





# Indian Chronicle

## English Daily

### We need a mental health movement rooted in community

Just five minutes a day of contemplative practices to improve mindfulness, connection, insight and purpose have been scientifically proven to create positive changes in the brain's chemistry. Compassion training has demonstrably shown reduced implicit bias towards people you knowingly or unknowingly dislike. Meditating monks have zero anticipatory anxiety and a quick recovery from an experiment of planned exposure to extreme heat. Pregnant women who practise awareness in the second trimester can give their children a health advantage that lasts for years. These and other scientific data were included in a talk by neuroscientist Richard Davidson, who has spent years studying the brains of Buddhist monks. His advice to Indians? You have rituals and practices already deeply embedded in your society that you can conserve and enhance in order to flourish. Davidson was speaking at the second edition of the National Mental Health Festival, called Manotsava (a celebration of the mind) in Bengaluru, co-created by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, the National Centre for Biological Sciences and my foundation, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies. There is no other festival like this, at this scale, anywhere in the world, though there is an urgent need to have one in every state in India, if not every district. According to the pre-pandemic National Mental Health Survey 2015–16, 150 million people in India need mental health interventions, yet the treatment gap ranges between 70 per cent and 92 per cent, with the gap for common mental disorders that are easily prevented or treated remaining at 85 per cent. The goal of Manotsava is to flip the existing model and associate mental health with wellness, not just disease, and bring science and society closer.

## Manthani SI Warns of Stern Legal Action Over Irresponsible Social Media Misuse.



“P.S. ASHOKAN” KARIMNAGAR BUREAU. “Manthani Sub-Inspector Ramesh has cautioned the residents and youth of Manthani town that stringent legal action will be initiated against anyone indulging in irresponsible and inflammatory conduct on social media platforms.” “He stated that the police have observed certain individuals posting and commenting in a manner designed to provoke and antagonize different groups, thereby instigating communal discord and mutual hostility. Such objectionable online activity, he noted, poses a serious threat to public tranquility, social harmony, and overall law and order.” “SI Ramesh pointed out that sharing unverified content which demeans, insults, or incites any individual or community can easily escalate into physical confrontations and wider conflicts. Circulating rumors, hate-filled messages, or divisive narratives without confirming their authenticity, he said, is not only unethical but can also attract legal prosecution.” “He further emphasized that publishing provocative remarks, and uploading or forwarding videos and photographs that are likely to incite violence or communal tension, constitutes a clear violation of the law.” “Calling for restraint, he urged all citizens to: “- Use social media responsibly and thoughtfully, “- Refrain from posting or forwarding any content that might incite hatred, enmity, or unrest, “- Immediately bring any inflammatory or suspicious posts to the notice of the police.” “Concluding his appeal, SI Ramesh stressed that safeguarding peace, nurturing tolerance, and showing mutual respect are collective responsibilities. Every citizen, he asserted, must contribute to maintaining a peaceful, respectful, and law-abiding society, both offline and online.

## Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy Performs Special Pujas on Amavasya



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 20 (Indian Chronicle): “On the occasion of Amavasya, Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy performed special pujas on Thursday at the Bala Anjaneya Swamy Temple near Uppal Ring Road and the Kala Bhairava Swamy Temple located in Uppal Baghayat. “Speaking on the occasion, the MLA wished that everyone should live with peace, prosperity, and happiness. He mentioned that performing pujas on Amavasya brings good fortune to the people. “BRS party leaders, activists, and others participated in the program.

## Honda Cars India Unveils the Stylish Bold Elevate ADV Edition in Hyd



Hyderabad: Honda Cars India Ltd. (HCIL), leading manufacturer of premium cars in India, today introduced the Elevate ADV Edition, a new flagship grade in the line-up of their popular SUV - Honda Elevate in Hyderabad. The ADV Edition developed for young consumers with active and dynamic lifestyles, brings together the Elevate's strong design, exciting i-VTEC performance, and advanced Honda Sensing safety features, all with a sportier and more unique look. This perfectly reflects its positioning: BOLD.MOVE.

Speaking on the launch of the Elevate ADV Edition, Mr. Kunal Behl, Vice President, Marketing and Sales, Honda Cars India Ltd., said, “The Honda Elevate has received a positive response from customers across the country. With the introduction of the Elevate ADV as the top trim in the line-up of our much-loved SUV, Honda Elevate we aim to offer our customers more choices that suit their active & evolving lifestyles. Featuring an even bolder stance, spacious cabin and added unique elements the Honda Elevate ADV is the perfect companion for our customers distinct journeys.”

He further added, “For Honda Cars India, Telangana is one of the key markets with a large and loyal customer base. All our models including the Honda City, Honda Elevate and the Honda Amaze continue to receive a good response from customers across the state. We are optimistic that the new Honda Elevate ADV will do well in the market, and we look forward to welcoming new customers in the Honda family.” The Elevate ADV features both exterior as well as interior changes. The exterior design gets bold exclusive upgrades that make it stand out on the road. The Honda Elevate ADV's cabin features a high-energy, bold black interior theme with vibrant orange accent detailing. The placement of the orange accents on the black interior further enhances the excitement of the driving experience. These impactful changes in Elevate create a visual identity that is both confident and contemporary. Bolder Exterior The Elevate ADV Edition is distinguished by its new glossy black Alpha-Bold Plus front grille with black surround and a hood decal accented with bold orange highlights, which together create a striking and strong presence on the road. Complementing this strong visual identity are black roof rails, ORVMs, upper grille moulding, door mouldings, window beltline moulding, shark fin antenna and handles, all designed to enhance the exterior appeal. These elements further enhance the bold and confident design statement of the Elevate ADV Edition.

Distinctive touches like ADV emblems on the fenders, orange fog light garnish, unique ADV lettering decal on the front door, and black alloy wheels with orange accents add to its standout appeal. The rear bumper skid garnish with orange highlights, body-coloured rear skid plate, and blacked-out C-pillar for the dual-tone colour options, give it a sportier, more premium finish.

### Bold and Sporty Interior

The interior of the Elevate ADV Edition features a sleek all-black cabin with bold orange stitching and accents, giving it a fresh and premium vibe. The black seats with orange stitching and embossed ADV logos on both front and rear add a personal, stylish touch. Orange highlights on the AC knobs, gear knob moulding, and door trims make the cabin feel exclusive. The black roof lining, sun visors, and pillars complete the look, while small details like the orange seat belt tongue-plate add a sporty edge. The instrument panel stands out with innovative and first-in-Honda ADV Terrain Pattern Backlit Illuminated Instrument Panel Garnish, creating a modern and immersive cabin experience. The ADV Edition will be offered in Meteoroid Gray Metallic and Lunar Silver Metallic, available in both single tone and dual-tone exterior colour options.

## “India’s logistics sector is entering a high-growth decade; it needs a modern and future ready workforce”

- Shri Jayant Chaudhary at the launch of Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence (COLTE), Hyderabad.

Hyderabad; India's logistics sector is entering a high-growth decade, powered by the National Logistics Policy, PM GatiShakti and unprecedented investments in multimodal infrastructure. But this transformation can only be sustained if we build a workforce that is as modern and future-ready as the systems we are creating,” said Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Education, Government of India, while inaugurating the - Centre of Logistics Training Excellence, in the campus of National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) Hyderabad today, which marked a major step in advancing technology-driven skilling for India's logistics sector.

The centre has been established by Redington Foundation, the CSR arm of Redington Limited, in partnership with the Logistics Sector Skill Council (LSC). The launch of the Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence, Hyderabad builds on the proven success of Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence in Chennai, which was established in January 2024 and has since emerged as a benchmark for modern, industry-aligned logistics skilling. Over the past year, the Chennai centre has trained unemployed youth as well as working professionals through advanced AR/VR modules, industry-grade simulators, and strong collaborations with academia and industry partners. Its outcomes have demonstrated the scalability and relevance of this high-impact training model, paving the way for the expansion to Hyderabad—one of India's fastest-growing logistics hubs. R. Venkatesh, Global Chief Sustainability Officer, Redington



Ltd.”, said, “The Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence in Chennai demonstrated how technology-enabled learning can truly transform the employability of India's logistics workforce. The impact we witnessed in Chennai—high engagement, strong industry alignment, and improved job readiness—reaffirmed our belief in scaling this model across the country. With the Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence, we are deepening that commitment by bringing world-class simulators, digital learning tools, and industry-relevant training to Hyderabad. Our goal is to build a future-ready talent pool that can confidently meet the demands of a fast-evolving, technology-led logistics sector and contribute meaningfully to India's economic progress.”

## Uppal Bhagayat Welfare Association Submits Representation Opposing New Liquor Shop in HMDA Layout

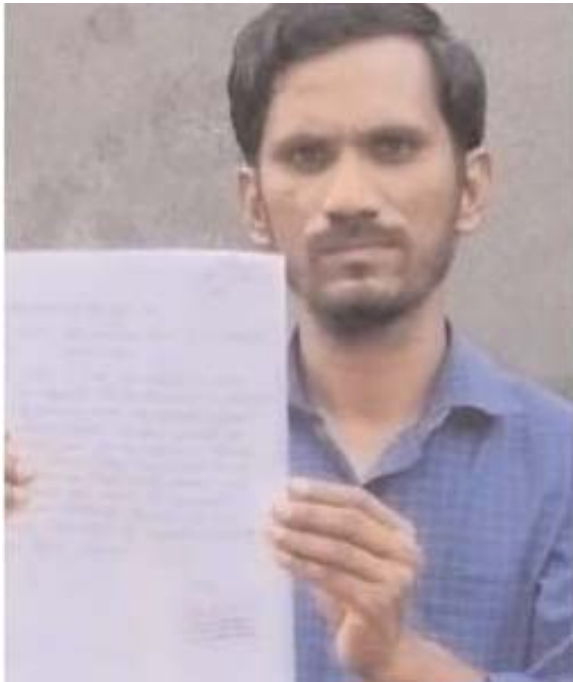


“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 20 (Indian Chronicle): “Residents of the Uppal Bhagayat HMDA Layout have expressed serious concern over the proposal to set up a new liquor shop in their locality. Fearing that the establishment would create severe inconvenience for families living in the area, representatives of the Uppal Bhagayat Welfare Association submitted a formal appeal to the concerned authorities, requesting that permission for the liquor shop be denied. “Welfare Association President Mekala Madhusudhan Reddy and other members met Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy, Medchal–Malkajgiri Excise Superintendent K. Naveen Kumar, Uppal Excise CI B. Omkar, and Uppal Municipal Deputy Commissioner Raju on Thursday and handed over representations opposing the proposed liquor outlet. “The association explained to officials that the proposed location is unsuitable, as it is surrounded by several sensitive and public spaces.” “On one side stands the Swayambhu Kalabhairava Temple, visited daily by many devotees.” “On the other side lies an 8-acre public park, where senior citizens, women, and locals regularly come for morning and evening walks, and where children play every day.” “Nearby is also the Srujanalaya (iFocus) Ashram office, where spiritua frequently visit. “Residents expressed fears that opening a liquor shop in the layout would encourage antisocial activities. They pointed out that



even now, due to inadequate street lighting in some parts of the layout, women face difficulties at night. Establishing a liquor shop, they said, would worsen safety concerns, with the possibility of miscreants consuming alcohol on the roads and indulging in nuisance and unruly behaviour. The Welfare Association reminded authorities that they had earlier passed a resolution prohibiting liquor shops, OYO rooms, and hostels within the layout to preserve the peaceful residential environment. Considering all these factors, the association firmly requested officials not to permit the liquor shop under any circumstances. “iFocus gurus Vasudeva Sharma, Devaruppala Srihari, Bangla Srinivas Reddy, Vakkanti Srinivas Rao, Chandrasekhar Reddy, Chaitanya, and several others participated in this programme.

## Justice Is Needed! The Grief Of The Land Victim



“Indian Chronicle” kumram bheem, Asifabad, District Reporte, Jade Srinivas. November, 20. “Wankidi This victim says that there is no office where he has not gone for legal struggle since five years ago, but the words bring tears to his eyes. Along with the deteriorating human relations in the society, justice is also becoming a major problem. Some are upset and are complaining that the existing land has been illegally acquired. The victims are suffering from the pain. Durgam Tirupati, a land victim from Wankidi mandal of Asifabad district, alleged that 52-60 plots of land have been occupied by creating fake papers. Speaking on the occasion, he expressed his grief over the injustice that has happened to him. He was moved to tears as he was not getting justice for the offices that have been roaming around for almost five years. He expressed his concern that the injustice is continuing to be done by wondering where it has gone. He said that a person named Govardhan bought it and sold it to Yadav and Mamata and did injustice. He said that a case worth crores is pending against them. The date of filing the case worth crores is 29.09. He said that the 2021 case is pending for crores. He said that a person named Yadav did not sell the land to Chandrashekhar on 14.03.2024 while he had the land. He said that there is a case of crores against Yadav. He alleged that a person named Chandrashekhar who built a house without the permission of the Gram Panchayat is not being cared for and that justice is not being done. He said that the DPO has sent a report, but justice is not being done, he said that there is only grapes left. He said that his land was encroached upon and a three- storey building was built. He said that the report has been sent again till now, but the DPO has not sent it. He said that the District Collector has also filed a complaint on this matter. The Collector responded and said that he would send it to the DPO. He said that the DPO did not say that he would send it to the Mandal. In the meantime, he said that there is a three- storey building. He questioned how reasonable it is to buy and build a land with a crores of land case due to lapse of time. Without the permission of the Gram Panchayat, the Gram Panchayat office had encroached in advance. “They complained about how a three- storey building will be constructed on the affected land. They were happy that justice was done for a person named Govardhan who had falsely accused us again in 2020. They said that the court verdict was acquitted and that this was a false case and the verdict was given on 17.09.2025. They said that I had filed an application for illegal construction and installation of a false electricity meter for this construction. They alleged that even after giving complaints to government officers, they did not care. They said that the report was sent back to those who sent the report. Otherwise, there will be no result. They wondered how such a three- storey building would become illegal if the construction of the building was stopped. They said that the land in the suburb of Wankidi, survey number 117, was registered in the name of my father. They complained that if I went to CBSE and said, “Stop this land, illegal cases will be filed against me.” The secretary said that you should stop your land. . They said that this is a civil matter given by PF. They alleged that if the encroachers give it, they will take a complaint. If they ask the secretary, he will say that he is constructing a building while he is on vacation, what should I do? He will lift it. He said. He said that case number 40,2021 is civil and pending. He said that the case of the 52-60- pit land is being processed in the court. He alleged that a person named Govardhan created a fake paper and forged the signatures of my mother and father. He alleged that he was encroached on. He said that his mother filed a civil case on this. He said that Govardhan registered the land illegally without the rights of Yadav and Mamata and sold it as a game. He said that now a case is being run in the court. He said that a person named Yadav registered this land and gave it to other people for 14,03,2024. He alleged that the document number registration in 373-24 was occupied and a three- storey building was constructed without the permission of the Gram Panchayat. He stated that he has been seeking justice since he learned that the land was encroached upon.

## Special Pujas by Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy at Sri Kalabhairava Temple

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 20 (Indian Chronicle): “Special pujas were performed on Thursday at the Sri Kalabhairava Temple located in the HMDA Bagayat area of Uppal, on the occasion of Amavasya. Uppal Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy took part in the rituals. “Speaking on the occasion, the corporator prayed for the health, prosperity, and well-being of the people of Uppal. Under the guidance of Kannaya Panthulu, the temple conducted special pujas on Thursday. “Those who participated in the programme included Pujala Prabhakar, Eega Santosh, Swapna Mudiraj, Vinod Reddy, Bommala Sudhakar, Lingampally Ramakrishna, Raju, Alugula Anil Kumar, Janagam Ramakrishna, Kannamaina Naresh, Bazaar Naveen Goud, Bodge Mallesh Kuruma, Anwar Pasha, Mohan Nayak, and several others.





## \*“India’s logistics sector is entering a high-growth decade; it needs a modern and future ready workforce” - MoS Shri Jayant Chaudhary\*



• The centre has been established by Redington Foundation, the CSR arm of Redington Limited, in partnership with the Logistics Sector Skill Council (LSC). • Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence, Hyderabad brings advanced simulation labs and technology-led training to empower Telangana’s logistics talent pipeline in jobs like EXIM Associate, Forklift Operator, Warehouse Associate Executive, and Supply Chain Executive • Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence Hyderabad curriculum integrates Industry 4.0 principles and emerging supply chain technologies. • The centre will enhance the employability of Telangana’s youth.

Hyderabad, 20 Nov, 2025: “India’s logistics sector is entering a high-growth decade, powered by the National Logistics Policy, PM GatiShakti and unprecedented investments in multimodal infrastructure. But this transformation can only be sustained if we build a workforce that is as modern and future-ready as the systems we are creating,” said Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Hon’ble Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Education, Government of India, while inaugurating the - Centre of Logistics Training Excellence, in the campus of National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) Hyderabad today, which marked a major step in advancing technology-driven skilling for India’s logistics sector.

The centre has been established by Redington Foundation, the CSR arm of Redington Limited, in partnership with the Logistics Sector Skill Council (LSC). The launch of the Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence, Hyderabad builds on the proven success of Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence in Chennai, which was established in January 2024 and has since emerged as a benchmark for modern, industry-aligned logistics skilling. Over the past year, the Chennai centre has trained unemployed youth as well as working professionals through advanced AR/VR modules, industry-grade simulators, and strong collaborations with academia and industry partners. Its outcomes have demonstrated the scalability and relevance of this high-impact training model, paving the way for the expansion to Hyderabad—one of India’s fastest-growing logistics hubs.

“Centres like Centre of Logistics Training for Excel-



lence, Hyderabad show what the next generation of logistics skilling must look like—technology-led, industry-designed and sharply aligned to real operational needs. As automation, digital supply chains and new mobility models redefine the sector, skilled professionals will be the backbone of India’s competitiveness. Our commitment is clear: to equip lakhs of young Indians with the capabilities that will drive the efficiency, resilience and global leadership of India’s logistics economy,” he further added

The new centre in Hyderabad offers significantly enhanced capabilities, including simulation labs for truck driving, warehouse operations, and forklift management. With a curriculum co-developed by LSC and industry experts, Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence, Hyderabad integrates Industry 4.0 principles and emerging supply chain technologies to ensure learners receive job-ready, future-oriented competencies that match the expectations of a technology-led logistics sector. The centre is poised to strengthen the employability of Telangana’s youth and contribute to building a robust talent pipeline for the region.

R. Venkatesh, Global Chief Sustainability Officer, Redington Ltd., said, “The Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence in Chennai demonstrated how technology-enabled learning can truly transform the employability of India’s logistics workforce. The impact we witnessed in Chennai—high engagement, strong industry alignment, and improved job readiness—reaffirmed our belief in scaling this model across the country. With the Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence, we are deepening that commitment by bringing world-class simulators, digital learning tools, and industry-relevant training to Hyderabad. Our goal is to build a future-ready talent pool that can confidently meet the demands of a fast-evolving, technology-led logistics sector and contribute meaningfully to India’s economic progress.”

The establishment of Centre of Logistics Training for Excellence, Hyderabad reinforces MSDE’s commitment to strengthening a robust national skilling architecture for logistics and supply chain management. The Ministry’s continued focus on developing sector-specific Centres of Excellence reflects its vision to enhance industry capabilities, boost employability, and advance India’s progress toward building a globally competitive workforce across sectors.

