

## Independent candidate dies of heart attack before Jubilee Hills assembly by- poll counting

Hyderabad: Minutes before counting began for the Jubilee Hills by-poll, an Independent candidate Mohammed Anwar, 40, died of a suspected heart attack.He secured three votes in the first round of counting.

Anwar, a resident of Erragadda was reportedly been anxiously waiting for the counting since morning when he collapsed with severe chest pain. Family members immediately took him to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.Anwar had contested the bypoll from the Nationalist Congress Party and was allotted a clock as the symbol.

## Jubilee Hills win is people’s endorsement of Congress rule, claims Revanth Reddy

GNS News Agency, Nov 14**Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who earlier dismissed suggestions that the Jubilee Hills bypoll would serve as a referendum on his two-year governance, appeared to revise his stance on Friday, stating that voters had endorsed the Congress government after being impressed with its performance.**Appealing to the BRS and BJP to cooperate in Hyderabad’s development, he said there were still three years left for the next Assembly elections.“The Congress indulges in politics only when there are elections, and post-elections it strives for welfare and development. The BRS and BJP should support the Congress government and refrain from creating hurdles,” he said.Addressing a press conference, the Chief Minister criticised union Minister G Kishan Reddy, accusing him of obstructing Hyderabad’s growth. “The BJP lost its deposit in the bypoll. This is the people’s response to Kishan Reddy’s leadership. The union Minister needs to change his attitude for the BJP to have any future in the State,” he said.Revanti



Reddy also thanked the AIMIM, CPI and CPI(M) for supporting the Congress in the bypoll.On the long-pending local body elections, he said the cabinet would meet on Monday to discuss all issues, including legal aspects, before taking a final decision.On the Bihar assembly elections results, the Chief Minister refrained from a statement, claiming that he had not followed the results keenly.

## Congress candidate Naveen Yadav wins Jubilee Hills seat with 24,711 vote majority



GNS News Agency, Nov 14  
Hyderabad: In the Jubilee Hills by-poll, Congress Party candidate Naveen Yadav won with a 24,711 vote majority. From rounds 1 to 10, BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha gave a tough fight, and in one round BRS secured first place in the counting.Returning Officer of the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency, P Sairam, handed over the certificate of election to winner Navin Yadav at the counting centre at Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy Indoor Stadium in Yousufguda on Friday.

## Maganti Sunitha alleges rigging, rowdyism in Jubilee Hills bypoll

GNS News Agency, Nov 14  
Hyderabad: Attributing the Congress party’s victory in the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency to illegal short-cuts and widespread rigging, BRS candidate Maganti Sunitha on Friday alleged large-scale rigging and rowdyism by the Congress.Declaring that her party had won morally despite the official loss, she said the Congress won through backdoor tactics.“Rigging to secure victory is not a real win. Ethically, BRS has won,” Sunitha told reporters, alleging that the bypoll was conducted in an undemocratic manner.She said multiple parties ganged up against BRS, turning the election into a combined assault on the BRS rather than a fair contest. “This is not a victory,” she said.



what was happening,” Sunitha said, crediting former Jubilee Hills MLA Maganti Gopinath for keeping rowdies in check during his tenure.“As long as Gopinath was there, the rowdies stayed in their limits. Now they have come out and are building hype,” she said.Sunitha also accused Congress supporters of ragging BRS agents inside the counting hall and said they even targeted sarees worn by female representatives. “Ragging was done on us during counting. Rowdyism has just begun in Jubilee Hills,” she said.

## Delhi blast probe reveals JeM’s shift to Kashmir-based nationwide modules



GNS News Agency, Nov 14  
New Delhi: Investigation into the Delhi Red Fort blast case points to a strong Jammu and Kashmir link. Maulvi Irfan Ahmed, a resident of Jammu and Kashmir, oversaw the Faridabad module, which is linked to the Delhi blast case.Car bomber Dr Umar Nabi, too, was a resident of Pulwama. Intelligence agencies said that this suggests a clear shift in the manner Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) proposes to operate in India.

Earlier, terror groups based outside Pakistan sought to recruit with the intention that their operatives would carry out attacks in Jammu and Kashmir. However, now the new pattern emerging suggests that terror groups want to recruit from Jammu and Kashmir and deploy them in the rest of the country.When the ISI created terror groups such as The Resistance Front (TRF) and Hizbul Mujahideen, the intention was to have homegrown groups. The idea was to portray to the world that it was the locals of Kashmir who wanted the Union Territory liberated from India.

The Hizbul Mujahideen, which was a homegrown outfit controlled by the ISI, was wiped out in Jammu and Kashmir by the security agencies. It all began with the elimination of Burhan Wani, following which the security forces killed all the top commanders of the outfit. This led to the creation of TRF, which mostly recruits from Jammu and Kashmir.However, the Indian armed forces carried out Operation Sindoor to avenge the Pahalgam attacks. Following this, TRF vanished from the picture. Since then, the ISI has tried hard to raise a homegrown outfit in Jammu and Kashmir, but failed to find the desired success.

The Delhi blast shows a pattern shift, and the JeM has been recruiting people from Jammu and Kashmir to carry out attacks in other parts of the country. The JeM, which created the Faridabad module, was in the process of recruiting more from Jammu and Kashmir for the other modules across the country.Officials said that the ISI is clear that it wants locals from Jammu and Kashmir to be part of these modules and carry out attacks across the country. One of the main intentions is to separate the Kashmiris from the rest of the country.Following the Pahalgam attack, a divide was almost created between Kashmir and the rest of India. There were hateful messages that were posted against the Kashmiris. This is what the ISI intends to continue playing out so that the local Kashmiris feel alienated, and they will move towards the ISI’s agenda.Post the abrogation of Article 370, a lot has changed in Jammu and Kashmir. The locals witnessed peace after a long time, and this led to a tourism boom. This benefited the locals a lot.An official explained that this shift is something that the ISI could not digest.

## Liquor syndicates target new license holders to take over wine shops in Karimnagar

Karimnagar: Liquor syndicates are targeting newcomers who secured wine shop licences in the recent draw of lots, luring them with large sums and taking over their outlets. Syndicates are said to be paying more than Rs 1 crore for shops, depending on location and sales potential.

Besides habitual liquor traders, many individuals and groups applied for licences this year to try their luck, and a considerable number of first-time applicants secured shops in the October 27 draw. In Karimnagar alone, newcomers obtained 40 of the 94 shops allotted. Notably, three members of one family from Malkapur received three shops.

## Voters correct Lok Sabha mistake, reaffirm trust in PM Modi

GNS News Agency, Nov 14  
New Delhi: The massive mandate for the NDA in Bihar Assembly elections not just reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s enduring charisma but also mirrors a course correction by a large number electors who did not back the BJP-led alliance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, political analysts said on Friday.As repeatedly seen in Assembly elections held after the Lok Sabha elections last year, people have felt a sense of guilt and as a result voted repeatedly in favour of the BJP in Haryana, Maharashtra, Delhi and now Bihar, a psephologist said.An Opinion poll conducted in Haryana and Maharashtra soon after BJP’s big victory in the Western state last November, showed that more than 50 per cent of the respondents in both states agreed that PM Modi’s popularity had increased after the Lok Sabha elections.In Bihar, the Lok Sabha mandate in 2024 had reduced the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) tally by 10 seats as compared to 2019 -- down from 39 to 29 out of the total 40 parliamentary seats.

However, the NDA has managed to bounce back in the current Bihar Assembly elections, just about a year-and-a-half after the parliamentary poll setback, by nearing the tally of 200 seats in the 243-member State Legislature.Experts said that a course correction by voters after the Lok Sabha is apparent as the massive mandate in the Assembly polls reflects the people’s contentment, especially that of women voters, with the delivery of welfare schemes by PM Modi-led Central government and Nitish Kumar-led Bihar government.The BJP and the JD-U have both improved their vote share in the current Bihar Assembly elections as compared to 2020 Assembly polls.The



trends on the counting day on Friday showed that the BJP’s vote share rose to 20.67 per cent from 19.5 per cent in the 2020 Assembly elections and JD-U’s moved up to 19.67 per cent from 15.4 per cent in 2020.In collective terms, the NDA’s vote share in 2020 Bihar Assembly elections was 35.7 per cent, which stood at 48.2 per cent in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and an IANS-Matrise Exit Poll conducted on November 11 -- the second and final phase of voting in the Bihar Assembly elections -- showed that an overwhelming 65 per cent of women voters backed the NDA.

The findings of the Exit Poll, with a sample size of 66,087 and a margin of error of plus-minus three per cent, suggested that PM Modi-led Central government’s and Nitish Kumar government’s women-centric welfare schemes had impressed women who backed the ruling alliance wholeheartedly in the current elections.

## Independent candidates shine with three-digit votes in Jubilee Hills bye-election

GNS News Agency, Nov 14  
Hyderabad:NCP candidate dies without seeing his result:In a tragic turn of events, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) candidate in the Jubilee Hills assembly bye-election, Mohammed Anwar, died due to a suspected heart attack at his residence in Erragadda before the election results were announced.The candidate, who contested the bye-election, was awaiting the outcome. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the results of his campaign.

The news of Anwar’s death came as a shock to his supporters and the local community. Many expressed their condolences and remembered him as a dedicated and passionate individual who worked for the betterment of his constituency. In the bypoll results announced, Anwar had secured 24 votes.In the bypoll held for the Jubilee Hills assembly constituency, a total of 58 independent candidates were in the fray. While some of these candidates campaigned on issues such as unemployment and serving the people, others were not actively seen running their campaigns.Among the independents, Amboju Buddiah, who



contested on behalf of the Alliance of Democratic Reforms Party, secured the highest 231 votes while Rathod Ravinder Naik recorded the lowest count for an independent, polling nine votes.Kandarpally Kashinath, a 30-year-old unemployed resident of Jukkal in Nizamabad district, contested as an independent candidate. He holds an MSc in Botany, an MSc in Psychology, and an MA in Islamic Studies, and managed to secure 22 votes.

## NSA Doval invites Bangladesh counterpart to Colombo Security Conclave in Delhi



GNS News Agency, Nov 14  
In a bid to broaden security dialogue amidst continued tension with Bangladesh, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval will host Bangladesh interim government’s National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman next week. An announcement from the Press Office of the Chief Adviser of Bangladesh said on Friday that, upon invitation

from Mr. Doval, Mr. Rahman will lead the Bangladesh delegation at the Colombo Security Conclave to be held during November 19-20 in New Delhi.“His participation at the Colombo Security Conclave in New Delhi is in continuation of the Interim Government’s efforts to foster mutually beneficial regional cooperation,” the Chief Adviser’s Press Wing said, announcing Mr. Rahman’s first visit to India since he took charge as NSA on April 9, 2025. Mr. Rahman earlier served as the Chief Adviser’s High Representative for the Rohingya Issue.

“The Interim Government emphasizes regional cooperation as a priority and has actively participated in meetings of various regional bodies,” the Press Office said. Mr. Rahman has been a proponent of extending humanitarian assistance to the people of Myanmar’s Rakhine province and has championed the ‘humanitarian corridor’ to support civilians in the conflict-affected region.In recent months, Mr. Rahman has emerged as a key diplomat for the interim government of Bangladesh and has often represented the country in exchanges with counterparts and partners in the United States, Qatar, China, and other nations.

## Raja Singh accuses senior BJP leaders of weakening party in Telangana

Hyderabad: Expressing concern over the BJP’s dismal performance in the Jubilee Hills by-election, Goshamahai MLA T Raja Singh alleged that a few senior leaders had orchestrated plans to weaken the party in Telangana for their personal gains.

He charged that the Congress won the bypoll through booth capturing, distribution of money and other methods, while the local BJP leadership lacked the will and commitment to counter such tactics. He made the remarks in a video statement released on Friday.Raja Singh resigned from the BJP in July this year, protesting the appointment of N Ramchander Rao as the State president. He had ear-

lier alleged that the hard work and sacrifices of loyal party workers were being ignored by certain senior leaders.Reiterating his criticism of the State leadership, the Goshamahai MLA questioned who should be held accountable for the party’s poor showing in the by-election. He said this failure was not confined to Jubilee Hills, adding that the lack of preparedness ahead of the upcoming local body and GHMC elections was demoralising dedicated workers.Calling the BJP still ‘his party’, he said many MLAs and MPs were complaining that they lacked freedom in their constituencies to appoint leaders to mandal and district-level posts.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Decoding Telangana's GST dip

In September 2025, Telangana recorded a 5 per cent decline in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection compared to the same month the previous year. This dip stands out because, during the same period, India's overall GST collection grew by nearly 7 per cent. Apart from Telangana, only a few States — Himachal Pradesh (-4 per cent), Delhi (-1 per cent), and Manipur (-1 per cent) — reported a fall in revenue. However, the fall in Telangana's GST revenue is significant not just as a statistical fluctuation but as an economic signal. According to the Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) report for the 2023-24 annual accounts, nearly 80 per cent of Telangana's total revenue receipts come from its own tax sources, primarily GST, taxes on income and expenditure, property and capital transactions, and taxes on commodities and services. When such a tax base contracts, it poses serious fiscal implications for a State that depends heavily on its internal resource mobilisation to sustain development, infrastructure, and welfare programmes.

A closer look at the monthly trend reveals the slow-down more clearly. Telangana collected Rs 5,417 crore in July 2025, Rs 5,103 crore in August, and Rs 4,998 crore in September — indicating a continuous month-on-month decline. At the national level, India's GST collections also dipped slightly during this period, but the contraction was far less steep than Telangana's.

The comparison with last year makes the pattern even more interesting. In 2024, Telangana's GST collections declined from Rs 4,940 crore in July to Rs 4,569 crore in August, before rising again to Rs 5,267 crore in September. In other words, while 2024 saw a rebound in September, the year 2025 recorded a sustained decline. Understanding why this reversal occurred requires examining both economic and administrative factors.

## Meridian School Launches the International Film Festival for Children 2025



Hyderabad: Meridian School proudly launched the International Film Festival for Children 2025, in association with SCIFF 2025, with an inspiring inaugural event held at its Banjara Hills campus today. The event marked a vibrant celebration of learning, creativity, and storytelling through cinema—setting the stage for a 15-day festival that redefines how children learn beyond traditional classrooms. The grand opening ceremony was attended by distinguished guests, including Chief Guest: Mr. Senthil Kumar, Renowned Cinematographer & DOP of Baahubali;

Guest of Honour: Ms. Bobitha DevaraShetty;

CEO: Ms. Tejaswi Butta;

Co-Founder: Smt. Sree Renuka Butta; and

President: Ms. Lalitha Naidu. Their presence elevated the significance of the launch and reflected Meridian's commitment to creative, experiential, and global learning. Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Mr. Senthil Kumar shared an inspiring message on the educational impact of cinema. He said:

"Meridian School is offering a remarkable opportunity for everyone. There is immense scope for students and individuals who are passionate about movies to learn, explore, and even evolve into future filmmakers through these kinds of activities. Spending three to four hours productively—learning creativity, storytelling, and positive values from films—helps shape the mind and refresh one's thoughts. Watching movies with the right perspective can be highly educational and inspiring. This International Film Festival is a wonderful opportunity many have been waiting for. Make sure to utilize it to the fullest." Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Tejaswi Butta, CEO of Meridian Schools, highlighted the school's vision for experiential learning:

"At Meridian, we've always believed that education must move beyond the four walls of a classroom. Films have the power to stir emotions, spark imagination, and teach empathy in ways that no textbook can. Hosting SCIFF 2025 allows our students to experience the world through stories — and that's the most beautiful form of learning."

## Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Launch Rs1.50 Crore Development Works in Chilkanagar Division

"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 14 (Indian Chronicle):""Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended as the chief guest and formally launched several development works worth ₹1.50 crore across various colonies and bastis in the Chilkanagar Division. He initiated the works along with Chilkanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Lakshma Reddy stated that a new culvert is being constructed in Azmat Nagar Colony at an estimated cost of ₹1 crore. He added that foundation stones have also been laid for sewerage pipeline works costing around ₹50 lakh. ""Corporator Geetha Praveen said that new sewerage pipelines are being laid in the following stretches: From Chilkanagar Hanuman Temple to Das Ration Shop, ""From the lane behind Chilkanagar Outpost (Kattal Dawkhan lane) to MedPlus Medical Shop, From Chilkanagar Shiva Temple to Bodrai. He mentioned that the division is steadily fulfilling every promise made during the elections. Nearly 80% of the development works in the division have already been completed, and the remaining 20% will be expedited to ensure early completion. Several senior BRS leaders, association presidents and secretaries, committee members, colony residents and women participated in large numbers in the programme.

## From Protecting Health to Preventing Progress: How the WHO's Tobacco Treaty Went off Course



GNS News Agency, Nov 14

Hyderabad: As governments prepare for COP11 to the WHO FCTC, a recent webinar hosted by the Taxpayers Protection Alliance (TPA) under its Good COP 2.0 initiative reignited debate on the treaty's direction. With growing discussions in India and globally around tobacco harm reduction, Dr. Derek Yach—one of the original architects of the FCTC and Martin Cullip, TPA's International Fellow and harm reduction advocate, called for urgent reform of the FCTC to reflect the realities of modern science and innovation. The event explored the treaty's 20-year history and current direction, with both speakers expressing concern that the FCTC — once a groundbreaking framework for reducing global smoking rates, has failed to adapt to scientific and technological advances that could save millions of lives.

Dr. Derek Yach, reflected on how global health innovation has evolved since the treaty's creation, "The FCTC was developed at the time of the WTO Doha Round that gave highest priority to innovations that led to HIV/AIDS drugs. They have saved millions of lives since. By con-

trast, the FCTC failed to anticipate that innovation and science would transform our ability to end smoking. The text is frozen in time and Member States struggle to appreciate that industry innovations are delivering products that are ending smoking and saving millions of lives."

Martin Cullip noted that the treaty's original purpose was to reduce the devastating toll of smoking on more than a billion people globally, has been overshadowed by policies that reject innovation. He shared, "The WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control has lost sight of its original purpose. It was created to reduce the devastating harm caused by smoking among more than a billion people worldwide. Yet instead of embracing safer nicotine alternatives that are helping to achieve that goal, it now focuses on restricting them. When even one of the treaty's own founders expresses concern about its direction, it's clear the FCTC has drifted far from its mission."

The discussion underscored a growing divide between evidence-based harm-reduction strategies and WHO's continued emphasis on prohibition-style policies. Both speakers urged COP11 delegates to consider the latest science on reduced-risk nicotine products and to update the FCTC to reflect today's public-health realities. The webinar was part of TPA's Good COP 2.0 series, which highlights the importance of transparency, innovation, and consumer choice in global public-health policymaking. According to a 2024 report by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, tobacco causes an estimated 1.35 million deaths annually in India and cost over 1% of the country's GDP. While India enforces pictorial warnings and advertising restrictions, the ban on e-cigarettes and heated-tobacco products limits access to safer alternatives, making global harm-reduction debates particularly relevant for policymakers.

