

Telangana–North East Connect film festival opens in Hyd

Hyderabad: The Telangana–North East Connect 2-Day Film Festival was inaugurated at Prasads IMAX, Hyderabad, by Governor, Jishnu Dev Varma. The Governor, who hails from Tripura, also attended the opening screening of the Tripura film Yarving, directed by National Award winner Father Joseph. In his inaugural address, the Governor described the Telangana–North East Connect as a comprehensive engagement platform extending beyond cultural festivities. He highlighted that the North East possesses a vibrant and emerging film ecosystem, with filmmakers from Tripura, Manipur, Assam and other states consistently receiving national honours for their distinct storytelling.

Telangana to allot land for Northeastern states: Hostels, cultural centres coming up in proposed ‘Future City’



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

To deepen cultural understanding and improve welfare measures for people from India’s Northeastern states living in Telangana, the state government said it will set up the country’s first “North East Connect Centre” and allocate land for each Northeastern state to construct its own building in Hyderabad. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said the centre will come up in the proposed “Future City” at Mucherla, about 50 km from Hyderabad. Land will be allotted to Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura for buildings that can house hostel facilities as well as centres for food, handicrafts, culture and art exhibitions. On Thursday, the Chief Minister inaugurated the ‘Telangana-North East India Connect: A Techno-Cultural Festival’ in Hyderabad, organised in partnership with Raj Bhavan and the Ministry for the Development of the North Eastern Region. He said

Telangana had become a second home for many people from the Northeast, who are now working in sectors such as software, pharma, healthcare, tourism, hospitality, startups and sports.

Extending gratitude to those who have “integrated with the Telangana community” and contributed to the state’s development, he said the government would provide facilities for each North Eastern state to build its own structure. “This centre will also provide a platform for cultural exchange programmes between Telangana and the North Eastern states,” he said. He added that the cooperation of North Eastern communities would be important in taking forward the state’s development goals and its Telangana Rising Vision 2047 roadmap. The Chief Minister noted the “coincidence” of a person from Telangana serving as Tripura Governor and a person from Tripura serving as Governor of Telangana, and that relations between the two states should be strengthened further. He said the festival showcased the “spirit of unity” between Telangana and the North Eastern states, noting that the region is “rich in culture and environmental resources” and that several aspects of its heritage remain under-recognised. “Our Telugu people can easily understand the pain of the citizens of the North Eastern states in terms of regional identity,” he said. The Chief Minister added that South Indian states were playing a key role in the country’s development across sectors such as economy and culture. “We need to understand the people of the North Eastern states and their culture better. We need to increase connectivity with them,” he said.

Disqualification petition: After Kadiyam meets Speaker, focus shifts to Danam

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Hyderabad: After Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari called on the Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar on Friday and sought more time to respond to the disqualification petition, focus now shifts to Khairthabad MLA Danam Nagender, who is exploring different options, including resignation. This is after the Speaker served notices to both the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) turncoat MLAs – Kadiyam Srihari and Danam Nagender to appear for a hearing before November 23.

Of late, sidelining the State leadership, Danam Nagender has been maintaining a direct contact with AICC. He met AICC Chief Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi and held a closed-door meeting. Speculation is rife that he might have insisted on an assurance from the AICC about cabinet berth for resigning as the Khairthabad MLA, party sources said. Among the 10 BRS turncoat MLAs, Danam Nagender, is facing serious threat under the anti-defection law. Representing the BRS, he contested from Khairthabad constituency during the assembly elections in 2023.

However, during the parliament elections, he contested from Secunderabad constituency representing the Congress. This could be a major reason for the Speaker to in-



tiating action against him. This apart, sources in Gandhi Bhavan opined that Danam Nagender may opt to resign as MLA. In case the Speaker decides to act under the anti-defection law, he will not be able to contest any election for the next six years, they pointed out. During the meeting with high command, Danam Nagender is believed to have discussed all these issues. Unlike Kadiyam Srihari, he is yet to respond to the Speaker’s notices and his silence is giving enough ‘indications’.

Nidhhi Agerwal, Sreemukhi questioned by CID in online betting case

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Hyderabad: Actress Nidhhi Agerwal, television presenter Sreemukhi and Instagrammer Amrutha Chowdhary appeared before the Crime Investigation Department (CID) officials for questioning in connection with the ongoing investigation into the promotion of online betting and gambling apps on Friday. As per available information, they were questioned for over an hour regarding their alleged involvement in endorsing betting platforms.

Investigators sought details about the payments they had received, the number of companies they had promoted and the individuals or agencies that had approached them for the endorsements. The case, which involves several film celebrities accused of promoting illegal betting apps, was recently taken over by the CID from the local police. As part of the probe, actors Vijay Deverakonda and Prakash



Raj were also questioned by CID officials earlier. Officials said further action would be based on the findings from the statements and evidence collected so far.

iBomma founder Ravi faces new charges under the Foreigners Act

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Hyderabad: The noose is tightening around ‘iBomma’ piracy website founder and operator Ravi, who allegedly caused losses of several thousand crores to the Telugu film industry, with the Hyderabad Police adding sections of the Foreigners Act to the case

Already, multiple cases have been filed against him under IT Act provisions, film piracy, cheating causing financial loss, unauthorised use and transmission of private visual content, and invasion of privacy. In a significant development, the Cybercrime police have now added sections of the Foreigners Act to the case. The Act is invoked when foreign nationals commit offences within India. According to officials, Ravi is currently not an Indian citizen and holds citizenship of Saint Kitts and Nevis lo-



cated in the Caribbean Islands. Based on this current status, Cybercrime officials included the relevant Foreigners Act provisions.

In a first, Gandhi Hospital performs paediatric laparoscopic splenectomy in Telangana

Hyderabad: For the first time in a government hospital in Telangana, paediatric surgeons at Gandhi Hospital have successfully conducted Laparoscopic Splenectomy, removal of spleen through keyhole surgery, on a 7-year-old boy Akhil, from Aknepalli, Adilabad district. The boy, who was diagnosed with hereditary spherocytosis, a genetic blood disorder that changes the shape of red blood cells and causes damage to the spleen, was admitted to Gandhi Hospital from MGM Warangal. Dr. K. Nagarajuna, Professor and Head, Paediatric Surgery, who led the surgery, said that the keyhole surgery was successfully performed on November 6, 2025.

President inaugurates second edition of Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav in Hyd

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Hyderabad: President Droupadi Murmu on Friday inaugurated the second edition of the Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav at Rashtrapati Nilayam in Secunderabad on Friday. At the inaugural ceremony the President said that in the first edition, people were introduced to the rich cultural heritage of Northeast India and that this time they have an opportunity to witness and understand the rich cultural heritage of Western India.

Visitors will be able to get a glimpse of the folk culture, handicrafts, dance, music, literature and cuisine from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Goa, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli during the festival. The Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav will be open to the public from November 22 to 30 at RP Nilayam in Bolarum between 10 am and 8 pm. Entry is free and visitors can book slots by clicking on



the link – <https://visit.rashtrapatibhavan.gov.in/plan-visit/rashtrapati-nilayam-hyderabad/p2/p2>. An on-the-spot booking facility is also available for walk-in visitors.

Tejas fighter jet crashes during demo flight at Dubai Air Show

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Dubai: An Indian combat plane crashed on Friday during a demonstration at the Dubai Air Show. The Indian HAL Tejas, a combat aircraft used in the Indian Air Force, crashed around 2:10 p.m. local time while flying a demonstration flight for a crowd. It wasn’t immediately clear if the pilot ejected, or if anyone was injured in the incident. Black smoke rose over the Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central as a crowd of spectators watched, and sirens sounded after the crash. The city-state’s second airport was hosting the biennial Dubai Air Show, which has seen major aircraft orders by both the long-haul carrier Emirates and its lower-cost sister airline FlyDubai.



BRS alleges India’s biggest ever land scam in Telangana under Revanth Reddy govt

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Hyderabad: Main opposition party Bharat Rashtra Samithi has accused the Congress government of setting the stage for ‘India’s biggest ever land loot’ in Telangana under the leadership of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. The serious allegation came at a news conference addressed by party working president KT Rama Rao at Telangana Bhavan on Friday. He accused the administration of orchestrating a Rs 5 lakh crore land scam involving illegal conversion, undervaluation and reallocation of approximately 9,292 acres of prime industrial lands across Balanagar, Jeedimetla, Sanathnagar, and Azamabad clusters in Hyderabad and its surrounding areas. The Revanth Reddy government is out to hand over the industrial lands at throwaway regularisation charges of just 30 per cent of the Sub-Registrar Office (SRO) value. “Revanth Reddy has turned these public industrial assets into his personal ATM and Paytm,” he charged, claiming that the policy is designed to personally benefit the Chief Minister, his family members, in-laws, close friends, loyalists, and a coterie of brokers. He named several influential individuals – AV Reddy, Krishna Reddy, Kondal Reddy, and Tirupati Reddy — as key players lobbying to grab these lands. “Some agreements have already been signed,” he alleged. Rama Rao pointed out that in Azamabad industrial area alone, the SRO value is Rs 32,000 per square yard while the actual market value is Rs 1.5 lakh per square yard — nearly five times higher. Under the previous BRS regime, a legislation was made mandating payment of 100 per cent to 200 per cent of SRO rates for any conversion or regularisation required. The Congress government has slashed it to a mere 30 per cent, facilitating windfall gains for select buyers.

The BRS leader reminded that industrial lands were originally allotted at highly concessional rates over the past



50–60 years solely to promote industrial growth. During the 10-year BRS rule, no conversion of industrial land for real estate was permitted, and transparent allotment attracted massive private investment without any favouritism. He recalled that both the 2013 Congress government (GO Ms No. 20) and later the BRS government had initiated steps to shift polluting industries away from residential areas and the Outer Ring Road. Plans like Pharma City were conceived to relocate industries from Jeedimetla, Mallapur, and Nacharam to dedicated zones. “We never allowed conversion of industrial land into private real estate. Revanth Reddy has reversed everything and under the new policy he wanted to regularise in just 45 days,” he said. Issuing a stern warning, he declared, “Any industrialist or developer who purchases land under this policy will face serious legal consequences.

Kadiyam Srihari meets Speaker, seeks more time to respond

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) turncoat MLA from Station Ghanpur constituency, Kadiyam Srihari reportedly urged the Speaker G Prasad Kumar to grant him more time in the disqualification case. Sources said Srihari called on the Speaker on Friday after he was issued notice to appear for hearing on the disqualification petition filed by the party. The Speaker on Thursday had instructed both the Station Ghanpur MLA and Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender to appear before November 23. However, the Station Ghanpur MLA met the Speaker at his residence on Friday. Kadiyam Srihari reportedly had sought more time to respond to the notices served by the Speaker. It is learnt that the Speaker had responded positively to the MLA’s appeal. After the BRS filed disqualification petition, the Speaker issued notices to the 10 BRS MLAs. Of these, eight MLAs had responded and submitted their affidavits and the two MLAs, including Kadiyam Srihari and Danam Nagender had sought two months time. The Speaker granted them the time.

| CHANGE OF NAME | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| I, BARAD LALITHA W/O BARAD MARUTHI (old name) born on 05-06-1965 at Armoor earlier was Holding Passport No. P0183429 DT: 24-03-2016 hereby changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as KARTAN LALITHA W/O BARAD MARUTHI (new name) H.No. 5-11-51/31A, Priyadarshini nagar, Nirmal -504106, Telangana State. | |
| DECLARANT. KARTAN LALITHA W/O BARAD MARUTHI | |
| Place: Nirmal Date: 22-11-2025 | |

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

On Trump and the Epstein files

After battling political exposure for months, U.S. President Donald Trump has finally signed a Bill passed by Congress mandating the Department of Justice (DoJ) to release files relating to the investigation of sex offender and disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein, who died in prison in 2019. The President's assent was effectively his concession to enormous pressure from both sides of the political divide, Democrats and Republicans, who had mounted a strong campaign to shine a light upon Epstein's communications including those with or mentioning Mr. Trump. With the House of Representatives passing the Epstein-related legislation by a 427-1 vote, and the Senate granting unanimous consent to pass the same, there was no avoiding presidential approval for the demand to reveal detailed documentation regarding a man who was convicted of soliciting prostitution from a minor and died by suicide before facing charges relating to sex trafficking of minors. The DoJ has to release within 30 days all files stemming from the investigation of Epstein, with redactions allowed only for details of his victims but not for details of others that may cause any "embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity". The broader context to the turn in the Epstein saga is the established fact of Mr. Trump's friendship with Epstein, even though the President has refuted all knowledge of Epstein's criminal activities and that he severed relations years ago. Indeed, even though there was no mention of suggested criminality, Mr. Trump's name was writ large in the 20,000 pages of documents from Epstein's estate that congressional lawmakers released recently.

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's death anniversary celebration at Osmania University



"Indian Chronicle OU November 21: On the 28th of this month, the wall poster related to the "Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Vardhanti Sabha" to be organized at the Seminar Hall of the Arts College of Osmania University was unveiled by Jubilee Hills MLA Shri Naveen Yadav under the leadership of NUBC Student JAC Chairman Kommanaboyina Saidulu Yadav. BC Student JAC leaders Veeraboyina Lingaiah Viraa Ashok Mahesh Yadav, Cherala Vamsi, Nuka Madhu, Avula Sridhar, Manoj and others participated in this program.

Resolve Journalists Issues Immediately: HUJ-TWJF



Indian chronicle, Secunderabad, November 21: "The Hyderabad Union of Journalists (HUJ-TWJF) has appealed to the Telangana Government to urgently address several long-pending issues affecting journalists across the state. A delegation led by HUJ Secretary B. Jagadishwar met Hyderabad Additional Collector Kadiravan Palani and submitted a representation highlighting key demands. "The leaders — TWJF State General Secretary B. Basava Punnaiah, Ad-hoc Committee Convener P. Ramchander, State Secretary E. Chandrasekhar — briefed the media, stressing the need for immediate government intervention. "They urged the government to allot house sites and provide housing support to journalists by formulating a special policy. They also objected to the practice of extending accreditation validity every three months and demanded that the sticker system be abolished. The union called for the immediate reconstitution of State and District Accreditation Committees and the issuance of new accreditation cards to eligible journalists."

The leaders expressed concern that nearly 40,000 health cards issued to journalists are not being accepted in corporate and private hospitals, functioning only partially at NIMS, Hyderabad. They appealed for inclusion of journalists in the new health policy being prepared for government employees, with the state covering the contribution cost. "Citing increasing attacks on journalists, they requested the creation of high-power committees involving Police, Revenue, Legal, Information, and GAD departments to ensure safety and swift action in such cases. They also urged the Labour Department to revive tripartite committees to discuss and resolve employment-related issues. Further, they requested pension benefits for retired journalists and night-time transportation facilities for women journalists. "The HUJ-TWJF leaders announced that they would soon meet Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Information Minister Ponguloti Srinivas Reddy to present a detailed report on journalists' issues. The union reiterated its commitment to the welfare and development of journalists."

CDSL kicks off Ideathon inviting students to reimagine investor education and engagement for Atmanirbharta



Hyderabad: Central Depository Services (India) Limited ("CDSL"), Asia's first listed depository and the trusted custodian of over 16.7 crore demat accounts, has launched its first-ever Ideathon, an innovation challenge for students. The Reimagine Ideathon is an initiative under the flagship 3rd Edition of CDSL's Annual Reimagine Symposium. The Ideathon aims to engage young innovative minds in designing solutions that transform how India learns, invests, and grows - to make market participation more responsible and inclusive. The depository ecosystem secures the assets of over 21 crore investor demat accounts. There remains a huge potential to further deepen participation in the securities market and strategically address the barriers prevent-

ing citizens from benefitting from this growth story.

Building on similar initiatives by regulators such as SEBI and RBI, CDSL joins the effort to encourage young innovators to contribute their perspectives to bringing more people into the financial fold. The initiative seeks to democratize market access by enhancing investor education, and conscious and responsible participation at scale. Participants are open to explore solutions utilizing avenues of their choice, whether through gamification, behavioral nudges, communication, design, technology or community-building. The solution should reflect three core principles: Empowerment, Inclusion, and Trust. "Reimagine Ideathon is a celebration of responsible innovation. In the ever-evolving market landscape, technology serves as a catalyst and flywheel of trust that empowers investors with the right tools and insights. The securities market must be intuitive, inclusive, and accessible to every investor, and this Ideathon reflects CDSL's commitment to nation building and to strengthening the vision of an Atmanirbhar investor. An educated investor is a protected investor; empowered to make informed decisions that reflect their aspirations. We invite students to participate in shaping that future." said Mr. Nehal Vora, Managing Director & CEO, CDSL.

Uppal Mudiraj Association Sanctioned Rs62 Lakh: Proceedings Handed Over by Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 21 (Indian Chronicle): "Uppal Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy announced that a substantial amount of ₹62 lakh has once again been sanctioned for the development works of the Uppal Mudiraj Association. She said that the funds have been approved specifically for completing the balance works of the association building. Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy and Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-Charge Parameshwar Reddy handed over the proceedings related to the sanctioned funds to the members of the Uppal Mudiraj Association. They stated that, under the directions of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, significant development funds have been allocated for the Uppal division. Out of the sanctioned ₹62 lakh, the amount will be utilized for completing the second floor of the association building, installing a lift, and carrying out essential elevation and structural works. They assured complete support in



ensuring that the second-floor construction is carried out according to the requirements of the Mudiraj community association. They further stated that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has been allocating special funds for the overall development of the Uppal constituency, and the sanctioning of funds for the Mudiraj Association is a part of that initiative. Similar development works are being taken up across all divisions of the Uppal constituency, they added. "Association President Mankali Narasimha Mudiraj, Vice President Eega Anjaneyulu Mudiraj, Eega Santosh Mudiraj, former president Kanchimedi Shivaiah Mudiraj, Fishermen's Association President Rapaka Venkatesh Mudiraj, Talari Janjiri Mudiraj, Eega Laxman Mudiraj, Barampeta Rama Mudiraj, Eega Srinivas Mudiraj, Eega Babu Mudiraj, Mahankali Krishna Mudiraj, Eega Rajesh Mudiraj, Kushangula Satish Mudiraj, Mamindla Suresh Mudiraj, Eega Dasu Mudiraj, Manda Shekhar Mudiraj, and several others participated in this program.

Uppal dignitaries meet MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy over municipal notices issued for land acquisition along Habsiguda-Nagole, Uppal main road



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 21 (Indian Chronicle): "Uppal Inner Ring Road landowners from Habsiguda to Nagole, and along the Uppal main road, met MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy at his residence to express their objections to the notices issued by municipal authorities regarding land acquisition for the proposed road bridge construction. "They explained that the road from Warangal to Hyderabad and the road from Secunderabad to LB Nagar

intersect at Uppal crossroads, which has a width of 200 feet. During the construction of the Metro Rail, planners failed to consider providing a direct passage for traffic coming from Warangal towards Hyderabad. As a result, vehicles are forced to take a U-turn from the left side instead of moving straight, causing severe traffic jams at Uppal crossroads. Due to this situation, even Uppal town residents are unable to reach their homes directly. "Taking this traffic congestion into account, authorities are already constructing a flyover bridge and a rail overbridge from Narapally to Uppal Cricket Stadium. Once completed, the flyover will allow traffic coming from Warangal to travel smoothly towards Hyderabad without hindrance. Similarly, traffic travelling from Secunderabad towards LB Nagar will also be able to pass without any congestion. "Given these upcoming developments, the delegation told the MLA that there is no need for land acquisition on either side of the Inner Ring Road. In unavoidable situations, they said, an overpass, similar to the one at LB Nagar, can be constructed to ensure smooth traffic movement without jams. The delegation included former Uppal Chairman Mekala Shiva Reddy, prominent Uppal residents Dubba Narasimha Reddy, Salla Veera Reddy, Mekala Venkata Ramana Reddy, Charla Ram Reddy, Ramulu, Pradeep, Charla Sudhakar Reddy, and others.



They demanded strict action and justice for their son. Police reached the spot, dispersed the protestors, and shifted them to the Uppal Police Station for further investigation.

Banda Karthika Chandra Reddy participated in the flower arrangement program.