## Journalists Must Deeply Analyze the Good and Bad in Society

Felicitation of WJI New Committee: MP Etela Rajender”Chittimalla Mahendar, “Karimnagar Bureau, November 20, Indian Chronicle:”Malkaigiri Member of Parliament Etela Rajender stated that journalists carry the crucial responsibility of deeply analyzing both the good and bad in society. He emphasized that journalistic writing should be purposeful and contribute to the welfare of the public.”On Thursday, he felicitated the newly elected committee of the BMS-affiliated Working Journalists of India (WJI), Karimnagar district unit. He expressed confidence that the new committee would work for the welfare of journalists and help enhance professional skills within the fraternity. MP Etela Rajender congratulated WJI district president Darama Jagannatha Reddy, general secretary Gudala Srinivas, treasurer Chittimalla Mahendar, vice-president Moguram Ramesh, along with other committee members.”Earlier, WJI State Vice-President Taduru Karunakar briefed the MP about the functioning of various



journalists’ unions in Telangana, their activities, and membership details across the state and district levels.

## Students should study in libraries with discipline and reach higher heights



: - Government Whip, Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah, Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy ““On the occasion of the conclusion of the 58th National Library Week.. We will allocate special funds from our fund for the development of the library... Government Whip, Aleru MLA Beerla Ailaiah.. Aleru MLA Bonagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy ““Higher education... I will always provide support to poor students preparing for IAS and IPS... Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Library Chairman Awaiz Chisti ““(Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle..November 20) :- The concluding meeting of the 58th National Library Week, dance competitions will be held on Thursday at the District Central Library It was held grandly in Bhuvanagiri. The meeting was presided over by MD. Awais Ur Rehman Chisti, Chairman of the District Library Association. The chief guests for this meeting were Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ilayya, Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao, District Library Society Secretary M Sudheer, Bhuvanagiri Market Committee Chairman Rekha Baburao, Valigonda Market Committee Chairman Bima Nayak, Bhuvanagiri Former Market Committee Chairman Potnak Pramod

Kumar, Bhuvanagiri Former Municipal Chairman Pothamsetty Venkateswarlu, Congress Party Town President Kura Venkatesh, BJP Town President Ratnapuram Balaram, Former Library Committee Director Polishetty Anil Kumar, Shetty Balayya, Former Municipal Chairman Barre Jahangir, Pingal Reddy, Battu Ramachandraiah, Baleshwar, Bibinagar Congress Mandal Presidents Sathi Reddy, former MPP of Valigonda Nuthi Ramesh, SC Cell District President Dargai Hari Prasad participated. The program was started by lighting the lamp and garlanding the portraits of Saraswati Devi. Speaking at the program, Government Whip, Beerla Ailaiah, and Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy said that libraries will be developed with their funds and that everyone should put aside cell phones at least two days a week and read books and visit libraries. District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that electronic items should be kept away from social media and libraries in the district should be digitized. Speaking on the occasion, District Library Association Chairman Awaiz Chisti said that in addition to the district central library, branch libraries will also be developed.

He said on this occasion that he is always in the library and always provides his best help to the students to provide them with better facilities. He said that he will help the poor students who have shown talent in their studies in any way he can, and if there are any such students, they should meet him directly, and he will not hesitate to help the poor students who are preparing for IAS and IPS from our area. The Secretary of the District Library Organization read out the library report.”In this program, the guests presented prizes and certificates of appreciation to the students who won various competitions organized during the week. The Chairman of the District Library recognized two of the readers as the best readers and presented them with prizes. Finally, the librarian Madhusudhan Reddy presented the vote of thanks.”Library employees, readers and others in the district participated in this program.

## Ayyappa Swamy Padi Puja in Bhuvanagiri Temple...Glorious

“Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy”“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 20) :- Ayyappa Swamy Padi Puja program was organized in Bhuvanagiri town today under the supervision of temple chairman Sri Kolluri Raju. Padi Puja donor Manish Swamy and Padi Puja organizers Sadhu Upender Guruswamy participated in this program as the chief guest and performed special pujas to Ayyappa Swamy. Later, they participated in the Padi Puja and offered alms along with those who had taken Ayyappa Deeksha Daran. Speaking on the occasion, they said that it is commendable that special programs have been organized at the Pachchalakatta Someshwara Temple since the 20th of last month, especially the daily donation of food by donor Chinna Swathi Mahesh. It is also auspicious that the temple is holding Akasha Deepam, special Karthika month pujas and other programs. It is a great thing to organize Padi Puja Annadanam on such a large scale on the last day of Karthika month on Thursday. Former temple chairmen Devarakonda Narasimha Chari, Kaleru Lakshman, Pola Srinivas Gupta, Bachu Narendar, leaders Potnak



Pramod Kumar, Barre Jahangir, Pothamsetty Venkateswarlu, Dargai Hari Prasad, Challa Gurugala Raghunadu, Maya Prabhu, Bhusapaka Ravi, Dargai Devender, trustees Kaliya Swathi, Soma Ravinder Reddy, Nara Jangaiah, Bachu Raju, priest Kappaganthula Praveen Sharma and others participated in the program.

## District Collector Hanumantha Rao went to the house of Sushmita, a 10th grade student who did not attend school



“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 20) :- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao went di-

rectly to the house of Sushmita, a 10th grade student who did not attend school. On Thursday, the Collector went to the house of Banothu Sushmita, a resident of Indiramma Colony in Singanna Gudem in Bhuvanagiri Municipality, and asked Sushmita why she was not going to school every day. He inquired about the situation at Sushmita’s house. Sushmita explained to the Collector that her mother is not well at home, her father goes to work as a mason, and she is unable to go to school every day because there is no one to accompany her mother. Sushmita told the Collector that when the Collector went to Sushmita’s house, her elder brother took her mother to the hospital. He assured that he would take care of any problems at your house. He said that you should go to school regularly from tomorrow and study well. He said that on the day the student does not come to school, he will send a study chair and writing pad by the evening, knowing that there are no proper facilities for studying at home. The concerned officials participated in this program.

## Special Pujas and Annadanam Held at Sri Shiva Shankara Mahamayi Temple in Uppal

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 20 (Indian Chronicle):”“On the occasion of Karthika Masam Amavasya, special rituals and Annadanam were conducted with great devotion at the Sri Shiva Shankara Mahamayi Temple in Uppal. Large numbers of devotees participated in the auspicious program.”Temple committee members Uppoji Balavantha Chari, Rajagopala Chari, Srinivas, Madhu, Pawan, Cholletti Purushotham, Sridhar Chari, Paleru Gopi, Satish, Hari Prasad Gupta, Bandi Raju, Srinivas, Pili Nagaraju, Pudur Krishna Reddy, Palakurthi Srinivas, Praveen, Krishna Reddy, Jagan, Jnaneshwar, Naveen, Mudugonda Ravi, Srinivas, Gundala Anil Reddy, Praveen Reddy, Narsimha Chari, Teega Vittal Rao, Nursing Rao, Thurai Das, Mahesh, Jagan, Bikshapati, Ram Prakash, Gopi Chari, Pasupuleti Ramesh, Venkataiah, Kumar, Bhaskar, Chari, Boothukoori Sai Kumar Goud, Naveen Goud, Guruvayya Goud, Papayya Goud, Raju, Sandeep,



Mahesh Kumar, Bhavani Shankar, Lakshman, Santosh Kumar, Banti, Srinu, Srinivas Goud, Ganesh Goud, Yadi Goud, Venkatesh and several other devotees took part in the event.

## Students should study hard and pass 100% in class 10



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao”“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle..November 20) :- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that students should study hard and pass 100% in class 10.”The Collector, who taught mathematics as a teacher, asked the students “Formulas in Physics. The District Collector inspected Bhagayat ZP High School in the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district center on Thursday. Speaking on the

occasion, the District Collector asked how many students were in the schools and how many of them were studying in class 10. He said that the students who did not come to school should be called at their homes to inquire about the reason for their absence and ensure that they come to school regularly. He also advised the teachers to attend school every day until the annual exams and not to take unnecessary holidays. Like last year, this year too, our district has achieved 100% pass rate in the tenth standard exams. He advised the teachers to take initiative with the students from now on, and the students should also study diligently every day as instructed by the teachers and prepare for the exams. He instructed the teachers to clear any doubts in any subject through the teachers and to pay special attention to the backward students. He advised the students to set a goal in life and work towards achieving that goal. He inspected the midday meal at the school. He inspected the cooking equipment in the kitchen and advised them to replace the cooking ingredients such as chili, turmeric and tamarind immediately if they were of poor quality. Instructions were issued to the concerned Panchayat Raj AE to inspect the classrooms where construction work has stopped in the school and to start the work immediately and complete it as soon as possible. School staff participated in this program.

## BMS Leaders Thank NVSS Prabhakar After Winning DPS Labour Union Elections

Nacharam, Indain Chronicle, November 20: ““The leaders of the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), who achieved a remarkable victory in the labour union elections held at Delhi Public School, met former Uppal MLA NVSS Prabhakar to extend their gratitude. BMS President Adla Ramu, General Secretary Koteswara Rao, and union members called on him and expressed their thanks for his continuous support and cooperation towards the BMS in every aspect.”On this occasion, NVSS Prabhakar felicitated the winning candidates with shawls and conveyed his best wishes. He stated that this victory is truly the victory of the workers. He emphasized that BMS is a workers’ organization committed to addressing the needs of labourers, ensuring that they receive all rightful facilities, and standing by them in their struggles. He added that the organization



should celebrate each day with the workers and work for their welfare.”The program was attended by Medchal Urban District Official Representative Potagani Gopal Goud, Uppal Assembly Convenor Devasani Balachander, Manjula Vani, and several other leaders.



# TRS leaders submit a petition to Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao demanding an inquiry into the corruption taking place in Bhuvanagiri Municipal Corporation



“(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 20) :- The expenses of festivals organized every year under the previous government on the corruption taking place within the limits of Bhuvanagiri Municipal Corporation.. Expenses for various public amenities, for example, works done with 10 lakhs,

are today being spent four times that, i.e. up to 40 lakhs, from the General Fund. The general fund, which comes in the form of taxes paid by the people, is being used for salaries of outsourcing employees and for urgent needs of the people, and the entire fund is being used arbitrarily by Congress party leaders by putting pressure on the officials. Similarly, in the past, as part of women empowerment and economic empowerment, women's groups used to identify women and run DRCC centers through them, but today some Congress leaders are running these centers. Similarly, Rs 18 crore 70 lakhs have been sanctioned to Bhuvanagiri town under the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund and these funds should be used equally for the development of 35 wards. On Thursday, a petition was submitted to Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao on behalf of the BRS party, requesting him to investigate the corruption and take appropriate action. Among those who met Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Bhaskara Rao and handed over the petition were Abotula Kiran Kumar, TRS leaders, youth leaders and others.

# Fast forward to development works““Take action : MLA Marri Rajasekhar Reddy“

““K Sadanand Alwal ““ November 20 :- Quick steps to start development works in many areas in Malkajigiri constituency. ““MLA Marri Rajasekhar Reddy asked to take it. “On Thursday, he and Greater Commissioner RV Karnan (IAS) handed over the petition. “On this occasion, MLA Raja Shekhar Reddy said that the problem of storm water drainage of seven colonies should be solved permanently. “Development, conservation, beautification of ponds in Machabollaram division, AOC should take up additional roads and make them accessible to the people. “The MLA asked that CRMP roads should be taken up in Malkajigiri constituency, especially CC roads, box drains, development of parks and other minimum facilities should be provided. “The MLA said that Greater Commissioner Karnan responded positively and promised to take quick action. “BRS leaders Anil Kishore Goud, Laxman Yadav and others participated in this program.



# Students Should Excel in All Fields: Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 20 (Indian Chronicle):““Students must strive to excel in all fields, said Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy. He attended the Science Fair held at S.V. High School in Ramanthapur as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the event.“The MLA personally inspected the various exhibitions set up by the students as part of the science fair. He later presented certificates and medals to the participating students and congratulated them for their efforts.“Speaking on the occasion, Laxma Reddy emphasized the importance of students performing well in all sectors and appreciated the school management for taking special care in shaping the students' future.“Corporator Bandaruvu Sri Vanth Rao, BRS state leader Gandham Nageshwar Rao, school management members Venkateshwarlu and Vijaya, along with TRS leaders, activists, and others participated in the program.

# Annaprasadam Distribution Held on Amavasya at Kushaiguda Pochamma Temple“

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, November 20, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““Under the supervision of Maruthi Mitra Mandali, the monthly Annaprasadam distribution program conducted on every Amavasya was organised on Thursday at the Kushaiguda Pochamma Temple premises. The event was led by Mandali president Ashok Chari and secretary Hanumanthu. Retired PET Ramesh Reddy attended the program and performed special pujas before formally launching the Annaprasadam distribution. Speaking on the occasion, he said that among all acts of charity, offering food stands highest. Members who participated in the program included Panjala Srinivas Goud, Kasula Suresh Goud,



Gunti Anjaneyulu Yadav, Gurumanchi Venu Chari, Nalacherla Janardhan, Subbarao, Sudarshan, Maddy Ramulu, and others.

# Sewage flowing at Sub-Registrar offices



“SEUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 20 (Indian Chronicle):“ Mared Pally and Bowenpally Sub-Registrar Offices under Cantonment Board, center point , a bad smell is emitting and sewage is flowing on the road. For the past few days, the drainage has been blocked and dirty water and sewage have been flowing on the road. Apart from the officials, the officials and leaders of other government departments continue to travel from this road. Even though the stench of drainage is emanating, the people are expressing awe as the officials and leaders are acting carelessly.reported the matter to officials many times but no one has taken the responsibility clear the way still they are acting that they are not konown about sewage matter Even though the matter of dirty water flowing from the drain-

age has been brought to the attention of the board officials for many days, they are acting as if they are not concerned, many people are expressing suspicions that they have some connection with the related Daba Hotel. The local people are demanding to stop the drainage of foul smelling water.

# BJP leaders politely met the CEO..



SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 20 (Indian Chronicle):“The new CEO of Secunderabad Cantonment Board, Arvind Dwivedi, was greeted by the senior leaders and activists of Cantonment BJP in his office on Thursday. On this occasion, many problems in the local cantonment were brought to the CEO's attention. Malikarjun, Parasuram, Mahankali district spokesperson BN Srinivas, senior leaders Topi Shankar, Vijayananda, many ward presidents, leaders and activists participated.

# Basavapunnaiah has no connection with TWJF..He has been removed from the federation:



- Federation founder president and state convening committee convener Mamidi Somaiya““Legal action will be taken if activities are carried out in the name of the federation... Federation founder president Mamidi Somaiya““ (Mandava Srisailam...Hyderabad..Indian Chronicle..November 20):- A person named Basavapunnaiah has no connection with the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) and he was removed from the federation for engaging in anti-social activities, said Mamidi Somaiya, founder president of the federation and state convening committee convener. He said that 130 state office bearers, executive members, district presidents, secretaries, state council members, national council members and founding members of the association from about 30 districts attended the state wide meeting held in Hyderabad on the 15th of this month, and a unanimous resolution was passed in this meeting to permanently remove Basava Punnaiah from the federation. At a press conference organized at NSS in Hyderabad on Thursday, he disclosed various things along with former state vice presidents of the federation and co-conveners of the convening committee Valla Jagan, Bandi Vijay Kumar and national council member M. Padmanabha Rao. He said that for the last ten years, Basava Punnaiah, who has been disrupting the association by not disclosing much of the membership fee received by the association, not showing the income generated through the diary and magazine, and preventing it from holding district general meetings, has been cancelled and removed from the federation. He clarified that

Basavapunnaiah has no connection with TWJF from now on. He said that neither Basavapunnaiah nor others should conduct any programs or activities in the name of the federation without the permission of the state convening committee of the federation, which was formed with the unanimous approval of the state wide meeting recently. He also clarified that the state committee has been abolished and that there will be no state executive committee until the state congress is held again, and no one will have any positions. He said that the state convening committee has been formed to conduct the activities of the association, i.e. membership registration, congresses and elections at the district and state levels. He warned that despite the abolition of the state committee, some are still using their positions and conducting programs in the name of TWJF, and that legal action will be taken against those who engage in such actions. Mamidi Somaiya said that the responsibility of taking legal action if programs are organized in the name of the federation has been entrusted to the state convening committee, and similarly, the state wide meeting has announced that all the district committees elected in the district conferences held recently in several districts under the auspices of the founding president and founding members of the association will continue as usual. Federation members and other journalists should take note of this. He advised journalists not to be fooled by the false words of Basavapunnaiah, who is still roaming around claiming to be the general secretary of the federation. He clarified that the programs he organizes are only related to the Navatelangana newspaper where he works and has no connection with the federation. He said that they are trying to limit the federation to only the journalists of Navatelangana newspaper and turn that newspaper into a plant union and make it their own, and he called on all the federation members to thwart these conspiracies. Basavapunnaiah and Pillai Ramchander, who were expelled from the association, said that it is illegal to call for a program to submit petitions to collectors across the state tomorrow. They criticized Basavapunnaiah for trying to split the association by sowing seeds just to show his presence. Mangodi Somaiya asked that TWJF has no connection with his programs or meetings, and that none of the association members should go to his own programs.

# Digital Survey Conducted on Stadium Land

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, November 20, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““Taduri Gagan Kumar stated that a digital land survey was carried out in Survey No.199/1 of the Jammigadda area under Kapra Mandal, where 12 acres were previously allocated by the former government for the construction of a stadium. The site also includes a burial ground that has been the subject of long-standing disputes. According to Gagan Kumar, legal battles over the burial ground have been ongoing for the past 30 years, while disputes surrounding the stadium land have been in court for the last 22 years. The original suit filed in 2003 was dismissed in August 2023, and the appeal suit filed by Chilakamma and others was recently dismissed again by the district court on 13 November 2025. He said that his decades-long effort to safeguard this government land has finally shown results. Following a complaint submitted through the Hydra grievance system, revenue and municipal staff conducted a mandal-level survey two days ago. On Thursday, officials carried out boundary demarcation for the remaining 9 acres and 22 guntas of land proposed for permanent compound wall construction. The survey was conducted by Revenue DI Satya, Mandal Surveyor Mahender, RI Satyanarayana, along with Kapra Municipal Town Planning officials including DyCP Krishnamohan, Engineering Department DE Balakrishna, AE Abhishek, and their teams. Personnel from Hydra, Kushaiguda Police, and Jawaharnagar Police assisted in ensuring the survey pro-



ceeded smoothly. Gagan Kumar said that based on the digital survey report, Kapra Municipal Engineering Department is expected to begin construction of the permanent compound wall soon. Expressing satisfaction over the progress toward resolving the issues pending for decades, he thanked the print and electronic media, supporting advocates, revenue and municipal staff, police officials, certain political representatives, and the local residents who stood by his efforts. He dedicated this achievement to the people of Jammigadda. — Taduri Gagan Kumar, Convener, Jammigadda Smashan Vatika Protection Committee

# Housewife Dies After Falling Into Water Sump“

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 20 (Indian Chronicle):““A tragic incident in which a housewife died after accidentally falling into a water sump occurred under the Uppal Police Station limits on Wednesday.“According to Admin SI Madhav Reddy, Sri Ramulu and his wife Bharati(52) natives of Srikakulam district, had been living in a rented house at KCR Nagar, Ramanthapur, for the past 20 years. On Wednesday morning, Bharati opened the water sump to collect tap water and was closing the tap valve when she accidentally slipped and fell into the sump.“She sustained a severe head injury in the fall. Neighbours, who noticed the incident, alerted her husband. Bharati was immediately pulled out of the sump and rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared her brought dead.“The police shifted the body to Gandhi Hospital mortuary. Uppal police have registered a case and taken up investigation.