## Prostate Enlargement Becoming a Growing Concern Among Elderly Men – Modern Treatments Offer Significant Relief: Dr. Aman Chandra Deshpande (SOMAJIGUGA, SECUNDRABAD)

"CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, NOVEMBER 14, INDIAN CHRONICLE: "At a press conference organized on Friday at Yashoda Hospital, Karimnagar, renowned urologist Dr. Aman Chandra Deshpande (MBBS, MS, MCh – Urology) Consultant Urologist, Andrologist, Laparoscopic, Robotic & Kidney Transplant Surgeon...explained in detail about the increasing prevalence of Prostate Enlargement (Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia – BPH) among aging men. He stated that BPH is one of the most common conditions seen in men above the age of 50, and its incidence continues to rise with age. ""Dr. Deshpande noted that prostate enlargement primarily occurs due to hormonal changes, especially the increased production of Dihydrotestosterone (DHT) as men grow older. Although this is a natural physiological change, he cautioned that ignoring early symptoms could lead to severe urinary complications. ""Discussing the symptoms, he said that individuals with prostate enlargement commonly experience difficulty in passing urine, weak urine flow, frequent urination, waking up multiple times at night to urinate, a feeling of incomplete bladder emptying, and sudden urgency to urinate. Collectively, these symptoms are known as Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS). ""Explaining the available treatment options, Dr. Deshpande said that in the early stages, medications such as Alpha Blockers, Finasteride, and Dutasteride provide good relief. However, in some patients where there is significant urine retention or obstruction, surgical intervention becomes necessary. ""He highlighted TURP (Transurethral Resection of the Prostate) as a long-practised procedure in which excess prostate tissue is removed using an endoscope, generally requiring 2–3 days of hospitalization. He fur-



ther explained that HoLEP (Holmium Laser Enucleation of the Prostate) is an advanced alternative to TURP, offering advantages like minimal blood loss, suitability for large prostates, and a faster recovery period. ""Dr. Deshpande also spoke about modern minimally invasive treatments such as REZUM and UROLIFT. "REZUM, also known as steam therapy, uses water vapor to shrink prostate tissue. It is a day-care procedure with no sexual side effects, and patients can quickly return to normal life. "UROLIFT, on the other hand, is a non-invasive technique where metal clips are used to widen the urethra without cutting the prostate. It offers immediate symptom relief, preserves sexual function, and allows same-day discharge. "Concluding his briefing, Dr. Aman Chandra Deshpande urged men not to ignore the symptoms of prostate enlargement. Delayed treatment, he warned, may lead to bladder damage, infections, and deterioration of kidney function. He emphasized that timely diagnosis and appropriate treatment can greatly improve the quality of life.

## Urban Bank Directors Meet Union Minister Bandi Sanjay; Call for Political Neutrality in Bank's Development

"CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, SEPTEMBER 13, INDIAN CHRONICLE: "The governing body of the Karimnagar Co-operative Urban Bank Limited met Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Bandi Sanjay Kumar, and expressed their gratitude for his support in the recently concluded board elections, in which the Karra Rajashekar panel secured a significant victory. "Urban Bank Chairman Karra Rajashekar, along with the board members, thanked the Minister for his continuous guidance and assistance at every stage of the election process, stating that his support played a crucial role in their success. "Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar urged the newly elected committee to work for the development of the Urban Bank beyond political boundaries. He recalled that his political journey began as a director of the same Urban Bank and assured full cooperation for its future growth. "The Minister felicitated and congratulated the newly elected Chairman Karra Rajashekar and the board members. "On this



occasion, the governing body also felicitated former Mayor Yadagiri Sunil Rao and conveyed their appreciation for his contribution.

## Children's Day Celebrated Grandly at Uppal Bubbles Primary School: SI Chiranjeevi Attends as Chief Guest



childhood is the most memorable and precious phase of life, and celebrating Children's Day allows everyone to relive that joy. He stated that this celebration reflects the rich culture of our nation. "He recalled that India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, had immense love for children, who affectionately called him Chacha Nehru. His birth anniversary on November 14 is celebrated every year as Children's Day across the country. "He added that the main objective of Children's Day is to ensure love, care and quality education for children. He appreciated the efforts of teachers in shaping children into responsible future citizens of India. SI Chiranjeevi also congratulated the management of Bubbles Primary School for providing education in a student-friendly manner. On this occasion, the school management felicitated SI Chiranjeevi.

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## Negligence Of Officials.. Adivasis Repair Roads At Their Own Expense

"Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 14""The Road Leading to Rampur Village of Navedari Gram Panchayat in Wankidi Mandal of Asifabad district has become potholed due to rains. Even after 77 years of independence, the



tribal people are facing difficulties due to lack of proper roads. The villagers, fed up with the authorities not paying attention, have repaired the dirt roads with their own money. Villagers Patel Madavi Vasu, Jam Leka Shyam Rao, Poosam Bheemrao, Poosam Srikanth and Rampur have demanded that the authorities should respond and approve the permanent road.

## 177th Birth Anniversary Of Ambedkar's Father Ramji Maloji Satpal



"Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 14""The 177th birth anniversary of Subedar Ramji Maloji Satpal was celebrated on Friday at Jetwan Buddha Vihar in Wankidi mandal center under the auspices of Bharatiya Buddhist Mahasabha District President Ashok Mahulkar. Speaking on the occasion, Mahulkar said that Ramji Maloji Satpal went through a lot of hardships to provide higher education to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in the days when there was no opportunity for education for the lower classes, and his sacrifice is highly commendable, and that education is the way for everyone to take their children to a higher position. "Later, sweets and fruits were distributed in the bus stand area..



# Grand Children’s Day Celebrations at Sir Mount School

“ KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 14 (Indian Chronicle):““Sir Mount School celebrated Children’s Day with great enthusiasm on Thursday, organizing a series of unique and fun-filled games for both children and parents. The activities were designed to help parents relive their childhood moments, creating a joyful and lively atmosphere on the school premises.“Uppal Corporator Mandamula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy, who graced the occasion as the chief guest, said that watching parents and children play together reminded her of her own school days. She appreciated the school management and parents for consistently supporting children to excel in all fields. The Corporator extended warm Children’s Day greetings to everyone.“Sir Mount School Chairman Banala Vijayender Reddy stated that the institution is committed to identifying the hidden talents of students and nurturing them through proper encouragement. He added that the school’s teaching methods are designed to match the interests and abilities of every child. He also conveyed his Children’s Day wishes to all students.“Director Sravya Reddy, Correspondent Mamatha, parents, and students participated enthusiastically, making the event a grand success.



# Congress Party Celebrations Near Rajiv Gandhi Statue on Ramanthapur Main Road: Leaders Burst Firecrackers and Distributed Sweets



““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 14 (Indian Chronicle):““Following the massive victory of Congress Party candidate Naveen Kumar Yadav in the Jubilee Hills by-election with a huge majority, leaders from Ramanthapur and Habsiguda divisions gathered near the Rajiv Gandhi statue at Ramanthapur and held grand celebrations by bursting firecrackers and distributing sweets.“Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that the people have blessed the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and ensured Naveen Yadav’s victory with an impressive majority. They added that despite the false propaganda spread by the BRS party, the public did not believe them, and this victory is clear proof that people

have trusted the Congress Party.“Participants in the celebrations included:“TPCC representative Mohammed Tofiq, Ramanthapur Division President Mohammed Rafiq, Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun, Habsiguda Division President Vijay Kumar, Upender Reddy, Vallapa Srikanth Yadav, Jaleel Pasha, Poosa Sattayya, Mogili Lingam, Srinivas Goud, Balayya, Babu, Srinivas Chari, Shaga Sridhar, Minority State Leaders and Youth Congress Vice Presidents Mammad Shakeel and Kishore, Minority Leader Mohammed Matin, Ramanthapur Mahila Congress President Sandhya Rani, Gayatri Goud, Manga, Shobha, Surya, Icon Sai Yadav, Chotu, Mama, Jangir, Sheikh Pasha and others.

# Celebrations at Jana Samithi Office Over Congress Victory



““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Hyderabad, November 14 (Indian Chronicle):““Workers of the Jana Samithi celebrated at their office, expressing joy over the victory of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the Jubilee Hills by-election. They distributed sweets and conveyed their greetings.Speaking at the media conference organized on this occasion, Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) State President Prof. Kodandaram said that the Congress victory in Jubilee Hills is a matter of happiness. He added that with this win, the responsibility of the Telangana Jana Samithi in Greater Hyderabad has increased further. He suggested that leaders should work harder to address issues in the slums from time to time.He urged the city committee to prepare a plan to strengthen the presence

of Jana Samithi ahead of the upcoming GHMC elections.“The meeting, held under the leadership of TJS Greater Hyderabad President M. Narasayya, was attended by State General Secretaries Palle Vinay Kumar and Ramesh Mudiraj, State President of the Labour Wing Akula Srinivas, City General Secretary Battala Ramachander, Office In-charge Hanumanth Reddy, Jubilee Hills In-charge Hanumanth Goud, Ranga Reddy District President Darasatyam, SC Cell President Chandra Giri Satyanarayana, and city leaders Mohammed Afzal, Merugu Srinivas Yadav, Ramesh Suresh, Laxman, Manikyam, Nagabhushan, Sudhakar, Ajay Goud, Venkataiah, and others.



# Congress Leaders Attend Indiramma's House Construction Work

““Indian Chronicle" kumram bheem, Asifabad,District Reporte,Jade Srinivas.November,14““The construction work of Indiramma houses undertaken by the public government in Municipality Bazarwadi, the center of Asifabad district, is progressing rapidly. On this occasion, the slab work was started by breaking a coconut.Asifabad Mandal Congress Party President Masade Charan, former Co- option Member Sheikh Ashad,Senior leaders Sheikh Kalim, Chunarkar Deepak, Mahbub Sheikh, and Bazarwadi Congress leaders participated in this program. The leaders said that the welfare schemes undertaken by the government are increasing the livelihood of the poor. The local people also expressed happiness over the commencement of the construction work of the houses.”[5:45 PM, 11/14/ 2025] +91 99485 55073:

# Power Supply Interruption Today in Habsiguda Section Limits Electricity Department AE V. Ganesh

““By Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, November 14 (Indian Chronicle):““Due to departmental maintenance works, power supply will be interrupted on the 15th of this month, Saturday, from 10 AM to 1 PM in the 11 KV ISI Feeder limits, according to a statement issued by Habsiguda Electricity Department AE V. Ganesh.During this time, there will be no power supply in JSN Colony, VV Nagar, GG Colony, Shobhana Nagar, Brindavan Colony, Sneha Nagar, Main Road Sheet No. 8 Habsiguda, and surrounding areas.“AE Ganesh requested electricity consumers and business owners to cooperate along with their staff during this maintenance period.



# Book Exhibition Held at Uppal Government Degree College



““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 14 (Indian Chronicle):““The Library Department of Uppal Government Degree College celebrated National Library Week with grandeur. As part of the celebrations, a book exhibition was organised for the benefit of students, commemorating the invaluable services of Dr. S. R. Ranganathan, known as the Father of Library Science in India.“The exhibition featured reference books, Telugu Academy publications, language-related books, competitive exam material (including Telangana Geography, Indian Economy, Indian Polity, Biology, General English, Group-I and Group-II), newspapers and magazines.College Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar presided over the programme, while Library Department convener Dr. R. Chandrasagar coordinated the event.“Dr. Jagan, Assistant Professor from Malkajgiri Government Degree College, attended as the chief guest.“Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jagan encouraged students to make effective use of libraries to enhance their knowledge. He advised them to avoid spending excessive time on mobile phones. Principal Dr. Vijay Kumar also highlighted the importance of utilising library resources without wasting time and recalled the immense contributions made by Dr. S. R. Ranganathan to the nation.“He further shared that faculty and students are actively making use of digital resources such as ONOS and the National Digital Library of India (NDLI).“Faculty members Dr. Raviprasad, Dr. Rajashree, Dr. Tirupathayya, Dr. Yamuna, Vijay Kumar, and Dr. Venkateshwarlu paid rich tributes to Dr. Ranganathan’s services.“Library Department Convener Dr. R. Chandrasagar remarked, “Libraries are embodiments of knowledge. Indian libraries are as sacred as temples, and there is a need to bring modern advancements into them.”

# Kakatiya School Marks Children’s Day with Splendid Celebrations and Student-Led Governance

““P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU ““Children’s Day was celebrated with great splendour at Kakatiya English Medium High School in Manthani mandal, commemorating the birth anniversary of India’s first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Adding significance to the occasion, the school also observed Self-Governance Day, during which 10th-grade students took on the roles of teachers and conducted classes with remarkable confidence and enthusiasm.“A series of vibrant cultural performances captivated the audience and showcased the multifaceted talents of the students. Addressing the gathering, School Principal Pradeep Reddy highlighted that Nehru’s deep affection and warmth towards children earned him the beloved title “Chacha Nehru.” He emphasised the importance of acknowledging children’s perspectives, noting that nurturing their creative instincts and intellectual abilities helps them thrive in a secure and encouraging learning environment.““Outstanding student-teachers were felicitated with awards for their exemplary performance. The school management also honoured Nikhil, a native of



Manthani, with a memento in recognition of his commendable contributions to the field of digital marketing.“The event witnessed the active participation of School Director Ravi Kiran Reddy, along with Shravan Reddy, Sravanthi Reddy, Pavani Reddy, teaching staff, and a large number of students, making it a memorable and inspiring celebration.

# Travel Agencies Directed to Strengthen Safety, Verification Measures Coordination meeting with travel agencies conducted by North Zone DCP

““ Indian chronicle, Secunderabad November 14:“The North Zone Police conducted a coordination meeting with over 50 travel agency owners and managers to review compliance with safety norms and legal requirements under the Telangana Public Safety Act and BNSS.“DCP North Zone S. Rashmi Perumal, IPS, instructed agencies to maintain transparency in operations and ensure strict verification of passengers, staff, and travel records. Agencies were cautioned that any lapse leading to public safety concerns or aiding illegal activities would attract stringent action.“Key directives issued include mandatory passenger ID verification, CCTV installation at offices and inside buses, proper maintenance of booking and staff records, reporting of suspicious activities, verification of employees, and ensuring well-lit boarding points. Travel operators were also asked to inform



police about special group tours or high-risk travel and maintain quick communication channels during emergencies.“The police emphasized adherence to fire safety norms and regular vehicle maintenance to ensure safe travel for the public.

# Students preparing for group competitive exams..books should be made available to students in the library:- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao

““(Mandava Srisailem.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 14):- Books related to competitive exams in the library..books related to groups should be purchased and made available to students, students should study books in libraries and excel in group exams..rise to a higher level and get higher jobs..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao said. The 58th National Library Week celebrations in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district began on Friday at the District Central Library, Bhuvanagiri. On this occasion, District Library Association Chairman MD Awais Ur Rehman Chisti unfurled the national flag and garlanded the portrait of Jawaharlal Nehru and the portrait of Telangana Thalli to start the week-long celebrations. “Later, the weekly celebrations were inaugurated by District Library Association Chairman MD Awais Ur Rehman Chisti. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector A. Bhaskar Rao was the chief guest at the program, which was presided over by the chairman of the district library association. Before the commencement of the meeting, the lamp was lit and floral garlands were garlanded on the portrait of Saraswati Devi and on the portrait of the library founder S. Ranganathan. “Speaking at the meeting, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector (Local Institutions) Bhaskar Rao suggested that books re-

lated to competitive exams and books related to groups should be purchased in the library and made available to students. Similarly, he said that appropriate orders will be issued to the municipalities and gram panchayats in the district to pay the cess dues due to the library. Similarly, they joined the library as members by paying Rs. 100/-. In addition, in this program, the District Library Association In-charge Secretary M. Sudheer invited as guests“Polisetty Anil Kumar, Pothamsetty Venkateswarlu,“Maturi Baleswara Rao, Jampala Anjaiah, Karipe Narasimha Rao, C Akkinenipalli Narasimha Rao, P Shankar Reddy, Battu Ramachandraiah, Sallavuddin, Kairam Konda Venkatesh, Vadicherla Krishna Yadav, MD Mazhar, Challaguru Raghu Babu, Gurralla Srinivasa Rao, Manga Praveen, Pittala Balaraju, Kollur Raju, Nagaram Shankar, Barre Naresh,“MD ???. Ujjay and Sai participated. Library employees of the district and students of Readers Bhagayat School also participated in this program.“All the guests were honored with shawls in this program.





# Government releases funds as compensation to beneficiaries who lost land under Regional Ring Road "Triple R": Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy

“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..November 14):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy Triple said that the government has released funds as compensation to beneficiaries who lost land under Regional Ring Road (Triple R). Speaking on this occasion, Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy said that the money has been released as per the compensation given under Triple R. As part of this, the government has released Rs. 69,55,534.60/- to 12 people from Datarapalli village in Yadagirigutta mandal, and Rs. 30,86,170.28/- to 15 people from Dattayyapalli village in Turkapalli mandal. The government has released Rs. 13,66,092.00/- to 5 people from Ibrahimpur village in Turkapalli mandal, and Rs. 32,20,179.31/- to 6 people from Konapur village in Turkapalli mandal. The government has released Rs. 57,69,780.60/- to 11 people from Velpupalli village in Turkapalli mandal, and a total of Rs. 2,03,97,756/- to 49 people in the district who have lost their lives.



# KCR.. KTR is arrogant.. Congress party candidate Naveen Yadav wins in Jubilee Hills by-elections: - Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy With the victory of Congress party candidate Naveen Yadav in Jubilee Hills.. TRS shops are now closed.. KCR.. KTR is now dedicated to his farm house:- Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy



“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle November 5):- The victory of Congress party candidate Naveen Yadav with a huge majority in the Jubilee Hills by-elections.. is evidence of the development work being done by the state Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and this can be said to be a proof of the arrogance of KCR and KTR, said Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy. Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that it is a pleasure for the people of Jubilee Hills to make Naveen Yadav win with a large majority and present him as a gift to Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. With the victory of Congress Party candidate Naveen Yadav in the Jubilee Hills by-elections.. Now TRS shops are closed.. KCR.. KTR should now dedicate themselves to the farmhouse, Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy explained. As part of this, the Chief Minister of the state said that under the Congress government in Telangana, public development is their goal.. Public welfare is their goal and women have been given a high position, and the Congress government has been credited with providing free bus travel to all women in the state and providing ration cards to every deserving person under the Congress government, Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said. Speaking to the "Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Indian Chronicle Bureau In-charge" on Friday, he said that the

people have given a big vote to the government that is developing the state, and the people of Jubilee Hills made Congress candidate Naveen Yadav win with a huge majority in the by-elections held in Jubilee Hills and presented it to the state Chief Minister Revanth Reddy as a gift. This is an auspicious sign for the local elections. He said that the ration card is a symbol of the self-respect of the poor, and that BRS has not given a single new ration card in ten years, and that the people have been prosperous only after the Congress party came to power in the state. He said that as soon as the Congress government came to power, free bus travel was provided to all the women in the state through the Mahalaxmi scheme, and pension facilities were provided to the elderly. He said that BRS has not given a single new ration card in ten years, and that the Congress government will provide ration cards to every eligible child and distribute rice. He said that the Congress government is giving priority to introducing welfare schemes like old age pensions, Indiramma Indlu, and other schemes to increase self-respect of women, and that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has introduced several schemes with the aim of making all women in the state millionaires, and as part of that, interest-free loans are being provided. He said that business opportunities are being provided through women's associations, and that the victory of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the Jubilee Hills by-election is proof of the development of the Jubilee Hills constituency. He said that Telangana is moving forward towards development under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and that the government is working in line with the aspirations of the people, and Naveen Yadav's victory is an auspicious sign for this development journey. He predicted that every voter in the Jubilee Hills constituency voted for the Congress party in the by-elections, and Naveen Yadav will show how the development of the Jubilee Hills constituency will be. Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy stated that no matter how many tricks TRS leaders used, no one could stop Naveen Yadav's victory, and now KCR and his son KTR should be limited to farmhouses, no one trusts them, no one will trust those who bankrupted the Telangana state, and their political career is now closed.



:-“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 14):- A scene of Congress party leaders celebrating the victory of Congress party candidate Naveen Yadav in Jubilee Hills in Bonagiri, including former Municipal Chairman Potanasetti Venkateswarlu, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Awais Chisti, Seva Dal leader Pittala Balaraj, Padigala Pradeep and others.