Indian Chronicle OU November 21: The Laksha Pushparchana Deepotsavam program was a feast for the eyes at Sri Seetha Ramanjaneya Bhajan Samaj in Lalapeta on Friday. BJP State Vice President Banda Karthika Chandra Reddy participated as the chief guest in this program. The marriage of Shiva and Parvathi was observed. Later, the Tirtha Prasadam was distributed. Sita Ramanjaneya Bhajan Samaj President Pochayya Yadav, Vice President M.K. Praveen, Secretary Lakshmana Rao, Treasurer Mahender, Sainath, Panduranga Rao, MP Krishna Rao, Ramdas and others were present in this program

International Lifetime Edu Icon Award Presented to Dr. E. Prasada Rao, Chairman of Paramita Educational Institutions



"CHITTIMALLA MAHENDAR, KARIMNAGAR BUREAU, NOVEMBER 21, INDIAN CHRONICLE: "Dr. E. Prasada Rao, Chairman of Paramita Educational Institutions, has been honored with the prestigious International Lifetime Edu Icon Award. The award was presented on November 19 at Yasho Bhoomi, New Delhi, by Mr. Dominic Savage, Director of the Education World Forum, United Kingdom, and Dr. Kulbhushan Sharma, President of NISA. "Dr. Prasada Rao received this award in recognition of his exemplary services in the field of education, including his extensive visits to various educational institutions across India and his commitment to providing world-class quality education through Paramita Educational Institutions. "The three-day international education conference held at Yasho Bhoomi witnessed participation from eminent educationists from India, Germany, Finland, the United Kingdom, Australia, and several other countries. Directors and Principals from Paramita Educational Institutions also attended the event. "Following this significant honor, the Directors, Principals, Coordinators, Teachers, and Parents of Paramita Educational Institutions conveyed their heartfelt congratulations to Dr. E. Prasada Rao.

Membership should be given to Mudirajs who have completed 18 years of age without any skill test: - Fishermen's Welfare Association

Telangana Vice President Boini Nagaraju Mudiraj



"(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 21) :- According to the official figures of the Telangana government, more than 85 percent of Mudiraj societies belong to caste, and membership should be given to Mudirajs who have completed 18 years of age without any skill test.. said Boini Nagaraju Mudiraj, Vice President of the Fishermen's Welfare Association Telangana. Speaking at a press conference on this occasion, Mudiraj extended his greetings on the occasion of Fishermen's Day. The Government of Telangana should amend GO 98 and establish Mudiraj buildings in every district for the Mudirajs as well. Mudiraj Sangam Societies should be established in every village and building sanction should be given. The Government of Telangana should implement GO No. 6 given in 2015. The Mudirajs should be included in BC (D) in BC (A) from 2009. The Government should submit the GO 15 survey report to the Supreme Court on behalf of the Government. 5 acres should be allotted to the Mudirajs in every village and Act 1.70 should be applied to the Mudirajs for the cultivation of fruit gardens. There are two lakh Bestavas, Gangaputras and Mudirajs in Telangana,

CRP Identifies Out-of-School Student in Mallaram; Counselling Sparks Re-Entry into Education.“



has initiated the Out-of-School Children (OSC) Survey. The survey, spanning 40 days from November 20 to December 31, is being meticulously carried out by Cluster Resource Persons (CRPs) across all clusters. “The primary objective of the initiative is to trace children who have discontinued schooling, as well as those who have migrated from other regions, assess their academic levels, and reintegrate them into appropriate classes. As part of this comprehensive drive, on the second day of the survey, the CRP team visited Mallaram village under ZPHS Arenda. “During the visit, the CRP identified Dudapaka Aadi, son of Satish, a Class VIII student who had dropped out of school nearly three months ago and had been remaining at home. The CRP, Mr. Mallanna, counselled both the student and his parents, emphasising the transformative power of education and the opportunities it unlocks for a brighter future. Motivated by the interaction, the student expressed his willingness to return to school and assured that he would re-join classes from the following day. “The programme saw the active participation of Mr. Giyashoddin, English Teacher, and Mr. Sahindar, Mathematics Teacher of ZPHS Arenda, who extended their support to the initiative.

“P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU”““In a determined effort to ensure that school-age children remain within the fold of formal education, the Education Department, under the aegis of the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan,

Exemplary Academic Showcase: Manthani Mandal Hosts Prestigious Student Competitions.



seven esteemed higher secondary schools in the Manthani Mandal convened at the Government Higher Secondary School, Manthani, to partake in a distinguished mandal-level competition. “The Mandal Education Officer, Madam Lakshmi, emphasized the significance of such competitive examinations at the school level, asserting that they cultivate a profound interest in academic excellence, propelling students towards higher echelons of achievement. “In this esteemed competition, students from ZPHS Girls School, representing the English medium, and those from the Government Higher Secondary School, representing the Telugu medium, were triumphantly selected to advance to the district level. “The event witnessed the participation of several notable educators, including in-charge headmaster Ramesh and science teachers Kanuganti Srinivas, Srikanth, Santosh, Swami, Devender, Venkateshwarlu, Rama, among others, who contributed to the success of this remarkable academic endeavor.

“P.S.ASHOKAN“KARIMNGAR BUREAU.”“On November 21, 2025, an illustrious gathering of students from

Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Inspects CC Road Works Worth Rs27 Lakhs in Chilukanagar Division

KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 21 (Indian Chronicle):““Chilukanagar Division Corporator and former GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj on Friday inspected the ongoing CC road construction works being taken up at a cost of ₹27 lakh, along with GHMC officials and members of the Sairam Nagar Colony Association. “Speaking on the occasion, Corporator Geetha Praveen instructed the GHMC Engineering Department officials to ensure strict supervision throughout the construction period. She directed the contractor to follow quality standards without any compromise and asked officials to take all necessary measures to ensure that residents do not face any inconvenience during the works. “She also warned that strict action would be taken if there is any negligence in maintaining quality standards. “Those who participated in the program include GHMC DE Vennela Goud, AE Radhika, Work Inspector Kedar, BRS Party State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, senior leaders Eddula Kondal



Kokonda, Kokonda Jagan, Pallo Venu Goud, Balakrishna Goud, Shyam, Banti Goud, Chinna, Sairam Nagar Colony Association President G.S. Sabir Pasha, Prakash, Ravinder Reddy, Sudarshan Reddy and others.

Talent Feast 2025–2026 Held at Ave Maria School, Ramanthapur



tional Society (HAES), were conducted grandly at Ave Maria School, Ramanthapur. The two-day event, scheduled for the 21st and 22nd, aims to promote creativity and educational excellence among students. “On the first day, around 1,800 students participated. Students from various schools showcased their talents through writing, singing, and dance performances. “HAES Vice Chairman Balashow Reddy, who attended as the chief guest, said that students need not only academic knowledge but also inner wisdom to shape their future. He added that today’s children are the torchbearers who will lead tomorrow’s society. “Ave Maria School Principal Koorapati Jayapratap extended his congratulations to the participants, stating that the lamp of talent lit here will shine even brighter in the years to come. “Teachers and students actively took part in the event.

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 21 (Indian Chronicle):““The XIV Talent Feast 2025–2026 competitions, organised by the Hyderabad Archdiocese Educa-

Gift deed of son who ignored parents cancelled

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao ““(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 21) :- ““Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Hanumantha Rao has cancelled the gift deed of a son who ignored his parents. A senior citizen named Kandadi Janardhan Reddy, 80 years old, from Arur village, Valigonda mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, donated 18 acres of 16 holes of land to his son in the year 2024. But Kandadi Janardhan Reddy appealed to the District Collector under Section 23 of the Maintenance and Welfare of the Parents/Senior Citizens Act 2007 to cancel the gift deed of the 18 acres and 16 holes of land, saying that he was not being looked after and was not being cared for. After hearing the arguments for a long time, it was concluded that the parents, who are senior



citizens, were not being looked after, so the gift deed of the 18 acres and 16 holes of land was cancelled. He said that if the parents are ignored, legal action will be taken.

Standing by the Underprivileged...



Malka Yasaswi““Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, November 21: “““On the occasion of the birthday celebrations of Delhi Public Schools and Pallavi Groups CEO and BJM

Spokesperson Malka Yasaswi, several service activities were conducted under the auspices of the Pallavi Foundation across Hyderabad and Karimnagar. These programs were organized under the leadership of Delhi Public and Pallavi Schools General Manager (Operations) K. Murali Mohan Kumar. “Blankets and sweaters were distributed to orphans and the homeless in various parts of the twin cities of Hyderabad Secunder abad, AOC, West Marredpally, Koti, and MGBS. “Speaking on the occasion, Murali Mohan Kumar said that celebrating the birthday of CEO Malka Yasaswi who has become an inspiration to today’s youth through service activities brings them immense joy. He mentioned that they followed the path of service shown by Yasaswi and provided blankets and sweaters to the orphans and the needy. “Similarly, in the united Karimnagar district, Yasaswi’s admirers organized various service programs such as blood donation camps and distribution of fruits to orphans expressing their affection and admiration for him.

Muthireddygudem village... Railway gate... Underpass road being sanctioned... Funds sanctioned... Joyful:-

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy““Muthireddygudem village.. Years of work... Villagers happy with the completion... Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy“““You can go directly to Yadagirigutta through this underpass railway bridge... MP Chamala““(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 21) :- Bhuvanagiri Member of Parliament Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that the sanction of the railway underpass road for the people who have been facing difficulties for the last few years due to the railway gate at Muthireddygudem in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district is a good development for the respective villages. Speaking to reporters on Friday, MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that he is fulfilling the promises he made to the people during the elections and that such development works are being carried out as part of the development work being done under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and that the Congress government is a working government. He explained that he will always provide his full support to the people to fulfill all the promises he made to the Bhuvanagiri parliamentary constituency. He said that if he gives a promise, he will not back down and will work strictly, otherwise the work will be delayed. As part of this, he said, he is happy to inform that the South Central Railway has given official permission for the construction of a railway underpass (RUB) at the Muthireddygudem crossing. He explained that 10 villages will benefit from this underpass railway road, and that this road route will be suitable for the villages of Muthireddygudem, Gangasani Pelli, Basvapuram, Golla Gudiselu, Yadagirigutta, and Yadagiripalli, making this road a suitable route for devotees traveling by car to Yadagirigutta. In accordance with the detailed request submitted by me on August 25, 2025, the General Manager of South Central Railway, Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, confirmed the following matters, saying that it is happy to announce the approval of RUB in Muthireddygudem, and that the villagers, students, and the elderly who are crossing the railway tracks in extremely dangerous conditions, face difficulties every day. Today, the sanction of the underpass bridge will be a big relief for the passengers and the respective villagers. Repairs of roads damaged by MMTS works““The railway authorities have ordered to take the following steps. Repairing damaged rural roads, using alternative routes for transportation of goods, taking measures to ensure that the people do not face any inconvenience, progress of the flyover project, the location at LC No.31



has once again been confirmed as suitable. He said that the steps are ongoing to this extent. He said that I am a leader elected by the people, I have chosen "Bhuvanagiri Qilla" to continuously serve the people, and I am very grateful for the support shown to me as a public leader. In any case, he said that he will make Bhuvanagiri Parliament constituency an ideal Parliament constituency under the leadership of State Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, that people who have any problems under their Parliament seat can meet him directly, if not, they should inform him over the phone, that the Congress government will always stand by the poor people, and that he is very happy that he was elected as the Member of Parliament for Bhuvanagiri by including me in it. He congratulated Sanjay Kumar Sri Vastava, General Manager of South Central Railway, South Central Railway, who worked for the sanction of an underpass railway bridge for Muthireddygudem village in Yadadri district of Bhuvanagiri, Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy.

Free Medical Camp Organized at Police Headquarters by Medicovert

Warangal, November 21 (Indian Chronicle):““A free mega health camp was organized on Friday at the Police Headquarters in Hanamkonda under the auspices of Medicovert Hospital, Warangal. Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh attended the event as the chief guest and inaugurated the camp by cutting the ribbon. Deputy Police Commissioner Ankit Kumar Sakawar and other senior officials were also present. Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Sunpreet Singh emphasized the importance of maintaining good health and improving quality of life. He thanked Medicovert Hospitals for providing international-standard medical services and diagnostic tests to police personnel and their families. Later, the Commissioner felicitated the Medicovert medical team. Several eminent doctors from Medicovert Hospital took part in the camp, including“Senior Cardiologist Dr. Santosh Modani, Dr. Shafi, Nephrologist Dr. Shravan Kumar Jogu, Neuro Physician Dr. Priyanka, General Physicians Dr. Arun Kumar, Dr. Girish Loya, Orthopedic Specialists Dr. Naveen Kumar, Dr. Ratna Karthik Reddy, Medical Gastroenterologist Dr. Venkateshwar Rao, Senior Gynecologist Dr. Kasturi



Prabhi, and Dr. Amatul Hafsa. As part of the camp, several free tests were conducted for police personnel and their families, including 2D Echo, ECG, Blood Sugar Check, Blood Pressure Check, CBP, Liver Function Test, BMD Test, and cancer screening for women. A large number of police personnel availed themselves of these free medical services. Medicovert Hospital Center Head Namratha Kubair, AGM Harinaath, and many police staff members participated in the program.

CM Relief Fruit is like a boon to the poor people..Government Fruits..



The aim of the Congress government is to provide every child with every need:- Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy ““(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle.. November 21) :-Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy said that the Congress government is a people’s government, that it is implementing everything as per the promises made

by the Chief Minister in the elections, and that it is always providing its best help and support to provide public welfare schemes to every child. As part of this, on Friday, beneficiaries handed over CMRF cheques to the poor beneficiaries at the local MLA camp office in Bhuvanagiri town for medical and health purposes. Speaking on this occasion, he said that the poor people will benefit from this cheque. He said that this CMRF is like a boon for the poor people and that this CM Relief Fund is very useful for providing medical facilities to the poor children no matter what disease they get. He said that after the Congress government came to power, it was the Congress government that provided ration cards, old age pensions, Indiramma Illu and free bus facility to every woman. He said on this occasion that if any poor child faces difficulties, he will be at the forefront and share their hardships. Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy explained that he is at the forefront with the vision of providing public welfare schemes to every poor child in the Bhuvanagiri constituency and that everyone should contribute to the development of the state by availing government benefits. Mandal President Elimineti Krishna Reddy, Babu Rao Bandasomaram former Sarpanch Nanam Krishna, Rikula Venkatesh and others participated in this program.

Funds of 9.20 Crore Sanctioned for Construction of Sports Stadiums in Uppal Constituency



Milk Abhishekam Performed to CM Revanth Reddy's Portrait under the "Leadership of Uppal In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy""KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, November 21 (Indian Chronicle):""Uppal Constituency is progressing rapidly on the path of development, said Uppal Congress Party in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy. He stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, development and welfare programs in the constituency are moving forward at a fast pace."He said that, as promised

earlier, the Chief Minister sanctioned ?9.20 crore for the construction of sports stadiums in the Kapra division, and this credit goes entirely to CM Revanth Reddy. Marking the sanction of funds, a milk abhishekam program was held at the Kapra Tahsildar Office to honor the Chief Minister's portrait on Friday, where Parameshwar Reddy attended as the chief guest."Parameshwar Reddy recalled that CM Revanth Reddy had promised to build sports stadiums in the Kapra Circle during his earlier visit. Fulfilling that commitment, the government sanctioned 3.20 crore for a sports stadium at Valmikinagar and 6 crore for a stadium at Galeelonagar in Kapra division."The program was attended by Kapra and Charlapally corporators Swarnaraj Shivamani, Bonthu Sridevi, former corporator Pavani Reddy, Seetharam Reddy, former councillor Rajender, Kotta Anji Reddy, Raghava Reddy, Patti Kumar, Kapra Division President Kobari Nagaseshu, AS Rao Nagar Division President Keshetty Prasad, Charlapally Division President Singireddy Venkat Reddy, Medchal-Malkajigiri Agricultural Market Committee Vice Chairman Vittal Naik, AMC Director Poorna Yadav, Gaddam Yadagiri, Peddi Srinu, Totakoor Sreekanth, Ekbul, Puttababu Rao, Malla Reddy, Rakesh Yadav, Nagaraju Yadav, Sai Yadav, Srihari, Murtaza, Pradeep, Santosh, Satish Yadav, Rizyan, Shabuddin, Rizyan Khan, Prashanth Goud, Surrender Reddy, Jagadeesh, Ashok, Ali, and several others.

Officials undemocratically blocked the promotions of OU faculty members.

""Indian Chronicle OU November 21: 47 people, an unprecedented number in the history of Osmania University""The teachers are angry that completely undemocratic policies are being adopted by not giving promotions to the teachers. To this extent, the protest activities being carried out by the teachers under the auspices of the Osmania University Teachers Association, alleging irregularities in the CAS promotions interviews, have reached 50 days. On Friday, the teachers protested at the statue of Dr. BR. Ambedkar in the OU Law College wearing black badges. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Venkata Das and Prof. Nathaniel alleged that the OU officials blocked the promotions that should have come naturally despite the API score of 50 out of 50 and the research score of 30 out of 30 by giving low marks in the interviews of only 20 marks. They said that the OU VC has raised his hands in this matter. Therefore, they appealed to the state government to respond to this and resolve their just demand. Otherwise,



they said they would intensify their protest activities. ""Outa presidents Prof. Manohar, Prof. Ramesh, Prof. Aparna, Sasikala, Srinivas Reddy, Aravind, Suresh, Ramesh, Ramakrishna and others were present at the event.

Two-Day Training Camp Concludes for Chilakalguda Police Personnel.



"" Indian Chronicle,""Secunderabad, November 21;"As per the instructions of State DGP B. Shivadher Reddy and

City Commissioner Sajjanar, a two-day training program for Chilakalguda Division police personnel concluded on Thursday."Sessions were conducted on financial discipline, self-discipline, and health awareness. T.T. Lijesh, SBI Chief Manager, briefed the staff on financial management, while N. Purushotham, New Life Wellness Trainer, shared insights on health and wellbeing." The program, held under the theme "The Beginning of a Great Change", was supervised by East Zone DCP Balaswamy and Additional DCP Narasayya."The training sessions, conducted at Sardar Patel College, Padmarao Nagar, were attended by ACP Shashank Reddy, Warasiguda Inspector Madhusudan Reddy, Lalaguda Detective Inspector Ramakrishna, and Chilakalguda Detective Inspector Madhu.

Illegal Constructions Will Not Be Ignored: GHMC Begumpet ACP Srinivas



"Prompt Action on Complaints — Notices Issued to Owners of Dilapidated Buildings"" Indian Chronicle,""Secunderabad, November 21:""The newly appointed Assistant City Planner (ACP) of GHMC Begumpet Circle Town Planning, Srinivas has asserted that illegal constructions will not be ignored under any circumstances. He said that strict action will be taken against such violations and that the department will act promptly on public complaints to ensure transparent governance."After assuming charge from Smt. R. Sushmita, who was recently transferred ACP Srinivas stated that he is determined to improve the functioning of the Town Planning Department and enhance its efficiency in addressing public grievances. We will act firmly against illegal constructions and ensure that rules are strictly followed he said."Explaining the department's functioning Srinivas said We handle issues such as granting building permissions, acting against constructions made in violation of rules, and removing unauthorized structures. Applications for new building permissions are verified and approved within one or two days if all documents are in order. In our jurisdiction, permissions are granted only up to G+3 floors."He added that a Special Task Force (STF) has been assigned to focus exclusively on identifying and removing illegal structures. If any structure is found to be constructed in violation of the rules we issue notices to the owners and proceed with demolition as per law. Public complaints regarding such violations are being attended to promptly the ACP said."ACP Srinivas also mentioned that strict action is being taken against footpath encroachments and other obstructions. We are conducting a special drive to remove bins, stalls, and other encroachments on footpaths in Secunderabad and surrounding ar-

eas. Citizens facing inconvenience due to such obstructions can report to us, and immediate action will be taken. Our staff have been instructed to remain vigilant and respond swiftly to such issues he explained."Highlighting the risks posed by old and unsafe buildings during the rainy season. Srinivas said that several dilapidated structures have been identified in the Begumpet Circle. We have issued notices to the respective owners advising them to repair or demolish the structures to avoid accidents. Many have already initiated repairs. These measures are being taken in the interest of public safety he added."The ACP reiterated that his office remains open to the public every day ensuring that complaints are resolved quickly. We are visiting the field whenever required to provide on-the-spot solutions. We are performing our duties fearlessly and honestly, without succumbing to any pressure and are committed to resolving public issues promptly he concluded.

We will continue the fight over the Kurumala cemetery.