# Sri Sathya Sai Baba Centenary Mahotsavam Celebrated with Devotional Splendour.“



“P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU““The Centenary Mahotsavam of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba was observed with profound spiritual fervour and ceremonial grandeur at the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Temple in Manthani. The three-day festivities were meticulously organised under the aegis of the Sri Sathya Sai Baba Ganga Mahadev Dharmic Seva Organisation.““Organisation President Ganga Shankar stated that the centenary celebrations were conducted to commemorate the 100th Birth Anniversary of Bhagawan, reflecting his eternal message of love, service, and universal harmony.““As part of the event, essential medicines were distributed to devotees and the needy, symbolising the organisation's commitment to humanitarian service. The temple resonated with devotional energy as continuous bhajan sessions were held across all three

days, invoking peace and divine grace.““The celebrations culminated with a grand Annadanam programme, where sumptuous meals were served to all devotees, embodying the spirit of selfless service that Sri Sathya Sai Baba tirelessly preached.

# Centenary Birthday Greetings to Chukka Ramaiah

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajigiri Staff Reporter, November 20, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of noted educationist Chukka Ramaiah, heartfelt greetings are extended to him today. He is widely regarded as a visionary in the field of education. As a dedicated teacher, he guided thousands of students across both Telugu states towards higher education and stable careers. He firmly believed that education should not be treated as a business, but as a profession that enlightens society. Apart from his contribution as a teacher, he also served as a Member of the Legislative Council and as Chairman of the PDF group. His commitment to educational reforms was evident through his suggestions, guidance, and speeches, which continue to inspire many. Warm wishes and salutations on the centenary of this eminent educato — Gummadi Hariprasad Editor, Telugunadu Daily



## Open Auction of Ammavari Sarees from 28th of This Month: Temple EO Peddigari Srikanth“Five Fridays to Host the Auction in Temple Premises“



“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 20 (Indian Chronicle):“The open auction of Ammavari sarees at the Velugugutta Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple in Uppal will be conducted from the 28th of this month to December 26, announced Temple Executive Officer Peddigari Srikanth in a statement. Sarees that were adorned to Goddess Sri Durgadevi and those offered as gifts by devotees will be auctioned.“The auctions will be held on five consecutive Fridays: November 28, December 5, 12, 19, and 26, starting at 10 AM in the temple premises through an open bidding process, he said.“EO Srikanth appealed to devotees and interested participants to take part in the auction and contribute to the development of the temple. The terms and conditions of the auction will be read out at the time of bidding, he added.“For further details, devotees may contact Temple Executive Officer Peddigari Srikanth at 9912490641.

## Gonne Srinivas Vows to Expand Central Government Schemes Across Medchal District



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR), Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, November 20, (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Newly appointed BJP Medchal Rural District General Secretary Gonne Srinivas stated that he will work to take the Central Government’s welfare schemes to every area of Medchal district and contribute to the growth of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the region. On Thursday, BJP State President Ranchander Rao announced the appointment of Gonne Srinivas as the Medchal Rural District General Secretary through an official statement. Srinivas expressed gratitude to State President Ranchander Rao, District President Buddi Srinivas, former minister and

Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender, district leaders, mandal leaders, and Boduppal BJP leaders for their support in his appointment. He said that he will dedicate his full time to strengthening the BJP in Medchal district and will work to ensure that the trust placed in him is not misplaced. Srinivas added that he aims to take the Central Government’s schemes to the public, highlighting that the Modi Government is a people-centric government. He also stated that he will visit every village in every mandal to expand the party’s presence. Srinivas further mentioned that he will work alongside Boduppal Corporation leaders to ensure the party’s victory in the upcoming municipal elections.

## The rights of children and their protection are the responsibility of every parent and officer

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao “(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 20) :- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao said that the rights of children and their protection are the responsibility of every parent and officer. On Thursday, the International Children’s Day International Child Protection Rights Day program was inaugurated by lighting the lamp under the auspices of the Women, Child, Disabled and Elderly Welfare Department at the Collectorate Conference Hall. On this occasion, the District Collector said.. It is the responsibility of parents to take children forward and encourage them according to their wishes, and it is the rights of children. He said that it is the responsibility of the authorities and the society to ensure that there is no problem in terms of protection. Later, he wished the children a happy Children’s Day. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Local Bodies Additional Collector Bhaskar Rao said that children are the foundation of a bright future and that the District Welfare Department is stopping child marriages and providing counseling. District Welfare Department Officer Narasimha Rao said that children should be in school and not at work. Through Operation Smile and Muskan, we are rescuing working children and rejoining them in school, and we are imposing punishment and fines on those who put them to



work. Children and parents should be aware of the rights of children. He informed. In this program. CWC Committee Members . Shivraj. Rudrama Devi. Mallesham. Istari. CDPOs Shailaja. Sameera. BRB. Coordinator. Anantha Lakshmi..District Welfare Department Office Staff.DCPU Unit.Grace Commission.Great Commission.Adaran.Shanti Nilayam.Government Children’s Home.Jeevan Jyoti.Child Care Institution.Children.Scope N Givo Soma Narsayya,and others participated.

## Donors should contribute to food donations in Hindu temples



“SECUNDERABAD CANTONMENT NOVEMBER 20 (Indian Chronicle):“Former Vice President of Cantonment Board Jampana Pratap has called upon the devotees to

help donors to donate food in Hindu temples. In celebration of Amavasya at Bowenpally Bapujinagar Nallapochamma temple and Chinnathokatta Kattamaisamma temple, Annadanam was organized on Thursday under the auspices of the temple committees. Former Cantonment Board Vice President Jampana Pratap was the chief guest and performed special pooja to the deities in the temples and started the food donation program . After that the members of the temple committee Prem Mudiraj spoke and said that they organized food donation in memory of P Anujita’s husband Narsimha Rao from Bhavana period. Temple committee members Ajit Kalyan, Putti Narsimha, Prem Mudiraj, Rama Rao, Karan Singh, Srikanth, Maruti Goud and others participated in this program.

plete the process, they added.“In Circle-8, around 8,000 new ration cards have been issued, bringing the total to 77,271 cards, covering 2,78,942 beneficiaries. Out of these, 1,87,551 beneficiaries (67.23%) have completed their KYC.“Officials urged the remaining cardholders to immediately complete KYC at any of the 67 ration shops in Circle-8 or at any nearby ration shop.

## Gandhi Doctors Give New Life to a 7-Year-Old with Rare Complex surgery.



“Indian Chronicle,“Secunderabad, November 20:“In a remarkable medical achievement, doctors at Gandhi Hospital successfully performed a laparoscopic splenectomy on a 7-year-old boy—the first-of-its-kind pediatric splenectomy at the hospital. The surgery was led by Prof. & HOD Dr. Nagarjuna of the Pediatric Surgery Department.“The boy, Akhil from Akinapalli village in Mancherial district, had been suffering from Hereditary Spherocytosis since infancy. With an enlarged spleen, jaundice, and severe anemia, he required weekly blood transfusions. Despite visiting several private hospitals, his family could not proceed due to the high costs. His father Ravi finally brought him to Gandhi Hospital, where he was admitted.“Laparoscopic splenectomy is a highly complex procedure due to the risk of heavy

bleeding and the possibility of needing open surgery. The surgery is rare even in private hospitals because of its difficulty and high cost.“However, Gandhi Hospital performed the entire procedure free of cost. Surgeons removed the over 1-kg spleen through four small laparoscopic incisions, breaking it into smaller pieces and extracting it safely. To protect his future immunity, necessary vaccines were also administered post-surgery.“The operation, performed on November 6, was successfully carried out by a skilled team including Dr. Manoj Kumar, Dr. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Dr. Pawan Rao, Dr. Ashrith Reddy, Dr. Harsha, and Dr. Sajid. From Anesthesia, Prof. Dr. Avula Murali and Dr. Babitha provided crucial support. OT nurse Aruna and ward nurse Suvarna also contributed significantly.“Medical Superintendent Dr. Vani congratulated the team, stating that Gandhi Hospital is fully equipped to perform even the most advanced and complex surgeries, offering world-class pediatric care to poor and underprivileged children. She noted that the same surgery would cost over ₹10 lakh in private or corporate hospitals.“Akhil’s father Ravi expressed heartfelt gratitude, saying Gandhi Hospital was a true blessing for families who cannot afford expensive medical care.“The program was attended by Pediatric Professor Dr. George, RMOs Dr. Sheshadri, Dr. Kalyan Chakravarthy, Dr. Yogender, and other staff members.

## Massive 12-Crore Civil Supplies Scam Uncovered

“Prime Accused Varaprasad Rao Arrested After Extensive Investigation. “P.S. ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU.“A major breakthrough was achieved by the Manthani Police with the arrest of Varaprasad Rao, the prime accused in a ₹12.37-crore fraud involving the deliberate misappropriation of rice meant for the Civil Supplies Corporation. The arrest was confirmed by Circle Inspector Raju during a press briefing held at the Manthani Police Station on Thursday.“According to the CI, the scam revolves around Sri Lakshmi Prasanna Industries, located near Gaddalapalli village. The rice mill, operated by partners Bymene Varaprasad Rao of Sripuram Colony, Karimnagar, and Tatipelli Srinivas of Puttapaka village, Manthani mandal, entered into an official agreement with the Civil Supplies Corporation for the Kharif procurement season of 2023–24.“Under the agreement, after receiving 38,489 quintals of paddy, the mill was obligated to deliver 25,680.43 quintals of rice back to the Corporation. However, the accused—designated as A1 Varaprasad Rao and A2 Tatipelli Srinivas—willfully breached the agreement, diverted the stock, and fraudulently withheld the rice, resulting in a severe financial loss amounting to ₹12,37,08,059.“Following



a detailed complaint lodged by District Manager Muppidi Srikanth, the police registered a case under Crime No. 139/2024, invoking Sections 406 (Criminal Breach of Trust), 409 (Criminal Misappropriation by Public Servant/Agent), and 420 (Cheating) of the Indian Penal Code.“CI Raju noted that A2 Tatipelli Srinivas had already been apprehended earlier. On Wednesday, the police successfully arrested A1 Varaprasad Rao and produced him before the court, marking a significant step forward in the investigation.

## Cochlear Implant Surgeries Begin at Gandhi Hospital

Indian Chronicles,“Secunderabad, November 20 :“Gandhi Hospital has launched free cochlear implant surgeries under Aarogyasri for children born with hearing impairment. The service is now available for children aged zero to five years, and the first surgery was successfully completed on Thursday.“ENT Department HOD Dr. Bhupender Rathod said that 40 children currently require the procedure, and all surgeries will be completed by December. Doctors noted that the operation, which normally costs around ₹10 lakh, is being provided completely free of cost at Gandhi Hospital—proving to be a major boon for poor families.“Medical Superintendent Dr. Vani stated that government hospitals are now offering corporate-level healthcare services.“Doctors Dr. Sheshadri, Dr. Kalyan, Dr. Meenakshi, and Dr. Rehan also participated in the program.



## Illegal Sand Transport to Invite Stern Action: SI Ravi Kumar.



“ P . S . A S H O K A N “ K A R I M N G A R BUREAU “Mutharam Sub-Inspector Ravi Kumar has issued a strong warning that severe legal consequences are inevitable for those involved in the illegal transportation of sand from the Maneru River.“During routine patrolling near Khammampalli village on Thursday morning, police intercepted a tractor belonging to Pannala Suresh Yadav, a resident of the same village, who was allegedly transporting sand without the required permits. Upon questioning, the accused failed to produce any authorization documents.“The SI stated that the tractor, along with the individual, was immediately taken into custody and a formal case has been registered at the Mutharam Police Station.“Reiterating his warning, SI Ravi Kumar emphasized that any sand movement within the mandal without valid permission will attract stringent and uncompromising action from the police department.

## Failure to Curb Child Labour in Alwal“Officials Ignore Widespread Violations“

“ K Sadanand Alwal “ “Alwal, November 20:“Child labour continues to be widely visible across several areas of Alwal in the Malkajgiri region. Children who should be attending school are instead working in various sectors for their daily survival. Many boys and girls are turning into child labourers due to poverty, and the situation is especially alarming at construction sites where minors are being made to work.“Child labour is also prevalent in industrial units, hotels, shops, markets, and at daily-wage labour points, where several minors wait for work. These children depend on the small amounts they earn each day to support their families. Locals allege that the government’s failure to take effective action against child labour has led to this distressing situation.“Residents criticize labour department officials for not taking the issue seriously, despite being responsible for protecting the future of these children. Child labour can be found at almost every workplace, yet officials are limiting themselves to routine statements claiming they will take action if child labour is found.“Only when the issue is highlighted in the media do officials conduct temporary checks and show a few rescues, claiming progress in eliminating child labour. However, there is no sustained action, and strict



measures are rarely taken against employers who engage minors. Even in cases where children are rescued, officials only summon parents for counselling and close the matter.“In one instance, a boy who has not even crossed the age of 14 was found working at a high-rise building construction site, but no official intervention was seen. In many construction sites across Alwal, child labourers are being made to carry sand, cement, and bricks from the ground floor to upper floors.



# To help pilots combat winter fog, Kolkata airport completes CAT III-B ILS upgrade



GNS News Agency, Nov 20

The Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata is set to boost its operational resilience during fog-prone winter months and heavy rain, with the full installation of the modern Category (CAT) III-B Instrument Landing System (ILS) on both ends of its primary runway. During winters, widespread flight delays, cancellations and reduced airport capacity are common due to low visibility. While aircraft are designed to fly in extremely cold air at high altitudes, the major problems occur on the ground and during the critical phases of take-off and landing.

“Effective from November 27, the primary runway will be fully equipped with the CAT III-B system. Previously, only the 01R approach (New Town end) featured the CAT III-B ILS, which allows flights to land in dense fog with visibility as low as 50 metres. The other end, 19L (Madhyamgram side), was equipped with the less capable CAT II ILS,” said Airport Director Vikram Singh. According to officials, in scenarios with fluctuating traffic flow — such as multiple arrivals from the north followed by several from the south — ATC can switch the active runway end

(Madhyamgram or Rajarhat/New Town) to allow for shorter approaches. This will not only make runway operations more efficient but also ensure less fuel burn for arriving flights. “Dual CAT III-B capability will improve the airport’s operational efficiency,” said a senior pilot. As per airport officials, pilots rely on visual cues. When visibility drops below certain minimums (550 metres for a manual landing), operations must switch to Low Visibility Procedures (LVPs). For very low visibility (around 50 metres), advanced systems like CAT III-B ILS and specially trained pilots are mandatory. Airports without this capability face immediate diversions or cancellations. ILS is a mechanism that enables aircraft to land safely with the help of guiding systems that add an additional layer of safety and precision over visual approaches. It is divided into three categories, each further divided into three sub-categories (A, B, C). Each level up allows a flight crew to land safely in worse visibility, with Category III enabling safe landing with almost zero visibility, airport officials added.

The lack of visual cues makes taxiing to and from the runway extremely slow and difficult. Pilots and Air Traffic Control rely on maps and radio, forcing them to use longer holding points and maintain maximum separation between aircraft to prevent runway incursions. Typically, ATC declares LVP when visibility falls below 800 metres, after which ‘follow-me’ vehicles guide aircraft to their stands. LVP is also activated when the cloud ceiling is below 200 feet. According to past records, on February 2, 2025, arrivals and departures of 13 flights were delayed at Kolkata airport due to poor visibility caused by fog. Flight operations at NSCB Airport were disrupted for three consecutive days from January 23 to 25 due to dense fog, affecting airline schedules and causing inconvenience to passengers. A total of 72 flights were affected on January 23, 34 on January 24, and 53 on January 25 due to low visibility last year.

# Samajwadi Party MLA Sudhakar Singh passes away at 67 after battling health issues

GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Samajwadi Party MLA Sudhakar Singh passed away at a private hospital in Lucknow Thursday. He was 67. He had been representing the Ghosi Assembly constituency in Uttar Pradesh since 2023 after defeating former minister Dara Singh Chauhan in a bypoll. SP chief Akhilesh Yadav went to the hospital where Sudhakar Singh was admitted and expressed his condolences. In a post on X, he said, “The demise of Sudhakar Singh ji, Samajwadi Party MLA from Ghosi Assembly, is extremely heartbreaking. May God grant peace to his soul.” UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also posted on X. “The passing away of the Honorable MLA Shri Sudhakar Singh Ji from the Ghosi Assembly Constituency of Mau District is extremely heartbreaking. My humble tribute to him. My condolences are with the bereaved family members. I pray to Lord Shri Ram that the departed soul be granted eternal peace and the grieving family be bestowed with the strength to bear this immense sorrow. Om Shanti!”

Sudhakar Singh had previously also won the Ghosi seat in the 2012 election, beating Phagu Chauhan, who was a minister in the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) government under Mayawati from 2017 to 2012. Sudhakar Singh had been involved with the SP for over three decades and remained with the party despite facing ups and downs, including being denied a ticket in the 2022 Assembly elections. He gained prominence after defeating Chauhan in the 2023 bypoll by a significant margin of over 42,000



votes. Chauhan had left the BJP just before the 2022 Assembly elections and joined the SP. The SP fielded Chauhan from the Ghosi Assembly seat in 2022, instead of Sudhakar Singh. Although Chauhan won the seat as the SP candidate, defeating BJP’s Vijay Rajbhar by a margin of around 22,000 votes, he changed sides again when the BJP under Yogi Adityanath retained power in the state. Because of Chauhan’s defection back to the BJP, the seat became vacant, leading to the bypoll in 2023. Sources said Sudhakar Singh recently attended the wedding of Umar Ansari, the younger son of former MLA Mukhtar Ansari, in Delhi, and that his health deteriorated soon after returning. He was first admitted to a hospital in Varanasi and later shifted to a private hospital in Lucknow, where he breathed his last.

# Surat cricket association president arrested in cheating case



GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Surat District Cricket Association president Kanaialal Contractor (82) was arrested Thursday by officials of the Surat Economic Offence Wing in a cheating case, after both the High Court and the Supreme Court rejected his anticipatory bail applications. The accused allegedly created a fake general power of attorney in the names of his brother and his brother’s wife, allegedly mortgaged their property to a finance firm, and then allegedly failed to repay the loan. The family owns the Lalbhai Contractor Cricket Stadium in Surat, which houses the office of the Surat District Cricket Association.

The complaint, filed with the Surat Crime Branch on October 24, 2024, by Nayna (64), widow of late Hemant Contractor, accused her husband’s elder brother Kanaialal Contractor — a resident of Athwalines in Surat — and oth-

ers. Kanaialal Contractor jointly ran a construction firm with Hemant and Naynaben under the name Kanaialal Construction. In her complaint, she alleged that between 2009 and 2021, the accused forged a fake General Power of Attorney by forging the signatures of late Hemant Contractor, their mother Dayiben Contractor, and Naynaben Contractor. Using this, he allegedly took a mortgage loan of Rs 2.92 crore from a private finance firm and used the money for personal purposes without informing the other partners. He also allegedly failed to pay loan instalments amounting to Rs 65 lakh. The finance firm subsequently issued notices of pending dues to all partners of the Kanaialal Construction partnership. On October 24, 2024, Surat Crime Branch booked Kanaialal Contractor under IPC Sections 420 (cheating), 465 (punishment for forgery), 467 (forgery of valuable security or will), 468 (forgery for cheating), and 471 (using as genuine a forged document or electronic record).

