

Hyderabad wakes up to misty winter morning as temperatures dip across Telangana

Hyderabad: Hyderabadis woke up to a misty morning as the winter cold conditions tightened its grip in the city on Wednesday. Several areas, including Shapur, Medchal, BHEL, RC Puram and University of Hyderabad, in the city reported misty conditions till 6.45 am. With early morning chill, some of the busiest roads in the city turned quiet. Despite the conditions, several morning walkers and joggers were seen going about their daily routines on the roads and parks. However, senior citizens chose to exercise caution over their routine. Regular walkers who usually gather in the main parks, including Krishna Kanth Park in Yousufguda, before the sunrise, delayed their outings until the sun broke through the misty condition.

Telangana Gram Panchayat polls: SEC issues schedule to republish electoral rolls

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Hyderabad: The Telangana State Election Commission on Tuesday issued a detailed schedule for the preparation and republication of ward-wise photo electoral rolls for the upcoming Gram Panchayat elections, directing District Panchayat Officers to complete the process within the stipulated timelines. In a notification issued by State Election Commissioner I Rani Kumudini on Wednesday, the Commission recalled that it had earlier issued orders on August 26 for the preparation and publication of ward-wise Photo Electoral Rolls of Gram Panchayats after rearranging the Assembly Electoral Rolls published on July 1 by the Election Commission of India. Final ward-wise Gram Panchayat Electoral Rolls were published on September 2 and subsequently rearranged as per the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, 2018. These updated rolls are available on the Commission's website. Stating that it was preparing to conduct the second ordinary elections to gram panchayats shortly, the Commission directed all District Panchayat Officers to examine the electoral rolls and rectify any mis-mapping of voters without altering their original addresses. According to the schedule, the first stage, which involves receiving and examining applications from voters and suo motu corrections by the department, must be completed by November 20. Disposal of objections and requests must be finished by November 22. The final republication of Photo Electoral Rolls with ward-wise changes approved by District Panchayat Officers will be carried out on November 23, followed by republication of polling stations incorporating revised voter strength on the same day. The Commission instructed all District Panchayat Officers to manually incorporate valid changes before publishing the final rolls.



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Hearings on defected BRS MLAs to conclude on Thursday

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Hyderabad: The anti-defection proceedings against the MLAs who defected from the Bharat Rashtira Samithi to the ruling Congress will conclude on Thursday. The final arguments are scheduled for Thursday in the cases of two MLAs, Pocharam Srinivas Reddy and Arekapudi Gandhi. Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, acting as Chairman of the Anti-Defection Tribunal, has been hearing the disqualification petitions filed by BRS against eight MLAs Pocharam Srinivas Reddy, Gudem Mahipal Reddy, Arekapudi Gandhi, Tellam Venkat Rao, Kale Yadaiah, M Sanjay Kumar, T Prakash Goud and Bandla Krishna Mohan Reddy. Arguments in the cases of Tellam Venkat Rao and Sanjay Kumar concluded on Wednesday.

BRS has submitted comprehensive evidence, including digital records, to prove that these MLAs voluntarily gave up party membership by joining the Congress and campaigning for it. Political observers say the evidence is 'overwhelming' and it will be difficult for the Speaker to give the defectors a clean chit without attracting accusations of bias. Following recent strong observations by a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai, which urges Speakers to decide disqualification petitions expeditiously, sources indicate the Speaker is likely to pronounce his verdict within the next 7-10 days.

BRS had filed disqualification petitions against a total



of ten MLAs. While proceedings against eight have reached the final stage, former Deputy CM Kadiyam Siharai and Danam Nagender have asked for more time and are yet to appear before the Speaker. After the Supreme Court on Monday reiterated that the Speaker must act without delay and without political considerations, pressure is mounting on Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar to issue notices to the remaining two MLAs as well. Insiders say the Speaker is expected to take a decision on calling Siharai and Nagender within the next couple of days. With the Congress government enjoying a comfortable majority even after these defections, the outcome of the disqualification petitions will be closely watched as a test of the Speaker's impartiality and adherence to the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution.

Indian delegation reaches Madinah to oversee relief efforts



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Dubai: A high-level delegation of the Government of India, led by Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abul Nazeer, arrived in Madinah on Wednesday to oversee relief efforts following the tragic road mishap that claimed the lives of 45 Telangana pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. The Gov-

error is accompanied by Secretary (CPV and OIA) Arun Kumar Chatterjee and other senior officials from the Ministry of External Affairs. The delegation will remain in the holy city to attend the last rites of the Hyderabad pilgrims. The identification of bodies from the road accident has been gaining momentum in Saudi Arabia.

The relatives of the remaining victims arrived in Madinah on Wednesday from Hyderabad to offer samples for DNA testing. They were received by Telangana Minority Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin along with Majid Hussain, MLA, at Prince Mohammed Bin Abdulaziz International Airport. The relatives then drove to the forensic centre to give their samples for DNA tests. The sample collection process is almost complete, and results are expected to be released earlier than the anticipated timeframe, according to sources. On Tuesday, a group of relatives had already given their samples. The bodies are likely to be released in a phased manner, official sources said. Indian Ambassador Suhel Ahmed Khan and Consul General Fahad Khan Suri are camping in Madinah and coordinating the process with Saudi authorities.

earlier expressed his wish on social media, through his friend Ambati Arjun Kumar, to receive a symbolic band from Rama Rao's hands as a mark of blessing before starting his practice. Rama Rao promptly responded to the request, invited both Amruth and Uday, and spent time with them.

Speaking after the meeting, the BRS leader described their journeys as inspiring. "No matter how many challenges life throws at you, the effort towards our goals must never stop," he said in a social media post later. "Amruth fought every hardship in life and is now ready to pursue his dream as a lawyer. Uday drove a cab for a living, yet he never gave up on his ambition and finally he is ready today to practice as an advocate. Their stories are proof that with unwavering determination, anything is possible," he wrote.

White swans donated by animal lover released at Hyderabad zoo

Hyderabad: The Nehru Zoological Park on Wednesday released a pair of white swans into an enclosure for public display. NS Ramjee, an animal lover and regular animal adopter at the zoo since 2010, donated the white swans on behalf of his parents.

Chief Conservator of Forest (Wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden Elusing Meru, who released the swans into the enclosure, said the zoo is a pioneer in the country with a large number of animals on display for public viewing. With this new addition, the zoo is currently housing 199 species and more than 2,000 individuals.

PM Modi pushes India as global hub for organic farming at Coimbatore summit

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Coimbatore: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India is on the path of becoming the global hub of organic farming, and asserted that it is native and traditional to the nation. Fresh from his NDA's stunning victory in Bihar, Modi quipped, citing the audience waving their 'gamcha' (towel) upon his arrival, that it looked like "Bihar winds" had arrived in Tamil Nadu before him. Incidentally, the AIADMK-led NDA in Tamil Nadu will be taking on the ruling DMK-led coalition in the Assembly polls next year and the opposition alliance is making a fervent bid to unseat the M K Stalin-led dispensation. Inaugurating the South India Natural Farming Summit 2025 and also an exhibition here, the Prime Minister released the 21st instalment of PM-KISAN, amounting to more than Rs 18,000 crore to support nine crore farmers across the country.

Addressing the conference, he said that excessive use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides led to a decrease in soil fertility and fully backed organic farming. He said crop diversification and organic farming are the solution to soil-related issues. Also, organic farming helps tackle climate change challenges, he added. The Prime Minister, who saw two girl students waving placards, hailing his vision for the economic transformation of the nation, asked security per-



sonnel to bring the placards to him and lauded the students. Earlier, he held a roadshow in the city, with people giving him a rousing reception. The Prime Minister held the roadshow from the city airport to CODISSIA (Coimbatore District Small Industries Association) grounds, a distance of approximately 2 kilometres and people and party workers lined up on both sides of the road to welcome him. Cultural shows were held and people showered flowers on the Prime Minister's vehicle as he waved to the people, acknowledging their greetings.

Andhra police arrest 50 Maoists including three seniors after Hidma encounter

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Kothagudem: In what officials described as a pinpoint, silent and coordinated intelligence-led, multi-agency operation, the Andhra Pradesh police arrested 50 CPI (Maoist) cadres across Krishna, Eluru, NTR Vijayawada, Kakinada and Dr BR Ambedkar Konaseema districts. Andhra Pradesh ADG Intelligence Mahesh Kumar Ladda, who produced the arrested Maoists before the media in Vijayawada on Wednesday, said the arrests delivered a major blow to the Maoists' South Bastar and Dandakaranya networks. Of them, 28 were from Bijapur district, 21 from Sukuma and one from Narayanpur district. Most were closely associated with Madivi Hidma, the PLGA first battalion commander, who was killed in an encounter on Tuesday. Hidma's encounter led to the arrests. Three senior Special Zonal Committee Members, Sode Lachu alias Gopal of the South Bastar DVC, Podiyam Rengu of the BNPC battalion headquarters company and Udde Raghu, a key organiser of the BNPC battalion headquarters company, were among those arrested. Their presence inside Andhra Pradesh indicates an attempt by the Maoist leadership to reconstitute command structures after sustained pressure and major leadership losses in Chhattisgarh. Their capture marks the collapse of the top command layer of the CPI (Maoist) in the Dandakaranya region, officials said. Those arrested include Sodi Lakma alias Bhima, DVCM of the Jagargonda Area Committee, Gangi Lakshmi alias Maade, DVCM attached to the Kerlapal Area Committee under the Dharba Division, Sode Manila, DVCM in charge



of the Pamed AC, SBT DVC and DKSZC, Madakam Madan alias Madhanna, DVCM overseeing the Jagargonda AC, SBT DVC and DKSZC, and Madavi Handha, DVCM of communication and CyPC Team of the SBT DVC. ADG Ladda said not a single cadre escaped, not a single civilian was harmed and not a single police officer was injured in the urban-area detentions that were carried out with near-silent precision. Even a minor miss would have alerted cadres. The killing of senior Maoists Gajarla Ravi alias Uday, Kakuri Pandanna alias Jagan, Aruna, Hidma and their close associates resulted in the collapse of both the AOB political-organisational structure and the South Bastar operational command, he added. Police seized 39 firearms, 302 rounds of ammunition, 20 pellets and two magazines along with Rs 12.72 lakh and 34 memory cards from them, he said.

Adani wins lenders' nod to take over debt-laden Jaiprakash Associate for Rs 14,535 crore



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

New Delhi: The Adani group has won the majority of lenders' votes for the takeover of debt-laden Jaiprakash Associates, as its Rs 14,535-crore acquisition proposal included a higher upfront payment than rival bidders, sources said.

A Committee of Creditors voted on resolution plans (acquisition proposals) submitted by suitors, including Adani Group, Vedanta Ltd and Dalmia Cement (Bharat). Adani received the maximum 89 per cent of the votes from creditors, followed by Dalmia Cement (Bharat) and the Vedanta Group, they added. National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) had the biggest say in the process as it controls about 86 per cent of the Committee of Creditors' (CoC) voting share. A small group of lenders, including State Bank of India and ICICI Bank, who together account for less than 3 per cent of CoC's votes, abstained from voting.

Sources said lenders preferred Adani's plan primarily because it offered a significantly higher upfront payment compared to competing proposals. The ports-to-energy conglomerate has proposed a total plan value (TPV) of Rs 14,535 crore, including Rs 6,005 crore upfront and another Rs 6,726 crore payable after two years. In net present value

terms, the offer is estimated at Rs 12,000 crore. Vedanta offered Rs 3,800 crore upfront payment and Rs 12,400 crore in deferred payments over five years, taking the TPV of Rs 16,726 crore. When contacted, a Vedanta spokesperson said, "Vedanta is a growth-oriented company, always looking for opportunities and synergy. Our approach remains disciplined, focused on value creation and long-term growth." Jaiprakash Associates (JAL), which has high-quality assets and business interests spanning real estate, cement manufacturing, hospitality, power and engineering & construction, was admitted to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) in June last year after it defaulted on payments of loans aggregating Rs 57,185 crore. JAL announced in June that it had received five bids, along with earnest money, with Vedanta, Adani Enterprises, Dalmia Cement, Jindal Power, and PNC Infratech making the bids.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **TAJAMMUL HAYATH S/O SHAIK HAYATH (old name)** born on 24-08-1978 at Nirmal earlier was Holding Passport No. K1822755 DT: 23-01-2012 hereby changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as **SHAIK TAJAMMUL HAYATH S/O SHAIK HAYATH (new name)** H.No. 6-3-18/8A Market area, Nirmal -504106 Telangana State.

DECLARANT.
SHAIK TAJAMMUL HAYATH S/O SHAIK HAYATH

Place: Nirmal
Date: 19-11-2025

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Madvi Hidma’s death leaves Maoist rank-and-file rudderless

With the killing of the most-wanted Maoist leader, Madvi Hidma, in operations launched by the anti-Naxal Greyhounds of the Telangana Police at Mareduilli forest in Alluri Sitarama Raju district, the nation heaves a sigh of relief. After decades of suffering, the Maoist menace is nearing its end. While there are still four months before we reach the March 31, 2026, deadline set by Home Minister Amit Shah, we will hopefully start the new year without the burden of Maoism.

The surrender of 258 Maoists, including some of its top leaders at Gadchiroli and Jagdalpur in mid-October, has had a cascading effect, with many Maoists coming forward and laying down arms to join the mainstream. The trend of mass surrenders and killing of several Maoists including their top leaders and arrest of many more in back-to-back operations launched by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Battalions, the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (COBRA), Border Security Force, Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Chhattisgarh police and its District Reserve Guards, point towards the debilitating impact on the Maoist leadership. With Hidma’s death, the Maoist ranks are rudderless. They have two options: Surrendering or getting killed in operations.

“Legacy of a Lion-hearted Queen: ABVP Commemorates Jhansi Lakshmibai’s Glorious 196th Jayanti



“P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU““In a stirring tribute to the indomitable spirit of Rani Lakshmibai, the brave woman who relentlessly resisted British aggression, ABVP District Convenor Bandi Rajasekhara led the grand observance of her 196th birth anniversary at the Government Girls College on Wednesday as part of the Stree Shakti Divas celebrations.““Speaking on the occasion, Rajasekhara recalled Lakshmibai’s immortal words — “As long as there is a drop of blood in my body and a sword in my hand, no foreigner shall ever conquer my motherland.” He described her as a lioness on the battlefield, whose unwavering valor shook the foundations of colonial tyranny.““Born on 19 November 1828, Rani Lakshmibai, even in her tender years, emerged as a symbol of defiance, waging an unyielding struggle to safeguard her people from the oppressive British forces. Her supreme sacrifice and fearlessness, he said, continue to inspire generations.““Rajasekhara underscored the imperative of remembering such towering personalities whose relentless sacrifices culminated in the dawn of independent India. He asserted that the nation’s ascent as a foremost global power today stands as a testament to the courage and dedication of these great warriors.““Drawing inspiration from the life of Lakshmibai, he noted that countless women joined the freedom struggle with unparalleled grit and determination. He urged today’s women to advance confidently, upholding the ideals and aspirations envisioned by these legendary icons.““District Social Media Convenor Aravind, faculty members, students, and several dignitaries participated in the programme, offering floral tributes and reflecting on the legacy of the warrior queen.

Mulugu Police Shine with Compassion



Mulugu, November 19:“Proving that a kind heart can change lives, three policemen from the Mulugu district 4th BN TSP—Vijayabhaskar, Nagaraju, and Praveen—brought light into the life of a young boy.““Satvik, a boy from Medaram village in Tadwai mandal, suffered a spinal nerve injury after falling off a bicycle two years ago. Since then, he has been struggling to walk, and his economically weak family has been unable to provide the necessary treatment and support.““Learning about his condition, the police personnel quietly stepped forward and showed their generosity by donating a wheelchair to him. Satvik’s parents were overwhelmed with gratitude, saying, “It’s as if you have given new life to our child.““This humane act has gone viral on social media, with many people appreciating and applauding the service-mindedness of the police officers.

Journalists Play aCrucial Role in Society: Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Felicitates Newly Elected WJI Committee



“Chittimalla Mahendar,“Karimnagar Bureau, November 19, Indian Chronicle: “Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar has stated that journalists play a crucial role in society, adding that their continuous efforts in bringing public issues to the notice of governments are highly commendable.“He congratulated the newly elected committee of the BMS-affiliated Working Journalists of India (WJI), Karimnagar district unit, and felicitated all the committee members with shawls.“Under the leadership of WJI district president Daram Jagannatha Reddy, the newly elected office-bearers called on the Union Minister at his residence on Wednesday and greeted him courteously.“Speaking on the occasion, Bandi Sanjay said that the media, considered the fourth pillar of democracy, must bring out the truth fearlessly and function with complete independence. He urged journalists to highlight issues prevailing in society and contribute towards social development.WJI State Vice President Taduru Karunakar and State Executive Member T. Satyanarayana introduced the newly elected district committee members to the Union Minister.“Those felicitated include:“President Daram Jagannatha Reddy, Vice Presidents Mogilam Ramesh and Nursery Kedari, General Secretary Gudala Srinivas, Treasurer Chittimalla Mahendar, Women’s Secretary Lavanya, Organising Secretaries Ravinder and G. Ramesh, Joint Secretary Boorla Venkatesh, Executive Members G. Ramakrishna, Kandi Srinivas Reddy, P. Santosh Goud, Jali Naresh, Kasturi Prabhakar, Gangam Raju, K. Ravindra Chary, CH. Venkatesh, and K. Kumar.

Indira Gandhi Jayanti Celebrated Grandly in Uppal Under the Leadership of Congress Constituency In-Charge Parameshwar Reddy



Reddy, Garika Sudhakar, Vallapu Srikant Yadav, Khaja Bhai, Pyat Murali Mudiraj, Bottu Rajesh, Pashikanti Nagaraju, Bokka Suresh, Sunku Shekhar Reddy, Sandhya Rani, Manchala Raghu, Alugula Anil Kumar, Janagam Ramakrishna, Venkatesh Setu, Jittu, Delhi Chandrasekhara Reddy, Bhaskar Reddy, Pakir, Bodige Mallesh, Anwar Pasha, Afroz, Rajanna, Raji Reddy, Nageshwar Rao, Sudhakar, Mutyala Babu, Mittu, Nagamallaiha, Kasim, Ambika, Sandhya Rani, Gayatri, Shobha, Sattanna, Bhaskar, Shaga Sridhar, Kashamalla Shankar, Ashok, Chintu, Prashanth Reddy, Vasu Naik, Chintakindi Srinivas, Suresh Yadav, MB Raghavendra Prasad, Azeezuddin, Sai Kumar, Baburao, Sai Kiran, Nandan Raj, Mahender, Shankar, Aslam, Turpati Jangayya, Jagadeesh, Shravan Kumar, Tailor Srinu, Balaji, Ramu Goud, Palle Ramesh, Rama Goud, Shekhar, Pittala Sailu, Amareshwari, Geetha, Vijaya, Shobha, Bandari Jyothi, Sailu, Ramugoud, Surender, Shekhar, Tunga Tirupati, Santosh Reddy, Kranthi, Kishore, Ravinder Reddy, Khayyum Bhai, Mahesh Yadav, Raghavendra Prasad, MD Javeed, Sai, Lakshminarayana, V. Mahesh Yadav, Kranthi, Chandu Naik, Sharafuddin Mohammed, Azeem, Mohammed Yusuf, Narsing Rao, Chalaka Naresh, Madhusudhan Chari, Balaraju, Venkat Reddy, Anitha, Som Balmane, Renuka, Susheela, Ashwini, Nani, Chinni, Bharatamma, Leelavathi, and many others participated.A large number of Youth Congress, NSUI, Mahila Congress, SC Cell, and BC Cell leaders also attended the event and paid rich tributes to the former Prime Minister.

Veeranari Rani Lakshmibai: The Eternal Flame of Women's Power“



“Indian Chronicle OU November 19:Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi remains one of India’s most celebrated freedom fighters, a warrior who confronted enemy soldiers with unmatched courage. A symbol of resistance against British cruelty, oppression, and injustice, she proved that women possess extraordinary strength, intelligence, and determination.““Born on November 19, 1828, in Varanasi to Moropant Tambe and Bhagirathibai, she was named Manikarnika, affectionately called “Manu.” After her mother’s early demise, a distant relative supported the family. Even as a child, Manu showed remarkable interest in combat skills, prompting her father to train her in sword fighting, horse riding, and shooting.““At the age of 13, she married Gangadhar Rao Newalkar, the King of Jhansi, in 1842, after which she became known as Rani Lakshmibai. Following the tragic loss of her infant son, she adopted Damodar Rao. Within days, she also lost her husband. Bearing these sorrows with courage, Lakshmibai intensified her training and formed a disciplined military force, preparing both men and women for battle.““She legally appealed to secure the throne for her adopted son, but the British rejected her claim. Using this as a pretext, they seized Jhansi and ordered her to vacate the kingdom. Refusing to abandon her people, Lakshmibai chose to resist British injustice. She mobilized her army and prepared for war, determined to protect her motherland from oppressive taxation and foreign rule.““With the support of Taty Tope and his 20,000-strong army, she fought valiantly. Despite their fierce resistance, British forces eventually overpowered her troops and captured Jhansi. Carrying her adopted son on her back, she escaped to Gwalior, where she captured the fort after a courageous battle.““However, British forces soon laid siege to Gwalior. Fighting with the ferocity of Goddess Kali, Rani Lakshmibai attained martyrdom on June 17, 1858, at a young age.

Her bravery, intelligence, and unshakeable spirit made her a roaring lioness in the fight for India’s freedom.““Rani Lakshmibai’s sacrifice remains a timeless inspiration. She is revered as a precious jewel of India, a role model for generations of women.““Stree Shakti Diwas: Honoring Her Legacy““To celebrate her contributions, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) observes her birth anniversary as Stree Shakti Diwas across the country. On this occasion, ABVP conducts Mission Sahasi, a nationwide initiative that provides self-defense training to thousands of girls every year. The program aims to empower young women, build confidence, and equip them to face challenges bravely—drawing inspiration from Rani Lakshmibai’s indomitable spirit.““This year too, Mission Sahasi will be held across Telangana. From history to the present day, Rani Lakshmibai continues to inspire women to rise higher, challenge limits, and lead society with courage.““May her heroic legacy continue to guide and uplift every woman in this country.