" Indian Chronicle,""Secunderabad, November 21: (Andhra Prabha): Telangana State Kuruma Sangam Vice President and BJP State BC cell Vice President Cheera Satyanarayana (Srikanth) said that their fight over the Kurumala cemetery in Bansilalpet will continue. Speaking with media he said that people belonging to Agarwal have occupied the 1965-yard land of the Kurumala cemetery and have started illegal construction. He said that after this matter came to light, many people from the Kuruma community have been fighting over the land. As soon as this matter came to their attention, they immediately brought it to the attention of Kuruma Sangam President Kuruma Ratna, former MLC Yegge Mallesham Kuruma, and the state leaders of the association. He also reminded them that they had complained to the Hydra Commissioner, GHMC high officials, RDO, MRO and Zonal Commissioner. However, as the authorities did not take any action, a case was also filed in the High Court through Senior Advocate K.G. Krishna Murthy. He also reminded that complaints were made to the District Collector, GHMC Commissioner, Zonal Commissioner, RDO, MRO, Dy. Commissioner, CP Planning OST Legal Cell, and GHMC Head Office through WhatsApp.

United Resolve Essential to Uphold Fisherfolk Rights: District Fisheries Director Potharaveni Kranti.



"P.S.ASHOKAN"KARIMNGAR BUREAU. ""District Fisheries Director Potharaveni Kranti Kumar Mudiraj emphasized that safeguarding the rights and welfare of fisherfolk demands a collective and apolitical effort. He made

these remarks during the World Fisheries Day celebrations, where the Manthani Fisheries Association felicitated him with a ceremonial shawl in recognition of his services."The programme, held on Friday, was graced by Pragathi Fishermen Service Society President Ustham Srinivas Mudiraj, Planning Committee Chairman Nune Rajesham Mudiraj, and several members of the Fishermen Service Society. ""Addressing the gathering, Kranti Kumar stated that the government must ensure that the fishing community is not overlooked.

He stressed the importance of timely distribution of free fish seedlings, implementation of progressive and welfare-oriented schemes, and continued financial empowerment of fisher families. ""Extending his best wishes on the occasion of World Fisheries Day, he urged that irrespective of political affiliations, all stakeholders must stand together and vigorously advocate for the rights, dignity, and holistic development of the fisher community.

Modi government is trampling on the laws implemented by former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi:- Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy

""BJP is trampling on the law brought by Rajiv Gandhi government to prevent MLAs/MPs from changing parties in the country's politics""BJP is making a mockery of the 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, 52nd Constitutional Amendment 1985""Modi government is killing democracy with Operation Lotus""Ten regional parties that have lost their existence and roots in the BJP's poisonous embrace since 2014, and 10 governments that have been overthrown""BJP's Operation Lotus, which was launched in 2008, is trampling on democracy. The beginning of strengthening in South, North East and West India""Members of various parliamentary standing committees, prominent parliamentary Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy criticized""(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle.. November 21) :- The law that regulates the change of party by MLAs/MPs in Indian politics, the "Anti-Defection Law" of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India, through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment, is being trampled upon by the BJP government in 1985 by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government.. and is being used as a tool of state power, members of various parliamentary standing committees, prominent parliamentary, and Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy expressed their concern." Speaking to the "Indian Chronicle Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau" after attending the Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting of the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Department in Lakshadweep, he reached Hyderabad and said that his party is using unethical methods to expose minor loopholes in the Anti-Defection Law by exposing constitutional institutions like ED, CBI and IT through Operation Lotus (Operation Kamala). Some regional parties that joined the party's poisoned cobwebs merged with the BJP/NDA. Later, they lost their independent existence, their identity and leadership in that party, Parliamentarian Channel Kiran Kumar Reddy reminded the people of the country." For example, All India Rythu Congress in 2019, "Rashtriya Lok Samata Party in 2021, Punjab Lok Congress in 2022, Shiromani Akali Dal (Amrita Singh faction) in 2022, Rashtriya Samaj Paksha in 2023, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) in 2023," Jana Nayaka Janata Party in 2024, Tripura Motha in 2024 "Parties merged into the BJP/India family and disappeared into the abyss of time, recalled Parliamentarian Channel Kiran Kumar Reddy. Meanwhile, among the key events that took place from 2008 to 2025, the BJP Shinde alliance was able to come to power in Karnataka government in 2008, Uttarakhand in 2016, Goa in 2019 (February), Karnataka in 2019 (July), Madhya Pradesh in 2020 (March), and Maharashtra in 2022 (June). "Chamal Kiran Kumar Reddy explained that the AAP government continued with huge



offers to MLAs of the UP and Congress parties in 2024. " Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy has strongly criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party for its attempts to consolidate its power, abuse power, and change governments, posing a threat and challenge to the democratic system. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that the people of India have not been fooled by the name of the Election Commission of India, an independent organization, for a long time. He opined that the Election Commission's failure to respond to the frauds being committed by the BJP and the theft of voters by the BJP through media conferences is a violation of the Constitution of India. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy advised the BJP government to hold discussions on issues that the people want, implement employment schemes that the youth aspire to across the country, and work to stabilize the sky-high prices of essential commodities. Parliamentarian Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said that they are going to expose the anti-people policies followed by the BJP government since 2014 through the nationwide padayatra that Rahul Gandhi is going to undertake very soon. ""Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala challenges Union Minister Bandi Sanjay""Bhuvanagiri Parliamentarian Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy challenged Bandi Sanjay, who is tempting Revanth Reddy and KTR to continue in the state. "He questioned why the Telangana government, which was formed as a surplus state in 2014, is not criticizing the KCR government, which has left it as a debt-ridden state. He questioned whether it was BJP that supported the BRS government. He said that it is commendable that the state governor has finally allowed KTR to be prosecuted. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said why the BJP is opposing the investigation of Arvind Kumar along with him, and accused Bandi Sanjay of protecting TRS leaders from being investigated. Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy requested KTR to cooperate with the investigation to be conducted by the government.

Athletics competitions at OU.



""Indian Chronicle OU November 21: Asmita League-2025 was organized as part of Khelo India on Friday at the synthetic track of Osmania University under the auspices of Hyderabad District Athletics Association. About 200 players from 20 colleges and schools in Hyderabad city participated in this. Long jump, javelin throw and running compe-



titions were organized in the under 14 and under 16 categories. OU Physical Education Director Professor Rajesh Kumar participated as the chief guest in this program and distributed medals and certificates to the winners. K. Lakshmiipathi, K. M. Chisti, Bhaskar Reddy, Vijaya Sarva Vaishnavi and others were present at the program.

Gurudwara Committee Invites MLA Padma Rao Goud for Guru Tegh Bahadur Jayanti-Baisakhi Celebrations

""Indian chronicle,"" Secunderabad,November 21:""Members of the Sitafalmandi Gurudwara Sahib Prabandhak Committee met Secunderabad MLA and former Deputy Speaker T. Padma Rao Goud at his MLA camp office in Sitafalmandi on Friday.

They invited him to attend the Guru Tegh Bahadur Jayanti-Baisakhi celebrations scheduled to be held on the 25th of this month as the chief guest."Padma Rao Goud thanked the committee for the invitation and said that he has always supported and participated in Sikh community activities, assuring continued encouragement."

Corporators Samala Hema, Kandi Shailaja, Rasuri Sunitha, Lingani Prasanna Lakshmi Srinivas, youth leader Rameshwar Goud, and Gurudwara committee president and secretaries Pratap Singh, Ranjit Singh, Pinky Singh, and others participated in the meeting.



Akon to A P Dhillon: Delhi gears up for 30 mega shows in 80 days, targets 3,000-crore windfall



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Featuring pop sensations such as Akon, AP Dhillon, and Papon, and stand-up comics such as Anubhav Singh Bassi, and Zakir Khan, Delhi is gearing up to host 30 major entertainment and music concerts over the next three months. The events, scheduled from October 18 are expected to generate Rs 3,000 crore in revenue, said officials. This comes after the Sports Authority of India (SAI) last month reduced the booking fees for major stadiums like Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) and Indira Gandhi Stadium.

The city is no longer just the national capital but is rapidly evolving into India's "Creative Capital", Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Thursday while addressing a press conference. Amid efforts to make Delhi an "event-friendly city," Gupta said, the rental rates for major stadiums and auditoriums have been significantly reduced, and these venues are being upgraded to meet international standards. Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra, also present at the press conference, highlighted that one of the major barriers to hosting large events in Delhi was the high rental cost of venues. "Realising that the Capital was losing potential revenue, we proposed to the Centre to reduce the tariff rates of major stadiums in Delhi. After several rounds of meetings, the SAI revised the booking charges last month," Mishra said. The booking charges for the JLN main arena for non-sports events have been reduced from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 25 lakh per day, while the price for IG Stadium has been revised from Rs 20 lakh (including electricity and other consumption charges) to Rs 16 lakh, officials

confirmed. "Travis Scott had previously cancelled his events in Delhi due to high rental charges. However, following the revised rates, he has rebooked and will perform on October 18 and 19 at JLN," Mishra noted.

Gupta also acknowledged the challenges faced by the city's entertainment economy. "There was a time when organisers hesitated to hold large concerts and events in Delhi due to inadequate facilities and lack of institutional support. Recognising this, the government has taken a significant step to reduce the tariff rates of all major stadiums under both the Central and Delhi governments, and to upgrade their facilities to international standards," she said. She emphasised that the "concert economy" is a vital economic sector for states and deserves serious attention. Highlighting that India's live entertainment industry is currently valued at around Rs 150 billion, Gupta said Delhi is projecting revenue of Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,000 crore in the coming years. Commenting on revenue targets, Mishra said, "We will actively promote these events. Our target is Rs 3,000 crore in revenue from these concerts. People currently travel to other cities for such experiences, but now they won't have to. Instead, people from other states will come to Delhi, boosting the city's revenue through GST on tickets, food, accommodation, and more." Mishra added that Delhi began to re-emerge as a hub for grand, large-scale events as soon as the decision to reduce booking prices was implemented.

"This is just the beginning. The Delhi government has a broader roadmap that will bring Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision and the CM's farsighted plan to life," he said. He added that the roadmap will elevate Delhi's standing in the fields of art, culture, language, and tourism. To ensure smooth organisation of these events, Gupta also announced the introduction of a single-window system for event permissions, logistics, and security processes, aimed at further promoting the city's live entertainment industry. The initiative is being jointly undertaken by the Delhi government, the Event and Entertainment Management Association (EEMA), and the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), to ensure that these events maintain high standards, run efficiently without administrative or logistical hurdles, and offer complete enjoyment to the audience, the CM said.

DU students' union joint secretary slaps professor, teachers demand university-level probe



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

A disciplinary committee convener and faculty member at Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar College of Delhi University was allegedly slapped by Deepika Jha, the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) Joint Secretary and an Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) leader, inside the Principal's office on Thursday afternoon. Following the incident, which has triggered a huge row, the faculty member, Professor Sunil Kumar, resigned from the committee as other members demanded a university-level inquiry. Even as Jha apologised to "the entire teaching community" in a statement later, she alleged that Kumar had misbehaved with her — the professor, however, rejected the claims. Around 50 students, the Democratic Teachers' Front (DTF) alleged, entered the college along with DUSU President Aryan Maan and Joint Secretary and "mistreated teachers and demanded the resignation of the disciplinary committee convener." The DTF said, "The Joint Secretary slapped Professor Sujit Kumar in the Principal's office, CCTV footage of which is available." Condemning Jha's action, the DTF warned, "This mobocracy and hooliganism mentality must be stopped immediately, otherwise DU will be plunged into violence."

Speaking to The Indian Express, Professor Sujit Kumar, who heads the disciplinary committee, said, "I only

took action against an ABVP candidate because he was misbehaving with an NSUI candidate... I was not favouring a particular party. I think that is what bothered the ABVP members who slapped me today." He said the incident took place around 4 pm in the Principal's room. "I was slapped by the DUSU Joint Secretary. I was also asked to resign from my position... Action needs to be taken against such students who misbehave with teachers or else it will become very difficult for teachers to teach," he said, adding that no such incident had occurred in his 30 years in the college. A purported video shows that the incident occurred in the presence of police officers. "A complaint has been received. The matter is being enquired, accordingly action will be taken," said an officer. Meanwhile, Jha claimed that she was called by students who complained of "politically motivated abuse and assault" by the professor. "In the Principal's room, in the presence of police, Professor Sujit threatened and abused me. I complained to the police, but the police officers present took no action," she said. She alleged that the Professor "had come to the college in an inebriated state" and that his "repeated threats, staring at me, and making indecent remarks made me feel unsafe". "Consequently, in a fit of rage, I resorted to assaulting him. I regret this incident and apologise to the entire teaching community... My intention was not to hurt the sentiments of the teaching community, but I am concerned about the safety of female students on the campus." In a statement, the NSUI called the incident "ABVP-led DUSU hooliganism" and said no action had been taken despite CCTV evidence. "Jha slapped a senior professor inside the principal's office — in the presence of Delhi Police personnel. Disturbingly, the DUSU President was also present during this act of hooliganism," it said. NSUI National President Varun Choudhary stated, "This act of violence... is not just an attack on a professor but on the dignity of the entire academic fraternity... The silence of the administration and Delhi police shows the political pressure exerted by the BJP." NSUI demanded the "immediate arrest of all those involved, including the DUSU Joint Secretary and President."

No early release for Priyadarshini Mattoo's killer

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

1996 Priyadarshini Mattoo rape murder, IPS officer son rapist Santosh Kumar Singh, Delhi University student Mattoo rape murder, Sentence Review Board, Hemant Mattoo After the Delhi High Court had referred the case to the SRB in July, Mattoo's Canada-based brother Hemant too had raised an objection against the decision. The Sentence Review Board (SRB) on Thursday rejected the plea of Santosh Kumar Singh, convicted in the 1996 Priyadarshini Mattoo rape-murder case, for an early release. The Indian Express has learnt. Mattoo, a Delhi University law student, was raped and killed by her senior Santosh Kumar Singh in 1996. Even as a lower court had acquitted him in 1999 for lack of evidence, despite the judge saying that he was guilty, the Delhi High court awarded him the death penalty in 2006.

The Supreme Court in 2010, however, had commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment. Nearly three decades later, on July 1, the Delhi High Court directed the Sentence Review Board to consider afresh Singh's case for premature release. Holding the SRB's decision to deny Santosh, along with two other prisoners, premature release as suffering from "material procedural and legal infirmities", the HC highlighted several lacunae in the current process undertaken by the board while deciding applications for early release of prisoners. Government sources confirmed the latest development. On July 27, a delegation from the All India Kashmiri Samaj (AIKS), an organisation that voices the issues of Kashmiri Pandits, met Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood, objecting to Singh's premature release. Welcoming the decision, Ravinder Pandita, President, AIKS, on Thursday said, "We are happy that the government has rejected the plea. It was a heinous crime, which doesn't deserve anything less than a capital punishment. The judiciary and other agencies involved should take suo



Mattoo, a Delhi University law student, was raped and killed by her senior Santosh Kumar Singh in 1996. Even as a lower court had acquitted him in 1999 for lack of evidence, despite the judge saying that he was guilty

motu cognisance and reconsider their decision of life imprisonment." After the Delhi High Court had referred the case to the SRB in July, Mattoo's Canada-based brother Hemant too had raised an objection against the decision. Speaking to The Indian Express, he had said, "I want to know what signs of reformation he has shown. Has he apologised to my family? Has he apologised to his own family? He's never even approached us. He still maintains his innocence." On January 23, 1996, while Priyadarshini was alone at home, Santosh was seen by a neighbour entering her house in the evening. She was later found lying under her bed, with a room heater's cord wrapped around her neck — she had been brutally raped and murdered. Singh, an IPS officer's son, had been pursuing her relentlessly in the months leading up to her death.

Why has Noida been seeing a sharper spike in pollution during evenings?



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Noida pollution, Noida spike in pollution during evenings, Noida spike in pollution, Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast mist and haze in the mornings for the next two days, with the overall AQI expected to stay in the 'poor' or 'very poor' range across Delhi-NCR over the weekend. Even as Delhi's air quality slipped into the 'poor' category on Thursday, Noida has been recording sharper, late-evening surges in PM2.5 levels, pointing to a possible rise in local emissions from traffic and early use of firecrackers, according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and air-quality analysts.

Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 245 ('poor') on Thursday, up from 233 a day earlier. In comparison, Noida recorded 288 ('very poor') and Greater Noida 272, while Ghaziabad remained in the 'very poor' category at 307. A day earlier, Noida had recorded the highest pollution levels in the country at 318 ('very poor'). The pollution build-up in Noida has been peaking between 7 pm and midnight — a pattern distinct from Delhi where spikes tend to occur later at night. "If this was due to stubble burning, Delhi would have seen similar spikes, which it hasn't," said Sunil

In pre-SIR exercise in 7 Bengal districts, nearly 50% names not in benchmark 2002 voters' list



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Before kickstarting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound West Bengal, the Election Commission (EC) has started comparing this year's voters' list with that of 2002, when the last revision exercise was conducted in the state. This process of "matching-mapping" is being done by the EC in every electoral district of the state. Sources in the EC said that so far, it has completed matching-mapping in seven districts and found that 40% to 45% names in the 2025 list were not matching with the 2002 list. In Jhargram district, only 51.36% of the names in the two voters' lists matched — the lowest among the seven districts — whereas in the hill district of Kalimpong, the matching was the highest at 65.27%. In Alipurdwar, it was 53.73%, Kolkata North 55.35%, Malda 54.49%, Purulia 61.29%, and Midnapore 62.94%.

"The big and highly populated districts are in South and North 24 Parganas, Kolkata South, and Nadia. In these

Dahiya, lead analyst and founder of Envirocatalysts. "The timings of these peaks overlap with traffic congestion and bursting of firecrackers, suggesting strong local contributions." "Calm winds and rising humidity have further trapped pollutants near the surface. Within Noida, Sector 125 and Sector 116 witnessed the highest spikes. The pattern has been evident at least for four days now. On October 13, PM2.5 in Sector 125 rose from 68 µg/m³ at 5 pm to 247 µg/m³ by 8 pm — a spike, Dahiya said, cannot be explained by meteorological conditions alone. Dahiya added that the intensity and timing of the peaks indicate a mix of vehicular emissions and local celebratory activity, with morning spikes between 7 and 9 am likely linked to commuter traffic. Stubble burning woes Meanwhile, even as local emissions remain a dominant factor, stubble burning has also begun to rise across neighbouring states. A total of 889 burning events were detected in six states between September 15 and October 16, according to data from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI). Of these, Uttar Pradesh accounted for the highest share, with 403 fires, followed by Punjab (188), Madhya Pradesh (171), Rajasthan (96), Haryana (28), and Delhi (3). Govt launches winter action plan Six new Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) will be operational in Delhi by March 2026 as part of the Delhi government's Winter Action Plan 2025-26, launched Wednesday that comprises 25 targeted measures under seven themes, including road dust, vehicular emissions, industry and power, waste and open burning, agricultural residue, citizen engagement, and innovation. Steps include use of Green Delhi App, real-time monitoring in green war room, use of mechanical road sweepers, water sprinklers and anti-smog guns, 578 enforcement teams from Transport department checking PUC norms for vehicular emissions control. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast mist and haze in the mornings for the next two days, with the overall AQI expected to stay in the 'poor' or 'very poor' range across Delhi-NCR over the weekend.

four districts, we will have to see what percentage of the data will match. That will be significant," a senior EC official said. In Bihar, the only state where the SIR has been conducted so far, the latest voter list was compared to the 2003 list, when the revision exercise was last carried out there. All those who did not figure in the 2003 list were required to submit a list of documents for enrolment, which is likely to be implemented in Bengal too. Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharati, who visited West Bengal after the Durga Puja to take stock of the preparations for the SIR, had directed all the district magistrates to complete the matching-mapping process by October 15. However, only seven districts have been able to complete the exercise. A string of festivals in the state has put a temporary halt to the process, and the SIR of electoral rolls will now most likely begin in November, sources in the EC said. The EC's decision to halt the SIR this month comes days after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had questioned the "haste shown" by the EC in conducting the exercise even as the state was celebrating a string of festivals. She had also accused the poll panel of acting like a "rubber stamp" of the BJP. After concluding his two-day visit to the state, Deputy Election Commissioner Bharti had expressed concern over the pace of work and questioned the district administration's justification for Puja holidays. According to sources, Bharti had stressed that since SIR was being implemented across the country, there should not be any further delay in conducting it in West Bengal. The ruling TMC and the Opposition BJP are at loggerheads in the state over conducting the SIR. While the TMC has warned against the deletion of voters' names, the BJP has argued that SIR would help in weeding out illegal migrants from the voters' list.