After the complaint was registered, Kanaialal Contractor sought anticipatory bail from the Surat district court, which was rejected. His anticipatory bail applications were subsequently dismissed by the Gujarat High Court and later by the Supreme Court. Surat Deputy Commissioner of Police (Economic Offence Wing) Karanraj Vaghela said, “We have arrested Kanaialal Contractor in a cheating case. The accused did not inform his firm’s partners and prepared a fake power of attorney, forging their signatures, to obtain a loan. We have launched a probe and are trying to identify others involved in the scam. We will also try to discover where the accused had spent the loan amount.”

# Gang posing as RBI officials pulls off Rs 7.11 crore heist; city on alert

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Police have launched a hunt for the robbers involved in the shocking Rs 7.11 crore daylight heist in Bengaluru. The FIR filed in the case reveals chilling details of how the robbers, claiming to be officials from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), threatened the driver at gunpoint, forced the gunmen and another staffer to get down from the vehicle, and carried out the robbery. It has also come to light that the gang took away the DVR from the cash-refill vehicle.

The complaint was filed by 47-year-old Vinod Chandrar, Branch Manager of CMS Info System Limited, located in HBR Layout. Every day, the company withdraws money from the HDFC Bank currency chest in ITI Layout, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru, and deposits it into ATMs across the city. The FIR states, as on other days, on November 19 at 9.30 a.m., under the supervision of custodian Aftab, the

company vehicle — a Tata Yodha bearing registration number GJ-01-HT-9173 — with driver Binod Kumar and gunmen Rajanna and Thammaiah left for duty. At 12.30 p.m., Rs 7.11 crore in cash was withdrawn from the HDFC Bank currency chest, loaded into the truck, and taken for ATM refilling. According to the complaint, CMS Fleet Manager Feroz Pasha received a call from driver Binod Kumar, who informed him that while travelling from Ashoka Pillar towards Lalbagh Siddapur Gate, five to six men arrived in an Innova car bearing registration number KA-03-NC-8052. They identified themselves as RBI officials and instructed custodian Aftab and gunmen Rajanna and Thammaiah to get down from the vehicle and sit inside the Innova. They then asked Binod Kumar to drive the cash-refill vehicle. Binod Kumar claimed he did not know where his colleagues were taken. He later stated that the gang threatened him with a gun and robbed Rs 7.11 crore in cash on the Dairy Circle flyover.

# ‘BLOs pushed to submit incorrect entries’: Mamata urges CEC Gyanesh Kumar to ‘intervene’ and halt SIR in Bengal



GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Banerjee inaugurate 210 numbers of Mobile Medical Units and some other initiatives of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal at Swastha Bhawan Complex on 11th November 2025, health secretary NS Nigam and CS Monoj Panth along with other senior health officials was present during the programme. Express photo by Partha Paul, 11.11.2025 Mamata Banerjee accused the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, of “resorting to intimidation” of Booth Level Officers. (West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has written to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, urging him to immediately halt the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the state and “thoroughly reassess the present methodology and timelines”).

Among other allegations, she wrote that “many BLOs, under extreme pressure and fear of punitive action, are being pushed to submit incorrect or incomplete entries—risking disenfranchisement of genuine voters and eroding the integrity of the electoral roll.” Banerjee accused the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal, of “resorting to intimidation” of Booth Level Officers. “Instead of offering support, extending timelines, or addressing systemic flaws... Show-cause notices are being issued without justification. BLOs—already stretched and distressed—are

being threatened with severe disciplinary action simply because the Commission refuses to acknowledge the reality on the ground,” she wrote. “Kindly intervene decisively to halt the ongoing exercise, stop coercive measures, provide proper training and support... If this path is not corrected without delay, the consequences—for the system, the officials, and the citizens—will be irreversible,” her letter states. She wrote further: “I have time and again flagged my serious concerns in respect of the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and the way it has been thrust upon the people. Now, I am compelled to write to you as the situation surrounding the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has reached a deeply alarming stage. The manner in which this exercise is being forced upon officials and citizens is not only unplanned and chaotic, but also dangerous. The absence of even basic preparedness, adequate planning or clear communication has crippled the process from day one. Critical gaps in training, lack of clarity on mandatory documentation and the near-impossibility of meeting voters in the midst of their livelihood schedules have made the exercise structurally unsound.” She praised the performance of Booth Level Officers (BLOs), noting the “unrealistic workload” they are carrying: “This strikes at the heart of our electoral democracy. BLOs are now operating far beyond human limits. They are expected to manage their principal duties (many being teachers and frontline workers) while simultaneously conducting door-to-door surveys and handling complex e-submissions. Most are struggling with online forms due to lack of training, server failures, and repeated data mismatches.” She added: “At this pace, it is almost certain that by December 4, voter data across multiple constituencies cannot be uploaded maintaining required accuracy.” The Chief Minister also referred to an incident involving the suicide of a BLO. “The human cost of this mismanagement is now unbearable. Yesterday, an anganwadi worker serving as a BLO in Mal, Jalpaiguri, died by suicide, reportedly under crushing SIR-related pressure. Several others have lost their lives since this process began. A revision that previously required three years is now being forcibly compressed into three months...”, she wrote.

# How a pink dupatta from an autorickshaw helped Mumbai police solve a murder

A pink dupatta fluttering in the wind from an autorickshaw—it was this tiny clue that helped the Malwani police in Mumbai solve a rape-murder case in September this year, a week after the crime occurred. On September 23, the police in Malwani, an area in the northern suburbs of Mumbai, discovered the body of a woman in a semi-nude condition at an isolated spot on Marve Road. The post-mortem report indicated that the woman had been strangled to death.

Inspector Jeevan Bhatkule, who was part of the probe led by the zonal deputy commissioner of police and the senior inspector of Malwani police station, said that initially, no one identified the woman. Later, after her photographs were circulated in the area, the woman was identified as a 46-year-old local sex worker. “Other sex workers in the area said she was last picked up by a person in an autorickshaw on the night she was murdered. We then started scanning CCTV cameras of the area where she was usually present,” Bhatkule said. “While going through the footage, we found an auto in which the end of a pink dupatta was flying out. On zooming in further, it appeared that the woman was wearing the same pink salwar that the deceased had worn,” he added.

With the auto’s licence plate number in hand, the police contacted the auto unions to trace the driver. The auto was driven by Chandrapol Singh alias Neta, 34, who had come to Mumbai two weeks ago, the police learnt. However, when they arrived at his residence, Singh was nowhere to be found. Multiple teams were formed. Soon, tech-



nical intelligence revealed that Singh was in Mathura. A team led by Assistant Police Inspector Prathamesh Vikhare left for Mathura and visited Singh’s relative’s place, where he was holed up. On September 30, the police arrested Singh and charged him with rape and murder. During questioning, he allegedly told the police that he had an argument with the deceased over the money he owed her, following which he strangled her with her dupatta. On realising that she had died, Singh then dumped her on an isolated stretch and fled the city, a police official said. At a recent event, the team that solved the case was honoured by Mumbai Police Commissioner Deven Bharti, who highlighted their professionalism and prompt action.

# Youth Congress leader shot dead in Himachal’s Una; colleagues attack assailants, injure 2



GNS News Agency, Nov 20

A Youth Congress activist was shot dead moments after he stepped out of a birthday party at a private hotel in Lalsingi village on the outskirts of Himachal Pradesh’s Una district on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. The police have registered a case of murder and invoked sections of the Arms Act against three suspects. According to officials, the assailants fired more than two rounds, and two bullets struck Puri. A forensic team seized two empty bullet shells from the spot. The accused have been identified as Gurjeet Mann, Parminder Singh, and Purjinder Singh, all residents of Una district. The police said that two of the suspects, Parminder Singh and Mann, also sustained severe injuries after Puri’s colleagues attacked them with sharp-edged weapons in retaliation. They were first taken to a local government hospital and later referred to PGIMER, Chandigarh, where their condition is stated to be stable. “The assailants are also workers of the Congress. The exact motive behind the crime is yet to be established. The incident took place in the parking area of Raizada Hotel in Lalsingi village. The hotel belongs to a senior Congress leader,” said a police officer.

“We have obtained CCTV footage from the premises. Preliminary investigation suggests that two separate birthday parties were being held at the hotel last night. The victim, his colleagues, and the assailants came out after attending their respective parties and clashed in the parking lot around 12.15 am,” the officer added. “We have registered a case under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Arms Act against the three suspects. Forensic examination of the crime scene is underway. The investigation is

ongoing,” Gaurav Bhardwaj, Station House Officer (SHO), Una (Sadar) Police Station, told Puri, a resident of Santokhgarh and engaged in the mining business, is survived by his wife, parents and one younger brother. A senior Congress leader said, “The victim Ashu Puri was also a former Youth Congress President of Una assembly.” Sources said the FIR was registered based on the statement of Akash, a colleague of the victim. He told the police that as they reached the parking lot and were about to board their vehicles, the assailants began abusing and intimidating them. A verbal altercation followed, after which the assailants opened fire on Puri, killing him on the spot. Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition Jairam Thakur criticised the state government over the “deteriorating law and order situation” in Himachal Pradesh. “The gruesome late-night murder of a youth exposes the worsening security environment in the state. In July this year, unknown assailants shot dead a local man, Rakesh alias Gaggi, in broad daylight in Una district. The common citizen is increasingly anxious about their safety,” he said.

# KT Rama Rao visits MLC Surabhi Vani Devi after her recovery

GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday visited party MLC Surabhi Vani Devi at her residence in Madhapur after she took ill last week.

Vani Devi, who experienced minor health issues, has now fully recovered. During the visit, Rama Rao enquired about her well-being and expressed happiness over her complete recovery.

Senior party leaders including MLCs Challla Venkatrami Reddy and Thakkallapalli Ravinder Rao, MLAs Sanjay Kumar and Padi Kaushik Reddy and former MLA Jeevan Reddy also visited Vani Devi along with the BRS working president.



# Israeli fire kills four in Gaza, casting further doubt on ceasefire



GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Israeli airstrikes killed four people and wounded 18 others in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on Thursday, local health authorities said, as Hamas and Israel accused each other of violating a near six-week-old, U.S.-brokered ceasefire. Medics said that one strike on a house in Bani Suhaila town, east of Khan Younis, killed three people, including a baby girl, and wounded 15 others, while another killed a man and wounded three others in the nearby Abassan town. Israel's military confirmed the strikes but said it was not aware of casualties.

On Wednesday (November 19), Israel said it struck targets across the enclave after members of the Palestinian militant group fired on its troops, and Gaza medics said at least 25 people were killed. Hamas called the attacks a dangerous escalation and urged Arab mediators, Turkey and the United States to intervene. Ceasefire eases conflict but attack continuesIn Gaza City's Zeitoun suburb, where

at least 10 people were killed in a building that used to house displaced families on Wednesday, Palestinians sifted through the wreckage to salvage furniture and belongings as rescue workers searched for any further victims.

"They say there is a ceasefire but I doubt this. Day by day, they say there is a ceasefire, this is completely untrue," Zeitoun resident Akram Iswair said on Thursday. "Missiles struck the displaced, poor citizens. What can we, our women, and our families do?" he told Reuters. The October 10 ceasefire in the two-year Gaza war has eased the conflict, enabling hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to return to Gaza's ruins. Israel has pulled troops back from city positions, and aid flows have increased. But violence has not completely halted. Hamas has been seeking to reassert itself, some are concerned about a de facto partition of the territory and conditions are dire. Palestinian health authorities say Israeli forces have killed 312 people in strikes on Gaza since the truce, nearly half of them in one day last week when Israel retaliated for an attack on its troops. Israel says three of its soldiers have been killed since the ceasefire began and it has targeted scores of fighters. The war in Gaza began after Hamas-led militants killed 1,200 people, most of them civilians, and seized 251 hostages in an attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 69,000 Palestinians, most of them civilians, health officials in Gaza say. Under the terms of the truce, Hamas released all 20 living hostages held in Gaza in return for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and wartime detainees held by Israel. Hamas also agreed to hand over the remains of 28 dead hostages in exchange for the bodies of 360 Palestinian militants killed in the war. The remains of 25 hostages have so far been handed over.

# U.S. Congress approves release of Epstein files, sending Bill to Trump

GNS News Agency, Nov 20

U.S. lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Tuesday (November 19, 2025) for releasing government files on sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, after President Donald Trump dropped his opposition to opening the books on a scandal that has roiled politics, law enforcement and the country's elite. The President had put allies in Congress under intense pressure not to make the material public, but the Republican leader threw in the towel over the weekend as it became clear that much of his party was poised to defy him. Congress approved the Epstein Files Transparency Act almost unanimously — compelling publication of unclassified documents detailing the investigation into the disgraced financier's operations and jailhouse death, which was ruled a suicide. Lawmakers say the public deserves answers in a case with over 1,000 alleged victims. Mr. Trump says the files will expose powerful Democrats' connections to Epstein, but the president himself faces uncomfortable scrutiny over his years-long friendship with the man alleged to have supplied underage girls to rich and influential men.

The Bill passed the House earlier Tuesday (November 19) with just one dissenter out of 428 members voting, and the Senate agreed to rubber-stamp and bounce the text straight to the White House, without a hand-count vote, as soon as it arrives from the lower chamber. Mr. Trump has pledged not to veto the legislation, but Washington-watchers are not expecting imminent damning new revelations. The Justice Department has wide latitude to hold back information if its release "would jeopardize an active federal investigation." Meanwhile Mr. Trump, in a widely criticised intervention last week, ordered officials to probe Epstein's ties with high-profile Democrats. The saga has exposed rare fissures in support for the Republican leader, who previously campaigned on releasing the files but changed course after taking office, accusing Democrats of pushing a "hoax." After multiple attempts by Republican leaders to block the vote, all Democrats and four Republicans signed a "discharge petition" -- an extraordinary procedure forcing the Bill to the House floor against the wishes of leadership. Relenting on his longstanding resistance, Mr. Trump said on social media late Sunday that Republicans should vote to release the files "because we have nothing to hide." "I have nothing to do with Jeffrey Epstein," Mr. Trump told reporters Tuesday at an Oval Office event with



Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. "I threw him out of my club many years ago because I thought he was a sick pervert." Long association However, Mr. Trump had a well documented relationship with Epstein, who was famous for throwing parties and other networking opportunities for the rich and powerful.

The U-turn marks a rare occasion when a revolt from Mr. Trump's allies has forced his hand, and Epstein survivors at a news conference ahead of the vote questioned the president's motives. "I can't help to be skeptical of what the agenda is," said Haley Robson, who was recruited to massage Epstein when she was 16. "I am traumatized — I am not stupid." At the time of his death, Epstein was facing federal trial over an alleged sex trafficking operation said to have exploited underage girls and young women, following a 2008 conviction for procuring a minor for prostitution. For years, Mr. Trump's right-wing movement encouraged followers to believe that the government was covering up a major conspiracy. But Mr. Trump's Justice Department said in July officials had completed an "exhaustive review" of the case and had "no basis to revisit the disclosure" of any Epstein materials. The White House escalated efforts last week to mothball the vote, with Mr. Trump and his allies making last-minute appeals to two of Republican signers of the discharge petition. The rupture widened when Mr. Trump pulled his endorsement of top loyalist Marjorie Taylor Greene in a stunning break that she said "has all come down to the Epstein files." "The real test will be, will the Department of Justice release the files? Or will it all remain tied up in investigations?" she said at the news conference.

# On Bangladesh's extradition request for Hasina, Delhi has several options

As Bangladesh's National Security Advisor Khalilur Rahman arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday (November 18, 2025), and Dhaka prepares a 'note verbale', the Indian government is considering its response to Bangladesh's demand for the extradition of its former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. During his visit to Delhi, Mr. Rahman is expected to meet with NSA Ajit Doval and attend the Colombo Security Conclave, which includes India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, and Bangladesh.

Officials and experts are clear that Ms. Hasina — who has lived in New Delhi since last August — is and will remain an "honoured guest". However, they also point out that according to the India-Bangladesh mutual extradition treaty signed in 2013, there are many steps yet to be followed by the administration of Chief Executive Muhammad Yunus before the government needs to proceed. In addition, a big question looms over the legitimacy of Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal, which was set up in 2009 by Ms. Hasina herself to prosecute those accused of war crimes during the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war. "No formal extradition request yet" In its statement reacting to the death sentence that the ICT handed down to Ms. Hasina on Monday, after her conviction for ordering the killing of anti-government protestors between June and August 2024, the Ministry of External Affairs said that it would "engage constructively with all stakeholders", indicating it will not be rushed into a definitive "yes or no" response. "Let us be clear that so far India has not received a single formal extradition request," said Veena Sikri, who served as India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh from 2003 to 2006. "A press statement is not a formal request - the process for an extradition is very complex and legal," Ms. Sikri added. As a "first step", she said, a formal request would have to include the ICT's Monday order along with all the evidence provided, explaining the legitimacy of the court itself and the trial process details as well. Once a request is received, officials said, the government will have to assess it against its obligations under the 2013 agreement signed by then-Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde during a visit to Dhaka. That agreement was meant to smoothen the path for the extradition of criminals and terrorists wanted in India, including ULFA leader Anup Chetia, who was transferred to

India in 2015. The 2013 agreement came as Ms. Hasina faced international criticism for setting up the ICT to try the killers of her father Sheikh Mujib ur Rahman, and others who colluded with Pakistan during the liberation war, expanding the mandate of Bangladesh's International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973. The ICT's death sentences — especially against 66-year old Opposition BNP leader and six-time MP Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury, and 73-year old Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, among the six accused hanged between 2013 and 2016 — led to accusations that the Hasina government was targeting political opponents through the court. India's support had helped Ms. Hasina at the time. However, the 2013 treaty itself makes many exceptions the government could use to defend its grant of refuge to Ms. Hasina. Article 6 of the extradition treaty refers to the "The Political Offence Exception", that allows the parties to refuse an extradition if it is for an "offence of a political character" (Article 6(1)). However, Article 6(2) also says that if the offence is for murder, incitement to murder, and a number of other charges, then these cannot be considered "political". As a result, the article leaves room for interpretation, officials said. Article 8 of the extradition treaty sets out more than six other grounds for the refusal of an extradition request and says that if the accused "satisfies" the requested state (in this case, India) that the charges are "unjust or oppressive" or "not made in good faith in the interests of justice", the extradition may be denied. Full trial possible Another option would be to honour the extradition request and to initiate a process based on the Bangladeshi request. This would involve a full extradition trial, where Ms. Hasina would be able to respond to the charges against her, something she has been unable to do in Bangladesh. Finally, New Delhi could choose not to accept the validity of the ICT. Under the extradition treaty, the warrant must be issued by a "judge, magistrate or other competent authority". Experts, including former diplomats, pointed to the irony of the ICT set up by Ms. Hasina, which was decried as "illegal and unconstitutional" by the Opposition parties, now being used to convict and sentence her in turn. The appointment of Tajul Islam as the ICT's chief prosecutor is particularly ironic, given that he was earlier the chief defence lawyer for the Jamaat-e-Islami.

# Washington's governor declares emergency so Seattle airport will get fuel despite pipeline leak



GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Seattle: Washington state's governor declared an emergency on Wednesday to ensure enough jet fuel gets to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport after a leak shut down a major fuel pipeline. The order temporarily waives and suspends state regulations limiting the number of hours commercial vehicle operators can drive when transporting jet fuel, Gov. Bob Ferguson's office said in a news release.