Health Cards for Real Estate Associates Requested: Telangana Realtors Association Delegation Meets Health Minister



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Hyderabad, November 19 (Indian Chronicle)““Representatives of the Telangana Realtors Association met State Minister for Medical and Health, Damodhar Raja Narasimha, urging the government to issue health cards and provide accident insurance to the lakhs of real estate associates working across 33 districts of Telangana.“A delegation led by Association State President Naragoni Praveen Kumar, General Secretary Pagadala Rangarao, and Working President M. Narasayya, along with representatives from various districts, submitted a memorandum to the minister. They requested the government to:““ Issue health cards to all real estate associates in the state““ Implement an accident insurance scheme““ Establish a Welfare Board for the real estate sector““ Take measures to safeguard real estate business activities in Telangana districts, urban areas, and the surroundings of Hyderabad“Responding to their appeal, Minister Damodhar Raja Narasimha advised the delegation to return with a comprehensive report and detailed data. He stated that the government would examine how support could be extended to the largely unorganised real estate workforce.“The minister added that, similar to gig workers, the government would explore possibilities to extend welfare support to real estate associates. He asked the association to submit detailed data on real estate business operators to move the proposal forward.Those who met the minister included association members Lakshman Rao, Bomma Venkateshwarlu, Pegada Ramesh Peddapalli, Vanaja, Jaipal Reddy, Venkatesh Goud, Maqbool Ahmed, Mohammed Abdul Aleem, Vinod Kumar, Kotaraju, Basanna Boyina Rajesh, Dayeti Shashi, and others.

Grand and Devotional Gira Pradakshina at Velugu Gutta Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Devasthanam



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 19 (Indian Chronicle):““The Velugu Gutta Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple, located beside the Uppal Cricket Stadium, was filled with profound spiritual fervour on the occasion of Masa Shivaratri. The atmosphere reverberated with the chants of “Om Namah Shivaya” as devotees participated in large numbers.““In view of the auspicious Karthika month, special rituals were performed at the temple. On Tuesday evening, marking Karthika Pournami and Masa Shivaratri, the temple authorities organised the sacred Gira Pradakshina. The event became a visual feast as devotees performed the circumambulation with deep devotion amidst joyful spiritual chants.Wearing traditional attire and walking barefoot, hundreds of devotees undertook the Gira Pradakshina, expressing their devotion with great enthusiasm. Many participated in the ritual believing that performing Gira Pradakshina in this sacred Karthika month at the holy Velugu Gutta helps cleanse past karmas, fulfill wishes, removes planetary and other doshas, and grants spiritual enlightenment and divine blessings.Uppal Constituency Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy attended the programme and took part in the special puja rituals. Temple EO Peddigari Srikanth, priests Phani Sharma, Uppal Inspector K. Bhaskar, SI Chada Samatha Reddy, ASI Venkat Reddy, leaders Boppanapally Sudhakar Reddy, Ganesh Nayak, Akarapu Arun Patel, Kandi Sravan Reddy, Vijay Kumar, Murali, Rajanna, Karipe Anil, and several others participated in the event.As part of the Karthika celebrations, a grand procession of Lord Mallikarjuna Swamy was also carried out around Velugu Gutta on Tuesday night.“

Indiramma's house should be completed quickly: YadadriBhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao



“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle..November 19):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the construction work of Indiramma's house, which is in various stages, should be completed quickly. “On Wednesday, the District Collector inspected the construction work of Indiramma's house in Mulkalapalli village of Turkapalli mandal... and inquired about the stages of construction of the houses that have been sanctioned so far in the village. He inspected the house whose construction has been completed. He asked the beneficiaries whether they have received 3 bills so far. He asked when the remaining work will be completed. He said that if it is completed quickly, the remaining one lakh rupees will also be deposited in your accounts immediately. He told the beneficiary that he should complete his delay immediately and move in. The concerned officials participated in this program.

Grain with moisture content in the purchase centers should be purchased and transported to the mills without being stored:

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..November 19):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that grain with moisture content in the purchase centers should be purchased from time to time without being stored and transported to the mills. On Wednesday, the District Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the PACS grain purchase center in Mulkalapalli village, Pedda Thanda, Turkapalli mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said... He asked how much grain has been received by the grain purchase center so far and how much has been purchased so far. He asked how much grain with moisture content is still there and asked them to check the moisture content in the morning and evening and purchase it as soon as the moisture content is found. He said that the grain with high moisture content cannot be kept at the center. When it was reported that the lorries had not arrived and had not been loaded, he spoke to the relevant contractor and said that two or three



lorries should be sent a day. If the lorries do not arrive, he warned that action would be taken against the contractors if there are piles of grain at the centers. He said that the lorries should be loaded and transported to the mills no matter how many nights. Tab entries should be made from time to time without pending until the purchase is made. “The relevant officials participated in the program.

Women's advancement..Telangana's progress..As a support for girls..“Ready for distribution of Indiramma sarees..



CM.Revanth Reddy gives instructions to district collectors in video conference.....“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle..November 19):- From the Secretariat on the distribution of Indiramma sarees, on Wednesday “Chief Minister Revanth Reddy held a video conference with all district collectors and women's association members “Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Seethakka, Ponnampalabharani, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Vakati Srihari, CM Advisor Vem Narendar Reddy, Government Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, SERF CEO Divya Devarajan, Principal Secretary Sailaja Ramaiyar and senior officials participated. On this occasion.. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy said in a video conference.. On the occasion of Indira Gandhi Jayanti, the distribution of one crore Indiramma sarees has been started to one crore women. It is a Telangana tradition to wear sarees and sarees to girls. “As part of this, the state government has decided to distribute Indiramma sarees to girls. A special officer should be appointed for each constituency regarding the distribution process of Indiramma sarees. Indiramma sarees should be distributed in phases in all mandal centers in the constituencies under the auspices of public representatives. Indiramma saree distribution program should be carried out in a festive atmosphere. Indiramma sarees are being distributed under the name of Women's Upliftment-Telangana Pragathi Program. Not only free travel in RTC buses has been provided to women, but women have been made owners of them. They said that the responsibility of sewing uniforms in schools has been entrusted to women's groups. They have set up an Indira Mahila Shakti Bazaar on 3 acres in Indiramma Canteens and Shilparamam. They said that they are in talks with

Amazon for an online market and are trying to bring recognition to products made by women at the national and international levels. They said that the government is moving forward with the aim of making one crore women millionaires. They said that the officials should act transparently so that every woman gets Indiramma sarees with complete details. They said that Indiramma sarees will be distributed in rural areas from today to December 9. They said that Indiramma sarees will be distributed in urban areas from March 1 to 8. They said that the government has decided to distribute one crore sarees to one crore women. They said that petrol stations and solar units have been set up for women's groups to make them financially stable. He said that Indira Mahila Shakti canteens have been set up in government offices. After the VC, District Collector Hanumantha Rao... spoke to the officials and the Women's Association... He said that there are 1,91,811 members of the association in the district and 1,80,769 people have received Indiramma sarees so far. First, he wanted the Indiramma saree distribution program to be held in rural areas to be celebrated in a festive atmosphere. “He wanted a committee to be formed at the mandal level and village level to ensure that the saree distribution goes smoothly.” The Collector told the district and mandal women's federation presidents to send the acknowledgment of the woman concerned and the facial recognition details as soon as the sarees are distributed. Revenue Additional Collector Veera Reddy, Local Bodies Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao, ZP CEO Shobharani, RDO Krishna Reddy, District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy, concerned officials, DPMs, APMs, district and mandal federation presidents and others participated in this video conference.

Today's youth should follow in the footsteps of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and contribute to the development of the country: -

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Aves Chisti,“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 19):- PCC General Secretary Potnak Pramod Kumar, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Aves Chisti, and former Municipal Chairman Barre Jahangir participated in a program organized by Bhuvanagiri Town Youth Congress President Padigela Pradeep at Babu Jagjivan Ram Chaurasta in Bhuvanagiri district center to mark the 108th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and garlanded the portrait of Indira Gandhi. Later, they spoke and urged the youth of today to follow in the footsteps of Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister of India, who was a great warrior who sacrificed her life for the country and work for the future of the country.



As part of the Library Week celebrations, three-way competitions were held for school students,



women readers and women school teachers“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 19):- As part of the 58th National Library Week celebrations, a Women's Day program and three-way competitions were organized at the District Central Library on the occasion of Indira Gandhi Jayanti on Wednesday, the 6th day. “The program was started by lighting the lamp and garlanding the portraits of Saraswati Devi and Indira Gandhi. The meeting was presided over by MD. Awais Ur Rehman Chisti, President of the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Association. The

chief guests of this program were Zilla Parishad CEO Shobharani, DPRO Arundhati, District Food Safety Officer Swati, District Library Secretary M. Sudhir, Mahila Congress Town President Swati, Mahila Congress Town Vice President Kavitha, and Krishnaveni School Principal Raghu Akhila.

They remembered Indira Gandhi in their messages and conveyed their message about women's power. Later, a three-way competition was organized for school students, women readers, and teachers of women schools. Library employees, readers, and others participated in this program.

Mother and father..are the gods that appear every day..there is no god greater than mother and father..support them spiritually in their old age



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Local Bodies.. Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao ““(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 19):- Mother and father..are the gods that appear every day..there is no god greater than mother and father...they should not be looked down upon in their old age, they should be supported spiritually..everyone in the society should remember that mother and father are the original gurus..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Local Bodies Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao said. “ On the occasion of the Senior Citizens Day on the 19th of this month, Additional Collector of Local Bodies of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bhaskar Rao flagged off a rally at Ambedkar Chaurasta on Wednesday morning. After the rally, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao said that the elderly are the pil-

lars of the family and the society should always respect them. He said that if we do not see our parents these days, our situation will remain the same tomorrow. District Revenue Officer Jayamma said that the elderly are equal to God and if employees do not see their parents, 10 percent of their salary will be deducted and deposited in the parents' account. He informed that later, District Welfare Officer K Narasimha Rao said that the elderly should ensure that the properties in their names are not registered in the names of their children. District Education Officer Satyanarayana was present at the event. All Senior Citizen Association members Venkatesham, Baleshwar, Radhakrishna Rao, Anjaiah, Brahmanakumari, CDOs, Shailaja, Sameera, Yamini. District Welfare Department office staff participated.

Two Friends Force Youth Back Into Addiction; Harassment Leads to Suicide in Sriram Nagar Colony



“(NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 19, (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Balraju and Katta Sandeep, both residents of Balaji Nagar–Sriram Nagar Colony, were known to be close friends in the past. Both had previously fallen into bad habits and were involved in theft cases, for which they were

jailed. After being released, Sandeep realized his mistakes, quit theft, and started living a normal life by working regularly. However, Balraju developed a grudge against Sandeep for distancing himself and refusing to join him in illegal activities and alcohol consumption. Over the past few months, Balraju, along with Harish Kumar from Santosh Nagar, had allegedly been taking Sandeep from his house every day around 4 a.m. and bringing him back at about 8 p.m. They reportedly forced him back into consuming intoxicating substances and prevented him from going to work. On November 17, 2025, at around 8 p.m., both Balraju and Harish Kumar allegedly assaulted Sandeep at an open area in Sriram Nagar Colony, accusing him of refusing to join them in thefts and alcohol consumption. Sandeep later returned home and informed his mother, Kavitha, about the assault. He also told her that the two men had been threatening him for some time, forcing him to drink alcohol and warning him that they would kill him if he refused. Disturbed by the ongoing harassment, Sandeep reportedly slit his throat with a blade and knife at around 10 p.m. the same night. He was immediately rushed to the hospital, but he died on the way. Based on the complaint lodged by his mother, police registered a case, took Balraju and Harish Kumar into custody last night, and produced them before the court today for remand.

MagnificentKartikaDeepotsavam SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER



19 (Indian Chronicle): “In honor of the month of Kartika, special pujas and pallaki seeva of Shiva Parvati were performed in many temples in

Bowenpally sai padamaja avenue colony . The colony became famous with Namaha Shivaya and Harahara Mahadeva names. Later at the temple, Anem Sai Ram and Eswari couple conducted Annadana Prasada program in the temple .Tulsidas, Vikram Mallikarjuna, Hanumath Reddy, Srinivas Reddy in the program and Women of large stature are participated.

Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah performed Bhoomi Puja for canal repair work

“(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 19):- Telangana State Government Whip Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah performed Bhoomi Puja for the repairs of the canal going from Gouraipalli village tank to Kacharam village tank in Yadagirigutta mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. MLA Beerla Ayilaiah said that the repairs of this canal will be done as soon as the Kacharam tank fills up quickly and will be very useful for the farmers.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, R&B CIRCLE MANHERIAL DISTRICT
e-procurement Notice
NIT.No.04/2025-26 Dated:13.11.2025
Name of work: Providing Road Safety Interventions for Basar-Luxettipet road from Km 132/0 to Km 176/700 in Mancheril District. Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 58.00.
Online tenders are invited under e-procurement platform for the above works. Tenderers can download the tender schedules from e-market place i.e. "www.eprocurement.gov.in" from 20.11.2025, 4.00 P.M. Last date and time for receipt of tenders are 27.11.2025 up to 4.00 P.M. Further details can be seen on the e-procurement platform. Self-Superintending Engineer, (R&B) Circle Mancheril R.O.No.:10973-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt.19-11-2025

MCA degree without touching a computer..!“- Bills without teaching“-No practicals“- Corruption of lakhs of rupees per semester“-



-Students losing out badly“Situation of Siddipet PG College MCA Department““(Mandava Srisailam.. Hyderabad... Indian Chronicle November 19):- If a student studies MCA, he should have complete knowledge of computer programs. If he goes out with a degree in his hand, he should get a good job in the market. To get all this, it means that both the teaching and practicals in the two-year MCA course he did should be good. Qualified professors should teach. Experts who are knowledgeable about computer technology should do practicals. Only then will the MCA degree obtained by that student from the university have value. His future will be golden. But, Siddipet PG College is located within the Osmania University. Here, things are different in the MCA department. There are only two assistant professors. You study what they say. Practical only if you do them. Without these, not only semesters.. even a two-year course can be completed.“When the semester comes, it's a feast..“There are four semesters in the two-year MCA course. There are 5 papers in each semester. Here, there are only two assistant professors. There are no teachers to teach the remaining 3 subjects. In the absence of this, papers should be taught by part-time or guest faculty. Practical should be conducted in the same manner. Students who have completed the course allege that nothing like this has happened for years. They complain that no one is teaching the remaining 3 papers. However, it has been learned that they are teaching 3 papers every semester with guest faculty and are taking money from the university. This means that the criticism that they are just swal-

lowing the bills without teaching is strengthened. It is reported that guest faculty bills worth more than Rs. 2 lakh are being drawn from the university in benami names every semester. “Do you suspect the director and principal..?“A professor from the university is the director of the Siddipet PG Center. The PG Center is running under his supervision. The PG Center has a principal who looks after everything at the field level. According to a student who recently completed his course in the same college.. When I was doing MCA, the director came to our college. Without our permission, he asked us what subjects we were teaching. We told him what we were doing. We told them twice that they were teaching only two papers. They asked what was the status of the remaining 3 papers. At that time, I was in my second year. No one told me in the first year. We all said that no one told us in the second year either. Oh, is that happening..? Sir was surprised. After that, our principal came to us immediately and asked why he said that, and threatened to fail all of you in the practicals. After that, the director sir also did not take any action. No faculty was formed to teach those 3 papers. This means that here our college principal and director are doing us injustice by doing a joint business.“No software.. No practicals..“There is no teaching in line with changing technology. Not only this, but at least there are no proper computers in the college. The computers that are there are not working properly. There is no proper software in any of the computers. The course is completed without teaching any of the coding, program writing, and other software courses that should be taught as part of the course. Apart from this, here are the words of another student about the business that takes place during the project. They do not tell us anything about the project. At that time, if you give them Rs. 3 thousand to Rs. 3 thousand, everything will happen. If you don't give money, it will be difficult. That's why we all gave money in our batch. He said that we passed the practicals. That means if you give money without studying and practicals, everything will happen. “VC, please take care of yourself, sir..“Students who have studied and studied the MCA course in Siddipet are being treated badly. The course is completed without teaching and without doing practicals. However, bills are being issued in the names of those who have not been taught in the wrong way. The responsibility of conducting a thorough investigation into this lies with the OU VC. Apart from this, the need to provide justice to the students is also in the hands of the VC. When we went to the Siddipet Principal for an explanation on this matter, we found that he was not available.

Auction for Puja Material Shop at Veluguttta Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Devasthanam on 26th of this Month:E. O. PEDDI GAARI SRIKANTH



““KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 18 (Indian Chronicle)“““The Veluguttta Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Devasthanam in Uppal will conduct an open auction on the 26th of this month (Wednesday) in the temple premises for granting the licence to sell coconuts and puja materials for the year 2026, temple EO Sri Kant announced in a statement.“He informed that only those who agree to the conditions of the auction and submit the signed consent form along with the prescribed deposit will be allowed to

participate. Participants must pay a deposit of ₹10,000. The licence period will be from 01-01-2026 to 31-12-2026.“Participants must pay the auction deposit amount either in cash or by demand draft and bid above the base price fixed by the Devasthanam. Temple staff or individuals who have any pending dues to the temple will not be permitted to participate. Except for the highest bidder, deposits of all other participants will be refunded immediately after the completion of the auction in their presence.“Once the highest bid is announced, the successful bidder must pay 50% of the bid amount immediately at the temple. The remaining amount must be paid within six months. Failure to pay will result in forfeiture of the deposit and the offer will be made to the second-highest bidder, or a fresh auction will be conducted.“The EO clarified that the auction will be subject to the approval of the Endowments Department. The department also reserves full authority to cancel or postpone the auction without assigning any reason.“The successful bidder must execute an agreement on a ₹100 stamp paper in favour of the Executive Officer on the same day and submit two cheques and a copy of their Aadhaar card. If the bidder fails to make the payments, legal action will be taken. The bidder must also prepare and display two price boards in the temple premises. The shop must be operated only in the space allotted by the temple authorities, and it must be vacated and handed back to the Devasthanam upon completion of the licence period, the EO added.

Prisons Emerging as Centres of Reform and Skill Development: DG Sowmya Mishra



Bhukya RanjithNaik,Bhadradi kothagudem , November 19,Indian Chronicle:Telangana Director General of Prisons, Dr. Sowmya Mishra, stated that prisons are no longer mere detention centres but are increasingly becoming institutions of reform, rehabilitation and skill development. She inaugurated a newly established eco-friendly agarbatti (incense stick) manufacturing unit at the Special Sub-Jail in Bhadrachalam on Wednesday.““Speaking on the occasion, the DG said that the new unit uses flowers offered daily at the sacred Bhadrachalam Sri Rama Temple, converting them into charcoal-free, environment-friendly incense sticks. This process, she noted, not only supports temple-area cleanliness and environmental protection but also ensures dignified work opportunities for inmates.““Dr. Mishra explained that the initiative operates under the “Waste to Wealth” concept, transforming temple flower waste into useful products. The programme is designed to equip inmates with productive skills that foster self-development and prepare them for a responsible reintegration into society. Training, discipline and confidence-building, she stressed, remain the core goals of the Prisons

Department.““The DG appreciated the staff for establishing the eco-friendly unit in Bhadrachalam and announced that similar sustainable livelihood projects will be expanded across the state. She noted that a similar unit in Karimnagar has already shown encouraging results, with inmates exhibiting improved discipline, work responsibility and positive behavioural changes.““The Bhadrachalam unit is expected to replicate this model by offering structured training and consistent work opportunities, thereby strengthening the three pillars of prison reform: reformation, rehabilitation and resocialization.““Sub-Collector Mrunal Shrestha, IG Prisons Murali Babu, DIG A. Sridhar, District Jail Officer Sridhar, and Bhadrachalam Sub-Jail Superintendent Upender were present at the programme.

Occupied lanes occupying the road

SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 19 (Indian Chronicle):“Some encroachers have encroached on the road in the pension line under the Cantonment Board's first ward, many government officials and rulers travel through this road regularly, but even though they are openly closing this road and preparing to take up illegal constructions, the local authorities are questioning what is the point of the authorities not paying attention to it, this valuable road is useful for all and should be protected



from the clutches of the encroachers. The local people are demanding that the police and Cantonment Board officials take action.

Whip on encroachments in government places



“SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 19 (Indian Chronicle):“Cantonment Board Action Plan“For the first time in the history of Secunderabad Cantonment, the board administration has formulated an action plan for the removal of encroachments. The Cantonment Board administration is gearing up to crack down on the removal of encroachments from government places. As never before, for the first time, a public notice was issued on Monday to remove encroachments from public roads, canals, drains,

parks, footpaths and government spaces within seven days. It said that the encroachments must be removed within seven days from the date of issue of the notice, otherwise they will be razed without further notice as per the Cantonment Act, 2006. The officials suggested that the encroachers should consider the public notice issued by them as the final notice. People have been asked to cooperate with the Cantonment Board in maintaining government property, public safety and avoiding traffic disturbances. The board officials revealed that if the encroachments are not removed by themselves, they will remove them through a special drive and the cost of this will be collected from the encroachers.“As a result of complaints.“It has been learned that the board administration has taken this decision after receiving large scale complaints for the last few days about the encroachments on the colonies, bastis, main roads and internal roads in the 8 wards of Secunderabad Cantonment. Arvindkumar Dwivedi, who has taken charge as Cantonment Chief Executive Officer in place of D. Madhu Kar Naik, says that he is very serious about this matter. It is known that he has warned the authorities to deal strictly with issues and encroachments that cause problems for the people.

Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh achieves great success in Delhi Public School

“Indian Chronicle OU November 19:BMS achieved a resounding victory in a manner that was unprecedented. BMS achieved a resounding victory with a majority of 11 votes over (BRT U) without any opposition from the workers who had signed 4 agreements even after 14 years, recognizing the work done for the workers.““The workers have given BMS an unwavering support due to better agreements for workers, better welfare outcomes for workers, and protection of workers' rights. BMS has stated that it will always be on the side of the workers by making better agreements for the workers in the coming period. Medchal participated in these celebrationsUrban District Officer Potagani Gopal Goud, Uppal Assembly Convener Devasani“Balachander and other BJP“leaders.successfulmembers Yadagiri, Sampath, Jalla Satish,Kadeer, Venkataiah, Sadhaiah,Mahesh Agaiah Punnam Venkatesh“Dasharath,



Jahangir Prakash Vijay Kumar, Srikanth, Bikshapati“Balaraj Bhagya, Esamma, Aruna,Bhagyamma, Abhishek, Anuradha, Rama,“Swaroop, Nagamani, Andal, N. Lakshmi“Others participated.

Collector Sir.. Just look at this... The students are the cooking masters.. The waiters are the students.



.. Jyothirao Phule in the Gurukulam hostel... This is atrocity.. The principal says this is what..?““(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. November 19):- If the students are educated in

the Gurukulam hostel.. then the parents who dreamt that they will get higher education and get high jobs are constantly disappointed.. In this hostel, the students are the cooking masters... If the students become the waiters.. what is there now.. How will they study now... Parents are worried. Parents of students are demanding that appropriate action be taken against the staff who are doing cooking work with school students at the Jyothirao Phule Gurukulam hostel in Anantaram village of Bhuvanagiri mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district. The parents of the students have questioned the principal on this matter and said that this is all common.. How reasonable is it to explain that I also did such things when I was studying in the hostel? The parents of the students are asking the authorities to take appropriate action against the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district collector, DEO and the relevant officials. When the principal was asked to explain this, he was not available.