Congress asks EC to call all-party meeting on SIR, says release findings of matching-mapping exercise



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Subhankar Sarkar, Prasenjit Bose, Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, sir electoral rolls, electoral rolls sir, Election Commission, West Bengal Assembly elections, Indian express news, current affairs The deletion of names of permanently relocated migrants should be mandatorily accompanied by re-enrollment in their current place of residence," it added. With the Election Commission all set to start the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral roll in poll-bound West Bengal, the state unit of the Congress on Thursday asked the poll panel to convene an all-party meeting at the national level to review the experience of the SIR process in Bihar. In a deputation submitted to the state Chief Electoral Officer, the party asked the EC to convene the meeting at the earliest, before notifying the SIR schedule in the state.

The party also said the 'matching-mapping' process (comparing the voters list of 2002 when the SIR was last held in the state with that of 2025) should be completed first and its results "be disclosed in a transparent manner". The deputation was submitted by state Congress president Subhankar Sarkar, Prasenjit Bose, the chairperson of the state Congress Committee to Safeguard the Right to Vote & Citizenship, and other leaders. "The EC should also conduct software-based demographic de-duplication and prepare a list of Demographically Similar Entries. Duplicate or multiple enrollments should be deleted only after due verification in the enumeration phase," the party said. It said the EC should also collect data on registered deaths from the Registrar of Births and Deaths and link them with the base electoral roll to identify and enlist possibly dead electors. Similarly, specific guidelines need to be framed for ascertaining an elector as "permanently shifted", especially for married women and other migrants. "The deletion of

names of permanently relocated migrants should be mandatorily accompanied by re-enrollment in their current place of residence," it added. The party also asked the EC to discontinue the "convoluted exercise" of deleting the names of existing electors for non-submission of enumeration forms within 30 days and then requiring them to fill Form 6 for re-enrollment as a new elector within the next 30 days. "This is a significant flaw in the existing SIR 2025 process," the party added.

Will sack teacher accused of sexual harassment, Ramjas College tells High Court

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

teacher accused of sexual harassment, Ramjas College, Delhi high court, Delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs The minor had filed a complaint with the ICC in December 2024 and an FIR was filed in May this year for offences under the POCSO Act. Ramjas College on Monday (October 13) informed the Delhi High Court (HC) that its governing body has decided to terminate the services of a professor who was accused of sexually harassing a minor in 2024.

The HC has now directed Delhi University to "urgently consider the matter and take requisite steps" within three weeks, after the college informed it that it has also sent a communication to the varsity on the governing body's decision. The submission came before Justice Sachin Datta in a petition by the survivor, seeking the court's directions to Delhi University and Ramjas College to act on the recommendations of the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) dated June 18 under provisions of the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015. The professor had resigned in January following protests by students on the campus over alleged inaction by the college administration on the issue. The minor had filed a complaint with the ICC in December 2024 and an FIR was filed in May this year for offences under the POCSO Act.

S Africa says not to hand over G20 baton to ‘junior official’ amid spat with US



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Johannesburg: South Africa has decided not to hand over the annual G20 Presidency to a “junior” US official at the end of the leaders’ summit, even as a White House official cautions Cyril Ramaphosa over “running his mouth” against the US and President Donald Trump. South African President Ramaphosa adopted a reconciliatory approach on Thursday evening after the US requested accreditation for an eight-member team led by US chargé d’affaires, Marc Dillard, to receive the baton on Sunday. However, late on Thursday evening, Ramaphosa’s spokesman, Vincent Magwenya, posted a message on social media, saying the president will not hand over the G20 Presidency to a junior official.

“The President will not hand over to a chargé d’affaires.

It’s a breach of established protocol. No head of state and government anywhere in the world would do it,” Magwenya told local media. There was also anger in South Africa about remarks by White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, which analysts said was a breach of protocol in insulting the President. “I saw the South African president running his mouth a little bit against the United States and Donald Trump earlier today, and that language is not appreciated by the president or his team,” Leavitt said in a media briefing on Thursday after Ramaphosa had taken a hard line at the US absence without naming Trump directly. There is also dissatisfaction in South Africa about Trump continuing his claims of alleged genocide against white farmers in South Africa, which have been disproved by both the South African government and local white leaders. “I’m not going to South Africa for the G20 because I think their policies on the extermination of people are unacceptable. So I’m not going. South Africa has behaved extremely badly,” Trump said after a meeting with Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia at the White House on Tuesday. Leavitt confirmed in her briefing on Thursday that the delegation would be present only to receive the G20 Presidency from South Africa at the end of the summit. She also reaffirmed that the US would not be participating in the deliberations at the G20. But the South African view now is that the US is trying to save face to avoid Ramaphosa’s earlier suggestion that, in the absence of any US representative, he would hand over the Presidency to an empty chair. Many world leaders have started arriving in South Africa since yesterday to attend the two-day Summit.

Here are five things to know why Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is under growing pressure

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Ukraine President is facing a confluence of crises testing his ability to lead an increasingly weary nation nearly four years into a devastating full-scale invasion by Russia. For more than a week, Volodymyr Zelenskyy has struggled to contain the fallout from a \$100 million corruption scandal implicating top officials and other associates. The pressure on Mr. Zelenskyy has ratcheted up as the United States pushes a proposal it drew up with Russia that would require major concessions from Ukraine — and seemingly few from Russia — to bring an end to the war. All this is playing out as Russia makes slow but steady advances across parts of the 1,000-kilometre front line and relentlessly bombs Ukraine’s power plants, causing severe electricity shortages as colder weather sets in. Here are 5 things to know about the growing pressures confronting Mr. Zelenskyy: Facing a rebellion Mr. Zelenskyy has been facing a rebellion from lawmakers in his own party since the country’s corruption watchdogs revealed that \$100 million had been embezzled from the energy sector through kick-backs paid by contractors.

After investigators publicised their findings, Mr. Zelenskyy dismissed two top officials and imposed sanctions on close associates. One Mr. Zelenskyy associate implicated in the scheme, Tymur Mindich, has reportedly fled the country. Mindich is a partner in a media production company that Mr. Zelenskyy was a co-owner of before he became president. Some Ukrainian lawmakers and activists are calling on the president to sack his powerful chief of staff, Andrii Yermak. Neither Mr. Zelenskyy nor Mr. Yermak have been accused of wrongdoing by investigators. But because Yermak is widely believed to decide key government appointments and to have sway in top political affairs, lawmakers believe he should take responsibility as a way to help restore the public’s trust.

The Servant of the People party that Mr. Zelenskyy leads won over two-thirds of parliamentary seats in 2019. But some politicians warn Zelenskyy could lose his parliamentary majority, or face a split in his party, if he doesn’t part ways with Yermak. Many of Mr. Zelenskyy’s political allies feel something has to change, even if they have not gone public with their concerns, said Mykola Davidiuk, an independent political expert. One of the chief criticisms of Mr. Zelenskyy’s government is that too much power is concentrated in the hands of Mr. Yermak and his advisers, Mr. Davidiuk said. “The management style of Zelenskyy is not working,” he said. How decisively Mr. Zelenskyy responds to the corruption scandal could determine whether the fall-out damages Ukraine’s standing with allies, said Mr. Davidiuk. Zelenskyy’s hold on power is not at risk Russia’s invasion triggered martial law in Ukraine, indefinitely postponing presidential and parliamentary elections. So even if Mr. Zelenskyy’s grip on parliament weakens and his popularity plummets, he is highly unlikely to be unseated while the war is still going on — unless he voluntarily resigns. Ukraine’s presidential term is normally five years, and, before the war, the next elections had been scheduled for the spring of 2024. The growing political headwinds

Mr. Zelenskyy faces could challenge his ability to push through parliament any potential peace deal being negotiated with Russia. And if he were to seek reelection after the war, his chances could be hurt if Yermak is still in the picture, political analysts say. A former general is seen as a



rival, but denies political aspirations No elected Ukrainian opposition figures pose a viable threat to Mr. Zelenskyy. One potential challenger could be Ukraine’s former army chief, Valerii Zaluzhnyi, who oversaw several successful counteroffensives in the first year of the war and was sacked by the Ukrainian president in late 2023. Mr. Zaluzhnyi now serves as Ukraine’s ambassador to the UK. Mr. Zaluzhnyi denies any intention to enter politics, but polls in Ukraine show him as theoretically competitive with Zelenskyy, keeping speculation alive that he could be convinced to run in the next election. The U.S. and Russia design a plan to end the war in Ukraine The U.S. and Russia have drawn up a plan aimed at ending the war in Ukraine that calls for major concessions from Kyiv, according to a person briefed on the plan, including granting some demands the Kremlin has made repeatedly since it invaded early in 2022. The plan calls in part for Ukraine to cede territory to Russia and to abandon certain weaponry, according to the person, who was not authorised to comment on the plan publicly. It would also include the rollback of some critical U.S. military assistance. Russia, as part of the proposal, would be given effective control of the entire eastern Donbas region — an area Moscow has long sought — even though Ukraine is still in control of part of it. Mr. Zelenskyy has previously rejected the same conditions, describing them as unconstitutional and unjust. Zelenskyy has yet to comment on the new U.S. plan.

Reports about the plan came out just as Zelenskyy was facing increased unrest over the corruption scandal. “The timing is very damaging for Ukraine,” said Orysia Lutskevych, a Ukraine expert at Chatham House. “Zelenskyy is vulnerable. Both the US and Russia saw the domestic scandal and decided to put more pressure on him to concede to a Russian plan,” Lutskevych said. But the effort may not work out as envisioned, she said, noting that European allies are coming to Ukraine’s defence and speaking out against the plan. Pressure on the front and across the country Against this backdrop, Russia’s better-equipped army has scaled up attacks along the front line and against energy facilities in the rear, putting further strain on Ukraine. The Russian army continues to steadily advance in multiple areas. In the northeastern Kharkiv region, Russian forces are pushing on the cities of Kupiansk and Lyman, which Ukraine wrested back from Russia in the first year of the war. But the fiercest battles are around the besieged Ukrainian city of Pokrovsk, a key logistics hub in the eastern Donetsk region. Russian attacks on Ukraine’s power plants in November have resulted in some of the worst electricity shortages since the war began.

Miss Universe 2025 finale: Mexico’s Fatima Bosch wins the crown after host insult drama

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Miss Mexico was crowned Miss Universe in Thailand on Friday (November 21, 2025), strutting to victory after the beauty pageant’s host had publicly chastised her, among several dramatic missteps in the run-up to the final stage. Contestants from Ivory Coast, the Philippines, Thailand and Venezuela also made it to the final round, selected from more than 120 women vying for the title of Miss Universe in a contest considered one of the “big four” of global beauty pageants. But before Miss Mexico Fatima Bosch was ultimately crowned, chaos reigned — from allegations of an insult to her intellect, to judges quitting and participants taking flops on and off the stage. Bosch staged a dramatic walkout earlier this month — in an evening gown and high heels — from a meeting where she was lambasted by Thai organiser Nawat Itsaragrisil. In a livestream of the event, Nawat seemed to single out Miss Mexico during a dispute over her apparent failure to post promotional content on her social media. After Nawat called for security to intervene, Bosch staged a walkout flanked by Miss Iraq. Other beauty queens appeared to rise in solidarity with Bosch, before freezing as Nawat warned those still wanting to participate should “sit down”. “What your director did is not respectful: he called me dumb,” Bosch told reporters at the time. “The world needs to see this because we are empowered women and this is a platform for our voice.” After the incident, Mexi-

can President Claudia Sheinbaum called Bosch an “example of how we women should speak out” in the face of aggression. Nawat later apologised. Other drama in the run-up to the final round included two judges quitting this week, with one alleging the contest was rigged by a “secret and illegitimate vote” held without the official jury. “This vote was conducted by individuals who are not recognised members of the official judging panel,” French composer Omar Harfouch wrote in a statement posted on Instagram. The Miss Universe Organization has denied Harfouch’s claims, stating that “no impromptu jury has been created”. Former professional footballer Claude Makelele also withdrew as a jurist, citing “unforeseen personal reasons” in a statement on social media. During the costume round on Wednesday (November 19, 2025), Miss Britain Danielle Latimer tripped and fell flat on the stage while wearing an outfit inspired by the Cockney character Eliza Doolittle. And Miss Jamaica Gabrielle Henry was hospitalised after she fell off the main stage during an evening gown showcase, president of the Miss Universe Organization Raul Rocha said in a statement. Miss Universe Jamaica public relations director Shannon-Dale Reid told AFP late on Wednesday that Henry was “resting under medical observation” and had not suffered serious injuries. He declined to comment on Thursday (November 20, 2025) about her condition and the cause of her fall.

U.S. sanctions Indian entities, individuals involved in Iranian petroleum and petroleum products sales



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The Trump administration has sanctioned entities and individuals from India involved in sales of Iran’s petroleum and petroleum products, saying the funds from this trade support Tehran’s regional terrorist proxies and procure weapons systems that are “a direct threat” to the U.S. The Departments of State and Treasury sanctioned shipping networks responsible for funding the Iranian regime’s “malign activities” through illicit oil sales, as well as an airline and its affiliates that arm and supply Iran-backed terrorist groups.

Among those added to the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control Specially Designated Nationals List are Indian nationals Zair Husain Iqbal Husain Sayed, Zulfikar Hussain Rizvi Sayed, Maharashtra-based RN Ship Management Private Limited and Pune-based TR6 Petro India LLP. The State Department is designating 17 entities, individuals, and vessels in several countries, including, but not limited to India, Panama, and the Seychelles, involved in Iran’s petroleum and petroleum products sales, the administration said.

Concurrently, the Department of the Treasury is des-

To deter migration, U.K. proposes new rules for settlement

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Days after announcing a shake-up of U.K. asylum law, the country’s Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, released proposed changes to the routes for settling in the U.K. (also known as ‘settlement’ , ‘Indefinite Leave to Remain’ or ILR). Under the proposed changes, high earners and entrepreneurs would qualify in three years, some in five years, while the default would be ten years, with some individuals having to wait 20 or even 30 years to settle. Changes to the law, along the proposed lines, will impact tens of thousands of Indians who have been the largest group of non-EU long-term migrants to the U.K. since at least 2019.

The Labour government of Keir Starmer had already announced that it would run a public consultation on a new contributions based system for ILR at the heart of which is a doubling of the default qualifying period from five to 10 years. The consultation, which began on Thursday (November 20) is open until February 12. The government called it the “biggest shake-up of the legal migration system in nearly half a century”. High earners who make more than GBP 125,140 and entrepreneurs on the Global Talent and Innovator Founder visas would be eligible to settle in three years under the proposals. Those who earn at least GBP 50,270 per year will be eligible in five years. All applicants will have to meet minimum salary standards (at least GBP 12,750 per year for 3-5 years subject to the outcome of the consultation). They will also have to have minimum standards of English and have no tax or other government debt. Those who receive public funds could face up to 20 years for settlement and visa overstayers up to 30 years. The adult dependents of an economic migrant (a spouse for instance) will

ignating 41 entities, individuals, vessels, and aircraft, intensifying its efforts against Iran’s petroleum and petrochemical exports and disrupting financial streams and commercial operatives that support Iran’s malign activities. The funds generated by this oil trade are used to support Iran’s regional terrorist proxies and procure weapons systems that pose a direct threat to U.S. forces and American allies, the State Department said on Thursday (November 20, 2025). The administration said TR6 Petro is an India-based petroleum products trader, which between October 2024 and June 2025, imported over \$8 million worth of Iranian-origin bitumen from multiple companies. It is being designated for knowingly engaging in a significant transaction for the purchase, acquisition, sale, transport, or marketing of petroleum or petroleum products from Iran, the State Department said. The Iranian regime continues to fuel conflict in the Middle East to fund its destabilising activities, the State Department said. This behaviour enables Iran to fund its nuclear escalations, support terrorist groups, and disrupt the flow of trade and freedom of navigation in waterways that are crucial to global prosperity and economic growth. The United States will continue to act against the network of maritime service providers, dark fleet operators, and petroleum products traders involved in the transport of Iranian crude oil and petroleum products, it said. The State Department said the U.S. will continue to act in support of National Security Presidential Memorandum 2 (NSPM-2), which directs the imposition of maximum pressure on the Iranian regime to deny it access to resources needed to sustain its destabilising activities. “The United States remains committed to disrupting the illicit funding streams that finance all aspects of Iran’s malign activities. As long as Iran devotes revenue to funding attacks against the United States and our allies, supporting terrorism around the world, and pursuing other destabilising actions, we will use all the tools at our disposal to hold the regime accountable,” it said.



no longer qualify based on their partner’s earnings as per the proposed rules. They will instead have their own qualifying period and criteria based on their circumstances. The 616,000 health and social care visa workers and their dependents who came to the U.K. between 2022 and 2024 will now have to wait 15 years for ILR. This visa route was closed earlier this year after the U.K. government said individual workers were being exploited and abused. The UK government intends to apply the new rules retrospectively although it states that transitional arrangements will be finalised following the consultation process. In 2008 and 2009, when the government changed the qualifying period for settlement for certain highly skilled migrants from four to five years, the UK High Court overruled it based on a principle of administrative law called “legitimate expectation”. Parliament is supreme in the U.K. and courts cannot overturn primary legislation but immigration rule changes are often made via a statement of changes rather than Acts of Parliament, making them subject to judicial review .

Will Modi, MEA object to U.S. panel’s ‘Pakistan success’ claim in Operation Sindoor, asks Congress



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Pointing out that a report of the U.S. Commission claimed “Pakistan’s military success over India in a four-day clash,” the Congress on Thursday (November 20, 2025) termed it yet another “diplomatic setback” and asked whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Ministry of External Affairs would register their objections to it. In a series of posts on social media platform X, Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said the report was “unacceptable”. He also took a swipe at the Narendra Modi government by saying that U.S. President Donald Trump repeated his claim about stopping the India-Pakistan conflict. The US-China Economic and Security Review Commission has just submitted its annual report to the US Congress. The Commission set up jointly by the US Senate and House of Representatives has twelve independent members. “Hours after an independent commission set up by the U.S. Congress issued a report claiming that Pakistan achieved ‘military success over India’ during Operation Sindoor, the President of the U.S. has once again trumpeted for the 61st time the claim that he brought an end to Operation Sindoor by threatening to impose tariffs of 350% on India,” Mr. Ramesh said on X, adding, “He did this yesterday as well, during a U.S.-Saudi Arabia conclave in which the Saudi Crown Prince was also present”.

Mr. Ramesh also shared a short video clip of Mr. Trump speaking at the U.S.-Saudi Arabia conclave. Earlier, the party’s communications chief highlighted the annual report of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission to the U.S. Congress. The Commission — set up jointly by the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives — has 12 independent members, he added. “The 2025 Annual Report is almost 800 pages long. The sections on pages 108 and 109 are simply astonishing and beyond understanding. It describes the Pahalgam terror attack of April 2025, orchestrated by Pakistan as an ‘insurgent attack’. It

speaks of ‘Pakistan’s military success over India’ in the four-day clash,” Mr. Ramesh said on X. “President Trump has claimed 60 times (so far) that he had halted Operation Sindoor. The PM has kept completely quiet. Now comes this report of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Commission of the U.S. Congress that is simply unacceptable to India. Will the PM and the MEA register their objections and protest? Our diplomacy has suffered yet another severe setback,” the Congress communication chief added.

Mr. Ramesh also shared relevant portions of the commission’s report. “China’s role in the May 7-10, 2025 clash between Pakistan’s and India’s militaries drew global attention as Pakistan’s military relied upon Chinese weaponry and reportedly leveraged Chinese intelligence. During the clash, triggered by India’s response to a deadly insurgent attack that killed 26 civilians, both countries attacked targets farther into one another’s territories than at any time in 50 years,” the report said. “Pakistan’s military success over India in its four-day clash showcased Chinese weaponry. While characterisation of this conflict as a ‘proxy war’ may overstate China’s role as an instigator, Beijing opportunistically leveraged the conflict to test and advertise the sophistication of its weapons, useful in the contexts of its ongoing border tensions with India and its expanding defence industry goals,” the report added.