# Meta alerts young Australians to download their data before social media ban

GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Melbourne: Technology giant Meta on Thursday began sending thousands of young Australians a two-week warning to download their digital histories and delete their accounts from Facebook, Instagram and Threads before a world-first social media ban on accounts of children younger than 16 takes effect. The Australian government announced two weeks ago that the three Meta platforms plus Snapchat, TikTok, X and YouTube must take reasonable steps to exclude Australian account holders younger than 16, beginning Dec. 10.

California-based Meta on Thursday became the first of the targeted tech companies to outline how it will comply with the law. Meta contacted thousands of young account holders via SMS and email to warn that suspected children will start to be denied access to the platforms from Dec. 4. "We will start notifying impacted teens today to give them the opportunity to save their contacts and memories," Meta said in a statement. Meta said young users could also use the notice period to update their contact information "so we can get in touch and help them regain access once they turn 16." Meta has estimated there are 350,000 Australians aged 13-to-15 on Instagram and 150,000 in that age bracket on Facebook. Australia's population is 28 million. Account holders 16 years old and older who were mistakenly given notice that they would be excluded can contact Yoti Age Verification and verify their age by providing government-issued identity documents or a "video selfie," Meta said. Terry Flew, co-director of Sydney University's Centre for AI, Trust and Governance, said such facial-recognition technology had a failure rate of at least 5 per cent. "In the absence of a government-mandated ID system, we're always looking at second-best solutions around these things," Flew told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. The government has warned platforms that demanding that all account holders prove they are older than 15 would be an unreasonable response to the new age restrictions. The government maintains that the platforms already had sufficient data about many account holders to ascertain they were not young children.

Failure to take reasonable steps to exclude young

The proclamation ensures safe-driving measures are in place, the release said.

The Olympic Pipeline was shut down on Nov. 11 because of a leak north of Seattle, between the cities of Everett and Snohomish. Operators notified the state of the leak and were working with state and federal agencies to contain, clean and repair it, the governor's office said. There was no estimate for when the pipeline would resume delivering fuel normally. But if it doesn't start back up by Saturday, the governor's office said airport operations would be "significantly affected." The office did not share details on what that impact would look like. The airport "has limited fuel on hand to sustain operations," the governor's office said, and since last week, airport officials have told incoming flights to fuel up to capacity before arriving because of the pipeline shutdown. The 644-km-long Olympic Pipeline is operated by BP Pipelines North America, Inc. It carries gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and other petroleum products from refineries in northwest Washington to points in Washington and Oregon. It is the primary way petroleum is delivered to fuel distribution terminals in the Pacific Northwest west of the Cascades.



children could earn platforms fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars (US\$ 32 million). Meta's vice president and global head of safety, Antigone Davis, said she would prefer that app stores, including Apple App Store and Google Play, collect the age information when a user signs up and verifies they are at least 16 years old for app operators such as Facebook and Instagram. "We believe a better approach is required: a standard, more accurate, and privacy-preserving system, such as OS/app store-level age verification," Davis said in a statement. "This, combined with our investments in ongoing efforts to assure age ... offers a more comprehensive protection for young people online," she added. Dany Elachi, founder of the parents' group Heaps Up Alliance that lobbied for the social media age restriction, said parents should start helping their children plan how they will spend the hours currently absorbed by social media. He was critical of the government's only announcing the complete list of platforms that will become age-restricted on Nov. 5. "There are aspects of the legislation that we're not entirely supportive of, but the principle that children under the age of 16 are better off in the real world, that's something we advocated for and are in favour of," Elachi said. "When everybody misses out, nobody misses out. That's the theory. Certainly, we expect that it would play out that way. We hope parents are going to be very positive about this and try to help their children see all the potential possibilities that are now open to them," he added.

# Nepal Gen Z protest: Curfew reimposed in Bara district; at least 10 injured



GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Fresh tension erupted Thursday (November 20, 2025) as 10 people were injured after Gen Z youths clashed with members of the ousted Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli's party, prompting authorities to reimpose curfew to contain the situation in Nepal's Bara district bordering India. Tension escalated in Simara Chowk in Bara district as youths returned to the streets a day after clashing with cadres of Oli's Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML), accusing police of failing to arrest individuals named in their complaint over Wednesday's (November 19, 2025) clashes, The Kathmandu Post said.

Protesters gathered at Simara Chowk from 11 a.m. Local administration at Bara had imposed a curfew from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. (local time) to prevent possible loss of life and property. "However, the prohibitory order failed to take effect, with demonstrators pouring into the streets and clashing with police. Authorities fired six tear gas canisters and two rounds of aerial fire after protesters defied the curfew

and continued advancing," news portal Khabarhub said. "Protesters also pelted stones at security forces, injuring six police personnel, while four Gen-Z protesters were also reported injured," it added. In a separate incident, the Gen Z demonstrators set fire to the police beat in Simara Bazaar, the news portal said, adding, "Items from the UML office were also removed and torched by protesters, accusing police of hesitating to arrest UML cadres involved in earlier clashes." The clashes in the district had first erupted on Wednesday (November 19, 2025), when the news of CPN-UML general secretary Shankar Pokharel and party youth leader Mahesh Basnet taking off from Kathmandu for Simara to address an anti-government rally spread amongst Gen Z members. Gen Z protesters gathered at the airport to oppose their arrival, triggering the clash with local CPN-UML cadres. Authorities subsequently imposed the curfew around the airport area to bring the situation under control. The UML leaders had then cancelled the rally. Meanwhile, police have arrested two UML cadres, ward chairpersons—Dhan Bahadur Shrestha of Jeetpursimara Ward No. 2 and Kaimoddin Ansari of Ward No. 6—on charges of assaulting Gen Z youths during Wednesday's clashes. According to the police, arrests were made after the complaint was filed against them at the Area Police Office, Simara. Deposed Oli's CPN-UML has been organising protests across Nepal demanding reinstatement of the House of Representatives, which dissolved on September 12 following the Gen Z movement that toppled the Oli-led government. Oli had resigned on September 9 following the massive Gen Z protests. Gen Z activists have sought action over the alleged mass killing of protesters on September 9 during demonstrations against corruption and the then proposed social media ban under the then Oli administration.

# Nagar Van at Kurumbapatti Reserve Forest gets good response in Salem

The 'Nagar Van' (urban forest), which is developed on 50 hectares of land at the Kurumbapatti Reserve Forest in the district, is receiving good response from the public. The Kurumbapatti Zoological Park near the Yercaud foothills is one of the main tourist attractions in the district. The park, spread across 76 acres, houses 254 animals and attracts 1.40 lakh visitors annually. The reserve forest has streams and bamboo groves near the park.

Considering the arrival of tourists to the park, the Forest Department decided to develop a 'Nagar Van' in the Kurumbapatti reserve forest, near Salem City. The work that took place for the past one year was completed and opened for the public from Monday (November 17, 2025). The 'Nagar Van' has a walking path for three

kilometres, eight huts for tourists to sit and relax, a play area for children with playing equipment, and a cycling path. Drinking water facilities are also provided in the urban forest. The Forest Department fixed ₹10 as an entry fee for a person entering the 'Nagar Van'. As the 'Nagar Van' was created near the park and Yercaud foothills, it has started to attract visitors.

Forest Department officials said the 'Nagar Van' will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. Issuing of tickets will be closed at 5 p.m., and after which no one will be allowed entry. Every day, 30 to 40 people are visiting the place. They added that people prefer to come to the Nagar Van since walking inside provides relaxation due to its scenery, pure air, and noise-free environment.



# In Delhi study, ragas in the operation theatre cut anaesthesia use



At first glance, the photograph looks like a scene from a science-fiction film or one of those viral, digitally altered images. A woman lies calm on an operating table under bright white lights, a headset snug over her ears. But it's real and was taken inside a hospital in New Delhi more than a year ago.It's a snapshot of an unusual clinical trial by a group of anaesthesiologists from Lok Nayak Hospital and Maulana Azad Medical College. They wanted to investigate if music flowing through headsets during a minor surgery could soften the blow of strong medicines.

"All our surgeries are in completely new environments for patients and we give them general anaesthesia to produce unconsciousness," Sonia Wadhavan, director professor of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at Maulana Azad Medical College, said. "But since all these groups of drugs come with some amount of side effects, we asked: if we integrate music therapy with our anaesthetic agents, can it help us reduce the requirement of these drugs?"Dr. Wadhavan and her team designed a randomised controlled trial, which is a kind of experiment where people are split into groups by chance, like drawing names from a hat, to see if something truly works. One group listened to slow, soothing ragas for the entire surgery; the other did not.The results were telling: people who heard the music needed about 15% less anaesthetic. Their heart rates stayed steady, their blood pressure held firm, and stress hormone levels fell. The study suggested that music helps patients heal with less strain and less medicine.Soundtrack under the scalpel

The study, published in the October 2025 edition of the journal Music and Medicine, ran over 11 months. Fifty-six adults planning gallbladder removal, a common surgery to take out the small organ that holds digestive fluid used to break down fats, volunteered for this research.The patients were split into two groups: one listened to soft flute and piano music during surgery; the other wore intricate noise-cancellation headphones and were in silence.The music the researchers chose wasn't random. It featured two Hindustani ragas: the bright, uplifting tones of Raga Yaman and the calm, soothing notes of Raga Kirvani. They chose these ragas because they believed the tones could gently steer the body's "fight or flight" system, which raises heart

rate and blood pressure under stress, towards a calmer and steadier state."Since the ability to hear remains intact even under anaesthesia, we used music therapy to study its effect on the sympathetic system and stress modulators like cortisol," Dr. Wadhavan said.

And it worked. Patients who listened to the music needed, on average, about 15% less propofol, a fast-acting anaesthetic that puts you under in seconds and keeps you pain-free and perfectly still. Not only that: their levels of cortisol, a hormone the body releases when it's stressed, were lower. The participants also needed fewer painkillers and had steady blood pressure throughout the surgery. "It was a eureka moment," said Tanvi Goel, principal investigator and anaesthesiologist at Lok Nayak Hospital and Maulana Azad Medical College. "The music group not only required less anaesthesia but their stress levels were significantly lower."Even under anaesthesia, the brain doesn't shut down. The auditory cortex still registers sound, catching rhythm and tone. As surgery begins — with its pokes, pricks, and cuts — the body's stress systems stir. The levels of cortisol and other hormones rise, pushing up blood pressure and blood sugar to cope with the strain. The person feels nothing but the body still braces. Music seems to mellow this response, releasing endorphins and oxytocin to steady the heart, ease stress, and support healing.

"It's non-pharmacological, low-cost, and safe," said Farah Husain, co-investigator and a certified music therapist. "All it needs is a Bluetooth device and a pair of headphones. There's no side-effect, only potential benefits."Complementary approaches Alex Street is a senior research fellow at the Cambridge Institute for Music Therapy Research in the UK. He studies how music stirs the brain, the nervous system, and emotions, and how it can be used in real therapy."What needs to happen is medicine always has to have a non-medical adjunct," Dr. Street said. "Complementary approaches like music can reduce the need for medications that often have nasty side effects."

For instance, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid often used to control severe pain during surgery. But just 2 mg of fentanyl can kill an adult human. It has become the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45, surpassing car accidents and gun violence. This is part of the opioid crisis, driven by the overuse of powerful painkillers. The epidemic shows why gentler ways to ease pain and stress are needed now more than ever.In the Lok Nayak Hospital study, patients who listened to soothing music also needed less fentanyl during the surgery, signalling that non-drug approaches could help reduce reliance on powerful painkillers."There is still so much to discover about what happens in the depths of the subconscious," said Dr. Husain. "And maybe the effects of music on the subconscious mind can actually provide a window to this new unexplored world of knowledge for us."Dr. Street added a practical reminder: that patients still need to hear the surgical team, even when the music plays."You can't just block everything out with noise-cancelling headphones," he said. "The patient needs to be able to hear what people are saying."The Delhi team now hopes to test their music experiment with more surgeries and larger groups. In a country where hospitals overflow and resources are stretched thin, every drop of drug and every minute saved can ease costs, speed recovery, and free beds. That image of a patient on an operating table with headsets on may soon feel less like science fiction and more like standard care.

# Seeing beyond the surface: paediatric radiology's role in healthcare



Radiology plays one of the most essential roles in modern medicine. When it comes to children, the significance of radiology begins even before the birth of the child. Paediatric radiology forms the backbone of early, effective and accurate diagnosis — from the foetal stage all the way till adolescence.Radiology is often referred to as the 'eyes of medicine'. From identifying developmental issues in a foetus to diagnosing subtle brain changes in a child, radiology helps clinicians look beyond what our eyes can see. It acts as the bridge between clinical concern and an accurate diagnosis. Advancements in paediatric radiology have made it possible to detect conditions early, guide interventions precisely, and monitor treatment progress without invasive procedures.

Comprehensive paediatric care starts right at the very beginning of life — at the foetal level. Through advanced anomaly scans and foetal MRIs, congenital abnormalities can be accurately identified, monitored and characterised way before a baby is born. Such data is extremely useful and allows for adequate management and guidance for parents, to ensure there are no complications at birth and offer a smooth transition for both the mother and the baby after delivery.Beyond detecting congenital anomalies, prenatal imaging has also become a key tool for specialised neonatal teams to plan deliveries of babies with complex conditions. This proactive approach greatly improves outcomes and reduces emergency complications in the crucial first few hours of life.Child-friendly environments

Imaging children is not the same as imaging adults — it requires a lot of expertise and empathy. Paediatric radiologists work closely with young patients and their families, child life specialists who help counsel the family to reduce stress and mental trauma, and anaesthesia teams to en-

sure that each scan is performed safely, often without the need for sedation. Techniques such as distraction therapy, visual aids, and age-appropriate communication help children remain calm, improving both comfort and image quality.Safety is always accorded the highest priority while conducting MRI or CT procedures. All scans are guided by theALARA principle, which stands for 'As Low As Reasonably Achievable'. Doses of radiation are carefully and skillfully monitored, and tailored as per the child's age and weight to ensure maximum safety while taking care not to compromise on the accuracy of the diagnosis.This emphasis on safety is what distinguishes paediatric radiology as a sub-specialty. The focus is not just on helping to make a diagnosis, but in carrying it out in a gentle and safe way for growing bodies that are very sensitive to radiation. The field is constantly evolving with low-dose CT protocols, non-radiation imaging options such as MRIs and ultrasounds, and AI-driven tools that further enhance diagnostic precision with minimal exposure.

Radiology is an important and significant part of diagnosis and treatment planning for a range of procedures such as cardiac imaging, epilepsy, vascular and non-vascular interventions. Multiple advanced methods and techniques such as Cardiac MRIs and angiographies aid in accurate decision making especially for congenital heart conditions. Another important procedure — Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI) — also helps to track white matter tracts in children who undergo surgery for epilepsy.In recent years, paediatric interventional radiology has become a game-changer in healthcare, as higher accuracy in diagnoses enables minimally invasive procedures that once required major surgeries. Some of these procedures include draining abscesses, treating vascular malformations, and performing targeted biopsies — all under imaging guidance, allowing faster recovery and reduced hospital stays for children.Challenges involvedPaediatric radiology is challenging. A paediatric radiologist must be able to clearly identify specific areas in the body that point to a possible disease or hint of anomaly. This can only be achieved through rigorous training and extensive experience in this field.The role of a paediatric radiologist extends far beyond reading scans; it involves understanding the developmental anatomy of children, providing inputs that influence both diagnosis and treatment and collaborating closely with paediatricians and surgeons. As medical imaging continues to advance, radiologists are now integrating artificial intelligence and data-driven technologies to improve detection, predict disease patterns, and personalise care solutions for every patient.Early diagnosis, better careRadiologists are often the unseen heroes behind an accurate diagnosis. Their expertise and commitment make diagnoses of diseases easier as they help identify symptoms early, guide surgeons confidently, and help children return to health sooner. Paediatric radiology, in particular, reminds us that seeing clearly also means healing better, and that behind every scan lies hope for a healthier, disease-free tomorrow.

# Trump signs bill to release Jeffrey Epstein case files after fighting it for months

GNS News Agency, Nov 20

President Donald Trump signed legislation Wednesday (November 19, 2025) that compels his administration to release files on convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, bowing to political pressure from his own party after initially resisting those efforts.Mr. Trump could have chosen to release many of the files on his own months ago."Democrats have used the Epstein' issue, which affects them far more than the Republican Party, in order to try and distract from our AMAZING Victories," Mr. Trump said in a social media post as he announced he had signed the bill.

Now, the Bill requires the Justice Department to release all files and communications related to Epstein, as well as any information about the investigation into his death in a federal prison in 2019, within 30 days.It allows for redactions about Epstein's victims for ongoing federal investigations, but DOJ cannot withhold information due to "embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity."It was a remarkable turn of events for what was once a far-fetched effort to force the disclosure of case files from an odd congressional coalition of Democrats, one GOP antagonist of the president, and a handful of erstwhile Trump loyalists.As recently as last week, the Trump administration even summoned one Republican proponent of releasing the files, Rep. Lauren Boebert of Colorado, to the Situation Room to discuss the matter, although she did not change her mind.But over the weekend, Mr. Trump did a sharp U-turn on the files once it became clear that congressional action was inevitable. He insisted the Epstein matter had become a distraction to the GOP agenda and indicated he wanted to move on.



"I just don't want Republicans to take their eyes off all of the Victories that we've had," Mr. Trump said in a social media post Tuesday (November 18) afternoon, explaining the rationale for his abrupt about-face.The House passed the legislation on a 427-1 vote, with Rep. Clay Higgins, R-La., being the sole dissenter. He argued that the Bill's language could lead to the release of information on innocent people mentioned in the federal investigation. The Senate later approved it unanimously, skipping a formal vote.It's long been established that Mr. Trump had been friends with Epstein, the disgraced financier who was close to the world's elite. But the president has consistently said he did not know of Epstein's crimes and had cut ties with him long ago.Before Mr. Trump returned to the White House for a second term, some of his closest political allies helped fuel conspiracy theories about the government's handling of the Epstein case, asserting a cover-up of potentially incriminating information in those files.

# the tricky task of linking climate disasters to emitters

On November 12, Delhi's air became distinctly unbreathable. A thick blanket of smog enveloped the capital, which recorded an average Air Quality Index (AQI) of over 400, and the pollution was categorised as "severe". On November 9, Delhiites, aware of the possible respiratory ailments this relapsing crisis could lead to, protested at India Gate. Many were detained.Meanwhile in April, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, released a three-decade long study that established that rainwater, in several parts of the country, was becoming increasingly "acidic."In August, there was another environmental disaster, this time in the Himalayas: flash floods inundated Uttarkashi, washing away people and buildings, reportedly caused by a glacial lake burst. While it was small in scale, it was reminiscent of the 2013 Kedarnath tragedy, when over 6,000 people died after an avalanched ruptured the banks of the Chorabari Lake, causing it to burst and release 262 million litres of water within minutes. This was the worst environmental disaster in the country after the 2006 tsunami.Real world v. modelsBut can we authoritatively attribute these environmental catastrophes to human-induced climate change? Put another way, while the irrefutable fact is the earth has warmed by more than 1° C since pre-industrial times thanks to human-generated greenhouse gases and there are local events that result in local environmental disasters as well, how sure we can we be that climate change made a cloud-burst or a cyclone more likely?