Successful 20th National Karate Competitions



““(Mandava Srisailam..Hyderabad Indian Chronicle.. November 19):- “On the occasion of Children's Day““The 20th National Open Karate Championship - 2025 organized by GVR Karate Academy at the LB Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad on November 16 ended with a huge success. 850 karate students, coaches and athletes from 9 states across the country participated and made the competitions exciting.“The event was inaugurated by Justice Surepalli Nanda, Judge of the Telangana High Court, as the chief guest.“ Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Justice Surepalli Nanda, Judge of the Telangana High Court, said, “Such national level karate competitions not only showcase the talent of the athletes but also play an unprecedented role in developing self-confidence, courage and self-defense skills in girls and women. Today, women are at the forefront of every field of society. They need not only physical strength, but also mental strength equally. Self-defense is not just a skill—it is a shield that every girl and woman should have in her life. GVR Karate Academy is very commendable for organizing such powerful programs. Girls should come forward with courage.” He said. Himaytnagar Corporator Mahalakshmi Raman Goud, Kacheguda Corporator Uma Ramesh Yadav, Lions Club 320D First District Governor Lion Dr. Vijayalakshmi, and representatives of the Delines Club participated as special guests. Academy Director Dr. G.S. Gopal Reddy said that special facilities like free accident & medical policy blazers for the senseis, attractive t-shirts for the participants, free entry for para karate players, medical camp have been provided. From under 10 age group to senior citizen, girls and boys. Kata and Kumite competitions were held with great talent in the categories. At the beginning of the program, a wonderful Malcolm performance was held by the students. Later, attractive cultural dance performances captured the attention of everyone. While Vaishnavi emerged as the ‘winner’ with her amazing talent in the girls’ category and impressed the audience, Vishal emerged as the ‘winner’ with his out-

standing skills in the boys’ category and received the appreciation of everyone. The competitions in the veteran category were also a special attraction. Ghazal Pasha emerged as the winner in the 40-year-old category. Laxman Rao achieved the first position with an extraordinary performance in the 50-year-old category. Laxman Rao also emerged as the winner in the Veteran Weapons Championship. He proved his experience and skills once again.“The guests, parents, and coaches who attended congratulated the management of GVR Karate Academy. They urged that more such national level competitions should be held to develop courage, self-confidence, physical strength, and self-defense skills among the youth.

BMS Sweeps Delhi Public School Workers' Union Elections “GrandVictory Rally Held

“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, November 19:““In the Delhi Public School Employees Union elections, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) registered an impressive victory. In the keenly contested elections held on Wednesday, BMS triumphed over the BRTU workers' union. The BMS workers' panel won by a margin of 11 votes.“Out of a total of 288 votes, BMS secured 141 votes, while the BRTU workers' union received 130 votes. Deputy Commissioner of the Labour Department Sanjay Jaju served as the election officer. With a margin of 11 votes, the BMS panel led by President A. Ramu and General Secretary D. Koteswara Rao emerged victorious.“On this occasion, President Ramu and General Secretary Koteswara Rao stated that they would work for the welfare of the workers. They assured that they would continue to fight legally for the rightful entitlements of the employees and pursue their demands with the DPS management.“Grand Victory Rally:“Celebrating their win, BMS union leaders burst fireworks and distributed sweets. BJP district official representative Pothagani Gopal Goud felicitated President Ramu and General Secretary Koteswara Rao with flower garlands. A grand victory rally was organized, featuring DJ music and celebratory dances.“BJP leader Bhanu Chander, BMS Greater Hyderabad President Prakash, several other leaders, and representatives from workers' unions participated in the event.

Study confirms cardiovascular benefits of semaglutide drug beyond weight loss



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

A new analysis of the SELECT trial, the largest and longest clinical trial to date examining the cardiovascular benefits of 'semaglutide' — a medication used to support weight loss and diabetes management — confirms it also lowers the risk of major heart problems in people who are obese and already have heart disease, even if they don't have diabetes. This heart protection happens regardless of how much weight a person loses or their baseline body weight, according to the new study, published in The Lancet on October 22. The SELECT trial originally studied over 17,000 adults with heart disease and a body mass index (BMI) of 27 or higher, comparing semaglutide to a placebo. This new analysis looked closely at how patients' weight and waist size changed during the trial and how those changes related to cardiovascular events such as heart attacks and strokes.

Researchers found that while semaglutide helped people lose weight and reduce waist size, the amount of weight lost early on did not predict who would have fewer

heart problems. However, shrinking waist size — a sign of less belly fat — was linked to better heart outcomes and accounted for about one-third of semaglutide's overall benefit. Senior endocrinologist Dr Shreerang Godbole from Jehangir Hospital, Pune, explains, "We've moved past the outdated 'eat less, move more' mantra as the only solution. We now understand that for many women, obesity is a complex disease. Modern treatments like injectable semaglutide help patients regain control over their appetite and achieve sustainable weight loss." Dr Godbole adds that medication like semaglutide is a science-backed treatment that works with your body's own signals. "Your brain gets messages from different parts of your body, including powerful appetite hormones like GLP-1 (glucagon-like peptide-1), which help regulate how much food you eat. Semaglutide works very similarly to your natural GLP-1. It helps reduce your appetite, so you naturally eat fewer calories. Enhancing the signals of fullness sent to your brain helps you feel satisfied with smaller portions.

When used along with a reduced-calorie diet and increased physical activity, semaglutide is a powerful tool that helps people lose weight and, just as importantly, keep it off for the long term," he adds. "The clinical evidence is compelling. For instance, the landmark SELECT trial showed that semaglutide significantly reduced the risk of heart attack and stroke by 20 per cent in people with overweight or obesity and pre-existing heart disease. By addressing weight, we are proactively protecting the heart for the long term," Dr Godbole adds. Meanwhile, authors of the study say that these findings indicate that semaglutide can offer important heart benefits that go beyond weight loss, opening the door to new ways of treating and preventing serious heart problems in people with obesity and cardiovascular disease.

Tension in Aligarh after 'religious slogans found on walls of four temples'; Karni Sena stages protest

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Aligarh, Karni Sena, Soon after the news spread, members of the Karni Sena reached Bhagwanpur and created a ruckus, alleging that the act was a deliberate attempt to disturb communal harmony in the area. Religious slogans were allegedly found written on the walls of four temples in two villages of Uttar Pradesh's Aligarh on Saturday, prompting protests by locals and members of the Karni Sena who demanded immediate action. The slogans were purportedly found in Bulakgadhi and Bhagwanpur villages. Police have lodged an FIR and said an investigation is underway to verify the allegations. Circle Officer (CO) of Aligarh, Sanjeev Kumar, said the slogans were written at four different locations, and the police promptly removed them to maintain peace and prevent any disturbance to law and order. He added that the situation in the area is now under control.

Soon after the news spread, members of the Karni Sena reached Bhagwanpur and created a ruckus, alleging that the act was a deliberate attempt to disturb communal harmony in the area. Based on a complaint by Gyanendra Singh Chauhan, national vice-president of the Karni Sena, police registered the case against seven people under sections 299 (deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) and 351 (criminal intimidation) of the BNS at Lodha police station in Aligarh. According to police,

while one of the accused is from outside the area, the rest are residents of Bhagwanpur village. No one has been arrested so far. The complaint alleged that the accused were involved in writing religious slogans on the walls of temples in nearby villages, triggering tension in the locality.

Station House Officer (SHO) of Lodha police station, Ankit Kumar, said the complainant has named seven persons and has suspected their involvement in the incident. "We are verifying the allegations and investigating the matter from all angles," he said. According to the SHO, the police received information on Saturday morning that religious slogans had been found written on the walls of four temples in Bulakgadhi and Bhagwanpur villages. A police team immediately reached the spot. But by the time they arrived, members of the Karni Sena were already present and had started protesting. "The police pacified the crowd and removed the slogans from the temple walls," Kumar added. Chauhan claimed that it was his associate, Sachin, who first informed the police about the incident. He added that locals suspected the involvement of some persons — all of whom have been named in the FIR — in carrying out the act. Chauhan further alleged that instead of taking prompt action against the accused, the police focused on removing the slogans and allegedly detained and assaulted Sachin. He also accused the police of trying to suppress the incident. However, SHO Kumar refuted the allegations, and also said Sachin was not detained or assaulted.

SIR likely to commence in Bengal in November; tough task awaits Election Commission as hundreds of BLOs refuse to participate

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

In the following month, political parties will submit their proposals for deletion, modification and inclusion in the lists. In the following month, political parties will submit their proposals for deletion, modification and inclusion in the lists. The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls will likely commence in West Bengal in the first week of November. Sources in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, Saturday told The Indian Express that the exercise may start any day after November 1. Accordingly, they added, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has asked the West Bengal CEO to complete all preparations for SIR by October 31. According to the sources, the SIR process will continue till February in West Bengal. It will be conducted in three phases, and each phase will be completed in one month. In the first month, Booth Level Officers (BLO) will visit households, distribute the enumeration form and verify the names with the 2002 SIR list. BLOs will also help new voters to fill up the enumeration forms. In the following month, political parties will submit their proposals for deletion, modification and inclusion in the lists. In the last month, district electoral officers and other senior officers will verify all information and finalise the voter lists, which will be published in the first or second week of February. Thereafter, the ECI will give seven days to the public to approach them for any modification, after which the final voter lists will be published.

A senior ECI officer said, "It is not possible to complete SIR before the Bengal assembly elections (in 2026), if the process does not begin in November. So, we have no option other than to start SIR in November." Meanwhile, the West Bengal CEO is reportedly facing difficulties in employing Booth Level Officers (BLO) to carry out SIR. Till



now, the office of the West Bengal CEO has summoned at least 600 BLOs for their unwillingness to participate in SIR. On the other hand, the CEO was reportedly informed about irregularities in appointing more than 4,000 BLOs. In another development, the poll body has decided to appoint assistant BLOs to assist BLOs. "BLOs are also feeling unsafe as they will have to go to different areas accompanied by supporters of political parties. If assistant BLOs accompany them, they will feel safer. However, sufficient security arrangements will also be there for the BLOs," said a senior official. ECI has also planned to open a help desk from the district level to the block level electoral office. Each help desk will have 10-13 personnel who will be deputed to provide voters with the necessary information and suggestions. According to sources, mapping and matching work with the 2002 voter lists has been almost completed. Only in some North Bengal districts was the work stalled due to the recent floods. "Now the situation in the North Bengal districts is normal. Matching and mapping have again started. We are expecting that the work will be completed within one week," said a senior poll official.

Cyberabad police bust major corporate extortion racket targeting Hetero Group of Companies

Hyderabad: Cyberabad Cyber Crime Police have arrested two persons on charges of carrying out a highly sophisticated extortion and cyber-intimidation racket targeting the Hetero Group of Companies, one of India's largest pharmaceutical organisations. The arrested individuals have been identified as Yendapally Jessy Sudarshan and Gadi Manikanta. Both hailed from the same village in Andhra Pradesh.

According to a Cyberabad police press release in Hyderabad on Wednesday, Hetero management received several anonymous and pseudonymous emails in August. The email sender, posing as a USFDA official, demanded

a ransom of USD 250 million, alleging that he was in possession of confidential and damaging information about the company's operations and regulatory compliance. The emails threatened that failure to pay the ransom would result in the purported data being forwarded to the United States Food and Drug Administration (USFDA), potentially leading to regulatory complications and reputational damage. The extortionists further claimed to have contacts in the USFDA, escalating fears of imminent action. The company in its complaint maintained that the allegations were baseless and malicious, calculated to coerce the organisation into paying the ransom.

'I could face terrorists, but not my son's addiction': Punjab ex-DGP Mohd Mustafa on 18-year battle against drugs at home



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Former Punjab Director General of Police Mohammad Mustafa, who once led the state's fight against drugs as head of the Special Task Force (STF) on drugs, says his greatest battle was not in the field but within his own home. "I could deal with terrorists, but not my addict son. In the last 18 years, we lived through hell," Mustafa said, his voice heavy with grief. "I lost my mother, father, sister, but the grief of losing a son is the most tragic. It is intense." In a painfully candid conversation with The Indian Express, Mustafa opened up about his 18-year struggle to save his son, Aqil Akhtar, 35, from drug addiction. The fight ended in tragedy when he died earlier this month. Mustafa not only lost his son, but was also booked, along with his wife and former Congress Cabinet minister Razia Sultana in a case of alleged murder. "As I was the STF chief, fighting the state's battle against drugs, I fought a similar but personal battle against drugs at home," he said. Mustafa was appointed to the post in September 2018 during former chief minister Amarinder Singh's tenure. For him, the war against drugs turned inward, consuming his own home and family. "We lived through hell for 18 long years," said Mustafa, who was posted in Punjab during the trouble-torn days of militancy. Recalling the long struggle, he added, "I fought with the drugs at home for 18 years. I never failed in any war as a police officer but failed with the menace of drugs as a father."

"It all started in Class 9" "It all started in 2007 when he was at a boys' school in Dehradun. He was in Class 9. My friend's driver told me he was climbing the walls of his school with another boy and using hookah. Soon after, he was rusticated from the school. Razia and I went to meet the principal. Upon our request, the principal gave us another chance. But after six months, he was terminated again. After that, he was terminated from various schools in Chandigarh, Panchkula and later from colleges in Chandigarh." "He was an intelligent boy. He has once cleared the entrance examination of a prestigious law college. It was in 2021 that he took admission in a law college and completed his degree. I brought him in contact with several lawyers for practice but he never continued with them on one pretext or the other."

Recalling his son's final attempt to recover, Mustafa said, "I took my son to a rehabilitation centre in Patiala last year. In fact, he went to the centre twice. He was there for a few weeks each time. Razia got into depression. She could not sleep. She had to be on medication. Then we got him back. We would order food for him through food-delivery apps. We spoke to the staff of the de-addiction centre every two hours. That was the situation. Then Razia insisted on bringing him back." "On October 14 this year, he called up his mother and said he wanted to go to the de-addiction centre again. I was travelling with my daughter from Delhi. Razia called me saying he wanted to go back to the rehabilitation centre. I heaved a sigh of relief. I made all arrangements, called up the centre and even asked my wife to be strong this time. He had prepared his bag which we discovered after his death. We cried so much after seeing the bag. Had he gone with the bag to the de-addiction centre, he would have been alive today," Mustafa said. "Aqil died on October 16. By the time we found him dead, rigor mortis had already set in. It was not unusual for him to not show up. My daughter said he had not opened the door that day. She insisted on checking. When she knocked, he did not open the door. She threatened him that if he did not open it, they would call the police. Still, there was no response. There was panic. My wife came and so did my daughter-in-law with my grandchildren. She managed to get into his room through the balcony door which was not latched," recalled Mustafa, a four-time winner of the President's Police medal. "She insisted that we take him to the hospital. She hoped against hope. I knew, as a police officer, that he was no more. Yet, we took him to Panchkula hospital in our car. They conducted an ECG on him and declared that he was no more. I ensured that his post-mortem was also conducted," he added.

"You can imagine this father's sorrow. Yet, there are people who are alleging a conspiracy. I welcomed the First Information Report (FIR) registered by the police. I welcome the formation of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and now I also welcome that the Haryana Police wants to hand over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The CBI will investigate it threadbare. I will come out of it clean. My grief is my son's loss. I do not care about anything else. The CBI investigation will silence all this gossip," he said. "My son never sat with me," he added quietly. "Some periods were violent, disturbing, and upsetting... Some were sober. The best period was between March 2021 and 2024. This was when we put him on buprenorphine. I was the STF chief. I saw that this was the drug being given to addicts to wean them off in Punjab. We spoke to a doctor who recommended buprenorphine. But he started taking a higher

amount than was recommended. He was using his father's name to procure it. I used to call up doctors and tell them to give the recommended doses only," said the retired police officer. He added, "I failed. I could not choke the supply for 18 years despite trying my level best. When we were living in a government bungalow in Sector 39 when my wife was the MLA, peddlers used to throw packets in our backyard. This was before 2015. Then we shifted to my current residence in Panchkula. I still remember how someone from Saharanpur, my hometown, came to my house. I continued my usual business, but later I discovered that he had delivered drugs to my son." "We used to check his phone to find out the numbers of peddlers. I got hundreds of peddlers arrested by the police. Yet, could not break his chain. This was my battle for 18 years. I tried my best but could not choke the supply chain. In 10 days, they used to be out. There are so many loopholes in the system. They exploited those." "I wouldn't say my son was constantly on drugs. Sometimes he was off and sometimes he was on. I can say medical narcotics are the worst. Once, he set my room on fire. He was asking for money for drugs, I refused. He set the room ablaze with the help of a cigarette lighter. My cook, Bir Singh, was dousing it when he fainted due to the smoke. He had to be taken to a hospital. This has been our plight. We just handled this all alone. We did not want anyone to know. It was a lonely fight. When your son is an addict, you would not like the world to know about it," he said. From 2018, the 'worst phase'

"The worst phase of our life was from December 2018. Aqil had got married in November 2017, when he was in a sober phase. However, the menace later magnified. He took money from us on the pretext of shopping and bought drugs with that money. Earlier, he was only on weed. After that, he bought heroin, medical narcotics, and what not. On November 25, 2018, our granddaughter was born. She was 35 days old on December 31, 2018. I was the STF chief then. He asked his mother for money. I told her no money is to be given to him as he will buy drugs." "After I left for the office, he got violent at home. My wife shut my daughter-in-law and granddaughter in the bathroom. He was so violent that he threw a stone table top at the window. The window had a secure glass. The glass did not give way, but the stone table top was broken into small pieces. He was so powerful. I do not know from where he got so much strength. That was the day he set my room on fire. I was on my way to my office and had reached near Raj Bhavan when I got a call from home that he was violent. I returned. For two hours, I was really upset. But then, after two hours, the father in me took over... Later, he was sober for some time," Mustafa said. Recalling another terrible phase in March 2023, the former officer said, "His friend, the son of an affluent family — I do not want to name him — introduced him to a drug dealer. This boy was in touch with him for 15 years. I tried my best to snap their contact. I changed my son's phone number. But to no avail. Each time, they reconnected. He gave him ice (crystal meth). That was when his brain got damaged. He got psychosis."

"What he recorded in the video on August 27, 2025 — alleging that I had an illicit relationship with my daughter-in-law, and that my wife and daughter were running a prostitution racket — is not even one-tenth of what he used to say otherwise. He used to say that all politicians come to our house to satisfy their lust," Mustafa said. "Last year, in April, he tortured his wife and shot her video. He beat her up with belts and asked her to confess that she was a prostitute before she married him. You will shudder at the video in which she was being beaten up and forced to say these things. My daughter-in-law appeared to be half-dead. We got up in the morning and he came running to our room saying she had confessed everything. He even alleged that my younger brother, who was a warden at the college she studied, had a relationship with her." Describing another incident, he said that Aqil once put his arm around his wife's neck and pulled her out of his room. "When he was coming out of the lobby, my daughter and I ran towards them. In the melee, I fractured my thumb. Then I thought enough was enough. I called Shibas Kabiraj, who was Police Commissioner of Panchkula for his first term. He sent the Station House Officer (SHO) in five minutes. We handed Aqil over to him. I drafted a formal complaint, giving a 16-year history of his addiction. His mother, sister and wife cried. "However, it did not last. "I was trying to take a stand. But I also gave in. We then called the police and said we want to withdraw our complaint. A father is helpless," said Mustafa, adding, "Then we rented the first floor of our neighbour's place for our daughter-in-law and grandchildren for Rs 60,000 per month. They stayed there, having food in our house." "I could not choke the supply for 18 years," Mustafa repeated. "This was my battle. I tried my best. Still, I could not choke the supply chain." After decades in uniform and countless encounters with Punjab's narcotics networks, the officer was left broken as a father. "You can fight terrorists," he said, "but you cannot fight drugs when they take over your own child." Recalling how his son had prophesied his death, Mustafa said, "In his diary, written a few days before his death, he wrote about how he loved his children but at the same time said that he feared he might die due to an overdose." Aqil's daughter is seven years old, while his son is five. The worst is yet to come, Mustafa said. "We will have to face this tragedy after the final prayers for him on Saturday. Till now, we have been surrounded by friends and relatives. What will happen after that, once we are left to handle our grief on our own? My grandchildren are in school. They will eventually go to college. I will have to be a father to them also."

Delhi schools to admit children to Class 1 at 6+ years from 2026-27; new 'Balvatika' structure to begin in phases

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Parents seeking Class 1 admissions for their children in Delhi schools will soon have to wait until the child turns six, with the Directorate of Education (DoE) formalising the new age rule through a circular issued on Friday. The revised policy will come into effect from the 2026-27 academic session. Starting next year, schools in the capital will have to follow the age criteria strictly, as part of the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020's framework for the foundational stage. Under the new structure, the existing two-year pre-primary setup, including nursery and kindergarten, will be expanded into a three-year system comprising Balvatika 1, 2 and 3. These will be followed by Class 1 at the age of six and above.

According to the circular issued by the DoE to all government, aided, and recognised private schools in Delhi, the restructuring will be implemented in phases. From the

2026-27 academic session, schools will start following the revised age criteria, admitting children aged six and above to Class 1, and three years and above to Balvatika 1. Balvatika 2 (for four-year-olds) and Balvatika 3 (for five-year-olds) will be added in 2027-28 and 2028-29, respectively, completing the three-year pre-primary structure before Class 1. The DoE has said that this phased approach will help schools make the necessary infrastructural and administrative adjustments for the additional year at the pre-primary level. The move, as per DoE officials, aligns Delhi's system with the NEP 2020 and the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, both of which prescribe six years as the minimum age for entry into Grade 1. "The age criteria as detailed in the circular will be implemented in phases starting from the academic session 2026-27," the order stated. It also clarified that the new age norms will not apply to students already enrolled in Nursery to Class 1 during the 2025-26 session.

Police conducting search operation in Faridabad after recovery of huge cache of explosives



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

A day after explosives and inflammable material was recovered from two rented rooms of a Kashmiri doctor in Faridabad, an extensive combing and search operation was being conducted in parts of the district on Tuesday. Preliminary probe into the blast near Delhi's Red Fort that left seven dead and 20 injured on Monday evening has also suggested links to the alleged terror module uncovered in Faridabad. Police on Tuesday said a team is camping at the Al Falah University, where the Kashmiri doctor lived for the past three-and-a-half years, and are questioning staff and doctors at the varsity here, a senior police officer said. Several police personnel are conducting search in the Dhauj police station area, he said. Investigation so far revealed that a cleric here who was detained by police revealed that he had rented out his room to an autorickshaw driver who then gave it to Dr Muzammil for keeping "luggage" in the room. Eight people, including the Kashmiri man and two fellow doctors were arrested for allegedly being part of a white collar terror module involving the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind and

spanning Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, officials said. Two other doctors, Adeel and Shaheen, have also been arrested in connection to the case. A huge cache of arms and ammunition was recovered from two rooms rented by Muzammil Ganaie alias Musaib (35) in Faridabad. A native of Koil in J-K's Pulwama, he was a doctor working at Al Falah University at Dhauj, around 45 km from Delhi. The blast in Delhi occurred hours after the recovery of 2,563 kg of explosives and inflammables from Dahar Colony in Fatehpur Taga village here on Monday. Earlier, around 360 kg of suspected ammonium nitrate and a cache of arms and ammunition were recovered. The recoveries were made from the Kashmiri doctor's rented accommodation in Faridabad, bordering Delhi. A high-intensity explosion ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening, killing at least nine people and gutting several vehicles, officials said.

