal," Trump told reporters on Air Force One before landing in the Japanese capital Tokyo.

TRUMP MEETS JAPANESE EMPERORWearing a gold tie and blue suit, Trump gave a few fist pumps before his helicopter whisked him off for a scenic night tour of Tokyo, several of its towers lit up in the red, white and blue of the American flag.He later headed in a long motorcade to the Imperial Palace, where he shook hands and posed for photographs with Japanese Emperor Naruhito.Trump has already won a \$550-billion investment pledge from Tokyo in exchange for respite from punishing import tariffs.Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and Japanese counterpart Ryosei Akazawa, architects of the tariff deal agreed in July, discussed power grids as being a potential investment area over a sushi lunch in Tokyo earlier on Monday, local media reported.Japan's newly elected prime min-

ister, Sanae Takaichi, is hoping to further impress Trump on Tuesday with promises to purchase U.S. pickup trucks, soybeans and gas, and announce an agreement on ship-building, sources with knowledge of the plans told Reuters.Takaichi, who became Japan's first female premier last week, told Trump that strengthening their countries' alliance was her "top priority" in a telephone call on Saturday.

Trump said he was looking forward to meeting Takaichi, a close ally of his late friend and golfing partner, former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, adding: "I think she's going to be great."Thousands of police are guarding Tokyo. A knife-wielding man was arrested on Friday outside the U.S. embassy and an anti-Trump protest is planned in downtown Shinjuku.Trump was the first foreign leader to meet Naruhito after he came to the throne in 2019, continuing an imperial line that some say is the world's oldest hereditary monarchy.Naruhito's role, however, is purely symbolic, and the key diplomacy will take place with Takaichi on Tuesday.Trump and Takaichi are set to meet at the nearby Akasaka Palace, where he met Abe six years ago, and will be welcomed by a military honour guard. Among the investment pledges, the two countries will sign a memorandum of understanding on Tuesday on investment in ship-building, a source with knowledge of the plans said.Takaichi is also expected to reassure Trump that Tokyo is willing to do more on security after telling lawmakers on Friday she plans to accelerate Japan's biggest defence build-up since World War Two.Japan hosts the largest concentration of U.S. military power abroad. Trump has said previously Tokyo is not spending enough to defend its islands from an increasingly assertive China.While Takaichi has said she will speed plans to boost defence spending to 2% of GDP, she may struggle to commit Japan to any further increases that Trump seeks, as her ruling coalition does not have a majority in parliament.

Trump is due to leave on Wednesday for Gyeongju in South Korea, where he will hold talks with President Lee Jae Myung. Bessent told reporters the overall framework of a deal with South Korea was also done but would not be finalised this week.Thursday's expected meeting with Xi will come after Washington and Beijing have raised tariffs on each other's exports and threatened to halt trade involving critical minerals and technologies.Neither side expects a breakthrough that would restore the terms of trade that existed before Trump's return to power.Talks to prepare for the meeting have focused on managing disagreements and modest improvements, before a visit by Trump to China expected early next year.

Jailed Istanbul mayor hit with new 'espionage' arrest order as opposition crackdown deepens



ISTANBUL, GNS News Agency, Nov 10- A Turkish court issued a fresh arrest order for Istanbul's jailed mayor Ekrem Imamoglu on Monday on suspicion of "political espionage", marking a new stage in an unprecedented crackdown on President Tayyip Erdogan's opponents.It is not unusual for Turkish courts to issue formal arrest orders for people already in custody when a new investigation is launched. Critics say the courts are politicised, an allegation rejected by the government which says they are independent.Some analysts said the move against Imamoglu, Erdogan's main political rival, could lead to the state seizing control of the municipality of Istanbul, which is Europe's largest city.

The espionage probe marks an escalation of a year-

long legal crackdown on the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), which the government's critics see as damaging Turkey's democratic credentials.Imamoglu and his party are already facing an array of allegations that they deny. Imamoglu has been in jail since March pending trial on separate corruption charges, and also received a fresh jail sentence in July for insulting and threatening the chief Istanbul prosecutor.The latest court ruling accuses Imamoglu of engaging in graft to raise funds for his presidential candidacy and of "espionage" to secure international support, the state-owned Anadolu news agency said.Imamoglu rejected the new accusations in a statement from prison on Friday and again in court on Sunday."Such slander, lies and conspiracy wouldn't even cross the devil's mind!" he said on X. "We are facing shameful immorality that can't be described with words."An indictment from the court could pave the way for Istanbul's state-appointed governor to take control of the city. GlobalSource Partners analyst Atilla Yesilada said the interior ministry has the authority to sack Imamoglu and replace him with a trustee.Anadolu said an Istanbul court had issued the arrest order overnight for Imamoglu and two others, including Merdan Yanardag, editor-in-chief of television news channel Tele1.

The channel, which is critical of the government, was seized by the state on Friday as part of the espionage accusations.The opposition won some respite from the pressure on Friday, after another court dismissed a bid to oust the CHP's leader and annul its 2023 congress.

King Charles to unveil UK's first LGBT armed forces memorial



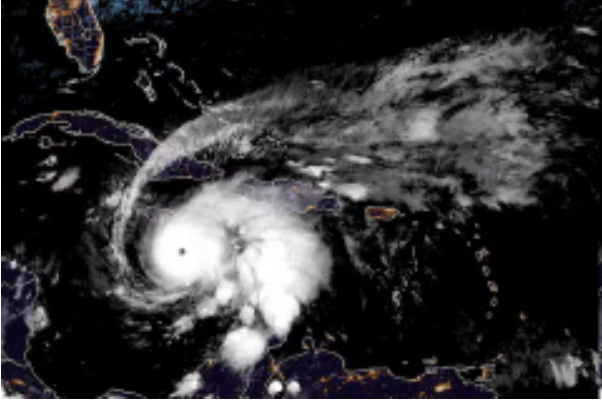
ROME, ITALY -GNS News Agency, Nov 10: King Charles III attends a garden reception in celebration of the day's ecumenical services, at the Pontifical Beda College on October 23, 2025 in Rome, Italy. Pool/Pool via REUTERS/File Photo Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab- King Charles will on Monday unveil a memorial dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender military personnel, marking his first official engagement in support of the LGBT community.he government-funded "Open Letter" memorial is designed to honour those currently serving and commemorate veterans affected by the British military's ban on LGBT officers, which was lifted in 2000, 33 years after male homosexuality was partially decriminalised in England and Wales.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.A bronze sculpture, it resembles a crumpled free-standing letter containing words from personal messages that were used as evidence to incriminate individuals.Charles, the commander-in-chief of the British armed forces, is expected to lay flowers at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.Claire Phillips, a lesbian brigadier who joined the army in 1995 when being openly gay was still banned, said the memorial's design resonated deeply with her and is "such an amazing way of

representing people who are so incredibly damaged by the ban." "This design uses the words of our veterans and service personnel to describe how it felt to be subject to the ban... to begin that process of reconciliation," she told Sky News. "I'm just deeply, deeply honoured to be here today."Alastair Smith, a gay sergeant who joined the army in 1998, told Sky News that while it took time for attitudes to change in the army he had not faced any prejudice there, but had done in civilian life."There are people from the LGBT community who have that gusto, that determination and that drive to perform for their country despite whatever insurmountable odds they may face elsewhere," he said.The unveiling of the memorial follows recommendations from an independent investigation commissioned by the British government, which reported systemic abuse, including sexual assault and dismissal of LGBT service members.The government has offered financial redress of up to 70,000 pounds (\$93,947) to those impacted.Sam TabahrIti is a UK breaking news correspondent covering general and political news for Reuters.

Cameroon's Biya wins re-election, official results show

- Cameroon's President Paul Biya has been re-elected for an eighth term that could keep him in office until he is nearly 100, according to official results announced on Monday by the Central African country's Constitutional Council."Hereby proclaimed President-elect: the candidate Biya Paul," said Clement Atangana, president of the Constitutional Council.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.Biya, 92, took office in 1982 and has held a tight grip on power ever since, doing away with the presidential term limit in 2008 and winning reelection by comfortable margins.

Melissa a Category 4 hurricane as Jamaica braces for impact



KINGSTON, -GNS News Agency, Nov 10 Hurricane Melissa has developed into a Category 4 hurricane heading towards Jamaica and Cuba and is expected to bring catastrophic floods, landslides and storm surges to the region, the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) said on Sunday.Melissa has maximum sustained winds of up to 140 mph (220kph) and is expected to strengthen as it heads towards Jamaica, where it should make landfall Monday night or Tuesday morning. It is likely to hit southeastern Cuba late Tuesday.Make sense of the latest ESG trends affecting companies and governments with the Reuters Sustainable Switch newsletter. Sign up here.

In Jamaica, authorities have implored residents to evacuate to nearly 900 shelters around the country, providing assistance to those wanting to leave. On Sunday night, Prime Minister Andrew Holness issued mandatory evacuation orders for Port Royal in Kingston and six other areas."Many of these communities will not survive this flooding," Desmond McKenzie, minister of local government, said at a press conference earlier in the day. "Kingston is low, extremely low ... No community in Kingston is immune from flooding."Earlier on Sunday, some residents were choosing to stay put, and authorities said some have refused to board evacuation buses."We are riding out the storm, we're not going to go anywhere. Just sitting down and watch everything, make sure everything's working good," said Douglas Butler, a local boat captain in Port Royal. "I just take things easy. As long as I have my food, I can eat. That is the most important thing."

The NHC said Melissa is expected to bring 15 to 30 inches of rain to Jamaica and southern Hispaniola with a local maximum of up to 40 inches. Eastern Cuba is expected to receive 10 to 15 inches, with local amounts of up to 20 inches.Dana Morris Dixon, Jamaica's information minister, said the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency is ready to provide assistance, and several international partners have already pledged support."We've heard the rainfall numbers. They're numbers we've never heard before," Morris Dixon said.

Biden calls these 'dark days' as he urges Americans to 'get back up'



GNS News Agency, Nov 10
Former President Joe Biden called these "dark days" as he urged Americans to stay optimistic and not to check out in response to what he says are attacks on free speech and tests on the limits of executive power by President Donald Trump."Since its founding, America served as a beacon for the most powerful idea ever in government in the history of the world," Mr. Biden said. "The idea is stronger than any army. We're more powerful than any dictator." Mr. Biden, (82), speaking publicly for the first time since completing a round of radiation therapy for an aggressive form of prostate cancer, addressed an audience in Boston on Sunday night after receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Edward M. Kennedy Institute.