Tejas fighter jet crashes during demo flight at Dubai Air Show

Dubai: An Indian combat plane crashed on Friday during a demonstration at the Dubai Air Show.

The Indian HAL Tejas, a combat aircraft used in the Indian Air Force, crashed around 2:10 p.m. local time while flying a demonstration flight for a crowd. It wasn’t immediately clear if the pilot ejected, or if anyone was injured in the incident.

Black smoke rose over the Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central as a crowd of spectators watched, and sirens sounded after the crash.

The city-state’s second airport was hosting the biennial Dubai Air Show, which has seen major aircraft orders by both the long-haul carrier Emirates and its lower-cost sister airline FlyDubai.

Mayo College in Ajmer turns 150 years old. Is this India’s best boarding school?



It is post-dinner time in Mayo College, Ajmer, and we are here in November: the time of balding trees, retreating bees — a winter with a mind of its own. If you enter the school from the main gate, you will hear the faint hum of clarinets, punctuated by the bugle. If you are lucky, the winds, blowing from the Aravallis, will carry stray tunes from a cymbal that has been hit too hard. It is only when you are truly inside — past the domineering statue of Lord Mayo, past the pigeons and cuckoos sleeping in the eaves, beyond the Mughal garden, moving along the classrooms — that you reach the source of the sound at the Music School. The campus stretches further than the eye can see, almost 200 acres, depending on how you measure it. If it were day-time, you would have peacocks cutting your path, dancing on the rooftops in the evenings. At Mayo, you would have peacocks cutting your path, dancing on the rooftops in the evenings. At Mayo, you would have peacocks cutting your path, dancing on the rooftops in the evenings | Photo Credit: Special arrangement

“The first time I visited Mayo to drop by a sibling, and saw the grand, main building perched on top of a slope, it struck me as an intimidating figure,” says Rudra Shreeram, from the batch of 2008, who now leads DCM Shriram, a business conglomerate. “I simply wondered: How can this be a school? In December 2002, when my father’s batch had come back for their silver jubilee reunion, I attended the prize giving ceremony. To witness its grandeur, every-one in the safes, all the colours: it set a clear picture in my young mind that this is where I was destined to go.”

We are less than a week away from the same annual prize giving ceremony that awed Rudra. At night, the silence is broken by endless, exhaustive preparations — the 500-member student music band, other boys rehearsing Peter Shaffer’s iconic play The Royal Hunt of the Sun, the polo team practising for their match against Harvard. This year, the stakes are high. It is the institution’s 150th anniversary, to be held from November 27 to 29. In the past, chief guests for the ceremony have ranged from Dr Rajendra Prasad and Indira Gandhi to Peter Ustinov and LK Advani. This year, it will be Nandan Nilekani, co-founder, Infosys. The polo team of Mayo College practising for its match against Harvard. The polo team of Mayo College practising for its match against Harvard | Photo Credit: Special arrangement

How does an institution survive for more than a century without losing its values? It is a question that is all the more important in the context of an educational institution. As the chairman of the board and president of the Old Boys’ Society, Colonel Bhawani Singh puts it: “Over the years, we have been having more and more women in the faculty, nearly more than 50%. For the first time in history, we have our first woman vice-principal, Priyanka Bhattacharya. Of course, there are many more examples, but it’s these conscious choices that uphold an institution.” The polo team of Mayo College practising for its match against Harvard. The polo team of Mayo College practising for its match against Harvard | Photo Credit: Special arrangement

joined Mayo College less than three months ago as a teacher and witnessed this very negotiation between the past and present, the slow dance of honouring legacy without stretching so far backwards that the future goes out of sight. The other day, a seventh grader on his way to a temple ceremony in a yellow safa ran up to me to tell me how much he loved William Golding’s The Lord of the Flies. “It’s so figurative, sir,” he said, out of breath with all the running. “How does Mr Golding say so many things without really saying much? Is the book an example of figurative writing? Or, better still, just good writing?” A portion of the old building dating back to 1875. A portion of the old building dating back to 1875 |

Insinuations of a coup “absurd,” Darius Khambata informs Tata Trusts board in letter

Insinuations that the Mehli Mistry-led group of trustees on the Board of Tata Trusts had attempted a coup or takeover on September 11, 2025 are “absurd,” board member and life trustee Darius J. Khambata wrote in a recent letter to the board of the Tata Trusts. Mr. Khambata added that neither did he nor anyone else have any intention to carry out such an act, nor did they “even remotely suggest this.” Noting that what was involved was “a difference of approach” on the issue of “representation of the Trusts through its nominee Directors on the board of Tata Sons,” he added, “That representation is a duty to the Trusts, not a prize.”

In his letter, dated November 10 and reviewed by The Hindu, Mr. Khambata did however acknowledge that “a greater attempt at forging a consensus should have been made by all,” referring to the split in the Tata Trusts board. The events of September 11, 2025 pertained to a board vote on whether Vijay Singh (77) should continue as a nominee director on the board of Tata Sons, the holding company of the Tata Group. The vote had become necessary following the introduction of a rule, following the death of Ratan Tata, that required the annual reappointment of nominees above the age of 75. The controversy over a purported ‘coup’ arose because the vote — usually a unanimous one — was defeated, with four members opposing Mr. Singh’s renewal. The four to vote against the renewal were Mehli Mistry, Pramit Jhaveri, Jehangir HC Jehangir, and Mr. Khambata. “The events of the past few weeks have distressed me: particularly the spin doctored media narrative,” Mr. Khambata wrote in his letter. “What has pained me the most is the insinuation that the events of our meeting of 11 September 2025 signified some kind of ‘coup’ or ‘takeover,’” Mr. Khambata added. “This is absurd. I had no such intention and I believe neither did anyone else. Nothing we did even remotely suggests this.” At the heart of the issue between the two camps was a difference of opinion on how the governance of the Tata Trusts should be conducted and on the representation of the Trusts through their nominee directors on the board of Tata Sons. The trustees led by Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata, Venu Srinivasan and Mr. Singh, were reportedly of the opinion that governance should continue as it so far has been done: through continuity and consensus-based decision-making. The trustees led by Mr. Mistry, however, felt differently. “It [the vote of September 11] was a difference of approach in an annual review con-

Photo Credit: Special arrangementA little boy, dressed traditionally, trying to make sense of Golding’s layered prose that cauterises our myths of goodness, our faith in rules, and the quiet violence we pretend not to see: That, to me, is the essence of Mayo College in the New World Order. The principal, Saurav Sinha, who took the reins only recently, is conscious of being sensitive to it. “While being summoned to the principal’s office is still a scary thought to the students, at the same time, you may notice me sharing a laugh with the boys, often teasing them too. That is a change from not only 30 years ago but even five years ago,” he says. Assembly hall at Mayo College | Photo Credit: Special arrangementThe other day, a group of around 10 boys from the board classes were walking on the campus after their study preparation. Most of the other students had gone home, but these students remained because they had a single paper left. They just knocked on Sinha’s door, a mansion built in 1910, festooned with dahlias and climbing ivy. “I gave them some cold coffee, and we ended up playing PlayStation for a while. Of course, most of them beat me in football, and they were very happy about it. But that’s the point — the role has changed from a dictator to a father figure. You know you can’t cross a certain line with him, but there can be no doubt about the affection, either.”

More than half a century ago, Jaswant Singh, who graduated from Mayo College in 1985 and now leads a manufacturing business, remembers when the principal of the school, passed away in the middle of his tenure in 1982. The vice principal took over briefly, and a new principal was appointed much later. “Things never stopped; the school was never affected. The same held during COVID times as well. There was no room to slack,” he says. Through the alumni network Old Boys, like Jaswant and Rudra, continue to be associated: funding new projects, rallying support for ambitious buildings on the campus, coming together for a social cause, and advocating for the school where it matters. Now, as a businessman, Singh still notices the way those Mayo years help him navigate the real world: Resilience, self-independence, but also not being so independent that one loses the sense of community. “We had these cycling trips that would last three days, doing everything on your own, cooking your food, cycling to the next stop and then cycling some 70 kilometres back to Ajmer. I can never forget that trip. I remember getting a sore back because none of us had ever cycled for that long. The bonds I created with the four other friends on that trip are still alive,” he recounts. Only three days back, he had a long video call with one of them from the United States — catching up about life, what they missed about that time. Education, then, was never limited to the classroom. It is this sense of home, of always learning and forming friendships that were not transactional or superficial but one that held your hands through all the crests or troughs of life, that is the bedrock of the Mayo experience. It is the same sentiment that Col. Singh felt when he travelled across the country and the world this year, when different batches of Mayo held events celebrating the 150th anniversary. “As clichéd as it sounds, family is how I’d describe Mayo. It is moving the way people connect and how familial the bonds are between former staff members. On graduation day, parents tell me how their sons were weeping, and they were weeping with them because a nine-year journey came to an end.” What keeps a school standing for 150 years, then? While ceremony and nostalgia anchor us, give the students and staff a warm super-structure, it all boils down to care. The people who care enough to go the extra mile, do the work when no one’s looking, the students who analyse themselves critically. Mayo endures because its past is held lightly, its present questioned often, and its students trusted with real responsibility. The celebrations ahead. Harvard–Mayo College polo match will headline sports prize giving, with two games planned, one against current students and one against alumni, at Mayo’s Polo Pavilion. A Paresh Maity painting will lead the art auction, with all proceeds earmarked for the school. Sonu Nigam will perform a 90-minute concert, expected to draw an audience of about 6,000 people. The senior school play, The Royal Hunt of the Sun, will be staged with Saif Ali Khan and Kareena Kapoor attending as guests of honour. A Vintage Car Rally will feature 25 Old Boys’ cars doing daily rounds of the campus, complemented by a heritage fashion show by Ritwik Khanna’s Rkive City using archival school textiles.

cerning representation of the Trusts through its nominee Directors on the board of Tata Sons,” Mr. Khambata wrote. “On 11 September I was motivated by one factor and one factor alone — viz to have a more assertive voice on the board of Tata Sons to help espouse the cause of the Trusts against listing of Tata Sons.” “No hard feelings. Mr. Khambata went on to explain that the trustees who had voted against the continuation of Mr. Singh as a Tata Sons board member “felt absolutely nothing” against Mr. Singh and “regretted that he was not present at the meeting so that we could explain our position to him, face to face.” He also said he regretted the “unfair slant media coverage” lent to the episode and the “consequent pain” Mr. Singh had to bear. In fact, Mr. Khambata went on to write, following the events of September 11, he twice proposed a joint statement of unity reaffirming all the trustees’ faith in Noel Tata’s leadership. “The first time was almost immediately after 11 September and the second was the day before Ratan’s death anniversary,” Mr. Khambata wrote. “Unfortunately some of you did not respond.” He further said that all the trustees and the Trust itself had been hurt by the “engineered media coverage,” adding that he was disappointed by the “failure of the Trusts to correct this fundamentally false narrative.” “Reiterating his approach of acting “independently and in the interests of the Trusts on an issue by issue basis,” Mr. Khambata recalled disagreeing with Mr. Mistry on “fundamental issues such as giving the SP group a fair exit (which I thought was essential to the interests of the Trusts) and on individual trustees communicating with Tata Sons (which I believed was impermissible). He added: “Of course Mehli later agreed to the resolution which I proposed and which was passed in July 2025, enunciating opposition to listing as not in the Trusts interests and at the same time declaring that the Trusts should seek a settlement with the SP Group.” Moving forward. Another sign of tension within the board of trustees was the fact that Mr. Tata, Mr. Singh, and Mr. Srinivasan had not approved the reappointment of Mr. Mistry when time came for a vote on the issue. Mr. Mistry’s three-year tenure ended on October 28, following which he wrote a letter (November 4, 2025) to Mr. Tata that concluded: “I part ways with a quote that Mr. Ratan N. Tata used to say to me. ‘Nobody is bigger than the institution it serves.’” While concluding his own letter, Mr. Khambata noted that Mr. Mistry had placed the interests of the Trusts above his personal interest in his “dignified and commendable letter.”

How India’s degrees are diminishing the country’s demographic dividend



When Spence, in 1973, propounded the concept of the “signaling” value of education, it was seen as a step ahead of human capital theory, which held that education makes individuals more able and productive. One would argue that this idea of productivity is a rather capitalist interpretation, because in a market setup an individual could still be economically productive yet socially useless, or even anti-social. One could counter that it is human greed that has fed capitalism everywhere, including in education. However, it is paradoxical that as education became more accessible, we placed less emphasis on its human-capital-formation value and more on its signaling value. The quality-versus-quantity debate will persist, with the former often regarded as superior. But it is also true that we continue to rely on the “signaling value of education,” which is assumed to reflect the human capital it generates. Here, however, I argue that we are going back on education—not only has the human capital value of education shifted, but people are increasingly disliking and viewing with suspicion the signaling value that a degree is meant to convey.

Most millennial in their 30s would remember their parents talking about how the decision of their grandparents to (or not to) earn a degree altered the course of their lives. They would recall stories about a friend’s mother (often “father”) who, with only a higher secondary degree, became a headmistress (often “master”) and held her family together financially—stories that made them realise the value of education and ensured that they aimed for better education to secure their future. But the same millennials now doubt whether the same process can secure a future for their own children. Much research has pointed to a decrease in the value of education, particularly of educational credentials. And although we recognise that education has no alternative, we are increasingly unsure of how much education actually ensures an ideal future.

A capitalist turn?

According to the latest PLFS annual report in India, out of every 100 in the employable workforce, 56 are employed, 3 are unemployed and searching for jobs, and the remaining 41 are students, elders, etc. Similarly, for every 100 employed persons, 57 are self-employed, 23 are salaried, and the rest are wage earners. It must be put in context that students, many categorised as self-employed, and even wage earners might still be considered “unemployed” in the sense that their education did not pay off—or has not paid off yet. Students are learning more, the self-employed are trying to use their education in self-owned businesses (to what extent is debatable), and the wage earners have largely given up. I do not mean to include the outliers here—those for whom education worked extremely well or those who did not acquire any education at all.

Credential inflationIt is undeniable that Indian education, particularly higher education, is becoming more capitalistic, where the interpretation of capital goes beyond the sole objective of human capital. Increasingly, private universities are stressing competitively assigning more marks to students. Edtech startups are selling degrees or courses

The ‘game-changer’ in the Bihar election 2025

A resounding political victory often poses the question whether there was a game-changer. To argue that the victory resulted from a fortuitous combination of many factors appears less attractive. Analysts are tempted to search for game-changers so that a dramatic-looking outcome can be explained by equally dramatic looking new formulation. The victors, on their part, need the big story because such a story feeds into a narrative that can help them beyond the immediate terrain of the electoral victory. In the recently held Assembly election in Bihar, which resulted in the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) winning nearly half the votes polled and bagging nearly 90% of the seats in the Assembly, this State election appears to be a case where some key factors must have produced this scale of victory.

The new combinationWith the Opposition taking exception to the last-minute scheme for the benefit of women which had been devised by the State government and cash transfers taking place right around the time when the actual campaigns kicked off, the women’s vote stands out as the key factor that gave the NDA its massive victory. The fact that women outnumbered men in terms of voter turnout, has added more plausibility to this argument. Another factor, according to at least some circles, is the young voter. Their overwhelming support, it is asserted, helped the NDA register this dramatic victory. Indeed, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) too did promise a government job for every household but many believe that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)’s pitch for one crore government jobs was what stole the day. Along with the promise of one crore lakhpati didis (women with an income of ₹1 lakh per annum), this slogan must have resonated among voters. Or so it is argued. This has led to the claim that a new MY combination — which is Mahila and Yuva, as opposed to the dependence of some Opposition parties on Muslim and Yadav votes — became the foundation of the NDA’s victory in Bihar. The argument appears persuasive and attractive. Persuasive because one is stunned by the scale of victory and by the fact that the NDA and Nitish Kumar of the Janata Dal (United), or JD(U), in particular have managed to comfortably exorcise the proverbial ghost of anti-incumbency. It is attractive too, because it not only gives a smart answer to how the NDA won. It also potentially inaugurates a new language of the political analysis of Bihar — and other elections too — that instead of caste/community, promises and performance determine electoral outcomes. But how accurate is this argument about the MY vote being the game-changer? First, a small reminder about the turnout of women. Yes, there is a huge difference of nearly nine percentage points that marked the gap between female and male turnout. In itself, this is something quite extraordinary. But if we look at Bihar’s Assembly turnout data for the past decade and a half, we notice that the turnout of women has always been higher in percentage

while obliterating what the student actually learns, yet positioning the mere possession of a completion certificate as a “skill.” We may soon see a neatly segmented market for education and skills, where basic education in HEIs becomes the benchmark over which additional skill “toppings” are offered. What is worrisome is that the frivolous concept of “more the merrier” is being packaged and sold—purely on the quantitative front. This positive positioning of acquiring a larger number of credentials moves far beyond the normative objective of education, or at least it is believed to. On the other side, it is not new information that companies are no longer valuing educational credentials as much. Credentials have become more like a screening device: applicants beyond a certain level of education are filtered in, but the actual test of ability is where Indian students are lagging. I would argue that international students aren’t necessarily much better; the difference is simply that the gravity of unemployment is higher in India. However, one might ponder why this is even a surprise. Following the marginalist theories of economics, where demand and supply are studied at the margin, as the supply of credentials increases, one would expect their value to decrease. That is precisely the point of departure in education. It will not be long before, in the same market setup, people begin to stress the actual quality of education received rather than just the degree. So, what we have discussed can be explained by the fact that on the labour-market supply side, an overflowing number of graduates are coming out of the so-called massification of higher education. The self-feeding challenge of asymmetric information about their abilities, from an employer’s perspective, is worsening the situation further, as a larger number of degrees is increasingly perceived as insurance against unemployment and underemployment. I now anticipate that a market for screening students will emerge. It is likely to be a more privatised setup where, over and above degrees and skill certificates, students will have to take additional, often alien, tests to showcase their human capital. It is a double whammy for students, leading to further privatisation of the friction-based segment of the labour market.

Demographic dividend risks

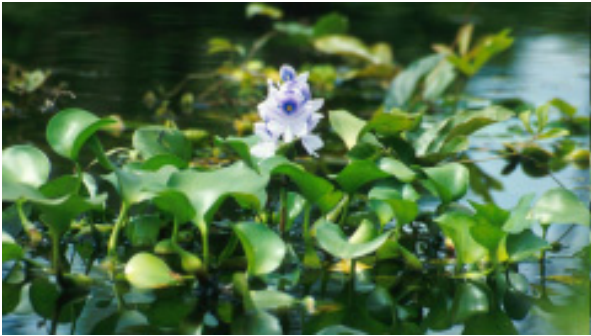
Given this context, as we argue that we are going back, we must assess what it means for India’s demographic dividend. First, as companies begin adding their own additional tests over existing screenings, they will be more inclined to depend on AI-like technologies, further reducing employment prospects. Second, this will bring an additional monetary and financial burden on the youth, and there will be longer gestation periods of friction in entering the job market—conditions that will warrant a part-time employment industry and further sift-skills for young people. Third, it is harmful for any society when people feel that their education is not valued and that there is always “more to do” for ever-lower marginal returns. Fourth, this situation has the potential to create more billionaire private-agency owners who set up innovative startups to address the information gap on ability between companies and students, but these will be fed by extra out-of-pocket education expenditure—money that goes towards validation of human capital rather than its addition. What is the solution? Clearly, privatisation hasn’t paid off, and we are losing out on harnessing the demographic dividend. One clear-cut solution would be a socialist reform on the recruitment side. The government must begin filling all vacancies across all levels of public institutions and try to absorb as much manpower as possible. Secondly, there is no alternative to quality education and quality evaluation. Monitoring the evaluation systems of private HEIs will help bring parity across graduating students. Thirdly, we need to create parity in the quality of education delivered. For this, an upgraded curriculum and quality teaching are essential—and better incentivising teachers with higher salaries is a must.



terms when compared to that of men. In 2015, it was comparable to what happened this time — 7% higher than men. Those who have observed Bihar for long have been pointing out that besides all other things, male migration (and consequent absence from voting) is a crucial factor producing this skew. But even if we were to concede that the turnout among women was higher as a result of greater mobilisation, awareness and agency among women voters, this factor is at least not new to 2025.