This is where climate attribution science comes in. This field is concerned with estimating how the probability of

events or their intensity, duration or frequency are altered by climate change."Models try to create a world where climate change didn't happen and look at the real world where events happened," earth system scientist Raghu Murtugudde explained. "Models are imperfect, and depending on which of these changes you try to estimate, you can get different answers. An event may have occurred naturally but attribution may say its intensity was made stronger or that its probability was increased and so on," he told The Hindu. In general the attribution of heat waves is more accurate than the attribution of extreme rain events, J. Srinivasan, honorary professor at the Divecha Centre for Climate Change, said."When a major heat wave strikes Europe or Asia, scientists try to estimate the contribution of increase in carbon dioxide to that particular heat wave. Their attribution will be accurate if the model is good at simulating the past heat waves in that region," Prof. Srinivasan said.For instance, acid rain in Visakhapatnam has been associated with fossil fuel emissions from a power plant and a shipping yard, among other activities in the vicinity. Delhi's extreme pollution has been linked to the city's many vehicles spewing carbon dioxide and, seasonally, to crop residue burning in neighbouring States (which release organic aerosols), the unchecked use of firecrackers during Diwali, and particular wind patterns.Identifying point sourcesEarlier this year, researchers at Utah State University reported studying the 2013 Kedarnath floods and finding through attribution analysis that northern India has received increasingly large amounts of rain in June since the late 1980s due to more greenhouse gases and aerosols in the atmosphere.

# The NH-701A highway is an ecological risk

Roads have long been viewed as symbols of development — linking regions, opening markets, and connecting people. In mountainous regions, however, road construction is never a simple feat of engineering. It involves negotiating steep gradients, fragile soils, sensitive ecosystems, and communities whose lives are intricately bound to their landscapes. The challenge of balancing development and environmental sustainability is particularly acute in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), where geography is not merely physical but deeply political and cultural.In October 2024, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued a tender for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report and for construction supervision of a two-lane highway with paved shoulders, stretching from Shopian to Magam. This will go through Kellar, Pakherpora, Yousmarg, and Doodhpathri — all within mountainous districts.

The case of NH-701AOn paper, the project appears to improve connectivity and integrate regions into wider economic and administrative networks. However, the Himalayas, and particularly the Kashmir Valley, are defined by fragile landscapes, high seismicity, unique biodiversity, and hydrological systems sustained by glaciers and snow-fed rivers. Infrastructure interventions in such terrains often produce far-reaching ecological, social, and cultural consequences.

The proposed NH-701A alignment cuts across forests, grazing lands, and water catchments, raising concerns about long-term sustainability. For much of its length, the road traverses forested and sparsely populated stretches where basic connectivity already exists.While projects such as NH-701A have not been sufficiently studied, existing research offers important clues. A 2023 study, 'Qualitative Slope Stability Assessment of Hill Slopes Using Multiple Integrated Approaches along Baffiaz–Poshiana (Mughal) Road, Jammu and Kashmir' (Journal of the Geological Society of India), revealed a high probability of slope failure along cut slopes — particularly during heavy rainfall.

This finding pertains to the same terrain and geological conditions in which NH-701A is proposed. Although the official tender notice does not mention it, the project effectively extends the Baffiaz-Poshiana-Peer Ki Gali-Shopian road. According to the map attached to the tender, the road stretch connecting Baffiaz to NH-144A (the Jammu-Poonch highway, a key defense corridor) was transferred from the J&K Public Works Department to the MoRTH in September 2024. The rationale for this transfer has not been publicly explained, prompting speculation about the project's true intent, with some experts suggesting strategic or operational motivations rather than purely developmental ones.Systematic evaluationUnder India's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of 2006, large-scale road projects ordinarily require systematic evaluation. The EIA process is not a bureaucratic hurdle but a critical safeguard, measuring potential impacts on land use, biodiversity, drainage, pollution, and community livelihoods. Importantly, it mandates public consultation.However, in 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) issued a notification exempting highway projects within 100 km of the Line of Control from prior



Even so, the MoEFCC's Office Memorandum of July 14, 2022, emphasised the continued need for safeguards. Subsequent Standard Operating Procedures, issued on February 6, 2023, clarified that EIA exemptions do not waive other statutory approvals

environmental clearance. While justified on security grounds to expedite border connectivity, this diluted environmental scrutiny in regions already vulnerable to ecological degradation.Even so, the MoEFCC's Office Memorandum of July 14, 2022, emphasised the continued need for safeguards. Subsequent Standard Operating Procedures, issued on February 6, 2023, clarified that EIA exemptions do not waive other statutory approvals. These SOPs mandate a range of risk assessments and studies including detailed slope stability and disaster management evaluations; eco-fragility and hydrological studies; geological surveys for tunneling; catchment and drainage analyses; and preservation of heritage trees or compensatory plantation at a 1:10 ratio. In effect, while the exemption removes one layer of public oversight, it shifts greater responsibility onto project proponents and State authorities for ensuring compliance. But so far, there is no public evidence that these processes have been initiated in the case of NH-701A. The ecological risks are compounded by socio-cultural concerns. Yousmarg and Doodhpathri are vital grazing grounds for pastoralist communities such as the Gujjars and Bakarwals. A major highway bisecting these areas risks reducing grazing land, disrupting migratory routes, and marginalising vulnerable groups.

Hydrological systems in these glacier-fed regions are equally fragile. Road construction on unstable slopes can trigger erosion, landslides, and sedimentation, degrading water quality and disturbing downstream flow regimes. As multiple studies have shown, such interventions magnify risks in a context where climate change is already shrinking glaciers and destabilising mountain hydrology.The proposed highway is thus far more than an engineering project; it stands as a litmus test for environmental governance in J&K. If executed without robust safeguards, it risks unleashing ecological and social costs that could outweigh its developmental benefits. Yet, if approached through integrated planning, inter-departmental cooperation, and community consultation, it could still evolve into a model of sustainable infrastructure in fragile mountain regions.



# Names that speak volumes



“It’s not just a piece of paper, it’s a launchpad for growth,” Mr. Starmer said about the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). The visit will also involve bilateral discussions on regional and global issues, the Indian government had said on Saturday. These talks—scheduled for Thursday (October 9, 2025), would be aimed at further strengthening the bilateral relationship, including via a tech partnership, the Technology Security Initiative launched in July 2024, according to a statement from the U.K. government. Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer poses for a photo with his business delegation before departing London Heathrow Airport as they head to India to meet with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and promote the recently signed trade deal, in London Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer poses for a photo with his business delegation before departing London Heathrow Airport as they head to India to meet with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and promote the recently signed trade deal, in London on October 7, 2025. | Photo Credit: Reuters

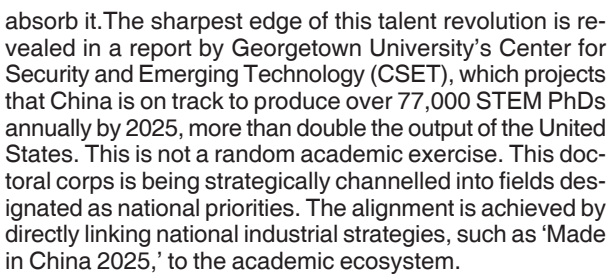
The leaders will also take stock of the India-U.K. relationship, reframed during Mr. Modi’s visit to the U.K. in the summer, as being guided by ‘Vision 2035’, a ten-year roadmap spanning a range of dimensions — from trade and climate to education, technology and people-to-people ties. Since Mr. Starmer took over the leadership of the Labour Party in 2020, Labour has sought to redefine its relationship with India, after ties frayed over positions the party had taken on India and Pakistan and the Kashmir issue. For the Modi government, another challenge with the U.K.— across governments in Downing Street— has been reaching a common understanding on the risks to Indian personnel and assets in the U.K. from Khalistani separatists operating in Britain. The signing of the trade deal and articulation of Vision 2035 in July were outcomes of both sides choosing to reset ties. On Thursday, Mr. Modi and Mr. Starmer will deliver keynote addresses at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai and engage with business leaders, according to a government press release. Under the trade deal, the U.K. has removed tariffs on 99% of products. However, this will

Experts suggest a hybrid compliance model that upholds the Court's intent while preventing socio-economic disaster. The model bars regularisation in eco-sensitive zones, mandates environmental assessments for existing projects, imposes fines and restoration duties, ensures independent monitoring, and sets time-bound compliance windows. The model doesn't pardon violators; it makes them pay, restore, and comply, shifting the focus from punishment to prevention and reform. The Court has now agreed to review its verdict following petitions by the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India and others. This review is not about weakening the judgment but about addressing its unexplored dimensions. India's environmental regulation needs evolution, not upheaval. Instead of wielding the wrecking ball, policymakers should build a smarter compliance system by promoting self-reporting, strict penalties, transparent monitoring, and stronger governance. Environmental protection and economic growth must coexist through intelligent, science-based policy.

The legal roots of this debate stretch back to October 2013, when the Southern Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in *S.P. Muthuraman v. Union of India* stayed the Office Memorandum by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change allowing “prospective clearances” for projects that had already started work without prior EC. In *Vanashakti v. Union of India* (2025) and related cases, the Court has upheld that position, closing the chapter on retrospective environmental approvals. While the legal reasoning is consistent, the timeline is troubling. Over the past 12 years, India’s infrastructure and real estate sectors have evolved rapidly. Governments, industries, and citizens have invested heavily in projects that assumed that post-facto approvals could be regularised. The 12-year gap between the NGT’s stance and the Supreme Court’s confirmation has created a legal vacuum and uncertainty. Where does the verdict fall short? While it bans post-facto environ-

He urged fintech firms to “design products and services that are easy to use, accessible for all, with assistive technologies, ensuring that the vulnerable groups such as the senior citizens, individuals with limited digital literacy and the specially-abled are not left behind.” Observing that India has a vibrant fintech ecosystem and the fintech industry has made it possible to deliver financial services at scale and affordable cost, he said, the country has close to 10,000 entities.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin's son and successor — Deputy Chief Minister Udayanidhi — took on many titles. He was Makkal Anban (people's friend) for some time and became Engalin Ethirkalam (our future) briefly when his succession wasn't formal yet. Neither has endured. Titles not only boosted the profile of Dravidian leaders of the past but were also a nod to the ancient culture of Tamils in which calling someone by name is disrespectful. On the other hand, communists — both leaders and cadre — called one another comrade to erase hierarchy. But they maintained respect through the use of initials such as AB and PR. Today, Tamils may well use a simple, respectful suffix to a leader's name although the language doesn't quite have the equivalent of the Hindi suffix, ji. A frequent title is Thalapathy (commander). Mr. Stalin was commander for a long time before he became Thalaivar (leader) after his father's death. The new star in the Tamil political horizon, Vijay, also carries the title Thalapathy. He has created a buzz, especially among the youth who have no memory of MGR and only faintly recall Jayalalithaa. The latest commander claims that the real fight in 2026 is between him and the DMK.



The plan explicitly identified ten key high-tech sectors, from AI to electric vehicles, creating a powerful demand signal for universities. In response, these institutions tailored their research and enrolment to produce graduates with the exact skills needed to fulfill the nation's most critical industrial ambitions, perfectly aligning the supply of talent with strategic demand. The global implications are monumental too. The nation that leads in these foundational technologies doesn't just gain an economic edge - it sets the global standards, norms, and ethics that will govern our collective future. The very operating system of the 21st century is being written, and its architects are increasingly in Beijing and Shanghai. This represents a fundamental shift in the centre of gravity of global innovation away from the West for the first time in centuries. For India, this is not a distant geopolitical drama - it is an urgent and direct challenge. We are in a talent race, and while we possess incredible demographic potential, we lack the coherent, ecosystem-level strategy that defines China's approach. Our annual output of 26 lakh STEM graduates is a formidable asset, yet we must ask ourselves the hard questions. Are we creating the research funding, venture capital ecosystem, and advanced manufacturing capabilities to empower this talent at home? Are we doing enough to incentivize our own global diaspora to return and build in India? The lesson from China is to recognise the undeniable power of a national mission that tightly integrates education with industrial and research objectives. They have turned a population into a strategic asset of unprecedented scale. For India, the conclusion is as stark as it is urgent: the time to formulate our own strategic response is not on the horizon; it is now.

# RBI Governor announces development of Unified Market Interface

and made a strong case for making efforts to curb the menace. The RBI Governor further stated that artificial intelligence (AI) holds the potential to fundamentally enhance the next generation of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). He highlighted a five-point mantra for fintechs to enhance financial inclusion and spur digitalisation in the economy. Malhotra urged fintechs to improve access for less-developed regions of India, designing products that are intuitive and easy to use for populations with lower digital literacy. The RBI Governor advised them to adopt a customer-first approach by creating frictionless experiences so that customers rarely need to rely on support, reducing pain points and improving engagement. He underlined that fintechs should extend the success of digital payments to small businesses and other underserved segments, exploring new products and services that enhance financial accessibility. Malhotra further stated that compliance, data protection, transparency, and robust safeguards should be at the core of product design to foster confidence among users.



# Airspace closure: Pakistan extends ban on Indian airlines, aircraft by another month; India likely to reciprocate soon



Pakistan has extended the ban on Indian airlines and aircraft from entering its airspace by a month till the early morning of December 24, as per a fresh notice to airmen (NOTAM) issued by Pakistan’s aviation authorities. India, too, is expected to extend its ban on Pakistani airlines and aircraft for a similar period, taking the neighbours’ reciprocal airspace bans for each other’s aircraft into their eighth month. The new NOTAM issued by Pakistan is similar to the previous notices, except for the effective duration of air-space closure. Islamabad will keep the Pakistani airspace closed to Indian airlines and aircraft, including military flights, till 05:29 AM India time on December 24.

With a deterioration in relations between New Delhi and Islamabad after the Pahalgam terror attack in April, Pakistan initiated an airspace closure on April 24. Initially for one month, this ban prohibited Indian aircraft and airlines from overflying Pakistani airspace. India responded on April 30, closing its airspace to Pakistani aircraft and airlines. Since then, both countries have extended these closures by issuing NOTAMs on a monthly basis. While the two countries have banned each other’s airlines and aircraft, their respective airspaces remain open for overflying by airlines and aircraft from other countries. Pakistan issued its latest NOTAM extending the airspace closure a few days before the November 24 expiration of the earlier closure notice. India’s current ban on Pakistani aircraft is also set to expire on November 24, and the country’s aviation authorities are expected to issue a new NOTAM to extend the ban by another month before the expiration of the NOTAM in effect.

With Pakistan’s airspace unavailable, approximately 800 weekly flights operated by Indian airlines have been affected. These flights, which typically travel from North India to destinations like West Asia, the Caucasus, Europe, the UK, and eastern North America, are forced to take longer routes. This leads to several operational challenges like increased flight durations with journeys extended by anywhere from 15 minutes to several hours depending on the destination, in addition to higher fuel consumption, and increased

# 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,

complexity in crew and flight scheduling. Ultimately, these factors contribute to a rise in operational costs for the airlines. On Wednesday, Reuters reported that Air India is lobbying the Indian government to convince China to let it use a sensitive military airspace zone in Xinjiang to shorten routes in view of the financial toll from the Pakistani airspace closure. The Tata group airline estimates that the Pakistani airspace closure could cost it around Rs 4,000 crore on an annualised basis, it is learnt.

In contrast, the impact of India’s airspace closure has been rather insignificant on Pakistan. This is largely because Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), the country’s main carrier, has a limited international presence and is currently struggling, unlike India’s rapidly expanding aviation sector. According to data from aviation analytics company Cirium, only about six PIA flights per week—those traveling between Kuala Lumpur and Lahore or Islamabad—routinely flew over India before these airspace closures kicked in late April. For Indian airlines, the situation is quite different. All major Indian carriers operate international flights to countries west of India, and many of these previously utilised the Pakistani airspace. Air India serves destinations across West Asia, Europe, the UK, and North America. IndiGo flies to West Asia, Turkey, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, and has mounted flights to Europe in recent months. With the closure of the Pakistani airspace, the airline was forced to suspend flights from Delhi to the Central Asian cities of Almaty and Tashkent because these routes were beyond the operational range of its narrow-body aircraft fleet. Air India Express, Akasa Air, and SpiceJet also operate international flights primarily to West Asia.

According to data from aviation analytics provider Cirium, almost 400 weekly international departures from North Indian airports have been impacted due to Pakistan’s ban. These westward flights from Delhi, Amritsar, Jaipur, and Lucknow traditionally flew over Pakistan. Considering that all these flights also have return legs, the total number of affected flights reaches approximately 800 per week. The financial implications for Indian airlines are substantial. When Pakistan previously closed its airspace for over four months in 2019, Indian carriers collectively incurred estimated losses of around Rs 700 crore. These costs were primarily due to increased fuel expenses and operational difficulties resulting from the mandatory longer routes. Air India was the most severely affected at that time, as it operated more west-bound international flights and was, and remains, the sole Indian airline with ultra-long-haul services to North America. But in recent years, other Indian airlines, particularly IndiGo, have also expanded their international networks, utilising their existing fleets of narrow-body jets to serve various destinations. Notably, IndiGo is the only Indian airline that provides flights to Central Asia, the Caucasus, and Turkey.



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).

# 26 e-commerce platforms declare compliance to eliminate dark patterns

New Delhi: In a major step towards protecting consumer interest in the digital marketplace, 26 leading e-commerce platforms have voluntarily submitted self-declaration letters confirming compliance to eliminate dark patterns, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, on Thursday.

The compliance with the Guidelines for Prevention and Regulation of Dark Patterns, 2023, marks a significant milestone in India’s efforts to curb deceptive online design practices that mislead or manipulate consumers. “The platforms have conducted internal self-audits or third-party audits to identify, assess, and eliminate any presence of dark patterns. All 26 companies have declared that their platforms are free from dark patterns and do not deploy any manipulative user interface designs,” the Ministry said.

The compliance demonstrates a strong commitment towards consumer transparency, fair trade practices, and ethical digital ecosystems. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has also appreciated these declarations and termed them “exemplary”. It encouraged other companies to adopt similar self-regulation. To strengthen compliance, CCPA issued an Advisory on 5 June 2025, instructing all e-commerce platforms and online service providers to conduct a mandatory self-audit within three months to detect and eliminate dark patterns. The advisory emphasised transparency, explicit consent, clear disclosures, and non-manipulative design. The CCPA strongly urges all other e-commerce platforms, marketplace entities, service providers, and app developers to follow the example set by these companies. “Through the National Consumer Helpline (NCH), social media campaigns, informative videos, and outreach programmes, consumers have been educated about identifying dark patterns and reporting them,” the Ministry said.

# India’s drug-resistant infection rates lower than U.S., Europe despite higher microbial colonisation



The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has refuted claims made in an international study published by The Lancet that over 50% of Indian patients hospitalised for a specific gastrointestinal procedure are colonised with at least one multi-drug-resistant organism (MDRO). The study has raised alarm over soaring antimicrobial resistance in India, describing it as a rapidly escalating superbug crisis and a “global threat”. In response, the NCDC, which is mandated to prevent, detect, and control diseases of public health importance in India, pointed out that The Lancet dataset only reports colonisation of multi-drug-resistant organisms, not actual infections. “Colonisation is a microbiological finding, but not a clinical failure,” it said, adding that the results refer to specific high-risk clinical groups and cannot be generalised for all patients or the general population in India. Patients with comorbidities

The research paper, published in The Lancet’s journal eClinicalMedicine, is titled Preprocedural screening for multidrug-resistant organisms in endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP): an international, multicentre, cross-sectional observational study’. An ERCP is an endoscopic procedure used to diagnose and treat problems in the gall-bladder, the bile ducts, and the pancreas. The study screened more than 1,200 patients across four

countries — India, Italy, the Netherlands, and the United States. Sources in the NCDC explained that these findings pertain to a highly specific group of patients who already have multiple comorbidities, frequent healthcare exposure, and higher antibiotic use. They cannot be generalised to the broader Indian population or to routine healthcare scenarios, they emphasised. The study also indicates that India recorded significantly lower prevalence of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) (1.4%) and vancomycin-resistant Enterococci (VRE) (7.4%), in comparison to the U.S. and parts of Europe, signalling the effectiveness of containment strategies for gram-positive infections in the country.