# Congress wins in Jubilee Hills Congress leaders rally in Malkajigiri



““K, Sadanand “Malkajigiri, (Alwal ) November 14:- ““Former MLA of Malkajigiri on the occasion of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav winning a huge majority in the Jubilee Hills by-election.““On the orders of Mainampally Hanumantha Rao, a victory celebration was held under the leadership of the Congress party at Malkajigiri Square on Friday. On this occasion, the Congress leaders said... BRS has defeated the Congress candidate Naveen Yadav in the Jubilee Hills by-election. “ He said that

people rejected the bad propaganda with their votes.““He thanked the people of the constituency for winning the Congress party with a majority of over 25,000 votes. “Malkajigiri in-charge Lakshmikantha Reddy, B block president Venkatesh Yadav, BC Srinu, Gundaniranjana, Pittala Srinivas GNV Satish Kumar division presidents Sampath Goud Vainala Praveen Satyamurthy, Santosh Ramdas Mudiraj, Pittala Nagaraju, minority leaders Syed Mabu, Farid Samaj “Shankar, Brahmaiah, Indira Priyadarshini, Asha, Prabha, Sharada, Agamaiah Kondagoud and others participated.

# Steps should be taken for the development of handloom..Request to Handloom and Textile Commissioner Shailaja Ramaiah:-MLC Nellikanti Satyam

““(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 14):- MLC Nellikanti Satyam has requested the Telangana state government to take steps for the development of handloom in Hyderabad. Along with the leaders of the Telangana Handloom Workers' Association, she handed over the petition to Handloom and Textile Commissioner Shailaja Ramaiah at his office in Hyderabad on Friday. On this occasion, MLC Nellikanti Satyam along with the Telangana Handloom Workers' Association State General Secretary Pasikanti Lakshminarasayya said that about one lakh families in the state depend on the handloom profession for their livelihood and appealed to the government to take steps to revive the handloom sector, which has been in a state of crisis. He urged the state government to immediately implement the schemes and promises announced for the welfare of handloom workers. He reminded that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had announced 14 months ago that loans up to Rs. 1 lakh would be waived as per the promise made before the elections, and that Rs. 33 crore was being released for loan waiver. He appealed to the Chief Minister to release sufficient funds as all the details of the loan arrears of handloom workers are ready with the government and make the weavers debt-free like farmers. He said that 527 handloom cooperative societies have been formed in the state under the auspices of the Handloom and Textiles Department for the welfare of handloom workers. He explained that the interest



burden had increased due to non-payment of money on the clothes purchased by Tesco on time, and the handloom cooperative societies had become indebted, and many handloom societies had closed due to the increase in interest burden, resulting in a situation where the workers could not find employment. He demanded that all the loans of handloom cooperative societies be waived off, new loans be provided through banks and all the closed societies be opened. He said that elections were held for handloom cooperative societies in 2013 as per the Cooperative Act, and even though their term expired in 2018, the government has not held elections so far. He expressed his concern that since the Federation of Handloom Cooperative Societies "TESCO" also does not have a governing body, there is no one who cares about the welfare of handlooms. He demanded that the government should promote the handloom sector by holding elections for handloom cooperative societies and TESCO and elect new governing bodies. "The state government has announced that it will grant Rs. 18,000 per year to a handloom worker who sets a geo-tagged loom and Rs. 6000 to an associated worker under the "Netannaku Bharosa" scheme, and he demanded that the scheme be implemented immediately. Telangana Handloom Workers' Union State General Secretary Pashikanti Lakshmi Narasaiah, Honorary President Venkat Ramulu, President Pendem Sarveshwar, leaders Jaldi Ramulu, Kasturi Bikshapati, Karnati Maraiah, Surapalli Janardhan, Duduka Uppalaiah and others participated in this program.

# Kerala School in Jammikunta Celebrates Children's Day with Resplendent Grandeur

““P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU““Children's Day was commemorated with exceptional splendour and heartfelt enthusiasm at Kerala School in Jammikunta mandal. The celebrations commenced with School Chairman K.S. Benny ceremoniously garlanding the portrait of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, honouring his enduring affection for children.““As part of the Student Self-Governance initiative, the students assumed the roles of teachers and efficiently managed the school's academic and daily activities, showcasing their leadership skills and confidence.““The event featured an array of captivating cultural performances presented by the children. Students enthralled the audience with their creative attire, portraying themes inspired by social movements and other meaningful concepts.““Extending his warm wishes, Chairman K.S. Benny encouraged the children to cultivate creativity, imagination, and intellectual curiosity. School Principal K.S. Jolly Madam, alongside the dedicated teaching faculty, graced the occasion and supported the celebrations.““The teachers' team addressed the students, urging them to uphold the dignity, values, and wisdom imparted by their mentors and to grow into responsible and enlightened citizens.



# Public Auction for License to Set Up Coconut & Pooja Material Stall at Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Devasthanam on 26th of This Month

““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 14 (Indian Chronicle):“““The Uppal Velugu Gutta Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy temple authorities have announced that an open public auction will be held on 26th of this month (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM in the temple premises for granting the license to sell coconuts and pooja materials for the year 2026. Temple EO Peddigari Srikanth stated in a press release that only those who agree to the conditions of the auction and sign the consent form will be allowed to participate after paying the required deposit amount of ₹10,000. The license period will be from 01-01-2026 to 31-12-2026. Participants must pay the deposit in cash or demand draft. They must bid higher than the base amount decided by the temple authorities. Those who have any kind of dues pending with the temple or its staff will not be allowed to participate in the auction. Except for the highest bidder, the deposits of all other participants will be returned immediately after the auction concludes. In the presence of all depositors, the name of the highest bidder will be declared. Immediately after

being declared winner, the highest bidder must pay 50% of the bid amount at the temple office. The remaining amount must be paid within 6 months. If the highest bidder fails to pay the required amount within the given time, the deposit will be forfeited as penalty, and the license will be offered to the second-highest bidder or a new auction will be conducted. The open auction will be subject to approval from the Endowments Department, which also holds full authority to cancel or postpone the auction without assigning any reason. The EO further stated that the highest bidder must submit an agreement on ₹100 stamp paper, two cheques, and a copy of their Aadhaar card on the same day. If the highest bidder fails to pay the full amount for any reason, legal action will be initiated. The highest bidder must also prepare and display two price boards at the specified location. The stall must be operated only at the location allotted by the temple, and once the license period ends, the stall must be vacated and the premises handed back to the temple, the EO clarified.

# Moonlight in the morning... darkness in the evening.. Irregular maintenance of street lights -Requesting local people to take action



““K Sadanand “Malkajigiri, (Alwal November 14:- ““Under Malkajigiri Circle “The maintenance of street lights has become chaotic.““Due to the negligence of the concerned authorities, the street lights are failing in broad daylight. “Itching in those areas without lightening in the morning““Darkness reigns.““Maintenance of street lights““Residents are complaining that due to negligence and negligence in the supervision of the authorities, the lights go on and off whenever they want. “There is no timing for these... there is no damage... they light up during the day. When it gets dark, they dry up. “Street lights to be lit at night““The locals are expressing their grief that the lights are not on.““Especially in Nared Met, Sitaram Nagar, Devi Nagar and Vinayak Nagar, the street lights are on all day long. “Locals lamented that there is no light at night and they brought this problem to the attention of the electricity authorities several times but to no avail. “The locals want the authorities to focus on the maintenance of these street lights and solve the problem







—“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 14):- Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy discussed with the concerned officials that the Jagadevpur road work should be started immediately. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao and other official staff participated in this program.

## 'Contributes To Strengthening Congress's Victory



—“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 14”

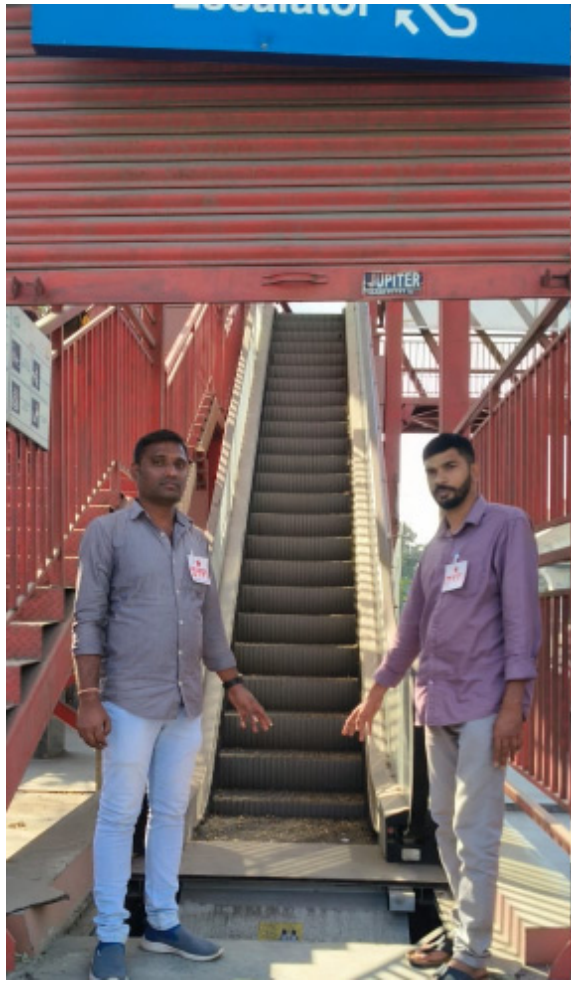
“On the occasion of the Congress candidate's re-sounding victory in the Jubilee Hills by- election, party workers under the leadership of Wankidi Mandal Congress President Narayana celebrated by bursting crack-

ers. He expressed his heartfelt congratulations to Naveen Yadav. He said that this victory has increased the enthusiasm in the party ranks locally. He said that he believes that it will contribute to the strengthening of the Congress in the upcoming political situation.

## DYFI Demands Immediate Repair of Escalator and Lift



—“Indian Chronicle,” Secunderabad, November 14: The escalator and lift installed on the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) near St. Ann's School have been out of service for several months, causing severe inconvenience to students, local residents, and pedestrians. In response a team from DYFI inspected the bridge on Friday to assess the situation firsthand. “DYFI District Secretary Md. Javeed stated that with both the escalator and lift non-functional, schoolchildren are forced to climb the stairs carrying heavy bags leaving them exhausted. He added that the situation is especially difficult for young children, senior citizens, and women who frequently use the bridge.” Javeed noted that heavy traffic on the main road increases the risk of accidents for pedestrians attempting to cross without a functional escalator or lift. This Foot Over Bridge was constructed nearly 20 years ago following the struggles and demands raised by student unions. due to GHMC's negligence the facility has become unusable he said. “Despite repeated complaints over the past year neither the escalator nor the lift has been repaired, and the authorities have failed to respond DYFI leaders alleged. “DYFI demanded that GHMC take immediate action to repair the escalator and lift and restore them for public use. Javeed warned that if the authorities do not respond promptly, DYFI will launch major protests under its banner.



## Celebrations by Congress Leaders Victory celebrations in Mallapur



—“Nacharam, Indain Chronicle, November 14: ““The Mallapur Congress Party expressed happiness over the Congress Party's victory in the Jubilee Hills by-election. Under the leadership of Division President Kapra Sai Goud, victory celebrations were held. Fire-crackers were burst and sweets were distributed. Several leaders participated in the programme.

## Jubilee Hills Election Results... A Prelude to the GHMC Elections

—“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, November 14: ““The impressive victory achieved by the Congress Party in the Jubilee Hills by-election will serve as a beginning for the upcoming GHMC by-elections, said Nacharam Division President Bandaram Srikant Goud. “On the occasion of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav winning with a huge majority, victory celebrations were organized in Nacharam under the leadership of Division President Bandaram Srikant Goud. Congress Party leaders burst firecrackers and distributed sweets on the main road of Nacharam. “Speaking on the occasion, Srikant Goud said that the people of Jubilee Hills responded with their votes to the false allegations made by BRS leaders against Naveen Yadav. He added that the results of the Jubilee Hills by-election will be repeated in the forthcoming GHMC local body elections. “He further said that the victory in the Jubilee Hills by-election is being dedicated to the entire people of Telangana. “Former Councillor Krishna Reddy, leaders Nuthan Kanti Raju, HR Mohan, Muddasani Ram Reddy, Mahesh Yadav, Krishna Yadav, Raghu, Kranti and others participated in the programme.



## Kolam Tribals Request To Be Granted Houses

—“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 14” “Wankidi Kolam in the Mandal The leaders of the association submitted a petition to MPDO Patil joshna on demanding that houses be sanctioned to the tribals under the PM Janman scheme. Speaking on the occasion, they said that there are 23 Kolam tribal villages in Wankidi mandal. They all are mired in poverty and demanded that the authorities conduct a survey and sanction

houses. Kolam Welfare Association state leaders Sidam Anniga, district president Jalpar Rao, Nayakul Kumaram Lingu, Atram Prakash, Sidam Bheem Rao and Atram Tukaram participated.



## Strict Action Will Be Taken Against Those who Destroy Forest Wealth: Forest Department Warns

—“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 14” “The forest department conducted a special patrol in the Peddadhaba forest beat and Rasimetta section of Jainur mandal. Forest field officer Gyaneshwar said that strict action will be taken against those who commit illegal acts like destroying forest wealth, installing illegal electric wires, and hunting wild animals. He said that protecting nature is the duty of every citizen and the government is implementing strict laws to protect forest wealth. The villagers assured that they would provide full cooperation to the forest department.



## Corporator Shanti Srinivas Reddy's visit to Kothabasti, Venkatravupeta



—“K Sadanand alwal “Alwal, November 14: ““Under Alwal Division ““Dhanika Corporator Shanti Srinivas Reddy visited Kothabasti and Venkatravupeta along with the officials. ““On this occasion, she met the residents and asked them about their problems. “Speaking on this occasion, the corporator suggested that road encroachments should be removed and manholes should be kept free of problems to make the road smooth in the colony. ““AE Varun, Work Inspector Rama Rao, HMW SSB Shekhar, Prem, Sajid, Imran and others participated in this program.

## Maha Annakota Mahotsavam in Tadu Bandu Temple on Sunday

“SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 14 (Indian Chronicle): “Naredar of the Secunderabad Thadu Bandhu Temple EO said that the fifty-sixth Bhoga Maha Annakuta Mahotsava will be held in the presence of Vedic scholars in the famous Secunderabad Thadu Bandhu Devasthanam, which is the largest city in South India. Thousands of cow lovers, animal lovers and devotees participated in this ceremony throughout the day. The festival of Annakoot is celebrated as a new beginning. Annakoot is a literal mountain of food which represents the offering of food to God and the love and devotion involved in preparing it. A variety of food items

prepared with great love and devotion are offered to the Lord after special pooja. The chief priest of the temple, Satyam, appealed to the devotees that such programs would contribute to the unity of Hindus, that devotees would come in large numbers for this program, visit the Lord, receive Tirdha Prasad, and be eligible for the Lord's grace.



## “Zero Tolerance Toward Ragging — Student Safety is Our Supreme Priority”: CP Amber Kishore Jha

—“P.S.ASHOKAN “KARIMNGAR BUREAU” “Ramagundam Police Launches Comprehensive Anti-Ragging & Anti-Drug Awareness Drive at Singareni Medical College” “The Ramagundam Police Commissionerate, under the Peddapalli Zone, organized an extensive Anti-Ragging Awareness Program today at Singareni Medical College, Godavari Khani, as part of an initiative to completely eradicate the menace of ragging and ensure an environment of absolute safety for students. The program was conducted following the directives of Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha, under the supervision of Godavari Khani I-Town Inspector Indrasena Reddy and the Peddapalli Zone SHE Team. “The session aimed to sensitize students about maintaining healthy, respectful interactions between senior and junior batches, legal consequences of ragging, psychological impacts on victims, and the police helpline services available for immediate support. ““ACP Ramesh: “Seniors Must Be Mentors, Not Tormentors” “Addressing the gathering, ACP Ramesh urged senior students to foster a spirit of guidance, empathy, and encouragement toward juniors. He stressed the importance of discipline, mutual respect, and maintaining a harmonious, fear-free academic environment that nurtures learning and personal growth. ““CP Amber Kishore Jha: “Ragging is a Punishable Crime — It Destroys Futures” “The Commissioner of Police delivered a powerful message, asserting that ragging, in any form, is a criminal offence. He warned that those involved will face criminal prosecution, imprisonment, and college suspension or expulsion. “He cautioned students that indulging in ragging could abruptly derail their dreams, tarnish their future, and crush the expectations their parents have for them. Victims of ragging were encouraged to immediately report

incidents to the police or the Anti-Ragging Committee without hesitation or fear. “Quoting the revered saying “Vaidyo Narayana Hari” — which equates the nobility of the medical profession to divinity — the CP reminded students that aspiring doctors must uphold values of compassion, integrity, and responsibility. He strongly advised them to stay away from harmful practices such as drug consumption, psychological harassment, or behavior that endangers others. “The Commissioner emphasized that the entire campus is under CCTV surveillance, supported by continuous police patrolling and special monitoring units. He reiterated that the police department remains accessible round-the-clock and is committed to eliminating ragging through coordinated action with the college administration. ““Awareness on Drug Abuse and Cybercrime Prevention” “Students were comprehensively briefed on the devastating effects of drug misuse—especially the consumption, possession, transport, or sale of ganja and other narcotics—along with the stringent legal consequences associated with such activities. “In view of the escalating incidents of cybercrime, students were educated on threats such as account hacking, online fraud, phishing links, and malicious websites. They were advised to avoid clicking on suspicious links or interacting with unknown online sources. For cybercrime-related assistance, they were urged to contact the 1930 Cyber Helpline. “The police appealed to students to act responsibly, stay vigilant against drugs and cyber threats, and contribute to spreading awareness in their communities. ““Participants” “The program witnessed participation from ACP M. Ramesh, Special Branch ACP Nagendra Goud, Principal Narendra, Inspector Indrasena Reddy, NGO representative Sunitha, SI Anusha, SHE Team Incharge SI Lavanya, SHE Team personnel, college faculty, police officers, and nearly 500 students.



# How struggles transformed this Mangaluru auto driver into a marathon legend who inspires youth



GNS News Agency, Nov 14

At an age when most people would start finding it hard to walk over a few feet, a 68-year-old man in coastal Karnataka is running marathons and inspiring youths. Meet Madhav Saripalla, an autorickshaw driver by profession who did not know about marathons till he turned 55, but has since completed over 100 of them, even winning some. Raised in a poor family, Saripalla bought an autorickshaw at the age of 28, and began to earn his living. Before long, he got married and had a son who had a learning disability. “It was a challenge to raise him. After my daughter was born, we learnt that she has a hearing impairment. It was tough,” he says. Saripalla enrolled his son Dhanaraj in a special school where he picked up skating. “I used to take him to school, and he took an interest in skating. He went on to win several medals,” the proud father says. However, during an event in China, Dhanaraj sustained serious injuries to his arm, which brought his skating career to an abrupt end. Instead of letting the family’s sporting spirit die, Saripalla decided to carry it forward himself. “When my son was injured, he became unable to skate, and it also limited the use of his hand. I then decided to run while taking forward his inclination towards sports. He enjoyed it. I used to carry him and walk, and I felt I could run too,” he says. Saripalla’s first 21-km marathon was at Yedapadav in 2011 at the age of 55, after which he participated in marathons in Bengaluru,

Mysuru, Mangaluru, and other parts of Karnataka. He also takes part in long-distance races. “I participate in 5,000 and 10,000-metre races in athletic events,” he says. Before he took up running, a series of incidents tested Saripalla’s resilience. In 2007, a part of his house collapsed, pushing the family into hardship. “I had only one autorickshaw, and whatever I earned was going to the family. After I took up running, people started noticing me. In 2017, people donated money to rebuild the collapsed part of the house,” he says. Asked what kept motivating him to run, Saripalla shares that initially, the recognition drew him but later, he saw that youths were getting inspired. “There were times when I used to overtake youngsters during the run, and they felt challenged by an old man. In the next race, they would try to overtake me and would prepare well for it. I am happy to be inspiring them. Many of the youths in my neighbourhood now think about sports and running. Some of the elders have also started to engage in physical activities to keep fit,” he says. By 2018, Saripalla had become famous in the runners’ community in Mangaluru, but he still struggled to make two ends meet. In 2018, he had to sell his only autorickshaw to arrange money for his daughter’s wedding. “We suffered for five years without my auto. Since my son cannot travel by bus, I had to drop and pick him up from his workplace,” he recalls. Today, Dhanaraj works as an office assistant under the sports quota – a small victory in their journey of perseverance. Saripalla now rides an electric autorickshaw registered in his nephew’s name as banks refused to grant him a loan. “I earn around Rs 600-800 per day and I am able to pursue running,” he says. About his practice and diet, Saripalla says it is very simple. “I cover a distance of 20 km in about 2.45 hours. I train myself for the same distance at least thrice a week and aim to decrease the duration. I drink ganji (porridge) and eat eggs.” Today, Saripalla has sponsors who pay the registration fees for his participation. He is now busy training for the Mangaluru Marathon 2025, slated to be held on November 9. “I will be running 32 km in the event with the support of the marathon community,” he says.