Second, do we have adequate evidence that more women voted for the NDA than men so that this massive tide could be explained away? To be sure, more women than men did vote for the NDA: data of a PollsMap survey which this writer had access to, shows that as against 46% supporting the NDA among male voters, almost 48% among women said they voted for NDA. For the Mahagatbandhan, this share was 39% and 37%, respectively. So, the NDA did enjoy a gender advantage. It is not clear, however, whether there was a singular factor producing the victory. Third, survey data from 2015 suggest that the NDA (which did not include JD(U) then) had a gender disadvantage because it polled 2% less votes among women than among men. In 2020, when the JD(U) had joined the NDA, the NDA polled 1% more votes among women than men. In other words, in all likelihood, the JD(U) brings a little more women voters to the alliance that it joins. Ironically, while the JD(U) fetches more women votes, the BJP happens to be the more popular party overall — when asked which party they would have voted for had there been no alliances, 37% reported that they would have voted for the BJP. The JD(U) would have been a loser without the BJP, but the BJP gains women votes through the JD(U). On young voters. Unemployment was reported by a very large proportion of the electorate as the most important problem facing the State. Therefore, a party or alliance that promised to address this issue would surely have had an advantage. With its promise of one crore government jobs, did the NDA reap the harvest of youth vote? Here too, the story is a bit complicated. Among the voters below 25 years of age, the NDA polled nearly 50% of the vote. Among those in the age group of 26-35 years, the NDA got support from 45%

India's invasive aliens problem complicates wait to understand scope



Conservation scientists are sounding warning bells over 'stealth invader' species that they say are destroying local biodiversity and changing landscapes. This has in turn posed a chicken-and-egg dilemma for researchers: should they wait to document the effects of all invasive alien species in India and then prepare a conservation plan or should they conduct the exercises in parallel?

Invasive alien species are non-native species that have been introduced into a landscape by accident; as ex-otic ornamental fishes and decorated shrubs; or as a solu-tion to a problem such as revegetating arid land. Soon these species take over a region and displace much of the local biodiversity, even rendering some native species locally or globally extinct and destroying habitats. Invasive alien species have received more research and policy attention of late due to the economic and non-economic losses they cause. At present, some 37,000 established alien species have been introduced by human activities worldwide and every year there are 200 more. K.V. Sankaran, former di-rector of Kerala Forest Research Institute, Thrissur, said. Of these, around 3,500 alien species (or 10%) have been found to have negative consequences for nature and people. Dr. Sankaran had told a forum of invasive alien species biologists in Bhopal in February. India has an estimated 139 invasive alien species, mostly insect pests of crops, ac-cording to Ankila Hiremath at the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Bengaluru. Others indi-rectly damage crops due to their effects on native insects. For example the invasive yellow crazy ant (*Anoplolepis gracilipes*) reduces the numbers of other ants that help keep pests in check.

Dr. Hiremath cited the example of the fast-growing weed *Lantana camara*. Introduced as a colourful shrub in the British colonial period, today it's in the way of efforts to conserve elephants and other large herbivores. The plant thrives in a range of soils from alkaline to acidic, and fertile to infertile, and is unpalatable for large herbivores and makes their habitat harder to navigate. The animals adapt by switching to cash crops, pushing them closer to human settlements, and increasing human-animal conflict. Invasive plants also degrade natural wild habitats, endangering predator-prey relationships and jeopardising conservation efforts, Achyut Banerjee, assistant professor at the Azim Premji University in Bhopal, said. Similarly, *Prosopis juliflora* is a tree originally introduced to India from South America and the Caribbean in the 19th century. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Gujarat Forest Department brought it to the Banni grassland in the Kutch region to combat soil salinisation and boost green cover. Now known locally as 'gando bawar', or the mad tree, this invasive species covers 50-60% of the original grassland area. *Prosopis* is very thirsty and guzzles water from surface soil, thus competing with grasses and native trees such as *Acacia*, Dr. Hiremath said.

This has led to more salt-water intrusion from the nearby coast rather than less — and has stressed the local wildlife, frustrated access to grazing resources, and has broken down traditional pastoralist-farmer networks. Aquatic

To counter trade barriers, India is targeting new markets with MSC certification

Fisheries Development Commissioner K. Mohammed Koya told The Hindu that the Union Government, under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), would subsidise the certification process, which is done by third-party auditors. Mr. Koya said that global affluent markets, such as European and Japanese ones, are looking for sustainably sourced fish. "Sustainability is part of our fisheries. Some of our fish varieties may not immediately qualify for sustainable segregations, but many of the varieties are amenable to certification. Once we re-certify the fish, the advantages that we get include access to the best markets. It is a way of certifying the fish so that it gets a better price," he said.

What about other States?

In the neighbouring State of Uttarakhand, Muslim residents alleged that police response was disproportionate to a peaceful march where the protestors held up placards with 'I Love Muhammad' written on them and called for the cancellation of FIRs in Kanpur. Soon the row spread to Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh before hitting Telangana, the first non-BJP-ruled State to report a problem around the slogan. By then, 'I Love Muhammad' posters had spread across the country with people using the slogan as part of their social media handles. It is being seen as the Muslim community's response to the allegedly excessive use of force first by the U.P. police followed by its counterparts in other States.

APEC CEO Summit to put AI in focus as global tech leaders weigh attendance

Seoul: Next month's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) CEO Summit in Gyeongju is expected to shine a global spotlight on artificial intelligence (AI), with attention centering on whether top executives from Nvidia, OpenAI, and other tech giants will take part in the gathering. Scheduled for October 28-31 as an official side event of the multilateral summit between APEC leaders in Gyeongju, about 330 km southeast of Seoul, the forum for global chief executive officers (CEOs) is being organised by the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), reports Yonhap News Agency. The KCCI serves as the secretariat of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) for next month's summit. ABAC is a private-sector advisory body that delivers recommendations from business leaders to their respective governments, such as removing trade barriers. Government and business leaders are working to finalise the participation of high-profile business figures, whose attendance at the CEO event could position AI as one of the major themes. At the top of the list of prospective attendees is Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang. An Nvidia representative told Yonhap News Agency that nothing has yet been confirmed, but a separate industry source said Huang's visit is "most likely confirmed." KCCI Chairman Chey Tae-won, who also leads SK Group, personally invited Huang last month at a business roundtable held on the sidelines of a summit between President Lee Jae Myung and U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington. Huang had reportedly responded positively, with industry sources suggesting he is preparing to lead a dedicated AI session on the final day of the APEC CEO Summit. He could also hold separate meetings with the South Korean president and other heads of state, and possibly visit the semiconductor facilities of Samsung Electronics Co. and SK hynix Inc. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman is another closely watched figure. They also reportedly extended a personal invitation to Altman during their July meeting at OpenAI's San Francisco office. The U.S. AI giant recently launched an office in Seoul, pledging to support Korea's "sovereign AI" policy initiative. It is also working with local tech giant Kakao Corp. on ecosystem integration and is exploring partnerships with Samsung and SK hynix in semiconductors and hardware.

To counter trade ban, fisheries sector eyes new markets with eco-friendly label



help India overcome trade barriers in global markets. "Eco-labels and sustainability certifications help enhance acceptance among consumers with a strong market penetration. This will boost India's bargaining power in the global trade of seafood", Abraham Tharakan of SEAL said. Dr. Sunil Mohamed, Chairman of the SSNI, said it is a market-driven label certification, known as an eco-label which is voluntary and ensures sustainability in the sector. "20% of global fisheries are MSC certified at present. Ashtamudi clam was the first variety to get MSC certification and i was lapsed. it's going to be re- certified now. This certification will ensure that there is sufficient stock of he fish so that the fishery can be continued," he said.

NPCI may allow Aadhaar-based face authentication for high-value financial transactions

“UIDAI is the foundational infrastructure. It's the only way to surely know who is who? We have the world's largest biometric database. We advocate very strongly the use of face authentication as a modality in the multi-factor assessment.” Abhishek Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General at UIDAI, said during a panel discussion at the Global Fintech Fest 2025 here.

Singh said that the NPCI is already on board with this thought process and approach and is expected to make an announcement to this effect in the coming days.

Days after QCO rollback, DGTR orders anti-dumping investigation on polyester



Just over a week after the government ordered the rollback of the Quality Control Order (QCO) on Polyester Textured Yarn (PTY) — a key textile sector input — on November 12, the anti-dumping arm of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), has launched a probe into PTY originating from China. The removal of the QCO followed a Niti Aayog report that criticised these standards stating that they prevented imports of a key input material used by the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The largest manufacturers of polyester in India, Reliance Industries Limited and Mumbai-based Wellknown Polyester Limited, are among companies that had filed an application seeking the initiation of an anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of polyester, alleging that polyester originating from China has caused material injury to the domestic industry. China is the largest manufacturer

and exporter of PTY.The DGTR said that the volume of imports from China has increased in both absolute and relative terms, and that the goods exported have suppressed the prices of domestic manufacturers. “The applicants are in losses and are incurring cash loss. Further, the applicants have earned a negative return on capital employed,” DGTR said

Pointing to the restriction in imports through the use of QCOs, particularly on polyester fibre, Niti Aayog had said that, due to challenges faced by global suppliers in obtaining BIS certification, the implementation of QCOs has, in effect, led to “greater concentration among domestic suppliers in some sectors, giving them the ability to raise prices above global levels”. “For instance, polyester fibre, yarn and some steel products command 15–30 per cent price premiums over global benchmarks, affecting the cost competitiveness of downstream industries in the international market. This is one of the main reasons for India’s declining share in global apparel exports despite the withdrawal of anti-dumping duties on select products,” the report said.Niti Aayog added that quality control norms have affected the competitiveness of export-intensive and employment-oriented sectors such as footwear and electronics, which employ around 4.5 million people across various clusters. Both sectors depend on imported intermediate materials that determine end-product performance and design flexibility. “The QCOs on intermediate products critical for these sectors have disrupted access to items that are either not produced in India or are manufactured by very few suppliers,” the think tank said.

‘Good trade deal’ with US should ease pressure on current account, rupee: RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra



Responding to a question by a student after delivering the VKRV Rao Memorial Lecture at the Delhi School of Economics, Malhotra said the RBI did not target any level for the rupee’s exchange rate and it was determined by demand for the rupee and the US dollar in the market.“The recent depreciation that you have seen is because on the trade side there are some tariff, additional penal tariffs,” Malhotra said. “Exports did come down in the month of October – that’s the current account. Similarly, on the capital account, you are seeing that the flows this time around... (are) somewhat muted.”“But we are quite confident that there will be a good trade deal, hopefully, going forward. And that should relieve whatever pressure has been there on our current account. We have very good buffers of foreign exchange, \$690 billion, and so that’s not a matter of concern,” the central bank chief said.

As per latest data from the RBI, India’s foreign exchange reserves stood at \$687 billion as on November 7, down \$15 billion since mid-October. Meanwhile, in recent days, the Indian rupee has been near its record low of 88.81 per dollar that was hit in September. On Thursday, the rupee closed at 88.71 per dollar. The RBI is said to be intervening in the foreign exchange market by selling dollars to support the rupee.The US’ imposition of 50 per cent tariffs on India, including a penal tariff of 25 per cent for the purchase of Russian oil and energy, in late August has taken a toll on India’s merchandise exports. Earlier this week, commerce ministry data showed India’s trade deficit rose to an

all-time high of \$41.68 billion as exports declined 12 per cent from last year while imports were up 17 per cent.India’s current account deficit widened to \$2.35 billion in April-June 2025 from a surplus of \$13.48 billion in the previous quarter. Net foreign direct investment (FDI) into India, meanwhile, in the first five months of 2025-26 stood at \$10.13 billion, more than double from that a year ago. However, net FDI in all of 2024-25 was a mere \$959 million.

Malhotra also reiterated the RBI’s stance on cryptocurrencies and stablecoins, saying they were a “huge risk” and warranted the RBI to be “very cautious”.“Stablecoins, cryptos, they have a huge risk and so we are adopting a very cautious approach towards it,” Malhotra said. “But at the same time, when it comes to digital innovations like UPI or digital lending, our stance has been very accommodative and very enabling.”The RBI Governor’s latest comments back those he made in the US last month when he urged other central banks to use and promote Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs) instead of stablecoins to facilitate international payments. The RBI is currently conducting pilot projects of two types of CBDCs – retail and wholesale. Earlier in October, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had noted at the Kautilya Economic Conclave that innovations such as stablecoins were transforming the landscape of money and capital flows and forcing countries to choose between adapting to new monetary architectures or risk being excluded. The Finance Minister’s comments came at a time when stablecoins – which are essentially private cryptocurrencies linked to an actual asset, usually the US dollar – are seeing increasing acceptance among policymakers around the world.

At present, Tether and USDC are the top two stablecoins globally. Both are pegged to the US dollar and make up more than 80 per cent of the \$300 billion-plus global stablecoin market. India does not currently regulate virtual digital assets such as cryptocurrencies and stablecoins, with Malhotra saying on Thursday the government has to take a final decision on the matter.“The government has to take a final view. There is a working group that was set up earlier, and they will take a final call as to how, if at all, crypto is to be handled in our country,” Malhotra said in response to a question.

Why proposal for tighter emission norms has triggered a small vs big car debate

India’s plan to tighten fuel-efficiency rules under the proposed third phase of the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) rules from FY28 has opened a sharp divide within the auto industry, with carmakers split over how the next phase of norms should treat small and large vehicles. The framework sticks to a weight-based formula that steadily tightens through FY32, but its structure means lighter cars face far steeper improvements than heavier SUVs.

Companies with a predominantly small-car portfolio have argued that this puts an unequal burden on budget models, which already operate on wafer-thin margins and have limited room for costly technologies like hybrids. They warn that pushing stringent targets onto entry-level cars risks making them unaffordable for first-time buyers and could accelerate the market’s existing shift toward larger, pricier vehicles.Market leader Maruti Suzuki, which has a large portion of small cars in its portfolio with models such as the Alto, Wagon R and Celerio, has said that the proposed CAFE 3 norms may disadvantage such cars. Its Chairman RC Bhargava had argued that the idea behind CAFE norms was to make big cars improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions.But, Tata Motors, which also sells some small cars such as Tiago and Altroz, said the company has “absolutely no concerns in meeting CAFE norms”. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles MD and CEO, Shailesh Chandra recently said, “There has been an effort to define an arbitrary category of small car, basis weight. We do not support any move to include weight in the definition of small cars. Such an arbitrary criteria would conflict with one of the country’s most critical imperative that is safety”.In several foreign jurisdictions such as the US, China, South Korea and Japan, smaller, lightweight cars have relaxed emissions norms. In Europe, for instance, which has some of the most stringent emissions norms, and from where India draws a lot of inspiration from for its Bharat Stage (BS) regulations, bigger cars have a lower absolute CO2 target and smaller cars have relaxed targets.Under India’s proposed CAFE 3 norms, which are expected to kick in from FY28, the efficiency formula is: [0.002 x (W – 1170) + c]. It is measured in petrol-equivalent litres per 100 km. Here W is the average fleet weight, 1,170kg is the fixed constant for weight, 0.002 is a fixed constant multiplier, and ‘c’ is a constant that changes every year. Since ‘c’ continues to decrease from FY28 to FY32, the rules will become stricter over time. This

constant starts at 3.7264 in FY28, then subsequently drops to 3.0139 in FY32. To calculate the CO2 emissions, this has to be further multiplied with 23.7135, which is the petrol equivalent fuel consumption number.

The final CO2 emissions value then will be 68 CO2 g/km. In FY32, that target will become about 51 CO2 g/km, an increase of 25 per cent. Here, a decline in CO2 g/km denotes a rise in fuel efficiency.Under India’s CAFE’s 2 targets for 2022-23, the efficiency formula was 0.002 x (W-1082) + 4.7694. Upon inputting the same values, the target for this car would be 97 CO2 g/km. This effectively means that from CAFE 2 to the end of CAFE 3 in FY32, this small car would have to be made 48 per cent more efficient. Now, let’s take a heavier car, which weighs 2,500 kg. As per the above formula, its FY32 CAFE 3 target would be 134.5 CO2 g/km and its CAFE 2 target was 180.4 CO2 g/km, which means that car would have to become only 25 per cent more efficient, even though on an absolute scale, it will be a bigger pollutant than smaller cars.This is the crux of the tussle. Some carmakers, which have a significant portfolio consisting of lighter cars, believe that the onus of reducing emissions is much higher on smaller cars than it is for bigger, heavier SUVs. They feel that in bigger cars, there is greater scope of implementing emissions reducing technologies, such as hybrid or full electric powertrains. But, in smaller cars, the scope is far lesser as these are built to a budget. If they were to implement, for instance, a hybrid powertrain in a smaller car, that would increase its cost and make it unaffordable for much of its target audience.“What the proposed changes to CAFE will do is encourage manufacturers to implement ‘brick in the boot’ strategies. That is, they will just make bigger cars since the target for heavy cars is comparatively relaxed. But those are generally more expensive, so what will happen is that the budget end of the market, which includes primarily first time buyers, will be priced out of the market,” a senior industry executive said.While the proposed CAFE 3 norms allow car models with an unladen mass up to 909 kg, engine capacity not exceeding 1,200 cc and length not exceeding 4,000 mm, to be able to claim a further reduction of 3 g CO2/km, with a cap of 9.0 g/km of CO2 in any reporting period, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) in a representation to the government earlier this month said that its members had “mixed views” on the subject.

‘MOTHER??’: Sonam Kapoor takes a page from Princess Diana’s style file to announce second pregnancy



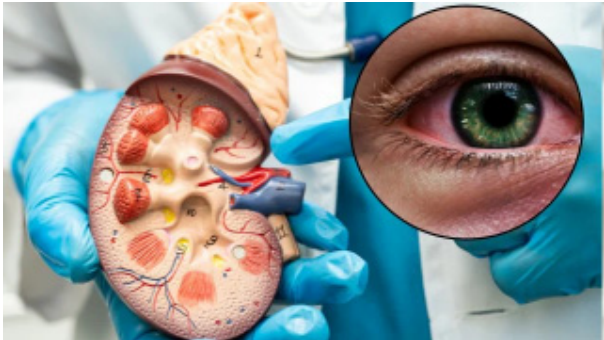
No, Sonam Kapoor is not just having her Barbie moment; the mother of one (soon to be two!) announced her second pregnancy via Instagram, and her ensemble of choice hinted at her love for vintage and archival pieces. To share the happy news with the world, the actor slipped into a hot pink Escada suit, designed by British designer Margaretha Ley back in 1988, and one that carries a distinct legacy – having been worn by the late Princess Diana to London’s Marlborough Hotel for the start of the Push 2 wheelchair race. The suit, a signature power-dressing look, boasted a structured long jacket with pockets and big black buttons, paired with a matching hot-pink pencil skirt. Styled by sister Rhea Kapoor, Sonam chose a black Escada purse, black sunnies from Phoebe Philo, fishnet stockings, matching kitten heels from YSL and an Audemars Piguet sitting on her dainty wrist. The look was kept chic and minimal with a clean face, hints of blush and a pink lip.

Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja had tied the knot back in 2018 and welcomed their first son, Vaayu, in 2022. Taking to Instagram, Sonam had announced her pregnancy with a provocative shoot, captioning it: “Four hands. To raise you the very best we can. Two hearts. That will beat in uni-

son with yours, every step of the way. One family. Who will shower you with love and support. We can’t wait to welcome you.”In the photos, she is seen wearing a black full-sleeved one-piece, resting her head on Ahuja’s lap and cradling her baby bump, while he supports her head with his palm. This time around, while Ahuja is missing in frame, he is tagged in the post captioned, “MOTHER??”.Sonam Kapoor announces second pregnancy Sonam’s maternity photoshoot (Source: Instagram/ @sonamkapoor)

Sonam’s standout maternity looksKapoor’s maternity looks have always been the talk of the town – whether she is paying homage to a Western fashion icon or slipping into Abu Jani Sandeep Khosla’s threads for a regal photoshoot.For example, back in 2022, Sonam Kapoor chose an off-white satin ensemble with delicate sequins and pearl detailing to strike a pose for her maternity photoshoot. And a few days later, the Aisha actor had slipped into an ivory silk sari by the designer duo, paired with a matching strapless blouse and jewels from her mother’s personal collection, for her birthday dinner.Whether it is to celebrate motherhood or herself, Kapoor has always chosen to dress the way she feels, powerful, bold and beautiful.

Women visits doctor for eye problem, finds out her kidneys are failing: ‘Within days, my entire world flipped...’