He said America depends on a presidency with limited power, a functioning Congress and an autonomous judiciary. With the federal government facing its second-long-

est shutdown on record, Mr. Trump has used the funding lapse as a way to exercise new command over the government."Friends, I can't sugarcoat any of this. These are dark days," Mr. Biden said before predicting the country would "find our true compass again" and "emerge as we always have — stronger, wiser and more resilient, more just, so long as we keep the faith." Mr. Biden listed examples of people who are standing their ground against threats from the current administration, citing the example of federal employees who resign in protest, and universities and comedians who have been targeted by Mr. Trump."The late-night hosts continue to shine a light on free speech, knowing their careers are on the line," he said.Mr. Biden also shouted out elected Republican officials who vote or openly go against the Trump administration.

"America is not a fairy tale," he said. "For 250 years, it's been a constant push and pull, an existential struggle between peril and possibility." He finished the speech by telling people to "get back up." The Democrat left office in January after serving one term in the White House. Mr. Biden dropped his bid for reelection after facing pressure following a disastrous debate against Trump and concerns about his age, health and mental fitness. Vice President Kamala Harris launched her bid right after, but lost to Trump last November.In May, Mr. Biden's post-presidential office announced that he had been diagnosed with prostate cancer and that it had spread to his bones.Prostate cancers are graded for aggressiveness using what is known as a Gleason score. The scores range from 6 to 10, with 8, 9 and 10 prostate cancers behaving more aggressively. Mr. Biden's office said his score was 9.

Air traffic controller shortages to drag on, U.S. transportation secretary says



U.S. airports reported 22 incidents of air traffic controller shortages on Saturday (October 25, 2025), Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said, with more shortages expected to bring more flight delays and cancellations in the days ahead as the government shutdown drags on.According to FlightAware, a flight tracking website, there were more than 5,900 U.S. flight delays by 6 p.m.Eastern Time (2200 GMT) on Sunday (October 26, 2025) and more than 5,300 on Saturday (October 25, 2025). Since the shutdown began on October 1, delays have often been above average.

The state of air safety has been closely watched for signs of increased delays or cancellations, as observers look for indications that the shutdown is making life harder for Americans. This, in turn, could pressure lawmakers to break the budget deadlock that led to the shutdown.The Federal Aviation Administration on Saturday (October 25, 2025) had 22 "triggers" that indicated shortages of air traffic controllers, Mr. Duffy told the Fox News "Sunday (October 26, 2025) Morning Futures" program. He called that figure "one of the highest that we've seen in the system" since

October 1. "That's a sign that the controllers are wearing thin," Mr. Duffy said. The FAA website said ground delay programs had been issued because of staffing shortages on Sunday (October 26, 2025) at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, Washington's Reagan National Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport.The agency also issued a ground stop at Los Angeles International Airport on Sunday (October 26, 2025) due to traffic controller staffing shortages around 11:30 a.m. (1530 GMT), which was lifted later although delays continued.The Trump administration has warned that flight disruptions will increase as controllers miss their first full paycheck on Tuesday .Air traffic controllers received a paycheck two weeks ago at 90% of their regular pay. But Tuesday's (October 28, 2025) payday would have been for their first pay period solely for work in October.

Controllers facing the prospect of missing a federal paycheck are looking for other sources of income, Mr. Duffy said."They're taking second jobs, they're out there looking," he said.Some 13,000 air traffic controllers and about 50,000 Transportation Security Administration officers must work even if they are not being paid during the shutdown.The FAA is about 3,500 air traffic controllers short of targeted staffing levels and many had been working mandatory overtime and six-day weeks even before the shutdown.In 2019, during a 35-day shutdown, the number of absences by controllers and TSA officers rose as workers missed paychecks, extending wait times at some airport check points. Authorities were forced to slow air traffic in New York and Washington.Mr. Duffy and other Republicans have criticised Democrats for opposing a "clean" short-term funding bill with no strings attached. Democrats criticise President Donald Trump and Republicans for refusing to negotiate over health care subsidies that expire at the end of the year.

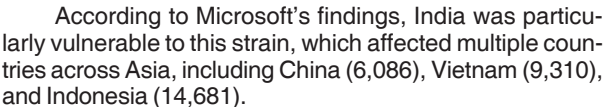
Asian shares gain Japan's Nikkei tops 50,000 level, as Trump seeks trade deals

Bangkok: Asian shares rallied and US futures jumped Monday, with Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 topping 50,000 for the first time.Work on trade deals that might alleviate friction between the U.S, China and other major trading partners contributed to upbeat sentiment as US President Donald Trump visited Malaysia for a summit of Southeast Asian nations where he reached preliminary trade agreements with Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

A trade deal between the United States and China was drawing closer, officials from the world's two largest economies said Sunday as they reached an initial consensus for Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to try to finalise during a high-stakes meeting later in the week."This isn't just photo-op diplomacy. Behind the showmanship, Washington and Beijing's top trade lieutenants have quietly mapped

out a framework that might, just might, keep the world's two largest economies from tearing up the field again," Stephen Innes of SPI Asset Management said in a commentary.Trump was heading next to Japan before ending his Asian tour in South Korea where he is expected to meet with Xi on the sidelines of a Pacific Rim summit, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (known as APEC) forum.A report by the APEC secretariat released Monday forecast that annual growth in the region circling the Pacific will slow to 3 per cent this year from 3.6 per cent last year, partly due to trade restrictions and higher tariffs.In Japan, opinion polls showed newly installed Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi enjoying high levels of public support for her market-friendly policies. The Nikkei 225 gained 2.1 per cent to 50,329.08, hitting record intraday highs.Takaichi is Japan's first female prime minister.

Thuingaleng Muivah's homecoming: Where a Manipur village rekindles hope for Naga peace process



How a security guard’s sudden resignation cracked a British tourist’s murder in Bengaluru



January 1996. Bengaluru was slowly returning to normalcy after the New Year celebration high when news broke of a British tourist being murdered and dumped in a sack. His partner had been raped. Under mounting pressure to solve the case, the Bengaluru police caught the accused, who were swiftly convicted and sent to jail—with a post-mortem report and a security guard’s sudden resignation proving to be key turning points in the investigation. On January 5, 1996, the Bengaluru police received information that a foreigner’s body had been dumped in an isolated area in Chandra Layout. When a police team reached the spot, they found a bill issued by a clothing store on MG Road in the man’s pockets. After contacting the store, the police learnt that the deceased was James William Stuart, a British tourist staying at Sudha Lodge in Cottonpet. When the police reached the lodge, they found a 27-year-old British woman, Stuart’s partner, in his room. She had been raped. The investigation was split into two fronts: while one team probed the woman’s rape, the then deputy commissioner of police (west), Praveen Sood, the current Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director, entrusted the inquiry into Stuart’s murder to Abdul Azeem, a police inspector at the Basaveshwaranagar police station.

“We had no clue how Stuart’s body had landed in Chandra Layout, which was then on the outskirts of Bengaluru. There were several isolated places there. We were hoping that the forensic science laboratory reports would give us some leads,” Azeem, currently a politician, recalls. By then, the investigation into Stuart’s partner’s rape had revealed that on January 4, the couple had visited a restaurant in Briand Square near Sudha Lodge. Here, Stuart allegedly experienced stomach pain while having dinner and left, saying he was returning to their room. But, he never did. Dr Thirunavukkarasu, the government doctor who conducted the post-mortem on Stuart’s body, suggested in his report that Stuart had been killed within 10 minutes after he consumed his last meal. This information helped the police narrow down their investigation and begin checking isolated areas near the restaurant. “The information that we got from doctors who conducted Stuart’s post-mortem was that he was hit with a blunt object and died due to a brain haemorrhage within a minute. The food pipe had signs that indicated that he had consumed food a few minutes before his death,” Azeem says. This led the police to conclude that Stuart was murdered somewhere close to the restaurant at Briand Square, and his body was later dumped in Cottonpet, approximately 8 km away. “We started checking for isolated places near the restaurant en route to Sudha Lodge, which was barely a km away. I specifically chose to reach out in the night, as the murder had taken place at night. There was a veterinary hospital, and next to it, there was a church. We enquired at both places to see if anyone had noticed anything on the day of the crime,” recalls Azeem. The police came up empty-handed. “We went to another place opposite the church. There was a petrol bunk there earlier, and it was covered with metal sheets. We spoke to the security guard, who said that he had only joined 3-4 days ago as the previous guard, Mahadevaiah, had quit all of a sudden,” Azeem adds. The investigation team’s instincts told them something was off, and they decided to look into why the guard had quit his job. The guard was an employee of

Garuda Security Services, a security agency run by Uday Garudachar, now a BJP MLA, and the son of the former Karnataka director general of police, B N Garudachar. When the police called the security agency’s office, a manager picked up. Azeem recalls how he did not reveal that he was investigating a murder. “I told him that valuables worth Rs 1 crore had been robbed from a jewellery shop on M G Road and that their agency had provided security to the shop. I said that we had learnt that Mahadevaiah could help us nab the suspects. I made this story up to let them think that a security agency was helping the police solve one of the biggest heists in Bengaluru. They shared Mahadevaiah’s address details,” says Azeem. Mahadevaiah, who hailed from Mandya district, stayed in Girinagar in Bengaluru. He had quit his job just a day after Stuart’s murder. “I went to his Girinagar residence with my team. Mahadevaiah was unwell. He tried to evade my questions initially. I brought him to the police station, and when questioned, he spilled the beans,” says Azeem. According to Mahadevaiah, his acquaintances, Fakruddin and Shabbir Ahmed, used to come to the plot he used to guard at night and sometimes slept there. In the morning, Sanaullah, an autorickshaw driver, would also visit the place to rest. On the night of the crime, Mahadevaiah allegedly told the police, he was in his room when Fakruddin and Shabbir brought a foreigner with them and tried to rob him. There was a tussle, and in the melee, Fakruddin allegedly hit Stuart with a wooden stick, the police were allegedly told. Stuart collapsed and died.