On Monday, Faridabad Police said in a statement that approximately 2,900 kg of inflammables and explosive material was recovered in a joint operation by Faridabad Police and Jammu and Kashmir Police. Muzammil was arrested after the J-K Police named him as a wanted person in a case involving putting up posters supporting the Jaish-e-Mohammed in Srinagar. During the investigation, Muzammil's activities were found to be suspicious, following which a team from the Nowgam police station in Kashmir arrested Muzammil with the assistance of the Faridabad Crime Branch. Police said that on Sunday, 358 kg of explosive material suspected to be ammonium nitrate, a Krinkov assault rifle with three magazines, a pistol with 2 cartridges, 91 live rounds and two magazines were recovered from the room of a house in Dhauj, located just 500 metres from the Al Falah University. Among other articles, police had also seized timers, batteries, remote controls, electrical circuits, wires, and a metal seat from the room.

Art institute partners with PMC to turn pedestrian stretch into a platform for creativity for a day

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

There's rarely a quiet moment on JM Road, especially during the day when traffic roars and pedestrians rush to reach their destination. On November 16, however, a small part of this busy and bustling road will become something more – colourful, celebratory and creative. The pavement, between Balgandharva Police Chowki and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Garden, will turn into an art gallery from early morning to late in the evening as the first Street Art Festival 2025, organised by the Bharati Vidyapeeth College of Fine Arts and the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), takes place. The festival seeks to bring art closer to people, who otherwise do not find the time or opportunity to visit galleries.

"There will be a variety of art on display, from painting and sculpture to pottery and ceramics," said Dr Girish Charwad, an Associate Professor at the Bharti Vidyapeeth College of Fine Arts. The participants will range from students and alumni of the college to freelancers. An application process was carried out on the PMC Care app between November 6 and 9. A committee will select the participating artists from the list of applicants. "Keeping the space in mind, we have decided to showcase 50 artists," says Charwad. It is symbolic that the festival is being held on the street and signifies the organisers' intent to democratise art. The inspiration for the Pune Street Art Festival is the famous Chitra Santhe, which is organised annually by the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, in Bengaluru. Held on January 5 this year, the Chitra Santhe, which has been held for 22 years, had 1,500 participating artists and lakhs of visitors.

"PMC is celebrating its 75th anniversary while the Bharti Vidyapeeth College of Fine Arts has turned 25. We decided to hold a street art festival that would increase awareness of multiple genres, give visibility to artists, who have been badly affected by the Covid years, and ensure a good experience for everybody," says Charwad. The festi-



val will include sale of the works at zero commission, with all earnings kept by the artist. The price of the works is expected to start at Rs 500. An important facet of the festival is to make space for dialogues between the artists and the visitors. Such conversations are, often, not possible even at well-known galleries. "You can speak to artists to understand how they spend decades on their practice. Their lives witness moments of triumph and tribulation but, despite it, they continue to make art. People, who are not associated with art, rarely appreciate the rigour that goes behind an artwork. We are looking forward to many such dialogues so that people can understand the journey of an artist," says Charwad.

He adds that the festival hopes to reach children, who are obsessively scrolling, and parents, who are helpless in the digitalised world. "We feel that if a child is encouraged to spend that time in any kind of art, it would be beneficial for them. Adults under stress can also feel inspired to take up an art form. Meeting artists might inspire people to try their hands at creativity," says Charwad. It is to this effect that the festival will include sessions of artists demonstrating their skill and making art before visitors. "Art is an essential part of everybody's life. It contributes to society. The street art festival is a salute to all creative pursuits," says Charwad.

In pacer Renuka Thakur's unprecedented success, her native village of Parsa reclaimed its lost glory

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Behind the success of pacer Renuka Singh Thakur, the elders of her native village of Parsa see the reclamation of their lost glory. There was a time when the entire region would celebrate the unmatched physical strength of the Parsa people, particularly the men, who would win the 'rassa-kassi' (tug-of-war) competition held at the Rohru fair every April.

"The way Renuka is being appreciated and welcomed gives us a feeling of déjà vu. Decades ago, our men were unbeatable in the rassa-kassi competition across the entire Mahasu region, which now includes Shimla, Solan and large parts of Sirmour district. Later, the competition was dropped from the fair, only to be reintroduced recently, but only for women. After India's victory in the Women's World Cup, Renuka visited all local shrines, like the players of our village used to do after winning the rassa-kassi," Parsa pradhan Ganesh Dutt Sharma (75) told The Indian Express.

Sharma, who retired as the chief administrative officer at Shimla district courts in 2014, added, "I had heard much about the physical endurance of Renuka's grandfather Parmanand Thakur, but I personally witnessed the strength of one of her uncles Thakur Kamla Nand, who would pull the rope either from the front or the end during the competition. I'm sure Renuka draws her immense physical strength from her ancestors. Late Kahan Chand Sharma was the captain of the village's tug-of-war team. Pehle to Parsa ka naam sirf elake mein mashhoor tha, par ab is beti ne Parsa ka naam poore duniya mein roshan kar diya hai (Earlier, Parsa was famous only in the region, but now its daughter has put it on the world map)." Purshotama Devi Sharma, Pradhan of the village Mahila Mandal (Women's Circle), said, "Although the women's team of our village participates in the rassa-kassi at Rohru fair, they are yet to achieve the glory the men of our village once enjoyed. We regret that, but this girl, Renuka Singh Thakur, has filled that void. We are proud of our daughter." She said the women's team from nearby Tikkar village has been winning the final rassa-Kassi competition for several years. After winning the World Cup, Renuka visited Parsa on Sunday amid a rousing welcome by villagers. Renuka, along with her mother Sunita Thakur and brother Vinod, first visited the Hatkoti temple. On Mon-



day, the family offered prayers at Mahasu Devta Temple at Hanol in Uttarakhand. Renuka's uncle Bhupinder Thakur, who first identified her talent and sent her to a women's cricket academy in Dharamshala, said, "Her physical strength is genetic. Our family belongs to a martial community. My father was known for his exceptional strength in the region. Our ancestors shifted to Parsa for its fertile agricultural land, which is particularly suitable for rice cultivation. They would carry heavy sacks of rice on their shoulders from the riverbanks to the fields uphill. International shooter Zeena Khitta also hails from Parsa. "Parsa residents demanded adequate playgrounds for children to nurture their sporting talent.

"I first spotted Renuka bowling to a male batsman years ago at a small playground. Given the tough and rugged topography, there is little scope for large playgrounds in most parts of the state. Games like volleyball and kabaddi are more popular since these require less space compared to cricket or football," said Bhupinder Thakur, Principal of a Degree College in Theog, who is also a volleyball coach and an international referee. Parsa village, comprising around 81 households, was once under the jurisdiction of neighbouring Lower Koti Gram Panchayat before it was granted the status of an independent panchayat. The village is largely inhabited by Rajput and Brahmin families. Renuka's ancestors originally lived in Lower Koti before migrating to Parsa for farming. Renuka lost her father, Kehar Singh Thakur, an employee of the Irrigation and Public Health (IPH) Department, when she was just three.

MSETCL honoured globally for Best Public Relations



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

The "World Innovation and Change interbManagement Institute" has announced the international award 'PRO PR Globe Social Responsibility Communication Achievement Award' for Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Company limited (MSETCL). MSETCL has been selected for this award for setting a new benchmark in social accountability and effective public relations, an official statement issued today said.

The award will be presented to MSETCL at the PRO PR Roman Forum, an international conference to be held

in Rome, on January 28, 2026. This year, a total of 76 international Judges from six continents evaluated the communication, Social Responsibility and Public Relations projects of various organizations. They ranked MSETCL among the top three organizations in the world in the "Social Responsibility Communication Achievement" category. The feature of the award is that no fee is charged for the award. The initiative has been organized by the Croatia-based Apriori World Agency, for the past 14 years. The agency is supported by four global Public Relations organizations including the Public Relations and Communications Association (PRCA), the International Public Relations Association (IPRA), Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) and the International Communications Consultancy Organization (ICCO). The prime objective of this award is to globally recognize and promote positive, transparent and innovative initiatives in the social, environmental and communication sectors. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Chairman and Managing Director of MSETCL attributed the success to the company's Public Relations department and its positive organizational work. He said that understanding the ongoing creative and innovative work and new changes in the media, the Public Relations department of the MSETCL has brought about positive changes by diversifying its work.

For its hotels, CITCO mulls PPP mode, forms 7-member panel

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

To enhance the efficiency of its hotels, the Chandigarh Industrial and Tourism Development Corporation Limited is considering shifting to public private partnership mode and has constituted a seven-member committee to study best practices in this regard. The committee has been formed to study and benchmark best practices for operating public sector hospitality units, including hotels, under the PPP mode, with a view to enhancing efficiency, service quality and financial sustainability of its hotels. As per details, the committee will be headed by general manager (finance and accounts). The committee has been tasked to visit and study other states/UTs/corporations where hotels/restaurants are being run on PPP basis. The committee will submit its report at the earliest possible. The employees' union that is against the PPP model has written to the chairman and managing director of CITCO. The union said that they are writing to express their concern regarding the adoption or implementation of the PPP model in CITCO. "It has come to notice that CITCO has adopted the public-private partnership (PPP) model for CITCO hotels. It appears that CITCO has already started leasing out some of its properties/units under this model, which is causing financial losses," they specified. They quoted a few examples. Like the Drop-In cafe, Sector 34, Chandigarh. As regards drop-in leasing out to private party, the party has not deposited the licence fee since the allotment in 2020. The matter has been under dispute and no payment has been made by the party to date. Due to this nonpayment and court fees, the corporation has been incurring financial losses and the revenue from the unit concerned has remained blocked, resulting in CITCO facing revenue losses, they mentioned. It was also mentioned that as for Baithak Restaurant and Banquet, Kalagram unit leasing out to the private party, the party surrendered the premises without prior notice and also did not clear their outstanding dues. At present, the Baithak, Kalagram, is not functional resulting in CITCO facing revenue losses, they mentioned. Regarding Magic Wok Restaurant, Hotel Mountview, they said that the management had decided to lease out the "Magic Wok" Chinese restaurant at Hotel Mountview (a five-star property of CITCO) to



a private party for operation. However, this proposal also did not succeed. "Presently, neither the Chinese restaurant nor the Indian restaurant at Magic Wok has started functioning at Hotel Mountview, Sector 10, Chandigarh," it mentioned. On Health Club, Hotel Mountview, it was said that the club is a good example for CITCO authorities, as they decided to re-tender its contract. "This decision was made because the party was not providing satisfactory services, and the rates offered by the Health Club of Hotel Mountview were much lower. CITCO decided to re-enter the tender process. However, the existing licensee of the health club did not vacate the premises, as he had filed a court case against CITCO in the District Court which passed the order in favour of the licensee. Now, the case is still under dispute in High Court.

The licensee continues to operate the health club without interruption. As a result, CITCO is facing financial losses," it said. "Our hotels are performing very well, and the revenue can increase further if the management improves operational efficiency and attract a greater number of guests. It is necessary to recruit skilled staff and undertake renovation of the existing hotel properties. These measures will enhance service standards, strengthen the brand image and identity, and ultimately lead to improved revenue generation. We are humbly requesting the CITCO management not to adopt/consider the public-private partnership (PPP) model for CITCO hotels," they said.

Tractors, chulhas, & langar: PU protest take leaf out of farmers' playbook

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

The Panjab University (PU) campus resembled a farmers' protest site on Monday with tractors, vans carrying langar, chulhas burning for hot tea, and water stations, near the office of the Vice-Chancellor (V-C) and Dean of Students' Welfare. Various student organisations of PU have come together under the banner of 'Panjab University Bachao Morcha', and were joined by farm leaders from across Punjab, including ones associated with the Samyukta Kisan Morcha, Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee, Bhartiya Kisan Union as a mark of solidarity.

The students are staging protests to demand the official announcement of the pending Senate elections, and say that they will continue the agitation, calling for a PU Bandh until the schedule is released. There was heavy police deployment both on campus and near the gates of PU, with several students accusing the personnel of denying them entry to the campus despite valid identity cards and termed the move as "undemocratic". Earlier in the day, the barricade of Gate Number 1 was broken by students, who scaled university gates, and clashed with police personnel, and students shouted, 'Go Back Chandigarh Police'. Several checkpoints and barricades were set up on campus and roads around PU, with buses also deployed here. Darshan Singh, here with 28 farmers from Barnala since 10 am, said they were here to support students. "We want to say, don't sell this University, don't make it a place where only the rich can get an education," the farmer said. Armaan, who is doing M.Sc from DAV College Chandigarh, said that his parents also studied here, and there is a "deep connection" with PU. "Voices are being suppressed, and as students we must have a wider representation. Why are we being oppressed by both the authorities and the government," he asked. As per a senior member of the Students' Council, the campus witnessed more than 8,000 protesters on Monday from across Punjab, with banners, loudspeakers, generators, and tents in place to continue the protest until Senate elections are held.

Jasleen Kaur, a student of engineering, who has been sitting here 10 am says the protest is to also draw the attention of the authorities for a dire need of democracy on campus, and the Senate elections are a step forward to ensure checks, balances and equal rights. Several leads like Dr Amar Singh, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Dr Dharamvira Gandhi, Rana Gurjeet Singh, Partap Singh Bajwa, Dalvir Singh Goldy also visited the dharna.

Davi, a former student and former journalist, said slowly and steadily, things are slipping away, and in the process, the standard of education and academics are suffering. "While we are happy that people of all walks of life have joined the protest, and are supporting the students,



Several leads like Dr Amar Singh, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Dr Dharamvira Gandhi, Rana Gurjeet Singh, Partap Singh Bajwa, Dalvir Singh Goldy also visited the dharna.

the sentiment of religion must not be used here," Davi added. Navjot, who is doing B.Ed from a college affiliate to PU in Bhatinda, says she is here to show her solidarity, and also because she feels very strongly for PU. "We have to study logic, analysis, science to grow. If there is a Senate, we will have a syllabus that is in sync with the times, else we will have to eat what they give us.

Close by, chulhas have been burning since 6 am, with a PU scholar from Mohali and some students making sure that there is an uninterrupted flow of hot tea for the protesters. "Water, milk, biscuits, tea leaves, we are not falling short of anything, as farmers, former professors, and students are getting all this and more," he shared. A van from the gurdwara in Phase 8, Mohali is serving hot dal and rotis, with police personnel also urged to share a bite. "They are following orders, we have to serve everyone," said Avtar, one of the servers. Posters of "Save PU, Save Senate" were everywhere, with a leader of a labour organisation from Ludhiana sharing how PU is an example of a democratic institution, and how the Centre is slowly destroying its essence. Mandeep Punja, a former student, recalled how many years back,

a fee hike was rolled back because the students had the support of the Senate. "We have tasted the power of the Senate and Syndicate, and internal democracy. This protest has the support of artists, academicians, former PU professors, thinkers, and the public," he added. Amarjeet Singh, a leader from BKU, added that he salutes the students and unions who have stood strong. "So many of us had given land for this university, and we cannot see it destroyed by the agendas of the RSS, that is slowly destroying our culture and institutions," he said.

Fraudsters used 6,500 bank accounts to split Rs 58 crore they cheated from 72-year old Mumbai share trader and his wife to avoid money getting tracked



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

After Maharashtra cyber police was alerted about the scam, they began a probe and started looking through details of the various bank accounts where the money had been transferred.After Maharashtra cyber police was alerted about the scam, they began a probe and started looking through details of the various bank accounts where the money had been transferred.Maharashtra Cyber police, probing one of the largest cyber cons in the country, where a 72-year-old share trader lost Rs 58 crore in a 'digital arrest' fraud, have found that the fraudsters used 6,500 bank accounts across the country to stagger the ill-gotten gains in a bid to avoid it being tracked.An officer said that cyber fraudsters strategised carefully to ensure that the money is spread out immediately after the crime so that it could not be blocked in one or few accounts. So far, seven account holders and their handlers have been arrested by the police.

An official said that the 6,500 accounts that have been used in the fraud are all within the country. "In some cases, withdrawals have been made by fraudsters from a bank using a cheque to break the link of accounts across which the money has been transferred," a senior official said.The official added that after withdrawing the money by cheque, they deposit the money in another account of the same bank which is unlinked to the other accounts and thus, is not traced by cops."Earlier they would withdraw money from ATMs where we could identify them from the CCTV cam-

era as it would be one person at one time. Now when we try checking bank CCTVs, it is outsourced to a third party and nabbing them becomes difficult. Even if we do, it becomes difficult to identify the accused as many people are present at one time in the bank," the official said."As we learn about their various modus operandi, fraudsters too keep evolving their methods. After they realised we managed to block particular accounts, they used tricks like spreading the money across hundreds...or in this case thousands of accounts," the official added.He added that so far they have arrested five persons whose accounts were used or who used others bank accounts to move the money. " Usually in digital arrest cases, we find that calls are made from countries like Laos and Cambodia while money is moved across accounts, converted into cryptocurrency and sent outside the country to the masterminds," the official added.

In this particular case, the 72-year-old complainant was first called by the accused on August 19 who claimed to be from the ED and CBI. The accused told the complainant that there was "illegal funds" in his bank account and that they were placing him under digital arrest. The accused also sent some documents to prove that they were "genuine officers".The accused asked the complainant and his wife to transfer funds to their account so that they can verify the money was genuine following which they were told that the money would be transferred back to their accounts.Between August 19 and October 8, the complainant and his wife transferred Rs 58.13 crore through RTGS to various bank accounts provided by the accused. The police found that the money was transferred through 18 bank accounts across Maharashtra and other states.After Maharashtra cyber police was alerted about the scam, they began a probe and started looking through details of the various bank accounts where the money had been transferred.Accordingly, they identified three mule account holders who had provided their accounts identified as Abdul Khulli (47) from Malad, Arjun Kadwasara (55) from Chira Bazaar and his brother Jetharam (35) from Mumbai Central who were placed under arrest on Wednesday. Four others were arrested on Thursday.The cyber police are currently interrogating the accused to get some details about the main accused who carried out the scam.

Karnataka govt approves occupancy certificate exemption for buildings on small plots in municipalities

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

The Karnataka government on Thursday decided to issue notifications to exempt buildings built on properties measuring 1,200 square feet, and going up to three floors, from the mandate of occupancy certificates if the building plan has an approval in areas under state municipalities and municipal corporation laws."Cabinet has decided to exempt from obtaining Occupancy Certificate (OCC) for buildings up to 1,200 sq ft in area constructed with the approval of the Government on plots up to 1,200 sq ft in area under the authority of the Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964," the cabinet noted.

The cabinet also decided to issue a notification under the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act, 1976, to exempt buildings going up to three floors on plots with areas of 1,200 sq feet from obtaining an occupancy certificate, subject to the plan approvals for the buildings."Keeping in mind the convenience of the public, it is appropriate to exempt buildings of this scale from the requirement of obtaining an Occupancy Certificate," the cabinet noted.Greater Bengaluru Authority region OC exemption

Last month, the Karnataka government had issued a notification exempting small-scale residential buildings in the Greater Bengaluru area from obtaining occupancy certificates. The government order issued by the Urban Development Department provided relief to homeowners constructing residential buildings on plots up to 1,200 sq ft.Under the directive, buildings with ground plus two floors or three floors constructed on plots not exceeding 1,200 sq ft within the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) jurisdiction will not require occupancy certificates.The exemption in Bengaluru was under Section 241(7) of the GBA Act, which came into force earlier this year. This section specifically empowers the government to "notify the category of building which shall be exempted from obtaining occupancy certificate".

The Karnataka government has been deliberating decisions for creating "equal opportunities in all applicable laws regarding the functioning of local bodies across the state" for building possession certificates. The move is expected to benefit the construction sector, particularly small-scale residential projects.According to official data, approximately 4,000 buildings on sites smaller than 1,200 sq ft receive plan approvals annually from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike zonal offices. Currently, building plan approvals are processed through the automated 'Nambike Map' system. Draft plans are provided the same day upon application, and the final plan approval is granted within 15 days.According to government officials, the traditional oc-



cupancy certificate process involved extensive site inspections and comparative verification between constructed buildings and approved plans, creating a substantial workload for local body officers, leading to potential delays and a lack of transparency.By eliminating the occupancy certificate requirement for small buildings, the government aims to reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka government has postponed a decision on providing electricity and water connections to existing buildings constructed without obtaining completion certificates and occupancy certificates. A large number of these buildings are in Bengaluru. Many buildings are in limbo as electricity and water supply agencies have refused to provide connections without these certificates following a December 2024 Supreme Court order that bars public utility providers from granting connections to unapproved structures.Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has directed officials to examine whether other states were uniformly implementing the apex court's order. The chief minister's office said that the state, while respecting court orders, must also find a solution to the problems faced by the public.A meeting chaired by the state chief secretary with Siddaramaiah and senior ministers on October 8 remained inconclusive.During a previous cabinet meeting, the state advocate-general had cited sections of the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, which provides for exemptions for buildings without occupancy certificates. Section 241 of the Act allows the government to notify the category of buildings to be exempted from obtaining OCCs, the advocate-general said."The Government may notify a category of buildings which can be exempted if there is proper justification and application of mind for doing the same. There cannot be general exemption of any sort; it can only be for a category and based on cogent reasons, keeping in mind the larger public interest and orderly urban development," the advocate-general said.

High Court adjourns plea seeking CBI probe into IPS officer Y Puran Kumar's death

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Friday adjourned the hearing of a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the suicide of senior IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, after observing that the petitioner's counsel was not prepared with arguments.Chief Justice Sheel Nagu, who was heading the bench, expressed displeasure over the lack of readiness and listed the matter for a later date.

During the hearing, the bench posed a series of pointed questions. "What are the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court for a CBI probe?" the Chief Justice asked, to which the counsel sought time to respond. Chief Justice Nagu then remarked, "Why did you start arguments when you are not ready?" before asking, "How do we decide that the case is fit for transfer?" The counsel again requested additional time, prompting the court to adjourn the case.The counsel representing the Union Territory (UT) of Chandigarh opposed the plea, submitting that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) has already been set up to probe the incident.

He pointed out that the First Information Report was registered on October 9, two days after the incident, and the PIL was filed on October 13. The UT counsel argued that the petitioner, Navneet Kumar of Ludhiana, had no personal connection to the matter and approached the court merely after reading newspaper reports. "There is no allegation of bias or political interference," he said, questioning the maintainability of the petition.The PIL, filed under Articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution, seeks a CBI probe into the alleged suicide of Kumar, a Haryana-cadre IPS officer found dead on October 7 at his official residence in Chandigarh with a gunshot wound to the head. Multiple suicide notes were reportedly recovered, including one dated September 7, allegedly naming eight IPS officers and two IAS officers as responsible for his mental distress and alleging abetment, caste-based harassment, and conspiracy.The petitioner, a 43-year-old NGO president, claims that the Chandigarh Police investigation is compromised due to institutional overlap, as the deceased served under the Haryana government while the UT administration has ties with both Haryana and central establishments.