Sometimes, the body sends warning signals in the most surprising ways. For one woman, what began as a minor issue with her eyes led to a life-changing diagnosis of kidney failure. She shared her story online, writing, “The one thing I have learned is to never ask the universe, ‘What’s the worst that could happen?’ because trust me, the universe has a twisted sense of humor. It’ll hit you with a reverse UNO card and say, ‘Yeah, this is what can happen.’”

Her symptoms were subtle at first—blurred vision, a heaviness in her eyelids, and puffiness around her eyes. “I thought it was something simple, maybe I just needed a new power in my glasses,” she says. But curiosity, or perhaps fate, prompted her to see an ophthalmologist. What she expected to be a quick checkup turned into a startling revelation.“After a few tests, my doctor looked at me and said something that didn’t even make sense at first—that my kidneys were failing,” she recalls. Within days, she was admitted to the hospital, undergoing blood tests, scans, and hearing unfamiliar terms like “creatinine,” “urea,” and “end-stage kidney disease.”

How can early kidney disease show up through eye or vision symptoms?

Dr Kavita Parihar, Director of Renal Transplant at Apollo Hospitals, Ahmedabad, explains, “Early kidney disease may present with symptoms such as swelling or puffiness around the eyes, a feeling of heaviness in the eyelids, and visual disturbances, including blurred vision or even partial vision loss. In diabetics and hypertensive patients, changes in the fundus are observed.”She emphasises that these eye symptoms can sometimes serve as the first sign of a deeper problem, particularly in people with conditions like diabetes or high blood pressure.

What’s the biological link between kidney dysfunction and eye problems?

The connection lies in the body’s intricate network of blood vessels. Dr Parihar says, “Kidney dysfunction is closely tied to conditions like high blood pressure and diabetes. When these conditions are uncontrolled, they damage the small blood vessels throughout the body—including those in the eyes.”She continues, “Elevated blood sugar or high blood pressure can cause swelling of the optic nerve and retinal blood vessels, leading to blurred vision, puffiness around the eyes, or even retinal bleeding if the vessels become too fragile and burst. When the kidneys can’t filter properly, waste products and excess fluid accumulate in the body, contributing to swelling, including around the eyes, and further increasing pressure on delicate eye structures.”kidney When high blood pressure and diabetes are uncontrolled, they damage the small blood vessels throughout the body, including those in the eyes

Which eye symptoms suggest advanced kidney disease?

Persistent or severe vision changes may indicate more serious kidney involvement. According to Dr Parihar, “Symptoms such as persistent blurry vision, spotty vision, dark or black spots in the visual field, or significant vision loss can indicate more advanced eye involvement. When these symptoms appear, it may suggest that kidney dis-

ease has progressed to a more severe or advanced stage.”

When should someone with vision problems get their kidney function tested?

Dr Parihar advises, “If someone experiences sudden or persistent vision problems, they should immediately check their blood sugar and blood pressure levels. If either of these is elevated—or if the vision issues persist—they should consult a kidney specialist immediately. Sudden or ongoing eye symptoms can be an early warning sign of underlying kidney dysfunction, so timely testing of kidney function is important.”Reflecting on her experience, the woman adds, “There’s no way to describe that kind of shock—it’s like life paused and rewrote itself. I was told there was no reversing my condition, that I would need lifelong treatment, and that everything I knew about ‘normal’ was about to change.”Her story underscores a vital lesson: even minor eye problems—such as blurred vision, puffiness, or subtle changes—can signal serious underlying health issues. Early detection, regular checkups, and prompt consultation with specialists can make a life-saving difference.

When Sanjay Mishra revealed the one thing Salman Khan has for every meal: ‘Mujhe bahut pasand hai ki...’

Actor Sanjay Mishra once spoke fondly of his co-stars, saying he loved that fitness buff Salman Khan eats rice (chawal) in every meal. “Mujhe bahut acha laga ki Salman Khan jaise aadmi ko chawal bahut pasand hai. Bahuto ko bina chawal ke khaana hazam nahi hota hai...maine dekha... (I like the fact that Salman Khan eats rice, every time. A lot of people feel their meal is not complete without rice...)Whenever I have seen him, he eats boiled rice,” Mishra said in 2024.

Taking a cue from the actor’s candid confession to Bollywood Bubble, let’s consider whether it’s advisable to have boiled rice at every meal.Boiled rice is easy to digest, naturally gluten-free and gentle on the stomach, which is why many people feel lighter and more satisfied when they include it regularly, said consultant dietician Garima Goyal.It provides steady carbohydrates that fuel workouts, support recovery, and maintain energy levels, especially for someone with a physically active lifestyle like Salman’s.However, whether it is suitable for every meal depends entirely on an individual’s activity level, metabolism, and overall dietary balance.“Rice by itself is not a problem, but repeating the same carbohydrate source without pairing it with adequate protein, vegetables, and healthy fats can lead to nutrient gaps. When eaten in the right portions and combined with dal, lean protein, fibre-rich vegetables, and good fats, boiled rice can easily fit into a healthy routine without causing weight gain or blood sugar issues for most people,” said Goyal.For sedentary individuals or those trying to improve insulin sensitivity, portion control becomes more important.Switching between different grains such as millets, brown rice, or whole wheat can also bring more fibre and micronutrient diversity. “In an active person’s diet, however, having boiled rice frequently can actually support performance and digestion due to its quick absorption and gentle nature,” said Goyal.So, boiled rice at every meal may work beautifully for someone who trains hard and burns a lot of energy, but most people benefit from a more varied grain intake. “The key is not the rice itself but what you pair it with, how much you eat and whether it complements your lifestyle and health goals,” Goyal said.

Why South Africa's Temba Bavuma felt jealous while watching the 1st Ashes Test between Australia and England



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma said that he felt jealous watching the Ashes series between England and Australia on Friday, wondering why the reigning WTC champions have to do with playing just a 2-match series against India. The skipper added that such brief Test series hardly does justice to the talents of both teams. "We woke up this morning to watch the Ashes. We watched with a bit of jealousy, knowing that they were playing five Tests. They'll be going at each other. Hopefully, not too far in the future, but more in the near future, we'll go back to play four tests

against India," Bavuma said on Friday.

"Players are not involved when it comes to mapping out the schedule. I think every of our players who have had the opportunity to interact with the media, have had that question in front of them. They have voiced out their frustration," the Proteas skipper added. It maybe mentioned here that the number of Tests in a series is directly proportional to financial health of a cricket nation which is why the Ashes, the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (India vs Australia) and the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy (India vs England) are five-match series because of their commercial viability. "Look, however way the series goes, 1-1, 2-0, it would be nice for a three-Test series against a formidable team like India. And it's just good for the fans, really, when people get to see good cricket, one team dominating, another team dominating. But there also being an opportunity for one team to come out as victors," Bavuma said. The Proteas captain who led them to their first Test win in India after 15 years in Kolkata last week, also explained how the Guwahati pitch was different from the one doled out at the Eden. "This wicket looks a lot fresher and will be more consistent in terms of variability compared to Kolkata. We will have another look in the morning and decide on Kagiso's replacement. This is a typical sub-continental wicket with the first two days good for batting before spinners come into play," he said.

India vs South Africa 2nd Test Match Playing 11, Squad: Sai Sudharsan likely to return; will Nitish Reddy replace Axar Patel?

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

India vs South Africa 2nd Test Match Playing 11, Full Squad: India will look to dust themselves off and put the Eden Gardens Test in the rearview mirror as they take on South Africa in the second Test at Guwahati on Saturday. The Indian team lost the Kolkata Test by 30 runs and to add to their misery, also lost skipper Shubman Gill due to a neck spasm which has ruled him out of the Guwahati Test.

It's confirmed that Rishabh Pant will be donning the captain's mantle while Sai Sudharsan is likely to come back to the starting lineup in his preferred No.3 slot after sitting out the Kolkata Test. If Sai plays that would add another left hander in a team full of them which might play right into the hands of South Africa's Simon Harmer who relished bowling against the hosts at Eden. This might lead to India tweaking their lineup a bit, introducing right handed allrounder Nitish Kumar Reddy in place of Axar Patel. South Africa, meanwhile, will probably go with the same team that pulled off the dramatic win at the Eden Gardens last week. One change they might be willing to make is swapping pacer Corbin Bosch with Lungi Ngidi. With Kagiso Rabada out, the Proteas might opt for the experience of Ngidi even if it means tweaking their match-winning formation. India: Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Washington Sundar, Sai Sudharsan, Dhruv Jurel, Rishabh Pant (c & wk), Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel/Nitish Reddy, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj. South Africa: Ryan Rickelton,



Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Temba Bavuma (c), Tony de Zorzi, Tristan Stubbs, Kyle Verreynne (wk), Marco Jansen, Corbin Bosch/Lungi Ngidi, Simon Harmer, Keshav Maharaj

Squads: India Squad: Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Washington Sundar, Rishabh Pant(w/c), Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah, Devdutt Padikkal, Sai Sudharsan, Akash Deep. South Africa Squad: Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, Wiaan Mulder, Temba Bavuma(c), Tony de Zorzi, Tristan Stubbs, Kyle Verreynne(w), Marco Jansen, Corbin Bosch, Simon Harmer, Keshav Maharaj, Lungi Ngidi, Zubayr Hamza, Senuran Muthusamy, Dewald Brevis

Ajinkya Rahane on Washington Sundar's batting promotion: '...coming at three and batting will be confusing for him'



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Washington Sundar, coming at number three in the first Test in Kolkata, raised a few eyebrows. Although if the scores in the Test match by other batters were taken into consideration in a low-scoring affair, Sundar did manage to put on solid cameos in both innings (29 and 31), chewing up deliveries. He was solid in defence, and from time to time, he did manage to unleash a few attacking shots. But Indian cricketer Ajinkya Rahane said that it is not easy for a number six batter to come into number three, and also questioned what messaging will this give to Sai Sudharsan.

"It's very tough as a batter in Test cricket when you know your number is not set. You play at three and then suddenly you are out and the guy who bats at six is coming at three. Those who have done well at three and four have gotten that spot consistently for a long time before. You also send such signals. Sai Sudharsan did well at three against the West Indies. Sundar is a good batter. But coming at three and batting will be confusing for him. I believe he is a bowling all-rounder still," Rahane said on 'Ash ki Baat'.

"There was a time in my career where my batting average was above 40. Many suggested me that I should bat up the order. But I took the decision that I want to do bowling and then batting. I am a bowler first as I came in the team that way. So I did not give much time to my batting. As you go deep in your career, you need to give more time to bowling. This is very confusing for someone like Washi. If he has to bat at three, then bowling will definitely fall into second gear," he said. "Whoever is playing at three, be it Washi or Sai, it is important to get security at that spot. Only then can you play with freedom. Otherwise, you cannot play your game. If the team management is looking at Sai at three, give him a long rope. Or if they are looking at Washi there, then give him a long rope so he can prepare. Even a player's career is at stake. It is also important to communicate with the player sitting out then," Rahane said.

Kagiso Rabada ruled out of second Test match against India in Guwahati

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

South Africa's ace pacer Kagiso Rabada will miss the second Test match against India at Guwahati. The 30-year-old was ruled out after not fully recovering from the rib bone stress injury, which had forced him to miss the series opener at Kolkata. Cricket South Africa (CSA) said that Rabada will continue "the initial phase of his four-week rehabilitation program" with the medical team to recover from the injury.

"The injury has been closely monitored by the Proteas medical team, and due to ongoing discomfort in the affected area, Rabada has been withdrawn from the remainder of the tour. He will continue the initial phase of his four-week rehabilitation program with the Proteas medical team before returning to South Africa at the conclusion of the second Test," the CSA statement said. The visitors will have the services of Lungi Ngidi for the second Test match at Guwahati, after he was added to the squad as a precautionary backup for Rabada. Ngidi has taken 58 wickets in 20 Tests at an average of 23.37.

iHis last red-ball appearance came in the 2025 World Test Championship Final against Australia in June, where he helped his side lift the coveted mace. He missed South



Africa's recent Test series in Pakistan, which they drew 1-1. South Africa won the series opener at Eden Gardens by 30 runs, their first win on Indian soil since 2010. The result means that India will have to win the second Test to avoid a second straight home series loss to a SENA country on home soil. The win in the opening Test helped South Africa climb to second spot on the WTC points table. India are in fourth place. South Africa have beaten India once before in a Test series in this country, when they won the two-match series in 2000 2-0.

R. Praggnanandhaa to begin push for 2026 Candidates qualification at London Chess Classic 2025



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

In what will be an attempt to secure his spot in the 2026 Candidates tournament via the FIDE Circuit Rating of 2025, Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa will compete in the Open event at the London Chess Classic (LCC) 2025. The tournament will be held in the UK capital from November 27 – December 3 this year. Following the high of the 2024 Candidates Tournament, which featured a record three Indians — D. Gukesh, Vidit Gujrathi, and Praggnanandhaa — the 2026 edition will have at most one Indian representative.

The ongoing home World Cup in Goa, which offered three Candidates' spots, proved disappointing for the Indian contingent. The tournament began with 24 Indian participants but none reached the semifinals. While Arjun Erigaisi and Pentala Harikrishna made deep runs and kept fans hopeful, they ultimately could not withstand the pressure of the knockout format, resulting in no Indian player securing a spot in the eight-player challengers event.

For Praggnanandhaa, the FIDE World Cup 2025 was a rather disappointing affair, with the last edition's finalist crashing out in the fourth round. He was knocked out after losing to Russia's Daniil Dubov in the tiebreaks. While the 20-year-old did not appear convincing in his wins, he also looked shaky right from the start. Having received a bye in the opening round, Praggnanandhaa was dragged to the eighth game in the tiebreaks of Round 2 by Australian-Uzbek player Kuybokarov. Pragg then defeated Armenia's Robert Hovhannisyan in the third round before facing Dubov. The LCC Open is a 120-player, nine-round Swiss tournament

with an average rating of 2581 Elo. The broader LCC Festival includes eight events across all levels, with the premier event being an elite all-play-all event, a closed invitational round-robin. That event will feature the likes of Alireza Firouzja, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Sam Shankland, Michael Adams, and Abhimanyu Mishra. Among the Indian Grandmasters, P. Inian and Pranav Anand will also compete alongside Praggnanandhaa. Praggnanandhaa currently leads the 2025 Circuit leaderboard with 107 points from seven eligible events. He is followed by Anish Giri (81.18), Fabiano Caruana (65.55), and Matthias Bluebaum (63.94). However, since all three have already qualified for the Candidates through other paths, Praggnanandhaa's closest rival — Germany's Vincent Keymar, with 55.83 points — remains too far behind to pose a serious threat. A podium finish in London would all but guarantee Praggnanandhaa a place in the 2026 Candidates, scheduled to take place in Cyprus from March 28 – April 16.

What is the FIDE Circuit Rating Leaderboard?

The FIDE Circuit is one of the qualification paths for the 2026 Candidates Tournament. The player who achieves the highest cumulative results over the year in eligible tournaments earns a spot in the Candidates. A player's final score is calculated as the sum of their seven best event results, or all their results if they have participated in fewer than seven events. American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana qualified for the Candidates 2026 through the 2024 FIDE Circuit leaderboard. Pranav Anand, Stuart Conquest, Matthieu Cornette, Daniel Fernandez, Glenn Flear, Tamas Fodor, Eldar Gasanov, David Gavrilescu, Ameet Ghasi, Stephen Gordon, Alon Greenfield, Mark Hebden, P. Inian, Velimir Ivic, Rinat Jumabayev, Alexander Kovchan, Martin Kraemer, Sebastian Maze, Georg Meier, Victor Mikhalievsky, R. Praggnanandhaa, Shreyas Royal, Vahap Sanal, Ilya Smirin, Matthew Wadsworth, Peter Wells, Daniil Yufra

International Masters: Miragha Aghayev, Benny Ayzenberg, Aaravamudhan Balaji, Svyatoslav Bazakutsa, Nicholas Brunner, Nico Chasin, Maciej Czapor, Marsel Efroimski, Alex Golding, Harry Grieve, Marcus Harvey, Jovanka Houska, Nikola Kanov, Tarun Kanyamarala, Akshat Khamparia, Filip Magold, Peter Roberson, Eytan Rozen, Shete Sammed Jaykumar, Niklas Schmider, Sven Tica, Loic Travardon, Thibault Vandenbussche, Hao Wang (ZJ), Jonah Willow

Ashes 2025-26 1st Test: Why Usman Khawaja was disallowed to open the batting with Jake Weatherald in Australia's first innings against England



GNS News Agency, Nov 21

Australian opening batter Usman Khawaja was not allowed to open the batting with debutant Jake Weatherald on Day 1 of the first 2025-26 Ashes Test against England at Perth. The 38-year-old was not permitted to walk out to bat after spending limited time on the field in the visitors' first innings, where they were bundled out for 172. Marnus Labuschagne walked out with the debutant in Khawaja's absence. Cricket Australia reportedly said that the left-hander's absence from the field was because of "toilet breaks and stretching". However, it later emerged that

Khawaja had suffered "back stiffness" and a back spasm had delayed his return to fielding in the first innings.

But since the southpaw had spent a considerable amount of time away from the field due to an external injury, he could not open the batting when it was time for the hosts to come out to bat. ICC regulations state that if a player is off the field for more than eight minutes, then the player will not be allowed to bat in the match until "his team's batting innings has been in progress for the length of playing time that is equal to the unexpired Penalty time carried forward from the previous innings." "ICC rule: 24.2.3: If a player is absent from the field for longer than 8 minutes, the following restrictions shall apply to their future participation in the match: "24.2.3.2: The player shall not be permitted to bat in the match until his team's batting innings has been in progress for the length of playing time that is equal to the unexpired Penalty time carried forward from the previous innings. However, once his side has lost five wickets in its batting innings, he may bat immediately. If any unexpired penalty time remains at the end of that batting innings, it is carried forward to the next and subsequent innings of the match," the regulation said. Khawaja came out to bat at number four on Friday, but fell caught behind to Brydon Carse for two runs in the 18th over.

Lakshya Sen's Sydney sizzler – a brilliant forward diving winner – that drew whistles for acrobatic accuracy

GNS News Agency, Nov 21

The future of Indian badminton can wait awhile. Even the past had no bearing on this moment. For it was Lakshya Sen seizing the present, this moment now, in a split-second reaction, that will waltz into any highlights package. It was the Australian Open Super 500 quarterfinals, and it has been a long fruitless season, this 2025, and in front of him was India's most touted future talent. But Sen pulled out an absolute stunner that ended in a 23-21, 21-11 win – the first set sizzle completely deflating young Ayush, 20, and teaching him about the hunger to win.

The duo often train at Bangalore's Padukone academy, and Ayush has served as a sparring partner for Sen's Olympics preparation. They know each other's games inside out. Ayush held the advantage of physicality with his 6-foot-4 attack, and Sen is clearly leaps ahead on the net eyeball confrontations. Sen expectedly stayed in the opening set winning a bulk of the net exchanges, quelling Ayush's unstinting lifts. He also figured pretty early that Ayush smashes from the far backcourt corner were throttling in the drift and landing in the nets, so he lured him into playing those. But mostly, Sen cleverly constructed his points – kept the tosses high, made Ayush move, and collected winnings on placement and variety in strokes.