When the men found out Stuart had died, they panicked and tried to bury his body there, Mahadevaiah allegedly told the police. It was then that Sanaullah arrived. The trio allegedly placed Stuart’s body in a sack and left. Mahadevaiah claimed that he quit the next morning as he was threatened by the gang. The police picked Fakruddin, 22, a resident of Shamanna Garden, first. Within 24 hours, four others were arrested. On January 15, 1996, then Bengaluru city police commissioner T Srinivasulu held a press meet and announced the arrest of Fakruddin, Shabbir, 19, Shami Ahmed, 20, Basheer, 20, and Sanaullah, 22. During the investigation, the police found out something that had gone unnoticed. “When Stuart and his partner were heading to the restaurant, Shami touched her inappropriately. Later, when Stuart was returning to the lodge, Fakruddin accosted him and lured him, saying he could supply quality marijuana for an attractive price. He took Stuart inside the abandoned petrol bunk, and when Stuart opened his purse, they saw he was carrying a lot of money. Then the gang decided to rob him. Stuart resisted, they hit him on the head, and he died on the spot,” a police officer said. In April 1997, a local court sentenced the accused to life imprisonment (minimum 14 years). “This was the quickest conviction that I have got from the court in my career,” says Azeem. The accused were poor, says Azeem, and he told them that they could reach out to him if there were any problems at their homes. “I did not want the family members to suffer for the crimes they committed. This was also a way to reform criminals, something I have done during my service,” he adds. “During their jail term, Fakruddin’s family approached me as his sister was getting married. I helped them in whatever way I could. Two years later, his father died, and I helped his family arrange the final rites,” recalls Azeem. Years later, after Azeem opted for voluntary retirement, in 2004, he contested in the Karnataka Assembly elections as a Janata Dal (Secular) candidate. “I was campaigning in an open jeep when I spotted Fakruddin distributing pamphlets. Initially, I felt worried that he might be hatching a plan against me as I had arrested him and sent him to prison. But when I asked him what he was doing, he said that he was out on parole as his mother was unwell. He said he was campaigning for me to return the favour that I had done when his father had died,” Azeem reveals. According to Azeem, all the accused in the case have been released. “I think they are leading normal lives now. They have been punished for the crime they committed. I have not heard their names in relation to crimes since,” he adds.

MiG-21 flies through Indian skies for last time, Rajnath Singh terms it ‘national pride’



EMS News Agency, Oct 9

The legendary Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21 fighter jets, the backbone of the Indian Air Force’s combat fleet for more than six decades, streaked through Indian skies for the last time on Friday (September 26, 2025) — its final adieu edged in history and many a remembrance. The sun shone bright, the skies cloudless and a brilliant blue, providing a picture perfect setting for the elaborate farewell to the Russian origin warhorse that was inducted into the IAF in the 1960s. Describing the MiG-21 as a mighty machine and a national pride, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said there is deep attachment to the aircraft that shaped our confidence. “MiG-21 is not only an aircraft or machine but also proof of deep India-Russia ties,” the minister said. “The history of military aviation is incredible. The MiG 21 added many proud moments in our military aviation journey,” Singh told the gathering. Besides him, former IAF chiefs A.Y. Tipnis, S.P. Tyagi and B.S. Dhanoa, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, India’s first man on the International Space Station, and scores of veterans, many who had piloted the aircraft, were present on the occasion. Air Chief Marshal A P Singh flew the sortie of the MiG-21 Bison aircraft with call sign Badal 3. Dilbagh Singh, who became the IAF chief in 1981, led the first MiG-21 Squadron here in 1963. The culmination of MiG-21 operations took place with a ceremonial flypast and decommissioning event, marking the closure of a historic chapter in India’s air power.

The country’s first supersonic fighter and interceptor aircraft were retired at the decommissioning event in Chandigarh, where it was first inducted. The ceremony began with the arrival of the minister, the chief guest at the occasion, followed by a spectacular display by IAF’s elite skydiving team ‘Akash Ganga’, which skydived from a height of 8,000 feet. Water cannon salute being given to the MiG 21 Aircraft during it’s retirement ceremony at the Chandigarh Airbase on Friday This was followed by a ma-

jestic flypast of the MiG-21 aircraft accompanied by precision of the air warrior drill team and an aerial salute.

The fighter pilots flew MiG-21s in the three-aircraft Badal formation and the four-aircraft Panther formation roared over the skies one final time. The Surya Kiran aerobatic team also enthralled the audience with their breathtaking manoeuvres. MiG-21 jets, belonging to number 23 Squadron, took part in the flypast ceremony, and were given water cannon salute. The Jaguar and the Tejas aircrafts also took part in the ceremony. Tejas is a single-engine multi-role fighter aircraft capable of operating in high-threat air environments. It has been designed to undertake air defence, maritime reconnaissance and strike roles. After its first induction, the IAF procured over 870 MiG-21s to boost its overall combat prowess. The supersonic jets were the dominant platforms during 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan. The aircraft also played a key role in the 1999 Kargil conflict as well as the 2019 Balakot airstrikes. The aircraft has also had a troubled safety record and involved in multiple crashes in the last six decades. The ageing fleet prompted some to describe the aircraft as “legacy coffins”. The MiG-21 jets made their last operational flights at the Nal Air Force Station in Rajasthan’s Bikaner, a month ahead of the formal retirement ceremony. As part of the symbolic farewell, Air Chief Marshal Singh had also flown solo sorties of the MiG-21 from Nal on August 18-19.

Nikon partners with Youth India Programme to empower future creators

Hyderabad: In a move to nurture creativity and equip students with future-ready skills, Nikon India has announced its support for the Youth India Programme as the official equipment partner. The initiative, led by Arya Chitra, General Manager of the Youth Global Programme, is being rolled out across Indian schools and universities.

The programme, launched in partnership with the Global Schools Group (GIGS), will provide structured exposure to photography, videography, digital storytelling, and media ethics. Students will gain hands-on training through workshops, guided projects, and Nikon-supported Media Labs.

“As part of this initiative, we plan to reach 20 schools and colleges within this financial year,” said Arya Chitra.

Keeping the press out



On February 3, 1916, the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa burned down. The fire started in the reading room packed with newspapers and records going back to a century. It spread quickly, consuming the structure. Seven people died. The next day, at 3:00 p.m., Parliament reconvened. Overnight, the country’s administration had found space for it at the Victoria Memorial Museum. A press gallery was installed on a bridge between staircases. I recently read this account. What struck me was that a press gallery was established even in a makeshift Parliament.

The media is not an inconvenience. It is an elementary part of a parliamentary democracy, especially in a country such as India. The first Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha, M.N. Kaul, said, “Under the British system [which India mimics] the desire is to ventilate grievances, and not so much to secure decisions as decisions generally follow party lines irrespective of the weight of the debate on either side. The debates are intended more for the public outside in order to enable them to form their opinion about the party of people who are working in their best interest.” Without press corps reporting on debates for the public, can this end be achieved? The first edition of Practice and Procedure of Parliament (1979), written by Kaul and his former deputy, S.L. Shakdher, says, “Press is often considered an extension of Parliament.” Kaul and Shakdher’s book is still the primary reference work on parliamentary rules. There is a jarring difference between what one reads in the book and

the daily reality. This column has often detailed the various restrictions imposed on the press in Parliament. It has to be said again and again. Inside the Parliament building, there are red lines drawn for the press — and not just figuratively. Even outside Parliament, in the courtyard, between the new building and the old, there are retractable barriers put up, to keep the press out. In the last Parliament session, I happened to cross this barrier. I was immediately surrounded by three male security personnel, who asked me to go back behind the barrier. I protested, arguing that I had no camera. I explained that I was there only to chat with the MPs who were leaving Parliament after it had been adjourned for the day, just as I had been doing for as long as I have covered Parliament. I posed no threat whatsoever. My identity card, issued after verification by the Parliament Secretariat, was hanging from my neck. I strolled further into the courtyard, refusing to cede ground. The men left and were replaced by two women. They blocked my way and nudged me towards the barrier. I continued to argue. Needless to say, my words had little impact. By then, the MPs had started streaming out. Many of them, both from the ruling party and the Opposition, recognised me, but not one of them intervened or asked what the argument was about. It was a futile attempt on my part. The security personnel are bound by the directions of the administration and I was rallying against people who did not decide the rules. Perhaps I was airing my frustration. After all, these were the same grounds that several of my colleagues and I had strolled around, without restrictions, until the new Parliament was constructed. During the British Raj, reporters were given leeway in the Central Legislative Assembly to self-regulate.

This was the case in Parliament in newly independent India as well. The media has functioned for a long time mindful of parliamentary rules. So why do we need concrete red lines now? Why do journalists need to be herded around by security personnel? I retreated that day, angry with myself for causing a minor scene. But looking back, I feel angrier. We have been retreating behind those lines. We have been conceding ground. And every time we leave without protest, we are pushed back further.

Is the American Dream dead for Indians?



On September 19, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order, raising the H-1B visa fee to \$100,000. Many fear that this will disproportionately impact Indian workers, especially those with lower median salaries. Although the White House has clarified that the fee applies only to new applicants and not those up for renewal or already in the country, there are concerns, especially against the backdrop of immigration control and protectionism. Is the American Dream dead for Indians? Arjun Appadurai and Ajay Srivastava discuss this question in a conversation moderated by Saptaparno Ghosh. Edited excerpts:

The hike in the H-1B visa fees has led to some panic in India. Would you say the American Dream is now dead?

Arjun Appadurai: Dreams do not die in the same way as realities change. I would say the American Dream remains alive for a very large number of people from all classes from both within the U.S. and outside. The U.S. still remains the place where, in some way, the dream or the myth that anything is possible [remains]. I do not think that is dead. In the present circumstances, the doorway may have narrowed, but the dream seems to be highly operative for the large majority of people. Ajay Srivastava : About 3.4 lakh Indian students are in the U.S., enrolled in either STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) or management courses. They pay upward of \$2,00,000, having taken loans from banks or relatives, for one and half to two years of education. If they do not get jobs, the dream comes down in scope gradually over the years. The hike in visa fee makes it almost impossible for anyone to be hired, except top STEM graduates. No U.S. company is going to take a risk given the vitiated political environment. The curtailing of the dream would mean that both come out as losers. The U.S. earns \$15 billion as tuition fee from Indian students and more than \$10 billion in living expenses.

Some say that the H-1B regime is being exploited to gain residency. How would you respond to that?

Ajay Srivastava: I do not agree with the narrative. There may have been some cases of misuse. But overall, the system has been great for both [the U.S. and the immigrants]. It is an emotional issue for the U.S. Many MAGA (Make America Great Again) supporters are either jobless or have low-paying jobs. It is natural for them to blame outsiders for this. The White House, too, is fuelling this narrative, exploiting the discontent among American workers. Again, there may be some cases of misuse. But largely, most of the people who have gone there are top STEM talent or are pursuing top-class research. They have either built companies or have expanded them, creating thousands of jobs. This includes Indians and non-Indians — Sergey Bin who is Russian and built Google, Elon Musk who is of South African and Canadian descent and built Tesla, Satya Nadella from India who heads Microsoft, and Sundar Pichai from India who heads Google... the list is endless. Arjun Appadurai: The U.S. is unique. It is a society built on immigration. So, to suddenly say that we must control everything is not realistic, not just in today’s world but at any given time. More importantly, it is a global pattern that when things are not right internally or when somebody wants to make a claim to power, the easiest way for them appears to be to blame new arrivals. The tougher question to ask is this: why has a society that is producing extraordinary amounts of wealth been unable to provide a simple social canopy, social security, health, or jobs? That is the big scandal that nobody wants to talk about excluding a minority in the U.S. That is what is wrong with the [anti-immigration] assertion. You see, whatever H-1B visa-holders do, whether from India or other parts of the world, by and large is nothing illegal or criminal. So, even if they come to the U.S. and stay for six years and then obtain a green card, it is through

law and established procedures. Additionally, what must be noted is that the beneficiaries are in a legitimate way pursuing and strengthening research in American universities, making these institutions a global force. Thereafter, some enter the global economy. It is a win-win situation. What is the point of this sudden restriction in a land built on the idea of immigration?