Months after Bengaluru cricket stadium stampede, Karnataka Govt begins process to set up new 80,000-capacity stadium at cost of Rs 2,350 crore



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

The Karnataka Cabinet Thursday decided to consider clearances for a new cricket stadium after a Detailed Project Report (DPR) is prepared, following an in-principle approval by the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) to facilitate the construction of a stadium for 80,000 spectators in rural Bengaluru.The new cricket stadium has been projected as being necessary for Bengaluru, as the existing M Chinnaswamy Stadium, operated by the Karnataka State Cricket Association, has a capacity of only 33,000 spectators.The Cabinet mentioned in a note on Thursday, "The Karnataka Housing Board has given in-principle approval to the implementation of the project of an international-level cricket stadium and complex on a 75-acre plot of land in Indlavadi village under the Comprehensive Development Plan in Suryanagar-4th Phase Layout, Bangalore City, at a cost of Rs 2,350 crore. The KHB has been asked to present it again before the Cabinet for a decision after a detailed project report."The Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru is old and has a capacity of only 38,000. Many cities, both big and small, have stadiums that are bigger than Bengaluru. A Bengaluru Stadium, which meets the needs of the city with all the modern facilities, is a must for the city," it further said.In arguments in the Karnataka High Court in a suo motu case taken up by the court over the stampede deaths, the state advocate general told the court that the cause of the stampede was the nearly 2.5 lakh fans trying to access the stadium, which can accommodate 33,000 fans.

"The event (at the stadium) was organised on behalf of RCB by DNA Event Management. KSCA is in charge of the stadium. All the security is provided by them in the stadium. All the deaths happened at the entry gates of the sta-

dium. The problem is that 33,000 people were expected – which is the capacity of the stadium – but 2.5 lakh people turned out," Advocate General K M Shashikiran Shetty told the Karnataka High Court.Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is an avid cricket enthusiast and often watches matches at the KSCA stadium in Bengaluru, was also asked after the stampede regarding the capacity and traffic problems linked to the present stadium, and he responded, saying, "The government will look into this matter."According to senior state officials, including those from the police department, "the long-term solution to prevent incidents like the stampede is the relocation of the cricket stadium to a higher capacity facility somewhere on the outskirts of the city."The Justice John Michael D'Cunha judicial commission set up to probe the June 4 stampede at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium has recommended that no major public events should be held at the stadium till safety measures are installed.The commission recommended the introduction of several measures at the stadium – including adequate entry and exit gates, integration with public transport facilities, and infrastructure for emergency responses – before conducting any future public event.

"Until such infrastructural changes are made, continuing to host high-attendance events at the current location poses unacceptable risks to public safety, urban mobility and emergency preparedness," the judicial commission has said in a recommendation made in a report submitted to CM Siddaramaiah on July 11.The commission stated in its report that without addressing "systemic limitations" at the Bengaluru cricket stadium – located in the heart of the city on the M G Road – it would not be appropriate to hold large public events at the stadium.Given the systematic limitations, "the commission strongly recommends that stadium authorities consider relocating events that are expected to attract large crowds to venues that are better suited for such large gatherings," the report has stated."The design and structure of the stadium were unsuitable and unsafe for mass gathering. All the entry and exit gates were directly opening into the public footpath. Spacious and organised holding area for crowd were not provided at the entry, as a result, the audience were forced to queue up on the footpath or the road abstracting and endangering the pedestrians and vehicular movements as well as giving scope for the miscreants to join the crowd aggravating the risk especially in the absence of proper security management," the Justice D'Cunha commission report said.

‘Appreciation I received motivated me to keep running’: Meet the 55-year-old cop who won the Delhi Half Marathon

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Singh participated in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon for the first time in 2015, finishing first in the Delhi Police Cup category.Singh participated in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon for the first time in 2015, finishing first in the Delhi Police Cup category. Subhash Singh has been running half marathons since 2015 and has won several. Last Sunday, the 55-year-old Delhi Police head constable took part in the Delhi Half Marathon — and came first in the 55-59 category.He completed the 21-km race in 1 hour, 26 minutes, and 54 seconds — the fastest time recorded in the age category.Congratulating him on his success, the Delhi Police, through its official X account, stated, "Your dedication and determination are truly inspiring."Singh, who hails from Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu, is posted at the Delhi Police Academy (DPA) in Jharoda Kalan, where he provides sports training to new recruits. He runs daily to maintain his fitness and plays basketball and other sports.Head constable Subhash Singh (Express Photo) Head constable Subhash Singh (Express Photo)Speaking to The Indian Express, Singh said, "Except the Covid period when it was paused, I have participated in every marathon organised in Delhi and other cities since 2015."Singh participated in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon for the first time in 2015, finishing first in the Delhi Police Cup category. "I was posted in the New Delhi district at the time. The appreciation I received from my seniors after that victory motivated me to keep running for the force," Singh said."My dream is to participate in the Procam Slam run in the future. I have already



registered for upcoming races in Kolkata and Mumbai, and I hope to make my force proud," Singh added.Having retired from the Indian Army from the post of Havildar, Singh joined the Delhi Police as a constable in 2007. He was promoted to head constable three years ago. He lives with his wife and two sons in a rented accommodation in Delhi's Rohini.In 2024, Singh secured the first prize in the Tata Mumbai Marathon in the 50+ age category, completing the 21-km race."Our whole family has always believed in staying fit. My younger son plays basketball alongside his studies," he added.Over 40,000 runners participated in the Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon 2025 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium. Among them were 600 Delhi Police personnel, ranging from constables to DCPs. The marathon featured three race categories: 5 km, 10 km, and 21 km.

Video of Punjab AAP MLA's son firing gunshots at a party goes viral; 'it's a toy gun', claims Jiwan Singh Sangowal

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Sangowal VideoHarjinder Singh, Ludhiana Assistant Commissioner of Police (South) said that the MLA's son has been called for questioning with the weapon seen in the video.A purported video of the son of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Jiwan Singh Sangowal allegedly firing gunshots in the air during a party in Punjab's Ludhiana district went viral Friday, prompting the police to launch an investigation into the incident.In the video, Jagpal Singh, the younger son of AAP's Gill MLA Jiwan Singh Sangowal, is purportedly seen firing multiple times in the air using a weapon.Police sources said that the incident happened during a pre-wedding party at Gill village of Ludhiana district a few days ago. In the video, MLA Sangowal's elder son Davinder Singh alias Laadi is also seen in attendance with his brother. As Jagpal purportedly fires from the weapon multiple times on the dance floor, his brother, Davinder, then puts his hand on his shoulder and asks him to stop. Ruling AAP MLA ?@JiwanSangowal?'s son Jagpal Singh allegedly opened fire multiple times at a party some days ago in Gill village of Ludhiana district. Police says investigation has started and the son has been called for questioning with the weapon Harjinder Singh, Ludhiana Assistant Commissioner of Police (South) said that Jiwan Singh Sangowal's son has been called for questioning with the weapon seen in the video to verify facts. "We have called him for questioning and to verify details. Action will be taken accordingly," said the ACP.MLA Jiwan Singh Sangowal confirmed to The Indian Express that the man seen firing in the video was his son. He, however, claimed that his son Jagpal was firing from a "toy gun."



"It is the handiwork of Opposition parties, including Congress and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) to defame us. They have made the video viral to defame me, our party and the AAP government. In the video, the weapon from which my son is seen firing is a toy gun, and not an original one. It's a sort of air gun that children play with on Diwali and is commonly available in homes," claimed the MLA.Divya Goyal is a Principal Correspondent with The Indian Express, based in Punjab. Her interest lies in exploring both news and feature stories, with an effort to reflect human interest at the heart of each piece. She writes on gender issues, education, politics, Sikh diaspora, heritage, the Partition among other subjects. She has also extensively covered issues of minority communities in Pakistan and Afghanistan. She also explores the legacy of India's partition and distinct stories from both West and East Punjab.

The curious history of how quantum mechanics came to be ‘seen’ in an electrical circuit

Searching for George in Chennai's George Town

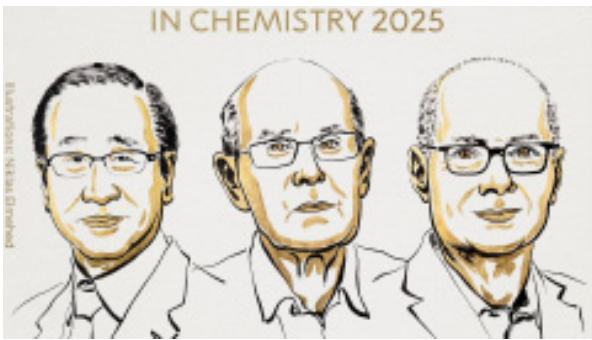


Last week, I went to George Town after a considerable hiatus. Walking there, always a challenge, becomes more so for me, as practically every nook and cranny is a lesson in history. The area is also, sadly, a perfect instance of how not to maintain a heritage precinct. For all that we are repeatedly told that we need to look to Singapore as our role model, in my view, it should be Galle in Sri Lanka or George Town in Malaysia that we need to look to for what can be done with our George Town.

I was also much saddened by the many familiar landmarks that seem to have vanished to make way for tasteless commercial buildings and high rises in an area that can scarcely accommodate any further congestion. I wonder who is responsible for giving permissions for such buildings. But then, as a Commissioner of the Greater Chennai Corporation famously told the High Court of Madras a few years ago, 90% of buildings in George Town are in violation of some code or the other. So perhaps, nobody is really in charge. The Corporation seems to have added to the chaos in recent times. For a century and more, the rear of the Flower Bazaar police station had a triangle with a statue of King George V in its midst. The statue itself was funded by the Govinddoss Chaturbhujadoss family, wealthy Gujarati magnates of George Town and among the financiers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills when they were begun in the 1860s. The statue's sponsor was Kushaldoss Chaturbhujadoss "on behalf of the citizens of Madras." The sculptor was Sir Bertram Mackennal. Of Australian origin, he was something of a specialist on George V memorabilia, designing statues, stamps, and coinage.

The statue was erected here in 1913, ostensibly to commemorate the coronation of the King Emperor in 1911 in the grand durbar in Delhi and also to mark the change of name from Black to George Town, which was done in 1905, when as Prince of Wales he visited Madras. A deputation of citizens waited upon the Prince, and requested that Black Town be so renamed. That then is the history of the statue. Now, I am not so sold on the idea of statues commemorating anyone, leave alone colonial rulers and officials. But if we have decided to retain the statue, we may as well give it some space to breathe and enable passersby to take a look at it. That is how the statue was all along, though its pedestal was put to a variety of not-so-complimentary uses. But in the last few months, some bright spark in the Corporation decided to put up a series of shops all around the statue. These, despite a plaque marking the inauguration of the complex, seem to have not been allotted to anyone and are all shuttered. The alleys between the shops are so narrow that they have become convenient rubbish dumps and open latrines, and the stench is unbearable. The poorly-designed warren of shops is for evicted hawkers from the NSC Bose Road footpaths – an ongoing battle since the 1950s, with the late Traffic Ramaswami being the most memorable crusader. They may never serve to rid the area of hawkers, but they have managed to completely hide old King George. A brave foray into the lanes revealed the statue hemmed in and with the King Emperor seemingly craning his neck to get a better view of the world outside. The sun has finally set on the British Empire.

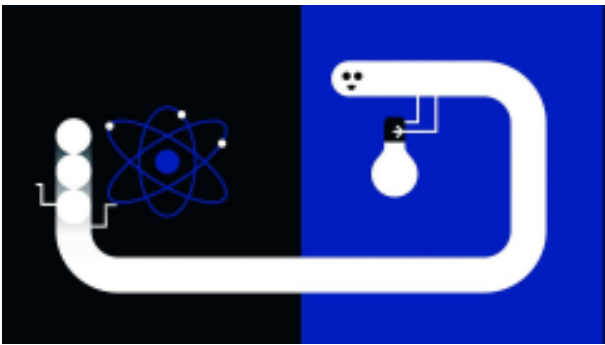
Trio win Chemistry Nobel 2025 for metal-organic frameworks



The Nobel Prize in Chemistry is being awarded to Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M. Yaghi "for the development of metal-organic frameworks.," the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced. The Nobel Prize laureates in chemistry 2025 have created molecular constructions with large spaces through which gases and other chemicals can flow. These constructions, metal-organic frameworks, can be used to harvest water from desert air, capture carbon dioxide, store toxic gases or catalyse chemical reactions.

In 1989, Richard Robson tested utilising the inherent properties of atoms in a new way by combining positively charged copper ions with a four-armed molecule; this had a chemical group that was attracted to copper ions at the end of each arm. Though the molecular construction had potential, it was unstable and collapsed easily. However, Susumu Kitagawa and Omar Yaghi provided this building method with a firm foundation. Kitagawa showed that gases can flow in and out of the constructions and predicted that MOFs could be made flexible. Yaghi created a very stable MOF and showed that it can be modified using rational design, giving it new and desirable properties.

The 2024 Nobel Prize for chemistry was shared by David Baker "for computational protein design" along with Demis Hassabis and John Jumper "for protein structure prediction," Nobel Prize announcements kicked off on Monday (October 6, 2025) with the Prize for Physiology or Medicine. Three scientists - Mary E. Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, and Shimon Sakaguchi shared the Medicine Nobel for identifying the immune system's security guards, regulatory T cells. Physics Nobel, announced on Tuesday (October 7), was awarded to John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martini for building device showing 'quantum tunnelling'.



Quantum mechanics is usually described as the science of the very small — of electrons, atoms, and photons that behave in ways that defy the rules of everyday experience. Yet one of the most striking results of modern physics is that this quantum behaviour doesn't vanish abruptly when systems become large. Instead, it continues to show itself in the behaviour of groups of particles doing something together. Over the years, physicists have learnt how to engineer these groups, measure them, and even control them to perform specific tasks. The 2025 physics Nobel Prize has been awarded to John Clarke, Michel Devoret, and John Martinis for showing in their experiments that quantum tunnelling — a phenomenon in which a particle passes through an energy barrier instead of having to climb over it — can occur not only in the subatomic realm but also in an electrical circuit big enough to see with the naked eye. Their achievement came at the end of one particular chain of ideas stretching back to Brian Josephson, a British physicist who first described how pairs of electrons could tunnel through an insulating barrier between two superconductors, and Anthony Leggett, who later proposed that an entire circuit's collective state could itself behave as a quantum object. Together, these ideas created a bridge from the quantum world of particles to the macroscopic world of devices. In 1962, when Josephson was a 22-year-old graduate student at the University of Cambridge, the Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer (BCS) theory had explained superconductivity. In a superconductor, electrons move in pairs known as Cooper pairs, forming a collective state that flows without resistance. Josephson wondered what would happen if two superconductors were separated by a very thin insulating barrier. Would the paired electrons simply stop at the wall or would they tunnel through (since that's something quantum physics allows)? Using the maths of quantum physics, he showed that it was possible for a supercurrent, i.e. a superconducted current, to pass through even if there was no voltage across the barrier. The result was revolutionary: a current could flow indefinitely across an insulator purely because of the particular relationship between the two superconductors. Josephson derived a simple formula linking the current to the phase difference.

In a superconductor, all the electrons that form Cooper pairs act together as a single quantum wave. And like any wave, this collective quantum state has a phase, which you can think of as a measure of how far along the wave's cycle (crest to trough) it is at a given point. When you place two superconductors next to each other with a thin insulating barrier between them, each one has its own quantum wave and its own phase. The phase difference is simply the difference between those two phases — i.e. how much one wave leads or lags behind the other. This difference isn't just mathematical; it's also physically real and it controls how electrons tunnel between the superconductors. In fact, the current that flows across the junction depends directly on the sine of that phase difference, which is what Joseph-

son expressed in his formula: $I = I_c \sin(\phi)$, where ϕ is the angle expressing the phase difference. Imagine two synchronised dancers performing the same steps. If they move perfectly in sync (no phase difference), they look like one. If one dancer is slightly ahead of the other, that offset (their phase difference) creates visible interference in their motion. Similarly, when the superconductors' phases differ, that offset drives a beat between them, producing a current even when no voltage is applied.

Josephson also predicted that if a voltage were applied, the current would oscillate at a specific frequency proportional to that voltage. He also said that if the setup were illuminated with microwaves of that frequency, there should be a measurable voltage across the barrier. When other researchers quickly confirmed these predictions, this Josephson effect became a cornerstone of quantum electronics. In 1972, the BCS theory won the Nobel Prize for physics, and Josephson followed the next year with the prize for his work. To visualise the Josephson effect, imagine two reservoirs of water separated by a thin glass wall. Classically, no water should cross it. But in the quantum world, waves associated with the molecules on either side can interfere and create a small but steady leak through the wall. The Josephson junction — which is a sandwich of two superconductors and an insulator — is the electrical version of this improbable leak. The supercurrent doesn't arise from a push, or voltage, but from the coherence of the quantum waves themselves. 'Coherence' here means the ability of the system to maintain its quantum character. And because of this coherence, a Josephson junction can behave like a single quantum entity, even though it consists of trillions of electrons. In the quantum world, waves associated with the molecules on either side of this reservoir can interfere and create a small but steady leak through the wall. | Photo Credit: Image created with ChatGPT 5 The next great leap on this chain was that of the British-American physicist Anthony Leggett. By the late 1970s, physicists knew Josephson junctions behaved in ways consistent with quantum theory, but there also remained a deeper conceptual question: could an entire macroscopic variable, such as the current flowing in a circuit, obey the laws of quantum mechanics as if it were a microscopic particle? Leggett, then a young theorist with a background in superfluid helium, recognised that the Josephson junction offered the ideal testing ground. He proposed treating the phase difference between the two superconductors (remember: a collective property involving trillions of electrons) as a single parameter moving in an energy landscape. In his model, the system resembled a marble trapped in a valley between two hills. The marble represented the phase difference; the hills represented energy barriers determined by the junction's current and capacitance. If the marble had enough energy, it could roll over the hill, corresponding to the junction switching from a zero-voltage state to one with a finite voltage. But even without enough energy, quantum mechanics allows the marble to tunnel through the hill, appearing on the other side without having to go over the top. Leggett predicted that at a sufficiently low temperature, when there wasn't enough heat in the system to push it over the energy barrier, a macroscopic variable of the system could tunnel through — and that this could be observed as a small current that's independent of the temperature. His work did more than propose a radical idea: it set down specific conditions in which macroscopic quantum effects could survive the destructive influence of the environment. He analysed how frictional losses and electromagnetic noise (together known as dissipation and decoherence) would

Timeline of the India-Pakistan dispute over a 96-km long creek

Story so far: "Any aggression by Pakistan in the Sir Creek area will be met with a resounding response that will change both history and geography," warned Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on October 2, 2025. Celebrating Vijaydashami with the troops stationed in the Indian Air Force (IAF) base in Bhuj, Mr. Singh cautioned Islamabad against any misadventures in the 96-km-long strip of water bodies i.e. an estuary, which has been under dispute since 1914. The two nations have been recalibrating their naval strategies since India launched Operation Sindoor in May 2025, hitting terror and military sites inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Focus on the strategically significant Sir Creek has renewed since then, as experts believe Pakistan has a 'perceived military edge' in that region. Originally known as 'Ban Ganga', the 96-km estuary flowing into the Arabian Sea, separating Rann of Kutch in Gujarat's western border from Pakistan's Sindh Province in its southwestern border, was named 'Sir Creek' after a British representative during the colonial years. The marshlands in Sir Creek is the largest fishing grounds in Asia and is home to untapped petroleum, minerals, oil and gas reserves. Apart from the economic and strategic significance of the creek, the water body is ecologically sensitive. India and Pakistan have laid claims to the Territorial Sea, Exclusive Economic Zone, and Continental Shelf in Sir Creek. During the British Raj, Rann of Kutch fell under the Princely State of Kutch while Sind came under Bombay Presidency — directly under British administration. In 1908, the Kutch Darbar and the Sind administration laid disputing claims on a small sector in the western portion of Rann. However, the dispute was settled by the British administration after its Bombay government passed a resolution on February 24, 1914, delineating the borders between the two Provinces. Depicted via a green line on a British-approved map, the resolution awarded the entire Kori Creek, which lies to the west of the Rann of Kutch to the Kutch Darbar and the entire Sir Creek to Sind i.e. Bombay Presidency. Post-partition, Kutch became a part of India, while Sindh Province fell under Pakistan. This reignited the border issue, now between two sovereign nations — making it an international dispute from an interstate issue under the British Raj. Pakistan claims that the borders between Kutch and Sindh lies on the eastern bank of Sir Creek i.e. the green line connecting the mouth and top of Sir Creek as mentioned in Paragraph 9 of the resolution. However, India claims that that in Paragraph 10 clarifies that the adopted line extends from the top of Sir Creek, east to where it joins Sindh — depicted in blue dotted lines. It also states that as Sir Creek changes its course over time, the western boundary should be taken as the 'centre of the navigable channel of Sir Creek'. India claims that this effectively make the river's course the boundary between Sindh and Kutch.

In 1956, the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan agreed to entrust the demarcation of the entire western



boundary to the Central Surveys of India and Pakistan as a matter of the highest priority. However, the survey was never done. After the 1965 India-Pakistan war, both nations agreed to establishing a UN tribunal for final determination of the boundary between Kutch and Sindh. On February 19, 1968, the tribunal awarded 90% of the disputed territory in the Rann of Kutch to India while 10% of territory including Rahim Ki Bazar, Dhara Banni and Chhad Bet was awarded to Pakistan. It stated, "The Resolution of 1914 divided the disputed area by a new line along the Sir Creek, from its mouth to its top, and then follows the blue dotted line due East until it joins the Sind boundary marked in purple." Discarding Pakistan's claim of half and half division of Rann of Kutch, the UN tribunal ruled, "No principle of a half and half division of the Rann was proved ever to have existed and the 1914 Resolution does not mention such a principle. Pakistan's contention that the vertical line was meant to be a boundary between Sind and the Rann as an entity about which there was a distinct dispute between the two neighbours, is also not convincing. The purple line, i.e., the Macdonald line, never was anything else than the Sind-Kutch boundary." However, the tribunal failed to resolve the Sir Creek dispute stating, "This agreement leaves out the matters submitted on the portion of the boundary along the blue dotted line and the boundary in Sir Creek." India-Pakistan ties soured after the Kargil war in 1999. Months after the war, a Breguet Atlantic maritime patrol aircraft of the Pakistan Navy was shot down over the Rann of Kutch by the Indian Air Force's MiG-21 after it disobeyed instructions to land at an Indian base. The Atlantic had manoeuvred to escape from the MiG pilots and was shot down by a heat-seeking air-to-air missile. Several attempts to resolve the Sir Creek issue has failed through the years with the latest attempt occurring in 2007. A joint hydrographic survey was conducted in January 2007 and talks were held shortly after with an exchange of maps. However, the contention remains unresolved. Since the usage of the sea route from Karachi to Mumbai in 2008 by Pakistani terrorists on 26/11, patrolling along the Kutch coast has increased. Both Indian and Pakistani fishermen have been detained by the respective military.