# Two men held for attempting to rob cab driver at knifepoint in Faridabad

GNS News Agency, Nov 14

Two men from West Bengal were arrested on Friday for attempting to rob a ride-hailing app driver at knifepoint after booking his cab from Delhi to Faridabad, police said. The case came to light after the complainant, Gaurav — a resident of Vashisht Park in Delhi — told police that on the night of Monday, October 27, a person named Akshay booked his cab via the ride-hailing app to travel from South-west Delhi’s Sagarpur to Sector 88, Faridabad, officers added. On how the attempted robbery bid unfolded, an officer said: “Gaurav picked up Akshay and his friend. When the vehicle reached near the Sector 29 bridge in Faridabad, Akshay held a knife to the driver’s neck and forced him to stop the car. The duo then tried to rob him. When Gaurav raised the alarm, passers-by gathered at the spot, prompting the accused to flee.” A case was registered at Sector 31 police station on Tuesday.

Acting on the complaint, the Sector 85 Crime Branch arrested Akshay Rai (28), a resident of Putung village in Darjeeling district, and Bimal (35), a resident of Mirik village in Darjeeling. Both currently reside in Sagarpur, officers said. During questioning, the accused admitted they had come to Faridabad to meet someone and had booked the cab for that purpose, adding that they attempted the robbery near the Sector 29 bridge, said police. Both men were produced in court on Saturday and remanded in judicial custody. In a similar incident in October, the Gurgaon Po-



lice had apprehended three individuals, including two minors, for assaulting a cab driver and robbing him of his car and mobile phone at the Pataudi bypass. “The victim, a cab driver, reported that on the intervening night of October 9 and 10, he was booked to drive five passengers from Sector 12 to Pataudi Road. Around 4:40 am, near Pataudi bypass, one passenger claimed to feel nauseous, prompting the driver to pull over. The other passengers then threatened him with a knife and a homemade pistol, pushed him out of the vehicle, and fled with his car, mobile phone, and other belongings”, a police spokesperson had said. During questioning, it had been revealed that the accused, who were addicted to drugs, planned the robbery at a park in Sector 12.

# How a small gurdwara became an expression of the Sikh faith in Pune



GNS News Agency, Nov 14

On December 20 and 21, a jattha from the Golden Temple in Amritsar will arrive at a small Gurdwara in Yerwada to present a kirtan to mark the martyrdom of the Chaar Sahibzaade, the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh. Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar, located close to Bombay Sappers, is gearing up for the event that is expected to bring in a large number of devotees from across the city of different faiths. Martyrdom is an important emotion at the gurdwara, which was founded by a group of ex-army men. Unlike the well-known Gurdwara Guru Nanak Darbar, popularly called the Hollywood Gurdwara, in Camp, and Gurdwara Guru Singh Sabha in Ganesh Peth, the oldest in the city, Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar is rarely talked about outside the community. Unlike most gurdwaras, with their awe-inspiring architecture, Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar is a humble structure with corrugated tin roof held up by metal pillars. The path to the gate passes garbage and stray dogs. Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar redefines the way we think about gurdwara architecture. Inside, there are boards that iterate the ethos of Sikhism, such as “Langar is Guru’s prasad. Kindly do not waste it”.

The history goes back to three men in uniform who were united by their dedication to the nation – and the Sikh faith. Prithvi Singh Dhillon, a subedar in the Indian Army, had come from Ludhiana. Inderjit Singh Gothra, from the Indian Air Force, and Puran Singh, who was with the army, had families who had migrated to India during the Partition. Posted in Pune, they decided to make it their home. Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar began as a humble tin structure of 10x12 ft, where prayers were offered and events held on important days till the 1970s. “In 1957, the three of them cemented their relationship with Pune by setting up a small place of worship,

Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar, in Yerawada,” says Darshan Singh Dhillon, the president of Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar and brother of Subedar Prithvi Singh Dhillon. Gradually, members of the Sikh community, who had retired or were retiring from services, began to set up homes around the gurdwara so that it became an epicentre of a community and nourished the Punjabi culture in Pune. Punjabi and Sindhi Punjabi parents who were looking for suitable matches for their sons and daughters would contact the Gurdwara, which maintained a file of eligible youngsters. Weddings, among many life events, were held at the Gurdwara.

Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar is named after Guru Gobind Singh, who was known as Dashmesh Pita as he was the 10th and last guru of the Sikhs. The Gurdwara’s location, in a military area, is reflected in the dedication to Guru Gobind Singh, a formidable force who had taken on Emperor Aurangzeb. Guru Gobind Singh had created the Khalsa Panth, the Sikh warrior force, in 1699 and introduced the five Ks – kesh, kangha, kara, kachera and kirpan – that became powerful symbols of faith, marking out members of the Khalsa and creating a bond among them. Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar began as a humble tin structure of 10x12 ft, where prayers were offered and events held on important days till the 1970s. “Originally, five or six families would come to offer prayers. They used to open the Gurdwara in the mornings and close it. It would be opened again in the evenings. Subedar Prithvi Singh Dhillon was my elder brother. When I arrived in Pune in 1971, I was welcomed by the Gurdwara which seemed to have a lot of visitors from the nearby military establishments. The number of people visiting for prayers kept increasing by the year,” says Darshan Singh Dhillon. Today, Gurdwara Dashmesh Darbar is a concrete structure that can hold 100 devotees in the Darbar Sahib or main hall, where the Guru Granth Sahib is present on a takhat or an elevated throne. Since space is a constraint, the open ground outside is used to set up marquees on important occasions, allowing more than 200 people to congregate at a time. “On Sundays, we have more than 300 devotees visiting,” says Darshan Singh Dhillon, adding that Guru Nank Jayanti, which falls on November 5 will be marked here on January 9, with special prayers and songs. “Thus, we ensure more footfalls as devotees can visit the different gurdwaras of the city on different days,” says Darshan Singh Dhillon. Many children of former faujis have taken up corporate and other professions, so that the crowd of faithful are a mix of civilians and military families. “Almost 70 years after it was set up, the Gurdwara is still changing and growing the Sikh faith in Pune,”

# He couldn’t do a Tirupati darshan, so built a temple modelled on it: Who is the owner of Andhra temple where stampede took place?



GNS News Agency, Nov 14

The Sri Venkateswara Temple at Kasibugga near Palasa in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh recently became famous as “chinna” (small) Tirupati since it is modelled after the Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Temple, several officials, including Palasa Deputy Superintendent of Police Rajeshwara Rao, said. The temple was the site of a deadly stampede on Saturday. Sources said that a landlord named Hari Mukunda Panda, 80, who resides in Kasibugga, had a bitter experience several years ago at the Tirumala temple, when he was unable to have darshan due to illness and security officials removed him from the queue, instructing him to visit the hospital. “He vowed to build a temple dedicated to Tirumala Sri Venkateswara Temple modelled on the world-famous temple,” Rao said.

Panda and his family own vast tracts of land in and around Kasibugga, according to Revenue Department officials. He sold off several acres of coconut groves and built

the temple on 12 acres of farm land. It cost him nearly Rs 10 crore, including donations collected from devotees in the Kasibugga, Palasa, and Tekkali areas, officials said. When the temple was inaugurated four months ago, Panda said that those who cannot afford to go to Tirumala can have darshan at his temple with the same feeling in an almost similar-looking temple. “I am an ardent and faithful devotee of Lord Sri Venkateswara, and this temple is dedicated to all the devotees,” he had said. After the temple opened, it started witnessing 1,000-2,000 visitors daily, while it went up to approximately 5,000 devotees on weekends and holidays, according to officials. Panda also organised devotional programmes inside the sprawling temple premises as well as outside, and would make large donations to the development of small local temples.

The construction of the temple started five years ago. Apart from the idol of the main deity, Lord Sri Venkateswara, idols of several other gods and goddesses were also on the temple premises. TDP’s Palasa MLA, G Sireesha, who visited the temple several times, said today that it became famous very quickly, attracting a large number of devotees. “Although it is privately owned, it is managed quite well. Today this stampede occurred, which is very unfortunate,” she said. After today’s stampede in which eight women and a 13-year-old boy died, Panda said that he and his management team did not anticipate such a large number of devotees. “Thousands of devotees have visited since the temple opened, and there was never even a small untoward incident. Today, some of the devotees who came on this auspicious day met a terrible fate,” he said. Panda now finds himself booked by the police for culpable homicide.

# ‘Baby will get Indian citizenship even if it were born in Bangladesh’: pregnant Sunali Khatun’s lawyer after her parents’ names appear in the 2002 Bengal voter list

GNS News Agency, Nov 14

The lawyer representing a pregnant Sunali Khatun, who was pushed into Bangladesh for allegedly being an illegal immigrant in June, Sunday claimed that the names of both parents of Khatun are in the 2002 Bengal voter list released by the Election Commission (EC) ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state. According to Khatun’s lawyer, Raghunath Chakraborty, this revelation has further strengthened Khatun’s case, and her unborn baby will get Indian citizenship by ‘descent’ even if it were born in Bangladesh. At present, Khatun and her family are lodged in a Bangladeshi jail for illegally entering that country. Raghunath Chakraborty said the names of Khatun’s parents – Bhodu Sheikh and Jyotsna Bibi – have been found in the 2002 voter list under the Murarai assembly segment in Birbhum district. Their polling station is Paikar Prathamik Vidyalaya in Paikar village, he added.

Meanwhile, the deadline set by the Calcutta High Court for the Centre to bring back Khatun and five others to India expired on October 24. On October 3, a court in Bangladesh also declared them as Indian citizens and ordered their ‘push back’. Sunali Khatun, her husband, Danish, and their eight-year-old son were pushed into Bangladesh on June 26 after being detained by the Delhi Police. The family, migrant labourers from Bengal, had been working as ragpickers in Delhi for around 20 years. Members of another family – Sweety Bibi, 32, and her two sons, aged six and 16 – originally residents of Dhitoria village under Murarai police station in Birbhum, were also detained and deported at the same time. Both families were accused of being illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators. On September 26, a Calcutta High Court division bench comprising Justices Tapabrata Chakraborty and Ritabrata Kumar Mitra directed that the six members of the two families – including Khatun – be brought back to West Bengal within four weeks. “It is sad that despite the court order, Sunali and her family are yet to



return home. Sunali being pregnant is a cause for concern too,” added Raghunath Chakraborty. “It (Khatun’s parents’ names in 2002 voter list) is another slap for the Centre... it detained Sunali and others in Delhi and then drove them out of the country, labelling them as illegal Bangladeshis. This is just because they are poor Bengali-speaking migrants. Thereafter, despite the court order, the Centre is yet to bring them back,” said TMC MP Samirul Islam, who is also the chairman of the West Bengal Migrant Labour Welfare Board. Speaking with The Indian Express from Paikar village in Birbhum district, Sunali Khatun’s parents shared their anxiety. “Now our names are on the list. What more do I need to have my daughter and her family back home? The Calcutta High Court has ordered, and a court in Bangladesh has ordered (their return). But nothing has happened so far,” said Khatun’s father, Bhodu Sheikh. Her mother, Jyotsna Bibi, said, “We are worried about her condition there. We don’t know what kind of care she is getting in jail in Bangladesh. She needs to return and deliver the child here. We are worried sick.” Khatun’s parents have filed a contempt petition against the Centre at the Calcutta High Court for the government’s ‘failure’ to bring her back. Meanwhile, the Centre has moved the Supreme Court on the issue.

# ‘Rename Delhi as ‘Indraprastha’: Chandni Chowk MP Praveen Khandelwal urges Amit Shah



communications, Khandelwal has reached out not only to Union Home Minister Amit Shah but also to Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, and Tourism and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. He highlighted that history shows that the Pandavas established their capital, Indraprastha, on the banks of the Yamuna, making it one of the most prosperous, beautiful, and well-organised cities during the Mahabharata era. “It was here that governance was founded on dharma (righteousness), justice, and public welfare,” he said.

The MP also emphasised that “Delhi is not just a modern metropolis, it is the soul of Indian civilisation, and its true name, Indraprastha, symbolises our historical identity, cultural heritage, and glorious tradition.” Khandelwal also said that just as India’s ancient cities such as Prayagraj, Ayodhya, Ujjain, and Varanasi have reconnected with their original heritage, “Delhi too must be honoured by restoring its ancient identity as Indraprastha. This transformation would not only represent historical justice, but also a significant step toward a cultural renaissance.” He further stated that renaming Delhi would restore history and rekindle cultural pride. Khandelwal asserted, “This demand aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of cultural resurgence, under which India is reviving the ancient identities of its sacred cities Ayodhya, Kashi, and Prayagraj, and Delhi, the capital of India, should not be left behind.”

## Praveen Khandelwal has also requested the renaming of Old Delhi Railway Station as 'Indraprastha Junction', and the International Airport as 'Indraprastha Airport'.

GNS News Agency, Nov 14

Khandelwal has also requested the renaming of Old Delhi Railway Station as ‘Indraprastha Junction’, and the International Airport as ‘Indraprastha Airport’. “Delhi’s history is not merely thousands of years old; it is a living embodiment of Indian civilisation and the glorious legacy of the city of Indraprastha, established by the Pandavas,” Khandelwal stated. Delhi was declared a Union Territory on November 1, 1956, under the States Reorganisation Act. On this Foundation Day, the Delhi government is also celebrating ‘Delhi Foundation Day’ at Red Fort. Khandelwal also requested that grand statues of the Pandavas be installed at a prominent location in Delhi, as they were the founders of Delhi and named it Indraprastha, their capital city. In his







# Why the U.S. is building up troops in the Caribbean



GNS News Agency, Nov 14

On August 7, U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi announced that the Trump administration had doubled the existing bounty on Nicolas Maduro, the left-wing President of Venezuela, to \$50 million for information leading to his capture. The administration has accused Mr. Maduro of being “one of the largest narco-traffickers in the world”. According to Washington, he heads Cartel de los Soles (Cartel of the Suns), a Venezuela-based drug cartel that has been designated as a global terrorist organisation by the U.S. The U.S. Treasury Department said in July the Maduro regime facilitated “narco-terrorism through terror groups like Cartel de los Soles”. Ms. Bondi further claimed that Mr. Maduro has links with Tren de Aragua and Sinaloa Cartel, both criminal organisations designated as terror groups by Washington.

On September 2, President Donald Trump announced an air strike on an alleged drug smuggling boat in the Caribbean. Ever since, the U.S. has carried out a series of strikes in the Caribbean and Pacific waters on boats which the Trump administration claimed was carrying drugs, killing at least 57 people. The U.S. is also building up troops in the Caribbean, in levels not seen in decades. It has already deployed some 10,000 troops to the region, including two Jima Amphibious Ready Groups with over 4,500 Marines and Sailors, three guided missile destroyers, an attack submarine, a special operations ship, a guided missile cruiser and reconnaissance aircraft. Late last month, the Pentagon rerouted USS Gerald Ford, the Navy’s most modern aircraft carrier, to the Caribbean, with about 5,000 personnel aboard. The U.S. has also deployed at least 10 F-35 fighter jets and three MQ-9 Reaper drones to Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory in the Caribbean located less than 1,000 km off the Venezuelan coast. In October, the U.S. military flew a pair of supersonic B-1 Lancer bombers, which can carry more bombs than any other planes in the U.S. fleet, up to the coast of Venezuela. The troop buildup, along with the strikes on boats off Venezuela’s coast, makes it clear who the Trump administration’s target is — the Maduro regime. Venezuela has long been used as a transit route by drug traf-

fickers from Colombia, source of most of the world’s cocaine. Venezuelan military officers were accused of involvement with cartels even before the Chavistas (followers of former Venezuela President Hugo Chavez) came to power in 1999. The cartels have deep influence in Venezuela, Colombia and other countries in the region. But Cartel de los Soles, which the Trump administration says is headed by Mr. Maduro, is not a “hierarchical, ideologically driven drug trafficking organisation”, according to a Crisis Group report. It is a “profit-based system of generalised corruption involving high-ranking military figures”, it adds.

The Trump administration has not provided any evidence to substantiate its claim that Mr. Maduro heads the cartel or his government is directly involved in drug production and trafficking. Earlier this year, U.S. media had reported that a U.S. intelligence memo had concluded that there was no evidence linking Mr. Maduro to Tren de Aragua, the criminal syndicate. Nonetheless, the administration seems determined to turn up the heat on the Venezuelan leader, whose regime maintains deep ties with Russia, China and Iran. Mr. Trump recently announced that he had authorised a covert CIA operation in Venezuela. During Mr. Trump’s first administration, the U.S. formally charged Mr. Maduro and his top aides for their alleged involvement in drug trafficking. But this time, the Trump administration is taking the anti-Maduro campaign to the military level. The Trump White House wants to focus more on America’s backyard where they have recently stepped up political and economic campaigns against left-wing governments and provided generous economic assistance to Javier Milei’s far-right libertarian government in Argentina. Trump officials also believe Mr. Maduro is far weaker today than five-six years ago. Accused of rigging the May 2025 election to retain power, he faces a reinvigorated right-wing opposition led by María Corina Machado — this year’s Nobel Peace Prize laureate — who has openly endorsed Mr. Trump’s Venezuela policy of crippling sanctions and military threats. Several close allies of Mr. Trump have already called on Mr. Maduro to quit and flee the country. As of now, despite the \$50-million bounty and the U.S. military pressure campaign, Mr. Maduro continues to hold his administration together. The military still backs him, and he has claimed to have raised militia to “defend” Venezuela. What will Mr. Trump do next? There are speculations that the U.S. would strike Venezuela’s military infrastructure in the name of expanding its war on drugs but aimed at weakening the regime further. Mr. Trump said on October 30 that he was not considering strikes on Venezuelan soil. But for Mr. Trump, inconsistency is a weapon rather than a liability. In June, he had said the U.S. was “fairly close to a pretty good agreement with Iran” over its nuclear programme, and warned Israel not to blow it up. Within a day, Israel bombed Iran, and a few days later Mr. Trump joined the war.