The U.S. has invested heavily in AI recently. Indian workers are preferred for their skills, knowledge, and sustainable wages. In that light, would the U.S. be able to sustain itself?

Ajay Srivastava: The U.S. has plans to spend \$600 billion- \$1 trillion in AI in the next five years. OpenAI, Microsoft, Google, Amazon and others will be contributing billions of dollars. There are about 3,00,000 Indian H-1B visa holders, constituting about 70% of the overall share, and these people, most of whom work at major technology firms, are also working in fields connected to AI. So, of course, their renewal process will be difficult, except at the higher levels. The middle and entry-level hirings will not be remunerative. And that is where they would need to be replaced by American workers. There would be some glitches [in the U.S.] but these will not be noticed because of the capital drive. If someone is deemed important, companies will pay the visa fees to retain them. However, in most cases, these roles will need to be filled by American workers. Again, while some glitches will occur, they will largely go unnoticed because much of the work being done is redundant — many people are developing similar AI applications. Arjun Appadurai: AI is an extremely new space. It is my belief that the large amount of the investment in the realm would go to the higher end. Several studies have also indicated that winning the AI race would depend on a small number of extremely high paid people. Some studies have also pointed out that there are 100 people in the world who can make a breakthrough in AI, and the tech giants would be chasing them. If there were hundreds of H-1B visa-holders who could come and revolutionise AI for you, then it will be a cheaper market. The more poignant question is not just about AI but about larger digital technology. How can the U.S. substitute for quantity, reliability, and quality? There will be a lag because once you start squeezing supply from places such as India, your educational system must start pumping up people from below. That is not impossible for the U.S.. They will have to change policy, but that won’t happen overnight.

Is the H-1B visa issue an isolated matter, or does it form part of a broader geopolitical strategy involving pressure tactics?

Ajay Srivastava: My understanding is that President Trump is a bully, and he had to look big in the eyes of his MAGA voters. With China, he could not and therefore he had to invent a fall guy. India unwittingly became that fall guy. This has happened despite U.S. Presidents cultivating India as an alternative to China. How did this happen? Mr. Trump first said he was the one who stopped the India-Pakistan war; India denied that claim. I think he thought India came between him and the Nobel Peace Prize and had to punish India for it. The immediate reason for punishing India, he said, was that the country buys Russian oil. But China is the largest buyer, not India. Europe also buys oil from Russia. So, the U.S. isn’t concerned with facts. Also, before the H-1B directive, the Trump administration lost a case in the U.S. Appeals Court, which said that the legal basis of using tariffs to punish countries is not sound. Now, to defend its actions, the administration has named India.

H-1B visa | The Hindu’s coverage on U.S. work immigration visa fee hike and its impact Arjun Appadurai: The H-1-B is not that important — either in India or the U.S. So who made it important? It is obviously a mixture of politics, politicians, some over-reaction, and the reactions of certain sectors that are worried.

So, what should we expect from here? Arjun Appadurai: First, assess your plan for investment and the return on investment because it is not like you can land in the U.S. and start earning money. You will have to invest for years in training and skilling. Second, go to the U.S., but keep your bags packed. Third, President Trump is not going to be there forever, so this program won’t last forever either. Ajay Srivastava: There is a little-known clause in the directive which says the fee would be waived if the U.S. Commerce Secretary is satisfied that the prospect entrants are being allowed for a project of national importance. I would suggest Indian professionals make their name in their respective fields. They will then be noticed and be allowed to enter the U.S. without the visa fee. Ajay Srivastava,

To seek comments via discussion papers before new CPI inflation series in Feb: MoSPI Secretary



Ahead of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) releasing the new inflation series in February next year based on an updated Consumer Price Index (CPI), it'll bring out discussion papers and hold conferences to outline the changes and the new methodology, Secretary Saurabh Garg said. In an interview with Siddharth Upasani and Aanchal Magazine, Garg said MoSPI will seek comments from stakeholders on the new CPI methodology, with transparency a key objective. The ministry has also spoken with e-commerce platforms to scrape their price data to compile the CPI.

The market survey for CPI was conducted in 2024. But with GST rates being cut in September this year, does the base become artificially high? Has there been an assessment of the impact of the GST cuts on CPI inflation?

The impact of the GST cut will have a one-time impact on the CPI (Consumer Price Index) and that will get reflected in the inflation numbers whenever they are released. In any case, the CPI is always compared to the previous year (to calculate inflation) — it's the incremental rise (that matters). When these kinds of changes happen, the impact is captured in CPI as per price changes in the markets. It's a one-time impact and then they (CPI) keep fluctuating up and down.

There are many estimates floating around regarding the impact on consumption from the GST cuts. Is there anything that MoSPI is doing to assess how consumption is rising?

So, we'll have the IIP (Index of Industrial Production) coming out — if consumption is rising, there should be some impact on production. Obviously, there could be (drawdown of) inventories so it may not be immediate. But, no, we are not doing any analysis of household consumption because it varies due to various reasons, apart from price, like festivals, etc.. And I think a lot of the retailers themselves are doing this.

But this should reflect in the GDP data for the July-September and October-December quarters?Yes.

We are only three months or so away from the release of the revised CPI inflation series. Have the weights for items been finalised?

They're working on it. We'll be releasing discussion papers. We want comments from stakeholders.

So, before the new inflation print under the revised CPI series is released for the first time in February 2026, will you disclose the weights beforehand in the discussion paper?

We have to take a call on what all we will give in the discussion paper before the release of the revised series. I don't want to preempt the work that is being done by the team. But there will be conferences — data-user conferences will be held in Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai during November-January because it's necessary that people understand (the changes and the methodology). Otherwise, unnecessarily, there will be doubts.

Has a final resolution been reached for the treatment of goods provided for free under the Public Distribution System (PDS) in the revamped inflation basket?

We put that out in the public domain and asked for comments. We've also given what our methodology is going to be. So, once we get the comments, then we'll take a final view on that.What is the discussion paper exactly for? Let's say you get some comments as feedback. But then you will have very little time left until the release of the new CPI series.

Of course, but these days everything is computerised. A lot of the work has already been done on things like how to weigh the PDS items. In fact, we've had discussions with the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and other experts; we have had closed-door meetings. So we have a fair idea of what will happen. But we just wanted it to be transparently put out there for anyone to comment. So, if you have an issue, please tell us what the issue is. We have suggested that this is what we are going to do.

You had earlier mentioned that the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey will be done every three years. Has the year for the next round been decided?It will be done in 2027-28. It is going to be every three years.

The discussion papers that you will release for inflation will incorporate the changes to the CPI basket and the treatment of PDS items too?

Yes, it will have the final stance. We may not give the exact weights of each item in the paper, but we will say that this is the methodology, this is what is going to be done so that everyone understands what we are doing.

Indian coffee gaining popularity globally: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that more and more coffee varieties are gaining popularity globally and are also helping cultivators in several parts of the country — from Chikmagalur, Coorg and Hassan in Karnataka to the areas of Pulney, Shevaroy, Nilgiri and Annamalai in Tamil Nadu.“Indian coffee is becoming very popular all over the world. Be it Chikmagalur, Coorg and Hassan in Karnataka; the areas of Pulney, Shevaroy, Nilgiri and Annamalai in Tamil Nadu; the Biligiri region on the Karnataka–Tamil Nadu border; or the areas of Wayanad, Travancore and Malabar in Kerala — the diversity of Indian coffee is truly remarkable. I have been told that our North-East is also progressing in coffee cultivation,” Modi said in his ‘Mann Ki Baat’ address.“There are people in Koraput who are cultivating coffee through their sheer passion. They were doing handsome jobs in the corporate world... but they liked coffee so much that they entered this field and are now successfully working in it. There are also many women whose lives have been pleasantly transformed by coffee. They have gained both respect and prosperity through coffee,” Modi said.The Commerce and Industry Ministry said that Koraput coffee has helped restore degraded forest land,

In a data conference a few months ago, there was an entire session on scraping of websites for price data, especially e-commerce websites. Will data scraping be used in the new CPI series as part of the price collection process?

Whatever we do, we will do it legally. See, there is some amount of data scraping which can be done without keeping the owner of that website informed. But whatever we do, it will be done after informing that we are doing this because data scraping is very easy to block. If you do it once, they can just block it and that doesn't help us.

I don't want to comment on which data, but we are going to use e-commerce and online data. But which websites and methods — some people say that you scrape it from our website, we will allow you; some people say they prefer giving it to us rather than us scraping. Either way, we'll see what is to be done, but we will be keeping them in the loop. Whoever's website we use, we'll keep them in the loop that we are picking their data.In a column with the Chief Economic Advisor in September, you had mentioned that the revised GDP series might do away with single deflation for manufacturing. Is that happening?

The exact work is going on sector by sector where both on the input and the output side we have price availability and indices. So, it may not be 100 per cent, it may be 90 per cent or 95 percent. I don't want to commit on the exact percentage.The point I was trying to make was that when we say other countries are doing double deflation, we should understand how much double deflation they are doing. We have asked the IMF, we have asked the UN statistical system if they have any data, and none of them has been able to provide information. So it's not as if everyone is using the producer price index (PPI) completely or double deflation completely. What we are saying is that we will be at the same level as is being done internationally.In services, in any case, double deflation doesn't make sense. Agriculture, we anyway are doing it where we have input (prices). In industry, we will be completing more sectors and wherever required, as per the international practice.

Will there be use of the PPI then?

Let's see. That is another work in progress, whether the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade will be able to do it by December or they might be able to give us some tentative figures. We are hoping to be able to get something.The difference between the Wholesale Price Index and the PPI are the taxes and some amount of the logistics costs because PPI is at the factory gate and WPI is wholesale (prices). So what we were trying to say is that in many cases, the WPI may not be very different from the PPI, depending on the product, sector, type of industry, etc.

Do you see a resolution to the issues that have been pointed out, about real growth being higher than expected while nominal growth has been weaker than anticipated?