Experts further pointed out that the study does not report higher ERCP-associated infection or mortality risk among Indian patients, reinforcing that high colonisation rates do not necessarily translate into adverse clinical outcomes. The NCDC experts added that certain comparisons drawn between India and countries with lower infectious disease burdens may not reflect contextual realities. “Microbial resistance trends vary across regions and must be understood considering differential population density, morbidity patterns, and healthcare access. The study itself recommends region-specific prevention strategies,” an expert noted. “Cannot link to antibiotic usage” Sources in the NCDC also cautioned against linking the findings to alleged excessive antibiotic use in India, clarifying that cross-sectional studies, such as the current one, cannot establish causation. Moreover, the study does not assess or report community-level spread of MDR organisms. NCDC experts reiterated the importance of interpreting such scientific data within the clinical context. “While antimicrobial resistance remains a global concern, this study should not be misrepresented as a marker of systemic failure. The findings underscore the need for continued surveillance, infection control, and stewardship, not alarmism.”

# Nearly 90% of adults in Maharashtra say they have personally experienced global warming

Heavy rainfall and flooding this September claimed at least 11 lives in Maharashtra and disrupted life across several districts, underscoring the growing climate crisis. Erratic monsoon patterns and shifting rainfall trends have affected crop cycles and strained urban infrastructure from Mumbai to Marathwada. According to the new Climate Opinion Maps for India by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, 87% of adults in Maharashtra said they have personally experienced the effects of global warming, while 77% believe global warming is affecting monsoons, and 82% said it is affecting droughts and water shortages. Concern runs deep; 91% report being worried about global warming, yet only 55% think global warming is caused mostly by human activities.

The maps, based on surveys of over 19,000 respondents between 2022 and 2025, provide a granular look at how climate change is being felt and understood across 34 States and Union Territories and 634 districts. Nationally, majorities report experiencing severe heat waves (71%), agricultural pests and diseases (59%), electricity outages (59%), water pollution (53%), droughts and water shortages (52%), and severe air pollution (51%) in the past year.

India, home to 1.4 billion people, is the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases and among the most climate-vulnerable nations. In 2024 alone, the country endured extreme weather on 322 days—almost 90% of the year. Dr. Jagadish Thaker, Senior Lecturer, University of Queensland, and one of the lead authors of this project, said, “As India rapidly develops while facing intensifying extreme weather, understanding how people across states and districts perceive and experience climate change is essential. These maps can help local and state leaders design climate action plans that reflect people’s lived realities and build durable public support for solutions,” Dr. Thaker said.

Experiences and beliefs vary widely. In Uttar Pradesh, 78% of adults report personally experiencing severe heat waves, among the highest in the country, along with Rajasthan (80%), Haryana (80%), and Odisha (80%). In comparison, just over half of adults in Kerala and Tamil Nadu report the same (55% and 52%). While only 35% of Indians nationwide report experiencing severe cyclones, that number rises to 64% in Odisha, which was hit hard by Cyclone Dana in October 2024. Odisha also stands out for droughts — over two-thirds report experiencing droughts and water shortages. The state faces extreme weather almost every



year.

A majority of Indians think global warming is affecting severe heat waves (78%), droughts and water shortages (77%), severe cyclones (73%), and severe floods (70%). The report said that attribution often exceeds personal experience, for example, 74% of adults in Tamil Nadu think global warming is affecting severe storms, even though only 21% say they have personally experienced one in the past year. In Rajasthan, 70% think global warming is affecting severe floods, though only 28% report experiencing one. Dr. Jennifer Marlon, the lead researcher for the opinion maps at the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, said, “As India works to protect itself from extreme weather, communicators must continue to explain the cause-and-effect relationship between burning fossil fuels and dangerous weather. These data about how people across India are experiencing the impacts of climate change can help decision-makers better understand public risk-perceptions and design climate adaptation, communication, and sustainable development policies that meet Indians where they are.”

The maps use multilevel regression with post-stratification (MRP), combining survey data with demographic and geographic characteristics, including gender, age, caste, urbanicity, education, and climate vulnerability, and applying spatial weighting using Indian census counts. The uncertainty range is approximately ±6 percentage points at the state level and ±8 at the district level. The research team included Jennifer Marlon, Jagadish Thaker, Emily Goddard, Anthony Leiserowitz, Martial Jefferson, Seth Rosenthal, and Jennifer Carman at Yale University, along with Yashwant Deshmukh and Gaura Shukla at C-Voter.

# Humidity, indoor microbes and temperature swings are changing how respiratory infections spread: experts

A growing body of research now shows that humidity and rapid temperature shifts can disrupt the respiratory tract’s natural defence system far more than previously understood, altering the way viruses and bacteria survive and spread indoors. Pulmonologists and infectious-disease specialists say this environmental shift, combined with prolonged indoor crowding, stagnant air and rising fungal load is driving the current surge in respiratory infections, from viral colds and influenza to bronchitis, pneumonia and asthma flare-ups. This is crucial because it reframes respiratory infections not simply as seasonal occurrences, but as environmentally amplified illnesses shaped by microclimate, indoor hygiene, airflow patterns and rapid shifts between warm and cold temperatures.

Doctors attribute the rise in infections to an interaction between humidity, poorly ventilated indoor environments and weakened mucociliary clearance -- the body’s first barrier against pathogens. Shashidhar T.B., head, surgery (ENT), Artemis Hospitals, Gurgaon, explains that elevated humidity allows respiratory viruses to survive longer on surfaces. “Humidity above 60–70% extends the survival time of viruses such as influenza for over 24–48 hours on hard surfaces,” he says, adding that stagnant indoor air and dampness accelerate fungal proliferation. Mould species such as Aspergillus and Penicillium, he notes, release spores that trigger allergic reactions and bronchospasm in already inflamed airways.

Soumitra Sinha Roy, senior consultant, interventional pulmonology and lung transplant programme, MGM Hospital, Chennai highlights how environmental stressors disrupt the airway’s mechanical defences. “When the weather shifts suddenly to cold indoor air, the mucous membrane becomes less efficient. The cold air makes you weaker in-

side,” he says. He reports an increase in viral colds, flu, RSV, bronchitis, pneumonia, asthma and COPD flare-ups all of which thrive when ventilation is low and indoor dampness persists. R. Surrendran, consultant, infection diseases, SIMS Hospital, Chennai, adds that the combination of moisture, minimal sunlight and closed rooms creates ideal conditions for viral transmission. He notes that people also tend to crowd buses, trains and offices during weather fluctuations, allowing infections to spread quickly. He points out that humidity and damp indoor spaces extend the environmental survival of pathogens and irritants. “Mould growth increases in clogged, damp spaces. Humidity allows viral particles to remain airborne longer, increasing transmission”.

While most infections begin as simple cold-like illnesses, clinicians stress that certain symptoms indicate worsening infection or complications such as pneumonia. Dr. Surrendran warns that symptoms escalate faster in high-risk groups. “For older adults or people with asthma or diabetes, even a mild cough can turn serious very quickly,” he says. Children may show fast breathing, feeding refusal or extreme lethargy -- early signs of respiratory distress. Sindhu V., consultant, pulmonology, SRM Global Hospital, Chennai notes that persistent fever beyond 48 hours, blood-tinged sputum, chest tightening, or prolonged drowsiness are signals of bacterial involvement or impending asthma exacerbation. In adults, a drop in oxygen saturation, wheezing, chest pain or a cough that lingers beyond a week requires urgent medical review. Vandana P. B., consultant pulmonology, Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Vanagaram Chennai adds that symptoms that fail to improve after five to seven days or worsen after an initial improvement, often indicate bacterial pneumonia. She lists persistent high fever, chest tightness,



## Ayush Shetty beats Kodai Naraoka to reach Australian Open quarterfinal: Will 20-year-old be the headline act in 2026 in Indian men's singles?



It's a match-up Ayush Shetty likes. After making his maiden Super 500 quarterfinals at Hong Kong, beating Top 10 Kodai Naraoka (World No 9), the 6-foot-4 was at it again, defeating the Japanese 21-17, 21-16 at the Super 500 Australia Open in Sydney to take his career head-to-head to 2-1. The win in Hong Kong on September 11 followed a summer in which Ayush, still 20, had defeated Chou Tien Chen and Brian Yang to win the US Open, India's only singles title of 2025. Coincidentally, he runs into Lakshya Sen just like in Hong Kong, and once again, the senior will need to restrain the free-flowing power-pounding game of Ayush to prove he's still the biggest name in India. Sen, ranked No 14 now, had defeated Ayush in Hong Kong in three sets and leads 1-0. But the tall shuttler, even if stuck at World No 32, is increasingly asking questions of his academy mate with his imposing game.

It was the same booming game – with strength in the smashes and ability to negate speed that Kodai tried swamping the Indian with – that will test the canny Sen next. Kodai, whose game has acquired a hint of urgency, and doesn't dawdle endlessly in rallies any more, believed he had a measure of Ayush, a giant who has put in tremendous work into agility for lugging gaps in his flank defense. Ayush trailed 5-8 in the opener, and Kodai wouldn't have guessed what was coming. Power, he knew, would rain down in the form of expansive cross smashes. But it was the flatter shuttle that Ayush slapped cross with a sort of top spin on it, and it glided over the net, that spooked Kodai.

A tiny 11-10 lead was not enough for the Japanese, who realised how Ayush would grow in strength and raced to take the next four points while ceding only two. It was sturdy defense and shot selections where even his defensive placements spoke of an attacking intent. The body smash to open up the first lead at 15-13, for example, came from a quick reaction parry. The following winner was a quick stride to the net, for a backhand short tap. And the opening set was won with a massive down-the-line. It wasn't too dissimilar to Hong Kong, but more clinical because Kodai seemed to have a plan to counter Ayush, but couldn't execute it. Ayush led at the 11-point mark in the second, lost the lead, but then built a wave of points again to drown out the Japanese. The accuracy at the net was crucial, and confidence to hold his ground will play a part, when he takes on Sen who loves the eyeball confrontations and wins them often. One of the more reassuring parts of Ayush's defense were his low pick-ups, inches off the floor and a strong wrist pick & flick back over the net against Kodai. The Japanese can absorb all-out attacks, but even he was confounded by the offense wrapped up in standard scramble defense retrieves. The final point of the match was indicative of how Ayush can frustrate opponents by staying put. Kodai kept smashing down lifts with almighty power, three in a row, but when everything came back, he went for a drop that sailed wide. A passing of the baton is underway in Indian men's singles, not because Lakshya Sen has stepped up, and won titles this year. But after HS Prannoy (19-21, 10-21) and Kidambi Srikanth (20-22, 16-21) lost (significantly) to Gen Next's Alwi Farhan and Shogo Ogawa respectively in Sydney on Thursday. That's why Ayush's striking semblance of consistency – with two Super 300 semifinals in Orleans and Taipei, and two quarters at Super 500s Hong Kong and Hylo Open besides the win at Super 300 US Open – stands out. Sen, a semifinalist at the last Olympics and a far more rounded player than Ayush, still starts favourite in their matchups. But given the power game Ayush is capable of, the 25-year-old will need to be on his toes. Both like dominating the net, but it's the variety from the back court that might decide who begins to wrap up the season and heads into 2026 with anticipation.

## India vs South Africa 2nd Test | Sai Sudharsan: 'I don't mind, I already drink tea during lunch...'

GNS News Agency, Nov 20

India's potential No 3 Sai Sudharsan said he was open to inverting the order of lunch and tea during the Guwahati Test because it hardly mattered. Beyond the tradition, the Indian batsman didn't seem to be bothered by a 9 a.m. start and tea at 11, and lunch after the second session to accommodate early sunset timings of the North East hosting its biggest cricket match – a Test featuring world champions South Africa. Guwahati lucked out and landed a Test match and gets to watch Temba Bavuma's side alongside all the Team India superstars, including Jasprit Bumrah and R. A. Rahul. But the early sunrise and sunset timings have meant tweaking the lunch time, and pushing tea to later. Sai Sudharsan quipped it was no big deal.

"I don't mind having tea before lunch, I already drink tea during lunch, so I'll probably enjoy it. Of course, it's new, but we'll get used to it. It's exciting to explore," he told JioStar's 'Follow The Blues', speaking about the unique tea-before-lunch timing. For Indians who trail the Proteas 0-1, nailing the cricket is important. Md Siraj said he was learning quickly. "When you're playing against a good team, and you're bowling against good batsmen and taking their wickets, you get a lot of confidence. Because when you play against a strong team, you quickly realise where you're making a mistake. So, it's good that I'm playing against a team like South Africa. It's a lot of fun." The South Africans too look focussed and unfussed, and their spinner Keshav Maharaj shared his thoughts on the tea session being ear-



lier than lunch, 'We actually heard about it recently. It's an interesting one, but you can understand the thinking behind it. Sunlight becomes a factor, so they're trying to maximise playing time. We respect the rules put in place, and we're here to compete and give our best as a South African unit.' South Africa middle order Aiden Markram however admitted he wasn't a massive fan, but he would most likely gulp down the tea and gobble the lunch without letting it bother him much. 'It's interesting. I'm not the biggest fan of it, to be honest. I think Test cricket should always start at 10 a.m. with lunch followed by tea. But those are the cards you're dealt, and you just get on with it. It'll be something different to experience, but hopefully, it doesn't become a common thing,' he said, hoping it remains a Guwahati oddity.

## 'You want to get to the WTC final, but is this team ready to get there?': Robin Uthappa

GNS News Agency, Nov 20

In 2025, India had not managed to reach the World Test Championship final for the first time since the inception of the competition, and one of the major setbacks India faced in the last cycle was losing 3-0 to New Zealand in home. In this cycle thus far, India has managed to draw 2-2 against England away from home and won a Test series against the West Indies in India. However, facing the current WTC champions, India slipped up at home yet again in Kolkata last week. Former Indian cricketer Robin Uthappa questioned whether this team was ready for the WTC.

"Visiting teams play lesser cricket than India and have far more time for preparation. There is too much cricket happening," warned Uthappa on his YouTube channel. You are going with one size fits all and trying to produce results. There needs to be a sense of realism about the goal for the next two years. "Yes, you want to get to the WTC final, but is this team ready to get there? Who is really effective outside of Bumrah and Siraj? We are missing a third pacer. They are trying out a bunch of guys. In all honesty, we don't have a confirmed third fast bowler," said Uthappa. The former batter also pointed out that the lack of designated



Test centres is affecting India. "India don't have Test centres as a country. You are randomly playing Tests everywhere and trying to produce results in your favour. That takes away from the larger goal," said Uthappa. "If you have Test centres, you can curate home advantage based on the visiting team. India is not doing that," he said. India will face South Africa for the second Test in Guwahati on Saturday, and interestingly this is the first time Guwahati is going to host a Test match, hence India will yet again.

## Archers Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bharat set record by winning titles at Asian Archery

Hyderabad: Dhiraj Bommadevara, a product of Volga Archery Academy in Vijayawada, and Ankita Bharat set a new record of sorts by becoming the first-ever Indian male and female recurve archers to win individual titles in the Asian archery championship in Dhaka last weekend. Ankita shocked Korea's Paris Olympic medallist Nam Suhyeon 7-3, while the 24-year-old Dhiraj defeated compatriot Rahul 6-2 in the finals to win gold.

"This gold should be a huge morale booster as I target the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics medal. And, I am determined to bring home an Olympic medal in memory of my mentor Cherukuri Lenin," Dhiraj informed 'Telangana Today'. "Beating the formidable Korean archers in the Asian championship was truly memorable," he said. The champion archer said he also owed his success to the coach at Volga Academy, Cherukuri Satyanarayana and that he

would be working really hard to make it to the Indian team and also win medals in the Senior nationals to be held in Hyderabad next month. The Vijayawada archer's immediate goals also include doing well in the Asian Games selection trials in Delhi.

For the record, Dhiraj, who also won a silver in the team event (recurve) in the 2022 Asian Games, joined the Army in 2021 as Havaladar, after training at the Army Sports Institute in Pune for four years and is supported by Olympic Gold Quest. Interestingly, Dhiraj in his maiden Olympics in Paris last year finished fourth with a score of 681, marking it as one of the best rankings by an Indian archer in the Olympic Games. Dhiraj thanked Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Deputy CM Pavan Kalyan, and Minister Nara Lokesh for their "wonderful support".

## 'They have the tools to win in Australia': Michael Vaughan reveals how England can win 2025-26 Ashes series



GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Former England captain Michael Vaughan has said that he believed the Ben Stokes-led side had "the tools" to win their first Ashes series Down Under since 2010-11. The 51-year-old urged the visitors to do the basics right and look to win the first Test at Perth, starting on November 21, to set the tone for the rest of the series. "They have the tools to win in Australia. Good batting, proper pace and great leadership. In Stokes, they have the best player on either side, when he is fit and firing. If he is, their chances of winning rise again."

"I think they have to win the first Test in Perth to win the series. They are good at bouncing back, but it would already be a long way back. How do they win? Well, first is to do the basics really well. The basics generally rule the roost in Australia, where you earn the right to be flamboy-

ant. Catching is so important Down Under, with the cordon often deciding matches. Being blown away on day one would be a nightmare for England. They need to use their brains, which they should not confuse with playing negatively," Vaughan wrote in his column for "The Telegraph". Vaughan also urged England to ensure that the debutants Jake Weatherald and Brendan Doggett are put under pressure from the opening ball.

"I would get after the debutants if I were England. There's one opening the batting, Jake Weatherald, and one likely to open the bowling, Brendan Doggett. Both are experienced first-class cricketers, but what you've done at state or county level counts for absolutely nothing until you've played international cricket. Lots of good players have failed to make that step up. You never know until you get there, and both men will have their moments of doubt on the day," he said. The 2005 Ashes-winning captain said that this series would be the last dance for the current Australian side. "For Australia, this is the last dance. Their team who have been dubbed 'Dad's Army' will never play together again. This England side should not fall apart, whatever happens in this series. Many of the players will get another shot at the Ashes in 2027 and beyond, because most of them are in their 20s. But this England group have been building towards this for four years, and will never have a better chance to win Down Under than this. Now grasp it," he concluded. Stay updated with the latest sports news across Cricket, Football, Chess, and more. Catch all the action with real-time live cricket score updates and in-depth coverage of ongoing matches.