# Malabar Gold writes to 27,500 staff, affirms commitment to its values

GNS News Agency, Nov 14

Jewellery retailer Malabar Gold & Diamonds, following a recent social media backlash, in an email to its 27,500 employees said it took ‘immense pride in being rooted in India’s rich heritage, built upon its enduring values, and inspired every day by the nation’s vibrant traditions.’ “Recent discussions on social media have evoked strong sentiments, which we deeply understand and respect. However, certain online narratives have circulated incomplete or misleading interpretations about the intent and context of a past marketing engagement, leading to impressions that do not reflect our true ethos or the principles that guide us,” the company said in the email. Recently some social media posts had made various claims against the company in relation to its social media campaign featuring a controversial Pakistani influencer who had previously made negative comments on India. The Bombay High Court has granted an ad-interim relief to Malabar Gold & Diamonds and also directed the deletion of all such social posts, materials, and stories. “As an Indian brand, Malabar Gold & Diamonds considers its moral duty to act with sensitivity, transparency, and respect. A third-party vendor had previously entered into an engagement on our behalf. Upon learning that the collaboration did not align with our brand’s values, we acted immediately to discontinue both the association and the vendor relationship,” the company said. The company



emphasized that it’s guided by principles and has always celebrated India’s story. “Malabar Gold & Diamonds’ journey have always celebrated India’s story, a story of craftsmanship, integrity, and respect for diversity. Being Indian is reflected not only in our products and presence but in our mindset and moral compass. Our decisions are guided by principles, never by prejudice, and we deeply respect the varied perspectives expressed by our stakeholders,” the company wrote. “We reaffirm our commitment to accountability, cultural sensitivity, and maintaining public trust. Malabar Gold & Diamonds will continue to communicate with clarity, act responsibly, and uphold the values that have defined our brand since its inception,” it added in the email.

# Inside India’s new luxury travel trend where indulgence meets local connection

GNS News Agency, Nov 14

As you navigate the potholed, dusty roads of the Yavatmal district in Maharashtra’s Vidarbha region, it becomes apparent that you have left behind the comfort and familiarity of an urban centre. Instead, you find yourself in the heart of rural Maharashtra, where the rhythm of life moves at its own pace. For those venturing to the Tipai Wildlife Luxuries resort in this region, it is not just a getaway — it feels like a cultural initiation. On the way, school children in neatly pressed uniforms wave at you from outside their modest homes, their laughter cutting through the stillness of the afternoon. Men can be seen tending to their cattle in the fields, while women peek out shyly from behind the pallus of their saris, a mix of curiosity and warmth in their gaze. The scene is idyllic yet grounded, offering visitors an unvarnished glimpse into their everyday lives.

Tipeshwar is bursting with life, from lush flora to over 170 species of birds and animals — including the Bengal tiger. Little nuggets like this are sprinkled along the meandering pathways at Tipai, displayed on metal placards that guide you as you stroll between the 15 villas across the 38-acre property.

But the folks at Tipai do not believe in winging it when it comes to crafting a satisfactory guest experience. They have developed a knack for reading between the lines. “When a 25 or 32-year-old books a stay, you can often guess the kind of trip they have in mind. Is it well in advance? That suggests a planned holiday. Is it a long weekend like Deepavali or Christmas? It’s probably a festive getaway. But an odd weekday date might mean they’re celebrating something personal. These details are where we begin, enabling us to design and customise trips that truly fit the guests’ expectations,” says founder Keyur Joshi. Beyond the morning and early evening safaris in pursuit of the elusive tiger, Tipai offers guests a deeper connection to the region through its culinary and beverage experiences. Chef



Amninder Sandhu has crafted menus at Palaash and Taalabwali (featuring her signature dum biryanis and kebabs slow cooked on an open fire), presenting heartwarming interpretations of traditional Indian cuisine, all slow-cooked over an open fire. Tipai’s Junior Naturalist Program is aimed at sparking curiosity for birds in young visitors. Tipai’s Junior Naturalist Program is aimed at sparking curiosity for birds in young visitors | Photo Credit: Special arrangement. Complementing these dining experiences, Tipai has recently collaborated with Pune-based craft brewery Great State Aleworks to introduce Common Ground, a millet beer. The millet for this special brew is sourced from local farmers and is available exclusively to guests visiting Tipai. Then there is the Junior Naturalist Programme, designed to spark curiosity and nurture a love for wildlife in young visitors. “When parents are laser-focussed on spotting tigers, it’s natural for kids to follow suit. But through this program, we aim to broaden their horizons,” explains Keyur. A tigress and her cubs inside the Tipeshwar sanctuary. “For instance, we’ll introduce them to the rare butterfly species that thrive here — some of which are actually harder to spot than a tiger,” he adds. Keyur’s ultimate goal? For guests to come for a safari but leave feeling so captivated by everything else that they might not even make it to the safari.

# US shutdown enters second month, SNAP payments delayed for millions



GNS News Agency, Nov 14

WASHINGTON: The crises at the heart of the government shutdown fight in Washington were coming to a head on Saturday as the federal food assistance programme faced delays and millions of Americans were set to see a dramatic rise in their health insurance bills. The impacts on basic needs — food and medical care — underscored how the impasse is hitting homes across the United States. The Trump administration’s plans to freeze payments to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program on Saturday were halted by federal judges, but the delay in payouts will still likely leave millions of people short on their grocery bills.

It all added to the strain on the country, with a month of missed paychecks for federal workers and growing air travel delays. The shutdown is already the second longest in history and entered its second month on Saturday, yet there was little urgency in Washington to end it, with lawmakers away from Capitol Hill and both parties entrenched in their positions. The House has not met for legislative business in more than six weeks, while Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., closed his chamber for the weekend after

# Barack Obama rallies Democrats in Virginia, New Jersey ahead of key governor elections



vRichmond (US): Former President Barack Obama will headline rallies on Saturday for Democrats running for governor in Virginia and New Jersey, coralling voters ahead of elections that may signal the national mood 10 months into Donald Trump’s second presidency and a year ahead of midterm elections that could reshape it. Republicans in those states are stumping as well on the final weekend of campaigning before Tuesday’s elections, but without the

bipartisan talks failed to achieve significant progress. Thune said he is hoping “the pressure starts to intensify, and the consequences of keeping the government shut down become even more real for everybody that they will express, hopefully new interest in trying to come up with a path forward.” The stalemate appears increasingly unsustainable as Republican President Donald Trump demands action and Democratic leaders warn that an uproar over rising health insurance costs will force Congress to act. “This weekend, Americans face a health care crisis unprecedented in modern times,” Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said this week. The Department of Agriculture planned to withhold payments to the food program on Saturday until two federal judges ordered the administration to make them. Trump said he would provide the money but wanted more legal direction from the court, which will not happen until Monday.

The program serves about 1 in 8 Americans and costs about \$8 billion per month. The judges agreed that the USDA needed to at least tap a contingency fund of about \$5 billion to keep the programme running. But that left some uncertainty about whether the department would use additional money or only provide partial benefits for the month. Benefits will already be delayed because it takes a week or more to load SNAP cards in many states. “The Trump administration needs to follow the law and fix this problem immediately by working closely with states to get nutritional assistance to the millions who rely on it as soon as possible,” House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York said in a statement following the ruling. Republicans, in responding to Democratic demands to fund SNAP, say the program is in such a dire situation because Democrats have repeatedly voted against a short-term government funding bill. “We are now reaching a breaking point thanks to Democrats voting no on government funding, now 14 different times,” House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said at a news conference on Friday.

national star power. And on the west coast, California advocates are making a final push ahead of a statewide referendum over whether to redraw the state’s congressional map in Democrats’ favour. The effort backed by Gov Gavin Newsom is part of a national redistricting battle that began when Trump urged GOP-run states to help him keep a friendly House majority in 2026. Obama, the Democrat whom Trump succeeded when he first assumed the presidency, will appear first on Saturday with Virginia’s Democratic gubernatorial nominee Abigail Spanberger in Norfolk. Obama then travels to New Jersey for an evening rally with Democratic gubernatorial nominee Mikie Sherrill in Newark. Both events put the nation’s first Black president in areas where Black voter turnout is key for Democratic victories. Virginia Republican nominee Winsome Earle-Sears, the current lieutenant governor, and New Jersey Republican Jack Ciattarelli, a former state lawmaker, have busy itineraries, as well. The Virginia contest ensures the election of the first woman to lead the Commonwealth since its 1776 founding. If elected, Earle-Sears would be the first Black woman elected governor of any state.

# Nutritional poverty: when systems fail both the rich and the poor

India’s success story in poverty reduction often begins with economic metrics. Over the past three decades, while millions have moved above the income poverty line, the cost of disease has pushed millions in to poverty. Beneath this economic narrative lies a quieter, more pervasive deprivation: nutritional poverty. Unlike income poverty, which is visible in statistics, nutritional poverty is hidden in blood reports, fatigue, and the gradual erosion of health across generations. It is a paradox of modern India that people in both rural hamlets and urban high-rises suffer from poor nutrition. The poor are deprived of nutrient-rich food because they cannot afford it; the rich, because they do not know what to eat. The first is a poverty of access, the second a poverty of awareness. Together, they form a national crisis that no income index captures. India ranks 102nd out of 123 countries on the Global Hunger Index 2024. According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21), 33% of children under five are stunted, 19% wasted, 12% of the population is undernourished, and 19% of women of reproductive age are anaemic. Though slowly improving, these figures remain among the highest globally. Less discussed is that nutritional inadequacy affects more than just the poor.

The ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (2021) reports that average adults in India consume high calories and carbohydrates but lack protein and micronutrients. This imbalance is fueling obesity, with NFHS 5 data showing 24% of women and 23% of men as overweight or obese - tripling in the last decade across urban and rural areas. Child overweight rates have also risen, from 2.1% to 3.4% among under-fives between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5. Among higher socioeconomic groups, one in three adults is overweight or obese, and one in four has hypertension or diabetes. Urban diets heavy in ultra-processed foods and sugary drinks have made the affluent overfed yet undernourished. Unhealthy diets now account for up to 56% of India’s disease burden. Dietary diversity - consuming more than three food groups - is essential for balanced nutrition, providing carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins, and minerals. A healthy diet includes cereals, pulses, nuts, oils, meat, fish, eggs, fruits, and vegetables. Improved dietary diversity is strongly linked to better nutritional outcomes, and policy plays a key role in shaping this. Public health programmes including the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Poshan Abhiyaan have made progress against undernutrition in children and women, but adult nutrition and diet-related non-communicable diseases remain largely unaddressed. Take-home rations under these schemes are still dominated by cereals, mainly rice and wheat, while protein-rich and micronutrient-dense foods are underrepresented. The National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013 shifted food access from welfare to rights, expanding cheap staple cereals and reducing hunger. However, it prioritised wheat and rice at the expense of dietary diversity, marginalising traditional, nutrient-rich crops such as sorghum, pearl millet, finger millet, and foxtail millet. These indigenous millets, rich in micronutrients and climate-resilient, have been largely excluded from mainstream food policies despite their benefits. Higher income doesn’t guarantee better nutrition. Data shows middle and upper-middle class households buy more ultra-processed foods (UPFs) - high in sugar, salt, and unhealthy



fats - than both lower and upper classes. This reflects India’s ongoing ‘nutrition transition’, where rising incomes and urban lifestyles shift diets from traditional, nutrient-rich foods to energy-dense processed options. Eating out and packaged foods have become status symbols, with online food delivery further fueling this trend. Though food choices seem more varied, true dietary diversity hasn’t kept pace. Processed snacks and sugary drinks have increased, while traditional diets rich in pulses, fruits, vegetables, and millets are being displaced. As a result, expanded food access hasn’t translated into better nutrition. This disconnect shows that economic growth alone doesn’t improve diets. Tackling malnutrition requires policies that promote healthier food environments and nutrition literacy across all income groups. At its core, nutritional poverty is an education problem. A national analysis comparing Indian diets with the EAT-Lancet reference diet reveals widespread imbalances. Most Indians consume fewer calories than recommended, except the richest 5%. Diets are overwhelmingly dominated by cereals, while intake of fruits, vegetables, and protein - especially non-cereal and animal-based sources - is far below healthy levels. Even wealthier households fall short of basic dietary diversity. Alarmingly, the average Indian household gets more calories from processed foods than from fruits. This isn’t just about access or affordability - it reflects a deep lack of awareness about what constitutes a healthy diet. India urgently needs system-wide efforts to improve nutrition education and promote healthier, sustainable food choices. Compounding this challenge is the cultural view of food primarily as comfort, celebration, or status - not as preventive medicine. Education systems rarely teach the science of nutrition, while urban lifestyles and workplaces normalise eating for convenience. The result is widespread metabolic disease, even among the educated and affluent. Nutritional poverty is driving a sharp rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) across all income groups in India, creating heavy costs for both families and the health system.



# Nitish retains edge but undercurrents remain



As one travels from the east of Bihar to the centre along-side the mighty Ganges, the warp and weft of people's dependence on the river is fully visible. The river's omnipresence expresses the fertility of the soil and the agrarian nature of Bihar's economy; its wrath reveals the undulating nature of the flood economy and its impact on its people; and the structures built over it point to the human effort to overcome constraints on travel and commerce. This duality is starkly visible as one enters Bhagalpur, the third-largest city in Bihar. Through the well-laid highways and roads, most of which were constructed recently, a contrast is immediately apparent. The robust roads reflect the investments made in infrastructure in a State where such facilities were relatively backward barely a decade ago, while the flooded waters and fields that abut these very roads reveal the fragility of an economy dependent largely on agriculture.

Both these scenes — the life-giving yet destructive river and the smooth roads flanked by flooded fields — serve as potent metaphors for the governance of Nitish Kumar. Having served as Chief Minister of the State for nearly 20 years since 2005, with only a brief interruption, the long-time “socialist” leader remains the talking point in every conversation with passers-by, small traders, and daily labourers. For and against Nitish

To his supporters in urban Bhagalpur, Mr. Kumar is the symbol of good roads, connectivity, and possibilities of a developing Bihar. These supporters also include BJP members who acknowledge the importance of having Mr. Kumar at the helm. Many belonging to the savarna jaatis, or the upper castes, especially the middle-aged, point to the inevitability of their support for Mr. Kumar, whom they see as a bulwark against the return of Yadav hegemony. Even as they acknowledge the preponderant corruption in public life that affects every citizen, they continue to back him. However, young and educated youth across sections often differ. The daunting prospects of migration and the lack of economic opportunities weigh heavily on them. There are some who support change, suggesting that Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav has better ideas for employment generation, but these are mostly politically sensitised youngsters or activists. Among the weaker sections, disillusioned youth who had voted for Mr. Kumar in the past — and had benefited from his government's welfare measures — now look to Prashant Kishore's Jan Suraj Party as an alternative (some see it as a long-term choice) rather than the Mahagathbandhan (grand alliance). This search for a third option highlights a potential failing of the RJD: its inability to reach out effectively beyond its core voter segments of Yadavs and Muslims.

This complex voter calculus comes to life at the grassroots level. From the Naugachhia “zero point,” a boat carried a large number of passengers on the Ganges backwaters, who disembarked at what seemed like an unscheduled but regular stop. These were workers coming over to Bhagalpur for their mazdoori (labour). Many of these workers belong to caste categories cumulatively called the “Extremely Backward Classes” (EBCs), who have been a backbone for Mr. Kumar and his Janata Dal (United). Pankaj, a doctor who runs a joint clinic, is from the Dhanuk community, an EBC group traditionally associated with agricultural

work. He offers a detailed case for the community's longstanding support for Mr. Kumar. He talks about how it was once difficult for them to travel for work, how their lives were perennially affected by flood cycles, and how education and good infrastructure have afforded them mobility in the Nitish years. He asserts that the critique of the Chief Minister — that he has become old and erratic — is made only by political detractors. According to him, the public continues to associate Mr. Kumar with welfarism and development, even if there have been limits. However, he concedes that the lack of better jobs, especially among the educated in his community, has led to murmurs of discontent even among the EBCs. But they do not yet consider the grand alliance a viable alternative, he says. If the grand alliance assumed that Mr. Kumar's coalition of communities was fraying, that sentiment wasn't palpable on the ground. To find signs of a more potent challenge to this dynamic, one must travel further west along the Ganga to Begusarai. In what used to be a stronghold for the Communist Party of India, a keener contest between the National Democratic Alliance and the Mahagathbandhan is visible. In 2020, the Assembly constituencies in the district were split 4-3 in favour of the Mahagathbandhan (the CPI, RJD and the BJP won two seats each and the JD(U) one).

Battleground Begusarai Here, the Opposition's ground game is more apparent. Shailendra, a leftist activist in the village of Bihat, meticulously collated anomalies in the Special Intensive Revision's draft electoral roll, and found that in a specific section of the voter roll for his village, dozens of deceased people were still listed while eligible electors were left out. Helped by Congress activists associated with youth leader Kanhaiya Kumar, the final roll was corrected — 49 people were added and 79 were deleted from the polling booth's draft roll, a significant change that might not have been possible otherwise. The CPI's legacy is evident here; Renu Devi, whose name was initially left out, says her allegiance is firmly with the “corn and sickle”. But even as the SIR, the objections raised to it and the Voter Adhikar Yatra made a mark initially, there is a counter-narrative that has now been woven by Mr. Kumar's flagship programmes. Those affiliated with Jeevika — his flagship programme for women's upliftment — say the scheme to transfer ₹10,000 to women's accounts is a major relief, welcomed overwhelmingly by the poor. The Chief Minister has also mentioned that after evaluating the scheme's performance, an additional ₹2 lakh as grant will be given to women entrepreneurs after six months.

Indeed, a day after the government transferred the amount to 25 lakh women, bank ATMs and Aadhaar service kendras were crowded. Irrespective of their beneficiary status, women were reluctant to share their political views, a general feature of rural Bihar. However, vocal opposition to the regime was rare, found only among those already mobilised by Opposition activists. Activists affiliated with the Congress and the CPI admit their parties have declined in their former bases. Young activists Rishabh, a B.Ed. graduate-trainee, and Arshad, a mechanical engineer, both said that Begusarai is no longer the “mini-Moscow” it once was. The BJP has made dents using Hindutva — especially in mobilising Dalits against Muslims in the area — but the socio-economic woes of the educated youth and the poor are no different from those across the State. But they expressed confidence that if the Mahagathbandhan manages and coordinates its campaign well, they could give the formidable NDA a tough fight. As the election season commences, the political landscape of Bihar reflects the rivers that define it. At first glance, the NDA alliance, steered by Mr. Kumar, appears as the river's main channel — broad and seemingly unstoppable. But in the deltas and backwaters, in the villages of Begusarai and among Bhagalpur's restless youth, streams of dissent are forming — though many voters, still waiting for candidate announcements, are yet to choose which current to follow. The coming weeks will determine whether they remain scattered tributaries, or merge

# Jurel — making hay while the sun shines

Dhruv Jurel donned the wicketkeeping gloves for 143.4 (of the 174.4) overs spanning the two England innings in the Lord's Test in July. Yet, he didn't have a Test cap to show for his exertions. Jurel kept wicket for 157.1 overs in the only England innings in the next Test, in Manchester, also in July. For the second game running, he failed to add to his tally of four Test appearances. Bizarre? Sure. True? Most certainly. Jurel went to England in the summer as India's reserve stumper, as the understudy to the ebullient Rishabh Pant, the new vice-captain in the Shubman Gill leadership era. Unless things went drastically wrong, Jurel's tour would entail working hard at the nets on his wicketkeeping and batting skills, and ferrying drinks and messages to his colleagues whilst wearing the sub fielder's bib. But with Pant, there is always a chance of things going drastically wrong, isn't there? And so, at Lord's on day one of the third Test, the first-choice stumper injured his left index finger while trying to stop a wild, wide delivery from Jasprit Bumrah to Ollie Pope that started down leg and kept swinging further away. Pant left the field at the end of that over, the 31st of the England innings, and didn't come back on till more than 24 hours later, as a batter. He sat out the entire England second innings; with the ball swinging crazily after it passed the stumps, like it seems to do all the time only in England, Jurel conceded 25 bytes. It was harsh on the young man because if the ball was of a different colour, those would have been wides, not bytes. Fortunately, there were no recriminations when there could so easily have been — India ended up losing the game by 22 runs. Pant recovered sufficiently in the long gap between the third and the fourth Tests to be passed fit for selection for Old Trafford, only to play a reverse sweep against Chris Woakes on to his right foot via the inside edge on the first evening. The spunky left-hander returned courageously the next morning to score a stirring half-century, batting practically on a leg and a quarter, but there was no question of him taking his appointed place behind the stumps.