How do woodpeckers protect their brains?

First things first, why do they constantly knock their heads against wood? Knocking one's knuckles against wood is understandable, since it's considered a source of good luck. But woodpeckers don't have knuckles, so do they use their bills as a substitute? Not really. The birds hold the ability to peck wood 20 times per second. Through this, they dig for food and create shelters. However, while these are considered to be the reasons, there is one that holds even more depth. Scientists at Brown University, after considerable research, came up with the hypothesis that woodpeckers held a form of 'gene expression' within them that was similar to what was found in a songbird's mind. But while a songbird's gene expression enables it to attract mates through its tweeting, that of a woodpecker allows it to do the same through pecking and drumming of wood. It's like a Morse code for birds! With over 200 species of woodpeckers spread across the world, each bird pecks with a different rhythm and altering speeds based on what they are trying to communicate.

A tongue of a tale They say the tongue is one of the strongest muscles in the human body. But when it comes to the tongue of a woodpecker, well, there lies a whole new realm of fascination. The bird has an extremely long and sticky tongue that it uses for extracting and consuming insects within the holes in the wood drummed by its bill. The surface of their tongues is covered with barbs that help in catching their prey. But hold on! There's one more incredible usage of this tongue, and that is protecting the skull of the bird. The total length of the tongue is one-third of the woodpecker's body length. But how does it protect the skull? To understand the importance, we need to take a closer look at the anatomy of the bird's skull. The tongue is so long that it wraps around the skull, thus protecting it from the impact and cushioning the brain. How? Well, think of the woodpecker's tongue as an elongated piece of bubble wrap. When the muscles surrounding the bird's tongue-bone contract, it causes the long tongue to hold the woodpecker's spine and skull in place as it constantly drums into the tree. And it isn't just the tongue that provides the bird with protection, but there are also soft bones that lie at the front and back of the skull that spread out the area of the shock generated. A bike ride of inspiration What is the main thing that innovators have learned from the anatomy of a woodpecker's skull? That would be the concept of shock absorption. The woodpecker is nature's inspirational living creation that showcases the science of cushioning impact. A concept that serves as a major asset for innovation, since it is an ability that can protect objects from breaking and people from sustaining fatal injuries. One prominent invention inspired by the woodpecker would be industrial designer Anirudha Surabhi's 'Kranium'. An impact-absorbing bike helmet. Anirudha came up with this idea while on a bike ride. Even though he was wearing a helmet, he still suffered a concussion due to the helmet cracking. A master's student of design at that time,

Why Indian capital needs to invest domestically



A central challenge for policy makers in India, at the present juncture, is to work out a balance between the long-term benefits of global trade and the short-term harms that current uncertainties pose to large sections of the population who are at risk of low wages and unemployment. Tackling this requires a change of the existing system to account for the needs of the larger masses rather than only enriching private capital's interests. The evolution of capital

Indian capital has an important role to play in this change by becoming more inclusive of a broader set of interests beyond individual profits and rapid accumulation. The history of capitalism shows that this is not impossible as capitalism has evolved before, and if it is to continue into the future, it can evolve again. As the economy is at risk of negative shock to external demand for its products, due to unprecedented tariffs imposed and distortions caused in the global trading system, Indian capital needs to reinvent itself and work closely with the government to mitigate the risks posed. Historically private businesses, managed by Indian capital, have clamoured for a more active role in the economy as well as larger concessions and subsidies along with a liberal business environment. Governments have often been called on to command and control such businesses. These private enterprises used India's protected economic environment (pre-liberalisation) to grow and accumulate by riding on inward-looking policies and reaping supernormal profits (excess of normal profit) from protected domestic markets. The accumulated surpluses gave them the confidence to cross borders, buy out businesses elsewhere and forge global links when the economy opened up in the early nineties. This phenomenon, though not widespread among Indian businesses, has created depth in Indian capital, spawning some giants who control various important sectors of Indian industry. However, as the global economy now moves to an extended period of uncertainty, these business houses now have to work closely with the government and align with public interest to maintain the economy's growth momentum. Three key processes were instrumental in the emergence and subsequent development of mass markets in the contemporary global economy. First, the creation of a wage-labour class; second, the productivity-enhancing effects of industrial mass production; and third, changes in the composition of demand as personal incomes grew. The growth of demand is an important but unrecognised ingredient in these processes. Firms require an expansion of demand if they are to realise profits from the production of additional goods and services. Most of the current macroeconomic policy frameworks simply assume that demand responds passively to supply, therefore the expansion of the latter is all that is of interest to growth. In a globalised world, demand has two components, domestic and external. Early approaches to industrialisation focussed on the domestic component and later ones emphasised on the external side. The current turbulence in the global economy has led to shocks in external demand and hence exports are impacting aggregate demand and inducing vulnerabilities and fluctuations in external demand. In this scenario turning to domestic mar-

A path to progress that is paved with gold

Atmanirbharta has been central to India's story, not just as an economic plan but also as a philosophy of existence. For us, self-reliance has always meant drawing strength from within so that we may stand taller in the world. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has embraced Atmanirbharta with renewed vigour, transforming ambitious ideas into tangible national achievements across sectors. His governance has propelled India's self-reliance journey, demonstrating unparalleled resilience and innovation even amid global uncertainties. This instinct has defined India's journey: when droughts struck in the 1960s, the Green Revolution made India food secure; in the 1990s, foresight in the digital sphere turned talent into national strength; during the COVID-19 pandemic, India developed its own indigenous vaccines rapidly, showcasing scientific and manufacturing self-reliance; today, it is advancing towards self-reliance in defence systems. The lesson remains consistent: whenever India has chosen self-reliance, crisis has been turned into capability.

That principle now needs its strongest expression in financing India's growth. India has drawn over \$1 trillion in gross FDI since 2000, yet global realities are shifting. Global investment flows have shrunk by more than 11% in calendar year 2024 while international project finance deals fell by 27%. Foreign portfolio investments, while substantial, remain volatile, swayed by global tremors. As the world retreats from globalisation and the costs of capital rise abroad, India cannot afford to hinge its future on external flows. The time has come to unlock Bharat's own wealth to fuel Bharat's own growth.

A stock of immense valueThe most compelling starting point is gold. For generations, gold has been both a store of value and a symbol of security in Indian households. Over time, this trust has expanded to an extraordinary scale: families in India today collectively hold close to 25,000 tonnes of gold, making this the single largest private reserve in the world. At today's prices, this translates to about \$2.4 trillion of wealth, or more than 55% of India's GDP in FY26 terms — a stock of value even larger than all the credit extended by India's banks. Paradoxically, despite such reserves, India remains one of the largest importers of gold, meeting roughly 87% of demand from abroad, with imports accounting for 8% of its total bill. Between 2010 and 2013, gold imports made up almost a third of India's trade deficit. This paradox highlights both an enormous challenge and an unprecedented opportunity. Because India's relationship with gold is cultural and civilisational, coercive restrictions are not the answer. What is needed instead is a revitalised, trust-based gold monetisation scheme. Unlike past experiments that faltered due to weak infrastructure and limited outreach, a reimagined scheme must build on global best practices. A striking example comes from a few nations that successfully invested in assaying facilities, created innovative gold

kets, raising the levels of domestic demand and catering to it, remains a viable option. The importance of domestic capitalIn India, domestic capital has an important role to play in stimulating domestic demand via three routes. The first area for more active involvement of Indian capital is to enhance internal private investments. Despite India Inc. sitting on record-high profits, the willingness to invest hasn't kept pace with such profits. During the post-COVID period, public investments did all the heavy lifting. Fiscal policy has been fine tuned to offer incentives, while monetary policy has been responding with easier access to credit. A bulk of the regulatory requirements have been simplified along with the tax regime. Infrastructure development has been accorded high priority along with a slew of benefits, such as production-linked incentives. The net effect of all these is reflected in the indicators of the business environment. However, despite these efforts by the government, private investments have remained flat over the past few years. The Finance Ministry in its June monthly review noted that "Slow credit growth and private investment appetite may restrict acceleration in economic momentum," underscoring the urgent need for the private sector to step up. While private capex remains subdued, public capital expenditure surged from ₹3.4 lakh crore in FY20 to ₹10.2 lakh crore in FY25, which is a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 25%, driven largely by railways, roads, highways, and communications. Interestingly, during a period of sluggish domestic private investments, India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) flows have grown at a sharp pace over the past five years, with a CAGR of 12.6%, much higher than the global average of 3.9%. This indicates that Indian capital is keener to explore foreign locations than its domestic economy. An opportune time has come for a reversal of this.

The second thrust area is to ensure that there is moderate wage growth in the economy. The Economic Survey 2024-25 flagged the trend of increasing corporate profits and lagging wage growth. In 2023-24, profits touched a 15-year high, while growth in wages stagnated. This affects distribution in the economy and dampens domestic demand. Rating agencies project that real wage growth might decline to 6.5% in FY26, down from 7% in FY25. Real wages are expected to grow faster when inflation is low. However, we find evidence contrary to it indicating worsening of distribution. The growing trend towards contraturalisation within formal sectors has been eroding the collective bargaining power of workers, leading to slower wage growth within the manufacturing sector. The third area for priority action is to invest more in Research and Development (R&D). The tendency has been to invest less and only in areas of quick returns. This paradigm has to change as fundamental research and development is crucial for long term productivity gains. The gross expenditure on R&D in India is 0.64% of the GDP, which is insufficient and remains low compared to many advanced economies. Further, R&D funding in India is primarily through the government. In the U.S., China, Japan, and South Korea, private enterprises routinely contribute more than 70% to the total national R&D expenditure. In China, R&D spending has reached 2.1% of the GDP, with the private sector complementing the funding of the government, while in India only around 36% of R&D is funded by the private sector. In India not only is the private sector investment in innovation low, but it is also concentrated in sectors such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, information technology, transport, defence, and biotechnology. An uncertain global economic environment calls for unified responses from the government and the private sector. While the government has been facilitating the creation of a favourable environment for businesses, that effort alone is not sufficient for tackling present challenges. Long term national interest needs to be protected by Indian capital by keeping it as an objective above profit maximisation. It is time for Indian capital to step in more actively.



savings products, and digitised gold flows through mobile apps, managing to bring thousands of tonnes of "under-the-pillow" gold into their formal financial system. India can adapt these lessons. The basics

The road ahead demands three essentials. First, infrastructure — hallmarking and purity testing centres need to scale faster for trusted valuation across the country. India requires a formal network of collection and purity testing centres. Only recently has it begun expanding the reach of standardised testing: the number of Bureau of Indian Standards-registered assaying and hallmarking centres has almost doubled in the last four years. Yet, a large share of the market still consists of unbranded gold with uncertain purity, which prevents the efficient recycling of gold into the economy. Second, logistics — banks can manage the money flows, while experienced collection and purity testing centres handle gold movement securely and transparently. Third, digitalisation — every household depositor should be able to track their "metal balance" as easily as a bank account balance. But, above all, trust is the foundation. To build it, we must remove frictions such as goods and services tax and customs scrutiny on deposits, and ensure a simple, "no questions asked" environment where returns flow back directly to depositors without hidden costs. If structured this way, the economics are favourable. The cost of funds raised through gold monetisation could fall in the range of 4.5%-6.5%, lower than the effective cost of borrowing from international markets. Even if a fraction of India's household is mobilised, the impact would be transformative — easing import pressure, strengthening the current account and creating a vast pool of domestic capital to drive infrastructure, manufacturing and innovation. Moment of financial self-relianceHistory shows that India has always risen to moments of crisis, transforming them into capability. Just as it attained food security during the Green Revolution and global leadership in IT services during the digital age, its now stands before the call for financial self-reliance. Mobilising domestic wealth, particularly through gold, is not just an economic choice. It is a civilisational one.

Israel's tactical gains in a strategic labyrinth



West Asia looked like a different region, at least from a geopolitical perspective. The Palestine question had been pushed to the margins of the region. Palestinians themselves were divided with the Islamist Hamas controlling Gaza and the Fatah running the Palestine Authority in the West Bank. Iran, despite its economic woes, remained a powerful actor through its so-called axis of resistance. The Arab countries, mostly the wealthy Persian Gulf monarchies, saw Iran as a security threat, and chose to deepen security cooperation with Israel. The United States, seeking to slowly disentangle itself from West Asia, was trying to knit together two of its key regional pillars — the Arab world and Israel — into a joint front against Iran. The foundation of this vision was laid in the Abraham Accords of 2020, brokered by the first Trump administration, through which four Arab countries signed a normalisation agreement with Israel. By 2023, Saudi Arabia was in an advanced stage of normalising ties with Israel.

Washington's broader plan was to integrate Israel deeper into the regional economy as well as the global order with two major initiatives, both involving India — the I2U2 grouping (India, Israel, the U.S. and the United Arab Emirates), and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). It was a grand vision to reshape the region under the American leadership with Israel at the heart of what was being hailed as "the new Middle East". Then came the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas on Israel, in which about 1,200 people were killed. The attack shattered the sense of security that Israel had seemed to enjoy despite its continued atrocities against Palestinians. Hamas's murderous assault was widely condemned, but the violence also served as a reminder that unless the Palestine question was addressed, peace and stability would remain elusive in West Asia. Israel also realised that the attack sabotaged its efforts to reshape the region in its favour diplomatically. The Israeli response was swift and overwhelming — an all-out war, first focused on Gaza and then spilling into the wider region. Israel declared two primary objectives — the destruction of Hamas and the release of the 251 hostages taken on October 7. But the way it fought the war suggests that it has deeper ambitions. For Israel, Hamas was only the tip of the iceberg. Its real conventional enemy was Iran, which backed Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and other militant groups. After October 7, Israel saw an opening to wage a two-front war — the first was to crush Palestinian resistance once and for all, and the second was to dismantle Iran's axis and weaken its regional influence. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wanted the following: to build a unipolar West Asia, with Israel, backed by the U.S., being the central security player; Iran rolled back; Arab countries subdued, and the resurgent Palestine question pushed to the margins. To be sure, Israel has made some advances in this direction. Hamas's militant and administrative infrastructure have been severely damaged, and Israeli forces control much of Gaza. Even if they withdraw under U.S. President Donald Trump's 20-point 'peace' plan to the initial withdrawal lines, Israeli troops will still retain parts of Rafah in the south, much of Khan Yunus and a buffer zone in the north. Hezbollah, the feared Shia militant group in Lebanon, has been humbled by Israel's repeated strikes.

In Syria, the collapse of the Bashar al-Assad regime, and the rise of Abu Mohammed al-Golani (Ahmed al Sharaa),

a former al-Qaeda jihadist, marked a tactical victory for Israel. Mr. Assad had been a critical link between Iran and Hezbollah and his fall not only weakened Hezbollah further but also allowed Israel to grab more Syrian territory. Emboldened by these developments, Israel carried out air strikes on Iran in June to destroy its nuclear programme and degrade its military capabilities. Israel's strategic misstepsWhile Israel's tactical gains project the image of a country determined to reshape West Asia through force, none of these advances has translated into long-term security. If the destruction of Hamas was one of the principal objectives of the war, two years on, Hamas has not been defeated, let alone destroyed. Israel may have decapitated the Hamas leadership and killed thousands of its fighters, but Hamas is not al-Qaeda or the Islamic State — transnational jihadist organisations detached from local populations and which have flourished through nihilistic violence. Hamas is deeply rooted in Palestinian nationalism. Faced with military setbacks, Hamas has reinvented itself as an insurgency, its original avatar. This makes it extremely difficult for Israel to crush Hamas — ask the Americans about their 20 years in Afghanistan. If Israel sought to push the Palestine question back to the margins, its genocidal war in Gaza has had the opposite effect. Today, even Israel's closest partners have started formally recognising Palestinian statehood, while global public opinion is steadily turning against the Zionist state.

Regionally, Israel's strikes have incapacitated Iran's non-state allies and weakened its influence, but Hezbollah remains a formidable political and social force in Lebanon. And Iran did not merely survive Israel's 12 days of bombing (June 13-25, 2025). It hit back with long-range missiles. If Israel's desperation to weaken Iran took it to the 12-day war, its desperation to defeat Hamas took it to bomb Qatar in September, which turned out to be a grave mistake. Israel targeted a gathering of Hamas's political leadership in Doha, but failed to kill any of the group's top leaders. Since October 7, Israel has bombed at least five countries besides Palestinian territories. It has targeted Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Iran and Qatar. Qatar is a close American ally and its targeting shook the foundations of the U.S. security guarantees in the Arab world. Israel's expansionism has pushed Arab countries to reassess their political and security calculus. If in September 2023, Saudi Arabia wanted to join the Abraham Accords and normalise ties with Israel, today an agreement with Tel Aviv is seen as a liability in the kingdom rather than as a strategic asset. Without a Saudi normalisation deal, the IMEEC is unlikely to take off. The I2U2 remains paralysed with the UAE making it clear that any Israeli attempt to annex the West Bank — a key demand of Israel's powerful far right — would cross a red line. The Gulf monarchies have moved ahead diversifying or doubling down on their security partnerships — Saudi Arabia has signed a mutual defence agreement with nuclear-armed Pakistan, and Qatar has got a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-style security assurance from Mr. Trump. His executive order states that future attacks against Qatar would be seen as a "threat to the peace and security of the U.S." Despite its tactical military gains, Israel finds itself trapped in a strategic labyrinth. Like Mr. Trump put it, "Bibi [Netanyahu] took it very far in Gaza." Israel still does not have an end plan. It cannot ignore the Palestine issue any more and continue the occupation without consequences. Isolated internationally, it is clinging to U.S. support for political, economic and military cover. Hamas remains an unresolved problem even after Israel's killing of at least 67,000 Palestinians in Gaza. The Iranian regime still stands with its nuclear programme. And the grand diplomatic vision of reshaping West Asia, with Israel at its centre, lies in ruins, as Arab states increasingly view Israel as a threat rather than a security provider. The return of Palestine to West Asia's geopolitical core would mean that Israel would have to make concessions to go back to the pre-October 7 diplomatic order. But Israel's leaders hate making concessions on Palestine. Mr. Netanyahu's only solution to these strategic challenges was to continue the war endlessly. But even that path is being shut after Mr. Trump publicly demanded Israel "to stop bombing Gaza immedi-

Modernisation of financial architecture: how India is adopting stablecoins

Stablecoins are a category of crypto assets that aim to maintain a stable value relative to a specified asset, or basket of assets, providing perceived stability. Various definitions of stablecoins exist, with different countries; standard-setting bodies such as the Financial Stability Board, Bank for International Settlements and International Monetary Fund; and many central banks contributing to these definitions. Largely, stablecoins are blockchain-based digital assets designed to maintain a consistent value over time. They achieve this by being backed by reserves such as fiat currencies, commodities, or other crypto assets. They are a distinct class of Virtual Digital Assets (VDAs) backed by fiat currencies, commodities, or other assets. They aim to maintain a stable value, thereby distinguishing them from other VDAs. Fiat-backed stablecoins — these are backed by reserves of traditional currencies such as the U.S. dollar or Euro, held in banks or regulated institutions. Examples include the USDT and USDC. Crypto-backed stablecoins — these are collateralised by other crypto assets. DAI, backed by Ethereum, is a leading example. Algorithmic stablecoins — these maintain stability through automated algorithms that adjust supply and demand, without relying on reserves. They are more experimental and risk-prone, as seen with projects like TerraUSD.

New financial plumbingIn the traditional financial world, cross-border payments are expensive, slow, and fragmented. Stablecoins are digital tokens backed by fiat reserves and powered by blockchain rails which are rewriting that equation. According to Visa's 2025 report Making Crypto Real, over \$220 billion worth of stablecoins are already in circulation, with transactions settling in seconds rather than days, and at a fraction of traditional costs. The average remittance via stablecoin costs as little as \$0.01, compared to \$44 through conventional banking routes.

This efficiency is not just a technical feat; it's economic evolution. In the same way that HTTP allowed information to flow seamlessly across the web, stablecoins could enable value to flow over digital rails in real time. The emerging vision, often described as "agentic payments," imagines a world where AI systems autonomously initiate transactions paying cloud providers, renewing subscriptions, or even reallocating treasury funds over stablecoin protocols. A maturing global orderStablecoins have outgrown their niche origins. Institutional finance has taken notice. BlackRock, Fidelity, and Bank of America have each announced or launched stablecoin initiatives, while Societe Generale became the first major European bank to issue a dollar-pegged



coin in 2025. Regulators, once sceptical, are now codifying legitimacy. The EU's MiCA framework and the U.S. GENIUS Act provide clear definitions, reserve standards, and consumer protections, transforming stablecoins into regulated financial instruments.

In effect, what we are witnessing is not the replacement of traditional money but its modernisation. A new three-layered structure is emerging — the blockchain base layer which is decentralised, auditable, and interoperable; the reserve layer which includes regulated institutions backing stablecoins with transparent fiat or treasury reserves; and the interface layer where payment cards, APIs, and digital wallets are making stablecoins usable in everyday commerce. Visa and Mastercard's moves to support stablecoin settlement on Ethereum and Solana are not experiments; they are strategic recalibrations. Stablecoins are fast emerging as a new settlement layer for global finance. Value can now move as seamlessly as information flows online. By bypassing legacy rails like SWIFT, they transform cross-border transfers from days to seconds, creating a real-time, programmable foundation for the internet economy. India's evolving stanceUntil recently, India's approach to stablecoins was cautious. But the global tide is shifting, and so is New Delhi's calculus. Recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has stated that India needs to be ready to engage with crypto assets, like stablecoins. The maturation of stablecoins mirrors the path the Internet itself once took: from anarchic experimentation to institutional adoption. What was once a tool for traders is now morphing into a universal payment backbone. In emerging markets, stablecoins are filling gaps that banks find tough to reach; in developed markets, they are cutting inefficiencies that banks long tolerated. In Visa's language, stablecoins are "crypto's superpower."

With QCO rollbacks underway, Commerce Ministry weighs quick response to dumping concerns



The anti-dumping wing of the Commerce and Industry Ministry, Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), is weighing provisional legal measures aimed at a quicker response to industries' concerns over dumping of goods from various countries, a senior government official said. Amid a comprehensive revamp of quality control orders (QCOs) that have resulted in rollbacks of standards on over 20 products, which could rise to 208 products if Niti Aayog's suggestions are implemented, imports are likely to increase. This comes at a time when US tariffs globally are reshaping trade flows, particularly impacting Chinese goods. While China's exports to the US have dipped, exports to other countries, including India, are on the rise.