## Robin Uthappa backs Gautam Gambhir after India's defeat to South Africa: 'It's not the coach who is playing'

GNS News Agency, Nov 20

India has lost another Test at home against South Africa after being whitewashed by New Zealand last year. Although they did manage to win against West Indies against South Africa, the familiar flaws came to the forefront again. As a result, the social media netizens and other fans have called for the sacking of Head Coach Gautham Gambhir. However, his former teammate at Kolkata Knight Riders, Robin Uthappa, came to the rescue of the coach and defended him. "It's not the coach who is playing. What kind of a question is that? People have gone after Rahul Dravid. If he can get trolled and be called, people will call anybody. We anticipated a bit of a dip. Before the England series we were saying we have to be realistic with the expectations. This is side sans Kohli, Rohit, Ashwin, Pujara, Rahane. So its going to be a young side and they will have to show a lot of character. They outdid themselves in England," he said on his YouTube channel.

"Because it's the Indian team and there are expectations, you cannot escape the fact that this team is under transition. You have to measure your expectations, whether it is home or away. They have the potential to be WTC cham-



pions, but not this cycle, maybe in the next cycle. So use this cycle to develop them and give exposure, continue to play on turners but not on underprepared wickets like in Kolkata," he added. In addition to India's batting, as the Test match ended in three days, there have been questions raised on the quality of the pitch. "It was not a turning track, it was a horrible batting track. It was a bad wicket. No batter could ever feel set. There's not just turn but variable bounce as well. You cannot assume that you are set on this kind of a wicket," Uthappa said.

## Hyderabad figures in top five of Indian Pickleball League

GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Hyderabad: Hyderabad has officially secured its place among the first five city-based teams revealed for the debut edition of the Indian Pickleball League (IPBL), India's only official pickleball league launched by The Times Group and sanctioned by the Indian Pickleball Association (IPA), recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS). The city's early leadership in adopting new-age sports positions it strongly within the league, fronted by its franchise, the Hyderabad Royals.

Hyderabad's inclusion brings significant momentum to IPBL, coming from a city that has consistently nurtured racquet-sport excellence. Paired with the city's technology-led growth and youthful sporting demographic, pickleball has found a natural home here, gaining visibility across corporate campuses, communities, and clubs. The Hyderabad team will now compete against teams from Gurugram, Mumbai, Chennai, and Bengaluru for pickleball glory at New Delhi's KD Jadhav Indoor Hall, Indira Gandhi Stadium, from December 1-7, 2025.

Welcoming the franchises, Vineet Jain, Managing Director, The Times Group, said: "These teams represent the scale, ambition, and national reach that define the Indian Pickleball League. Together, they bring a fresh competitive spirit that will help make pickleball a modern fixture in India's



sporting landscape." Hyderabad's representation comes through Operam Ventures Pvt. Ltd., an agile, technology-focused enterprise engaged in digital transformation and strategic IT solutions. Anubhav Tyagi, Managing Director – Operam Ventures, noted, "Hyderabad is ready for the next big sport. Pickleball has found early, enthusiastic adoption here, and IPBL gives us anational stage to build on that momentum." As pickleball continues its sharp rise across India and internationally, the addition of Hyderabad strengthens IPBL's vision of delivering a dynamic league experience, driven by regional pride, modern fan engagement, and a new era of high-speed competitive sport.

## World Boxing chief impressed with SAI National Centre of Excellence

GNS News Agency, Nov 20

Hyderabad: World Boxing President Boris van der Vorst, who is currently in India for the World Boxing Cup that is being hosted in Greater Noida, visited the Sports Authority of India's National Centre of Excellence in Rohtak on Wednesday. During his extensive visit to the centre, he went to the training area, the hostels, recovery area, gym and even the kitchen, to study the facilities being extended to the boxers training at the centre.

Speaking about his experience inside India's leading boxing training centre, Vorst said, "I saw the facilities at this National Centre today, the cradle of boxing champions of India, and what I saw is very impressive. The training facilities, the discipline... Now I know why India is doing so well in boxing."

He was not only appreciative of what he saw on the ground in terms of facilities and support being extended by the government, but also of the growing sports culture in the country, which is moving India towards a sporting powerhouse. "Indian boxers have great potential. I have visited India several times, and what I see is a hunger to represent India at the highest level. The support that these athletes have in terms of training facilities, coaches, etc. and the work that is being done by the federation will show results



... I expect the Indian Boxing Federation to become a leading federation in the world. Many more Mary Koms will come from India." Happy that India is hosting the Boxing Cup, Vorst stressed on the need for athletes to participate in more international events. "What is fairly important to stress is to send athletes for more international competitions and to develop the boxers. I am happy that the current federation is sending more boxers in large groups for international experiences. This is also the reason why India has won two gold medals at the World Boxing Championship, where the level of competition is very high."



## Karisma Kapoor-Sunjay Kapur divorce details made public, their kids dealing with deep and horrible pain: Sister Mandhira



The death of businessman Sunjay Kapur earlier this year shocked the business world and Bollywood. Actor Karisma Kapoor was once married to Sunjay, and the couple also had two children, Kiaan and Samaira. Even though they got divorced in 2016, and Sunjay remarried a year later, he was always involved in his kids' lives. In a recent interview, Sunjay's sister, Mandhira Kapur Smith, talked about losing

her brother and how his family is coping with the loss.

While appearing on the InControversial podcast, Mandhira addressessd Sunjay's sudden passing and how it affected the whole family. She said that even though everyone has a feeling of loss, Sunjay's kids, Kiaan and Samaira, are the most distraught. "I met both of them before they left, when I was in India. My mother and my sister get to meet them quite often. I mean, your heart goes out to them. You see them, and you realise that their pain is much deeper than what I have for losing my brother. Even deeper than the pain my mother has felt, to be honest. It's a horrible pain."Mandhira Kapur Smith also questioned the way her brother Sunjay Kapur's divorce from Karisma Kapoor is being used to make certain points in court by Sunjay's wife, Priya Sachdev. Mandhira challenged Priya to talk about her own divorce from actor-hotelier Vikram Chatwal. She said, "Why would you bring someone's divorce out into the public? Should we bring the Chatwal divorce out in the court? Everything in her life has to be a secret, and everyone else's life has to be brought out. Let's see her divorce papers. She has insulted my brother and Lolo after his death, and she thinks that she is dignified."The New Delhi HC is currently handling the dispute over Sunjay Kapur's will and assets. Priya has claimed that Sunjay left everything to her, which is believed to be impossible by Sunjay's family, as they keep arguing that he would never have done that to his kids.

## Armaan Malik says Tanya Mittal was trying to instigate Amaal Mallik against him: 'I didn't appreciate it'

In the latest episode of Bigg Boss 19, music composer Amaal Mallik was joined by his younger brother, singer Armaan Malik. Overwhelmed by the reunion during Family Week, Amaal broke down in tears. He later asked Armaan whether their parents were upset and why their father hadn't come to meet him. Armaan also exposed Tanya Mittal, revealing that she had tried to manipulate Amaal in the game. Amaal, in turn, clarified to his brother why he had spoken so much about their family on the show.Seeing Armaan enter the house, Amaal broke down and said, "I thought Dad would come. How did they bring you? You never wanted me to come on the show. How upset are they with me? How much of the family name have I spoiled outside? I couldn't see you even before coming on the show. How is Dad? Are they vibing with the improvement?" Armaan replied, "Genuinely, I am so happy."Later, Armaan met other housemates and said, "I have only been seeing you all on TV, you'll have become household names. I was very scared for Amaal. We have heard so much about this show, I thought Amaal couldn't go. He informed me a day before entering the house, so we couldn't meet. I am seeing him after 4 months. When I heard Amaal was participating in Bigg Boss, I was in disbelief.""I told him we focus on music, this is not for us, but he said no, I will kill on the show. I was scared for him, but when I started seeing the way he performed on the show, I felt he had done so well. Outside, now people recognize me as Amaal's brother. A few people even mistook me for Amaal and said you killed it on Bigg Boss," he added.When Amaal Mallik and Armaan Malik sat down to chat in private, Armaan revealed that their father was obsessed with the show. "He



is living and breathing it," the singer added. Armaan also told Amaal how Tanya tried to instigate him against the family through her fictional stories.A few weeks ago, when Tanya and Amaal were still good friends, Tanya told him a story about two brothers, Raju and Kajju. In the story, one brother was successful while the other was struggling, which led to misunderstandings within the family. Determined to prove himself, Kajju chose to behave a certain way, and eventually, his father came to understand him. Talking about this story, Armaan said, "With that Raju-Kajju story, Tanya wanted to feed something else only in your mind about you and me. She wanted to put you on some Anti-Armaan track, which I didn't appreciate."

## 'Dhurandhar violence justified by story': Ranveer Singh's co-star Saumya Tandon, says 'can't make everyone happy'



Ranveer Singh starrer Dhurandhar has been facing the heat for its violent content since its trailer release. The Aditya Dhar directorial received online backlash over gore, sparking a debate about the portrayal of violence in Hindi cinema. In an interview with SCREEN, actor Saumya Tandon, who is a part of Dhurandhar, opened up about the flak. She also got candid about her experience of working with Ranveer and Akshaye Khanna.When asked about the criticism regarding its violent shots, she said, "Somebody watches horror, some people don't; some people like action films, others don't. When you come to a common denominator, it's very difficult to please everybody. We cannot make everyone happy. If something pleases you, go and watch it. Just because some people don't like something, doesn't mean it should be off the market."

The actor further added, "I personally feel that if the violence is mindless and not adding to the story, just there for the sake of it, that surely doesn't work for me. But, if there is something organically coming and justifying the story that you're trying to tell, which is true with Dhurandhar, the intent should be focused on. Depends on how you're telling a story. If the gory content is just for the sake of it, I wouldn't support it."Appreciating Akshaye's acting skills, Saumya expressed, "When I was seeing Akshaye Khanna do a scene, I was awed by the kind of magic he brings on the screen. When you are standing with somebody who is a really good performer, a Dhurandhar himself, your level

of work automatically improves. He is such a fantastic actor. I was concerned how will I hold my ground with him in front of me."She also recalled visiting the Wagah Border and Golden Temple in Amritsar with Akshaye Khanna. "We both went to the Wagah border and the Golden Temple. He didn't take any VIP treatment or special lines, just bought the regular ticket and we were in the line for 45 minutes like other people there. He is so grounded and level-headed, didn't even once he thought that he will be mobbed."Saumya Tandon heaped praises for her co-star and the film's lead actor Ranveer Singh as well. "It was a tough film for him, he worked so hard on it. There was so much extra energy needed in the fighting scenes. We chatted a couple of times, but very less, because he mostly to himself as he was preserving his energy, there was a lot to do. He has been filming since a year and a half, and he even got hurt three times. He was extremely kind and sweet to me, very jovial. He is a very special actor, gives all in when he is in a scene," she shared.

## Sonam Kapoor announces second pregnancy, shares photos flaunting baby bump

Mumbai: Bollywood fashionista Sonam Kapoor on Thursday announced that she is all set to welcome her second bundle of joy.Sonam took to Instagram, where she shared a picture of herself dressed in a striking hot-pink pure wool suit featuring oversized padded shoulders and a softly curved shoulder line. The actress is seen lovingly holding on to her blossoming baby bump.Sonam tied the knot with businessman Anand Ahuja in a grand wedding ceremony in May 2018, after being in a relationship for several years. The couple welcomed their first child, a baby boy, whom they named Vayu, in August 2022.Rumours about Sonam's second pregnancy started doing the rounds in October. At that time as per rumours, Sonam was in her second trimester of pregnancy.She was last seen in the film Blind in 2023. The crime thriller was directed by Shome Makhija. It also stars Purab Kohli, Vinay Pathak and Lillete Dubey in supporting roles. Blind, a remake of the 2011 Korean film of the same name, centres around a blind police officer in search of a serial killer.

## Sonu Nigam performs AI-powered live duet with Mohammed Rafi, fans say, 'right way to use it'



Watch Sonu Nigam creating a rare musical moment for fan, performed live duet with the late Mohammad Rafi thanks to AIThe clip from Sonu Nigam's Kashmir event where he used AI to recreate late Mohommad Rafi's voice is getting a lot of love online.Singer Sonu Nigam recently turned technology into pure emotion. During his recent performance at Kashmir's Sher-i-Kashmir International Convocation Complex (SKICC) the popular singer paid a tribute to Mohammed Rafi but in a special manner. Sonu Nigam used AI for recreating Rafi's voice and he performed a live duet with the late singer. A clip from the event was shared by a fan who attended it.

The clip is getting a lot of love online. The audience

was left overwhelmed as nostalgia and innovation came together on one stage, reminding everyone why music remains timeless.Sharing the clip from the event, the fan wrote, "I don't know how many people can relate to this... but this is god himself.. what Sonu Nigam did tonight was nothing more than making us feel his divine presence #rafi fanforlife."In the comment section of the clip, a fan wrote, "This is absolutely Legendary ??????", while another posted, "Getting to see this concert live is a whole different level of magic ? You're truly blessed to experience this concert in person ?????." A fan reacted on the clip by saying, "When technology becomes pure emotion."A fan also asked, "Was it Sonu's voice prerecorded for Rafi or did he use AI to recreate Rafi's voice?" "Wow ??best moment ever ??????Mo Rafi vs Sonu Nigam best AI video," wrote another fan."

The singer reflected on a landmark Kashmir concert recently. Post the event, Sonu Nigam in an interview with The Indian Express, was asked, "In today's world, with AI changing how music is made, how do you think it impacts the creative process — especially when we now hear AI recreating Rafi saab and Kishore Kumar's voices?"Reacting to this, the singer shared, "AI should be treated as an assistant, not as your boss. It's a tool that can support creativity, but it should never replace the human soul that gives music its true essence."The event was also special as it took place at the picturesque Dal and the majestic Zabarwan Mountains as the backdrop, and was the first such event since the Pahalgam attack in the Valley.This month, Nigam embarked upon his seven-city Satrangi Re tour. The tour will begin in Mumbai and will be performed in Hyderabad, Kolkata, Pune, Ahmedabad, Shillong and Delhi.

## Amitabh Bachchan looked at Abhishek Bachchan, asked, 'what is this piece of sh\*t?': R Balki on his biggest ad screw-up

Even though Amitabh Bachchan has done a massive amount of films, he is as prolific when it comes to advertisements. Who wouldn't want Big B to be the face of their product or company? Hence, the actor has helped sell everything to everyone for years. However, there have been some endorsements which were difficult to get through or just didn't land. In a recent interview, director R Balki shared a story of one such ad film, during which even Bachchan — known for his gentlemanly behaviour — couldn't keep from swearing. The product he was endorsing also ended up being a massive failure, recalled Balki.While appearing on the Cyrus Says podcast, Balki talked about the several movies and ad films he has directed and also shared some very interesting anecdotes from those times. When asked about his bad experiences while working, Balki recalled making an advertisement for Maruti Suzuki, back when it was still called Maruti Udyog. The car manufacturers had come up with a new family van called Versa and wanted Amitabh, along with his son Abhishek Bachchan, to be in the ad film. It was the first project ever to cast the father-son duo but things did not quite go as planned, though.

"I remember this campaign for Maruti Versa, which was a huge fu\*\*-up. Back then they were very confidential about the kind of products they were releasing. I don't even think that the marketing guys had seen the car, or maybe one manager might have seen it in the factory. They gave us a picture of another van and said that is what the car looks like," said Balki.He continued, "I cracked the campaign of two cars in one. We decided to cast Amitabh Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan together for the first time, and they had not done any film or ad campaign together till that time. They loved the idea, and we got the business. The shoot is ready, the script is written, the launch is next week, everyone is prepared, and we still haven't seen the car."After casting the father-son duo, the whole crew drove to Lonavala for the shoot, where they laid their eyes on the car for the very first time. Balki said, "We left for Lonavala to shoot the campaign. I still remember the bungalow. The idea was that Amitabh Bachchan is sitting on the lawn and reading the newspaper. Abhishek drives in and says, 'Hey Dad, look at my new car.' It was the stupidest thing we could have come up with. Rehearsals were going in, and he was there, and the car was coming in. I saw this small car coming in, with two ve-



hicles in front of it and two behind, with this one in the centre. I was shi\*\*\*\*ng bricks when I saw the car. This was not the car I was promised."Amitabh Bachchan Amitabh Bachchan at the launch event of Maruti Versa.Even Big B forgot his dialogue and couldn't help but blurt out something negative about the car. " Abhishek struggled to get in, but he was understanding, because he knew some endorsements go like this. Now, Amitabh Bachchan had not seen the car. He has his back to it as Abhishek comes in the car and the shoot was happening. He says, 'Pa, check out my new car.' Amitabh turned and looked at the vehicle and said, 'What is this piece of sh\*t that you have got there?'. This is on camera. I felt I should stop the campaign," said the director.Balki also said that he went up to Maruti and told them that this is a completely wrong campaign, but the company refused to listen as they had scheduled a launch event the very next week. He said, "The launch was held, the car happened, people enjoyed seeing Amitabh and Abhishek in one car, and people turned up to see the new car. Nobody wanted to book the car. The ad was saying something else, and the product was saying something else. That was the time I realised how bad I could be in an ad. I should have stopped the ad."Even though it was a huge failure and Balki had to cheat with another car in order to shoot Amitabh in the back seat, the director says that he has chalked the whole incident up as a learning.

## Raja Singh urges boycott of Rajamouli-Mahesh Babu film Varanasi



Hyderabad: Goshamahal MLA T Raja Singh has appealed to the Hindu community to boycott ace filmmaker SS Rajamouli's next movie Varanasi, which has Mahesh Babu in the lead, accusing the director of hurting the sentiments and beliefs of the community."Rajamouli should be jailed for making comments on Hindu Gods. Only then will he realise his mistake. As an atheist, he continues to make unacceptable comments," Raja Singh, who recently resigned from BJP, said in a video statement here on Thursday.The filmmaker, during the unveiling programme of the movie's first look, got upset due to a technical glitch."My dad came and said Lord Hanuman is behind me and is guiding me. Is this how he takes care? I am angry. My wife is also a staunch devotee of Lord Hanuman. She behaves like the lord is her friend and talks to him," Rajamouli reportedly said.A video of the filmmaker speaking at a programme is also going viral on social media, which shows him claiming that he did not have any confidence or belief in Lord Hanuman though his parents were devotees."Though he does not believe in Hindu Gods, he makes movies on Gods and

makes crores of money," the MLA said, asking whether it was a publicity stunt by Rajamouli or whether he actually was an atheist.Raja Singh also said this was not the first instance when the filmmaker had made such comments. "Earlier, he commented on Lord Sri Krishna's 16,108 dasis and stated that the story of Lord Rama was boring. Now, he has commented on Lord Hanuman," the MLA said and urged the Hindu community to lodge a complaint against the movie director and producer.

## I didn't think I'd live past 30

Los Angeles: Veteran Hollywood actress Jane Fonda says she is astonished to be just weeks away from her eighty-eighth birthday, explaining that she once believed she would not live past the age of thirty. She recalled thinking she would die young because of what she described as a difficult youth marked by drugs and loneliness.Speaking on The Look, a special series from Michelle Obama's IMO podcast, the Grace and Frankie star said she never expected to reach this stage of life.She shared that her younger years were not especially happy and that she feared her lifestyle would lead to an early death.Fonda added that she would not return to her youth for anything, saying she now feels more centered, whole, and complete, and that she is very happy being single.Fonda explained that she has never been afraid of getting older or facing the end of her life. Before entering what she calls her "final act," she took time to reflect on the direction she wanted her later years to take.She said that turning sixty was a pivotal moment, prompting her to confront her fears and consider how she wanted to live the rest of her life.One of her greatest fears was dying with regrets, something she witnessed in her father's final days.This realization, she said, changed her mindset and motivated her to live in a way that would allow her to reach the end of her life without remorse.