Enter Jurel, this time near-flawless — three catches, eight bytes. But still no Test cap. Predictably, Pant was in no position to play the series decider at The Oval — he is still unavailable for selection — and finally, Jurel saw light at the end of the tunnel. Eight months after his previous appearance, again by default, against Australia in Perth, Jurel was back in Test business. But where was accommodated as a specialist batter in the Western Australian capital, this time he took his rightful place behind the stumps. He had a Test to remember — 19 and 34 in the two innings, a handful of catches, tidy work with the gloves and, most importantly, a remarkable, series-levelling six-run victory. This was in the first week of August. At the time, no one was sure how

much time Pant's recovery would take, but the consensus was that he would be fit for battle two months thereon, against West Indies at home. The recovery process didn't adhere to the timeline, so Jurel got another bite at the cherry. And what a bite it turned out to be, at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Jurel had an outstanding first morning behind the sticks, flying this way and leaping that as Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj struggled for control.

There wasn't a lot of swing, but a rare green-top in India facilitated lateral movement and the ball developed a mind of its own. Jurel was equal to the task, moving beautifully sideways, diving only when he had to — which was, to be fair, quite often — and almost invariably collecting the ball in the middle of his hands.

Unhurried and graceful, he seemed to have that fraction of a second longer than most other stumpers do, making a demanding task appear straightforward. Watching him in action that first morning, on Thursday, was watching poetry in motion. And that is no exaggeration. Later in the match, on day three when the ball began to misbehave from the bowlers' footmarks, Jurel was impeccable while standing up to three high-class spinners. It's not often that in India, a wicketkeeper is required to be on his toes against pace on day one and spin not long thereafter. Jurel handled that novel examination admirably. He didn't add to his tally of dismissals, which really isn't unusual because when the ball is gripping and turning and batters are unwilling to leave their crease, wicketkeepers seldom find the edges coming their way.

But his glove work was exemplary, especially down leg when Ravindra Jadeja tried to land the ball in the rough outside the right-hander's leg-stump in order to use that patch as his ally. Between those two impressive displays behind the stumps, Jurel had a wonderful outing in front of them. He walked into a terrific platform — 188 for three replying to 162 — but he was batting at No. 5 in Test cricket for the first time.

There would have been the understandable butterflies, fuelled by the desire to leave his imprint even though he knew he was warming the bench until Pant's return, presumably for the South Africa Tests next month. But Jurel showed no indication that he was feeling the heat, batting with freedom and authority from the time he caressed skipper Roston Chase's off-spin to the straight long-off fence for the first of his 18 boundaries off the last ball of the first session of day two. Particularly strong off the backfoot with a penchant for strokes through and behind point, Jurel is equally adept at playing in front of the stumps. His long stride

# Ingesting the wrong variety



Having a proper healthy lunch is fast turning into a luxury. School and college students and office-goers sadly do not have the luxury of a hot meal during lunch breaks. A hot dinner again is a luxury to many. Are our children and the young eating the right food? The answer is 'no'. While there is much debate on malnutrition among the poor with many going without a proper square meal a day, even those who can afford food are not eating the right food. Youngsters mostly relish the ultra-processed food that would taste hot and wonderful instantly, tickling the taste buds, little realising the ill effects it would bring in later years, potentially harming them in their formative years. Markets are fully stacked with packaged food items in attractive packages, sold across the length and breadth of the nation.

A regular intake of such packaged food items can be extremely harmful. Pizzas, burgers, and French fries are ordered online for easy door deliveries and are consumed with a worrying regularity. Ice creams and cold drinks can also damage health. There are also roadside snacks such

as pani puri and chaats consumed on a regular basis. Such foods can affect the appetite for a good lunch and dinner. Can tender stomach and intestine withstand the spice and salt of such food? Schoolchildren are the worst hit, as the snacks available in small sachets and affordable prices are purchased by them with the little pocket money. They cannot be blamed, as long, lengthy school timings and the small tiffin boxes make them turn to shops for chips, samosas, snacks, and pani puris. Diabetes and respiratory issues are commonly seen among the young today. Once associated with old age, they are now seen in the younger population. Consumption of junk food and the modern-day food habits are crippling them. Poor nutrition could make them weak. Gone are the days when grandmothers and mothers would ensure a balanced diet using balanced ingredients. Food used to be prepared with the utmost care, with menus suiting the seasons. What's more appalling is the fact that the vegetables and fruits we consume on a regular basis seem to have lost their fragrance and taste. They look big and beautiful, but seem to have lost their goodness.

# Treat employment as a national priority



India is the most populous and also one of the youngest countries. Estimates by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) suggest that over the next 25 years, India will add around 133 million people to its working-age population (15-64 years), which is close to 18% of the total incremental global workforce. However, India has a short window to leverage this demographic dividend, as the worker population is expected to peak around 2043. Employment generation is critical for equity and inclusion. Quality jobs at scale can lift millions out of poverty, reduce regional and social disparities, and ensure a more even distribution of growth benefits. Generating jobs is also vital for growth and resilience. In a consumption-driven economy such as India's, broadening consumption through good quality jobs accelerates and stabilises growth.

Employment must, therefore, be treated as a national priority. This requires consistent growth policies that encourage steady investment and long-term job creation, rather than fragmented or short-term approaches. Despite central and State governments initiatives, from skill development to social security, India still lacks a unified national framework that comprehensively addresses employment and livelihoods. Job creation requires interventions on both demand and supply sides of the labour market. Demand is driven by economic and sectoral growth, while supply is influenced by skills, mobility and societal norms. Without bridging these gaps, policy impact will remain limited. A particular concern is the employability of graduates. College curricula need focused reviews to make graduates job ready, supplemented with skilling programmes that are aligned to industry and emerging sectors. To address these challenges, an Integrated National Employment Policy is of urgent need. This should consolidate existing schemes and align diverse initiatives. It must be developed in coordination with States, key Ministries, and industry. Governance could be overseen by an Empowered Group of Secretaries, with implementation led by District Planning Committees that understand local challenges.

The policy must define time-bound goals, identify high-employment-potential sectors and align trade, industrial, education and labour policies to maximise job creation. It should also tackle labour market frictions, regional disparities and barriers faced by women and marginalised groups, while ensuring that skilling incorporates technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and robotics. Another challenge is the mismatch between the availability of people and jobs. The Centre and States must work together on migration policies and support systems that promote mobility constructively, without letting politics become a barrier. Building “One India” for employment mobility will be critical. Timely implementation of the four Labour Codes must also be prioritised and clear transition guidelines and advisory support for businesses will be essential. Job creation efforts must focus on labour-intensive sectors such as textiles, tourism, agro-processing, real estate, and health care. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector, which already employs over 25 crore people, requires a comprehensive support strategy covering access to finance, technology, skilling, and markets to generate “growth with jobs”. To address urban job distress, an urban employment guarantee programme could be piloted in select cities. A major opportunity lies in the expanding gig economy, which employs between 80 lakh and 1.8 crore workers and could grow to 9 crore by 2030. With participation spreading into Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, it holds enormous potential for job creation and formalisation. A national policy for the gig economy can help unlock this potential.

The policy should promote sector growth while ensur-

ing worker protection through skilling, finance and social security. A centralised registry could enable seamless onboarding, preserve work histories and reduce entry barriers. Fair contracts, safety standards and grievance redress must also be ensured. With the right institutional and regulatory support, the gig economy can become a cornerstone of India's inclusive workforce. Beyond numbers, improving job quality through better wages, safer conditions, and social security is vital. Affordable housing near industrial hubs can improve mobility and quality of life. Regionally balanced employment can be promoted through targeted interventions in 100 most underdeveloped districts, rural internships for graduates, and remote work and BPOs in towns. Enhancing female labour force participation should be another priority. This requires incentives under the Employment-Linked Incentive (ELI) scheme, formalisation of Anganwadi and Accredited Social Health Activist roles, investment in childcare and eldercare, and campaigns to address societal norms restricting women's work.

Need for employment data Finally, high-quality, real-time employment data is critical. A dedicated task force could strengthen methodologies, expand coverage to the informal and rural workforce, and reduce the lag between data collection and publication. With coordinated reforms, targeted investments, and an inclusive national employment strategy, India can fundamentally transform its employment landscape. Doing so is not only essential to unlocking its demographic dividend, but also central to achieving equitable, resilient, and sustained growth.

These employment-focused measures also tie in with the broader reform agenda that CII has laid out in its recent Report on Policies for a Competitive India. Employment generation, as emphasised in this article, is an integral part of that wider vision of building a competitive India and achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047. Sanjiv Bajaj is Past President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). Chandrajit Banerjee is Director-General, Confederation of Indian Industry

# Scientists edge closer to cutting HIV out of human DNA

Hyderabad: The day is not far away when scientists can literally cut the HIV/AIDS virus out of a patient's cell genome. Geneticists are now very close to developing a CRISPR-based therapy that can be safely delivered throughout the body of a patient to target and edit the latent HIV reservoir, setting the stage to cure HIV.

A few months ago, a US-based company Excision BioTherapeutics presented proof-of-concept data from their CRISPR therapy, EBIT-101, and its promise to target and destroy the HIV reservoir in the human body. CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats), which is a gene-editing tool that acts like molecular scissors, allows scientists to precisely cut and modify DNA.

In this study, phase I and II clinical trials (EBT-101) tested a novel CRISPR-Cas9 gene therapy as a potential functional cure for HIV infection. At present, there are Antiretroviral Therapies (ART), a combination of proven drugs that keep the HIV virus dormant in the human body.

The primary challenge to curing HIV is the existence of the latent reservoir of infected human cells (T-Cells) where the virus' genetic material is kept dormant by administering patients with ART therapy. Once the patient stops the ART therapy, the dormant virus reactivates and causes rebound.

The core gene editing technology, which became the basis of the EBT 101 therapy, was developed by two US-based researchers Dr Kamel Khaili (Temple University) and Nobel laureate Dr Jennifer Doudna (UC Berkeley). The CRISPR-Cas9 system was designed to be directly delivered to the T-Cells and other tissue reservoirs that harbour dormant HIV DNA.



## Trailing behind China in EV race, how Japan’s carmakers are planning a reboot



There are at least three ways in which Japanese manufacturers are trying to make up for lost time and adapting to rapidly evolving tech: Japan’s biggest automakers have pledged cooperation in new tech-related areas to catch up with the rapidly evolving global EV industry, a number of the country’s top automakers are cutting vehicle testing times using simulation to ensure faster vehicle development and early-to-market strategies without quality taking a hit, and they’re splurging funds into new EV technology areas such as solid state batteries.

At this year’s Japan Mobility Show, there is another steady refrain that’s repeatedly echoed by the top leaders of Japan’s auto industry — from Toyota chief Akio Toyoda to Suzuki Motors’ boss Toshihiro Suzuki — that the road to carbon neutrality for the automotive sector entails “multiple technology pathways”. And, that battery electric vehicles are not the only solution. Record hybrid vehicle sales across global markets since early this year seems to be vindicating what Toyota and Suzuki are pointing to: that battery electric vehicles or BEV alone are not the only future.

Successor to the 70-year-old Tokyo Motor Show, the Japan Mobility Show is a co-creation platform that brings together companies across Japan’s automotive and ancillary sectors and is organised by the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association — the country’s top vehicle grouping. JAMA has uncharacteristically admitted in its road map for 2035 that Japan’s car industry, once a global leader, is struggling to adapt to new technology and that geopolitical instability has weakened its competitive advantage. JAMA is fronting the call to action for pledged cooperation by Japan’s biggest automakers in tech-focused areas to survive in the rapidly evolving global industry. Over the next decade, Japanese manufacturers will need to pool resources and collaborate in areas like artificial intelligence and electric vehicles to catch up with the technologically sophisticated cars available in other markets, the JAMA said in its road map for 2035.

Japanese carmaker have taken cue. Toyota already has partnerships with Suzuki, Mazda and Subaru, while Honda’s deal to merge with a flailing Nissan fell through at the last minute. There are murmurs of other tie-ups too. Cutting vehicle development time One way to get in early is to develop cutting-edge simulation. Companies such as Honda Motor have introduced a new virtual reality simulator at one of its development centers that allows engineers to check the driving experience of a new car without needing to get on the road, effectively cutting down testing times by around 50 per cent. Traditional car makers in Japan and markets such as the US take about 45 months to get a new car on the road.

For Chinese EV makers, that number is down to less than 20 months. Japan’s carmakers are trying to bring it down to under 18 months, without compromising on quality. Chinese automakers, and even Tesla, face production glitches in the pursuit of lowering the lead times. Reducing the time period for developing a new car is becoming an important point and other Japanese carmakers, too, are working on that strategy. Japanese parts suppliers, a big ancillary industry, are shifting focus from internal combus-

tion engine or ICE cars to working overtime on developing EV parts, including motors and batteries. Then there is software, an area where Japan is seen as lagging. Automakers such as Suzuki are pivoting towards developing what are called Software Defined Vehicles, or cars are controlled essentially by software that allows functions and features to be updated through software, without any hardware changes. Those are par for the course in markets such as China, when EV penetration is high. In Japan, though, this is still something new, and the learning curve is steep. A senior Toyota executive told The Indian Express that in Japan’s automotive industry’s SDV push, countries such as India could play a part.

Partnership between Japanese and Chinese auto companies Are Japanese companies open to partnering with Chinese tech companies such as Huawei and Tencent? That is still an issue. But there is a sense that Japanese automakers have a shot at leading the global software defined vehicle race. And in that, the India exposure could be important, the Toyota executive said. Then there’s cutting edge tech, including solid state batteries. Toyota Motor Corp, a late entrant into the battery electric vehicle race, is aiming to roll out next-generation solid-state batteries over the next two years, marking a milestone in the global race to commercialise this breakthrough technology that promises to double vehicle range and drastically lower charging time. In the due course, the top Japanese carmaker could potentially have two sets of battery electric vehicles or BEV on offer across markets, including India — one range with existing Lithium-ion batteries and a second range with its new and pricier solid state batteries, a senior company executive at Toyota’s joint venture in India indicated.

Toyota, the world’s largest carmaker by vehicles sold, had announced a “breakthrough” in solid state battery materials in 2024 and had said it plans to mass-produce solid-state batteries by 2027 or 2028. Solid-state batteries are seen as a major improvement in battery tech, countering concerns such as extended charging time and the risk of catching fire associated with traditional Li-ion batteries that have a liquid electrolyte. With its new solid-state batteries, Toyota expects its electric cars powered by them to have a range of 1,200km — well over twice that of the current range of EVs — and a charging time of 10 minutes or less, far lower than that two-four hours that it takes to fast charge an EV with Li-ion batteries. Other companies, too, are making progress on alternatives to Li-ion batteries. Chinese battery maker CATL revealed in early-2024 it was preparing to mass-produce its semi-solid batteries, while South Korea’s Samsung SDI has completed a fully automated pilot line for solid-state batteries. Germany’s Volkswagen, whose investment in American startup QuantumScape has been dogged by delays, was reported by Reuters as having held talks with France’s Blue Solutions, which already produces solid-state batteries for Daimler electric buses. An advantage of solid-state batteries is that the electrolyte is solid. This allows ions, which convey electricity, to move faster, thus enabling shorter charging times, increased cruising ranges, and produce higher power output. Solid-state batteries are also characterised by being highly stable because they are resistant to changes in temperature and can robustly endure high temperatures and high voltages.

A longstanding technical issue in solid state battery development has been that repeatedly charging and discharging the battery causes cracks between the cathodes and anodes and the solid electrolytes, degrading battery performance. But producing solid-state batteries in large volumes is costly and difficult. Problems include the extreme sensitivity of the batteries to moisture and oxygen, as well as the mechanical pressure needed to hold them together to prevent the formation of dendrites, the metal filaments that can cause short circuits.



ance requirements”. “The QCOs have raised raw-material prices by 10- 30 per cent when compared with global benchmarks, as only a few domestic players are certified, and foreign suppliers face long lead times for BIS licensing. These cost increases cascade through the fibre-to-fabric-to-garment chain, reducing export competitiveness for apparel producers, which cannot claim exemptions as they do not directly import fibres,” the report said.

Although India has significant installed capacity in polyester, supply gaps persist in specialised grades and blends required for export markets. In viscose, production is concentrated among a handful of firms, creating dependence on limited players, the report said, adding that the resulting shortages and higher prices have forced several downstream units to operate below capacity. “No major textile-exporting country, including China, Vietnam, or Bangladesh, imposes mandatory factory-level certification on synthetic fibres or yarns or their input. Quality control is achieved through voluntary standards and buyer audits. Before the introduction of QCOs, India imported a significant volume of specialised fibres and yarns to address quality and variety gaps in domestic supply. Since the implementation of QCOs, imports of several such products have declined notably, not as a result of substitution by domestic suppliers but because of certification-related challenges and limited BIS-approved sources,” the report said. Niti Aayog said that over the past decade, India’s quality regulatory framework has evolved significantly with the expansion of QCOs issued under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) framework and while QCOs are introduced to enhance consumer safety and promote high-quality manufacturing, their scope has extended beyond finished goods to encompass raw materials, intermediates, and capital goods that are critical for downstream industries. Between 2016 and 2025, the number of products brought under mandatory QCO coverage has grown from less than 70 to nearly 790 products, including one Omnibus Technical Requirement (OTR) that covers 20 products, the Niti Aayog report said.



## ‘They have lots of practice’: Twinkle Khanna explains why older people may be better at hiding affairs; expert decodes how age, experience, and privacy shape infidelity



On a recent episode of her chat show Two Much, Twinkle Khanna stirred fresh discussion on infidelity in relationships by saying that older people are better at hiding affairs because they have “lots of practice.” The comment came during a segment where she, Kajol, Ananya Panday, and Farah Khan were asked to agree or disagree with the statement: “Older people are better at hiding their affairs than younger people.” While Twinkle, Farah, and Ananya agreed, Kajol disagreed, saying, “I feel younger people are much better at hiding everything about their lives, affairs.” Ananya added that in today’s digital age, “everything comes out anyway.” Their exchange raised a larger question about whether age, experience, and technology truly affect how people conduct and conceal relationships, or if it’s more about values, communication, and opportunity.

The next statement on the show added another layer to the discussion: “Today’s kids change their partners faster than they change outfits.” Here, Twinkle agreed, while Farah, Kajol, and Ananya disagreed. Twinkle explained her view, saying, “It’s a good thing because in our time, it was like, ‘What will people say? We can’t do this.’ They are changing their partners quickly, and I think it’s a good thing.” Ananya, however, countered, “People have always been changing their partners. Earlier, it was a bit quiet.” Twinkle went on to say that younger people have “no baggage. They are like, ‘This is not working. Let’s move on quickly.’” This exchange reflects a generational shift, what older generations may see as instability, younger ones may view as emotional clar-

ity and self-respect. This isn’t the first time Twinkle has shared a bold take on relationships. In a previous segment, she had said that physical cheating isn’t necessarily a dealbreaker, explaining that “raat gayi baat gayi,” suggesting that a physical act without emotional attachment might not always end a relationship.

So, is there any truth to older people being better at deception when it comes to relationships?