"We are strengthening our DGTR framework to see that we can respond to industry's concerns over dumping in a time-bound and faster manner. A time frame has been set internally to complete investigations swiftly. We are looking at provisional measures required in any case where there is clear evidence of an injury to the domestic industry. These are legal provisions that other countries are also using," the official said. According to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), dumping is when a country exports a product at a price lower than its "normal value," which is usually the domestic price or below the cost of production. Dumping itself is not illegal, but the WTO allows importing countries to take action against it if it causes material injury to their domestic industries. These actions are known as anti-dumping measures and are governed by the WTO's Anti-Dumping Agreement. Former trade officer and head of think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), Ajay Srivastava, said that as QCOs are rolled back, India must closely monitor import trends—daily if required—to ensure the absence of quality rules does not trigger a surge of dumped or sub-standard materials.

"For polymers, fibres, metals and intermediates where QCOs have been withdrawn, global suppliers may attempt to offload excess inventory at predatory prices. Continuous surveillance of customs data, DGTR alerts, and landed price patterns will help the government act swiftly through anti-dumping, safeguard or tariff-rate measures if unfair trade practices emerge. This approach preserves the benefits of the QCO rollback—lower costs, smoother supply chains—while protecting domestic industry from injury caused by dumped imports," Srivastava said. Amid trade shock due to US tariffs, India's overall exports in October registered a 12 per cent decline. At the same time, imports surged to a record \$76 billion. While the surge was primarily led by a 200 per cent surge in gold import bill, non-oil and non-gold imports have also gone up by 12 per cent, official data released by the Commerce and Industry Ministry on Monday showed. In the absence of a trade deal with the US, the risk of a further decline in exports and a surge in imports could put further pressure on the trade deficit, which also surged to its highest at \$41 billion in October. In what could increase the import bill further, Indian public sector refiners on Monday signed a one-year deal for American liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) imports. However, the government expects a range of measures, from a loan moratorium to the Export Promotion Mission (EPM), to help export growth. A working paper released by the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) in September this year had said that imports fell by 13 per cent in the year after a QCO notification and by 24 per cent over the long term, indicating the impact of a sharp rise in QCOs during the last three years.

"Intermediate goods face the steepest decline. QCOs lead to a 16 per cent reduction in imports in the year of notification, a 17.5 per cent decline in the subsequent year, and a 30 per cent fall over the long term. Overall, QCOs suppress imports — especially of intermediate inputs critical to domestic production — without improving export performance, challenging their efficacy in boosting competitiveness," the CSEP report said. The surge in the use of these orders has had a substantial impact on supply chains. Between 2016 and 2025, the number of products brought under mandatory QCO coverage grew from fewer than 70 to nearly 790, including one Omnibus Technical Requirement (OTR) that covers 20 products. The implementation of QCOs restricts the import, manufacturing, distribution or sale of products covered under the orders without a Standard Mark, except under a valid licence from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

Railways launches new policy to boost bulk cement transport; sets freight rate at Rs 0.90 per tonne/km

As part of efforts to diversify the transportation of commodities via rail to meet new demands, Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday launched a new policy to facilitate the movement of bulk cement, along with a new rate. The new rate for bulk cement has been rationalised to Rs 0.90 per tonne per km. Earlier, it was based on different distance bands.

Vaishnaw said that the policy will ensure the supply of bulk cement from plants to terminals near consumption centres in specialised wagons, which will be cost-effective and environmentally friendly. The Railways will also facilitate the setting up of bulk cement terminals across the country under its Bulk Cement Terminal policy, the Minister said. The consumption of bulk cement, in place of bagged cement, is increasing, and in some metro cities, it has crossed a 50 per cent share. "The policy has been launched while keeping the middle class in mind, which will help them to get construction material at reduced price. The policy will cut down the transportation costs by 30 per cent. Earlier the freight rate was in slabs. For example, the plant at 200 km and 210 km had to pay different rates, whereas there is not much difference in the distance between them. Now, it is the flat rate of Rs 0.90 per tonne per km for actual distance. Now it will not matter how far the cement plant is, it has now become uniform and has eliminated the biases," said Vaishnaw. He further said that with the implementation of the Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal Policy, the construction of the terminal or railway sidings has become easy. "With the new policy, we will see many cement terminals now. The CONCOR has launched a special container for the bulk cement transportation, which will be pollution-free. In the next reform we will focus on another industry," the Minister said. Almost 17 per cent of the total cement transported in a year moves via the Railways. During FY25, a total of 87 million tonnes (MT) of cement was transported via the Railways. Out of this, 80 MT of cement



was bagged (in covered wagons) and 7 MT was bulk cement transported through special wagons and containers. Total freight loading by the Railways during the period was over 1,600 MT, of which coal had the highest share at almost 50 per cent. Vaishnaw said that with this policy, the Railways is targeting an increase in its share of bulk cement vis-a-vis road to 30 per cent in the next five years. Cement Manufacturers' Association secretary general Aparna Sharma said that the policy will ensure the faster movement of cement. "If you look at the cement industry, almost 18-20 per cent of the cement consumption is bulk, and of this, 10 per cent bulk cement is moved by the Railways. Also, given the fact that we are looking at a market where 60-65 per cent of the cement consumption is dominated by under 300 km distance. In this segment, we do not find bagged movement very viable. So, the policy appears timely, it will ensure the faster movement," said Sharma. Railway officials said that facilities such as hoppers, silos, bagging plants, etc. will be developed under the policy, which will help in unloading the cement. For this, the Railways will provide its land and give concession to the cement companies to develop the bulk cement handling terminals.

Raising global capital to fund decarbonisation 'very, very difficult', says former MoS Jayant Sinha

Casting doubt over various estimates of financing required to decarbonise India, former Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha has warned that raising global capital to fund such endeavors is "very, very difficult" and that even Indian corporate capital expenditure has not been what may be conservatively required to mitigate climate change due to carbon emissions from power, transport, steel, and cement sectors.

Referring to the findings of various studies, Sinha said at a seminar on Tuesday that \$50 billion-\$100 billion of additional corporate capital expenditure in the current decade was needed for India to be on a meaningful decarbonisation path. But this would be difficult, he said, considering corporate capex in India has flattened in recent years. The seminar discussed a recent report by former Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Rakesh Mohan and former Executive Director Janak Raj, both of whom are now at New Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP). As per the report by Mohan and Raj, India's annual climate finance requirement for 2022-2030 is \$54 billion. In contrast, the Larry Summers and NK Singh-led independent expert group formed under India's G20 Presidency in 2023 estimated additional annual spending of \$3 trillion by developing countries by 2030. Sinha, who was Minister of State for Finance from late 2014 to mid-2016 and then in the civil aviation ministry for the subsequent three years, is currently the President of Mumbai-based sustainable and climate investment private equity firm Eversource Capital. Before his decade-long stint as Member of Parliament that ended in June 2024, he was a Partner at consulting firm McKinsey for over 13 years and Partner and Managing Director for India at philanthropic investment firm Omidyar Network, among other positions. Sinha also warned that global capital was not interested in investing in India's capital-intensive infrastructure projects when better opportunities were available in developed markets



such as the US in high-return sectors such as artificial intelligence (AI). "I say this as President of Eversource Capital. I am in the middle of this set of issues in terms of raising capital. ... And it is very, very difficult. Global capital, frankly, just looks at it and says 'If I can put capital in an AI data centre in Virginia and get 18 per cent dollar (return), why would I go for 15 per cent rupee IRR (internal rate of return)?' No fiduciary, no pension fund, no insurance company is going to put (in) money," Sinha said.

"Whether global capital is going to come in and fill in a \$15 billion gap or \$54 billion gap is a theoretical question. The practical question is can we mobilise large pools of domestic capital so that we are in control of our destiny." According to the former minister, for the country to achieve the government's objective of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2070, coal-fired power plants will have to be shuttered by the mid-2040s. "We have to be on a very different decarbonisation trajectory from what the government is saying. And all that the government has right now is for the power sector. ... For the other industrial sectors, there is no baseline case right now.

24 mg/dL vs 13 mg/dL: What these sugar spike numbers reveal about desi khand



An Instagram user, rohansehgalofficial, shared that drinking tea with desi khand helps keep his blood sugar levels steadier than those with white sugar, which can cause spikes. As someone without diabetes, he found that stable glucose levels make him feel better and reduce his food cravings. "Prevention is the best medicine. Research today shows that high blood sugar variability over time can lead to health issues, including diabetes, heart disease & obesity," he shared in his post. His test revealed that "after drinking tea with desi khand, his blood sugar went up by only 13 mg/dL. When he used white sugar, his blood sugar increased by 24 mg/dL."

But is desi khand really better than white sugar?

To answer this, we consulted Dr R Sundararaman, Senior Consultant in Internal Medicine at SIMS Hospital in Chennai. He explained, "Honestly, not by much. Desi khand is less processed, yes, but in the body, it behaves almost the same as regular sugar. Once you add a spoonful of it to your tea, your pancreas does not know the difference. It still has to deal with a quick rise in glucose." The doctor fur-

ther explained, "Although desi khand may have a slightly lower glycemic index, the difference is very small. For people with diabetes or borderline blood sugar, seeing desi khand as a healthier choice can be misleading. The blood sugar spike will still happen."

Does drinking tea with desi khand, either on an empty stomach or after a meal, affect blood sugar levels?

Yes, timing matters, the doctor said. "Drinking sweetened tea on an empty stomach often causes a bigger rise in blood sugar because there is nothing to slow down how fast it is absorbed. After a meal, the rise is much smaller." If you enjoy sweet tea and do not want to stop, a few small changes can help, Dr Sundararaman added : "Try using only half a teaspoon of sweetener instead of a full teaspoon. Also, avoid drinking sweetened tea first thing in the morning." If you often experience glucose spikes, consider having your tea with a small protein or fibre-rich snack. "Add flavour with cardamom, ginger, or cinnamon to help you use less sweetener. These steps will not completely stop the spike, but they will reduce its size. For someone without diabetes who is tracking glucose for prevention, is a 24 mg/dL rise, as pointed out by the Instagram user, after tea, worrying? Dr Sundararaman explained, "A single spike of 20 to 30 mg/dL after tea is normal. Even healthy people have these changes. Our blood glucose levels are supposed to rise and fall during the day based on what we eat. "What matters most is the pattern, he added. "If these spikes occur multiple times a day, or if your fasting levels gradually increase over several months, then it is worth noting. Regular daily spikes from sugary beverages, such as tea and juices, or high-sugar snacks can gradually lead to insulin resistance." Therefore, a 24 mg/dL rise is not a problem in itself. However, if it occurs daily and you also consume other sweet foods or drinks, it can become an issue over time, the doctor concluded.

'He said, just work, do whatever you want': Smriti Irani recalls how she got married to Zubin Irani in a parking lot; why simple beginnings often lead to stronger bonds

Love stories often come with grand gestures, romantic proposals, or elaborate ceremonies. But sometimes, the simplest beginnings become the strongest foundations. Recently, actor-turned-politician Smriti Irani shared the surprisingly straightforward story behind her marriage to businessman Zubin Irani. Speaking in a candid interview with Mashable India, Smriti revealed that before tying the knot, she had one clear condition. She said, "Zubin is someone I had known for many years. So he asked, 'What's the issue?' I said, 'The issue is that I want to work.' He said, 'I'm okay with you working.' So I gave him that look — 'Oh, you're giving me permission?' He said, 'Arey yaar, just work. Do whatever you want.' I said yes. I need to work. He's like done. It was literally a handshake. So we got married in the parking lot of my mother's building. And it was a weird one because I was also working. And he said, 'Listen buddy, will you land up for the wedding?' I was like, yeah, yeah."

Smriti added that the next day, after their unconventional "parking lot wedding," the couple met for lunch at the Taj Hotel, which she described as the "high point" of their celebration. Soon after, both went back to work, with Zubin leaving for Sydney. Sharing what she believes has kept their marriage strong, she reflected, "He went for work. I went for work. That's it. No big romance happening. That's how it lasts. When you don't have these fairy tale stupid ideas."

Can practical, low-drama beginnings sometimes create stronger partnerships than romantic or idealised ones?

Sonal Khangarot, licensed rehabilitation counsellor and psychotherapist, The Answer Room, tells indianexpress.com, "Yes, practical, low-drama beginnings like Smriti Irani's 'handshake' metaphor often reflect emotional maturity rather than lack of romance. They're rooted in mutual respect, clarity, and shared values — qualities that sustain relationships long after initial passion fades. This idea aligns closely with simmer dating — the modern trend of taking things slow, allowing emotional connection and trust to develop organically instead of rushing into intensity." When partners prioritise calm communication and steady growth over grand gestures, Khangarot notes, it allows love to mature at a natural pace. So yes, practical, low-drama beginnings can often create stronger, more resilient partnerships than romanticised ones, because they're built on reality, not illusion.



How important is it for couples to maintain their individual identities and routines in the early stages of marriage?

Maintaining individual identities and routines early in marriage is one of the most underrated yet essential aspects of a healthy relationship. Psychologically, it allows both partners to preserve a sense of autonomy and self-worth, preventing enmeshment and dependency. "When each continues pursuing personal goals and routines, it strengthens self-esteem and reduces resentment. This balance between togetherness and individuality fosters emotional regulation, curiosity, and mutual respect — qualities vital for long-term harmony. As a psychologist, I see that couples who maintain their individuality tend to communicate better, feel more fulfilled, and grow together without losing themselves in the process," notes Khangarot.

How can unrealistic expectations about love and marriage affect long-term relationships?

Unrealistic expectations often set couples up for disappointment, Khangarot says, as they measure real relationships against idealised versions of love. When partners expect constant passion or perfect understanding, they overlook the effort and compromise that genuine intimacy requires. "As a psychologist, I see that emotional maturity begins with accepting imperfection in oneself and one's partner. It grows through honest communication, empathy, and learning to navigate conflict rather than avoiding it. Couples who replace fantasy with realism build stronger emotional foundations, where love feels steady, grounded, and deeply respectful — not dramatic or performative. That's what truly makes it last," concludes the expert.

What's special about a \$12.1 million or 1070.92 crore toilet?

How much would one be willing to pay for a toilet? It could be as much as \$12.1 million or ? 1070.92 crore if it comes in 18-karat gold and carries the signature of Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan. That's the amount his toilet sculpture titled America, weighing 101.2 kg, fetched at a Sotheby's auction on November 18. The bidding began at around \$10 million, based on the price of the gold it carried on the given day.

Belonging to a collector who had acquired it in 2017 from the Marian Goodman Gallery in New York, this is one of the editions of the flushable artwork made by Cattelan. Another edition was famously placed at the Solomon R Guggenheim Museum in New York in 2016, where it could be used by visitors and often had a queue of people lined up to take a look. The museum had also reportedly offered to lend it to US President Donald Trump when he had



asked to borrow a Vincent van Gogh painting.

In 2019, it was moved to Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, England, from where it was stolen. Two people were convicted for robbery earlier this year, but the toilet was never recovered, and it is believed that it was melted for its gold. A note on the sculpture on the Sotheby's website states: "At every juncture, America

— much like its conceptual forefather, Marcel Duchamp's Fountain — has been championed, scandalised and credited with fostering a revolutionary discourse on what art should mean and what that meaning is worth. Today, however, with the value of art scrutinised at every turn, America constitutes a kind of checkmate, opposing even Cattelan's most caus-

tic adversaries with the absolute objectivity of its value." Cattelan has previously garnered attention for his satirical and provocative themes. Among others, he is also the artist behind the 2019 Comedian, the banana duct-taped to a wall that sold for \$6.2 million at a Sotheby's auction last year. In 2016, his wax figure of Adolf Hitler kneeling sold for \$17.2 million at a Christie's auction.

LeBron James becomes 1st player to play 23 consecutive NBA seasons



Los Angeles Lakers legend LeBron James broke the record for the most consecutive seasons played by a player in NBA history. The 40-year-old played his first match of his 23rd NBA season in the top flight on Tuesday, going past Vince Carter's mark of 22 consecutive seasons, when he played for the Lakers against the Utah Jazz. James, who was playing his first match for the Lakers after missing 14 games due to sciatica, contributed 11 points, 12 assists and three rebounds in 30 minutes, helping his side win 140-126. "It was just fun to be out there with the guys, man. It's

been rough mentally for me — this is the first time I've started a basketball season and not played since I started playing basketball, like 9 years old. I've never missed the beginning of a basketball season," James said.

Lakers coach JJ Redick praised James for the way he was involved in the game on Tuesday, admitting that he made a lot of right decisions. "Just thought he played with the right spirit. Very unselfish all night. Was a willing passer, didn't force it, took his drives and his shots when they were there. The defense is going to pay attention to him, particularly when he has the ball in the post, particularly when he's putting pressure on the rim, and I just thought he made a lot of great decisions tonight. Really good to have him back," he said. James played his first season in the NBA for the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2003 and spent eight seasons there before moving to the Miami Heat in 2010. That move proved successful as James won consecutive NBA Championships in 2012 and 2013. He returned to play for the Cavs in 2014 and won his third NBA Championship in 2016. In 2018, James moved to the Lakers and won his fourth championship in 2020. In addition to his NBA achievements, James has also won three Olympic gold medals with the United States basketball team in 2008, 2012 and 2024.

Roger Federer elected to International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1st year of eligibility

GNS News Agency, Nov 19 Twenty-time major champion Roger Federer has been elected to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in the Player Category next year. In a special full circle moment, Federer received the news from fellow Hall of Famers while surrounded by the next generation of champions at Swiss Tennis, where he first began his career. Hall of Famers Stefan Edberg and Boris Becker, two of Federer's inspirations as a child, were joined by over 20 fellow Hall of Famers in sharing their congratulations.

Federer is one of only eight men in tennis history to achieve a career Grand Slam in singles and was the first male player in tennis history to win 20 major singles titles. He held the world No. 1 ranking for a record 237 consecutive weeks, ultimately holding that spot for 310 total weeks throughout his career. During his ATP career, he captured 103 singles titles, received the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award 13 times, and was voted as ATP Fan Favorite for a record 19 consecutive years. Federer captured an Olympic gold medal in doubles in 2008, led Switzerland to the 2014 Davis Cup title and created the Laver Cup to honor Hall of Famer Rod Laver's global legacy. Federer's first Slam title came at the All England Club in 2003, and he broke Pete Sampras' then-record for a male of 14 major titles by winning Wimbledon in 2009, defeating Andy Roddick 16-14



in the fifth set of the final. Federer claimed his 20th at the 2018 Australian Open. "It's a tremendous honor to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame and to stand alongside so many of the game's great champions," said Federer. "Throughout my career, I've always valued the history of tennis and the example set by those who came before me. It was very special to receive the news at Swiss Tennis, surrounded by the next generation of players — the place where my own journey first began. To be recognized in this way by the sport and by my peers is deeply humbling. I look forward to visiting Newport next August to celebrate this special moment with the tennis community."

Could Rajasthan Royals offer captaincy to Ravindra Jadeja? Anil Kumble wonders

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

The headlines coming out from the IPL retention day was the trade between Chennai Super Kings and Rajasthan Royals over Ravindra Jadeja and Sanju Samson who swapped franchises ahead of the IPL mini auctions next month. Former India spinner Anil Kumble said that he was pretty surprised that Jadeja was let go from CSK and also wondered if the allrounder could be in line for the RR captaincy. "Ravindra Jadeja returning to Rajasthan Royals is a big move. Generally, CSK doesn't let go of their players, especially someone of Jadeja's quality who has had a long relationship with them. I was surprised they let him go. Meanwhile, Sanju Samson coming to CSK is certainly a great move for them," Kumble said on IPL Retention Show on JioHotstar.

"Interestingly, Jadeja has also taken a pay cut from 18 crore to 14 crore. The big question is about captaincy — could Rajasthan offer it to Jadeja? They need to find a new captain. They have several options — Riyan Parag led them in a couple of matches last season, Yashasvi Jaiswal has always harbored captaincy dreams, young Dhruv Jurel has the right temperament, and there's overseas option Sam Curran. So Ravindra Jadeja becomes another interesting possibility for their leadership role," he added. Jadeja, who played for CSK for 12 seasons, is among the most experi-



enced players in the league, having played over 250 games. He started his IPL career with the Rajasthan Royals in 2008 and stayed there till 2011 before he was snapped up by the Kochi Tuskers. After that franchise was terminated, Jadeja was bought by CSK in 2012 and have been with them till the recent trade. Meanwhile, Samson who was the captain of the Rajasthan Royals, has played 177 matches since his first IPL signing with the Kolkata Knight Riders. CSK will be the fourth franchise of his career. Since making his IPL debut in 2013, the Kerala wicket-keeper has represented RR in all but two seasons—2016 and 2017—when he played for Delhi Capitals.

Stuart Broad believes Steve Smith may decide Ashes: 'Still don't know how to get him out'



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Former England paceman Stuart Broad believes that restricting Australia batter Steve Smith will hold the key for the visiting side to have a chance at winning a first Ashes series away from home in 15 years. Ben Stokes' side will kick off their challenge against Australia at the Optus Stadium in Perth on Friday. The first of five Tests will see England go up against a weakened team that will be led by Smith in the absence of their captain and pace spearhead Pat Cummins. Aussie quick Josh Hazlewood will also miss out. With Australia's top-order in shaky form, and their famed pace trio — Cummins, Hazlewood and Mitch Starc — far from fully fit, England have been tipped to have a good chance at this year's Ashes. But Broad has warned that Australia will have the edge if Smith is in form, saying he can single-handedly turn games in the visitors' favour. "To win the series, we have to keep him (Smith's average) to under 50, don't we?" Broad said on the 'For the Love of Cricket' podcast, which he co-hosts alongside Jos Buttler. "He's gonna score a hundred, it's what he does. (If) he averages 40, that's at least 15 under his career average, so you're doing brilliantly. I think you have to get him early," he added.

"If England aren't celebrating in his first 40 runs, it's going to be a long series." The Broad-Smith battle has been one of the few positives for England in the Ashes this decade. The former fast bowler dismissed Smith 11 times, more than any other bowler. But he maintains he still does not know any discernible weaknesses in the 36-year-old Aussie batter. "I remember he got this big two hundred (239 in Perth in 2017) and I did not miss the middle of his bat for three days. Every ball I tried to bowl just hit the middle of his bat. He's got that mindset of 'OK, this pitch suits me, and I'm not getting out'," Broad said. "Obviously his technique has changed throughout, but I still can't sit here and go 'well this is how you get him out'. That's an unbelievable strength of his. He's incredibly difficult to bowl at. Sometimes you don't feel like you've bowled a bad ball and it still goes for four," he added.

Why did Glenn McGrath withdraw from commentary commitments on ABC for the upcoming Ashes 2025/26?

Former Australian cricketer Glenn McGrath, who was appointed to be part of the commentary team for the upcoming Ashes on ABC, has now parted ways after McGrath's management team informed the broadcasters about the upcoming deal between the player and the Bet365 agency. "The ABC and Glenn McGrath have mutually parted ways for this Ashes. We look forward to seeing Glenn around the grounds throughout the series and would welcome working with him in the future. Our great commentary team, led by Jim Maxwell and Corbin Middlemas, is excited for the first test in Perth this Friday," said an ABC Spokesperson. The first Ashes Test will start on Friday at



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

Kehihyulo Khing, a professional climber born in Nagaland, thought that his day was finally here. Instead, he was told to make his own competition t-shirt for himself and slap on a logo of the unofficial governing body if he wanted to compete internationally. As the Olympic movement embraces sport climbing, a spin off from traditional rock-climbing, the story of the growing movement continues to be a tough mountain to scale from the ground up in India.