Economic forecasting is difficult, and it becomes even harder due to uncertainty prevailing in the international scenario. Our figures are based on the actual data. Also, methodology continues to remain the same in the current series of GDP.The assumption that people are making that we used only one figure to deflate nominal GDP is blatantly wrong. We look at sector-wise indices of CPI, WPI — in many cases we have the real prices. People saying that we use a 60:40 ratio of WPI and CPI to deflate nominal GDP to arrive at real GDP is wrong.

We've looked at it internationally also and they all follow a similar process. Somewhere they have slightly better data, somewhere they have less data. It's not that we do it blindly — what is the overall CPI and overall WPI — and then do it.

Has there been any assessment of whether the elimination of the third revised estimate of GDP data has been helpful?

There was no additional information being given by our indices. What data sources were there in the first or second (revised estimates of GDP), there was no additional value addition in the third. The differences will happen in case we have used some estimates for which the values were not available and then in the third estimate it comes. But we were anyway getting more than 99 per cent. In any case, things have changed now that the data collection methodologies have improved. The time gap between the end of the financial year and getting that has reduced. So, in any case, it required a change.

Will there be further streamlining?

The (advisory) group (on GDP) is working on seeing what additional changes (are possible). It might very well be that there is no scope for further reduction. But, I won't want to commit either way as of now.

Technology has been increasingly adopted in data collection. Are there any other significant changes in the pipeline with respect to technology given the ongoing expansion in the number of surveys?One is technology and the other are the questionnaires themselves — that we are giving a lot more focus because the questions impact the length of the survey and how much time is taken. So how to reduce the time taken to survey and how to ask questions so that we don't ask the same question twice because then you're wasting time. And also to look at what information or data is needed, so that that question is asked. This is not technology related, but it is perhaps equally important to look at.



reduced soil erosion, and provided tribal farmers with a steady cash income in place of subsistence farming.“Women play a central role in harvesting and processing, making the industry inclusive. With the Coffee Board's support and emerging market linkages, Koraput coffee is now being positioned as a specialty tribal coffee, comparable to Araku, with farmers reporting significant improvement in incomes and living standards.”

48-year-old CEO goes red, gets hot flashes at meeting: Three gynaecologists on why a breakthrough menopause pill in the US offers hope



A 48-year-old corporate CEO now dreads her presentations and meetings as she often gets a spontaneous bout of hot flashes — waves of intense heat and sweating that happen when a woman enters a menopausal stage and her hormone changes affect heat regulation of her body. “I get them eight to ten times a day, some days more, some days less and sometimes in gaps. The bouts are followed by rapid heartbeats and once they subside, I get the chills. My face looks flushed. But because these happen all of a sudden, it is embarrassing in social situations, disruptive and inconvenient. I wish I had a pill to ease me through,” she says, battling mood disorders, fatigue and sleeplessness alongside.When she saw Dr Preeti Rastogi, Director & HOD, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, at Medanta, Gurugram, the latter studied her hot flash patterns before prescribing her drugs.

What's a hot flash?

“The levels of the female hormone estrogen drop in the run-up to stoppage of periods or menopause. This directly impacts the body's thermostat located in the brain called hypothalamus. This misinterprets slight increases in body temperature as overheating and initiates a series of cooling mechanisms, including a hot flash, to lower the body's temperature,” she explains. Because a hot flash is an unusual response, it releases stress hormones like cortisol and elevates blood pressure too.“That's why my patient was complaining of heat around her neck and head. Since she was having hot flashes all too often, I gave her a blood pressure drug, called clonidine. This is prescribed for hot flashes, even in people who do not have high blood pressure, because it affects the brain's temperature-regulating centre. This helps to reduce the frequency and severity of hot flashes by 46 per cent,” says Dr Rastogi. But it would make the corporate woman dry-mouthed and drowsy. “Besides, she would need a sleep pill as she could hardly sleep beyond three hours and very mild antidepressants, the kind that lower the body's core body temperature by blocking certain receptors in the brain,” she says. Which is why a new oral, non-hormone pill, which takes care of all these symptoms rather than addressing them one by one, has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).“Although not available in India yet and having a price tag, the drug elinzanetant, which hits the US in November under the brand name of Lynkuet by Bayer, is a significant breakthrough. It is a once-a-day pill that works without hormones to treat moderate and severe hot flashes in menopausal women. A similar drug was greenlighted by the FDA in 2013 but this one reduces hot flashes by 73 per cent. The earlier oral drug is available in Japan and might be available in India soon,” says Dr Rastogi. However, gynaecologists like her are looking at the pill as enabling a clinical management of hot flashes and encouraging further research into a condition that 80 per cent of women suffer from.

How effective is the new menopause drug?

It works by blocking brain chemicals that get triggered by estrogen drops and lead to hot flashes and night sweats. According to a Phase 3 clinical trial of elinzanetant, which included 628 post-menopausal women, those taking the drug for 12 weeks reported more than a 77 per cent reduction in the frequency of hot flashes and sweating symptoms. Those taking a placebo reported a 47 per cent reduction. Researchers say the effects lasted for over a year.

Not just weight loss, semaglutide may be protecting your heart in other ways, says new study: Does it change the way it is prescribed?

The popular weight-loss medicine semaglutide might be protecting the heart in ways other than just weight loss, according to the results of a trial recently published in The Lancet. Last year, the medicine was approved for reducing the risk of cardiovascular deaths, heart attacks and brain strokes.With obesity being a major risk factor for heart diseases, the incredible weight-loss reported by obese individuals on the medicine was thought to be the reason behind fewer major adverse cardiovascular events seen in them. Yet, the new study shows that this protection for the heart was seen irrespective of a person's body weight at initiation and how much weight they lost with the medicine.

What did the study show?

The study is based on the data of over 17,600 patients with obesity, but without diabetes, from across 41 countries.First, the researchers observed a four per cent decline in the risk of heart disease for every 5 kg loss of weight or 5 cm smaller waist. This protection to the heart offered by semaglutide has already been established. What was interesting is that the researchers found that this risk reduction was not directly linked to the weight lost by the participants.This takes us to the second finding. The researchers found that this risk reduction for heart diseases was not linearly associated with the initial weight of the participants or with how much weight the participants lost.Third, the researchers noted that the reduction in waist circumference was somewhat linked to the protection offered by the drug. The changes in the waist circumference — considered to be an indicator of how much fat is stored in the organs — accounted for around 33 per cent of the reduction in cardiovascular events observed.

Why is this significant?

These findings are significant because it means that the protection to the heart offered by semaglutide is not just due to the dramatic weight loss experienced by those on the medicine. People on semaglutide can lose up to 15 per cent or 17 per cent of their body weight.Semaglutide, which mimics one sugar-regulating hormones, and other drugs such as tirzepatide, which mimics two such hormones, have either been approved or have been found to be effective for conditions other than diabetes or weight loss, such as heart diseases, obstructive sleep apnea, chronic kidney disease or fatty liver. But, most of the impact is thought to

They also slept better, thereby offering more benefits.Elinzanetant was preceded by the FDA nod to fezolinetant in 2023. But while the first suppresses two brain receptors that have an effect on body heat regulation, fezolinetant works on one. Both are, however, limited in cases of those suffering from liver ailments. Both can work in the run-up to and after menopause.“Usually in extreme cases, hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is recommended but every woman does not qualify for it. HRT is safe only in a certain set of women. We do not recommend these to those with underlying health conditions or histories, including certain cancers, those with a history of or at risk of blood clotting, those with a history of stroke or heart attack, those who experience heavy bleeding and those over 60 or who are more than 10 years past their last menstrual period, as risks of cardiovascular issues and stroke may then outweigh the benefits. Avoid HRT if you have liver or gallbladder disease,” says Dr Rastogi.That's why a non-hormonal pill could work in most women, who currently have to individualise their treatment.The trouble with HRT

Dr Meenakshi Ahuja, senior director, obstetrics and gynaecology, Fortis La Femme, and president of the Delhi Menopausal Society, says HRT is safe when given in the proper context and among the right group of women. In fact, she believes, research in HRT should continue to see which women can benefit. “Early studies on HRT in 2000 were done on a group of women over 70, who had heart disease, obesity and co-morbidities. That group was not right for the test. Later analysis showed that starting HRT on women who are older or further from menopause increases cardiovascular risks because they are more likely to have underlying arterial disease. The lowest amount of HRT dose is safe, if it is judiciously used among women who do not have the risk of underlying conditions, heart disease or breast cancer history,” she says.Current medical consensus holds that the benefits of HRT typically outweigh the risks for healthy women (free of risk factors) under 60 experiencing wild menopausal symptoms. The fear and subsequent drop in HRT goes back to the Women's Health Initiative (WHI) studies, particularly the 2002 trial for combined estrogen and progestin therapy. Reportage focussed on relative risks rather than the small absolute risks. So a 29% relative risk of coronary heart disease (CHD) was misinterpreted as a 29% chance of developing the condition, when the actual increase was very small. The study used older, synthetic hormones that led to blood clots; the modern ones are more risk-proof.Dr Ahuja is particularly worried about women using unregulated herbal products in the non-hormone category. “Women use rhubarb root, ashwagandha or anything with phytoestrogens (plant-based compounds with estrogen-like properties). But as of now, there is no scientific evidence of their benefits or any attendant risks,” she says.In the absence of non-hormone pills, both Dr Rastogi and Dr Mannan Gupta, Chairman & HOD, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Elantiss Healthcare, Delhi, say at the moment there can only be symptomatic relief and customising medication on a case-specific basis. “While hot flashes are the most observed symptom, women also complain of short, patchy sleep, a dry and itchy vagina and weak bones. So we have to give sleep inducing drugs, mood relaxants, vitamin D and calcium supplements as well. Let me say that all these have to be backed up with changes in diet, lifestyle and exercise,” says Dr Gupta.

Dr Rastogi is happy that more women are at least approaching her in the peri-menopausal stage. Otherwise, women consulted a doctor only during heavy bleeding or vaginal dryness. “Considering that women may go through a good five to seven-year period of hormonal changes and resultant symptoms in the run-up to menopause, and then a couple of years after it, means that menopause research needs to give us a cost-effective pill to manage the condition,” she says.Worse are cases of surgical menopause, where ovaries are removed to treat or prevent ovarian cancer, severe endometriosis or recurrent cysts. “This leads to the worst hot flashes compared to natural menopause because the drop in estrogen is sudden and abrupt. A pill is effective here,” says Dr Rastogi.



be because of underlying obesity, which is also one of the major risk factors for these conditions. The researchers say that the drug may be working by mechanism other than weight loss or control of blood glucose levels. So, they say that semaglutide and perhaps other GLP-1 medicines should be considered to be disease-modifying drugs — a therapy that changes the way a disease affects the body instead of just treating the symptoms.Dr Anoop Misra, chairman of Fortis C-Doc for Endocrinology, says, “It is important that this study suggests that semaglutide works through pathways other than weight loss — direct effects on blood vessels, inflammation reduction, blood pressure control and lipid improvements. If that is the case, prescribing restrictions based on BMI (body mass index) thresholds or weight-loss targets may not be appropriate.”