Counselling psychologist Athul Raj tells indianexpress.com, “Older individuals are not necessarily better at deception; they are simply more discreet because they grew up in a time when privacy was a natural part of relationships. Experience teaches them to manage emotions with restraint.” He adds, “Younger people live in a digital age where even small gestures, like a message or a like, can expose emotional intimacy.” The difference, according to him, lies less in morality and more in visibility. Older people learned to navigate relationships privately, while younger ones exist under constant observation. Shifting cultural norms and how younger generations approach commitment With social acceptance of dating and break-ups, commitment is now viewed as a conscious choice, not an imposed duty.

“Moving on quickly does not always mean emotional detachment. It can show an ability to heal and move forward without guilt. However, constant exposure to new options through dating apps and social media has changed emotional depth. This does not make the generation shallow; it reflects a new emotional adaptability in a culture that values growth and self-awareness over endurance at any cost,” notes Raj. Raj states that emotional infidelity feels more painful because it disrupts trust at its core. “When someone’s feelings or attention shift elsewhere, it threatens the emotional safety of the relationship.” Physical betrayal can sometimes be seen as impulsive, while emotional betrayal feels deliberate and deeply personal. Society has become more accepting of physical mistakes but less tolerant of emotional distance. This change does not reflect moral decline but emotional evolution. People today seek authenticity and transparency more than perfection, says the expert.

## Adah Sharma shares ‘kaddu core workout’ to fix posture: ‘Do this for 31 days; 20 reps’



Adah Sharma had the internet in splits with her latest workout routine to fix posture using the humble bottle gourd or lauki — which she inadvertently called ‘kaddu’. Terming it ‘core workout 3.0’, the actor demonstrated three simple exercises, especially for those who are accustomed to scrolling or using their phones a lot. “Core workout 3.0. Do this for 31 days, 20 reps and change your life,” Adah specified on social media. According to her, one can use the lauki as a dumbbell to do shoulder raises in the front and back — and fix their posture.

But are they even effective?

Such simple exercises emphasise core stability and

posture through controlled, focused movements, said consultant dietitian and fitness expert Garima Goyal. “These exercises address some of the most common problems people face — slumping shoulders, weak mid-section and shoulder discomfort. A strong core isn’t just about visible abs; it supports the spine, enhances balance and allows the body to perform everyday tasks with efficiency and less risk of strain,” said Goyal. Stressing that doing these exercises daily helps with better alignment, Goyal said: “These movements engage the deep abdominal muscles (transverse abdominis), the obliques and the stabilisers around the pelvis and lumbar spine. When done consistently, the body learns to maintain better alignment—standing taller, moving smoothly and compensating less during activity.” According to Goyal, the benefits of such a posture-centric routine are amplified when paired with supporting habits: sufficient protein for muscle repair, adequate hydration for joint health, and whole-food nutrients to reduce inflammation and support recovery. At the same time, it’s important to approach the workout with realism. “Posture correction and core strengthening are gradual processes; it takes consistent effort, time and mindful execution rather than high repetition. Similarly, improving posture is as much about habits outside the gym—sitting ergonomics, daily movement breaks and mindful breathing—as it is about the workout itself.”

## Five ways ginger tea can boost your morning walk (and when to avoid it)

Starting your morning with a walk is a great way to boost energy levels and improve overall health. But pairing it with a cup of ginger tea might make it even more beneficial. Known for its anti-inflammatory and digestion-boosting properties, ginger tea can enhance your morning routine in surprising ways. An expert explains in detail how this beverage impacts the body, and whether it is suitable for everyone. Kanikka Malhotra, consultant dietitian and certified diabetes educator, gives five reasons why sipping on some ginger tea before your morning walk might be a great idea:

Kickstarts your metabolism (and some weight loss): Think of ginger tea as a gentle nudge to your metabolism. Its natural compounds can fire up your body’s engine, encouraging it to burn a little extra fuel — a nice complement to your walk. Plus, it can help your body ditch any extra water weight. Soothes achy muscles: Ginger has serious anti-inflammatory powers. If you’re prone to feeling stiff in the mornings, a cup of ginger tea might help loosen things up and make your walk feel smoother. Keeps your tummy happy: Nobody wants tummy troubles on a walk! Ginger is a fantastic digestive aid. It can help calm your stomach, reduce bloating, and keep



everything moving the way it should, so you can focus on enjoying your surroundings.

Wards off morning queasiness: Some people are sensitive to movement or walking on an empty stomach. If that’s you, ginger tea can be a lifesaver. It’s known for settling the stomach and keeping nausea at bay. Gives your immune system a little love: Ginger is packed with goodness for you stuff like vitamins, magnesium, and antioxidants. So, while you’re getting your steps in, you’re also giving your immune system a little boost. Some people are sensitive to movement or walking on an empty stomach. If that’s you, ginger tea can be a life-

saver. Some people are sensitive to movement or walking on an empty stomach. If that’s you, ginger tea can be a lifesaver. (Source: Freepik) Potential drawbacks to drinking ginger tea on an empty stomach before exercise

Malhotra states, “While ginger tea can be a great pre-exercise drink, it’s not a perfect fit for everyone, especially on an empty stomach. Ginger revs up your digestive system — it gets those digestive juices flowing. But if there’s no food to work on, that increase in stomach acid could lead to heartburn, bloating, or just general tummy grumbles for some people. We’re talking about the gingerol in ginger potentially irritating the stom-

ach lining when it’s bare.” Malhotra adds a key point: ginger has natural compounds that can thin your blood a bit. That’s usually a good thing for heart health, but if you’re already on blood-thinning meds, it could increase your risk of bleeding slightly. “So, what’s the takeaway? Start slow! Try a small cup of ginger tea before your workout and see how you feel. If you notice any discomfort, try having it with a light bite (like a banana) or just skip it altogether. And of course, chatting with your qualified dietitian is always the best way to make sure it’s a good choice for you. They can help you weigh the pros and cons based on your individual health history,” recommends the expert.





# KKR announce Tim Southee’s return to franchise as bowling coach, after naming Shane Watson as assistant coach



GNS News Agency, Nov 14

Kolkata Knight Riders on Friday announced the appointment of New Zealand star Tim Southee as the team’s Bowling Coach for the upcoming Indian Premier League 2026 season. It marks the continued revamp of the KKR’s backroom staff. A couple of weeks ago, the franchise had announced Abhishek Nayar as the new head coach of the team, succeeding Chandrakant Pandit following the conclusion of the IPL 2025 campaign. Interestingly, Nayar is also the head coach of UP Warriorz for the upcoming Women’s Premier League season. KKR followed that up with the confirmation that Shane Watson as the Assistant Coach. One of the most accomplished fast bowlers of his

generation, Southee has been a cornerstone of New Zealand cricket for over 15 years. Having represented his country in 100+ Test matches, over 150 ODIs, and 120+ T20 Internationals, Southee has claimed more than 700 international wickets across formats. He captained New Zealand in multiple formats and played a pivotal role in their 2019 ICC World Cup campaign and the 2021 ICC World Test Championship victory.

Southee was part of the Kolkata Knight Riders squad (2021, 2022, 2023) in the IPL during his playing career. Southee said in a statement: “KKR has always felt like home to me, and it’s an honour to return in this new role. The franchise has an incredible culture, passionate fans, and a great group of players. I look forward to working closely with the bowlers and helping the team achieve success in IPL 2026.” Speaking on the appointment, Venky Mysore, CEO of Kolkata Knight Riders, said: “We are delighted to welcome Tim Southee back to the KKR family, this time in a coaching capacity. Tim’s vast experience and technical expertise will be instrumental in shaping our bowling unit. His leadership qualities and calm approach make him an ideal mentor for our young bowlers.” Earlier, Watson had said in a statement: “It’s a great honour to be part of a franchise as iconic as Kolkata Knight Riders. I’ve always admired the passion of KKR fans and the team’s commitment to excellence. I’m eager to work closely with the coaching group and players to help bring another title to Kolkata.”

# Will MS Dhoni play for CSK in IPL 2026? Franchise teases fans with Morse Code message on T-Shirt, here’s what it means



GNS News Agency, Nov 14

Will Chennai Super Kings’ long-standing love affair continue for another year? With plenty of trade deals confirmed and rumoured still ahead of the retention deadline on Saturday, the big question still remains around the former India captain, and currently uncapped member of the CSK squad. On Thursday night, in a social media post, the franchise posted a video of their mascot Leo answering phone calls which asked the same question in multiple languages: Will Thala play next season? The post reads: “You all asked in every language known. Leo still chose — — — — —” (The last part of the message is Morse written in Morse Code.) The video ends with Leo posting a cryptic message in Morse Code on a black T-shirt. The first three lines of the Morse Code, including space breaks, and the final line minus space breaks, reads as follows:

The question mark at the end which is ..—.. simply stands for a question mark, meaning it is not yet official if the legendary CSK veteran is set for another season. CSK’s official stance last week was that they hoped Dhoni will feature in the next edition. The 44-year-old, who stepped in as captain last season after an injury to Ruturaj Gaikwad, hasn’t

announced his intentions as yet. But according to the franchise’s CEO Kasi Viswanathan, the door is still very much open for him to continue as a playing member of the squad.

“We are hopeful that he would play. He hasn’t said no so far, so we expect him to play the next season as well,” Viswanathan said last Friday. With the franchises having to formalise their retentions by November 15 ahead of the auction scheduled for later this year, the social media handle posted the teaser in Morse Code. After finishing at the bottom of the table last season with four wins and 10 defeats, the five-time champions are preparing for a partial overhaul of the squad. With regards to Dhoni, his contribution has been limited, as he has predominantly preferred to come in at the backend of a batting innings, with a couple of overs left. While there is Urvil Patel as a backup wicketkeeper option, the franchise had been in talks with the Rajasthan Royals over a possible trade for Sanju Samson, which is now set to take place with Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran moving the other way. Neither franchise has confirmed the trade yet though. Speaking at an event in August, Dhoni had said CSK are more or less sorted on the batting front but conceded that the squad had holes to be plugged. “There were certain holes that we need to plug in. I think our batting order is quite sorted out now. Rutu (Gaikwad) will be coming back. A small auction is coming in December. You know some holes are there, and we will try to plug those in. But again, you have to be at your best at the start of the tournament. You have to get the planning right. You have to use the resources in the best possible manner. Even the fans feel disappointed, but also the fact is the players always feel more disappointed than the fans. So we do talk about the processes. But at the same time here, we do want the result to come to our side. Last year wasn’t there. But looking ahead we will try to sort out most of the things. And we will hopefully be at our best,” Dhoni had said.

# Kumamoto Japan Masters: Lakshya Sen powers past former world champion Loh Kean Yew in straight games to reach semis

GNS News Agency, Nov 14

During Loh Kean Yew’s consistently breathtaking performances in Huelva at the 2021 World Championships, former Denmark player and recently-appointed coach HK Vittinghus remarked on Twitter (now X): “In badminton we now have three levels of how fast you can be: Fast, (Anthony) Ginting fast, Loh Kean Yew fast!” That’s how the Singaporean was moving on court that week in Spain when he went on to famously win the gold medal, his best ever performance at the event. That week, Lakshya too had a memorable run, registering his best run at the Worlds to date, winning bronze. The Indian may have slipped down the world rankings, but when he is at his best, he is no slouch on the badminton court either. Like Loh, Lakshya also thrives on remarkable retrieval skills, showcasing the explosive speed needed to recover after defending. Both are brilliant at the net and possess a potent jump smash. Their games match up rather evenly, and while both have had less-than-ideal international scenes, at time during the second game of their quarterfinal clash at the Kumamoto Japan Masters Super 500 on Friday, Lakshya and Loh showed why they are two of the more entertaining men’s singles shuttlers on tour. In the end, it was Lakshya who prevailed in straight games 21-13 21-17 in 40 minutes to reach the semifinals.

The first game, after an even start, was largely dominated by Lakshya as he put together a run of six straight points. In fact, it was a run of 9 out of 10 points that saw him lead 18-9 from 9-8. Loh briefly threatened a late fightback but it was a mere formality that Lakshya would take the lead. The second game is where sometimes the pace of both shuttlers came together for some fireworks. There was a 41-shot rally early in Game 2, at 1-1 that Loh won to lay down an early marker. But Lakshya threatened to make it one-sided once more as he went on a run of 8 straight points either side of the interval to go up 15-9. The third seed from Singapore wasn’t quite done though. After playing largely decisive badminton – both in choosing when to attack with his jump smashes and when to attack the net – Lakshya had two moments of strange indecision at his deep backhand corner. The first time, he took the shuttle late and gifted Loh an easy point for 11-15. He’d repeat it again soon after,



another late call, this time it was a complete airshot and the shuttle landed inside the corner, and Loh closed in at 13-16. But to his credit, Lakshya quickly recovered and won a much-needed flat exchange at 17-13 to halt the momentum. But Loh closed in once more after a wild Lakshya smash followed by a fine rally by the Singaporean. Lakshya played a great service return to get the serve back at 18-15 but Loh showed off that sensational recovery speed of his; after a diving forehand defensive block, he got back up quickly to rush the net and eventually won the point for 16-18. At 17-18, Loh well and truly had the second game finish line in sight. Then came the rally of the match. With the chance to level things up, it was Loh’s turn to double-guess his line judgment.

The first time, he got away with it and kept the rally going but couldn’t get lucky for the second time at the end of a marathon exchange – 42 shots, longest of the match. As he tamely netted the shuttle, he let out a big roar of frustration, unlike him on the court, and even coach Kim Ji Hyun couldn’t quite believe what she had seen from his ward. Lakshya had a lifeline, and he let out an audible “Yes!” after winning the next point to go 20-17 up and closed the match out with a booming jump smash.

# Daniil Dubov says Praggnanandhaa ‘failed to pose single problem with white despite probably spending day and night looking at stuff’

GNS News Agency, Nov 14

Russian grandmaster Daniil Dubov, who sent home India’s R Praggnanandhaa from the FIDE World Cup in the fourth round tiebreaks on Thursday, revealed that he dislikes classical chess so much that he prepared for just 10 minutes for the two classical games against the Indian prodigy, who was a finalist at the last World Cup. Both classical games between Praggnanandhaa and Dubov ended in draws, thus pushing them to fight in the rapid tiebreaks on Thursday, where the former world rapid champion prevailed.

Dubov also said that while Pragg spent “day and night looking at chess he had failed to pose a single problem” to him in their classical games. “Generally Praggnanandhaa didn’t show his best in this tournament, not only in this match. I would say it was very close but I think I had some little precious role in the match despite the will to make a draw with white pieces. I didn’t actually mind playing. But it’s just that with white against someone like Pragg who is prepared this well I actually don’t know how to get out of the opening like without taking too much risk. So I actually told my friends that this is the strategy: we make draws with white and with black we actually play, because he’s always ambitious with white. The same happened today: it’s not that I was scared or wanted to play blitz so much. It’s just that I kind of realized I will probably have better chances with black in the long run. He tried to play. I think he got outplayed frankly and somehow I managed to deliver. Maybe I played a little bit better, maybe not. Anyway, it’s very much about luck,” Dubov, right after defeating Praggnanandhaa, told FIDE in an interview.

Dubov then continued: “I have to say generally I’m not the biggest fan of classical chess. I like chess a lot and it’s not that I hate thinking. It’s just that with this amount of prep, I don’t even know... like preparing for two classical games against Pragg took me 10 minutes with the phone all together. I didn’t even use my laptop. Then I did it for the first time during the match in between the (rapid) games today. It’s like everybody knows everything. I don’t mind playing. I’m just saying I personally don’t know how to really get out



“Generally Praggnanandhaa didn’t show his best in this tournament, not only in this match. I would say it was very close but I think I had some little precious role in the match despite the will to make a draw with white pieces.

of the opening with white and how to get an advantage. People don’t like it but then suddenly when I face Pragg and he’s someone who probably spends day and night looking at stuff. I mean he still fails to pose a single problem with white. So maybe it’s not about me. It’s probably about chess here. I mean we are getting to the point where like too many things will be well known. Still despite that it’s always nice to win.”

Dubov then praised Praggnanandhaa and when asked what Pragg’s style was, Dubov said: “I mean it’s not like Pragg’s fault. Generally it’s just that his style is that he’s simply good at chess. I don’t think there is a Mikhail Tal anymore. It’s not that you can be playing one exact style. I’ve never been close to Pragg’s strength, right? I’ve never been in the top five in the world. You cannot get there by only sacrificing pieces (like Tal). So Pragg’s style is very universal. He’s simply very good at chess.” When Dubov was then asked if he was planning to reach top five in the world, he said: “We’ll see. I mean it’s not on my mind frankly exactly today also. It hasn’t been for quite some time.”

# FIDE World Cup: Old warhorse Pentala Harikrishna still going strong, one of two surviving Indians

GNS News Agency, Nov 14

In 2002, Viswanathan Anand won his second Chess World Cup title in Hyderabad. The tournament was equally significant for another Indian, Pentala Harikrishna, who at the age of 16, had already become a Grandmaster and was making his World Cup debut on home turf. It has been 23 years since, but Harikrishna is still going strong and remains one of the two Indians – the other being Arjun Erigaisi – to remain in contention in the 2025 edition after defeating Sweden’s Nils Grandelius in the fourth round. He may not be at the peak of his powers but is still a threat. Harikrishna is one of only three players, alongside legendary Ukrainian Vassily Ivanchuk and India’s Surya Shekhar Ganguly, to have competed in both the 2002 World Cup and the current edition in Goa. The former India No. 1, who is still striving for his maiden Candidates Tournament spot, asserts that he now plays purely for the love of the sport. “Until a few years ago, the goal was to reach the very top. Now, I’m also in the team with guys like (D) Gukesh, but the one thing that hasn’t changed is that I enjoy the game as much now as I did back then,” Harikrishna told The Indian Express.

“It’s why I started playing the sport, and I still feel the same. That’s one of the main driving forces for why I play chess. The moment I don’t really enjoy it, I am not going to push for it.” The Grandmaster from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, has a unique distinction of being the Second of both men’s and women’s reigning World Champions. He has helped both Gukesh and China’s Ju Wenjun conquer the chess world. Once India’s highest-ranked chess player, Harikrishna was part of Ju’s team during the 2023 Women’s World Championship against Lei Tingjie, while he worked with Gukesh in his contest against China’s Ding Liren. Harikrishna’s game had seen a jaw-dropping play from the Indian to let his queen, the most powerful piece on the board, be captured on the 8th move without immediate compensation. (Picture Credit: Eteri Kublashvili/FIDE) Harikrishna’s game had seen a jaw-dropping play from the Indian to let his queen, the most powerful piece on the board, be captured on the 8th move without immediate compensation. Harikrishna is widely regarded as a master



of the endgame. His technical prowess in this phase of the game, whether to finish a match or just to force a draw from an objectively worse position, has repeatedly showcased his deep understanding of the game. He finds the knockout format of the World Cup particularly exciting, especially compared to the round-robin system in events like the Grand Prix or Grand Swiss. “I don’t know if this is my 10th or 11th World Cup, actually. I am just pleased to be playing here,” he says. “I’m not really looking for anything special. I need to stay solid and play without risk. In general, I like to have a long run in these events, but it’s knockouts, and you can’t really plan long-term,” Harikrishna says. The 39-year-old, however, feels that the double-round knockout format offers a chance for redemption after a loss. The prospect of a quick elimination after a bad game also means an escape from prolonged disappointment. “Even if you lose one game, you have a chance for a comeback. That’s why you have to put a lot of focus into every single game. The good thing is, if you play badly, you are gone instantly, and you do not suffer for 10 days like in the Grand Prix,” Harikrishna points out. Ups and downs in his career have taught him to stay in the moment and not take his eye off the ball. “As far as my ambitions are concerned, I change them according to the circumstances and the tournaments I’m playing. Right now, I am taking the World Cup one match at a time because it’s a very difficult event. The Candidates is still a far-off and huge commitment,” he says.