"I got the opportunity to take part in an international tournament. But I didn't because I would have had to pay for flights, stay and food all from my own pocket," says Khing, who has been a professional climber for 11 years and also coaches kids in and around New Delhi. Sports Climbing India The climbing wall, built in 2006, serves as a beginners course for the school. Nandkishor takes his students to the IMF campus for further practice as well. (Express Photo | Amit Mehra) The sport climbing movement in India has seen incremental growth, but it is receiving nowhere near the level of support needed for Olympic-level athletes to emerge. In Delhi's Salwan Boys' Senior Secondary School, a climbing wall made in 2006 serves as a bridge for the underprivileged communities living around Rajinder Nagar and their children to receive an avenue for competition and discipline. The school, a government-aided one, relies on its trust to provide sports infrastructure to students. "Parents are happy that their children get selected to our climbing team. They learn discipline, and we don't take any fees from them to teach them the sport," says coach Nandkishore. But the issue for him comes from the everyday costs that come with running his 15-children-strong team.

Nandkishore says that the cost of buying climbing boots goes from anywhere between Rs. 6,000 and Rs 12,000, and that's a recurring cost every few months. There

Haiti qualifies for FIFA World Cup despite coach never being there

GNS News Agency, Nov 19

One of the least developed countries in the world, Haiti is often described as a failed state. But the Caribbean island of 12 million people, which was ravaged by a devastating earthquake in 2010, will be making its second appearance at the FIFA World Cup next year. The country has had no elected officials since 2023. It is infamous for gang activity that controls almost the whole of the capital Port-au-Prince and there are numerous travel advisories saying one shouldn't visit the country beset with crimes like kidnappings. Terrorist activity, civil unrest, widespread hunger and limited health care are other disincentives. So, it's no surprise that Sebastien Migne, the coach who guided Haiti to the biggest stage in international football for the first time since 1974, has never set foot on the troubled nation since his appointment 18 months ago. The national team has to play its home matches 500 miles away in Curacao, an island nation just off the coast of Venezuela in South America. "It's impossible because it's too dangerous," Migne told France Football magazine. "I usually live in the countries where I work, but I can't here. There are no more international flights landing there."

Migne was Cameroon's assistant coach at the last World Cup and all his players are foreign-based. He was dependent on inputs provided by officials of the country's football federation. Haiti beat Nicaragua 2-0 on Tuesday to qualify for the World Cup after beating frequent World Cup visitors Costa Rica 1-0 last Thursday, and will join other underdogs such as Panama and Curacao from the

is also the intercity travel that he has to scrounge money up for, to train the children on better walls at the Indian Mountaineering Foundation's Dhaula Kuan campus. And when a competition takes place domestically, travel costs fall on him and the dwindling concerned ear once again. "These children come from poor families. We can't ask their parents to pay for the equipment so we try to crowdfund from the climbing community or request for old equipment from professional climbers," says Nandkishore. He points out one of his promising younger pupils, Kunal Singh, and says that the 12-year-old lost his father and uncle over the last two years, but continues to stay on in school and in the climbing team because of money not being asked from his single mother. "Kunal's father died of a heart attack last year in January. He used to drive a tempo transporting Bisleri water around the city. His uncle had also passed away earlier. Other than a very little pension, there isn't any money coming in," says Kunal's mother.

While happy that her son gets training and equipment from Nandkishore, eventually her hopes are that he can find a government job or join the Army through sport climbing. Sports Climbing India Coach Nandkishor with his students at Salwan Boys' Senior Secondary School. (Express Photo | Amit Mehra) A former student of Nandkishore, who wants to be a professional climber full-time but is working five hours a day at a local climbing gym, says that the community is waiting for a government-recognised federation to provide support when it comes to jobs. Sachin Saroj, when not climbing boulders, is often at Boulder Box in Delhi, working as an instructor. He says that his work allows him to continue training, while also providing a living. The management also helps with raising funds for tournaments that he feels would aid his growth. But the money is not enough to train professionally as a top athlete, one that would require 'a budget of at least Rs 20-24 lakhs a year', according to Sachin. "If you're looking for government jobs, or being a part of the Army, then only the Madras Regiment recognises a climbing sport quota," says Sachin. He remains optimistic, especially after the Air Force also included sports climbing in the sport quota. But the avenues for earning money are either joining the Army, the Air Force, or being a part of climbing gyms around the country. "Most of us come from humble backgrounds. The idea of working at a place and getting to train there itself seems good. But at some point, we get stuck. The reality is this lifestyle is very hard to maintain," says Khing.



Concacaf (North, Central American and Caribbean) region at the tournament to be co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada. In its only previous World Cup experience, Haiti exited at the group stage after defeats to Italy, Argentina and Poland. Migne has a lot of coaching experience with African national teams, having been at the helm with Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Equatorial Guinea. He has tried to rope in players of Haitian descent playing in top European leagues, like Sunderland forward Wilson Isidor and Wolverhampton Wanderers midfielder Jean-Ricner Bellegarde, who are both eligible to represent France as well. Other such players are former French under-21 international Jean-Ricner Bellegarde, winger Josué Casimir from AJ Auxerre, and former Belgium centre-back Hannes Delcroix, according to Reuters.

Shoaib Bashir included as England announce XII for 1st Ashes Test against Australia



GNS News Agency, Nov 19

England announced their XII for the first Ashes Test against Australia, starting in Perth on Friday. Off-spinner Shoaib Bashir was included in the players' list, as was Mark Wood, who has cleared a fitness test and will most likely feature in the playing XI. The 22-year-old's inclusion could also be because of Nathan Lyon's track record at the Perth Stadium, where he is the leading wicket-taker with 29 scalps. Bashir has not played for England since the third Test match

against India at Lord's in July. Perth Stadium curator Issac McDonald said on Wednesday that there was no directive from anybody regarding the type of pitch they would like to play on for the series opener. "Absolutely no directives from anyone ever, which has been the case in cricket for a long time and I'm gonna say forever, that just doesn't happen." "Low and slow, I think it's just not possible. The west Test is pace and bounce and that's what we're gonna stick to," McDonald told the press. England did not play a Test match at this venue during the 2021-22 Ashes series, with Hobart hosting the fifth and final Test of the series, which the visitors lost 4-0. They have not won a Test match in Australia since the 2010-11 tour. It remains the only Ashes series so far, where two Day-Night Tests were played, with Adelaide and Hobart both hosting the pink ball Test matches. The 2024-25 Ashes series will see the Gabba in Brisbane play host to the Day-Night Test from December 4-8. Pat Cummins is likely to fit in time for that Test after being ruled out of the series opener. England squad for first Ashes Test: Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (captain), Jamie Smith (wk), Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse, Mark Wood, Jofra Archer, Shoaib Bashir.



Mohanlal apologised to Meera Vasudevan before shooting controversial scene in Thanmathra in nude: ‘He was wearing a petticoat before the shot’



Meera Vasudevan once opened up about shooting an intimate scene with Mohanlal in Blessy's Thanmathra, for which the Malayalam superstar had to appear completely nude.Mohanlal and Meera Vasudevan in Thanmathra. (Screenshot: YouTube/MalayalamMovieSongs)Although almost 20 years have passed since director Blessy's Thanmathra (2005) hit the screens, the tragic drama remains an unhealed wound in the minds of Malayalam film audiences. It is one of those rare films that many viewers have said they won't watch again because it's too heartbreaking. Revolving around a man diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and its effects on him and his family, Thanmathra starred Mohanlal and Meera Vasudevan in the lead roles.

While the movie featured many distressing moments, one scene stood out as the most disturbing. Towards the middle, after Ramesan Nair (Mohanlal) begins showing signs of memory problems, before the disease is diagnosed, Thanmathra features a scene showing him getting intimate with his wife Lekha (Meera) at night. During their intimacy, he notices a lizard on the wall across the room, and his focus shifts to that. He suddenly, in a disoriented state, gets up from the bed and follows the lizard, underscoring how he is slowly losing control over his thoughts.A key moment

that offered an initial glimpse of how Alzheimer's disease could affect a person, it required Mohanlal to appear completely nude. However, the entire scene did not make it to the final cut, as certain parts were censored. Although the remaining scene received praise from many viewers for how well it was envisioned and filmed, it also courted controversy because such scenes were uncommon, particularly in family dramas, back then.Meera Vasudevan herself once revealed that director Blessy and his team ensured both she and Mohanlal were comfortable during the shoot. She also stated that before filming began, Mohanlal apologised to her. Stating that Blessy narrated the entire script, including the intimate scene, during their first meeting itself, Meera said he told her that many senior actors had turned down the movie because of this scene.During an appearance on Amrita TV's Red Carpet chat show, she said, "I asked him just one thing, 'Why is this scene required? What is its purpose?' He said it's very important. From the very beginning of the movie, these two characters are portrayed as very close. It's an intimate family as well. The husband and wife are always very touchy and feely. And this scene shows him suddenly getting distracted. He leaves his wife to chase a lizard. It crushes her. That's also when she understands something's wrong with him."Pointing out that the camera was set from Lekha's POV, Meera recalled that she was almost fully covered with sheets. "It was tougher for Mohanlal sir because he had to go completely nude for the scene. It was more challenging for him. I had to think about sir, as well as myself, and my integrity and respect. He is very professional. Before the shot, he came and apologised to me. He said, 'I am very sorry about this. If I am embarrassing you in any way, I am sorry.' He was wearing a petticoat before the shot and removed it just before the moment. I asked Blessy sir to ensure that it was shot with a small team, and they respected the same. We all worked on the scene with pure hearts and integrity," she added.Besides winning the National Film Award for Best Malayalam Feature Film, Thanmathra also earned multiple Kerala State Film Awards, including Best Film and Best Director. It earned Mohanlal his fifth state award for Best Actor as well.

Malayalam cinema's most successful director made the same film in 3 languages in 2 years; all of them featured superstars; helped revive Vijay's career

Although he began his Bollywood journey with a bang, the legendary Malayalam director never returned to the industry again until his demise.Siddique entered the film industry alongside Lal, serving as an assistant to legendary director Fazil. (Credit: Facebook/@directorsiddiqueismail)Although Malayalam cinema has witnessed the arrival and rise of several talented filmmakers over the decades, with some ranking among India's finest, the Siddique–Lal duo continues to hold a top spot in the elite list of the most successful and celebrated directors the regional film industry has ever had. Despite helming only five films in their collaborative career spanning just five years, and that too over three decades ago, the movies the duo created are still among Malayalees' all-time favourites and are rewatched by the masses to this day.

Following their entry into the industry in the mid-1980s as assistants to legendary director Fazil, who had by then become a bankable filmmaker, Siddique and Lal made their debut by penning the story, screenplay, and dialogues for Pappan Priyappetta Pappan (1986), helmed by Sathyan Anthikad. The 1987 comedy classic Nadodikkattu was also based on a story developed by the duo. In 1989, they made their directorial debut with Ramji Rao Speaking, which is now regarded as one of the finest comedies Malayalam cinema has ever created. It was remade into several languages, including Hindi, as the iconic Hera Pheri (2000).Don't Miss | Exploited by mother, Malayalam cinema's biggest actress was treated as 'untouchable' by family; she saved ailing industry, competed with Mohanlal, MammoottyIn the subsequent years, they directed four more comedy dramas: In Harihar Nagar (1990), Godfather (1991), Vietnam Colony (1992), and Kabooliwala (1993) — all of which emerged as massive blockbusters. Interestingly, their Godfather remains the longest-running Malayalam film of all time, having enjoyed a theatrical run of over 400 days. Although Siddique and Lal parted ways after that, purportedly to pursue their individual careers, the real reason — if there's anything more than what they revealed — behind their unexpected professional split remains a mystery. Nonetheless, they maintained an unwavering friendship even after their separation and collaborated in various capacities over the years.When Siddique debuted as an independent filmmaker with the Mammootty-starrer Hitler (1996), it was co-produced by Lal. He also served as a co-producer on Siddique's Friends (1999). Years later, they collaborated creatively on the romantic comedy King Liar, which the duo scripted based on a story by Siddique. Lal directed it.Siddique and Lal were extremely talented, and even when they pursued their individual careers, they mostly found immense success. In 2001, Siddique remade Friends in Tamil. That movie also became a massive blockbuster and played a key role in establishing the careers of 'Thalapathy' Vijay and Suriya. He returned to Malayalam in 2003 with another blockbuster, the Mammootty-starrer Chronic Bachelor. Subsequently, he took a long break from Malayalam. Meanwhile, he remade Chronic Bachelor in Tamil as Engal Anna (2004) and also helmed the Tamil movie Sadhu Miranda (2008), which was loosely based on the Siddique-Lal-scripted Mannar Mathai Speaking (1995). He also penned the screenplay and dialogues for the Malayalam thriller Finger Print (2005).

His proper comeback in Malayalam came in 2010 with Bodyguard. Starring Dileep and Nayanthara in the lead roles, the romantic comedy became a massive blockbuster, cementing Siddique's status in the industry. This was also the era when Dileep was reigning supreme, with most of his movies becoming huge hits. Bodyguard, as a result, had a majestic run at the box office and also marked Nayanthara's return to Malayalam after a four-year hiatus. The film became such a big hit that it was remade in four languages, with three versions featuring superstars in their respective industries.Siddique himself remade the movie into Tamil and Hindi in the following months. While Kaavalan (2011) featured Vijay and Asin in the lead roles, the central characters were reprised by Salman Khan and Kareena Kapoor in



the Hindi version titled Bodyguard (2011). Interestingly, Kaavalan arrived at a time when Vijay was struggling due to back-to-back failures and had not delivered any blockbusters since Pokirri (2007). The Siddique directorial helped Vijay overcome this rough patch.According to Business World, Kaavalan grossed Rs 102 crore worldwide, while the Malayalam version earned Rs 20 crore, which was a significant figure for the comparatively smaller industry. Siddique replicated the success in Hindi as well, despite it being his debut in the language. The Salman Khan-Kareena Kapoor movie grossed Rs 252.99 crore worldwide, according to Bollywood Hungama. The movie was remade in Telugu under the same title by director Gopichand Malineni. The 2012 film featured Venkatesh and Trisha in the lead roles.Although he began his Bollywood journey with a bang, Siddique never returned to the industry again until his demise in August 2023. His final directorial venture was the Mohanlal-starrer Big Brother (2020), which ended up being a critical and commercial failure.

Kajol leases Mumbai office for Rs 6.9 lakhs monthly rent, to earn Rs 8.6 crores in 9 years

Actress Kajol has leased her office space in Mumbai's Goregaon locality for a tenure of nine years. According to a report by Square Yard, at the end of nine years, the actress will earn Rs 8.6 crores through the deal. As per the registration documents, the office premises will be rented for Rs 6.9 lakhs monthly. The deal was officially registered this month, and the property is situated near key business and entertainment hubs.

As per the documents available on the Inspector General of Registration website, the property is located in Bharat Arize and has a carpet area of 1817 sq ft along with one car parking space. The stamp duty paid for this deal is Rs 5.61 lakhs, along with registration charges worth Rs 30,000. The property lease also involves a security deposit of Rs 27.61 lakhs.

The report in Square Yards further states that the rental agreement has been made for 9 years, starting from November 2025. In the first three years, the monthly rent for the property will be Rs 6.9 lakhs; after every three years, the rent will increase by 15 percent. So in the second slab of this deal, Kajol will receive a monthly rent of Rs 7.9 lakhs, and in the last leg of the rental agreement, the monthly rent for the property will be Rs 9.13 lakhs per month. So, the Bollywood actress will earn Rs 8.6 crores in total when the lease for the office space expires in 2034.

Saif Ali Khan makes bold real-estate move, procures commercial offices in Mumbai worth Rs 30.75 crore



Following the trend of Bollywood stars investing in real estate for long-term benefits, actor Saif Ali Khan has now put some more skin in the game. The Dil Chahta Hai actor has just bought two office spaces in Mumbai, which, according to reports, are worth Rs 30.75 crore. This further diversifies his portfolio, as the property has presumably been procured for the purpose of renting it out.

According to reports by HT, the total area of these two offices is a combined 5,681 square feet. They are located in the Kanakia Wallstreet, which is a commercial

office complex in Andheri, Mumbai. The offices, which also come with six designated parking spots, were bought from Apiore Pharmaceuticals, which is a US-based company. The documents were accessed by a real estate advisory firm called Volney. The stamp duty was worth Rs 1.84 crore, while the registration fees for the same cost Rs 60k.This is the second major real estate investment made by the actor this year. In the month of April, he purchased a holiday home in Doha, Qatar. He talked about his decision to buy the house during a press event hosted by The Alfardan Group. He said, "I had gone there to do some work, and I was shooting for something, and I stayed at the property, and I thought it was amazing, and there was something about the mixture of privacy and luxury that I really liked."Saif added and said that the most important thing was that the house was safe and secluded. Just three months prior to this statement, Saif had been stabbed by an intruder who gained entry into his Bandra home. Apart from that, he also has homes in London, Gstaad, and, of course, his ancestral home, the Pataudi Palace in Haryana. The family also owns a massive amount of real estate in Bhopal; however, all 15000 acres of it have been hanging in the balance due to several legal issues.Actors like Kajol, Kartik Aaryan and Amitabh Bachchan have also invested in real estate this year. Kajol bought office space in Goregaon, Mumbai, worth Rs 29 crore, while Kartik Aaryan bought commercial space worth Rs 13 crore, along with his parents. Big B purchased a 25000 square foot plot in Ayodhya, which set him back by Rs 40 crore. It was also Bachchan's fourth real estate investment in Ayodhya.

This artist went to Chandigarh for an engineering degree, came back seeped in Punjabi music; is worth Rs 124 crore today

In the past 5-6 years, the whole scene around Indian rap and pop has changed drastically, with a huge rise in the total number of players, labels, and mainstream intervention. But there are some artists who were flourishing in that very space long before it got the attention it deserved. Among names like RDB, Dr Zeus, Honey Singh and Raftaar, there is also an artiste called Aditya Prateek Singh, who is better known as Badshah.

The Delhi-born musician actually had no plans of becoming a musician; it was more like a far-fetched dream that would never be able to scale the wall of societal expectations. So the Pitampura boy kept his head down, finished school and got enrolled into St Stephen's College, Delhi University. But that changed within a week, and Badshah joined Punjab Engineering College in Chandigarh. However, this new location educated him in more ways than one. It was Chandigarh where Badshah started building an affinity for Punjabi music.

Even though his mother was a school teacher and his father worked for the state electricity board, the whole idea of a regular job didn't sit right with Badshah. After joining PEC in 2002, he started exploring the possibility of doing music as a full-time job. During a 2015 interview with HT, he shared an anecdote about how he tried to convince his parents to let him become a rapper. He said, "When I first told my parents I want to be a rapper, they asked me, 'Yeh rap hota kya hai?' (What is rap?). To make them understand, I showed them a music video featuring rapper 50 Cent. That didn't put things in my favour, because it was an obscene video."During the same interview, he admitted that it took him quite some time to convince his parents and that he had, in fact, started working after college as a civil engineer. The yellow hard hat and the vest had become his daily life now, but still he kept pushing for a career in music, and he got his foot in the door through Mafia Mundeer. While there has been much debate about what Badshah's role was in the hip-hop group Mafia Mundeer, no one can deny that his name started floating around the system post their association.

After penning many songs for the group and Honey Singh in particular, Badshah parted ways with the group around 2012. He then began his solo journey, which started



with the breakout single 'Saturday Saturday', which featured in the film Humpty Sharma Ki Dulhania, starring Varun Dhawan and Alia Bhatt. He also started releasing some independent tracks like, 'Driving Slow' and 'Baatcheet'. Now the rapper had some work to his name that couldn't be discredited or taken away from him, and he capitalised on that by releasing one hit after another.The quality of the artists he was working with also started impacting his reach. He featured on Diljit Dosanjh's Proper Patola and Navv Inder's Wakhra Swag, and both songs went viral. His Bollywood journey kept on going as he made songs for films like Kapoor and Sons, Khoobsurat, and Street Dancer 3D.Now, several hit albums, EPs and singles later, Badshah has cemented himself as one of the OGs of Indian pop/hip-hop. Like Raftaar, he is seamlessly falling in line with the new world order of Indian music and is constantly collaborating with fresh and newer artists. According to a report by Jagran New Media, the kid from Pitampura is now worth over Rs 124 crore.

Alia Bhatt's 'miserable' workout clips go viral, Ranbir Kapoor does pull-ups right next to her.



Alia Bhatt's recent gym workout video is gaining fans' attention on social media. Alia's fitness trainer, Karan Sawhney, shared a glimpse into the actor's 'miserable' leg day workout routine. But while fans were all focused on Alia's intense workout, you might miss Ranbir Kapoor's pull-ups right beside her in a part of the clip.

Alia's fans are going gaga over exercises. Alia Bhatt always keeps her focus on fitness training, and her workout and gym sessions are often shared by her trainer. In a

new clip, Alia can be seen sweating it out in the gym with some glutes and legs workout.But the clip which was shared on Tuesday, not only shows Alia but also gave a glimpse of Ranbir working out in the gym. The duo's gym date is going viral. The video was first shared by her trainer.A fan noticed Ranbir Kapoor in the background and wrote, "Was that Ranbir in the back hanging or swinging." Both Alia and Ranbir Kapoor have been maintaining a perfect body which always impress their fans.While the clip starts with Alia Bhatt flashing her dimpled smile and a victory sign while running on a treadmill. Soon after the clip shifts to Alia seen doing weighted squats with resistance bands tied to her body. On the side, Ranbir is seen doing pull-ups.

Further, Alia can be seen doing more exercise targeting her lower-body strength. The comment section of the post has lot of reactions from fans. For the workout session, Alia was seen dressed in a grey T-shirt and black pants, while Ranbir wore a lavender shirt and shorts.On the work front, Alia Bhatt will be seen in film Alpha, which is a part of YRF Spy Universe, and also in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love and War, which also stars Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal.On the personal front, Alia and Ranbir Kapoor recently moved into their new home in Mumbai's Pali Hill. The couple moved into the six-storey bungalow, named Krishna Raj, with their daughter Raha and Ranbir's mother, Neetu Kapoor.Kriti works as a Copy Editor for the Entertainment section of Indian Express Online (indianexpress.com). She is great at web stories, galleries, and Express Archive's photo stories. She is good at spotting stories from social media posts. She makes the copies well-loaded with content, photos, tweets, and other related social media posts to make it interesting for the readers. An alumnus of Asian College of Journalism, Chennai (Specialization in New Media), Kriti has been a part of the organisation since November 2015. She took a transfer from Delhi to Bengaluru in April 2017.