How will this change the prescription of the drug?

Dr Misra says that because the drug may protect the heart irrespective of the weight at which a person initiates treatment or how much weight loss they are experiencing, the drug may help even those with lower BMI. He adds, overweight or obese people might benefit regardless of whether they lose weight — some patients put on the medication do not end up losing weight.Dr Misra says, importantly, the researchers observed a 33 per cent benefit when it comes to reduction of adverse events of the heart when the waist circumference went down. “This may be beneficial for Indians where abdominal obesity (including fat under the skin, inside abdomen and in other areas) is widespread.” Indians are known to be at a higher risk of heart diseases because of fat accumulation in the abdomen.

Telling likes of Kuldeep Yadav, Arshdeep Singh that they won’t be playing ‘the toughest part of being a coach’: Gautam Gambhir



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

Kuldeep Yadav has perhaps copped the biggest losses due to India’s policy of preferring all-rounders over extra wicket-taking powers, particularly in overseas Tests. Gautam Gambhir has now admitted that benching someone of Kuldeep’s quality and telling the latter about is among the toughest parts of his job as head coach of the Indian team. “I think that’s the toughest part for me as a coach,” said Gambhir when speaking about how he tells players that they won’t be included in the playing eleven in a video posted on the official website of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). “That’s the toughest job I have, that sometimes when I know that there is so much of quality

sitting on the bench and I know everyone deserves to be part of the playing XI but ultimately, you can only pick XI thinking which is the best combination to do the job on that particular day.”

Kuldeep was left out of the Indian playing eleven throughout their epic five-match Test series in England earlier this year, despite it coming after a stellar performance in India’s Champions Trophy victory before that. There were similar eyebrows raised about Arshdeep Singh being left out for a part of India’s recently concluded limited-overs tour of Australia. Gambhir said that the important thing for him is to make sure that the dressing room in general remains transparent and there is clear communication with the player being left out. “Communication needs to be very clear, very honest. Sometimes, obviously, those are hard conversations to have if you tell someone that he is not playing, it is the toughest conversation for a coach and the player. I know that the player would get upset when he deserves to be part of the playing XI. But if you are honest and straightforward and you know that youn are saying is from the heart and nothing beyond that, some players do understand that. “It’s a communication between a player and a coach and I think it should stay till there only, rather than people making a lot of hue and cry and expounding a lot of different theories about it. That is something which I think this group and support staff has done brilliantly. It has been a very transparent dressing room, a very honest dressing room and that is what we want,” he said.

‘They aren’t getting runs even for India A’: Former selector slams back-up Test batters ahead of South Africa Tests

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

India A’s recent First-Class series against South Africa at home did not bear fruitful results for the hosts in terms of their back-ups, with several key names in the selectors’ radar misfiring against the Proteas bowlers. Barring Dhruv Jurel, who shone with twin centuries in the second game and improved his credentials as a specialist batter, several top-order batters vying for key positions in the Test side returned low scores. Former India selector Devang Gandhi also slammed the performances of players, including Abhimanyu Easwaran and Devdutt Padikkal, while lamenting the team’s poor bracket of back-up options in the long format.

Tamil Nadu batter Sai Sudharsan, who has had a lacklustre initiation to Test cricket, only managed 84 runs in four innings. Padikkal also endured a lean patch, scoring 6, 5, 5 and 24 in four innings while Bengal’s Easwaran bagged a pair. However, Gandhi believes the left-hander will be persisted with at No. 3 even while Jurel is staking claim for the side even without the wicket-keeping gloves. “As of now, they should give Sudharsan a longer run because he is young. But all the selectors need to spread out and cover as many domestic games as possible. It’s clear that there is a dry pool of backup batters in the Test format. Sudharsan hasn’t cemented his place.

“Padikkal isn’t getting runs even for India ‘A’. Jurel has made a strong case, but there doesn’t seem to be a definite plan regarding his role. And there is no backup opener with Abhimanyu Easwaran inspiring little confidence. This domestic season and the one next year will be hard work for



the selectors,” Gandhi told the Times of India. Former India wicket-keeper Deep Dasgupta, however, remarked that Jurel could be the most suitable option to take over the No. 3 slot in the long run

“At this moment, Jurel looks to have the best technique to bat at No. 3. But the team management has to be clear with its vision because No. 3 will be a big call. If Jurel is only seen as a wicketkeeping backup for Pant, then it will be a problem in the long run. It’s tough for a wicketkeeper to consistently keep wickets and bat at No. 3 in Tests. Or else, he can come in for Reddy at No. 7, even though it’s very low for a proper batter to come in,” Dasgupta told the Times of India. India will take on South Africa in the first Test starting Friday at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. While KL Rahul and Rishabh Pant had mixed outings in the recent A game, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal shone in the Ranji Trophy for Mumbai in Rajasthan, smashing his 17th First-Class century.

Delhi’s Nehru Stadium, revamped for 2010 CWG at Rs 961 crore, to be demolished for new sports city



News Agency, Nov 10

The iconic Jawahar Lal Nehru (JLN) Stadium will be dismantled to pave way for a Sports City that will have venues for all the major disciplines, along with residential facilities for the athletes, a sports ministry source confirmed on Monday. However, the idea is still at an ‘ideation phase’. The source said the government is still studying different models across the world where such projects have been executed. “There is no timeline for the project fixed yet as it is in ideation phase. We are assessing sports cities like the one in Doha. Once all of that is done, we will move ahead with the planning phase,” the source said.

The JLN Stadium was originally built for the 1982 Asian Games. Ahead of the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the facility got a Rs 961 crore makeover and recently before the World Para Athletics championship, a further Rs 50 crore were spent for upgradation. Currently, apart from a main football stadium and athletics track, the sports complex houses an archery academy, badminton courts, offices of the Sports Authority of India, the National Anti Doping Agency and the National Dope Testing Laboratory, among others. When asked what will happen to them, the source said, “All the offices will be relocated and similarly the main stadium will be dismantled. Residential complexes will be built so that when athletes come here to participate in an event, they can stay near the stadium.” The ministry wants to utilise the 102 acre area of the stadium complex as a lot of it is unused. The stadium was originally built for the 1982 Asian Games and has been one of the most iconic venue of the country with 60,000 capacity. It also hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games and the 2017 U17 FIFA World Cup. Most recently, the stadium hosted the first-ever World Para Athletics Championships. Ahead of the tournament, two new Mondo tracks in the main stadium and practice area were laid while 10,000 new seats were installed in the lower spectators gallery. Additionally, the stadium was made wheelchair friendly with new lifts and accessible washrooms.

The source said that one of the models being looked at is the Doha Sports City. Spanning 618 acres, it was mainly prepared for the 2006 Asian Games. It also hosted

‘How many pineapples can you eat?’ – Ian Nepomniachtchi’s littany of complaints including no meat except chicken, power cuts affecting A/Cs...



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

When Ian Nepomniachtchi offered excuses into his exit from the FIDE Chess World Cup ongoing in Goa, it had come off as his inability to adjust to Indian conditions and jet lag havocing with his game. But a Russian language video from his Telegram channel, translated loosely by ChatGPT on the chess icon sub-reddit offered additional details into how things panned out. It offered context of the conditions Nepomniachtchi was mentioning after he was eliminated from the World Cup.

However it must be noted that FIDE and the local organisers had told The Indian Express that the player had not raised his issues in an official complaint with them in writing. The Russian said the World Cup was the main reason for the video, where he elaborated on the problems he endured at a specific venue in Goa. “The World Cup was in India, and you have to say—it’s a very specific place. I wasn’t at the Olympiad there two or three years ago, which was held in Chennai. They say it was quite okay, actually—better than expected, even though it was summer and very hot,” the translation read. Nepomniachtchi recalled he had played in India once before, in Kolkata, about six years ago, at the Grand Chess tournament, when the Indian cricket team’s jamboree was in town simultaneously. “The hotel was decent, but there were armed guards on every floor because cricket players were staying there too—it was a big deal for the city. Fans were enthusiastic, but I was unpleasantly surprised by the conditions overall. The players’ lounge, for example, was tiny and had no ventilation—very uncomfortable between rounds. Anyway, that was a short commercial event, not to be taken too seriously.” However Nepomniachtchi said he had the same problems then that he had now: the time difference between India and Moscow is two and a half hours, but by the sun it feels more like Siberia—definitely more than two and a half hours, he said. “And, of course, the big problem for me—and probably for many others—is the food. The food is very specific. Meat isn’t really available—basically just chicken. I remember in Kolkata the restaurant was good, more European-style, but this time in Goa, not so much,” the translation read.

“There were only a few European-style dishes—some

Retiring from Tests gave Virat Kohli a focus point, says Australia’s 2003 World Cup hero Andy Bichel



GNS News Agency, Nov 10

Retiring from Test cricket may be a good thing for Virat Kohli, even if that means a vastly reduced time that he can spend on the field as it gives him something focus on, says former Australia fast bowler Andy Bichel. The 55-year-old, who was among the chief architects of Australia’s 2003 World Cup victory, said that stepping away from the longest format has now allowed the 36-year-old Kohli to focus solely in ODI cricket.

“I think for someone like Virat he is very fit. He’s going along really well. Obviously, he still wants to play the IPL. RCB won it last year so he’s keen to go back-to-back there and do that,” Bichel told Times of India. “I guess dropping out of Test cricket gives him a focus point, to focus on his

Gujarat Titans decline Chennai Super Kings trade deal for Washington Sundar

GNS News Agency, Nov 10

While Chennai Super Kings are close to bringing Sanju Samson to Chepauk, their pursuit of Washington Sundar hasn’t yielded any positive response so far. The five-time champions had expressed their interest in bringing home the local boy, who is part of Gujarat Titans, as a replacement for R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. However, Gujarat have declined the offers. According to reliable sources, Gujarat are understood to have even declined a player swap from CSK and also an all-cash deal. Whether CSK come back with an improved offer remains to be seen before the weekend, but the all-rounder very much remains a player of huge interest for the franchise which is actively looking to strengthen the squad after a last place last season.

After Chennai opened the trade talks with Rajasthan Royals about the swap deal involving Jadeja and Samson, they had been alternatively looking at other spin bowling resources. For a team that has centred its gameplan around spinners, the retirement of Ashwin and the exit of Jadeja means, they are without a prominent Indian tweaker. Afghanistan’s Noor Ahmad, who bowls left-arm wrist-spin, is the lone reputed spinner in the line-up with Shreyas Gopal there as a back-up option. Given their resources are thin in the department Chennai explored the idea of bringing Washington to the franchise, which would have reunited him with head coach Stephen Fleming. Washington’s maiden IPL season, where he showed he can be a reliable powerplay bowler, came under Fleming’s watch with Rising Pune Supergiants.