# ‘Got a slap from reality’: Novak Djokovic opens up about facing Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz in last few years



24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic has admitted that he got a “slap from reality in the last couple of years” after consistently losing to Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz at Grand Slams in the last two years. The duo has split the last eight slams between them, thereby marking the start of a new rivalry following the retirements of Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic’s last slam win was the 2023 US Open, following which the quest for his record-breaking 25th slam has been halted by Sinner and Alcaraz equally dividing the slams between them. “I believe that to some extent I am the superman who can never injure myself, that can never be weak. But I got a slap from reality in the last couple of years. I’m just getting to know this new chapter,” Djokovic told Piers Morgan in an interview. The Serbian has lost his last five meetings to Sinner, including at three Grand Slams, with his last win over the Italian coming in the 2023 ATP Finals. He has a slightly better record against Alcaraz, against whom he leads the head-to-head 5-4, and beat him at the 2025 Australian Open quarter-final before losing in the 2025 US Open semi-final. The 2024 Paris Olympics gold medalist admitted both Sinner and Alcaraz were at a different level

as compared to him. However, he did say that when he walked out to the court, he didn’t think about his opponent and only looked to put his best foot forward. “I’m aware that [comparing] my best level now and their best level now, they’re better. That’s the reality. I have always believed in things that are almost impossible to achieve. I do have doubts that I can win Slams against these two guys. But when I enter the court, I don’t care who’s across the net. I always believe I’m better and I deserve to win,” he said.

# Lakshya Sen enters quarterfinals, Prannoy bows out of Japan Masters

Japan: Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen progressed to the quarterfinals with a straight-game win over Singapore’s Jia Heng Jason Teh, but HS Prannoy bowed out of the men’s singles competition at the Kumamoto Masters Japan here on Thursday.

A 2021 World Championship bronze medallist, Sen, seeded seventh, prevailed over world No 20 Teh 21-13, 21-11 in a 39-minute contest. The world No 15 will next face former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the quarterfinals. Later in the day, Prannoy, 33, went down 18-21, 15-21 to Denmark’s Rasmus Gemke in a 46-minute second-round match.

Lakshya opened up an 8-5 lead early in the opening game. Teh briefly took a slender 10-9 lead before the Indian regained control at the break. The duo fought hard till 14-13, when Lakshya pulled away with seven straight points.



## Kamini Kaushal dies at 98: Veteran actor's career spanned from Neecha Nagar to Laal Singh Chaddha



Kamini was one of the most popular actors of the 1950s. She made her debut with Chetan Anand's 1946 film *Neecha Nagar*, which won the Palm d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. She appeared in films like *Nadiya Ke Paar* (1948), *Ziddi* (1948), *Shabnam* (1949), *Biraj Bahu* (1954), *Jailor* (1958) and *Shaheed* (1965). Her last appearance was in the Aamir Khan film *Laal Singh Chaddha*. Before that, she was seen playing Shahid Kapoor's grandmother in the 2019 film *Kabir Singh*. Born as Uma Sood, Kamini told *SCREEN* in 2017 that she was "bullied" into the world of cinema after she finished her graduation in English honours from Lahore. "I was studying at Lahore's Kinnaird College

for Women then, and my first reaction was 'no'. I had heard from somewhere that the film industry was not a good place for girls," she had said. As the leading lady of stars from Dilip Kumar and Dev Anand, she ruled over cinema at that point of time. It is said that Subodh Mukherjee, who headed Filmistan studio, turned down up and coming singer Lata Mangeshkar as he felt her "squeaky" voice wouldn't suit Kamini Kaushal. It was rumoured that Kamini and Dilip Kumar were in love with each other. But, Kamini married her brother-in-law since she had promised her dying sister that she would take care of her two daughters. She also worked with Raj Kapoor in his first film *Jail Yatra* in 1947, and later, was also a part of RK Films' first film *Aag*. She once shared with PTL, "Each of my heroes were different from each other. Raj was very extrovert and always used to bluff a lot on the set. He was a fun-loving guy. Dev was sincere and passionate about his craft. Dilip, like me, was quiet and I was most comfortable to work with him. We did many films together." By the mid-60s, she transitioned to author-backed character parts that left a strong impact. She did *Do Raaste* (1969), *Prem Nagar* (1974) and *Maha Chor* (1976) in this phase. One of her memorable roles at the time was in *Shaheed* (1965) where she played the mother of Manoj Kumar, who was only 10 years younger to her. Even after retiring from the world of movies, Kamini would make a rare appearance in films. She appeared in Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Chennai Express* in 2013. She shared with *SCREEN*, "I couldn't say no. I thought I must do a film with Shah Rukh."

## Of South remakes, 'emosional atyachaar' and Rocket Singh Salesman of the Year bombing while Luck By Chance soared

If one South remake works, let's make another. Actually, let's make many more. Out came Salman Khan's *Wanted*, which also roared into the 100 crore club. Warner Brothers tried their hand at producing in India, and got severely burnt, because Chandni Chowk To China, starring Akshay Kumar, was dead on arrival. Zoya Akhtar makes her debut in *Luck By Chance*, an insider look at Bollywood's machinations, giving brother Farhan a chance to play the lead, deftly navigating the outsider-insider nexus while being aware of its meta-ness. I remember thinking when I first watched it that it needed to have been a bit sharper, but in hindsight, to have two legacy kids lending this hard-to-get-off-the-ground project even this much edge, and with Konkona Sen Sharma playing the true outsider, given her own legacy, feels radical.

Ranbir Kapoor plays, really well, the first of his many man-child roles in *Wake Up Sid*, with Konkona appearing in this one as the older, wiser woman, just as she has had to turn older and wiser in *Luck By Chance*. He also plays the titular role in *Rocket Singh, Salesman of the Year*, one of the best films to have come out of the Yash Raj stable. A sharp slice of life, cut from uncomfortable cloth, from acquiring 'marketing' skills to catching a much-required break in a hard-edged work-place, with Ranbir giving it all he's got, it was startling in its lived-in authenticity. Tragically, it crashed and burnt at the box office. Anurag Kashyap makes *Dev D*, the best post-modern version of that classic sorry-for-himself-desi-lover boy who believes that the world owes him a living, and that all women should roll over just because he deigns to look at them. It is Abhay Deol's finest, co-stars Mahi Gill and Kalki Koechlin lend the film its feel



and texture, and the music is outstanding. Kashyap calls this film a musical, and it very much is, with 18 songs interspersed through its run-time. Kaisa tera jalwa, Kaisa tera pyaar, Dev D's 'emosional atyachaar' is a film for the ages.

Kashyap's *Gulaal*, with the interesting ensemble of Kay Kay Menon, Abhimanyu Singh, Raj Singh Chaudhary, Deepak Dobriyal, Ayesha Mohan, Jesse Randhawa, Piyush Mishra, Aditya Srivastava, is also out this year, and while there's a lot in there to like, the film— an anthem to misguided youth, and a call to arms— ultimately misses its mark. The film that surprised me most in that year was the Nandita Das fine directorial *Firaaq*, which was based on the Gujarat riots. It had ongoing producer trouble, managed to release finally and then vanished, but remains one of the few cinematic on-record accounts of those terrible days when Gujarat was in flames, and thousands died in the communal riots.

## Kamini Kaushal dies: Dilip Kumar's 'first love' ended their relationship, married brother-in-law to honour promise to dying sister

Kamini Kaushal dies: Veteran actor Kamini Kaushal passed away at 98 on Friday. The actor, who made her debut in the movies with Chetan Anand's *Neecha Nagar*, was one of the most acclaimed actors of the time and during her initial years in the movies, she and Dilip Kumar made a fine pair on screen. They first worked together in the 1948 films *Nadiya Ke Paar* and *Shaheed*, and developed a fondness for each other that was very obvious to those around them. Dilip Kumar wrote about his on and off screen relationship with Kamini in his autobiography, *Dilip Kumar: The Substance and the Shadow*, and expressed his love for her. She shared that they were "shattered" when their association ended as she had gotten married to her brother-in-law. He shared, "I had an understanding and facile co-actor in Kamini Kaushal who was very attentive to the demands of the director and had the intelligence to grasp the intrinsic sensitivity of some of the more poignant situations in the script. She was an artiste who could perform with the required authority when needed." Kamini was a graduate in English honours from Lahore and was fluent in the language, and this impressed Dilip even more as he enjoyed his conversations with her. "She had a noticeable fluency in speaking English, which was unusual those days for an actress," he wrote as he recalled that she was someone with whom he could have "interesting conversations."

After *Shaheed* and *Nadiya Ke Paar*, the two also worked together in *Shabnam* and *Arzoo*, and Dilip felt an attraction towards his co-star as much like him, she too was more interested in scholarly discussions. Since her birth name was Uma, he addressed her as Uma, and wrote, "I preferred the company of colleagues who were educated and well-informed. Stardom bothered me more than it pleased me and I guess I was drawn more intellectually than emotionally to Uma, with whom I could talk about matters and topics that interested me outside the purview of our working relationship. If that was love, may be it was. I don't know and I don't think it matters any more." He shared that despite what the rumour mill said, they conducted themselves with dignity and did not allow their private lives to become a matter of gossip. "If we were emotionally involved, there was no public exhibition of it and the decorum at work was consciously maintained," he wrote. However, this association was short-lived as Kamini was ordered by her brother to cut ties with Dilip.

Kamini Kaushal's husband 'understood' her love for Dilip Kumar

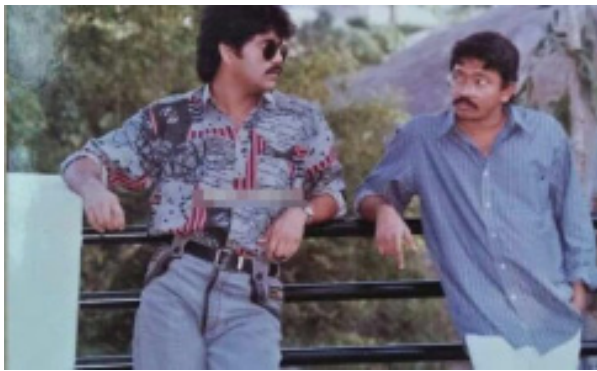


As per renowned dancer Sitara Devi, who was then married to K Asif, and shared a friendship with Dilip Kumar, the actor was heartbroken as Kamini walked out of his life, and even described her as his "first love." "I feel she was his first love. She was educated and well spoken like him and could engage him in intelligent conversation," Sitara Devi wrote in the same book. Although, when she asked Dilip about his relationship with Kamini, he "remained silent and changed the subject." However, a few months later, she saw him break down as he appeared sad and hurt. "I guessed it was the pain of breaking up with his love," she said and added, "As he spoke to us, I saw tears welling up in his sad eyes."

Kamini Kaushal had gotten married to her brother-in-law BS Sood in 1948, after her sister passed away. Kamini had promised her ailing sister that she would take care of her children, and she kept her word. In a chat with *Filmfare*, she shared, "I loved my sister deeply. I feared my nieces, who were just around two and three, would flounder without a mother. It seemed an ideal solution. It was not a sacrifice. More so, my husband was a genteel and decent human being." The couple went on to have three more children.

Sitara Devi shared that at the time when Dilip was starting to fall in love with Kamini, she was already married, "She had married her sister's husband when her sister died and had become mother to her kids. So there was no way Dilip Bhai could have married her," she wrote.

## Ram Gopal Varma reveals why Hindi Shiva ended sadly while Telugu version had a happy ending: 'To date, I don't know which climax is better'



Every film industry has a set of works that changed the course of its journey and cinematic landscape for the better. These movies not only redefined the way cinema is viewed in their respective languages and shattered existing formulas, but also inspired contemporary directors of the era and many aspiring filmmakers dreaming of venturing into tinseltown one day, thus becoming landmark works. In the Telugu film industry, Ram Gopal Varma's (popularly known as RGV) directorial debut, *Shiva* (1989), is one such movie that also sent shockwaves across the country, thanks to its aesthetics that stood apart from everything that Tollywood produced until then.

Featuring Nagarjuna, Amala, and Raghuvaran in the lead roles, the crime actioner revolves around a student who is dragged into the crime world in Hyderabad after he decides to stand up against the local don, no longer willing to tolerate his dadagiri or the criminal activities he carries out using college men. Now, 36 years after its original release, a newly remastered 4K version of *Shiva* has hit the screens, offering today's viewers a chance to catch this trendsetter on the big screen. The makers have also completely redone the sound in the movie for its re-release, so that it suits modern-day theatre sound systems. "No one, including me, created another hero like Shiva afterwards"

But what made *Shiva*, the *Shiva*, and how does it remain a benchmark in Telugu cinema even after three decades? "As I was trying to get it ready for the re-release, I noticed something. Although people keep talking about the impact and influence it has had on the masses — and I don't think there's any other movie about which there have been so many discussions in Telugu cinema — rarely has anyone actually made something like *Shiva*. It's very surprising. I can think of 100 versions of *The Godfather* (1972), but I can't remember a single attempt to recreate *Shiva*," RGV shares during an exclusive interview with *SCREEN*.

Opening up about the movie's protagonist, Shiva, played by Nagarjuna, he says, "The character was designed as a self-respecting man, with his courage coming from his sense of principles and justice. That is technically the true definition of a hero. These days, most heroes only have swagger. Some are a little odd or weird. But no one, including me, attempted to create another hero like Shiva, whose strength stemmed from dignity." Watch *SCREEN*'s exclusive interview with Ram Gopal Varma here:

Delving deeper into its script, RGV shares, "Many of the lines in *Shiva* were actually taken from real life. Back then, most movies had a lot of dialogues; the characters used to keep talking for pages. Then suddenly came *Shiva*, where many often spoke in monosyllables. I think that was also the first time colloquial language was used in cinema. Most dialogues sound as if they are coming from within the characters, without giving the impression that the actors

are reciting the lines after memorising them. I think a combination of all those elements created the impact. The over-emphasis of various elements, including dialogues, using artificial crafting that we often see these days, takes away the relatability and reality of the situation. I did not do that in *Shiva*."

As much as *Shiva* was a Nagarjuna and Amala film, it also belonged to Raghuvaran, who played the menacing antagonist, Bhavani. Mentioning that he couldn't think of any other actor but him for the character at that time, despite having watched only one Raghuvaran film before that, RGV says, "He had that intensity, those piercing eyes, a certain kind of personality, and a lanky figure. As soon as he walked in, he could take over the room with his screen presence. The traits of Bhavani were loosely inspired by Omar Sharif's character from *Mackenna's Gold* (1969) and those of some Hindi film villains of the era. Above all that, Raghuvaran had a terrific bass voice." Following its release, *Shiva* became such a big hit and phenomenon that RGV himself remade it in Hindi under the same title, with the central trio of stars reprising their respective characters. However, the director did not create a shot-for-shot remake and made a few changes in the Hindi version. For instance, while the Telugu version featured Shiva's niece, Keerthi, being murdered by Bhavani towards the end, in the Hindi edition, Asha (Amala) became the scapegoat. As much as *Shiva* was a Nagarjuna and Amala film, it also belonged to Raghuvaran, who played the menacing antagonist, Bhavani. Director Ram Gopal Varma with Raghuvaran on the sets of *Shiva*. (Credit: Instagram/@rgvzoomin)

Why *Shiva* ended differently in Hindi and Telugu?

Upon enquiring what prompted him to make this creative decision, RGV says, "I always felt there was something wrong with killing Keerthi, particularly because the character was absent for about an hour before she's kidnapped. It felt like we conveniently got a character out of the blue and killed her off to give a pre-run to the climax. On the other hand, since Asha is present throughout and a love story is intertwined with that, if she is the victim, it will offer more emotional resonance in the climax. Those who saw only the Hindi version felt the climax was perfect. But those who saw the Telugu version first didn't like the change. To date, I don't know which one is the better choice. But when I shared the change and my reasoning behind it with Nagarjuna and the producers, they all agreed to it. It wasn't like I went against anybody." At the same time, Shiva's fate was portrayed differently in the two movies. In the Telugu version, he reunited with his loved one (Asha) after killing Bhavani, giving the character a sense of hope and subtly implying that his life would continue afterwards. In contrast, the director chose a completely different visual approach for the Hindi version. There, Shiva was shown sitting at the edge of an elevator shaft after eliminating Bhavani. It was a low-angle shot similar to his intro. However, the shot visually represented him being "lonely at the top." So, why did *Shiva*'s story end in such contrasting ways in the two films? Featuring Nagarjuna, Amala, and Raghuvaran in the lead roles, the crime actioner *Shiva* revolves around a student who is dragged into the crime world in Hyderabad. Director Ram Gopal Varma with Nagarjuna on the sets of *Shiva*. (Credit: Facebook/@RGV) "Although he killed Bhavani, with Asha's death, he also suffers an incredible loss. So the man's broken down. In spite of taking revenge and giving punishment to Bhavani, he has also lost. So I thought ending it on a tragic note was the right thing. On the other hand, in Telugu, since Asha was alive, it led to a happy ending," he concludes.

## Jawan actor Girija Oak Godbole, the viral 'blue saree girl', says her AI-morphed vulgar photos worry her: 'My 12-year-old son will see those'

Jawan actor Girija Oak Godbole, who recently went viral as "The Blue Saree Woman", has addressed a disturbing side of sudden social media fame. She posted a heartfelt video message on Instagram, speaking about AI-morphed vulgar photos of her that have been circulating online. In the clip on her handle, an overwhelmed Girija opened up about the attention and said, "What has been happening on social media for the past three days has been absolute madness. It's crazy and great in equal parts. Suddenly, I have so much attention, and I'm trying to figure out how to process it at the same time."

The actor added, "There is so much love coming my way. So many lovely comments, messages, phone calls from people who have seen my posts on Instagram or other social media platforms. It has been overwhelming at the amount of love I'm receiving. So many of my friends, relatives, people I know have sent me several posts and memes and some of them are ridiculously funny and very creative also." But, Girija Oak Godbole agreed that not all content about her has been harmless. "Some of them are also AI-morphed images of me, which are not in great taste. They are sexualised and objectified beyond comfort, and this bothers me," she said. "I am also somebody who lives in this day and age. I use social media myself. I am fully aware of how this works—when something becomes viral, something is trending. These kinds of images generally get made and get circulated as long as people are clicking on



your post and you're getting enough likes, interactions and views. That's serving your purpose. We all know how this game is played," the actor concluded. On the professional front, Girija Oak Godbole is gearing up for an upcoming web show *Therapy Sherya*, alongside Gulshan Devaiah.

## Rasika Dugal says focus pullers are her biggest concern when she enters a film set

Mumbai: Actress Rasika Dugal, who has been promoted up the ranks in the recently released 3rd season of the International Emmy-winning streaming show 'Delhi Crime', has shared what she looks for when she enters a set. The actress spoke with IANS during the promotional campaign of the 3rd season of her OTT show, and shared how she balances technical aspects of filmmaking with creativity. The actress said that after entering a set, she enquires about the focus pullers, the ones who make sure that the actors stay in focus during shot taking.

Rasika told IANS, "When I enter a set, I'm like, 'I hope they've got a really good focus puller', that is really my prayer at that time. And that's why the technical aspects are so

important. Some directors make it really easy for you to ignore the fact that this job is technically difficult. And some technicians make it very easy for you. They don't let you remember that the camera is here and that you have to hit a mark." However, there are many who are very particular about the technical aspects. She further mentioned, "And one has to work in those situations also. In my humble assessment of both of them, for a good performance, I think only the one which ignores the technicals and the team, the director and the technical team allow you to do that work really well for me. There are some sets where I don't even know who the focus puller is. That guy has never come out and said, 'This is your mark, please stand here'.