At Hong Kong earlier, Sen had needed three sets at a similar quarters stage. Here it all boiled down to five points after the two were locked at 19-19 in the opener. Sen floated a backhand clear long to go down 19-20. Ayush, still fumbling when he's up against bigger names, saw his serve clipping the net to make it 20-20. Then Sen pushed him to that dreaded back corner with a flick serve and the smash gpt dumped into the net. 21-20. It's when Ayush won his first net-confrontation, flicking cleverly to the back. 21-21. Lakshya Sen in action during the quarterfinals of the Australian Open 2025. (Photo: Badminton Photo) Lakshya Sen in action during the quarterfinals of the Australian Open 2025. (Photo: Badminton Photo) Sen commanded the pressure moments. But he knew Ayush could snatch the opener with a stomp. The next point got attritional – Ayush literally pushed Sen to all four corners, making him scurry around, throwing in a body smash that tested Sen's agility and pinned him almost midcourt. Ayush next went for what was the



logical region where Sen would struggle to reach – the forecourt flank. That's where Sen brought out his reflexes that have shone at every big stage – Olympics behind-the-back flick against Jojo Christie, and those leadups to All England, and the 2021 World Championships clutch points where his instinctive defense produces gasps and hoots and whistles. Sen, a fair distance from the shuttle to his 1 p.m. right, went diving after the dipping bird and sent it over the net. Ayush was still in control of the point, and used speed to hit a down stroke to Sen's left. The senior Indian, was still on the floor, trying to bounce back on his feet and stuck his racquet from a sitting position to intercept the fast travelling shuttle, and rebounded it over the tape with split second alacrity to send it screaming to the backline almost. The Sydney crowd couldn't believe their eyes, and Sen got up to check if it had landed safely in, for such was the snap of his wrists even from an imbalanced position. 22-21. Ayush was deflated from that point on barely afloat at 3-9 and 7-19, and crumpled into a heap losing 23-21, 21-11 in 52 long minutes. Sen, still searching for a title in 2025, runs into Chou Tien Chen – age 35, tenacity – endless. Chou was at it for 1 hr 23 minutes against Indonesia's next big hope Alwi Farhan, coming back from a set and 15-20 down, saving 5 match points in a 13-21, 23-21, 21-10 win. Sen and Chou are past that stage when they would expect anything in badminton to come easy to them. But even as Sydney was treated to the never-say-die spirit of two audacious shuttlers, Ayush was left ruing doing everything right in that point at 21-21, but forgetting Lakshya Sen's appetite for a scrap.

Vilayath Buddha movie review: Prithviraj Sukumaran, Shammi Thilakan's film shows why not everything shot should make the final cut



Vilayath Buddha Movie Review & Rating: Ahead of the release of Indian 2 (2024), director S Shankar stated that he decided to split the movie into two parts because he felt there was nothing he could edit out since "all the scenes came out very well." He didn't want to compress the film into one instalment just for the sake of it, as, according to him, that would strip every scene of its soul and feel. Thus, he chose to release it in two parts. Anyone who has watched the abomination that's Indian 2 can attest that it contained a lot of unnecessary things. Not only was much of it unimpressive, but a tighter edit could have potentially reduced the runtime to just one hour, making it far less miserable. This would have also allowed Shankar to avoid an Indian 3 altogether. What matters here is a director's judicious decision about what to keep and what to leave out. Don't Miss | The Family Man 3 review: Manoj Bajpayee-Jaideep Ahlawat show is frantic yet obvious

Although Jayan Nambiar's Vilayath Buddha isn't as painful an experience as Indian 2, it also suffers from a curious case of the director being seemingly unsure/unready to keep only what's necessary, instead stubbornly packing the film with as much canned footage as possible. Panchayat president Bhaskaran Master (a commanding Shammi Thilakan), a former schoolteacher, is the all-in-all in Marayoor, a hilly area known for its sandalwood forests. However, an unfortunate incident brings him significant embarrassment, forcing him to give up public life and retreat to his home. His only wish in life now is to be cremated, upon his death, with wood from the sandalwood tree standing in his courtyard, so that a tantalising fragrance arises from his pyre, symbolically eliminating the stench (literal and metaphorical) of embarrassment he faced. A few years down the line, sandalwood smuggler "Double" Mohanan (a sturdy Prithviraj Sukumaran) is now the uncrowned king in Marayoor. Posing a significant headache for the Forest Department, he keeps sneaking out precious timbers from the village. Once he seals the deal for a sandalwood tree, Mohanan will tell it no matter what. And his biggest cheerleader is his childhood sweetheart, Chaithanya (Priyamvada Krishnan). As he continues his reign, Mohanan's eyes land on the rare sandalwood tree in Bhaskaran's courtyard. Although he tries to persuade Bhaskaran to sell it to him, the ex-politico refuses, prompting Mohanan to issue a warning that he will smuggle it out of the compound anyway. What follows is a war of wills between "Double" Mohanan and Bhaskaran Master, his former teacher.

Based on a novel of the same name written by GR Indugopan, who co-authored the movie's script with Rajesh Pinnadan, Vilayath Buddha's most significant shortcoming is that its texture and narrative style resemble a literary work far too often. Instead of adapting it for the screen by removing its inherent novel-like quality — particularly the lengthy and ornate dialogues and descriptions employed to give readers a detailed account and overview of everything — Vilayath Buddha gives off the feeling that Indugopan and Rajesh primarily tried to stay as faithful to the literary work as possible. While any writer, in such a situation, should strive to protect the soul of the work, the Prithviraj Sukumaran-starrer proves that mere attempts to translate words into images won't help create a solid script for a solid movie.

Take, for instance, P Padmarajan's Thoovanathumbikal (1987). Although it's based on his own

novel, Udakappola, the two only share a nucleus and are widely different from each other, like day and night. Or consider A Vincent's Bhargavi Nilayam (1964). Despite being based on his short story Neelavelicham, when author Vaikom Muhammad Basheer adapted it for the screen, he did not blindly replicate the literary work's texture and style to stay true to it. Instead, both Padmarajan and Basheer distilled the essence of their respective works and crafted fresh films, so to speak, without losing the souls of the originals, thereby giving moviegoers unique experiences that remained true to the art of cinema, rather than reducing the films to mere spectacles or shadows of the literary pieces. It is in this domain that Vilayath Buddha has failed the most. There are quite a few instances and dialogues in the movie that give the impression that they were created for a novel or by someone who isn't well-versed in screenwriting but is a brilliant author. On many occasions, I felt that I would have loved these lines had I been sitting alone and reading them, with only these words and my imagination as companions, but not so much when uttered by characters on screen. For instance, at a crucial moment, Bhaskaran Master explains for the first time why he wishes to be cremated using sandalwood, and the dialogues here are too contrived for a movie. If not for Shammi Thilakan's impressive performance, the artificiality in the lines would have been extremely apparent.

Where Jayan Nambiar has stumbled as a director is in his inability to overcome the narrative flaws through visual language and the powerful tool of editing. Instead, he has mostly tried to picture the written words as is, without attempting minimalism or finding ways to condense lengthy scenes/dialogues into few striking visuals. The many scenes that stretch on endlessly, with the best example being a speech by a politician from Bhaskaran's rival outfit in public, stand as a testament to this. Had Jayan put more effort into expressing the many shades of emotions spread across the movie in a more striking manner — by trimming down the numerous unnecessary moments that never seem to end — Vilayath Buddha could have been far better. Unfortunately, the film fails to tug at the audience's heartstrings most of the time. Although the sequence towards the interval, where Mohanan steals two sandalwood trees back-to-back, accompanied by the iconic track "Vanithamani" from Vikram (1986), is goosebump-inducing, such moments are not plentiful. Vilayath Buddha also proves that crafting exceptional opening sequences or songs featuring numerous brief shots — the best examples being Dileesh Pothan's Maheshinte Prathikaaram (2016) and Lijo Jose Pellissery's Angamaly Diaries (2017) — thereby providing a 360-degree view of the respective landscapes, is an art that not everyone can execute easily. Nonetheless, the films does feature quite a few moments where glimpses of the debutant director's potential shine through, underscoring that he may excel going forward. Jakes Bejoy's music, and Arvind S Kashyap and Renadive's cinematography also praise-worthy.

One of the major ways creators celebrate the stories of people like Mohanan, who are involved in illegal activities, is by portraying them as having their hearts in the right place and doing good for their people, using the money made through such means. Even Sukumar's Allu Arjun-led Pushpa movies, which also revolve around a sandalwood smuggler, follow a similar narrative style. This pattern is evident in Vilayath Buddha as well. Although the makers haven't tried to present Mohanan as a god in human form or the ultimate saviour of the downtrodden, shades of this clichéd plot device are visible throughout the film. At the same time, Vilayath Buddha shows that male creators have 'smartly' moved away from tapping into male toxicity and are now focused on portraying it through female characters while disguising them as independent, motivated, and alpha-like. Although Chaithanya's reasons for her eventual actions are understandable, the way her toxicity — far surpassing that of both Mohanan and Bhaskaran — is portrayed stands as a testament that this trait is like a bad habit that male writers and filmmakers are addicted to, that they can't seem to give up. If not a man, then inject toxicity into a woman, and try to convince the naive segment of the progressive audience that she represents a "liberated woman." The sickeningly sheer level of brownfacing that Prithviraj and Priyamvada Krishnan have been subjected to in Vilayath Buddha also deserves 'special mention'.

Ram Gopal Varma defends Rajamouli's right to be atheist



Hyderabad: Director Ram Gopal Varma has defended ace director S S Rajamouli's right to say that he does not believe in God, saying Article 25 of the Indian Constitution protects the right to not believe. Ram Gopal Varma's observations come in the wake of a controversy stirred by a statement of director Rajamouli made during the title launch of his film 'Varanasi'. During the course of his speech at the title announcement event, Rajamouli had said that that he does not believe in God. Taking to his X timeline on Friday to pen his thoughts on the controversy, director Ram Gopal Varma wrote, "In the context of all the venom being spewed by the so-called believers on @ssrajamouli, they should know that being an atheist in India is not a crime. Article 25 of the Constitution protects the right to not believe. So he has every right to say he doesn't believe as much as the venom spewers right to say they believe."

The director went on to add, "Now coming to the dumb argument that 'If he doesn't believe in God why does he show God in his movies?'" By that logic, should a filmmaker become a gangster to make a gangster film, become a ghost to make a horror film? And the gob smacking truth? Despite him not believing in God, God gave @ssrajamouli 100 times more success, more wealth and more fan worship than

most believers will ever see even in one hundred lifetimes." Ram Gopal Varma then went on to draw conclusions from his statements. He said, "So either, 1. God loves atheists more than believers 2. God doesn't care 3. Or maybe.... God isn't there sitting with a notepad taking notes on who believes and who doesn't? So if God has no issue with him, then why are the self-appointed god mongers getting blood pressure and

ulcers?" Stating that the real problem wasn't Rajamouli's atheism, Ram Gopal Varma said, "The real problem is he succeeded without believing in God... and that scares the ones who miserably failed even after praying like MAD. So the believers should stop defending God because it's like insulting him, as if he is a weakening needing their protection. The truth is that Rajamouli being an atheist does not reduce God."

Wicked For Good movie review: An impressive exploration of goodness and wickedness



Wicked For Good movie review: While there are many moments where Ariane Grande and Cynthia Arivo, and Jeff Goldblum as the Wizard, seize your attention, Wicked For Good also tends to meander. Wicked For Good movie review: More sure-footed than the first Wicked, this second part neatly wraps up the story of Glinda the Good (Grande), Wicked Witch of the West (Erivo) and the Land of Oz in a way that seems as grounded in fairytale as in reality. Based on a musical running for 20 years, Wicked: For Good is valiant — and impressive — in its exploration of goodness and wickedness, how one feeds on the other, and also, the meaning of truth and if anybody wants it. The fact that some of those arguments are made in song takes little away from the soundness of them, though a few less songs would not have hurt.

That would have also kept the film, already overblown because of its flimsier first part, manageably short. As it is, while there are many moments where Grande and Arivo, and Jeff Goldblum as the Wizard, seize your attention, For Good also tends to meander. It begins with Elphaba or the

Wicked Witch of the West living hidden in the forest, being chased by all of Oz, even as Glinda is finding her satin-slipped feet as the flouncy-gowned, pink bubble-inhabiting, shiny glass wand-bearing good girl of Oz whom everyone loves. Grande is effective in conveying the girl who has finally got all that her child and teen self always wanted, but whose head lies uneasy under the "good" crown's emptiness. Some of it is due to the fact that, unlike the myth weaved by Madame Morrible (Yeoh) — the Oz's 'Press Secretary' — Glinda has little, including magic, going for her other than her beauty. A lot has to do with the fact that she knows Elphaba is not bad, and the Wizard not all that good — and she must ignore all this to live her dream. Yeoh is all sweet sorcery and malicious magic, and Bailey as the love interest of both Glinda and Elphaba is a pleasing if unnecessary second fiddle (which is great for a film essentially about two women, who don't need anyone other). As those two women, Grande and Erivo pull off their pas de deux with elan. Grande is more assured this time and Erivo, who carried the first film, matures wonderfully as a person who has all her life been misunderstood. The rest of Wizard of Oz's characters, The Tin Man, the Scarecrow, the Cowardly Lion, and Dorothy and Toto, are rolled out in quick, and rather economical, succession. If the two are upstaged, at any time, it is by Goldblum, who is dazzling as the "fake, hokum" 'His Ozness' Wizard, a rich old man with ostentatious taste and a good head of hair, who sings to the world: "The truth is not a fact or reason / The truth is just what everyone agrees on.... It's all in which label is able to persist." Story continues below this ad. Wicked For Good movie director: Jon M Chu. Wicked For Good movie cast: Cynthia Erivo, Ariana Grande, Jonathan Bailey, Jeff Goldblum, Michelle Yeoh. Wicked For Good movie rating: 3.5

Dining with the Kapoors: Ranbir Kapoor is Navya Naveli's 'chacha'; why Babita, Alia Bhatt were missing from show



Netflix recently dropped its special titled Dining with the Kapoors which brought the entire family of Raj Kapoor under one roof for a family lunch to celebrate his 100th birth anniversary. The hour-long episode is all about reminiscing childhood memories and the time they spent at Raj Kapoor's house in Chembur, called Deonar Cottage. The episode features some of the most popular names in the Hindi film industry, but there are a few family members here that the audience might not be familiar with. While the world knows Navya as Amitabh Bachchan and Jaya Bachchan's granddaughter, she is also the great-granddaughter of Raj Kapoor. Navya is the daughter of Nikhil Nanda and Shweta Bachchan (Amitabh and Jaya's daughter). Her father Nikhil is the son of Ritu Nanda and Rajan Nanda. Ritu was one of the two daughters of Raj Kapoor. Navya was a part of the family lunch. During the show, Ranbir Kapoor was trying to figure out their relationship. While he insisted they were cousins, Navya said he was her chacha. Ranbir's sister finally solved it when she said that she was Navya's bua (father's sister). Like Navya, Agastya is also the great-grandson of Raj Kapoor. Agastya and Navya are both kids of Shweta Bachchan and Nikhil Nanda. Nikhil was the grandson of Raj Kapoor, as his mother Ritu Nanda was Raj Kapoor's daughter. Agastya was a part of the special, but did not participate in the lunch. Agastya will next be seen in Sriram Raghavan's Ikkis. Nitasha, fondly called Tashu throughout the special, is the granddaughter of Raj Kapoor. Her mother Ritu Nanda was Raj's daughter. Her brother is Nikhil Nanda, father of Agastya and Navya Naveli and married to Amitabh Bachchan's daughter Shweta. Zahan made waves with his performance in Black Warrant earlier this year. Zahan is also related to the Kapoor family, as he is the grandson of Shashi Kapoor, Raj's younger brother. His parents are Kunal Kapoor (Shashi's son) and Sheena Sippy (Ramesh Sippy's daughter). His maternal grandfather is the director of Sholay. That branch of the family, however, was not discussed in the show as it focussed on Raj Kapoor's immediate family. Shaira is not an actor and works primarily as a set designer. She is the daughter of Kunal Kapoor (Shashi Kapoor's son) and Sheena Sippy (Ramesh Sippy's daughter). She is the sister of actor Zahan Kapoor. Kunal is the son of late actor Shashi Kapoor, who was the younger brother of Raj Kapoor. Kunal famously hosts the Kapoor Christmas lunch every year. He also starred in Shashi's film Vijeta. He, however, has been

away from films for a long time now. Jatin is a popular actor, primarily known for his work in television. Jatin was previously known as Jatin Sial. He is the son of Prithviraj Kapoor's daughter, Urmila Sial. Urmila was the only sister of Raj Kapoor, Shashi Kapoor and Shammi Kapoor. He was also a part of the family lunch. Namita is connected to the Kapoor family via her grandmother. Her grandmother Urmila Sial was the only sister of Raj Kapoor, Shashi Kapoor and Shammi Kapoor. Neila Devi was Shammi Kapoor's second wife. He was first married to actor Geeta Bali, who passed away after suffering from small box. Neila Devi was Shammi Kapoor's second wife. He was first married to actor Geeta Bali, who passed away after suffering from small box. Neila Shammi Kapoor is the wife of actor Shammi Kapoor, who was the younger brother of Raj Kapoor. Neila married Shammi after the death of his first wife Geeta Bali. The daughter of Raj Kapoor's younger brother Shammi Kapoor and his first wife Geeta Bali. Geeta Bali passed away when Kanchan was a baby, and she grew up under the care of her stepmother Neila Devi. Kanchan is married to Ketan Desai, who is the son of filmmaker Manmohan Desai. Pooja is the daughter of Kanchan and filmmaker Ketan Desai. Shammi Kapoor was her grandfather, and so, she is related to the Kapoor family. Rima is the youngest daughter of Raj Kapoor and Krishna Kapoor. Rima was a part of the documentary along with her husband and her sons — Aadar and Armaan. Aadar is the son of Rima and Manoj Jain. Raj Kapoor was his maternal grandfather. Aadar made his debut in the movies with YRF's 2017 film Qaidi Band, along with Anya Singh. Armaan, who is one of the creators of the special, and also the host of the family lunch, is the son of Rima Jain and Manoj Jain. He is the grandson of Raj Kapoor. He also made his debut in the movies with 2014's Lekar Hum Deewana Dil, but left acting after that. Randhir Kapoor is the oldest son of Raj Kapoor. He worked as a director and actor in the movies. His daughters Kareena and Karisma are also a part of the movies. His wife Babita, who also worked as an actor, did not participate in the special. Karisma was the first grandchild of Raj Kapoor to work as an actor in the early 1990s. Randhir Kapoor with Kareena and Karisma. Randhir Kapoor with wife Babita and daughters Kareena and Karisma. Actor Kareena Kapoor, as is well known, is the younger sister of Karisma, and is the daughter of Randhir Kapoor and Babita. Among the biggest stars of the industry, she was among the few Kapoor women who worked in the industry. Saif Ali Khan opened up about his tattoo Saif Ali Khan with wife Kareena. (Source: Instagram/ Kareena Kapoor Khan) Saif is married to Kareena, who is the granddaughter of Raj Kapoor. He was also a participant in the special. Neetu Kapoor is the daughter-in-law of Raj Kapoor. She was married to late Rishi Kapoor, Raj Kapoor's son. She used to work as an actor but took a break after she got married, but has recently resumed acting. One of the most popular stars in the country, Ranbir shares his name with his grandfather — Ranbir Raj Kapoor. Ranbir is the son of Rishi and Neetu Kapoor. His wife Alia Bhatt was not a part of this special. Ridhima Kapoor with brother Ranbir Kapoor and mother Neetu Kapoor.

Sisu Road to Revenge movie review: A gripping, hyper-violent tale of vengeance

Sisu Road to Revenge movie review: As the body count soars with lean detail, you can either sit back and admire the professionalism of this slaughter, or fast-forward to the end. Sisu Road to Revenge movie review: Continuing with the no-prisoners-taken hero of the first Sisu film, Road to Revenge places Aatami Korpi (Tommila) in 1946, where the Soviet Union has occupied large parts of Finland and caused its occupants to flee. Aatami returns to the home where he lived with his wife and two young sons, who were killed in the war, and carts away logs from it, to build another house for himself in what remains of Finland.

Only, the Red Army won't have it, and set the man who butchered Aatami's wife and children, as well as many others, Draganov (Lang), after Aatami. The latter acquired legendary status as 'The Immortal' during the war for killing 300 Red Army soldiers after learning of his family's massacre, and Draganov is freed from a Siberian prison to pay Aatami back in kind.

Like the first film, and like the Finnish word 'sisu' from which it derives its title, Road to Revenge is a tale of vengeance, with no blood or battered bodies or shattered heads spared. As the body count soars with lean detail, you can either sit back and admire the professionalism of this slaughter, or fast-forward to the end. It's in the final stretch, shot on a train hurtling to Siberia, with Aatami and Draganov directly pitted against each other as two mortal and unnatural enemies, that Road to Revenge reaches its high points. Using a missile to shoot yourself into enemy quarters is just one of the many awe-inspiring moments. Finnish writer-director Helander also cuts out all the pretence of dialogue in a film speaking as universal a language as revenge. Aatami doesn't utter a word, and Draganov can easily pass off without the few lines he has. And yet, Aatami says a lot with his eyes and tears, grief and rage, and Helander with the silence of a desolate Finnish landscape through which Aatami rides his lonely, creaking truck, carrying the remains of his life.