Ever since the Impact Player came around, Washington’s opportunities have reduced with Sunrisers

vegetables, and occasionally pasta that was almost edible, with minimal spices. So I mostly lived on rice and flatbreads. Fruits were available, but how many pineapples can you eat to meet your daily calories? Breakfast was okay—you could order an omelet, which felt like a luxury by hotel standards,” he said. Nepomniachtchi insisted the venue overall was a problem. “The hotel itself... well, let’s just say I wasn’t the first and won’t be the last to complain. Even other chess players posted about it—Maxim Chigaev, for instance, showed that his “five-star” hotel view was of a construction site,” he said. A further C squared podcast hosted by American Fabiano Caruana, had GM Christian Chirila talking about bedbugs. These claims have been dismissed by Dutch GM Anish Giri on the livestream of ChessBase India during the third round tiebreaks. Nepomniachtchi’s criticisms also reflect his frustration. He lost in Round 2 to an unfancied Indian, and as a result hasn’t qualified for Candidates. Visa issues for tournaments in UK and USA have left the Russian beleaguered, especially after London refused him a visa at Global Chess League. But the heat definitely got to the Russian. “The climate was extremely humid, 30°C even in November. When the air conditioner doesn’t work, it’s no joke. We flew overnight from Moscow, and I made the mistake of sleeping in the afternoon, which ruined my schedule for the next three days. I couldn’t adjust,” he said. “The room itself was terrible. I’ve been traveling to tournaments since I was about 10, and this was one of the worst. Like an off-season family resort turned into a cheap children’s tournament hotel.” His complaints resulted in even bigger wretchedness. “I asked FIDE officials about alternative accommodation, and they offered me a villa that was ironically even cheaper—but I soon found out why. The villa was quieter, but at night the power kept cutting out, meaning the air conditioning stopped too,” he recalled. He landed in the breaker box (disconnecter) to repair it, but it didn’t work out. “I learned to reset it from the breaker box, but it would just shut off again after a while.” Eventually, I regretted leaving my original room. Even though it was noisy and faced some sort of construction area, it had blackout curtains and more stable power.” He confessed all of it impacted his performance. “So, when you don’t sleep well, don’t eat well, and can’t get into rhythm—it’s not great for performance. Add heat, humidity, mosquitoes, and jet lag—it’s brutal.” Nepomniachtchi also claimed it was the only venue in Goa with a conference hall that could be converted into a long playing room. “The hotel claimed to be five stars, but realistically it was maybe a low three. When I asked FIDE why they chose that place, they said it was the only hotel in Goa with a conference hall. Technically true, but to reach the restroom from the hall, you had to go outside into +30°C heat and back into a freezing 21°C air-conditioned room. Not ideal. So overall, very tough conditions. Those more accustomed to India probably had an advantage,” he ended. Anish Giri had rubbished this claim too, pointing out that the washrooms for players were five metres away from the playing area.

50-over cricket. If he’s scoring well and giving it to the team, like he has been, then you can’t fault him for that,” he continued. “His currency is runs. He just needs to go out there and keep scoring and if he is, he can make the 2027 World Cup.”

Considered one of the greatest batters of all time, Kohli retired from T20Is last year after powering India to the 2024 T20 World Cup title with a player-of-the-match performance in the final. He remains one of just two Indians to have scored more than 4000 career runs in the format. He retired from Tests in May this year with 9230 runs in 123 matches at an average of 46.85 with 30 centuries and 31 half-centuries. It is in ODIs that he is the most prolific though, with 14,255 runs in 305 matches with a record 51 centuries and 75 half-centuries. While he was dismissed for back-to-back ducks in the recent series in Australia, Kohli ended it with an unbeaten 74 off 81 balls, which itself was part of an unbeaten 168-run stand for the second wicket with longtime teammate Rohit, who finished not out on 121 off 125 balls. Bichel noted the similarities between Kohli and his own former captain Ricky Ponting, a comparison that has been made multiple times across the former India skipper’s career. “Virat Kohli is an absolute legend of the game. He always reminds of Ricky Ponting. Ricky played the same game, a very good batter. Virat is one of those players who really took the game on, really energetic and great to watch. Same as Ricky,” he said.



Hyderabad benching him constantly through the 2023 and 2024 season. Last season, Gujarat acquired him for Rs 3.2 crore and only played 6 matches. But since then his stocks have increased tremendously as he has become an all-format player for India. Most importantly, his batting, in particular, power-hitting has shown huge signs of improvement as was evident during the T20I series Down Under.

However, there is plenty of scope for Washington to improve on the batting front, and getting enough game time in the IPL could be of a huge help. Since the 2020 season where he played 15 matches, his participation in the IPL has been very limited. An injury cut short the 2021 season to 6 matches, and since then has played only 9, 7, 2 and 6 matches in the last four seasons. At Gujarat, with Rashid Khan and R Sai Kishore around as frontline spin bowling options, Washington, who bowls off-spin, was preferred in the XI when there were favourable matchups. With Jadeja out of picture, Chennai would definitely guarantee game time for Washington as he can solve multiple issues for them.

Inside Diana Penty’s 100-year-old home: Farah Khan says living room is larger than Shah Rukh’s Mannat, has a farm and a table from World War 2



Filmmaker-choreographer Farah Khan recently paid a visit to actor Diana Penty’s stunning heritage home, accompanied by her longtime cook, Dilip. The moment they stepped inside, Farah was left in awe of what looked like a slice of old-world Europe tucked away in the heart of Mumbai. The house, which once belonged to Diana’s great-grandfather, is over 100 years old and almost everything inside it, from the furniture to the decor, dates back to the same era. With its Parsi-style architecture, high ceilings, floor-to-ceiling windows, wooden staircases, grand doors, and a leafy verandah, the home exudes the charm of a colonial era cottage. As they entered, a wide-eyed Dilip asked Farah, “Ma’am, where have we come?” to which Farah quipped, “This is a huge Buckingham Palace. I have brought you to London!”

Moments later, Diana greeted Farah with a warm hug. Still stunned by the sprawling two-floor residence, Farah asked, “Is this all your house?”

Diana smiled and replied, “Upstairs is me and downstairs is we.” She referred to her mom and other family members. She added: “We’re going to mom’s because mom has the proper kitchen.” Curious to explore further, Farah requested a house tour, exclaiming, “Please give me a house

tour! What is this place? I feel like I have travelled back in time and arrived at a colonial home!” Pointing at a carved wooden table with an attached mirror, Farah asked, “How old is this?” Diana’s mother promptly replied, “Over 100 years old.” Living area of Diana Penty’s house. (Photo: Farah Khan/YouTube) Living area of Diana Penty’s house. (Photo: Farah Khan/YouTube)

Speaking to her camera, Farah joked, “This is over 100 years old — still older than me! I’m so happy to be in a place where things are older than me.” As they moved toward the kitchen, Farah gasped, “Wow! Look at this kitchen — it’s amazing.” Turning to Dilip, she asked, “Have you ever seen a house this beautiful?” Dilip, trying his best English, said shyly, “No ma’am, never.” 100 year old furniture at Diana Penty’s house. Diana then mentioned, “I have a farm outside too,” to which Farah replied, “How lovely! I feel like I have come somewhere else. This doesn’t feel like Mumbai at all.”

Soon, Diana’s team began filling the space. Watching the flurry of activity, Farah laughed, “Yeh dekho, heroine ka entourage!” When Diana’s makeup artist rushed in for a touch-up, Farah quipped, “Beautiful heroines always come with an entourage!” When asked how long she’s lived there, Diana said, “Since my great-grandfather’s time — exactly 100 years ago. I am the fourth generation living here.” As Diana led her to the upper floor, Farah was momentarily speechless. “I just want to see what a house this is!” she exclaimed. “We have seen many big homes, but to find one like this in the heart of Mumbai...” Diana smiled modestly, “I guess I am lucky.” The filmmaker’s attention was soon drawn to the terrace garden, which she described as “absolutely beautiful.” Admiring the soft pastel interiors — pink couches, floral cushions, and vintage lamps — Farah said, “Everything is so pretty... just like you.”

Pointing at a curious centerpiece in the living area, Farah asked, “Please tell me, what is this merry-go-round-like thing in the middle?” Diana laughed, “It’s been here since I was a kid! Someone gifted it to my grandfather or great-grandfather. I heard it might have come from a World War II shift.” Comparing Diana’s spacious home to Shah Rukh Khan’s Mannat, Farah joked, “Even a dance studio in Lokhandwala isn’t this big! This is as large as Shah Rukh Khan’s Mannat living room.” Diana playfully disagreed, but Farah added, “I think I should call Shah Rukh here.” To which Diana smiled, “I would love to have Shah Rukh here!”

Yuvraj Singh’s mother said he’s marrying a man when he introduced Hazel Keech; actor kept him waiting for 3.5 years before meeting him



Former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh and actor Hazel Keech have been happily married for nearly a decade and share two adorable children. But their love story, as Yuvraj once revealed, wasn’t an easy one. It took him over three and a half years just to convince Hazel to meet him — and even then, the journey to marriage was far from smooth. The couple had earlier appeared on The Kapil Sharma Show, where the usually reserved Yuvraj opened up about his early struggle to win Hazel’s attention. He recalled first spotting her at a friend’s party and being instantly smitten. “She didn’t care to even show me her face for about 3.5 years,” Yuvraj said, laughing. “I requested her so many times, but she just wouldn’t meet me. Finally, when she agreed, I saw her walking like a man and that actually impressed me! I thought, this girl is different. Then I looked at what she was wearing and decided to just focus on her cute face.” Yuvraj went on to

share how his early attempts to impress her failed miserably. “When I texted her saying I was sick, she replied, ‘Good luck!’ That’s when I realised she’s extremely weird and I stopped talking to her for a while,” he said. Eventually, fate intervened. “I found out she was friends with one of my friends. I told him to stay away from her because one day, I’m going to marry this girl!” he joked. After years of waiting, Hazel finally added him on Facebook. “I immediately sent her a folded-hands emoji and thanked her for accepting my friend request after 3.5 years. That’s when she agreed to meet me,” Yuvraj laughed. But the chase didn’t end there. “Even after that meeting, she made me wait for another year before saying yes,” he added. Hazel, who was also on the show, revealed she wasn’t initially interested in the cricketer. “Once, he asked me out for coffee, and I said yes then switched off my phone,” she admitted with a laugh. When Kapil asked when she finally fell for him, she replied, “I don’t know. Maybe the day he proposed. I thought, okay, he seems decent — I can think about it.” Recalling the proposal, Yuvraj shared, “When I knelt down, I forgot which finger to put the ring on. I had to ask her — ‘Which one?’ and she said, ‘Left!’ We spent five minutes figuring it out,” Hazel added. When asked if his mother approved of Hazel, Yuvraj joked, “My mom loved her. She said, ‘I’m so happy you’re marrying a man!’” The couple got engaged in 2015 and tied the knot a year later in a grand Sikh-Hindu wedding. Hazel even adopted the name Gurbasant Kaur after their marriage. Reflecting on their union, Yuvraj’s father Yograj Singh once told YouTuber Krishnank Atrey, “When he turned 38, I told him to find his own partner. I just requested him to ‘change the breed’ — I wanted an Irish or English girl in the family. Then Hazel came into our lives. She’s not my daughter-in-law; she’s my daughter.”

Malayalam TV actress Indulekha recalls judgemental comments she faced after resuming work following her husband’s death: ‘I would go and cry alone’

Indulekha recently admitted that she’s still scared of society and that this fear was reinforced by the way some people reacted to her resuming acting soon after her husband’s death. Mentioning that society hasn’t undergone a complete transformation yet, Indulekha said there are still people who think and act in conventional, narrow-minded ways.

A beloved figure in the Malayalam soap opera scene, Indulekha has appeared in several shows over the decades, winning the hearts of audiences. Although she has been in the limelight for years, Indulekha recently admitted that she’s still scared of society and that this fear was reinforced by the way some people reacted to her resuming acting soon after her husband’s death.

“I am someone who fears society to some extent. When my husband (director Shankaran Potti) passed away, I was acting in a television serial. My daughter was a little child at the time. I used to see people making judgemental comments when I went out. So, I only did things after careful consideration,” she said during a conversation with Movie World Media. Indulekha continued, “Then I realised there’s no point in fearing society. Life will only move forward if we continue with our work and other responsibilities. Life as a widow is not easy at all. Earlier, I used to feel sad when I heard a lot of things... I would go and cry alone. But now, I just ignore them if I hear such things.”

Mentioning that society hasn’t undergone a complete transformation yet, she said there are still people who think and act in conventional, narrow-minded ways. “Even if they are educated and informed, their thoughts might be old-fashioned. In fact, I have had such experiences from people close to me. Since most of the roles I’ve played are of innocent, well-meaning individuals, some people feel a kind of affection for me. The harm I’ve experienced often came from those I know,” Indulekha said.

During an appearance on the Flowers Orukodi programme a few years ago, she had opened up about how she and Shankaran Potti fell in love, initially eloping and getting married out of fear that her family might not approve of their relationship. “It was during my college days that my love story with Potti blossomed. I was twenty years old then. Since I studied in a central school, I wasn’t perfectly proficient in reading and writing Malayalam. However, as our love grew through letters, I had no choice but to learn the language,” she said. Knowing that her family wouldn’t approve of their relationship, they initially had a secret registered marriage. Indulekha left home saying she was going to dance class, got married, and returned in the evening as usual. They kept the marriage a secret for about three months. It was only after she completed her studies that she left home and moved in with Shankaran.

Harshvardhan Rane reacts to comparison between his Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat character and Saiyaara’s Krish Kapoor: ‘Aapki kismat mein bhi...’



Harshvardhan Rane drops comment on reel comparing Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat with Ahaan Panday’s Saiyaara. Harshvardhan Rane reacts to Saiyaara comparison. Actor Harshvardhan Rane, who is basking in the success of his recently released film Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat, recently commented on a reel that compared his character, Vikramaditya, from the movie to Ahaan Panday’s Krish Kapoor from Saiyaara.

A social media user recently shared a reel comparing Harshvardhan’s character Vikramaditya from Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat with Ahaan’s Krish Kapoor from Saiyaara. Praising Harshvardhan’s Vikramaditya, she said the char-

acter was more sincere and devoted in love, noting that he had no vices, unlike Krish, whom she described as a “womaniser.” The girl further shared that such men don’t exist in real life, as they are beautifully written for the screen. She admitted that after watching the film, women might develop higher expectations from the men in their lives, hoping to find someone with the same qualities as Harshvardhan Rane’s character Vikramaditya. Harshvardhan took to the comment section of the reel and wrote, “Maam aapki kismat mein bhi ek aisa ladka LIKHA hai (Ma’am, a guy like that is written in your destiny too).”

His reaction quickly grabbed fans’ attention. Moreover, the post has sparked a lively debate in the comments section, with fans divided over which character was truly better. A user reacted by saying, “Bro Krish Kapoor is much better — what are you talking about,” while another commented, “You really put Krish Kapoor and Vikramaditya in the same line? Krish Kapoor is 10000000000x better.” “Krish Kapoor bhut acha tha koi loop holes nhi tha Puri movie mein usne apni girl ko blame nhi kiya tha vikram Aditya bhi bhut acha hai,” wrote a fan, while another added, “And who in their right mind would pick Harshvardhan’s character over Krish Kapoor (character)?” Another comment read, “Exactly sach bt boli bro ?? imaginary character hai yeh real life Mai na koi itna pyaar krta hai or na hi aisa hota hai ??.” Directed by Milap Zaveri and co-written by Zaveri and Mushtaq Shiekh, Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat opened to mixed reviews but continues to maintain a steady run at the box office despite clashing with Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer Thamma. Recently, Harshvardhan Rane made headlines after a video surfaced online showing him urging audiences to watch his movie Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat and Ayushmann Khurrana’s film Thamma. The clip created quite a buzz as Harshvardhan, along with co-star Sonam Bajwa, made a remark about “ending nepotism” by supporting films of two ‘outsiders’. However, the comment didn’t sit well with netizens, who trolled the actor online.

Inside Shilpa Shetty’s restaurant Bastian where herbal tea costs Rs 920, champagne will set you back by Rs 1.59 lakh



Shilpa Shetty’s Mumbai-based restaurant chain Bastian has gained immense popularity. The actor is the co-owner of the restaurant chain, which has turned into a hotspot for Bollywood celebrities and affluent people to dine in and host parties. While the Bandra and Worli branches in Mumbai are now closed, Bastian at the Top in Dadar is still an active outlet. Besides a reported turnover of Rs 2-3 crore every night as per socialite Shobhaa De, the restaurant is also known for its high-end prices and luxurious setting.

Bastian At The Top stands out for its rustic cave-like theme with earthy sand colors, a jungle area and a plunge pool. The carved walls of the restaurant has huge Buddha statues. The entire place is divided into three distinct parts — the forest area, the main bar with a DJ, and the private fine-dining area. Bastian will soon have its outlets opened in Hyderabad and Goa. The restaurant’s menu offers a wide range of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes of various cuisines. The cost of various dishes typically ranged be-

tween Rs 500 and Rs 1200. Simple beverages like Jasmine herbal tea and English breakfast tea are priced at Rs 920 and Rs 360 respectively. The luxurious place also serves alcohol, with sparkling wine rates going up to Rs 1,59,500 for a Dom Perignon Brut Rose, France bottle.

When it comes to food, Shilpa’s Bastian has many gluten free options with high-end prices. Basic dishes like chilli garlic noodles and chicken burrito were priced at Rs 675 and Rs 900 respectively. The burrata salad costs Rs 1050, while the avocado toast is available for Rs 800. Besides traditional food, the restaurant is also famous for its sea-food range, from fish, prawns, to lobster, crabs, and much more. While talking about Shilpa’s Bastian on Mojo Story, Shobhaa De revealed, “The kind of money in Mumbai is astonishing. One single restaurant in Mumbai has a turnover of Rs 2-3 crore a night. On slow night, the turnover is Rs 2 crore and on weekends it is Rs 3 crore. I walked into that restaurant to see it myself because when I heard these numbers... I said this can’t be true. It’s Bastian. It’s the new Bastian. It’s on the top. It is 21,000 ft square feet, it’s not even reality. You walk in there and you feel ‘where am I?’ You have a 360° view of the city.” She also shared that the restaurant serves 1,400 people in a single night. “They do two seatings, each of 700 people and they cover 1,400 people in one night. They have a waiting list of people waiting downstairs on the road in Dadar, which is like the heartland of old Maharashtra conservative area in Mumbai. There are people coming in Lamborghini and Aston Martin. You name it. Who are these people? I have no idea,” she said.

Top designer says Bollywood actress intimidated flight staff: ‘Didn’t greet them, made secretary answer questions, they were petrified’



The debate around Bollywood’s star system — from the high entourage costs to the multiple layers of management that make celebrities increasingly inaccessible — has been a recurring topic of discussion. Many argue that this distance is also part of an image-building exercise. Actors frequently wear garments designed by top names at public events, providing brands and designers a platform to promote their work. However, in a recent interaction, celebrity designer Sandeep Khosla, one half of the iconic duo Abu Jani – Sandeep Khosla, shared how Bollywood celebrities are becoming more and more difficult to approach.

Speaking on Fashionably Pernia, Sandeep first slammed Indian stylists for promoting foreign brands by making stars wear them more often, rather than giving Indian designers equal, if not greater, visibility. He also opened

up about how multiple levels of management make it nearly impossible to reach out to stars. He said, “In India, it’s a nightmare because you have to go through 25 people — the agency, the stylist, the stylist’s stylist, the third generation, the fifth person, the seventh person to get to an Indian celebrity. Till that time you are like bye-bye, thank you very much.” The interviewer added that the ecosystem actors have created around themselves is overwhelming — they travel with a “village,” and every decision must go through several approvals. Speaking about this culture, Sandeep shared an anecdote about an Indian female actor whose entitled behaviour reportedly intimidates air hostesses. He shared, “I was in a friend’s private jet, and the air hostess was telling us wonderful anecdotes about Indian film stars. She said there is a particular heroine, when she boards of flight, we are actually petrified because she doesn’t wish us, she doesn’t look us in the eye, and if we ask her for water, she will not even acknowledge our presence and her secretary or the person she is with will say ‘yes, she will have water’ and then we will serve the water to the secretary, and she/he will serve the water to her. We have created these monsters.” Writer and socialite Shobhaa De had also weighed in on the issue recently. Speaking to Barkha Dutt earlier on Mojo Story, she admitted that actors often summon paparazzi to click their photos at the airport to make sure their “airport looks” go viral. Reflecting on the earlier generation of actors and how they were more approachable than current stars, Shobhaa said, “Actors in those days used to have secretaries. They did not have layers and layers of management managing them.” She also explained how most celebrity looks today are paid for by designers and brands. “It is not the same now. It is much corporatised and they are following the Hollywood model of image positioning. So the airport look and all of it is...”